

QUACK MEDICINES AND FORGED TESTIMONIALS.

We herewith print a letter received from an English physician, whose rising reputation has been seized upon by the unscrupulous vendors of a quack medicine, to push the sale of their nostrum.

We have heard of other instances of such bare-faced forgery. Only a few weeks ago a Californian newspaper was shown to us, containing what purported to be letters commendatory of another quack medicine from leading physicians associated with McGill University, from the late (though this was not mentioned) R. P. Howard and George Ross and from Dr. W. Osler. The forged letters were published thousands of miles away. In Dr. Ransom's case the testimonial was boldly distributed to those living in his immediate neighbourhood. The impudence of the whole matter is aggravated by the fact that Dr. Ransom is a man of singular culture, a writer of refined style, and a physician, who to our knowledge, has not undertaken the treatment of genito-urinary troubles.

Dr. Ransom writes to us,

THE PAVEMENT, NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND, Sept 5th, '96.

SIR,—

There has this week been sent to medical men in England a pamphlet advertising an American nostrum called Sanmetto. In this pamphlet is what purports to be a testimonial from me.

This is an absolute Forgery, as I have never used or in any way recommended the drug.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly publish this disclaimer, and draw attention to this latest and most iniquitous development of business "enterprise." I enclose a copy of the testimonial and have to add that I am taking legal advice as to how to stop and punish the fraud.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. RANSOM.

The forgery is inserted in what appears to be a periodical advertisement entitled "The Witness Box" No. 4, published by the Old Chem, Co., No. 15 Cedar Street, New York; London Office, 36 Basinghall Street, and it reads:—

HURRAH FOR SANMETTO.

W. B. Ransom, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S., Fell. Roy. Med-Chir. Soc., Phys. Nott. Gen. Hosp., Balwell, Nottingham, England, says: Hurrah for Sanmetto! My results from its use in bladder cases astonished my confrères. In gonorrhœa (sic.) its effect is nothing short of magical.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We present to our readers, in this number of the JOURNAL, an abstract of the able address delivered by Sir William Hingston at the Hôtel Dieu Hospital, before the members of the Canadian Medical Association.

We regret that the official reporter furnished us with such a brief and imperfect report of this address, as well as of Dr. Stewart's interesting clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, as appeared in our last issue.