

alone protected by law. When such preparations are made exclusively for the use of the medical profession and are advertized exclusively in medical journals we cannot see any possible lowering of professional dignity or deviation from "time honored principles of medical ethics" on the part of the physician who uses them in his daily practice or who recommends them in his communications to medical journals.

The name, in this class of proprietary medicines, is to be regarded simply as the guinea's stamp—a guarantee of the purity and genuineness of the product, and the registration of it—patenting it, if you please, is as much for the protection of the physicians who use it as for the parties who manufacture the remedy. It in no sense makes the drug a "patent medicine" any more than does the writing of "Fairchild" before pepsin, "Merck" before or after an alkaloid, or "Schering" or "Squibb" before chloroform, transfer these chemicals into that category. These men Merck, Schering, Fairchild, Squibb, and a few others, have devoted their lives and spent enormous sums of money in making their products the purest and best that can be attained by human honesty and human ingenuity; and as a reward their names attached in *copyrighted labels* to their chemicals stand as a perpetual guarantee to the physician and patient against the fraud and greed of less honest manufacturers, and it would be a great injustice to them as well as to the profession and public to deprive them of this guarantee.

The question may be, and frequently is asked by the purists, usually by the very old, or by very young members of the medical or pharmaceutical profession, aspiring to be considered very scientific, "why should a physician resort to these ready-made prescriptions at all? Why does he not draw upon his own knowledge of applied therapeutics and write out his own formulæ in every case? Why does he prescribe this one's sugar-coated pills or that one's gelatin-covered granules?"

Why, indeed? Simply because he knows that these articles, being made in vast quantities, by improved apparatus and appliances, manipulated by highly trained and educated employes, and directed by skilled chemists, can be made better, more accurately and far cheaper than they could be compounded by the most skilful prescriptionist. He does it for the same reason that he buys a watch ready made from the jeweler, or a buggy ready made from the carriage maker.

The most serious charge that is brought against the makers of some of the best known, most valuable and most frequently used proprietary medicines, is that the formulæ given by the manufacturers are not the true ones, or, as Dr. Craig-hill, of Lynchburg, Va., in a paper read before the Virginia Pharmaceutical Association, at its

last May meeting (published in the *Virginia Medical Monthly*, for June, 1887), puts it, "a patented proprietary remedy which professes to publish its formulary, *but does not*." If this charge were true, it would indeed be a grave one and a just cause for the banishment of such medicines from the list of those which the physician may use "without lowering the standard of professional dignity," etc.

But when we examine into the matter, we find the sole ground for the charge to be that when the ingredients as named are put together by the physician himself, or by the prescriptionist, off-hand, though it may be *secundum artem*, the result frequently differs very widely from the preparation which it is intended to imitate. This fact would go far to prove the charge did we not remember that in all chemical processes *manipulation* has a great deal to do with results, and that the *element of time* has a value that nothing else can supply. A mixture in which no amount of shaking will produce combination or solution off-hand, or no amount of filtration will clarify, will frequently become perfectly limpid when given the requisite length of time. We are informed by Messrs. Battle & Co. that Bromidia, for instance, requires six days for the thorough combination of its ingredients. We have no doubt that many other such remedies require even more time for their perfection, and no amount of skill on the part of the pharmacist can possibly make up for this element in their preparation. These facts are fully recognized in France and Germany, and we find the highest class of the medical journals of these countries full of advertisements and notices of preparations exactly analogous our proprietary remedies.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

## MEDICAL NOTES.

In *obstinate hiccough*, always suspect aneurism, and carefully examine for such.

*Chronic peritonitis* not traceable to an acute attack or to an injury, is almost invariably due to tubercle.

Dr. Musser states that, after all *operations on pelvic viscera*, it is always well to make a routine practice of giving opium by suppository.

No one remedy for *aneurism* can accomplish the good that is found to be derived from prolonged administration of iodide of potassium.

*Uterine cancer*, in the vast majority of cases, is of the cervix; sarcoma is of the body. One-third of all cancers found in women are of the uterus.

Dr. Bruen, at the Philadelphia Hospital, recently exhibited to the class a case of obstinate *anemia* which has been treated by Fowler's solution alone, with results most gratifying.