

or instrument of death or injury rather than the injury or death itself. To illustrate: If a man smite another with any instrument and blindness results, the smiter on proof of the deed is punished; but if the victim suffers total blindness or paralysis through drinking a "patent" medicine containing chiefly wood spirits, no action can be laid, as the "remedy" is patented and the manufacturer is given authority to sell the poison. Should a man attempt suicide in any one of various ways detailed in the code he is punished if unsuccessful, but no provision is made whereby he can be restrained from injuring himself by using certain drugs.

The law is evidently deficient in these matters, but we ask what can be the moral condition of men who knowingly manufacture harmful "remedies" with no other desire than personal financial gain?

Lord Byron thought he had found the worst of human depravity in greed when he discovered that poisons were adulterated. It remains for the inventive genius of the 19th century, in the new world, to reveal greater depths still in the report reaching us of the wholesale adulteration of medicinal drugs used in filling physician's prescriptions.

By a recent investigation the Michigan State Board of Pharmacy found that out of one hundred and thirty-nine druggists only thirty-one furnished pure drugs in compounding test prescriptions; twenty-three had no trace whatever of the drugs prescribed; ten showed 20 per cent adulteration, and nine 10 per cent. This state of affairs is one of the many evils resulting from our false standards of success in which the end is not the good of the other individual or the community, but rather the financial enrichment of the immediate actor. Doctors blame the retailer, who in his turn blames the wholesaler, but wherever the blame lies it is due to a demoniac cupidity, and the one who pays his money for health receives death in its stead. We can but urge the profession to deal only with reliable houses, and not for the sake of a few dollars or in some cases a few cents difference in goods, jeopardize the lives trusted to them, or even risk injury to their own reputations as skilled physicians.

We take the liberty of quoting in this connection from the