

priate penalties. These secret remedies (commonly called nostrums) are special preparations of which the formulae are unknown in whole or in part. The reason why they should not be encouraged is because it is unscientific to prescribe a dose of anything the nature of which the physician does not know. Hence it easily follows that if one discovers something which proves of real efficacy in disease, the ethical claims of the profession persuade, if not compel, him to place his discovery at the disposal of his brethren and the public, without other reward than professional approval and public esteem.

If, however, a stronger compulsion arising out of his own needs and the stress of competition among the members of a crowded profession overmaster the ethical claim, and he retains control and proprietorship of his nostrum, then he has to incur the condemnation of his fellows, in placing money-making above the high standard of his profession.

There is, however, a distinction marked in the cases between patent and proprietary medicines. Patent medicines are properly those the component parts of which are of record in the Patent Office, and any one can by inquiry find out of what they are made up, whereas the ingredients of a nostrum or proprietary medicine can only be ascertained by analysis: *Pharmaceutical Society v. Armson*, [1894] 2 Q. B. 720, 726. It is permissible for the physician to prescribe this kind of patent medicine, and even as to nostrums there is this to be observed: if knowledge exists or is obtained of the substantial ingredients entering into the composition of the secret remedy, then its use might be justified both by the discoverer and other members of the profession: *Dr. Saundby's Medical Ethics* (1902), p. 67.

I think there is no doubt but that the substantial ingredient which gives importance to "Grippura" has been laid bare by analysis, and that it is sufficiently made known to the profession to indict the next step (which I venture to recommend), viz., to apply the practical test as to its alleged efficacy in various ailments.

If the use of hydriodic acid in this and other like preparations known and prescribed by United States physicians is in truth an agent of varied use and value in the treatment of diseases, it is surely a thing to be taken up by the profession and applied to public needs. If, after satisfactory testing, it stands approved, it will not need to be