

stands the newspaper. Many a house throughout the United States is barren of books, but some "broad side" or other generally penetrates to even the remotest log-cabin. During the year an occasional extract, of unexceptionable character, from a medical journal, may be found in the paper taken,—glanced at, however, only to be forgotten; but week after week there are other things continually presented which bear much melancholy after-fruit, as we shall see before we close this article. Leaving out a few of the leading city journals (and only a very few), nearly the whole of the remainder of the public prints, more strictly meeting the designation of newspapers, are instruments aiding in the perpetuation of every conceivable practice antagonistic to true hygiene, and vehicles through which the already prevailing ignorance in regard to everything relating to the application of physiological laws, is intensified and rendered almost impenetrably dense. The very critique which serves us for a text is sandwiched between mendacious puffs of wandering mountebanks who, as Magnetic Healers, Indian Herb Doctors, Medical Clairvoyants, Analytical Physicians, and Healing Mediums devote their energies to fleecing the ignorant, and the loathsome announcements of abortionist ghouls, whose murderous preparations and appliances are openly hawked in the broad light of day, causing them to be so familiarly "common," as to lead to their acceptance as a matter of course portion of the family sheet! Less criminal only in degree are the thousand and one "patent" nostrum abominations which crowd the columns of almost every paper, with their lying certificates of cure—not seldom accompanied by the pressing recommendation of "the gentleman filling the editorial chair." Often, these vendors of so-called "proprietary remedies" contrive to augment their sales by appending to their advertisements extracts from the United States Dispensatory, or other legitimate authority, speaking favorably, in certain conditions, of the curative properties of one or other of the ingredients of their compounds, and the voucher of some Analytical Chemist attesting the harmlessness of their rubbish is sometimes also paraded to overcome the scruples of the more timid. And not much more than what we have indicated, do American readers obtain from the ordinary American newspaper—in the way of a knowledge of "the common facts," which a "British doctor" has had the hardihood to