

IN RESPECT OF QUACKS.

PATENT MEDICINE MONOPOLISTS AND THEIR PROFITS.

Doctering Made Easy—How Home-Made Physicians Get Their Education—How Cash is Spent for Nostrums—What Shakespeare Has to Say About Physic.

The quack has been, since the days of old Esculapius, and if a tithe of the legends told about him are founded on fact, his labors have not conduced to the longevity of mankind. There are no means of ascertaining the exact number of human lives sacrificed on the altars of his ignorance, yet persons can be heard from, who express full faith in his methods, and patronize his nostrums. Some statistician, whose nom de plume is astray or lost on the desert of my memory, has recklessly hinted that the amount of money annually wasted for useless and harmful physic would pay the yearly interest on the combined national debts of christendom, Canada's included. As it would require more time, patience and ability than I have the management of, to tot up such a sum, the statement must pass here for what it is worth; but it may be said that if the vast amount of cash so squandered, was invested for the acquirement of wholesome food, and healthful recreation, it would augment the comforts and lengthen the days of those dupes who think they are afflicted with all kinds of diseases, and whose whims send them prematurely to some other sphere, and keep them and those who are forced to tolerate them, in mental misery, while they abide and physic themselves on this.

There are a surprisingly large number of sufferers about, who are never at ease unless they are detailing their personal afflictions, and seem to need enormous quantities of sympathy. These robust yet grewsome invalids are eternally retelling reminiscences of their ailments, or reciting everlasting instalments of the martyrdom they endure. No other mortals have such painful boils, violent headaches, heavy colds, or racking rheumatics as they. In whatever company they happen be, they are sure to "get the floor," and it is then useless to rise to order until they empty themselves of their superfluous anguish. They are not cheerful companions, and there will be no mistake made if they be rated among the vacuous "Krankes" of the age, who magnify their own pangs, and minimize the agony of others.

There is also a numerous body of irrepressibles at large, who seem to have a superfluity of condolence and sympathetic bumcome to lavish broadcast. When visiting the sick, their consolation consists of rehearsals of the raids of disorders and death which occurred in their own family circles for a score or more of years past. If the "grim tyrant" has crossed a neighbor's threshold, these egregious pests tell the mourners to "calmly resign themselves to the will of Providence;" that the departed "was much respected;" and if "the day is fine he will have a nice funeral;" that "death is the common lot, and is as natural as life;" that "all have troubles;" and they further enliven the bereaved by a recapitulation of the losses sustained on their own parts, which information is distributed with a minuteness of detail often appalling, and always prosy. What edifying anecdotes are cackled on such occasions! What a pleasure it is to listen to a series of biographical sketches about "Tommy and the baby;" to learn when "Maudie had the mumps; Gertrude the measles; Flossie the croup, or the tiresome time we spent when (Gussie was being weaned); To be told when "my son Paul died;" when "my boy Peter was born;" the complete history of that awful day when "our Johnnie swallowed the cent;" or "what a clever little chap Alphonso is and how much the teacher thinks of him at school."

There is another division of the descendants of Adam and Eve to the fore, who claim to be great doctors. They have heads full of invaluable recipes for the cure of all the known, and for most of the unknown maladies, to flesh and bone inherent. They scatter their advice and prescriptions with wasteful profusion among those unfortunate who are polite enough to listen to, and bear with their intolerable nonsense, and judging by the opportunities they have had of acquiring physiological knowledge, and medical lore, their diagnosis of a case and their medicaments are of supreme value. These scientists know so much that little is left for the rest of mankind to bother about; and they are able auxiliaries to the home-made physicians of both sexes, who devour the medical literature so lavishly circulated through the mazy ramifications of the postal service, and who in consequence, prate glibly of lassitude, insomnia, nervous prostration, general debility, or run down systems, which are often nothing more than fits of chronic laziness, that can be cured readily by regular doses of light diet, and than by any other known means.

The patent medicine monopolist levies a heavy tribute on mortality, and his nostrums are large income producing factors. He is a king among quacks; and the peculiarities of poor humanity are open secrets to him; he studies the fads and the foibles of the human family to his lasting profit, and his researches in that direction materially tend to increase his output, his sales, and his bank account. A single bottle of his mixture is advertised to cure scores of different diseases; a package of his ointment is

ST. JOHN AMATEUR MINSTRELS.



E. MacMichael, A. M. Smith, A. H. Lindsay, W. H. Burns, K. C. Farmer, J. S. Knowles, R. W. Hannington, G. Collinson, W. J. Starr, W. J. Barker, E. M. Olive, G. King, W. H. Horn, J. S. Esson, G. B. Hagan, W. A. Edwin, J. Rennie, G. G. Ruel, R. Cruickshank, W. Wascor, Jr., A. E. MacIntyre, F. Blackadar, P. W. Thomson, W. B. Esson, F. Howard, H. Cole, C. H. Ferguson, J. Duffell, A. M. Duff, E. W. Barlow.

warranted to unlimber the stiffest joints with despatch; a box of his salve is guaranteed to heal new wounds or old sores; and but little persuasive force is required to make many persons believe, that "Kill-and-cure-all," or some kindred compound is efficacious enough to make hair grow on parts which nature intended should be barren, to cure la grippe, or to mend cork legs.

Great benefits are conferred on mankind by the introduction of patent remedies into the realms of trade, for thus is doctering made easy; and any dunce who can spell print sufficiently well, to gain an idea of directions on the packages can attend to his own sick calls; prescribe for his friends, and assume the vagaries of the full pledged quack. If I was not rich enough already, and had my choice in the money market, I would rather be the owner of a patent medicine mill, than be the liquidator of an insolvent bank; a tur confiscating general; an M. P. interested in land jobbing for a government railway, of an advance agent and manager for an immoral variety show, under the advertising patronage of the W. C. T. U.

That the human frame is a rickety structure is revealed, by the long list of familiar diseases with which ancient charlatans have sought to puzzle the masses; not to speak of the almost unpronounceable newly invented microbic, or hydrophobic attacks which modern science, so called, has added to the dread catalogue. The experienced healer may hesitate before carrying his experiments on his patients too far, thereby giving them some chances for life; but the quack will unhesitatingly tinker with "the human form divine;" as regardless of results, and as unconcernedly, as the botch following any other avocation will tackle a job of which he knows nothing.

A home-made scientist undertook to treat the case of a respected citizen, who opened "his gate" to wide during the progress of a protracted yawf, that he was unable to close the aperture when he so desired, the nether jaw absolutely refusing to assume its normal position, persistently hanging down, and affording an extended view of the respected citizen's internal mechanism, via the windpipe.

A physician was finally called in, to whom the home-made volubly explained the measures he had already taken. The experienced practitioner took in the situation at once. He gave the sufferer a sharp slap under the chin which caused his teeth to come together with a snap, and looking straight in the face of the talking quack said, "Shut up your jaw, you booby."

The success, suddenness, and simplicity of the operation relieved the sufferer, amused the onlookers, and surprised the home-made; who to this day is not satisfied whether it was his, or the patient's jaw that was so peremptorily ordered to "shut up,"

or whether it was he or the respected citizen was the booby.

Moral: remember that a rehearsal of your woes is not a joyous theme for your listeners, who may have troubles of their own in which they are vastly more interested than they are in yours. Beware of quacks; and be sure you are ill ere you send for a doctor; then, if possible, act upon Shakespeare's advice, and "throw physic to the dogs."

Yours medically, MINE. IMPOSING ON A BEGGAR.

No Wonder the Applicant for Aid Went A-Way Mad.

A beggar accosted a gentleman, and whined: "I'm paralyzed in both me'ands, mister, an' can't work, fer I can't grasp anything with 'em. Could yer spare me a trifle, mister?"

"I'm deaf," replied the gentleman. "You better write down what you have to say. Here's a pencil and a piece of paper."

"Deaf, is e?" thought the beggar. "Then 'e didn't hear about the paralysis." So he wrote down: "I've got a wife an' six children starvin' at 'ome, mister. 'I've bin out o' wurk fer six months, an' ham in a drefful state of destertushun."

He handed the paper to the gentleman, who read it and said: "I thought you said you were paralyzed in both hands and couldn't grasp anything; and yet you can write."

"Did-didn't yer say yer was deaf?" stammered the beggar, who now really did feel paralyzed. "Yes, just to find out if you were an impostor, which you are, as I suspected," replied the gentleman.

"Well, of all the 'bloomin' frauds, yer the biggest!" exclaimed the beggar. "The hidea of yer sayin' yer was deaf, an' tryin' to impose on a poor feller."

And he shuffled off, sniffing the air with righteous indignation.

In addition to the many good things necessary from the Grocer for family use at this season, are Dunn's Hams and Bacon, Cottle, Fresh Eggs, Grape Fruit, Blood Oranges, Bananas, Breakfast Cereals, etc, for which send orders by team, mail or Telephone (212) to—J. S. ARMSTRONG & BRO. 32 Charlotte St.

BRITISH BANK NOTE,

is the correct thing in visiting cards. Very chaste and the style. Pack (50) \$1. Sample free. Shorthand taught by mail.

Snell's Business College, - Windsor, N. S.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

FOR SALE OR RENT. Best Business Stand in the Province for young man with small capital, new district, Victoria Co.; railroad almost completed; 3 or 4 acres of land and store situated where roads run in four directions. Address "Business," care Progress, St. John.

EGGS FOR SETTING. Black Langshans (Kerry Smith's strain), \$2.00 per 15. Blue Andalusians from five imported strains, splendid layers, \$1.25 per 15. Houdans; imported birds, \$1.25 per 15. Indian Game Fowls (Sharp's strain) for sale, and Houdan Pigeons from trained birds of long distance record. P. L. Fauce, Kenville, N. S.

SHOW CASES. PHOTO'S CELEBRATED SHOW CASES. J. Hambrook, 80 Prince William St., St. John, N. B. Sole Agent for Maritime Provinces. Send for Illustrated Catalogue and Price List.

A SMALL SAFE for sale at a bargain. Just the thing for house or office. In use one year when a larger one was necessary for merchant's business. Particulars at Progress office.

SOME PUBLISHER can secure a Musgrave and Plattner with galley and imported at 50 per cent. off cost by applying at Progress office, where a rapid mailing machine has become necessary. Address THE TYPE, 141.

TO LET. Part of flat-four rooms, for small family of adults; over T. J. Cochran's Drug Store, Main St., North. Inquire of Miss Robinson on premises.

SPRING. Our Stock of suitable Cloths is now fully assorted. The latest novelties in Trousers, etc. A GILMOUR, Tailor, 72 Germain Street.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS. Printing and general finishing for amateurs. Developers, Toning and Fixing solutions for sale. LUMBER PHOTO STUDIO, 25 Charlotte St., St. John, N. B.

SECONDHAND TYPEWRITERS. Remington and Calligraph typewriters, almost new and in excellent repair will be sold from one-third to one-half their original cost. Samples of work and particulars on application to I. R. CORNWALL, York Agency, 104 Prince Wm. St., St. John.

SHORTHAND. Scott's System, practically and thoroughly taught. FRED DEYER, Court Stenographer, Bayard's Building, Prince Wm. St., St. John, N. B.

FRAZER'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, 110 Hall's Bldg., St. John, is in session day and evening. Best place to learn Bookkeeping, Business, etc., also Stenography and Typewriting. Send for our circular. J. C. F. FRAZER, Principal.

BOARDING. A FEW PERMANENT or transient, pleasant rooms, can be accommodated with large and pleasant rooms, in that very centrally located house, 18 Sidney street. Mrs. McLENNAN.

Sheffield Cutlery

From all the Best Makers. Solid Silver Ware. Plated Ware. A LARGE AND VARIED STOCK TO CHOOSE FROM

W. H. THORNE & CO., Market Square, St. John.

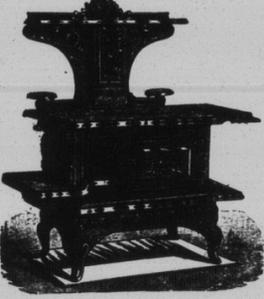
BICYCLE ACADEMY.

Our Bicycle Academy is open every day (Sunday excepted) from 9 a. m. to 10.30 p. m. We are Sole Agents for the Maritime Provinces for the best line of Bicycles Manufactured, namely:

SINGERS, RALEIGHS and Western Wheel Works. If you want the best give us a call. Second-hand wheels cheap. Send for Catalogues.

ST. JOHN CYCLE CO., 239 and 241 Charlotte Street.

A MODEL OUTFIT.



See Our Window.

It will pay you to do so. We are now offering a complete Kitchen Outfit, comprising all that is necessary to properly equip a kitchen, including one of our

Popular Model Art RANGES,

with Top Shelf and Cabinet Base. In all 115 articles and the Range for

\$42.50 Cash.

EMERSON & FISHER,

STOVE, RANGE and KITCHEN FURNISHING DEPOT, 75 to 79 Prince Wm. St.

AWL AND TOOL SET.



These Handles and Tools are first-class in every respect. The jaws, clamping, nut and ferrule are Nickel Plated.

The Tools consist of a Chisel, Gouge, Tack Puller, Gilet, Screw Driver, Reamer, Scratch Awl, and four Brad Awis of different sizes. Made of best cast steel, properly tempered.

Sent by mail, to any address, on receipt of 75 cts.

T. McAVITY & SONS, - - - - - St. John, N. B.



ESTABLISHED 1868. TELEPHONE 788.

MILLER BROTHERS.

CALL AND SEE OUR STOCK.

Importers and Dealers for the BEST "ASIAN AND AMERICAN

PIANOS, ORGANS

AND SEWING MACHINES.

PIANOS AND ORGANS TUNED AND REPAIRED. SEWING MACHINES REPAIRED.

We buy direct in Large Quantities for Cash, and are able to give Large Discounts. Prices Sold on the Instalment Plan.

116 and 118 GRANVILLE ST., - HALIFAX, N. S.

Four Diplomas taken on Stock shown at late Provincial Exhibition.

MU It is said to secure the base, for the their efforts and results entrusted to Mr. Will ment to get so I suppose from Boston rather about work as the pretty frequ I was glad there was a Andrew's cl heard some the criticism but can only above, the spirit and ha Crutemary wgs spollt b ths (one of a poor piano Mrs. Harz the 'I did no the Stacodis once in a wh almost call every select are not first Mrs. Harris execution is so fond of s her sing son Sweet Home so frequent Mr. G. E. from a bad have done h sing, as one such circum more favor Mrs. Hen low," very with her c out pedatr. In the soprano w not toning appear in w was not qu Hea and T Mrs. Gile song with h It would Eason's pia instruments The Min thing about I hear th Twenty ch (St. George music, Mr. Sir Ar time apen no place tions as is something the clang of the wh agination for a host It is us squeaky women, a in show in the cast Their bui so that t touch mo people. "wherez Cyrril which has burg, has prevision. work in co The audi from all p and alter composer curtain. musical e be heard "Nikita to be ma de-camp eighteen abandon in Persia, ambassad "Nikita. ter her by Marguerie name she been sing zio debu fifteen. The y who is at many, re akedemic and the gramme the "Lov het," fro Wolcor's zurka an a nocturn and Liszt The Kas sons hear been ord is now c many. said a Pa "is a vior vance on ago a ma what I w \$5. He know wh him I did told hin than a vi but a m eno. I one bu worth an