

the disease is in the lower dorsal or the lumbar region, and generally on a line in front parallel with the disease in the vertebrae. If the disease is in the dorsal region, we have pains in the chest, and a peculiar cut off respiration, as if eversion of the ribs were arrested at a certain point; this symptom is sometimes mistaken for asthma. If the lumbar vertebrae be affected, pains in the stomach and abdominal region are among the earliest symptoms; as the disease progresses these pains pass away; sometimes they are supposed, in children, to be caused by worms, these pains are caused by contractions of the various muscles supplied by the nerves radiating from the diseased vertebrae; these pains occur sometimes in front, again at the side; sometimes there is pain in the back, but not usually in the first stage of the disease, the pain is not acute. The attitude is peculiar and unmistakable; the patient does not always lean on one side or the other, though frequently doing so, but there is an expression inimitable and easily detected; an effort to get as many springs under him as possible; a letting down of each joint of the body, so as to avoid the shock. It is instinctive, and the patient is unconscious of it; keeps in a peculiar crouched position, and is disinclined to sit. When the child comes to the mother's lap, he will fall heavily upon it, and wish to bear the whole weight on his elbows. A hacking cough and hiccough are frequently symptoms diagnostic of disease in this locality. When this disease is in the cervical region, it is sometimes mistaken for torticollis. The sixth cervical is the one most apt to be diseased. Another symptom is contraction of the pscas muscle. Feeling along the back for tenderness is not reliable, as out of three hundred and eighty-two cases recorded, he never found one case with spinal hyperaesthesia. Percussion is worthless. Paralysis may occur in the first stage; this is apt to be brief. Dragging the foot in walking should attract your attention. Lordosis is another symptom.

He winds up an elaborate paper with an earnest appeal to the profession to be careful in their diagnosis of disease of the spine, never to "pooh, pooh" an anxious mother when she calls your attention to her child's sideling and awkward shuffling gait; to the oclic pains, and the crying out in the night, or early morning, to its indisposition to run about, etc.

THE *Toronto Globe*, in an able article on Health and Hygiene, published in its columns upon May 25th, directed principally to the farming community thus discusses the effects of patent medicines:

But on the whole, perhaps the greatest evil from which they suffer is the great faith they have in the quack nostrums and patent medicines so largely

advertised in every country paper. Every country store contains a large stock of these worthless rubbish, and we are told were it not for the demand for patent medicines among country people, their manufacture would have to be abandoned, instead of, as now, being the stepping stone on which many an illiterate quack has built up a colossal fortune out of the hard-won earnings of industrious farmers.

Perhaps most of these patent medicines are not of themselves poisonously injurious, but at the best they are utterly useless for any good purposes, and their virtues exist only in the advertisements of their proprietors and the imaginations of those who read them. They are as a general rule, purposely made of such materials as have both a stimulating and soothing effect on the system, and so excite a desire for their continued use when once they have been taken, alcohol and opium being the base and principal ingredients in most of them; and their use, though it may seemingly result in relief from an imaginary complaint, ultimately deranges first the digestive powers, and soon the whole bodily frame, causing disease and general ill-health.

If the proprietors of this the leading paper in the Dominion, would discountenance the insertion of advertisements calculated to entrap the ignorant and foolish into purchasing (to say the least, these worthless nostrums) would be taking a step in the furtherance of their great mission, which would be appreciated by all the moral and religious element of society. The *San Francisco Chronicle* thus expresses its opinion upon quacks, patent medicines, etc.:

THE PLAGUE OF QUACKS.—Pharaoh was plagued with the plagues of vermin, of frogs, of locusts and of darkness; but the sacred chronicle makes no mention of a plague of quacks. In this, Egypt was more blessed than San Francisco, where astrologers clairvoyants, healing mediums and men of science, who guarantee to cure all diseases for a "consideration," constitute no inconsiderable portion of the population. Byron in his tragedy of Cain represents the wife of the first homicide as exclaiming in accents of awe and horror, after looking upon the corpse of Abel, "Death is in the world." Certain of our contemporaries have recently indulged in an outcry against quacks and the dealers in panaceas and cure-alls, so loud and portentous as to suggest the idea that they have just awakened to the fact that quackery is in the world. The truth is that this form of charlatanism is as old as human nature, and in one shape or another it will exist till time shall be no more. It subsists upon the hopes of the credulous, the fears of the timid, the fancies of the imaginative, the delusions of the ignorant; and so long as human nature retains its imperfections and its weaknesses, there will be charlatans and dupes. Legislation is powerless to remedy this evil. No law can be framed by human ingenuity that will prevent the quack from exercising upon his victim. The press is the great engine that these impostors and charlatans have to dread. If the public journals will boldly and faithfully expose their false pretenses and chronicle their frauds and impostures; if they will take the pains to explain to the people the folly of relying upon