

their legal attainments; but it is usually different with ministers of the gospel, whose more liberal education would, we might naturally have supposed, have caused them to keep aloof from charlatanism of every description, much more from a scheme which denounces, in unmeasured terms, a profession which has stood the test of ages, and the practice of which is based upon the experience and the observation of the best and most enlightened of the human race, who have made disease the study of their lives. With a species of hypocrisy, characteristic of the Thompsonian tribe, they proscrib the use of mineral remedies, because poisonous, studiously concealing the fact, that in the vegetable kingdom are to be found poisons of a far more active nature than any derived from the mineral, and which they scruple not to use, although grossly ignorant of their properties and doses, as evidenced by a late inquest in this city—an incidental notice of which was taken in a previous number of this journal. We hope these Reverend gentlemen will obtain their end, of which, however, we have some doubts, and that the demands of the Thompsonians will be legalized. We say we hope so, for it will then be found that the rapacity of these impostors will far outstrip their arrogance and their cunning—a consummation with which the signers to the petitions deserve to be visited.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the B. A. Journal of Medical Science.

Mr. Editor,—I am a plain country practitioner, a resident in a secluded rural district for the last ten years, jogging along as I best may, and unenlightened as to the march of medical science, further than the glimpses I obtain from the columns of your Journal, the monthly arrival of which I look forward to with great delight.

Your last number contains some strictures on the proposed bill for a College of Physicians and Surgeons, C. E. I am one of those to whom a circular was sent, but entertaining opinions nearly similar to your own on the subject, I have as yet hesitated to authorize my name being appended to the petition. Allow me, however, to say that I consider the penalty clause the best that has ever been suggested to fulfill the wishes of the country surgeon.

The interests of the country practitioner seem to be entirely lost sight of in all that has yet been done. Too much attention has been paid to the mere preliminary and collegiate courses of rival schools, to allow much time to be wasted on his interest; and yet where, in the whole profession, do you find any so grudgingly required for his laborious exertions, or the daily and hourly annoyances he is forced to bear, or how his preserves are poached upon by a host of rapacious quacks.

Believe me, Mr. Editor, you or your city compeers can form no conception of our position. In stating

my own, it may, without exaggeration, be taken as a sample of nine-tenths of the country practitioners of this Province. Imprimis, then, I am annoyed by a noted *bone setter*, who, mainly I believe from possessing the happy knack of dislocating his own thumb at pleasure, gulls the public with the belief, that no case, no matter how long unreduced, can withstand his manipulations, the snap of his own thumb settles all, and the fee is immediately forthcoming!

Under my very nose lives neighbour B., who bleeds and extracts teeth at exactly half the professional charge. This to you may appear a trifling grievance, yet I assure you the receipts before this infringement of my rights, has helped greatly to condition my horse for a hard midnight's ride. In the extirpation of tumours, &c., my scalpels have grown rusty for want of use, as Dr. B., so called, takes this branch under his care, and unblushingly promises a cure in all cases, malignant or benign, at a moderate cost! It was only the other day I was consulted by a woman who had suffered severely in general health from the application of his *nostrum*, to a carcinomatous mamma, and which has caused a fearful enlargement of the tumour, so as almost to preclude the *hope* of recovery; yet this *pretender* has the impudence to demand payment, and threatens law proceedings in the event of a refusal!! In midwifery, not to mention a host of illiterate midwives—until late there was a Dr. S. who used to *do the natives*, and a great run he had, till an unlucky case of arm presentation occurring, for which he was unprepared, and to remedy which he had recourse to the brutal expedient of cutting off the presenting member with a common jack-knife, and left the woman to her fate! upon the arrival of my friend Dr. R., who succeeded in effecting delivery, but too late to save the mother or child. This daring aggressor, to escape the consequences of his ignorance, *cleared* from the neighbourhood the same night, leaving his books and instruments behind him! Even the storekeepers have so far forgotten the sphere nature intended them for, as to encroach on my privileges by dispensing such articles as strychnine, arsenic, tartar emetic, calomel, quinine, and, in fact, the whole contents of a well-ordered surgery.

These illegal pretenders make regular charges, ay, and get paid too, and what must surely surprise you, it has been decided in our Commissioners Court here, that it was of no consequence whether a person was licensed or not, and that decision was acted upon. Under circumstances such as these, is it surprising that many have abandoned the profession in disgust, and entered other pursuits where their exertions are better requited? How long are such practices to be tolerated, inflicting, as they do, incalculable injury both on the regularly qualified medical man, as well as the public? The existing remedy is *totally* inadequate to stop them. The proposed medical bill—however stringent the penal clauses—if the enforcing of them is to be left to the complaining party himself, will, I venture to say, never answer. Where is the medical man who will incur the *onus* of becoming the prosecutor? Where the willing witnesses to back