

dise took various ways of circulating information respecting it. Lists of the names of persons to whom advertisements could be safely sent, were kept ready prepared as articles of commerce, and bought and sold; and fraudulent advertisements were resorted to by many as a means of bringing their books and other articles before the public. One dealer was in the habit of advertising that for fifty cents he would send an album, and when any one forwarded this amount, he received, by return of mail, a catalogue of obscene books, and a note informing him that the album was only a pretext to furnish him with this catalogue; but that if he wished to purchase any of the books enumerated therein, the sum he had sent would be placed to his credit. Sometimes an engraving of a celebrated person or renowned place was made the cloak under which were sent indecent pictures, catalogues of obscene books, and various other articles intended for immoral practices and for procuring abortions.

We have no reason to doubt that this infamous traffic is carried on in Canada on a large scale. We, ourselves, are acquainted with several persons who have been the recipients of some of those obscene books. The Royal Mail is thus employed in scattering the seeds of the most loathsome immorality amongst the cities, towns, and rural districts of our fair country! And will the government with an efficacious remedy on its own hand, and one that has been adopted in other countries, not endeavor to apply it, but remain indifferent in the face of these revolting abuses? How much longer shall we suffer a condition of things so utterly prejudicial to both the moral and material interests of our population?

We have extended these considerations of charlatanism to a much greater length than we anticipated; but the subject is of such importance, that we feel confident of the pardon of our readers, though we pursue it even a little further.

It remains for us now to decide upon the best means of ridding the medical profession of the parasites that are devouring it, and of protecting society against the various healers and charlatans, whose disastrous proceedings we are, to a certain extent, witnessing every day.

To accomplish this desirable object, we need in the first place professional instruction, secondly, instruction of the people, and finally, legal prohi-

bition. Physicians are, by the nature of their duties, brought into contact with all classes of society, and hence for the honor of their profession, they ought not to be inferior to any in education. If they would secure the respect which ought to be an accompaniment of their titles, both their special and general attainments should be equal to the high position in society which they occupy. Society, moreover, very properly demands that those who are guardians of the public health, should possess such qualifications as fit them for the fulfilment of this important mission. And the more fully society is satisfied that physicians possess such qualifications, the more unreserved will be its confidence in them, and the clearer will become the dividing lines between them and the ignorant empirics.

Everything which elevates the standing of the medical profession, must, therefore, have a tendency to repress Charlatanism. Far be the thought from us, that the existing body of medical men lack the necessary qualifications for the performance of their onerous duties. Thanks to the clergy, and to many devoted laymen, the Province of Quebec is well furnished with places for superior instruction, whence the youth can draw the principles of truth and virtue, at the same time that they are receiving a substantial and brilliant education. Thanks also to the devotedness of our ancestors, the existing generation of medical men have been able to acquire in our Medical Colleges, sufficient knowledge for the exercise of their profession, and such a course of training as, (if the difficulties of the task and the means placed at their disposal are taken into consideration), it must be acknowledged, could not have been made better. For, if in France, England and Germany, where classical and professional education are so complete, they are still endeavoring to make them more perfect, it would be astonishing if in a country as young as ours, there were not chisms to be filled up, errors to be abolished, progress to be realized. I order that physicians may be equal to their high position, and may by broader views and superior ideas be distinguished from charlatans, it is necessary, above all things, that every one intending to fill a physicians station, should undergo a rigid and thorough course of preliminary training. The general opinion of the profession at present is, that the existing system under which