

utility confined to the less educated class. The more ignorant and mysterious the source of the medicine, the more marvellous the testimonial and unworthy of belief, so much greater is the confidence. Nostrum after nostrum is resorted to in the vain effort for relief before consulting a proper medical adviser, losing much valuable time in allowing the disease to make greater progress, then add to all this the irreparable harm often done by the use of medicine contraindicated.

Evil habits are frequently contracted, leading up to confirmed inebriety, also to morphinism, etc., many of these preparations are used in secret, the so called secret preparations which are so largely advertised in the public press, suggesting evil thought and provoking curiosity in the minds of our youth, often leading to contamination.

There is another class of preparations, in the form of stimulating tonics, made and sold by reputable pharmacists, which is frequently the cause of much mischief, particularly where they are self prescribed which is so often the case. I allude to such preparations as wine of beef and iron, coca wine, etc. These, and similar preparations are frequently prescribed by people of apparently strong temperance principles who would hesitate to use or recommend the ordinary alcoholic preparations.

Those who suffer most from the use of these latter preparations are delicate neurotics who are attracted partly by the high sounding names, which convey to their minds the idea that this is, indeed, the very thing which they require, and partly because it is pleasant to the taste and of a stimulating nature, giving them a feeling of temporary relief from their depression. After a time, it becomes almost a necessity, leading frequently, to the use of stronger preparation, ending in inebriety.

Cannot something be done to shield the public from this great evil? Shall we, the members of this enlightened profession, who see this monster, with its many sided evils, daily flaunted before us, having its bold, indecent advertisements in our public press, pervading even the religious journals, thereby giving an apparent sanction, and clothing these nostrums with an air of respectability; we who daily meet in our professional rounds, melancholy examples of this terrible delusion, I say, shall we not raise our voices in loud protest against it? Can we not unitedly, in some way, arouse public sentiment, so that in some measure, at least, evil may be rectified?

There is a law in France, by which all makers of patent medicines are obliged to put the formula, both qualitative and quantitative upon the package. Should there be any suspicion of fraud, officers are instructed to obtain samples from the dealers or vendors. Upon the suspicion being verified by analysis, the officers are empowered to prohibit further manufacture and sale.