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EDITORIAL.

THE profession can have nothing but words of commendation for the action taken by the Hon. Senator Sullivan in connection with the subject of "patent medicines." Almost every day the practitioner meets some victim of the medicine habit who is as great a slave to some patent nostrum, manufactured for the purpose of enriching its proprietor, as the ordinary alcoholic or "dope" habitué.

The prevalent cupidity of the "patent" manufacturer leads him to use in some cases inferior and adulterated drugs, and, worse than all, to substitute decidedly harmful materials because of their cheapness.

In New York, recently, an analysis of samples of liquors purchased in ordinary liquor shops was made, and 95 % of them were found to contain no traces of ethyl alcohol, their basis being the poisonous wood spirits.

From clinical evidence we cannot but fear that many of the widely advertised nerve and heart tonics sold at a "discount for quantities," and largely consumed by the victims, are compounded of wood alcohol as the basis rather than ethyl alcohol.