

THE CANADA LANCET:

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Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.

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POLITICAL MEDICINE.

The recently enacted Medical Bill provides the means for a far greater amount of protection, both for the public and the profession, than any previous legislation afforded, supposing it to be fearlessly administered. The question arises, will the public quietly submit to the enforcement of the penal clauses, or so perversely act on the suggestion of the *Globe*, that "an open and determined resistance to the law" should be inaugurated; that the members of the profession, weary of the ungracious task of attempting to defend the public from imposture, would quietly yield to the inevitable consequence—free trade in physic—rather than further subject themselves to obloquy in attempting to carry out the provisions of the Act?

We need not tell the profession that quackery is an evil. Were the public possessed of common sense in medical matters, it would be aware also that quackery is an evil. If the public refuse its assent to this, it is because it is profoundly ignorant of the nature and scope of medical science, and of the properties of drugs. Quackery is a nuisance in many ways. It is a nuisance, because it is a system of lies and imposture, and swamps the community with hosts of rogues and fools. The commonwealth must suffer morally, and cannot but be damaged by the vagabonds that quackery lets loose upon it. Quackery is a nuisance, because it tends to create the ills it feeds upon; and affecting to cure all diseases, it produces or perpetuates many. And finally, quackery is a nuisance, because it fosters erroneous ideas on the operation of drugs, begets a system of deceit which even the profession is involuntarily obliged to humour, and abases,

what is so requisite for the happiness of man, the art of medicine itself. It is generally imagined by the public, that the antipathy of the profession to quackery originates in a feeling of self-interest, and that quacks take the bread from medical men. We more than doubt if this is true. If the faculty lose and quackery gains a particular case, that is amply compensated by the ill-health which quackery produces in thousands, and the disposition to fly to physic which it generates in millions. On the whole, the profession probably gains by quackery—certainly its loss must be very trivial. A feeling of self-interest can sway the profession very little either way, and its antipathy to quackery must be sought on other grounds.

We should say that our aversion to quackery takes its rise in a natural feeling of disgust at a barefaced system of humbug. Unless men's minds are warped by the strongest motives towards wrong, they revolt at witnessing it. We see a knot of rascals fleeing and injuring the public by the most dishonest and scandalous arts. We naturally evince contempt and indignation towards the miscreants. And those feelings are aggravated by the tendency of such practices to bring discredit and dishonor on the science we profess. Are not these sufficient, natural and worthy motives for resentment? We wish that all class quarrels were as honest and as praiseworthy. The above remarks may be viewed as *apropos* to a case of recent occurrence at Simcoe, in the county of Norfolk. A so-called Prussian army surgeon has for some time back been in the habit of visiting that and other towns, heralding his visit by the following announcement in the newspapers:

"DR. J. B. ARNOLD, lately from Berlin, Prussia, and Surgeon in the Prussian Army, gives special attention to all diseases of the Feet, Hip-joint Disease, Inflammatory Rheumatism and White Swelling, without taking internal medicines. Also treats diseases of the Gastric Juices, Saliva Glands, Asthma and Heart diseases: also diseases of the Spine, Falling of the Womb, Ulceration or Leucorrhœa, etc.—Cures are permanent. Cancers and Eye diseases cured without the use of the knife, by a new but certain, speedy and nearly painless process. Ruptures, Fits and Piles of long standing guaranteed cured, etc., etc., *ad nauseum*. Consultations free."

The practitioners of Simcoe having ascertained that this *soi disant* Dr. Arnold, was not on the roll