

## Editor's Special Corner.

**OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.**—Is it anything more or less than getting money under false pretences, this practice of selling patent medicines to cure a long list of diseases, which the vendors of the stuff know very well will not accomplish one-tenth part of what is promised in the advertisements? Doubtless convictions might be obtained in many cases of sale of these medicines, if parties interested (and who is not? the State certainly is) would undertake it. This would soon lessen the evil. An exchange says "The *Medical Record* has been reading the quack advertisements in eleven of the religious journals, and finds fifty false assertions regarding the efficacy of quack remedies . . . The place in which to attack the evil is in the religious journals themselves. Doctors, to a man, are agreed as to the aforementioned evil. The people, including the clergy, are utterly ignorant in the matter. They need light. Who will give it to them?"

**LICENSING PLUMBERS.**—Many are now of opinion that plumbers should undergo an examination and procure a license before being allowed to do plumbing work. There can be no doubt about the necessity for a system of licensing in plumbing work. In Montreal a sensible and practical movement has been inaugurated by the plumbers under the water-works department, with a view to have better and more substantial work executed in connection with the drainage of dwelling-houses. It is intended to have the qualified plumbers formally authorized by the corporation and their names published for the information of the citizens. The *Sanitary Engineer*, January 15, 1881, says in reference to this question: "There has been a great outcry because a number of people lost their lives at the burning of the Madison Street tenement house through the alleged carelessness or ignorance of a plumber. The fact is, that many more lives than were here lost are sacrificed every week through the ignorance and carelessness of men called plumbers, and yet some people

doubt the propriety of attempting to legislate to control those who work at this trade. More bodily injury is caused in New York city alone from defective plumbing than is produced in the whole United States from steam boiler casualties, and yet engineers must be licensed, and plumbers are free from any control."

**THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.**—The profession is evidently thoroughly awakened to the importance of State medicine, and to the loss the country is sustaining through sickness and deaths, much of which the State, through the Governments, might prevent. We need hardly say we are much gratified at this, which we have reason to look upon as, in a large measure, the fruit of our own labors. In this number we have only time and space to notice that, on 26th January, in the Local House, all the medical members met together and appointed a committee of their number, consisting of Drs. Baxter, Boulter and McMahon, to urge upon the Government the desirability of taking early action for the promotion of the public health in this Province; and that on the 27th a deputation, consisting of Hon. Senator Dr. Brouse, Dr. James A. Grant, of Ottawa, Dr. Canniff, of Toronto, Drs. Strange, M.P., and Bergin, M.P., and Hon. Senator Dr. Almon, and others, waited upon Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper in reference to the Sanitary question, as relates to the Dominion. The Ministers expressed their interest in the question, and promised to give it their consideration.

IN THE SENATE, on January 25th, Dr. Brouse moved for copies of all resolutions from medical conventions asking for health legislation. He spoke at considerable length, advocating the establishment of a central bureau of health and vital statistics, and quoted statistics of other countries to show the advantages which had resulted from similar legislation elsewhere. Dr. Paquet, in French, seconded the motion, and thought that a Minister of Public Health was as necessary as a President of the Privy Council. The motion was agreed to.