

FRAUDULENT DISPENSING.

The English public have been having something of a sensation over the matter of some dispensing frauds recently brought to light at Sheffield. The main facts of the case have already appeared in some of our city papers, but may be briefly recounted as follows :

In the quarterly report of Mr. Allen, borough analyst of Sheffield, it was stated that as considerable anxiety existed in the minds of some of the inhabitants as to the care and accuracy of the druggists of the town in making up physicians' prescriptions, it was thought desirable to decide the matter by analysis. To this end a number of prescriptions were sent out calling for full doses of some rather expensive remedies capable of ready and accurate estimation in a mixture. The drugs chosen were iodide of potassium, sulphate of quinine and spirit of nitrous ether. Eight prescriptions, requiring moderate doses of the first of these, were correctly dispensed, but of three others, in which 120 grains of the iodide were called for, only one was correctly dispensed, the others showing, on analysis of the mixtures, 122 and 76 grains, respectively. Of three quinine mixtures one was found to contain but two-thirds of the required amount. Another lot of three mixtures showed in one case a deficiency of one-fourth. The endeavour to estimate the amount of spirit of nitrous ether furnished in complex mixtures does not appear to have been successful.

As might be expected, the publication of this report furnished capital which the English press were not slow to improve. The *Times* calls attention to "very startling revelations;" the *Globe* thinks that "an example should be made of men so utterly selfish and reckless;" the *Standard* considers it "impossible to exaggerate the heinousness of the offence;" the *Telegraph* characterizes the matter as "disgraceful;" The *Morning Advertiser*, speaking from a lofty pedestal of severe morality, concludes its homily by depicting a monster deliberately falsifying the intent of a medical man, and retarding the recovery of a fellow-creature. "The very notion is terrible and shocking." True enough; but what shall we say of the picture drawn by the *Daily Telegraph* :—"It is a horrible and dreadful thing to think of the mother sitting up all night by the cot of her little one, and giving it, with her own tender hand, its nourishment and medicine, trusting—poor thing!—that the potent