

### What Is a "Quack?"

Occasionally, a dentist who has qualifications that might make him respectable, decides to wear the mask of the charlatan. Those who know him, are willing to admit that he is not a born rascal, however close he comes to being a born fool. No one asserts that he is an out-and-out impostor. Allowing for want of experience, no charitable confrere—and there is a vast amount of kindly feeling towards young beginners—would put a bar in the path of honorable ambition. Still, when one who has the golden opportunity of a respectable career before him resorts to public bombast, undue assumption of superiority, and other tricks of the ignorant pretender, he has, among all honorable practitioners and societies, been classified as a Quack. His geese may really be all swans, and with his much cry there may be much wool, but just as sure as a man apes the arts of a Quack, so will he eventually behave. The actor who always takes the villain's part in the play, insensibly degenerates in his morals. However skilful a dentist may be, if he plays the empiric he will glide into its regular practice. Exaggeration easily ends in unconscious, if not conscious, lying; and boasting is so kin to falsehood, that the professional boaster is always regarded, like Montaigne's page, as a man "who is never found guilty of telling the truth!"

A Quack, according to the dictionaries, is "one who boasts; who talks noisily and ostentatiously; who practises the arts of quackery." He may be "a boastful pretender to medical (or dental) skill he does not possess; an ignorant practitioner;" or he may be fairly able, and yet be quite as much of a Quack as the *bona fide* impostor. He resorts to lying when he declares that he can perform operations no one else can perform; that he possesses improved methods no one else can procure; that he can give ten dollars' worth for one, and generally perform miracles upon dead bones.

Just now there is a wave of quackery across the Dominion, and some *lie*-centiates are using the theatrical and circus arts of attracting attention, so well known to knaves who practise medicine and dentistry. We learn of several glaring cases in Ontario, of men whose decency no one would have impugned a year ago, descending to the most ignoble devices, to bring themselves before that