

Once the nature of the materials entering into their compounds were known, the value which their mysterious character invests them with would be lost.

We do not make the above proposition with a view of favoring the existence of such remedies at all, but as a middle course that would have the effect of expelling dangerous remedies, and diminishing the sale, as much as the customs of the country will permit, of those which cannot yet be entirely prohibited. To give effect to any law interfering in this matter as we have recommended, severe penalties, in the shape of fines and imprisonment, would need to be inflicted on those who refused to comply with its requirements, or who practised deception with regard to the nature of their compounds.

In concluding this part of our subject we may add that we consider it desirable to put an end to the obscene advertisements that defile many of our newspapers, and which thus distribute among families subjects of thought, of which, it were better they should be always ignorant. It is impossible to regard, without feelings of indignation, the fact of otherwise respectable journals polluting their columns with advertisements really criminal: Do their proprietors ever reflect on the awful consequences for which they are responsible to society, and still more to God? But there is a very easy and practicable method of putting an end to these revolting abuses.

Let the Federal Government prohibit the transmission by mail of all papers containing these infamous advertisements, and they will soon disappear. In reference to this matter our neighbors are in advance of us, for at the last session of the U. S. Congress, an act was passed of which the following are the prominent features:—

The first clause enacts that, "Whoever sells, lends, gives, or shows, or offers to publish any obscene book, pamphlet, advertisement, circular, image, model, instrument, or other object of an immoral nature, or any medicine for procuring abortion, or advertises such things for sale; or shall write or print, or cause to be written or printed any advertisement whatever, that shall make known, when or how or from whom, or in what way any of the above objects can be obtained, manufactured, or printed for such purposes, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and

"shall, upon conviction thereof, be imprisoned in penitentiary for not less than six months, nor more than five years, or shall pay a fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$2,000."

The second clause prevents the transmission of the above objects by mail; and makes whoever forwards or receives them liable to be fined not less than \$100, nor more than \$5,000, or to be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than one year nor more than ten, or to undergo both penalties, at the discretion of the judge.

The third clause prohibits the importation of these articles, and empowers the custom house officers to seize them.

By the fourth clause every employer of the Government who allows the law to be violated is made punishable by the penalties enumerated in the second clause.

The fifth clause empowers all district judges to issue, on affidavit being made, a warrant to search for, seize and destroy any of the objects aforesaid.

This stringent enactment produced the desired effect; and the next day after its adoption all immoral advertisements were either suppressed, or wholly deprived of their offensive features. And why should we not obtain similar results here?

Persons ignorant of the enormous traffic carried on in those articles of a criminal nature, cannot adequately estimate the immense good to public morality which would accrue to us from the adoption of a similar statute. We are informed by the *N. Y. Medical Review*, that Anthony Comstock, of Brooklyn, in a letter to one of the members of Congress, enumerated the following articles as seized by him alone, in the space of a few months: Obscene images and photographs, more than 182,000; books and pamphlets of the same nature, more than 5 tons; obscene songs and catalogues, more than 21,000; watches, pen-knives, and rings, more than 5,000; steel, copper, and wooden plates, more than 1,000; stereotypes for obscene books, more than 5 tons; obscene playing cards, from 5,500 to 6,000; articles made of India-rubber, of an immoral nature, more than 30,000; lead moulds for the same, more than 700 pounds; newspapers, nearly 4,600; letters inquiring for the above articles, nearly 15,000; also in three months 50 arrests, and 13,000 names obtained of persons who trafficked in the foregoing.

The infamous dealers in this obscene merchan-