

no period will yield a better profit than at the present moment, throws ordinary mercantile operations quite into the shade.

Very few, if any, of the large importing firms have ever accumulated fortunes by the regular processes of trade, in a long life of enterprising commercial activity, or amassed such prodigious estates as one or two bold pill makers, sarsaparilla manufacturers, and hair restorative venders have retired upon in the short time of five, six, and ten years. Philadelphia and New York possess the stateliest edifices in the world for carrying on these extraordinary plans for botching up frail humanity. And stranger still, notwithstanding a perpetually increasing demand for these various secret, mis-called remedies, not one of them possesses a single reliable property. Those who take them are in the end made worse, instead of better by them.

Take this astounding fact, in connexion with another, that men of the first medical distinction, in whom the public repose unlimited confidence, have never omitted warning the people of the danger incurred by patronizing those unknown mixtures from irresponsible sources, by lecturing, writing, and exhortations in season and out of season, without having stopped the sale of a single box of Brandreth's pills, or a vial of Davis's Pain Killer, since the batteries of scientific indignation opened the first broadside. A mortifying result,—but it is too true to be denied. That is not all. Resolutions solemnly promulgated under the authority of grave societies; appeals to the understanding, and a portrayal of the awful consequences that must inevitably follow, sooner or later, from the destructive effects of nostrums, have never weighed a feather, influenced a single mind, or retarded the wheels of this most profitable of all trades.

If the ignorant, the underwitted, and unconscious were the victims of patent medicines, we should have some hope of reaching that class of minds at last, by unceasing appeals and unrelaxing labor in developing their sensorial powers. But the patrons are the educated; the rich—the knowing ones; and the clergy everywhere give the weight of their clerical influence, without stint, by an array of certificates that must provoke the proprietors to laugh in their sleeves.

Physicians have certainly been on the wrong track in their hostility. The masses entertain an opinion that their warnings are nothing more nor less than exhibitions of selfishness,—which in rude language simply means, their own craft is in danger. Legislation has availed nothing, and it never will. People delight in this perverse mode of medication. Have it they will. The national appetite is hereditarily strong for this kind of food, hence any further attempts to deprive the people of their regular rations, of medicine, unless prescribed by a physician, must be abortive.

It would be an exciting scrap of medical intelligence to know whether educated medical gentlemen are ever interested in the nostrum trade. Where is the remedy? That is the question. Can a check ever be given to the manufacture and sale of quack medicines?—*Boston Medical World.*