

feeble and childish, of course, has made them bold and defiant, and enables them to throw back our disrespect and scorn with interest on our heads. They say the justification of their work rests in its success and its general approval by the people. It is conceded that the illegal practitioners are a financial success, but the means employed to bring about this success are questioned and unanimously condemned by us; but condemnation to these men amounts to nothing if it is not accompanied by a sentence of hard labor in the penitentiary. However, and unfortunately, such a happy result as this is well-nigh impossible from the manner in which they juggle with justice.

These illegal practitioners rest on their laurels and take things easy, knowing our weakness and lack of cohesion. Since these scoundrels—the quacks and abortionists—are growing influential as well as rich, we must now bestir ourselves in order to shake off the effects of the Rip Van Winkle sleep which has paralyzed, dazed and muddled us for so long.

These medical charlatans, who, hanging on the flanks of our profession and feeding on its vitals, have spread a repast for themselves on the bosom of the people whom they claim as their own, will soon come to be looked upon as a necessity, and no longer amenable to any legal restraint.

The penalty on the statute books for their crimes will become inoperative and obsolete as it will be counter to public opinion, and will lie in the legal archives of the State, like dead leaves on the woodland, a jest for the illegal practitioners as the leaves are a plaything for the winds that blow through the forest. Then the illegal practitioners will claim to practise their unrighteous calling and not even the respectable practitioner will have a voice to challenge or combat that right.

Now, the danger signal must be planted on every hill-top and the call to duty sounded through the camp, that the yeomen still in the medical profession, growing fewer every year, be up and active; if not, the illegal element with the constant re-enforcement of those who are deserting us, and who have already stolen our dollars, will very shortly elbow and crowd us out altogether. A little more headway to the forces of quackdom and they will ride roughshod and in triumph over prostrate but well-intentioned professional opinion.

The most dangerous plight or condition a person can be placed in is, to be the object of negative resistance; it is practically a condition of inertia and helplessness where a person or thing is at the mercy of an active force. This is just the position of our profession at present—at the mercy of the power and momentum of the illegal practitioners. These men are all pushers and hustlers, with coats off and sleeves rolled up and in the attitude of pugnacious defence toward any and all who come along to dispute their right to occupy the choicest rooms in the medical household.

Gentlemen of this medical society, these men—the illegal