

any invention, he may in conformity with the decree of Aug. 18, 1810, propose to the Government to make over to them his secret by selling them his recipe. Then, after having had the opinion of the Academy, the Government may, if they judge proper, enter into an agreement with the party on the proposed terms; the formula is then published, and the remedy thus made public property, may thereafter be kept ready prepared by every druggist just as the preparations authorized by the Codex are.

But the inventor without selling his secret, according to a decree of the 3rd of May, 1850, may consent to its divulcation without pay. The formula is then submitted to the Academy of Medicine, and after its having been approved of by the Minister, it is published in the *Bulletin de l'Académie*, and thus made public property like any medicine described in the Codex.

In this case, of course, the inventor derives no pecuniary advantage from his invention, but he has the satisfaction of having bestowed a benefit upon mankind by making known to them a discovery which in his hands would have remained useless. It is usually the case, however, that care is taken to retain the exclusive proprietorship, either of the form, the color, or the wrapper of the medicine, or of some particular name or title, any of which may become private property, without constituting the medicine such; and thus by the force of circumstances it comes to pass that the advantages of its sale are almost exclusively retained.—*Briand and Chaudé*.

In France, then, according to the actual state of law and jurisprudence, every preparation not described in the Codex, or the formula of which has not been published by the Government, or in the *Bulletin* of the Academy of Medicine, is considered a secret remedy, and its advertisement and sale are prevented by severe penalties. And numbers of convictions are actually made. Moreover, by the law respecting patents of invention, pharmaceutical compounds or remedies of every kind, are held incapable of being patented.

M. Ph. Dupin, a law reporter, expresses himself as follows, in reference to this matter: "It is an admitted fact that there exists, unfortunately, an inveterate prejudice—a belief in the popular mind so deeply fixed that it cannot be uprooted—that the granting of a patent carries with it a guarantee

of utility and worth in the article patented,—that the Government has examined, adjudged, and approved of it, and that in consequence of this it recommends itself to the confidence of the citizens. This impression produces so many bad consequences when applied to matters affecting the public health, that to thus expose credulity to the mercy of charlatanism, or of those who generally take out patents of invention, would be a monstrous error."

As before stated, the adoption of a law similar to the above is very desirable for Canada. It would be no difficult matter to appoint commissioners, or to delegate to the College of Physicians and Surgeons the powers which are exercised by the Academy of Medicine in France. The United States, though considered emphatically the home of quackery, have taken the lead of us in this matter. The draft of a bill to prohibit by penalties the advertisements of abortionists, and others equally immoral, handbills, and indecent images, was recently submitted to the Legislature of the State of New York. *L'Union Médicale*, of France, commenting on the above, remarked, that the first step had been taken towards repressing those evils, and that this should lead their legislators still further. Roguery is practiced with such facility by means of medical advertisements that these should be suppressed like other crimes and immoralities by punishing their perpetrators.

If public opinion in Canada is not yet ready to accept a system of regulations as strict as the foregoing, it is proof that false ideas on this important subject still prevail. We ought to continue, notwithstanding, to agitate this question and to place it before the public in its true light, by showing them that the general good requires this sort of legislation. By this means we may at last give to public opinion, perhaps, a direction and force that will secure the much desired end.

(To be continued.)

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DIABETES CURED BY THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF MEAT AND LACTIC ACID.—This is a newly recorded case of diabetes mellitus in which Professor Cantani's mode of treatment, as above, was perfectly well borne by the patient, and produced a rapid persistent cure. The treatment did not extend beyond seventeen days. The case is recorded in Fascicolo 5 of *Lo Sperimentale*, 1873.