

In *Materia Medica* the new century opens with wonderful surprises. The improvements and changes follow each other so rapidly as almost to make one's head dizzy. If the pharmacists continue to pour out upon our innocent profession new drugs with impossible names as they have been doing in the past few years it will be a sad time for the future students of medicine. The old *Pharmacopœia* groaned with the load of useless drugs, but the *Pharmacopœia* of this century must be immensely larger in case even a few of these drugs win their way into medical confidence. Try, if you please, to imagine what the gifted Abernethy would say if recalled to human existence and you named over to him some of the newer drugs, for example, stypticin, dionin, largin, hydrozone, mercuriol, cuprol, nargol, ferrinol, anusol, etc.

Whilst I cheerfully give great credit for the elegant preparations manufactured by the pharmacists of the present day I cannot but believe that some large manufacturing firms on both sides of the Atlantic, but chiefly on this side, are doing very grave injury to the medical profession by putting up elegant preparations either as pills or mixtures, according to certain formulæ. For example, a pill for a cardiac tonic, a pill for neuralgia, for malaria, etc. These preparations are on sale at every drug store and I think the medical man is the wiser who writes his own prescription however simple it may be instead of making use of any of these combinations. No medical man should allow any one to think for him as to what his patient needs, nor should he permit any manufacturing druggist to use him as a sort of advertising agent for his products. In many parts of this Province the literature and drugs sent out to medical man by large manufacturing concerns have become an intolerable nuisance.

Our noble profession which gives its all to the relief of suffering humanity, has attached to its skirts many things which are not clean. I might mention the advertising cancer-curer, the Osteopath, the so-called Christian Scientist, whose religion in claiming to be Christian is as much a fake as his science, the electric belt man, and many others. It is our duty to the public to warn them against these, that they be not deceived. They are all frauds; but there is a far greater fraud. I refer to the manufacturers and vendors of the various patent medicines. Under a claim that some new medicine of rare virtue is known to them alone, or that they have discovered some new combination of drugs that has marvellous potency, they push their sales by advertising in the most grossly fraudulent manner. Men's names are attached to testimonials they never wrote, certifying that they have been cured of diseases they never had, in order to lure unfortunate victims of these diseases to use their so called remedies. Not satisfied with advertising like the ordinary business man, they stipulate that their advertisements and testimonials shall appear like the ordinary reading matter of the paper, thus trying to lead the unwary to think that the paper in which the advertisement appears really endorses their impudent claims. The press, I regret to say both secular and religious, with rare exceptions, open their columns freely to these fulsome, untruthful and sometimes immoral advertisements, because they pay well.