

tongued prince of impostors. So, if any preparation is put in the shops to-day, offering a knowledge of things forbidden, or anything unattainable, if it is skilfully advertised, the wily company amasses a fortune. The remedy may fail, never the company.

It is for you, the guardians of health, to assure your clients that there are no secrets among the members of our profession, and that there is no royal road to the ruddy heights of health. The path is not paved with broken bottles of Warner's Safe Cure, the fences are not built of boxes of Beecham's pills, the way-sides are not planted with potatoes to be carried in the pocket for rheumatism. If you would lend dignity to the profession you must be careful to avoid quackery in any guise or disguise, for it can still present itself as of old in Eden, with all the subtlety of the serpent, in such specious ways that we may be caught unawares. Since patent medicines for the public have been unmasked by science the desperate inventors now boldly assail the profession itself, and drugs, which we know well are combined with something cheap and useless, given a quasi scientific name and fancy price, and our desks are burdened with beautiful specimens of the printer's art and literature from the pens of hirelings about the camp. They that are deceived thereby are not wise. Remember, too, that quackery may steal within our ranks in other ways. Any pretender to knowledge and skill is a quack, and boastfulness tends thereto. Those whose names mysteriously but repeatedly appear in the press are on dangerous ground. And in this matter, what is wrong in humbler practitioners is not proper for the heads of the profession. In certain districts remote from Montreal M. D.'s exist, who sometimes tell their patients, when called in, that they are "threatened with" diphtheria, or pneumonia, or typhoid fever, but they will try "to break it up." Then when the sufferers speedily get over their trifling cold or feverishness these physicians take amazing credit to themselves for having prevented dire calamities. Now, as every well instructed medical man like yourselves knows either patients have these diseases, or they have them not, and that if they have them they will run their course in spite of all the doctors on earth. Whoever, therefore, uses such phrases is an artful quack, who ought to be banished from the medical fraternity along with the terms themselves.

We must be candid, however, in using the term, for it is convenient to decry, as quackery, any method of which we are culpably ignorant, or to suspect a successful fellow-practitioner.

Quackery finds a foothold, because there are still diseases that baffle our knowledge. So long as we fail to cure, so long will the charlatan have a *raison d'être*. Therefore, gentlemen, as true physicians, we must assist in removing this reproach to our profession, by adding to the general stock of knowledge from our experience. While we cannot all be Jenners, or Simpsons, or Listers, each member, no matter how humble, can contribute his mite to science. There is a vein of truth in the satire of the shrewd old doctor so cleverly portrayed by John Hare in "A Fool's Paradise,"