

for example, advertise Electric Belts which have no electrical property, or pills which are guaranteed to cure every ill to which flesh is heir, may, perhaps, by a long stretch of charity, be deemed more foolish than knavish. But if medical men or nurses use the position which they hold in the eyes of the public as members of professional bodies that are justly trusted, for the purpose of publicly puffing medicines of patent or secret composition, and whose actual properties, therefore, they can only guess at, they are distinctly degrading themselves and their profession. They are stating, what are merely suppositions, as facts; they are perverting the truth, and misleading those who confide in them. And unless they can prove that they take the trouble to carry out this deception for motives of pure philanthropy—a task which they will find one of considerable difficulty—they cannot be surprised if their proceedings are ascribed to the lowest and most sordid motives.

But it may be, and indeed it is, argued that a man's or woman's reputation is his or her own, to hold untarnished or to degrade as seemeth best to the possessor, and that, therefore, in this matter of advertisements, a doctor or a nurse may please themselves as to whether or not they permit their names to appear in advertisements in the lay press. It has even been said that it is merely personal jealousy which makes medical men so strongly discountenance public advertising of any sort on the part of their *confrères*. It only requires a moment's consideration to see how unfair this suggestion is, and how necessary it is that the rule of non-advertisement should be strictly observed. There is the highest authority for the incontrovertible truth that no man either liveth or dieth to himself, and every member of a profession who loses his own reputation reflects discredit on his calling.

And now, if Nursing is to become a self-respecting profession, it is clearly essential that its members must make the same rule for themselves; that they must not, for example, permit the good fame, honour, and credit of their vocation to be employed by anyone of their number for base and mercenary motives. The proceedings of the Royal Corporation of Nurses, in this matter, furnishes another example of its value and usefulness as an exponent of professional opinion, and of its purifying and elevating tendency. It is to be earnestly hoped that not only will its recent resolution prevent the name of the Association being carelessly and wrongfully employed, in advertisements concocted for the purpose of misleading the public as to the universal potency of any secret medicine in curing all diseases, or any specific class of diseases, but also that it will be productive of other good results in restraining Nurses from lending their own names for advertising purposes.

FROM CONSUMPTION TO—A CROCODILE.

THERE would seem to be a considerable chasm between these two subjects, but the marvellous march of Science has now bridged it over. It has come to pass in this wise. Dr. Koch's proposal to cure Consumption by means of an extract, which, injected under the skin, should produce an analogous but milder affection, is well-known to our readers. The doctrine of "like curing like" caught the scientific fancy, and it was freely predicted that all diseases would, in future, be remedied by concentrated injections of some similar morbid material. Experiments in this direction have been, and are now being, tried in the case of various organic maladies, but they have surely reached their climax, if the news which we have just received from the United States be correct. From *Tuberculin* we have descended the scale until we have arrived at *Alligatorin*. For we are gravely informed that "the prepared fat of the alligator saponified by alcoholic potash, the soap decomposed by hydrochloric acid, and the fatty acid mixed with cotton seed oil, is now ready for use in suitable cases." We presume that these suitable cases are those of bites from an alligator. We confess to some curiosity to know the result of the treatment, and how it would be applied if the patient was bitten in half—for example. Or is it contended that a course of injections of *Alligatorin* would render the teeth of the reptile innocuous? or that, before it made preparations for a mouthful, it would in some way recognize an affinity to its own constitution in the prospective meal, and would refrain its teeth in time? On these, and other, interesting points, further information will be earnestly looked for, and especially the results of treatment in a few "suitable cases." For the moment, the chief thought which occurs to us is that a still further development is possible, and that it would be highly important to observe the exact results of an injection into some persons of an extract prepared from the brain of a certain long-eared quadruped, to wit, the common or rural Donkey; a preparation which would fittingly conclude the series already discovered, under the name, we would humbly suggest, of *Asinine*.

A STRIKING REMEDY.

It has been often said that many of the greatest discoveries were made by mistake, and a possibly new illustration of the fact has just come to our knowledge. A German gentleman, who was a martyr to hay fever, during a severe attack, and under circumstances which we need not particularly discuss, had his ears soundly boxed. On recovering from the surprise and first annoyance of the castigation, he was agreeably astonished to find that his hay fever was temporarily cured. He mentioned the facts to his physician, who quickly placed the matter on a strictly scientific basis. During the attack of hay fever, the patient's ears were extremely pale, so, argued the Professor, there must be much congestion of the nasal mucous membrane. He therefore directed his patient to repeat the dose, and slap his ears until they became red and tingling, when once more the sneezing and other symptoms disappeared. We commend this novel and decidedly striking remedy to the notice of any of our readers who suffer from this distressing malady, and trust that they will find it equally efficacious as a palliative measure. If it proves generally as successful as in the instance which we have narrated, this little domestic difference in a small German town may have widespread beneficial results, and prove once more what great results from little causes spring.

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