QUACK DOCTORS

AND THEIR DOINGS:

A WARNING TO INVALIDS;

BEING AN EXPOSURE OF THE FRAUDS OF MEDICAL IMPOSTORS UPON THEIR SUFFERING AND CREDULOUS VICTIMS.

COMPILED FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN DUPED.

BY

JAMES S. GARRARD.

PRICE THREEPENCE.

SHEFFIELD:
JAMES S. GARRARD, QUEEN STREET.
MANCHESTER: JOHN HEYWOOD, DEANSGATE.
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PREFACE.

To write a history of Quackery, Charlatanism, and Empirics, would be to write an account of man's credulity on the one hand, and of villiany on the other, from the time of the building of Babel downwards.

Quackery, unfortunately, is not confined to any particular profession or calling, it pervades all. The term applies (according to Felton) to vain, boasting pretenders to arts which they do not understand. There are quacks in law, physic, and divinity; and the harpy who professes to lend money on easy terms is equally a quack as the empiric in medicine is.

It is, however, with the latter class that I propose specially to deal in the following pages. The former, bad as he may be, robs his victims of their money only—the latter steals not only their money, but frequently hopelessly ruins their health and throws them upon the world beggared in purse and ruined in constitution. That this picture is not overdrawn, a perusal of the following pages will abundantly prove.

The remedy fortunately is in the hands of the public themselves, if they will but apply it, by consulting properly qualified medical men when they need professional advice. If this course were adopted, the quack must cease to exist by the operation of a very natural law—that if there were no dupes, rogues would cease to thrive.

The following little work has been compiled for the purpose of exposing the malpractices of the medical vampires. If the pamphlet should be the means of warning or rescuing a few victims from the clutches of these medical harpies, the labour will not have been in vain.

QUEEN STREET, SHEFFIELD,
April 16th, 1882.

QUACKS AND THEIR VICTIMS.

MEDICAL impostors have existed, and what is worse, flourished, in all ages and in all countries. They abounded in Ancient Greece and Rome, as they do in the present day, and that notwithstanding the many exposures of their nefarious trickery that have from time to time been made. Indeed, from the constant succession of victims that they entrap, it would appear that to them at least the pleasure is as great in being cheated as to cheat. Many, however, consult these charlatans in ignorance of their real character; and not until it is too late do they find that they have met with a wolf in sheep's clothing. The description of a quack by Hippocrates Ridens, written in 1686, is as applicable now as it was at the time it was penned; hence it will not be out of place to transcribe it here.—

"His (the quack's) sagacity is remarkable, for he hath found out an art both to conceal his own ignorance and impose on that of other folk, to his own advantage. His prime care is to get the name of diseases without book, and a bead-roll of rattling terms of art, which he uses to beguile the mobile—first of their senses and next of their pence. He has an excellent talent in persuading well people they are sick; and by giving them his trash verifies the prediction and is sure to make them so."

A perusal of the following pages will show that the foregoing is the exact *modus operandi* adopted at the present day by the charlatans who work upon the hopes and fears of their victims. The amount of knavery that is displayed by the quack on the one hand, and credulity by the patient on the other, would be incredible were it not a matter of every day occurrence. The records of our own times will convince any one who takes the trouble to read that the character of Dr. Biliosa, in James Cobb's comedy of "The Doctor and the Apothecary," is as true now as when the lines were penned. Here is an extract:—

Juan: My complaint is against Thomaso (the Apothecary) who has killed a poor friend of mine.

Dr. Biliosa: Oh! he has done worse than that; he has taken a patient away from me after I had given him over. So, if he recovers the man, he ruins my reputation. There's an unfeeling scoundrel for you!

So in the present year of grace the dupes get plundered and half killed by the quacks before they resort to the legitimate medical man to get cured. Field, Marryatt, and a host of writers exposed the chicanery of the *pseudo* medical man; but the host of victims seem to be as plentiful as ever.

Could a person only divest his mind for a time of the painful reflection that these quacks are traffickers in human suffering and human life—to say nothing of mere robbery of individuals who in thousands of cases pay their fees at the expense of their ordinary meals—he would enjoy with no ordinary zest the pompous pretensions and the inflated, high-sounding terms in which their advertisements are drawn up. The quack of the present day does but follow the lines of his predecessors of two hundred years ago. *Elixir Vitæ* is a good sounding title, very much in vogue with the bogus fraternity of doctors, yet here is a copy of an announcement quite two centuries old:—

"Salvator Winter, an Italian, of the city of Naples, aged ninety-eight years, yet by the blessing of God finds himself in health and as strong as one of fifty (as to the sensitive part), which first he attributes to God, and then to his 'Elixir Vitæ,' which he always carries in his pockets nowadays and at nights under his pillow."

The quack went on to explain that the "Elixir" cured every malady to which the human frame is subject.

These announcements generally wound up with an exhortation to "Read, try, judge, and speak as you find."

Here is another extract, from the address of a once famous quack named Case:—

"Case, he can do what may be done by
Either physic or true astrology;
His best pills, rare elixir and powder,
Do each praise him louder and louder.
Dear countrymen, I pray you be so wise,
When men backbite him believe not their lies,
But go see him, believe your own eyes,
Then he will say you are honest and kind;
Try before you judge, and speak as you find."

The rhythm of the above is scarcely equal to the assurance of the quack.

The quacks of the present day are sorry rogues, without even the merit of originality. Their announcements are almost copies of their predecessors of the seventeenth century, as witness the following:—

"In Bartholomew Close, at the sign of the Red Bull (with two black posts at the door) near unto Smithfield Gate, lives an expert operator, who, by the blessing of God, his many years' travel and large experience in foreign countries, hath attained so many rare secrets in physic, by which he hath performed wonderful cures on many hundreds of people. There never were more pretenders to the cure of ——— than there are now; but, friends, have a care how you fall into the hands of such ignorant pretenders, for if they but once get you into their clutches, they will use you as unmercifully as they are unskilful; therefore be not ashamed to seek help in time. Come to me, for the disease is soon cured by him that hath the right way (if you use him), for he is not one that cures by chance, or keeps you physicking for months together."

The way in which these charlatans invoke the name of the Deity for the purpose of securing victims has something horribly blasphemous about it. By the way, the name which is generally applied to these gentry is taken from Quacksalber—the German name of quicksilver—which was at one time the sole specific with which they were acquainted, which of course they administered not wisely but too well.

There seems with most men an inherent tendency to believe in nostrums. Witness the wonderful cures ascribed in days gone by to tar water—brandy and salt—galvanic rings, and simples gathered at midnight, each of which were at different times looked upon as universal panaceas for all the ills that flesh is heir to. Doubtless the very faith which patients had in the restorative power of these remedies had a powerful effect in assisting nature to effect a cure. It is indeed this faith in nostrums that ensures a certain amount of success for the empiric in medicine, especially in the case of pills, ointments, and secret remedies. To show how history repeats itself, we quote the following from the pen of a once well-known writer, who exposed the nefarious doings of the quacks who flourished in 1841:—

"Many of them manufacture some small, unintelligible affair in the shape of four or five sheets of paper, and print what they dignify with the name of a book, and which, with the author, is puffed into notice by means of paragraphs in the newspapers that, to the eyes of the uninitiated and inexperienced in such matters, have the appearance of coming direct from the editor, but which are duly paid for and also written by the empiric himself—provided he be capable of stringing three or four sentences of passable English together; if not he employs some one to do it for him. He

was constantly on the look out among patients for hapless authors, literary men, or other persons in any way connected with the press; and the moment he discovered any of the "lettered" or philosophical fraternity, he called all his cunning and ingenuity into full play, with a view of turning him into what he called his professional account."

Fortunately of late years all journals of repute have discontinued inserting quack advertisements. The *Daily Telegraph* was the last of the large London dailies to receive these announcements, at an exorbitant price, and so in effect became to a certain extent a *particeps criminis* abettor of medical imposition; but even that organ of gush was at length shamed into discontinuing these advertisements. It is now only obscure provincial journals, and, we regret to add, the so-called religious press, that are the great offenders and *media* of quackery. The proceeds derived from this source of income, however, must partake of the nature of blood money; and we can but regret that even the most obscure journals should so far forget the dignity of their calling as to prostitute their columns to aid and abet quackery, and so become pimps of the quack fraternity.

It is discreditable that the Government and the medical profession generally should have allowed the quack fraternity to flourish so long with impunity. The Government, by means of the Stamp Duty, participate in the profits of secret nostrums. The law is certainly strong enough to punish men for falsely assuming a medical degree and practising as a physician or surgeon; but in point of fact, unless in fatal cases, it is rarely put in force. The Medical Council have ample power and no lack of funds, yet they apparently leave this part of their duty to voluntary and isolated individual efforts. The East End Medical Defence Association from time to time prosecute in notorious cases; but these efforts are isolated, and practically the quack enjoys immunity from legal interference.

The real remedy, or rather prevention, of quackery is in the hands of the public themselves—if the latter will remember that under the clauses of the Medical Registration Act, anyone practising as a medical man without being qualified cannot recover fees for medicines or advice, and is moreover liable to be proceeded against. Even chemists are not allowed to dispense drugs unless they have been duly qualified.

The difference in practice between the quack and the qualified practitioner is shown in their treatment of patients. The former, aiming only at plundering his victims, works upon their nervous fears and frequently, by threats of exposure, demands his money in advance. The latter are always ready to sacrifice themselves for the poor and suffering; they give long credit, and make more bad debts than other professional men; and as a rule a poor patient is treated with the same consideration as a rich one. Suffering and sickness are the only qualifications required to ensure the best skill and attention from the genuine professors of the healing art, and that, in the majority of cases, without fee or reward.

At the same time it is not to be wondered at that the lucrative character of medical quackery offers to the unscrupulous such a wide field of operations that it is not a matter of surprise that it should have so many followers who seek to fatten on the vices, misfortunes, and follies of their fellow creatures.

Various means have been proposed for putting an end to the dishonest and fraudulent practices of medical impostors, but as yet none have been found efficient to suppress them. Frauds carried out by these miscreants cannot be put down by an occasional prosecution which results in a petty fine, or at the worst a short term of imprisonment. More stringent means must be brought into operation against this diabolical trade. So long, however, as quacks are allowed to insert their advertisements in the newspapers, similar means can be adopted of informing the public of the the absurdity of their pretensions. It is the duty of newspaper editors to do

all in their power to protect the public against villainous chicanery; especially should they shield and defend the young and inexperienced, who are unable to distinguish between the true and false. Unhappily, however, in the case of a large number of the provincial daily and weekly newspapers (and we are sorry to add the so-called religious press,) the proprietors, instead of recognising this duty, are continually publishing the improper advertisements of quacks, and thus actually aid and abet those who effect the ruin, both in body and mind—to say nothing of the pockets—of their victims. No editor can excuse himself on the plea of ignorance of the nature of the advertisements to which I refer; their character is so unmistakable that every man of experience must know that the so-called treatises on the organs of generation, or, as their authors express it, on "Secret Diseases," are quite unfit for the perusal of young men and young women, to whom they are particularly addressed and distributed broadcast. It should also be known by those connected with newspaper management that qualified medical men do not publish pamphlets of this class, and that were they to do so, the advertising such works in the columns of a newspaper would be a highly improper proceeding, as well as an outrage on public decency, such as would effectually place the author outside of professional recognition.

Besides those quacks who use the newspapers as a medium through which to make their filthy overtures to the public, there is an immense number who advertise by posting bills in conspicuous public places, and by the distribution of handbills; these in a smaller way carry on an equally nefarious trade.

The almost universal carelessness and neglect displayed by the legitimate members of the medical profession toward the class of diseases to which I have referred, and the deplorable ignorance and credulity displayed by the victims of spermatorrhœa, syphilis, and other special ailments, furnish the most fertile field for the operation of charlatanism and quackery.

It is in connection with this class of diseases that so much fraud is practised by the so-called authors of pamphlets bearing such titles as "The Friend in Need," "The Silent Friend," "Happiness or Misery," "The Warning Voice," "The Book of Positive Remedies," "The New Medical Guide," "The Philosophy of Marriage," "A Word in Your Ear," "Lost in Wonder; or, Who did it, and who never did it," "Debility: Its Cause and Cure," "Self-cure of Nervous Debility," "How to Ensure Health," "The Medical Adviser," "Secret Sorrow," "Guide to Health," "A Long and Healthy Life," "The New French Remedy," "The Magic Mirror," and a host of others, all designed as baits to the ignorant and unwary. It is with the doings of the quacks who make these ailments their speciality that I wish particularly to deal.

Quacks of the medical type seldom if ever use their own names, but adopt aliases; and in many cases one quack will have several names and distinct addresses. The adoption of a plurality of names often enables one quack to plunder the same person two or three times; the innocent victim never suspects that he has been fleeced more than once by the same advertising empiric.

To those who are not posted in quack dodges, this system of double dealing may not appear intelligible, but it can be explained in a few words. The majority of the London quacks advertise in such of the metropolitan and provincial newspapers that will insert their announcements, and while seeking patients resident in London who will call personally at their ostentatious residences, they also more particularly lay their meshes for country patients who write.

In country newspapers, two or more advertisements of one quack, each with a different name and address attached to it, will appear in the

same column of one publication; so that it often happens that persons who have been victimised by a quack under one alias (and who naturally fail to obtain relief at his hands) are not at all unlikely to fall into his hands a second time under the guise of another name, and thus be duped twice or even thrice by the same scoundrel. The ingenuity displayed by these advertising quacks is worthy of a better cause, and were it not for the intense misery they inflict upon their unfortunate dupes, would be really amusing. Some quacks profess to be qualified physicians in active practice, who make great pretensions to medical science; these pseudo-physicians and surgeons generally adopt high-sounding names, after which they place some mysterious initials with which to mislead the public into the belief that they are properly qualified; some actually do possess bogus Yankee or Continental diplomas obtained by purchase for a few pounds without examination, and not worth the paper or parchment they are written upon. Another class are the professors and herbalists who infest the back streets of the metropolis and most large provincial towns. These persons solicit business of a "confidential" nature, as well as every other description. They make a speciality of "female complaints," and are the race of reptiles implicated in most of the abortion cases which come to light; and they are doubtless concerned in numberless others which are kept secret. They are a dangerous class, and although their charges are not so high as the pretended physicians or surgeons, they still do an incalculable amount of mischief amongst both the male and female population of the lower classes, who are principally their victims.

This race of quacks usually advertise by means of posters, bills, and small pamphlets, which are constantly thrust into the hands of persons passing along the public streets.

We next come to the "Retired Physician or Clergyman, who will state the means by which he was cured;" another form is that of the "Patient who has been cured," &c., who, with rare and disinterested motives of benevolence, incur large advertising expenses in making known to sufferers that they will forward the means of self-cure, on receipt of stamp to defray postage, &c.

Let me impress upon the reader that these men, whatever be their pretensions, have but one object in view, viz.—to fleece sufferers who are credulous enough to seek their aid.

Instances are on record in which persons have been swindled out of hundreds of pounds by advertising quacks. The rapacity and greed of this class seem to have no bounds when they get hold of persons of means, who are either real or imaginary sufferers from some of the diseases which the fraternity make it their speciality to treat. Occasionally, but not often, legal proceedings have been instituted against the swindlers, but they are of comparatively rare occurrence; whilst thousands of young men and others are annually swindled by one or other of the quacks, who reap a rich harvest by preying upon the feelings of the ignorant and credulous. That the quacks are amply re-couped for their enormous annual outlay in advertising, aggregating as it does many thousands of pounds, is evident enough when we take into consideration the luxuriant establishments which some of them keep up and the elaborate equipages they maintain out of the proceeds of their swindling operations. At the time quack advertisements were admitted into the principal London papers these publications were liberally patronised by metropolitan quack firms, many of whom have now ceased to exist, though those who still carry on operations in London seem to do a thriving business with such victims as their advertisements in the lower-class journals bring them. A fair illustration of the large sums of money which are paid by quacks for advertisements was given in evidence in the Lawson-Labouchere assault and libel case, heard before Lord Chief Justice

Coleridge on the 22nd of March, 1881, when a witness testified that the charge for those announcements was at the rate of 5s. per line, that in one day's impression of one of the London daily papers five different quack advertisements appeared, and that during ten years the charges for these advertisements appearing in the said newspaper amounted to the sum of £34,347.

It has been computed by competent persons that the annual cost of the advertisements inserted by the principal quacks in the metropolis and provinces, without taking into account the cost of colonial advertisements, collectively amounts to about £50,000 per annum. To this amount must be added the cost of paper, printing and distribution of hand-bills, books, &c.; the rent of their large and elegantly-furnished houses, the maintenance of expensive establishments, carriages, country houses, and the cost of the notorious luxury in which they and their families live, to say nothing of the large fortunes which some of them are known to have realised, it will be seen that the gross amount derived from their nefarious trade must be truly enormous.

Very many of those who are now hopelessly insane could attribute much of the mental suffering which ultimately deprived them of their reason to the influence of these empirics and their publications upon minds that had already been enfeebled by those ailments upon which quackery revels.

A most melancholy sequel to quack tamperings was exhibited in the case of a young man aged 21, who murdered his sweetheart at Brandon, in the County of Durham, on the 27th of April, 1875, and whose trial for wilful murder took place before Mr. Justice Archibald, at the Durham Summer Assizes following.

It was proved in evidence that the prisoner had been suffering for some three or four years from a certain kind of weakness, for which he had been treated unsuccessfully by two local registered medical practitioners, and that he had frequently expressed himself tired of life.

It was elicited that the prisoner had used large quantities of quack medicines, and had spent £14 in the medicines of one pretender at Scarborough. On searching the prisoner's bedroom, three packets of this man's nostrums, together with some letters and books from him, were found. The jury found the prisoner not guilty on the ground of insanity, and the judge ordered him to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure. This case is but one of very many of the same class, though where the committal of the offence is attributed to insanity, it very seldom happens that the true source of the malady is made public, owing in a great measure to the mystery which exists in connection with such cases, and to the unpardonable ignorance so often shown by medical men to whom the investigation of the case is entrusted. It too often happens that the victims to quack impositions are persons in the humbler walks of life, and who can ill afford to part with the proceeds of their daily toil; and it is, unfortunately, this class of persons who so often fall victims to the chicanery of these rapacious rascals. It is for the benefit of the innocent that this exposure of "Quack doctors and their doings" is presented; knowing as I do from personal observations the amount of misery and suffering which has been produced by medical pretenders. Instances are not wanting to show that many unhappy victims of quack terrorism and intimidation have been driven to insanity by means of the hideous pictures presented to them by charlatans, and it is feared that very many cases of self-destruction which are continually taking place are the results of the scandalous workings of empirics, who by their gloomy misrepresentations drive their miserable victims to an early and dishonoured grave.

If space permitted, a large volume could be filled with examples of the dealings of quacks with their dupes. I shall, however, only instance a few cases, which will be amply sufficient to illustrate my statements and to serve as beacons to warn the reader against the medical class of miscreants. The work might have fallen to the lot of abler hands than mine, but I trust that the short-

comings of the present effort will be overlooked when I state that I am not a professional author. Having the materials for an exposure of this kind in my possession, I was unwilling to keep them from the public. The latter cannot be too often warned to beware of the scoundrels whose infamous practices I have undertaken to lay bare by the publication of these pages.

The instances of swindling by quacks which I shall adduce for example are those of persons who have been sufferers from nervous and physical debility, and who, although exhibiting a great variety of different symptoms, as is the case with persons of widely different temperaments, were all suffering from the same class of ailments, which, under a correct course of treatment, are readily removed. The first example is that of a young warehouseman residing in Manchester. His occupation did not at the time he was in the hands of the quacks bring him in more than £1 per week. I will give the details of the treatment he underwent in his own words:—"About two years ago, I went to an anatomical museum kept by a Dr. ———, in Oldham street, in this city, and heard there a lecture delivered by the proprietor, and was induced to buy a book entitled 'The Philosophy of Marriage.' After reading the pamphlet, which contained little else than accounts of cases said to have been cured, some of which by the description given appeared to be very similar to my own, I consulted the author. I was taken into a room at his establishment, where on entering he told me that before he could listen to what I had to say I must place his fee, half-a-guinea, on a desk in the place.

"This done, I told him the particulars of my case. He then examined my person, after which he informed me I should have to pay him a guinea more for medicines, which he said would no doubt soon put me all right. This I paid, receiving with the medicines a letter of instruction. He said I was to have patience, as Nature was slow in all her movements, but sure.

"What I received from him consisted of five bottles of a coloured mixture, to be taken three times a day, and a liniment, which had a smell with it very like ammonia. This I was to apply locally night and morning.

"During the interview I had with the proprietor of the museum, he wished to know my name and address, position, and occupation, as he stated there must always be mutual confidence between doctor and patient. I took his stuff for over two months, but finding it did me no good, but only disordered my stomach, I gave it up and went to see him no more, after having paid him in all nearly £6. I should state that twice when I went to see this fellow he pretended to examine my eyes with a glass, and then said, 'I see, young man, you have something heavy pressing upon your mind.'

"About this time I consulted Mr. ———, a qualified surgeon, of Salford; but he either did not understand my complaint or did not care to attend to such cases, for he took so little interest in what I said that I concluded he wanted to get rid of me, so I did not go to see him again; but, as it afterwards turned out, fell into the hands of another quack.

"One day a friend happened to give me a book published by a man styling himself Dr. ———, of Brook street, Manchester, in which I read that by buying a few cases of what he termed his 'Grand Elixir D'Idalia' I should no doubt be cured of my complaint. I bought a case, for which I paid 4s. 6d., as a trial. This I took in about three days, and as I fancied it did me some good, I bought a larger case, for which I paid 11s.; but this did me no more good than so much water would have done. I now thought it best to consult the discoverer of this wonderful remedy, which I accordingly did. I was to give him half-a-guinea for advice, and handed him £1, but he forgot to give me the change.

"He agreed to treat me for 5s. per week, and I continued going to see him and taking his bottles of mixture until I had paid him about £4; but, receiving no benefit from him or his treatment, eventually gave up going to see him.

"This man then advertised in several of the Manchester papers, in which he stated that he undertook no cases in which he could not guarantee a cure.

"I now saw the advertisement of a man residing near London, who professed to be a person who had been cured of the results of the early errors of youth, &c., and would be happy to supply a description of the means which cured him on receiving a stamped addressed envelope.

"I wrote to this man, and was so taken with his apparent kindness that I wrote again for a case of his medicine, &c., for which I paid him 4s. I sent for further supplies, spending little short of £1, for his supposed remedies; but received no benefit from them. This is the last of the quacks I had dealings with."

The two first-named quacks in the foregoing narrative at one time carried on a thriving business in Manchester; but their establishments were broken up through prosecutions instituted by the police, and they have either left for "fresh fields and pastures new," or else practice under other names, since the style of advertisements which they adopted has been discontinued in the Manchester papers.

The quack last alluded to is one of the worst of the class of hypocritical philanthropists. He still carries on his diabolical system of fraud and deception, giving the same address used by him for several years past; and although somewhat modest in his demands as compared with other swindlers of the medical class, his victims are the more numerous on this account.

The following is a copy of one of the advertisements issued by this empiric and inserted in a Leeds newspaper:—

TO the YOUNG MEN of ENGLAND who SUFFER from NERVOUS DEBILITY. JUST PUBLISHED.

The CONFESSIONS and EXPERIENCE OF AN INVALID: designed as a Warning and a Caution to others, supplying at the same time the means of self-cure by one who has cured himself, after undergoing the usual amount of medical imposition and quackery. Single copies may be had (post free) by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the author, ———, Esq., * * * *

From the case of the young man just described, it is very evident that had he received proper treatment at the hands of the legally qualified medical man whom he consulted after being in the hands of the quack proprietor of the "Anatomical Museum," he would never have fallen into the clutches of the second or third; and I cannot but censure the conduct of this member of the profession, who, if he found he could not benefit the patient, should at least have been candid enough to have said so, and have taken steps to guard against the possibility of the young man falling into the hands of medical pretenders again.

From my own observations, I have too much reason to fear that through the conduct of the profession towards patients of this class the quacks secure so many victims, and I would earnestly impress upon all registered practitioners that instead of slighting them as they too often do, they cannot treat such patients with too much consideration and compassion, if they desire to influence them for the best.

The following narrative is that of a schoolmaster residing in a village in the North of Ireland, who states his experience of some of the advertising quacks. He says:—

"My experience with quack doctors is a somewhat varied one. Seeing an advertisement in a Belfast newspaper, of a pamphlet called the 'Warning Voice,' I wrote for a copy of it.

"From this book I first knew the cause of my suffering. I can say but little about its author. I had no medicine from him, as his terms frightened me.

"Shortly afterwards, being at school in Belfast, I frequently observed bills posted up through the town, mentioning the cure of 'Secret Diseases,' &c., by Dr. ——— & Co., of New York. He professed to cure by homeopathic treatment.

"I went to him and got several bottles of medicine, one at a time. I continued taking it for some weeks, when it brought on severe pains in my stomach and bowels, which induced me to stop taking it. I then gave up his treatment, after having paid him about £6 and receiving no benefit.

"Happening some time after to see the advertisement of one Dr. De——, of London, I wrote for his treatise, after which I sent for an 11s. package of his medicine, which he called 'Therapeion, No. 3,' the '*Guttæ Vitæ* or Life Drops,' in a solid form. I took also what he called his 'Compound Renal Pills,' and spent altogether about £3 with him to no purpose.

"After this I left Belfast and came to the village where I now reside.

"Noticing a new advertisement about this time, in the Belfast papers, purporting to be inserted by a gentleman who had been cured when suffering from my complaint, and that persons so afflicted might be cured at a trifling cost, by applying to him, I wrote for his pamphlet, and had some of his pills, for which I paid him at the rate of 2s. 9d. per box, and some powder, for making a lotion, the price of which I now forget. I had over £1 worth of stuff from this man, but it did me no good.

"The next black sheep I had to deal with, was one of the worst of quacks, and I wish particularly to bring this fellow's operations under notice, as I was humbugged by him more than by any of the others I had dealings with. He carries on business at Birmingham.

"I saw his advertisement referring to the pamphlet he publishes, called "Happiness or Misery.' I wrote for his book, and decided to consult the author.

"I sent some particulars of my case, and he replied that my best course would be to send him £1, with further particulars (he at the same time sending me a form to fill up), when he would give me his opinion of it. I accordingly sent him the details.

"He then wrote stating that his regular fee in a case like mine was £5, which sum would include consultation fee and remedies, and that on receipt of that sum he would send me medicines and further advice. I was surprised at such a high fee, and wrote asking if he could not make it any less, when he replied that he would send me the remedies for £1. 10s., although it was not customary for him to do so.

"After some little delay I forwarded this sum, and received a box of medicines in return, which I proceeded to take as directed.

"Before I had finished the medicine he wrote stating that if I remitted to him the balance he would send me enough in the next package to effect a cure.

"I was surprised at this further demand, as he led me to believe that the money I was going to pay in the first instance would be all that was required for medicine enough for my case. However, I sent the balance, viz., £2. 10s., expecting to get a further supply of medicine, when to my surprise instead, I received a letter, stating that as the sum I had already paid did not cover the £5 and the £1 consultation fee as well. I must remit the latter sum before he could forward any more medicine. I accordingly did so. He had now received £6 from me.

"I received the second box of medicines in due course, and when I had nearly finished them I wrote, stating that my symptons had not abated, and that I was no better than before taking the stuff.

"He therefore replied that all that was now necessary to complete a cure was something to brace up and give tone to the relaxed vessels, this his patent medicine, the "Renovating Essence of *Azilica*" would do, and that if I would remit the sum of £2. 10s. he would send me half a case of it. I then wrote him a somewhat sharp letter, stating that he had promised to send me sufficient medicine for my case for £5, and that he now wanted £2. 10s. more. To this he replied that mine being a somewhat obstinate case it required a longer course of treatment than the generality of cases,

and so he induced me to send him £2. 10s. more. I took the stuff he sent me, but instead of being any better I was now worse than I had been before commencing to take his medicine.

"I wrote and told him this, and that his medicine (which I had now taken for six months) had quite disordered my stomach. He then wrote stating that it would be necessary for me to have a silver solution which he would prepare for me to use externally; this he said was often necessary after taking the medicine in long-standing cases, and that this solution would cost £5, but if I remitted that sum to him he would send me the "Renovating Essence of Azilica," to be taken at the same time, for which latter he would make no extra charge. I had now been under his treatment a long time, and had paid him altogether £8. 10s., so after thinking the matter over I did not accept his offer, but decided to cut him, which I accordingly did.

"Shortly after this I received by post from Birmingham, a circular recommending in glowing terms what was called the "New French Remedy," a species of lozenge, warranted to cure the worst cases of nervousness, &c. I decided to try it, and took box after box until I had spent £4 in the so-called remedy without any good result." At this juncture the narrator of the above sketch found the desired relief he had so long sought for, and thus his career in the hands of the quacks came to an end; but only after he had been swindled out of the sum of £16. 10s. by them.

When he penned the above description of his dealings with the quacks, he was under the impression that the two swindlers, last-named by him, were two distinct firms, but such is not the case.

The proprietor of the wonderful "Renovating Essence of Azilica," and the proprietor of the "New French Remedy," are one and the same firm, although advertising from two distinctly different addresses. Therefore after plying him with the essence until he would bleed no more, they forwarded him the circular about the "New French Remedy," which new bait entrapped him again, so that he paid this firm alone £12. 10s. for their precious services.

This firm of Birmingham quacks are probably the most rapacious and unblushing rascals out of jail.

They have successfully carried on their nefarious operations for many years, and are said to have amassed a large fortune.

I should not be doing them full justice unless I gave the reader some further details of the multifarious operations of this notorious gang. Besides carrying on a Museum, or as they please to call the place, where the medical members of the firm are supposed to see patients, at the "Institute of Anatomy," they have a place in another street called the "Patent Medicine Depôt," from which the "New French Remedy" is supposed to be dispensed. Then they have, or had until recently, a loan office or money lending establishment, where patients, who had securities or could provide good sureties, were accommodated with loans at an enormous rate of interest, to enable them to pay the exorbitant fees charged by the medical part of the same (though apparently different firm) for their so-called medical assistance.

I have also been creditably informed that this firm were, in addition to their other avocations, extensive carriage builders and cab proprietors. Be this as it may, they carry on their swindling operations in grand style still, much to the discredit of the local authorities, who unlike those of Manchester and some other large towns, where they have at different times dealt some severe and telling blows at quackery within their jurisdiction, though they have as yet failed to extinguish it altogether. The firm of charlatans just described advertise very extensively indeed, and their advertisements appear in all newspapers whose proprietors will insert them. The following are two examples of the newspaper announcements adopted by this firm:—

A CERTAIN CURE FOR THE NERVOUS AND DEBILITATED.

GRATIS, a MEDICAL WORK, showing sufferers how they may be cured and recover health and vitality without the aid of Quacks, with recipes for purifying the blood and removing skin affections; also chapters on Happy Marriages; When and Whom to Marry; The Temperaments; Stammering; Vital Force; How Wasted and How Preserved, Galvanic Appliances; and the Wonders of the Microscope in Detecting Various Complaints. Post free for Two Stamps.—Address, * * * * * * *

IT seems marvellous in this age that people should pass a good portion of their lives in misery for want of Medical Knowledge. For instance, Nervous Debility, Loss of Vitality, also Nervous and Muscular Power, may be easily cured by adopting a proper system of Treatment and Diet.

Full Particulars sent gratis to any address, by * * * * * * *

These people, besides advertising extensively in the newspapers, employ bill posters to stick up their filthy announcements in public urinals, on telegraph poles, gate and finger posts, doors and walls along the public roads, so that they meet the eye at every turn.

This gang of impostors have, besides their Birmingham house, branch establishments at Nottingham and Derby. I think this firm will have little cause to grumble at me for not giving them sufficient notice; but I sincerely trust the attention I have bestowed upon them will have a good effect.

Here are some extracts from a letter received from a gentleman residing in the Isle of Wight, giving his experience with members of the quack fraternity:—

"I am very glad to hear that you are going on with your war against the quacks, on the principle of 'no quarter.' I think if anyone on earth deserves to be starved to death, it is the quack doctors. I regard them as the vilest wretches of the human race. You are very kind to enquire after my health. I am glad to say I am all right, and shall only be too glad to render you any assistance in my power towards abolishing medical quackery. I trust you will not spare that infernal fellow, De ———. He knows he is guilty, but no doubt you have found out, by the cases of others, how he serves those who are unfortunate enough to get into his clutches. He robbed me of over £50. He completely spell-bound me, and I suppose he was afraid to send me any more mixtures for fear of being found out. I continued to take his stuff till he told me it was no use for me to do so any longer, and that the only hope I had now was to get married; but I luckily did not follow this advice. Then the individual who styles himself as of the Lock Hospital, was the next wretch that drew me into his clutches, doing me a great amount of harm by his medicine, screw, &c. This fellow fleeced me to the extent of £30, so you see the hands I have been in. But, thank God, I am still alive, and hope yet to be the means of warning many others to beware of these scoundrels."

The writer of the above was swindled out of about £100 by quacks, before he got clear of them.

The first quack he refers to is the same one previously alluded to by the schoolmaster, as the proprietor of the "famous remedy, Therapeion," &c. He is an old offender, and was most successful with his dupe in this instance, managing to bleed him, as he has himself informed us, to the tune of £50, and then advising him to marry; a course of procedure which could only have increased his troubles, as his state of health at that time was such that any sensible medical man would just as soon have passed a man with one arm for a soldier as he would this man as one fit to enter the marriage state.

This patient was, without doubt, one of the kind that quacks like to secure, for, as will be seen, one of these "gentry," fraudulently professing to be connected with the Lock Hospital,* London, fleeced him out of £30. The

* This dodge is accomplished by means of an annual subscription to the hospital funds, when, of course, the name of the quack appears in the list of subscribers; and this is used as a means to gull ignorant patients into the belief that the quack is one of the properly-qualified physicians to the hospital.

"screw" alluded to is what the so-called doctor styled his "Patent curative appliance," and consisted of a pewter ring, with a small screw attached to it. With the permission of the writer, I will here make an extract from a leaflet recently published, detailing the experience of a nervous sufferer in the hands of two notorious quacks. He says:—"Seeing about this time, an advertisement referring to a reputed famous confection called 'Therapeion,' said to be a quick and certain cure for spermatorrhœa and all kindred ailments. I determined to give it a trial, and at once procured a supply, which I took according to the directions accompanying it, for some time; but after expending about £4 in the stuff, I could not see that it had in any way benefited me, so gave it up as useless. This 'Therapeion' was a composition somewhat resembling jam, and was put up in small tin boxes, at 4s. 6d. and 11s. each. It was described as the discovery of one Dr. Le——. This fellow has other aliases, and figures as Dr. De—— in the advertising columns of some newspapers.

"He has agents appointed to sell his nostrums in most provincial towns. He styles them his 'Compound Renal Pills,' Pilulæ Vitæ or Vegetable Life Pills, and Guttæ Vitæ or Vegetable Life Drops.

"The Therapeion I purchased from one of his agents at Hull. Shortly after giving up this 'Therapeion,' I took several other advertised remedies, with the same effect, until I sent for and read a pamphlet I saw advertised, 'On Nervous Debility, &c.,' by a person styling himself Dr. ———. I was much struck with the apparent philanthropic strain in which this pamphlet was written and the flattering testimonials it contained, which were said to have been received from grateful patients, who had been afflicted in a similar manner to myself. These testimonials, it is scarcely necessary to add, are all fictitious, and are concocted by the scoundrels who write the pamphlets. I placed myself in ———'s hands, giving him a description of my ailments. When he replied, stating that although my case was a very bad one, he could quickly cure me if I would follow his treatment (the reply quacks invariably send to those who apply to them for advice), and that his fee would be £1. 3s. 6d. I remitted this amount, and received from him by rail a small box containing three bottles of a brownish liquid and a box of pills, both of which I took as directed, but derived no benefit from them. Being assured by ——— that if I continued taking them I should experience an improvement in my health, I accordingly took the contents of another box, and sent for a third one; but whilst taking the contents of this I found out that the philantrophist was a deceiver. This fellow now advertises what he calls his 'Book of Positive Remedies.' It was from perusing a pamphlet I saw advertised, entitled, 'A Death-blow to Advertising Quacks and Quackery,'* that my eyes were fully opened to the rascality practised by medical pretenders."

It will be seen from the preceding description that this victim was duped by one of the same quacks who swindled two of the other sufferers, whose experience is herein detailed. The last-mentioned quack, with whom he had dealings, is the one previously alluded to by the schoolmaster, as publishing the "Warning Voice." He has two separate addresses, and advertises his business very extensively. The following specimen, cut from a Sheffield newspaper, will illustrate the style of announcement adopted by this quack:—

WHAT IS YOUR DISEASE?—WHAT IS YOUR REMEDY?
MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE. HOUSEHOLD MEDICINE.
GRATIS. Send Two Stamps to prepay Postage.

THE BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES for CURE of all DISEASES. LIST OF DISEASES incident to Men, Women, and Children is given. A POSITIVE REMEDY is given for each Disease. No Doctor's Fees. No Consultation. No Statement of Case. In this Book you will learn the nature of your Disease,

* "A Death-blow to Advertising Quacks and Quackery." Being an exposure of of these Imposters, and a guide to persons seeking medical aid. By a *bona fide* victim, 6d. post free. Published by James S. Garrard, Queen street, Sheffield.

and find instructions for Cure. A Positive Medicine is given for each complaint. The Positive Botanic Medicines were used by a London Physician for over thirty years. Three Thousand Five Hundred Testimonials have been given in favour of the Positive Remedies. This Book is what has been wanted for a long time by the people.—Sent direct from the Publishers, * * * * * * * *

I could give numberless instances of similar cases, but as they all bear a striking resemblance in details, I think that sufficient has been written to illustrate the swindling propensities of the medical quack. It will be seen from the descriptions I have given how the victims were relieved of their money by the quacks, who, of course, obtained it by false pretences; and had proceedings at law been taken against them by the persons swindled they could have been compelled to restore the money so obtained. Owing, however, to the publicity which such proceedings would incur, it is very seldom that the victims will resort to the redress which the law has provided for them, and rather contents himself to let the quacks quietly enjoy his ill-gotten gains and save himself from exposure. Very few persons, however, seem to understand the law on this point, or probably the quacks would not have such an easy time of it. Persons who assume medical titles to which they have no lawful claim (as many of the quacks do) are liable to be convicted under the 40th clause of the Medical Act, which recites that:—

"Any Person who shall wilfully and falsely pretend to be, or take or use the Name or Title of, a Physician, Doctor of Medicine, Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery, Bachelor of Medicine, Surgeon, General Practitioner or Apothecary, or any Name, Title, Addition, or Description implying that he is registered under this Act, or that he is recognised by Law as a Physician, or Surgeon, or Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery, or a Practitioner in Medicine, or an Apothecary, shall, upon a Summary Conviction for any such offence, pay a Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds."

All persons upon whom demands of money for alleged Medical Services have been made by offenders of the above named class are hereby informed that such claims are not recoverable in the County Courts. None but Medical Practitioners who have been duly registered under this Act are entitled to recover any Sum of money in recognition of their services under the 32nd clause of the Medical Act, which recites that:—

"After the First Day of (January), July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, no person shall be entitled to recover any charge in any Court of Law for any Medical or Surgical Advice, Attendance, or for the performance of any Operation, or for any Medicine which he shall have both prescribed and supplied, unless he shall prove upon the Trial that he is registered under this Act."

While writing these lines I have received a letter, imparting further information on this point, a copy of which I give below.

GENERAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,
299, *Oxford Street, London, W., February 6th*, 1882.

Sir,—If it can be *proved* that an Unregistered Person has pretended to be Registered, or to be a legally Qualified Practitioner of Medicine or Surgery, he can be prosecuted *by any one* before the Magistrates in Petty Sessions, under the 40th Section of the *Medical Act* (1858), for the Penalty imposed by that Section.

The Medical Council is not enabled to institute or conduct such Prosecutions, but it will remit a part, or the whole, of any Penalty that may be recovered, towards defraying the expenses of the Prosecution.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

J. S. Garrard, Esq. W. J. C. MILLER, *Registrar.*

That the law is powerful enough to put down the evil is shown by the following extract, taken from the *Sunday Times*, of April 2nd, 1882:—

An Indian "Doctor."—At the Liverpool Police-court, before Mr. Raffles, Ethens de Tomanzie, a coloured man, who described himself as a "Licentiate of Medicine of British India," and John Adams, who produced an American diploma, were summoned under various informations for breaches of the Births and Deaths Registration Act and the Medical Act. The two defendants, it appeared, were connected with a society called the "Liverpool Artisans' Medical Society," and they had attended a man named Heron, who subsequently died, and to whose wife Tomanzie gave a certificate of death, signed "J. Adams, M.D." Adams was called, and stated that he was an American physician, but had never been in America. He passed a "postal examination," and paid £20, which gave him the title of M.D., and he supposed he had a right to use it. Other cases against Tomanzie of a similar character having been gone into, he was committed for trial on the charges as to the certificates, but admitted to bail. On the summonses for illegally using a medical title, he was fined £5 and costs. The cases against Adams were adjourned.

Persons who have been imposed upon by medical pretenders will see from the foregoing that it is within their power to punish such offenders, if they will take the trouble to do so. I have been led to publish these exposures more particularly for the benefit of the poor and suffering, to save them if possible from the toils of the advertising quack; and if after reading this brief but sincere warning they then suffer themselves to be ensnared by his alluring but deceitful promises, the fault will be their own. Mr. Scaman has done good service by the publication of his "Loan Societies and their doings,"* and I am not surprised that his pamphlet should have met with such a large and ready sale, when its aim is to lay bare the scandalous system of swindling carried on by the aid of the misleading advertisements of the unscrupulous money lenders, which now appear in the public press.

The proprietors of the most respectable newspapers have closed their columns against the quack fraternity, and it is high time they denied the use of their publications to the iniquitous race of money lenders, who through their aid carry on their nefarious operations.

What Mr. Scaman's pamphlet is now doing towards exposing money-lending swindles, I trust these pages will do for medical quackery; and that ere long both these systems of shameless fraud and deception will die of inanition, because their promoters shall have ceased to find dupes to prey upon.

I have already exceeded the limit of space I originally intended these lines to occupy, and must therefore bring these remarks to a close.

Although reproducing specimens of the style of their advertising, I have purposely refrained from giving the names and addresses of the quacks whose mode of operations I have described, because I am preparing for publication a list of the advertising quacks of this country, in which I purpose giving each (with his different aliases) a place, and partly because the migratory nature of the quack element renders the task one of greater difficulty.

In conclusion, I desire to say that in order to make the list I am preparing as complete as possible, I shall be pleased to hear from persons in distant parts of the country who may feel sufficiently interested in this effort to uproot medical quackery from our midst to render any assistance towards accomplishing this most desirable object. They can more particularly assist in this work by forwarding to me specimens of the advertisements used by persons they may suspect of quackery, together with any particulars of the transactions of the class of impostors whose existence has led to the publication of these pages. This class of rogues are a standing disgrace to society and a curse to the whole community. I will therefore ask the assistance of my readers to expose this gross form of swindle.

O Heaven! that such companions thou'dst unfold
And put in every honest hand a whip,
To lash the rascals naked through the world.

* To be had from most Booksellers and Newsagents, and in quantities from Mr. W. B. Scaman, North Street, York.

THE YORKSHIRE
MEAT AND VEGETABLE CHOPPER,

(PATENT.)

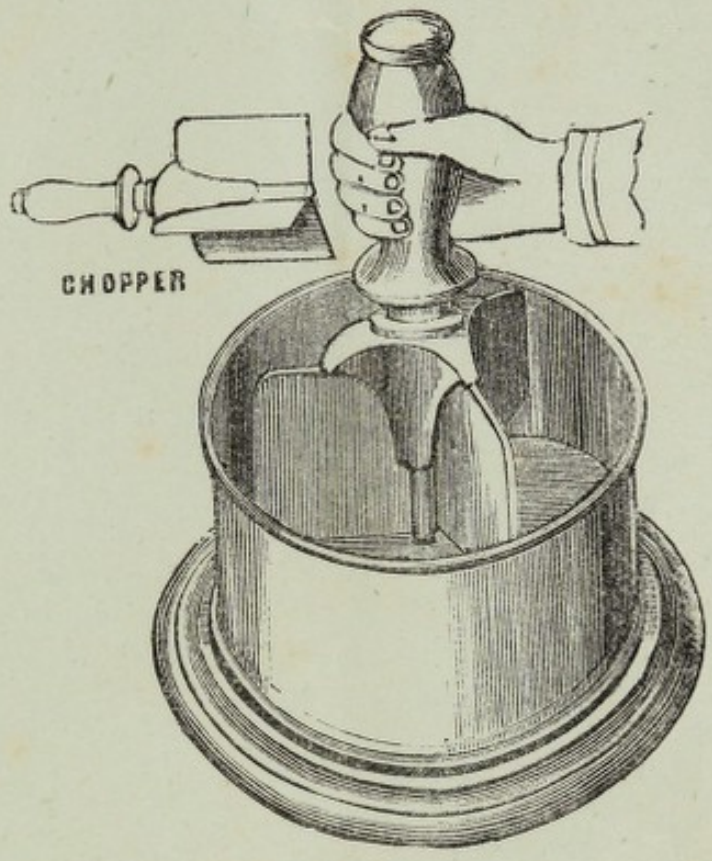
PRICES.

6-in. 6/6

7-in. 7/6

8-in. 8/6

Special prices for quantities.



For chopping Meat, Suet, Salads, Vegetables, Fruit, &c.

This invaluable and important invention is the simplest and most useful Machine ever introduced for domestic purposes, its cutting surface being *three times* that of the ordinary Chopping Knife. There is no complication to get out of repair; the blades are made of the best cast steel; it does not pulp or drag like the ordinary Mincing Machine; is much sweeter because it is easier to keep clean; and should be seen in order that its merits may be known. Every Householder, and Hotel or Restaurant Manager should have one. The most simple and useful invention of its kind.

A Sample sent, packed free to any address on receipt of Postal Order or stamps, by the Agents for the Patentee,

JAMES S. GARRARD & CO.,

111, QUEEN STREET, SHEFFIELD.