berry jam, etc., often contain little or none of the material whose name they bear. Wines are misbranded both as to their true character and the place where they were made. Whisky is sometimes a mixture of neutral alcohol, essences and coloring matters, with sometimes a bit of straight whisky for conscience sake. Jams, jellies and marmalades contain glucose, coloring matters and antiseptics, and preserved meats and sausages are colored artificially and preserved with borax.

This whole system of deception strikes at the very heart of honest trade. It is one of the strange things of commercial ethics that men are found who support such a system and yet would be quick to resent any imputation on their honesty. What should the public require?

1. Good laws, state and national, forbidding the addition of deleterious substances to foods.

2. Requiring each label to convey to the consumer a correct and complete list of all the substances not natural to the food in question which the package contains.

In other words: NO FALSE LABELS!—H. W. Wiley, M.D., in *Collier's Weekly*, September 30.

"Try Our Remedy, Doctor, Please."

This is always the final argument of the promoters of new drugs and serums. "We do not expect you to accept the claims made for the serum," writes one firm in urging a trial. The argument is a convincing one to many physicians who do "try" the remedy on the agent's say-so, especially if they receive, as is commonly the case, free samples. There is such an apparent show of fairness in the request.

Yet the reflecting physician must see that he does himself and his patients an injustice to "try" all the remedies he is requested to "try" by the manufacturers thereof. Certainly is unknown to him, or remedies made by houses unknown to him, or remedies made by houses unknown to him; and especially is this true of serum remedies.

A serum made against syphilis which the makers claim "absolutely eradicates the syphilitic infection" is now being extensively advertised and the physician is asked to "try" it, although he has no means of knowing what it contains save the say-so of those financially interested in its sale. Is it not worse than folly for the physician to "try" such a remedy made by a laboratory unknown to him? He might as well "try" a remedy handed to him by a barker at a county fair because assured by him in a loud voice that it absolutely eradicates syphilis and that there will be no recurrence of symptoms.

The physician should not "try" remedies merely because he is asked to do so, or to oblige a plausible agent, but only when they come to him well introduced by firms and physicians well known to him for their intelligence and honesty. It may be said that he should never try a new remedy brought to his attention by an unknown firm and of which he has no knowledge save that given him by the interested firm. As a matter of fact it is better for him to accept no free samples from traveling agents. He should be prepared to buy what remedies he desires to try. This plan at once places him on an independent footing and reduces to a minimum his temptations to "try" a new remedy simply because it costs him nothing.

The physician may be perfectly certain of one thing, viz., that chemical firms furnish free samples because and only because it is to their interest to do so; and very often the object of these firms is to use the physician as a medium or cat paw to enable them to sell their remedies afterward directly to the public. The physician who good naturedly "tries" the remedy which the agent of an unknown firm leaves never knows when he is acting such a regrettable part.

It behooves us all to examine well into the credentials of any remedy we propose to "try" if we are to do justice to our patients and to retain our own self-respect.

Pittsburg, Pa.

THEODORE DILLER, M.D.

Dr. E. E. Glover, Terre Haute, Ind., writes that he has the page from the *Ladies' Home Journal* for September, entitled "Pictures that Tell Their Own Stories," neatly framed and hung in his office. He says that it "excites a surprising amount of interest and comment."

Correspondence

The Mosquito Theory in Text-Books.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 29, 1905.

To the Editor:—The proof that yellow fever is transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes of a particular variety was so promptly accepted by the medical profession of America and Europe, and time has so amply demonstrated the truth and completeness of Walter Reed's conclusions that it seems almost incredible that American text-books for students and practitioners of medicine in the present year should teach the theory of Sanarelli and either omit or fail to make clear what is one of the greatest medical discoveries of the age.

From the splendid "Medical Diagnosis" of Musser, last edition, Lea Brothers & Co., I quote:

"Yellow Fever.—The infection which we are about to consider is the latest of the epidemic and contagious disorders for which a definite causal micro-organism has been discovered. . . . The specific micro-organism is *B. icteroides* described by Sanarelli."

A brief description of Sanarelli's germ, and of the serum diagnosis of yellow fever is given, but not a word about the transmission of disease by mosquitoes, or the work of Reed and his associates.

The entire discussion of yellow fever is taken without change from a previous edition of the work, and we have here evidently an unintentional failure to bring a few paragraphs of this most excellent book up to date in the new edition.

In "A Text-Book on the Practice of Medicine," etc., by Dr. James Magoffin French, William Wood & Co., 1905, the author, in describing yellow fever, states: "The *Bacillus icteroides* of Sanarelli is now generally accepted as the cause," but he appears to believe that the said bacillus is carried by *Stegomyia fasciata*!!!

I write this in no spirit of criticism, but because I believe that the future safety of our southern states from this terrible disease can only be obtained by a universal acceptance by the people of the fact of mosquito transmission of the malady, and, therefore, that a statement of another and an exploded theory of causation in an important text-book of medicine is a serious blow to popular education in a matter of very great moment to our country.

WALTER D. McCaw,

Major-Surgeon, U. S. Army.

Warning—Fraudulent Magazine Agent.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1905.

To the Editor:—I would like to warn physicians through THE JOURNAL of a man by the name of Charles Croft, who pretends to be an agent for the World's Clubbing and Subscription Co., of New York City. Mr. Croft's method is to offer several magazines at an exceedingly low price so that nearly every man that he approached in this city bought magazines of him. He sold me *McClure's*, the *Cosmopolitan*, *Everybody's* and the *Black Cat* for \$2.00 a year. Mr. Croft is a man about 26 years of age, would weigh about 165 pounds, smooth face, light brown hair, is well dressed and has a very pleasing manner. I have communicated with the publishers of the magazines which he sold me and they inform me that no subscription has been received and that Mr. Croft is a swindler.

F. N. C. JERAULD.

Embryo Specimens Wanted.

COLUMBIA, Mo., Sept. 26, 1905.

To the Editor:—I am making a collection of human embryos, which are preserved permanently for research work in human embryology. Any specimens (especially of the earlier stages), which your readers may be able to contribute would be thankfully received. The best general preservative is 10 per cent. formalin or the strongest alcohol.

C. M. JACKSON, M.D., Prof. Anatomy, Univ. of Missouri.

The Arkansas Board of Health.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Sept. 18, 1905.

To the Editor:—That part of the editorial in THE JOURNAL of September 16 on yellow fever which referred to the situation