

gradual withdrawal of carbohydrates. It is not safe always to withdraw them suddenly. In the matter of safe percentages of glycosuria Dr. Tyson said one must sometimes take *cum grano salis* what he himself says. The patient with a small percentage of sugar is in no danger of serious complications, but one must not be indifferent to a small percentage. A little sugar means a little more sugar after awhile, and although after diabetic coma sets in sugar is not detectable in the urine the patient is in just as much danger, the probability being that the blood is loaded with sugar or the poisonous acids characteristic of the disease.

## THE PHYSICIAN'S CONNECTION WITH PROPRIETARY REMEDIES.\*

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An important ethical principle attaches to the physician's relations to proprietary remedies. These remedies may be of two kinds. First, remedies whose composition is disclosed and which are true to the formulas or names by which they are known. Such remedies become proprietary articles by reason of invention, discovery or purchase. There is another kind of proprietary remedy which becomes so by reason of secrecy. As a rule these latter kind do not contain any new principle or substance, but make use of well-known remedial agents, simple or mixed in a more or less haphazard way, and to which some fancy or trade name is given.

It is easy to see that a proprietary remedy may in itself as a remedial agent be good, bad or indifferent. There is no reason to doubt the fact that the activity of any drug or remedy will be as great when administered in a secret formula as if given under its own name with full recognition of its properties. To administer such remedies, however, under assumed names or trade names is nothing more or less than deception. A perfectly definite compound, known by its proper name and corresponding to its true formula, may or can be a good remedy, in which latter case there is no reason why a physician should not make use of a proprietary remedy of this kind when he is convinced of its efficiency.

There can be no possible excuse, however, for a physician prescribing under fancy or assumed names ordinary remedies the existence of which in the compound is unknown to him. In other words, while the physician may properly use good proprietary remedies of known composition, he can not, with any regard to his ethical standing, use or recommend those of a secret character. Yet it must be admitted that not only do physicians prescribe such remedies, but in some way or another their names are often used in testimonials relating to the efficiency thereof. While I admit, without question, that most of the names followed by "M.D." which are used in such cases are not those of members of the regular profession, or probably not graduates of medicine at all, we can not deny the fact that reputable names have often figured in this disreputable way.

I have seen a list of recommendations signed by hundreds of "M.D.'s", many of whom must have been physicians of character, reputation and efficiency. We have now, however, reached a stage in the evolution of therapeutics and practice in which the physician can take a firm stand. There are plenty of remedies of known character to employ his entire skill and to furnish the muni-

tion of his therapeutic armament. There can be no excuse, therefore, for recommending or prescribing secret, fake or unknown proprietary remedies. No physician at the present time should allow his name to be used for the recommendation of any proprietary remedy of known composition, no matter how excellent he may think it to be. It is surely not the part of the physician in any function of his professional activity to stand sponsor for a remedy, the profits of the sale of which must accrue to one or only a few proprietors.

Many instances of the abuse of a physician's name have come to our observation in connection with the study of adulterated drugs in the execution of the Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906. Through the courtesy of Dr. L. F. Kebler I am able to present a few of these cases for your consideration. They are by no means the most flagrant cases, but they are of sufficient importance at least to cause the physicians who are members of this association to hesitate and study carefully the condition of affairs before they allow their names to be used in any kind of an advertisement.

It is well known that many proprietary remedies, perhaps most of them, especially those of the secret kind, are placed on the market by individuals who are profoundly ignorant of everything pertaining to medicine and pharmacy. The cupidity, ignorance and guile manifested in connection with such preparations are alarming. Not only does the tyro feel himself amply qualified to prepare a panacea for treating human ailments, but lumber merchants, machinists, drummers, real estate agents, etc., also consider themselves fully competent to diagnose the conditions of a disease in a patient whom they have never seen and to prescribe the proper remedy.

Usually coupled with this ignorance in connection with the fraudulent products is the title "Dr." The compounder of these fake remedies knows very well that the use of this title in connection with his remedy is a valuable asset, although it is illegal and utterly reprehensible. Unfortunate and deplorable as are the above features, there is still another element which is more humiliating, and that is the direct connection of medical practitioners with medicinal remedies which are often of the most worthless type. This does not apply solely to those occupying a lowly position in the profession, but often to men of high standing who do not seem to realize the character of the degradation to which they are stooping.

I can best illustrate this by citing a few cases of the many which are typical from our own experiences, only refraining from mentioning names. These instances are furnished me by Dr. Kebler and I will cite them in his own words:

A certain physician, having placed on the market a remedy for the treatment of children's diseases, the chief active agent of which was opium, made most extravagant claims relative to the remedy. When he was informed that he well knew the mixture which he placed on the market was not capable of fulfilling the claims made for it, he admitted that such was the case, and said that he would make the necessary changes under the law. About two weeks thereafter he appeared again at the laboratory, having modified his label in a degree, but still including on it many features which misrepresented it to a large extent. In support of the representations which he made, certain medical authorities were cited. Some of the claims on the original label were as follows: "A positive cure for dysentery, indigestion, headache," etc. He acknowledged that these representations were without foundation, and in the revised label he had a phrase of the following nature: "As near a cure as known for —" the above diseases, and cited an eminent medical writer in support of his claim.

\* Read in the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the American Medical Association, at the Fifty-eighth Annual Session, held at Atlantic City, June, 1907.

Another physician of the District of Columbia presented himself at the bureau ostensibly in behalf of a company. The remedy he represented was claimed to be a positive cure and specific for gonorrhea and gleet. One sentence on the package read as follows: "Will positively cure gonorrhea in three days and gleet in twenty-seven days." He argued this point at length, citing extracts from various authorities, but he finally admitted that the statement was without foundation, and promised to eliminate it from the label. The next feature to be taken up was the serial number and guaranty. He was desirous of making arrangements to have issued to the company, in whose behalf he had come, a serial number so that the goods would not be discriminated against by dealers. After explaining to him fully the necessary steps to be taken for the securing of a serial number, he inquired whether he could not make out the guaranty and secure the number immediately. He was informed that if he was the authorized officer of the company he could do this, and it then developed that he was the chief, if not the sole, owner of the company. The guaranty was filed in his name.

A Michigan cancer cure quack made a great plea for his remedy in behalf of humanity, not only to the Department of Agriculture, but also pleaded his case before members of Congress. The interesting feature in connection with this correspondent was, that, after pointing out to him that certain portions of his letter-head represented misbrandings of the worst type under the law, he discontinued the use of these letter-heads in the correspondence submitted to the members of Congress. In this connection it might be well to state that it is a common thing for men connected with remedies of a questionable character to cut off certain portions of their letter-heads before forwarding them to the Bureau of Chemistry.

An Indiana "doctor" when asked what connection his oil of radium had with radium, replied as follows: "Now the relation that oil radium sustains to radium is that the camphor tree grows on 'pitch blend' soil that contains the metal radium that it particularly is adapted to the absorption of the metal from the soil, giving it its peculiar white glistening wood fiber, as the black walnut tree absorbs particularly of the iron of the soil, causing its fiber to be dark or black. The radioactivity of the oil is demonstrable beyond a doubt." The above is very interesting and amusing, but it has a most pathetic side, inasmuch as it shows to what extent even physicians will go to misrepresent goods and humbug the public.

An exploiter of a pneumonia cure, a salve to be rubbed on the chest, consisting chiefly of tallow, opium, turpentine, quin sulphate and phenol (carbolic acid) presented numerous testimonials of apparently reputable physicians vouching for the efficacy of the remedy. This case is cited to show the ease with which physicians lend their good names as sponsors for fraudulent remedies of the worst type.

The saddest of all, however, is the connection of the profession with the so-called opium, morphin and liquor habit cures. There are probably a few remedies and methods which are conceived in honor, and the promoters have at heart the well-being of their fellow-men, but it is sad to relate that most of them have embarked in the business largely for the purpose of gain, and are at present trafficking in the lives of the most unfortunate men and women of this country. Instead of endeavoring to aid the unfortunate victim who has become enslaved to a habit, it is apparently their purpose to fasten the habit more firmly in order to secure in return some additional blood money. Not only is the unfortunate victim deluded and robbed of his few pennies, but the appetite is fastened on him more firmly. He is receiving not only as much opium or morphin as he was using at the time the treatment was instituted, but in many cases much more opium or morphin is given in the remedial agents, and frequently there is added to the morphin or opium additional agents, such as cocain and atropin, which will tend to develop new habits and drag the willing dupe down to degradation and despair.

These traffickers in human lives are not only adding to human misery, but are violating the laws of the states which prohibit the sale of such products except on duly licensed physicians' prescriptions, by sending these death-dealing agents, properly marked, into such forbidden territories by mail, ex-

press or otherwise, and there does not appear to be any law by means of which they can be reached.

Dr. Kebler certainly has placed the case in the above citations in a light which will demand the attention of every member of this association. We ought to see to it in the near future that there is developed that ethical spirit in this association which will make it impossible for any member thereof to commit offenses of this character. Already the whole medical profession, as well as the public at large, owes a vast debt to the American Medical Association for the stand which is taken on all remedies of this kind and to efforts which have been made to purge *THE JOURNAL* from improper advertisements.

This, however, is only a beginning. It is plain that this movement is destined to work a complete revolution. I think each one here will admit that any movement which secures the sympathy and aid of the American Medical Association must impress itself on the whole medical profession of this country in a profound and permanent manner.

It is not possible with the organization which this association has that any unethical proceeding can be successfully maintained by any important or influential part of the medical profession. If our faces are firmly set for the true ethical principles involved in this problem, we may look forward to seeing the gradual eradication of that gigantic evil which so long has cast a somber shadow over this whole country, namely, the disreputable traffic in secret remedies which have been so extensively advertised to our people and so universally used.

## SOME NEEDS OF INSTITUTION CHILDREN\*

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On a number of occasions I have been asked the causes of failure in the raising of institution children, especially of infants under 1 year of age. At the same time I have been asked the requirements for an institution which is going to engage in the work of receiving foundlings. I have thought, therefore, that it might be interesting to set down the minimal requirements for doing the best work in this line and to hear in return the experience of others.

There are two chief causes of failure in institution work, viz., the lack of funds, and the actual management of the institution through large boards of laymen. The amount of money required to raise a baby in an institution varies within such wide limits, depending on the nature of the place and the location of it, that this point may be omitted from the discussion with the general statement that the amount will average over a dollar a day per child if the best care is given and all expenses included. If older children are cared for in the same institution the cost per capita will be greatly reduced.

The medical staff should have absolute control over all matters which properly belong to it and should be free from the care and worry of any other part of the work.

Lack of air space is the greatest fault in most asylums. One thousand cubic feet of space should be provided for each child under 1 year of age. If possible, two large

\* Read in the Section on Diseases of Children of the American Medical Association, at the Fifty-eighth Annual Session, held at Atlantic City, June, 1907.