

# Nostrums and Quackery

Articles on the Nostrum Evil, Quackery and Allied Matters  
Affecting the Public Health; Reprinted, With or  
Without Modifications, from The Journal of  
the American Medical Association



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VOLUME II

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PRESS OF  
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE NORTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO  
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## PREFACE TO VOLUME II

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The first edition of Volume I of "Nostrums and Quackery" was published in the latter months of 1911. It was a book of some 500 pages. In less than a year the entire edition was exhausted and a second edition was prepared which, while off the press in December, 1912, did not get on to the market until the end of January, 1913. The second edition of Volume I contained all that was in the first edition with 200 additional pages.

Since the issuance of the Second Edition of Volume I, THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association has published, week by week, articles on the nostrum evil, quackery and allied matters affecting the public health. As this material accumulated it has been collected according to subject matter and issued in pamphlet form. These educational pamphlets have been distributed to the medical profession and to the public at a cost less than that of actual production. The desirability of publishing this material in book form has long been evident but economic and other conditions, until now, have made this, if not impossible, at least impracticable.

The present book, Volume II of "Nostrums and Quackery," contains practically none of the material appearing in Volume I. To have combined Volume I with the present volume would have made an expensive and cumbersome book of about 1500 pages. However, the index in the present book is a double one, containing references both to this book and to Volume I (second edition).

The present volume contains over 800 pages as compared with 700 pages in the second edition of Volume I. These figures, however, fail to convey an adequate idea of the amount of material in this book as compared with that in the previous volume. Volume I, while uniform with the present volume in the size of the page, was set in a narrower measure. In other words, the type matter on a given page of Volume I occupies only a fraction over 21 square inches while the type matter in the present volume occupies nearly 30 square inches. Put another way: the 800 pages in the present volume would, if the type had been set as it was set in Volume I, occupy over 1100 pages.

The work done by THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association, through its Propaganda Department and Bureau of Investigation, is wholly educational in character—not punitive. The matter that appears in this book has been prepared and written in no spirit of malice and with no object except that of laying before the public certain facts the knowledge of which is essential to a proper conception of community health.

Another group of advertisements showing their preposterous claims for cures, including advertisements concerning Mrs. K. Quandt and T. P. McCandleas, whose testimonials and the patients' replies to them will be found in the text of this article. When asked by a physician about the man with the "Seven Snakes in His Stomach" the "United" doctor grinned and side-stepped and said the patient thought they were snakes, but that the advertisement said they looked like snakes, and were "trail worms," whatever they may be. The statement in the advertisement "Doctors Refuse to Treat Patients" is highly improbable—unless, perchance, they had no money. The advertisement in the center of the illustration and the central one in the lower row represent the advertisements of infringers on the graft of Kinsey's United Doctors, and are described by him as "Small Fry Fakers Who Live Off of the Reputation of Great Men." The lower advertisement is that of Dr. H. V. Drebach, who runs what seems to be an independent "United Doctors" office at Joplin, Mo., and another at Pittsburg, Kan. He makes even more extravagant claims as a "great specialist" than Kinsey and his hired men. The central figure in the group in the center of the illustration is Dr. James Monroe Hancock, formerly of Chicago, who is the chief promoter and manager of the United Doctors, incorporated in Indiana with offices in Michigan City, Marion and Lafayette. This outfit uses the same methods as Kinsey's concern, and indeed, in their advertisements refer to and use some of Kinsey's testimonials and refer to some of his other United Doctor offices. He was formerly in the employ of Kinsey and opened and closed the Elmira, N. Y., office inside of two weeks for lack of business, and because one of his hired "specialists" was not licensed in the state and was not allowed to practice. The other quack because his salary was not paid, it is said. Hancock's experiment at Elmira was said to have netted a loss of about \$1,000. Hancock seems to be an energetic individual and has recently started and is president of the United College of Chiropractors at Lafayette, Ind.

the money is actually needed for food. The most serious harm is done in cruelly and futilely raising the hopes of patients with serious or even incurable maladies.

#### INFRINGEMENTS ON THE UNITED DOCTORS' GRAFT RESENTED

As might readily be supposed the success of the scheme worked by the United Doctors has not been overlooked by others, and the name "United Doctors" with slight modifications has been appropriated by them, so that we have the "United Doctors, Specialists," "Original United Doctors," "United Doctors, Incorporated" and "Northwestern United Doctors." This infringement on their particular form of swindle is resented by the United Doctors, and in their advertisements they complain of the "small-fry imitators" who claim to have "something just as good" or "the same thing under a different name." They say: "The phenomenal success of the United Doctors in curing old chronic and deep-seated diseases by their wonderful new system of treatment has brought forth a lot of swindlers pretending to have the same treatment." This is an instance of the pot calling the kettle black. They even offer in one of their advertisements \$100 reward for any person in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri or Kansas who convicts any doctors or persons of fraudulently obtaining money by pretending to be the agents of the United Doctors. This offer of reward is set forth as a "WARNING TO SICK PEOPLE." As a piece of skilful advertising this probably brings returns.

Among others who have appropriated the name "United Doctors" are the United Doctors of Joplin, Mo., run by Dr. Harry V. Dresbach, who has also recently opened an office at Pittsburg, Kan., and who exploits the "oxyoline machine" and the "Alfalfa Remedies." Also the "United Doctors," incorporated in Indiana by Dr. James Monroe Hancock, formerly of Chicago, and a number of other men. This concern has offices at Michigan City, Marion and Lafayette, Ind. Their advertising matter is practically the same as that of the United Doctors owned by Kinsey, and they refer to his other offices and use some of the same testimonials. Hancock's latest move is the opening of the United College of Chiropractors in Lafayette, Ind., as announced in the *Lafayette Journal*, Feb. 20, 1913. In this school chiropractors are to be made in sixty days.

The "United Doctors, Specialists," "Original United Doctors" and the "Northwestern United Doctors" and a host of other similar concerns, some of which have been named above, do not establish offices, but visit certain places for a day or two periodically or occasionally, after announcing their coming in the local newspapers. Otherwise their methods are much the same and the advertising matter for these concerns is almost identical. They employ doctors as Kinsey does and their equipment and services are, if possible, more worthless than those of Kinsey's hired specialists.

The United Doctors seem also recently to have made a departure from their usual plan. In some of their advertisements it is claimed that they have no traveling or itinerant doctors who remain but a day or two in a place. Advertisements from Missouri, however, show that doctors from their "Institute" at St. Joseph do visit neighboring cities, remaining one or two days. Likewise the physicians from the Decatur, Ill., office make short visits to surrounding cities.—(From *The Journal A. M. A.*, March 1, 1913.)

### THE UNITED DOCTORS

#### [ARTICLE II]

That organization of counterfeit specialists, the United Doctors, whose methods of preying on and deceiving the sick were exposed in *THE JOURNAL*,