

H. R. 755.

[Report No. 52.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1849.

Read twice, and postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. EDWARDS, from the Select Committee, to which the subject was referred, reported the following bill ;

A BILL

To prevent the patenting of medicines.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled, That, from and after the passage of this act,*
4 letters patent shall not be granted for any article or pre-
5 paration whatever as a medicine ; and that the use, as a
6 medicine, of any article or preparation, for which letters
7 patent may hereafter be granted, shall not be held to be
8 an infringement of such patent : *Provided, That no pa-*
9 tent, granted prior to the passage of this act, shall, by
10 reason thereof, be held to be void ; and that this act shall not
11 be so construed as to deprive an inventor or discoverer of

- 12 the right to letters patent for a new and improved process
 13 for preparing or manufacturing any medicinal article,
 14 whether simple or compound: *And provided, also, That*
 15 the prohibition contained in this act, shall not apply to ma-
 16 chines, instruments, or apparatus pertaining either to sur-
 17 gery or medicine.

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 reason thereof, be held to be void; and that this act shall not
 be so construed as to deprive an inventor or discoverer of