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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

FIVE years ago an opponent of Homœopathy from prejudice, I am now its disciple from conviction. Like most other members of the profession who had passed the ardour of youth, and submitted their doctrines to the test of experience, I had become painfully alive to the inefficiency of the prevailing system of medicine; but had never thought of looking to Homœopathy as affording a trustworthy substitute. My acquaintance with that system was most superficial—enough to impart an erroneous impression, but not enough to prevent me from joining in the laugh against its professors, or restrain me from denouncing it as a chimera, fit only to occupy the mind of an enthusiast.

Urged by a non-professional friend to look into this new doctrine, I procured a popular treatise on the subject; read it; and—unconvinced, as those who trust to reading without experience, generally are—dismissed it from my memory. A few months later Homœopathy was again brought accidentally under my notice. I now felt it my duty to submit the question to a practical examination. The result is before the reader. Truth triumphed alike over custom, education, and prejudice.

It is the fate of those who change their faith, whether in religion, politics, or science, to have that change attributed to unworthy motives. For this I am prepared: I cannot hope to escape the common lot. The foregoing facts are my

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answer to any such imputations. Having followed the old system with sufficient pecuniary success for ten years, nothing short of conviction would have induced its abandonment.

Escaping, not unwillingly, from personal matters, I turn to the objects of this volume. Too palpable to be denied, the superiority of Homœopathy in the treatment of chronic* diseases is the more readily admitted, because its opponents believe that they possess an indisputable vantage-ground in the treatment of acute diseases. Referring to our Homœopathic literature, we find numerous instances of the efficacy of the system when applied to the former; but instances of its successful application in the latter, are few and isolated. To supply this deficiency is the first object of the work.

The cures of Homœopathy are generally referred to *faith*, *time*, and *unassisted nature*.

To reduce these agents within their proper limits, and to exhibit the unrivalled power of Homœopathy over acute diseases, is my second object.

In the first place, not one of the patients, whose cases are related, was conscious that he was treated Homœopathically. This fact at once overthrows the first objection; for, where no object is presented for its exercise, there can be no "faith."

Again, in reference to the second supposed agent, while indispensable in chronic diseases, in acute cases *time* is *death*. In the following examples the mitigation of the disease follows too closely upon the application of the remedy, to admit of its being referred to time.

In reference to the third supposed agent, the diseases selected are, for the most part, of that violent character, that,

Chronic diseases—long-standing—slow of progress—symptoms mild.
Acute diseases—violent symptoms—rapid course—fatal tendency.

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if left to themselves, they generally terminate fatally. In these instances, the members of the old school never dream of trusting to "unassisted nature," but use the most powerful means at their disposal. If, in the annexed cases, in which none of those measures were employed, the cure was due to the unaided efforts of nature, the sooner those gentlemen relinquish their treatment, and rely solely on her power, the better. To be consistent they must do this, or confess that Homœopathy does cure acute diseases.

Since, then, it appears that neither of these agents is admissible, the only alternatives that remain, are, Magic, or Homœopathy.

I have thought it right to offer, in the first instance, a few general observations on the three principal Allopathic remedies—Bleeding, Salivation, and Purgatives.

Of the cases collectively it may be stated, that they are selected from between one and two thousand—of the same acute character—that have occured in my own practice. As they are related for the purpose of proving the power, and not of teaching the practice, of Homœopathy, I have studied to preserve the identity of each case, without wearying the reader by unnecessary details.

The introductory remarks which preface each subject, while they convey to the non-professional reader such an insight into the different diseases as will enable him to appreciate the value of the remedies, have likewise afforded me an opportunity to "hold the mirror up to" Allopathy. In doing this I have had but one object—that of affording those whose ranks I have left, the benefit of the light which Homœopathy throws upon the imperfections of their system.

9, *Stamford Street, London,*
March 1*st*, 1849.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

In responding to the demand for a Second Edition of this volume, the Author has not deemed it necessary to make any material alteration, either in its form or contents. He has, therefore, simply to acknowledge the very flattering reception it has met with, both from the profession and the public.

In the prescriptions, the figures indicate the attenuation of the medicines employed; it being always understood, when not otherwise specified, that one drop, or globule, is the proper dose.

9, *Stamford Street, London,*

November 15*th*, 1850.

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BLEEDING.

Remembering that the blood is the source from whence every organ of the body derives its nutriment, and through whose renovating agency the whole frame is sustained, it is difficult to conceive of any proceeding more irrational than that which is adopted by the Allopathist* of abstracting large quantities of this fluid at the very moment when the system is engaged in a desperate struggle with disease, and consequently stands so urgently in need of its support. Sanctioned by no other consideration than this, the Homœopathist would feel himself perfectly justified in avoiding a practice, which, being so diametrically opposed to the plainest dictates of reason and common sense, cannot be otherwise than medically erroneous. But weighty as such an argument undoubtedly is, he by no means regards it as forming the chief ground of his opposition to blood-letting. His objections to that operation are of a *practical* character, and refer principally to the following points, namely,† its pernicious

* Allopathist is a term used to designate the Professor of Allopathy—the old system of medicine.

Homœopathist, in like manner, is applied to the Professor of Homœopathy—the new system of medicine.

† The difficulties which surround this remedy may be inferred from the number of works which have been written on the subject. Dr. Marshall Hall enumerates the following as the principal morbid effects of the loss of blood, viz.:—syncope (or fainting,) convulsions, delirium, coma (or insensibility,) *sudden dissolution*, excessive re-action, mania, amaurosis (blindness,) sinking.

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influence over the progress of the disease—and the tedious and precarious state of convalescence, which, as a natural consequence, it superinduces.

The circumstance that most forcibly arrests the attention in connexion with this remedy, and to which most, if not all, the other evils attendant upon it may be traced, is its weakening effect upon the system.

No one who has watched the progress of an acute disease, in which blood-letting has been largely employed, can have failed to be struck with the extreme state of exhaustion, to which, in a remarkably short space of time, the patient has been reduced.

To understand this more clearly, let us suppose the case of a patient labouring under inflammation of the lungs, or plura—we find him complaining of severe pain in the side, and difficulty of breathing: this is his chief, probably, his only source of suffering—we find him moving, walking, and performing any other action not requiring much bodily exertion. Do we hear him complain of weakness? Certainly not! Observe this same patient after the lapse of only a few hours—the change startles you! He is already reduced to the lowest point of physical depression—he can scarcely speak above a whisper, move without being supported, or drink unless the cup is held to his lips. Whence this sudden alteration? Assuredly not from the progress of the disorder. There is no inflammatory complaint, however severe, which, even if left to itself, will, in so short a space of time produce such powerful effects upon the vital energies. Nothing can afford a stronger proof of this, than the condition in which we often find cases of the most dangerous character, which have existed for several days, unchecked by the use of any remedial measures whatever. In these instances, we have as might be expected, sufficient evidence of the inroads of disease upon the constitution, but certainly nothing at all approximating to that state of

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exhaustion which has just been described *as dependent* upon the loss of blood. The alternative is unavoidable—it is to the *remedy* and not to the disease, that we must look for a solution of the question. The explanation is but too palpable:—he has been bled till he fainted: till his cheek was blanched, his eye dim, and his pulse scarcely perceptible. Re-action manifesting itself, the operation was repeated and the system brought down to its former level. This is done again and again till it can be borne no longer: then only does the destroyer arrest his progress. But though the victory of the lancet is complete, let not the reader imagine that the struggle has terminated: subdued, but not annihilated, the eradication of the disease is committed to the leech, the cupping-glass, the blister, nauseants, purgatives, and salivation—these, after bleeding has done its work, even if they be not employed simultaneously with that operation, are brought to bear upon the exhausted patient.

Melancholy as this picture is, I do not hesitate to declare that it is a faithful transcript of a large class of cases. Without asserting that in every instance, depletion is carried to such an extent, it is nevertheless true that to a greater or less degree it is adopted in all cases which are treated in accordance with the written rule of the old school; and it may be further affirmed without fear of contradiction, that it is alone by producing this state of depression that bleeding ever does any good. According to Drs. Crawford and Tweedie, it is "employed with the object of diminishing the quantity of blood, and at the same time of abating the force and frequency of the action of the heart and arteries." To the same extent that it robs the system of its "vital fluid," so in proportion, does it deprive it of its vital energy. Beyond this, from the very nature of the operation, it does not possess, and therefore cannot exercise, any remedial virtue.*

* The following is extracted from a lecture on the treatment of pleura-pneu-

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The foregoing remarks have special reference to those more favourable cases, which, occuring in persons of robust habit and sound constitution, run their course rapidly, and notwithstanding the employment of the violent measures I have described, result in the restoration of perfect health.

But it unfortunately happens that the most critical attacks of inflammation occur, not as might be expected, in the strong and robust, but in those who, possessing constitutions naturally weak, or from other accidental circumstances rendered so, are least able to withstand the effects of depleting remedies—delicate females, infants, aged persons, and those predisposed to consumption.

That the medical man of the old school cannot be placed in a more perplexing situation than when called upon to treat a case of this description, I can testify from personal experience. On the one hand he sees a disease, which if left to itself, will in all probability, directly or indirectly, prove

monia, or inflammation of the lungs with pleurisy, written by Mr. Guthrie, and reported in the "Medical Times" of February 19th, 1848—

"In the year 1801, I found myself, not seventeen years of age, in charge of a regiment of infantry, on the top of the Berry Head, the outermost point of Torbay. The men were soon attacked by pneumonia. I had been taught the practice of physic in London—had followed, among other avocations, the late Drs. Rowley and Hooper for three years, and, in consonance with their views, bled my patients three and four times in the first forty-eight hours. I first drew sixteen ounces, then fourteen, then twelve, then abstracted, as the complaint continued, eight ounces; gave tarter-emetic, so as to keep up nausea; then calomel, antimony, and opium, and lost my patients. Discomfitted by my failures, I reconsidered every case, and saw that, however systematically I had acted, the disease had not been arrested in any one of them. *In fact enough had not been done.* Recollecting what I had been told of northern constitutions, and of country practice, I determined that in future, they should die of the bleeding, and not from excess of inflammation. I then took away on each occasion, as much more blood; my sixteen ounces became from twenty to thirty. It would not do. I arrested the rapid course of the disease, but did not effectively subdue it. It was evident that, to succeed, I must place no limit to the abstraction of blood in the first instance, but the decided incapability of bearing its further loss."

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disastrous to his patient: on the other, he meets with an array of circumstances which forbid the application of the only effectual means he has at his command—he dare not resort to his favourite remedy—he must sheath his lancet—he is reduced to the half measures of cupping, leeching, blistering, and salivation: expedients which, whilst they exercise, nine times in ten, little or no beneficial influence over the progress of the disease, still exert the baneful property of debilitating the system, and thereby depriving nature of that power, by the aid of which she might otherwise successfully struggle against her adversary. Following the natural tendency of all these cases, the disease, still unsubdued, runs on into the chronic form, and if the chest has been the part affected, consumption but too commonly manifests itself as the disastrous consequence. I express no novel opinion when I declare my firm belief that bleeding and other debilitating remedies, so often recklessly employed in Allopathic practice, may be justly regarded as among the most powerful causes of those numerous chest affections which are generally, though wrongfully imputed to the fickleness of our climate.

There is another class of cases, less numerous, but scarcely less important than the foregoing, in which the abstraction of blood frequently leads to the most unhappy results: that in which the seat and character of the disorder are involved in obscurity. Uncertain as to the nature of the disease, but desirous of alleviating the sufferings of his patient, the physician, possessing no fixed principle to guide him in the choice of a remedy, is too apt to select that one which custom has taught him to consider the best calculated to produce a decided impression upon the system at large, and consequently upon the disease. That remedy is blood-letting. Adopted with so much the more confidence, as these cases, notwithstanding their obscurity, are for the most part attended by symptoms of a

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febrile or inflammatory type, it is nevertheless certain, as is evinced by the subsequent developement of the disease, that bleeding is powerless in checking its onward progress. The symptoms which determined its employment were but the ushering-in of a long enduring disease, which time, aided by judicious means on the part of the physician, could alone overcome. When too late to be repaired, the fatal error is discovered—the system has already been robbed of its life-blood —the patient's energies undermined—disarmed and rendered totally unequal to the contest, he finds himself doomed to strive with an enemy whose strength increases in proportion as his own diminishes. The result need scarcely be told—he sinks in the struggle.

The foregoing remarks, referring to the use of bleeding in the treatment of inflammatory diseases in adult patients, apply with equal force to that remedy, as it is employed in the diseases of childhood. Though in the former, its operation as we have seen is so objectionable, still it is generally speaking unattended with any immediate danger to the life of the patient, who, being older and stronger, is better able to withstand its effects. With children the case is different. It is well known that they are peculiarly wanting in that power which is necessary to sustain the loss of blood; nor do they, like adult patients, furnish us with those tests which enable us to judge of the extent to which it may be carried. Fainting, as a criterion, is no longer available—the pulse is no safe index—the blood, moreover, being usually abstracted by leeches, the quantity lost is necessarily uncertain. The result, as might be anticipated, is often most lamentable. I retain a vivid recollection of having in one instance seen a fine and beautiful child, labouring under inflammation of the lungs, rapidly sink and die in the course of two or three hours, solely from the loss of blood, sustained by the application of

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four leeches. In other cases, although the little patients survive the immediate effects of the loss, they become so exhausted by repeated leechings, and remain for so long a time in a weak and languid condition, with pallid skin, flabby flesh, and wasted forms, as to be rather dead than alive. These and many other reasons which it is unnecessary to enumerate, render it specially desirable to avoid the abstraction of blood in treating the diseases of children. Allopathy shows it be hazardous and injurious: Homœopathy proves it to be unnecessary.

Remarking upon the diseases of children, it may not be inapposite to introduce a few words upon the practice of applying blisters in these cases.

There can hardly be a practitioner of any experience who has not witnessed their fatal effects. They are generally resorted to at an advanced stage of the complaint, when the patient has been thoroughly reduced by depletion. The system, not possessing the requisite power to restore the blistered surface, the sore becomes converted into an eating ulcer, which, resisting every means for its cure, wears out the sufferer by the constant irritation which it superinduces. Several melancholy instances of this kind came under my own observation in the earlier part of my professional life; and many years before I abandoned the Allopathic practice, I had entirely relinquished the employment of blisters in the class of cases now under consideration. Mustard poultices always afforded a safe and effectual substitute; but even these, as well as blisters, I regard as useless in all cases since I have become acquainted with the more certain and painless remedies which Homœopathy supplies.

As bleeding in its different forms, during the progress of disease, induces the deplorable state of things which has been described in the foregoing remarks, so does it, as a necessary consequence, entail upon those upon whom it has been

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practised, a correspondingly painful and precarious convalescence. Daily experience has brought this matter to be so thoroughly understood and appreciated by the public as well as the profession, that it is scarcely requisite to do more than simply refer to it, as forming a strong point of objection against the depleting system of treatment. Let the reader recall to his mind the wretched condition of a man who has undergone the antiphlogistic treatment for an attack of acute disease. What a shattered frame does he present! What a long and weary time he is in crawling back to his former self! Reduced to the helplessness of childhood, he is forced to be nursed and fed like a child. Undermined in constitution, and stripped of all power to resist, either a recurrence of his former complaint, or the invasion of new diseases, how often do we find him the subject of a relapse, or a prey to dropsy, diarrhœa, chest disease, or some other exhausting malady. His body is a citadel from which the garrison has been withdrawn, and which falls an easy prey to the first foe by which it is attacked.

In the third place, the Homœopathist maintains that the best experience proves the abstraction of blood to be totally unnecessary in the treatment of any disorder whatever.

The best experience is clearly that which can show the most successful results. So far from shrinking from such a test, Homœopathy courts it: it is her strong-hold. She does not ask the world to listen to an empty theory: she invites it to examine her practice, and judge her by its fruits. If Homœopathy could boast of no greater amount of success than Allopathy can produce, she would long ere this have been compelled to quit the field of contest in favour of her ancient and more powerful rival, notwithstanding the superior attractions of her painless and tasteless remedies. But it is alone through the irresistible force of her successful experience that she has been enabled not only to withstand, but to triumph

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over the flood of opposition, which from her birth up to the present moment, has been incessantly, but fruitlessly endeavouring to effect her destruction.

The marvellous power which Aconite exercises over the circulation, and the specific action of other remedies, enable the Homœopathist to overcome the most violent and fatal disorders, with a rapidity and certainty, infinitely surpassing any thing that can be accomplished by bleeding and its auxiliaries. This is no unsupported assertion: on the contrary it is believed, that the large number of cases distributed through this volume, and depicting disease in its most destructive forms, will alone be sufficient to convince the candid and unprejudiced reader of its truth; and when it is remembered that these cases constitute but the fractional part of one man's experience, and that hundreds of other practitioners, during the last fifty years, have pursued the same system of treatment with equal, if not greater success, it is not easy to imagine that even the most incredulous mind can resist the accumulated evidence which such a consideration affords.*

Let us now take a hasty glance at the other side of the picture.—It will at once appear evident, that as the patient in the hands of the Homœopathist, loses not one drop of blood; as he is neither harrassed by blisters, depressed by nauseants, nor exhausted by purgatives, so does he, as a natural consequence, escape that prostration of strength to which he would be reduced by the employment of those measures.

And, as the course of the disorder is unmasked by the artificial production of debility, recovery from its effects is proportionably rapid and certain—convalescence, or the inter-

* Those who may be desirous of statistical evidence on this point, will find some interesting tables, too long to be introduced here, of the comparative results of the two modes of treatment in a variety of diseases, in the Appendix to "A Concise View of Homœopathy," published by the Dublin Homœopathic Society.

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mediate state between health and disease, (a period in Allopathic practice, so replete with danger to the patient and anxiety to his friends) is here almost entirely wanting. An impression once made upon the disease—the first few hours of active suffering past, and the patient's danger is over—he has nothing further to apprehend.

Nor need he dread any of those evil consequences which mar the benefit of Allopathic treatment—there is little or no fear of a relapse—no chance of dropsy, and the host of other ailments which follow in the wake of the lancet. There is, moreover, no call for that interminable nursing and coddling; those courses of bitter tonics—rarely any of that longing for the life restoring influence of pure air, and the bracing sea-breeze, which distinguish the exhausted patient of the old-school practitioner.

Homœopathy demands of her subjects simply to remain in bed and swallow a few doses of tasteless medicine—they sustain no loss beyond the temporary loss of food—they emerge from illness nearly the same persons they were when it overtook them—they have no emptied veins to replenish—no emaciated forms to remould—no undermined energies to renovate: all those restorative means therefore which have been referred to above, though they may be indulged in to please the taste of the convalescent, are rarely necessary in Homœopathic practice.

Having thus passed in rapid review, and placed side by side, the mischief which arises from bleeding in Allopathic, and the advantages of its omission in Homœopathic practice, I am mistaken if the reader does not experience both astonishment and regret that an operation which is confessedly on all hands calculated to produce so much harm, should so long have retained its place at the head of our remedial agents—I say "confessedly on all hand," because, universal as its adoption has been in every age and country, there is perhaps no

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point in the whole circle of medicine, on which there prevails so complete a unanimity of opinion as this, namely, that bleeding, whenever, and under whatever circumstances employed, is at best *an evil*, which ought if possible to be avoided. Every medical man, who weighs his thoughts before they assume the shape of actions, must feel convinced whenever he opens a vein, that he commits an evil, second only to that of the disease for the removal of which he has been led to its perpetration.

With such a feeling as this pervading the professional mind, it cannot be a matter of surprise that there should have sprung up in the present day, a wide spreading disbelief in the infallibility of this remedy. The blind faith with which it was formerly worshipped, is fast vanishing. The more scientific and thoughtful members of the profession have long learned not only to question its efficacy in many diseases in which its aid used to be deemed all but indispensable, but have given life to their opinions, by banishing it, as far as possible, from their practice.

It is gratifying to be able to place at the head of this category, the name of one who has left behind him a European celebrity—Robert Liston! The following extract is from Dr. Quin's Memoir*—"Mr. Liston was most struck with the action of Aconite in subduing inflammation, and reducing vascular excitement; and he often expressed his regret to me, that the power of Aconite to abate vascular overaction, and supersede the necessity for abstraction of blood in many diseases, was not known to him earlier; because he was convinced that it would have prolonged the life of his father, whose death had been hastened, in his opinion, by ill-judged copious venesections."

* British Journal of Homœopathy, January, 1848.

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Though it is beyond a doubt, that much of this mistrust of blood-letting, as in the instance just quoted, is due to the rapid promulgation of Homœopathic doctrines, much is also to be attributed to the enlightened spirit of the age. The days are gone by for rendering homage to any custom which can prefer no stronger claim to our allegiance than that which is founded upon its antiquity. Faith has been superseded by reason; and that system, whether of medicine or any other science, which will not bear the application of such a test, stands but little chance of maintaining its hold upon the respect of the present generation. There can therefore remain no doubt in any reflective mind, as to the ultimate fate of bleeding. Having no foundation either in reason or sound experience, it will assuredly, ere long, be superseded by the milder, surer, and more rational powers with which we are supplied by Homœopathy.

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SALIVATION.

It may be asserted without fear of contradiction, that there is no substance in the whole list of remedial agents, whose abuse has entailed so much suffering upon the human race, as Mercury. One of the most powerful drugs, either for good or evil, with which we are acquainted, there is no other which is used so thoughtlessly and indiscriminately. The medical man seeks its aid in almost every case of disease—the druggist shrouds it in his nostrums, and non-professional persons prescribe it with all the confidence of conceited ignorance, whenever they undertake to doctor themselves, their children, or their friends.

Administered in rather large doses in the form of calomel, its action is simply purgative. This is perhaps its most merciful effect; for notwithstanding that it generally produces violent irritation and pain in the bowels during its operation, the system is at all events speedily relieved of the noxious substance, and so escapes the more lasting misery which results from its continued employment in small and repeated doses. In these latter cases the preparations known as blue-pill and grey-powder are most commonly employed, and are exhibited for the purpose of exciting the disease called Salivation.

By this term is understood the impregnation of the system with mercury to such an extent, as to cause soreness of the mouth, and to stimulate the glandular apparatus connected

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with it to a preternatural discharge of saliva. Those who have undergone salivation themselves, or have witnessed it in others, will retain too vivid a recollection of the suffering it has superinduced, to render necessary an elaborate description of its effects, or of the painful symptoms accompanying its progress.

Nevertheless, for the information of those persons who are unacquainted with the disease, the following account is subjoined, as recorded by Dr. Pereira. "The first symptoms of this affection, are slight tenderness and tumefaction of the gums, which acquire a pale rose colour, except at the edges surrounding the teeth where they are deep red, gradually the mouth becomes exceedingly sore, and the tongue much swollen, a coppery taste is perceived, and the breath acquires a remarkable fœtidity. The salivary glands soon become tender and swollen; the saliva and mucus of the mouth flow abundantly, sometimes to the extent of several pints in twenty-four hours. During this state the fat is rapidly absorbed, and the patient becomes exceedingly emaciated." We are then presented by the same authority with a list of the ill effects which often arise from salivation, viz.:—mercurial fever—excessive salivation, attended with ulceration and sloughing of the gums; falling out of the teeth; ulceration and sloughing of the fauces; mercurial purging; profuse sweating; skin diseases; inflammation of the eyes; enlargement of the inguinal, axillary, and mesenteric glands; ulceration of the mouth and throat; various symptoms indicating a disordered state of the nervous system, such as shaking palsy, cachexia or wasting diseases, &c.

Such is salivation, one of the most favourite and universal remedies of the Allopathist. The above description is applicable more particularly to the symptoms manifested when mercury is administered in acute diseases. It is also frequently employed as a last resource—a kind of hit or miss

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remedy—in obstinate diseases of long standing and doubtful character, where the physician is at a loss what other course of treatment to pursue. As administered in such cases, it is from a variety of circumstances an easily manageable and comparatively harmless medicine. Given in small doses and at long intervals to individuals who have not been exhausted by bleeding, the system is less easily brought under the influence of the metal; and when that influence does exert itself, its action is so gentle and gradual, that it may be easily regulated, and checked at pleasure.

In acute diseases the case is very different. Intended here to affect the system as speedily as possible, the medicine is exhibited in larger doses, frequently repeated, and is often applied internally and externally at the same moment. Generally following immediately upon free and copious bleeding from the arm, its absorption is thereby rendered very rapid, and its effects require but a few hours for their developement. But, unfortunately in these cases the physician has lost that controlling power, by the exercise of which, he is able to protect his patient from its overaction in chronic diseases. The system being exhausted by blood-letting, and absorption rendered proportionally active, it is impossible to predict how far the local and constitutional symptoms of salivation may extend. A five grain blue-pill, which, administered to a person not previously reduced in strength, would excite no sensible result, when given to a patient who has been bled to relieve an acute disease, may produce any one, or more of the "ill effects" mentioned in the passage quoted from Dr. Pereira.

These examples of violent salivation are of such frequent occurrence, that there can scarcely be a member of the faculty who has not witnessed them in his own practice. So long as mercury continues to be used in Allopathic doses, so long

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will similar cases arise in its condemnation, and medical men be doomed to the pain of beholding their patients suffer infinitely more from the remedy than from the disease which it was given to eradicate. Language is almost inadequate to describe the full extent of suffering which it inflicts upon its unhappy recipient: intense aching in the head and face, swelling of the neck and cheeks, loosening of the teeth, inflammation and ulceration of the tongue, inside of the cheeks and gums, rendering it impossible to swallow any thing but liquids: the fever, diarrhœa, melting sweats, and general prostration of strength which accompany it; these are among its most striking and constant attendants. In spite of their fearful character the Allopathist constantly employs it: his erroneous system not having taught him how he may better cure those acute diseases, for the relief of which it is administered.

Let it not be supposed that we would indiscriminately prohibit the use of mercury. On the contrary, we hold it to be one of the most interesting and useful remedies furnished to us by the mineral kingdom. It is against its administration in such quantities as to produce the lamentably injurious effects just enumerated that we enter our uncompromising protest. We do so unhesitatingly, because Homœopathic practice proves beyond the power of contradiction, that there is no disease, for which mercury is the proper remedy, which it will not cure more speedily and safely, in the small Homœopathic dose. The Homœopathist gives it as he gives all other medicines, not as a universal and quack remedy, eradicating one disease by superinducing another, but acting in strict conformity with the Homœopathic law. And he administers it, moreover, in such minute doses as to render it impossible for it ever to produce the constitutional disturbance known by the name of salivation.

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It is to Hahnemann we are indebted for the knowledge how to secure all the good, without incurring any of the evils arising from the use of mercury. Had he left behind him no greater claim upon our gratitude, this alone ought to ensure to his memory our lasting veneration.

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PURGATIVES.

THERE is nothing in Homœopathy which excites more astonishment than the announcement, that in its practice, it entirely discards the use of Purgatives. Nor can we be surprised at this, when we consider, that from our earliest days we are taught to regard aperient medicines, as almost as essential to our well-being, as food and raiment. The nurse welcomes the new-born infant with a dose of castor-oil, as a fore-taste of what it will have to endure in its course through this world; and till its latest breath it lives up to its destiny. On this point, increase of years rarely brings increase of wisdom; for it cannot be denied, that the older people get, the more confirmed they become in their predilection for family and antibilious pills, and other mysterious compounds. The extent to which the population of this country indulge in the pernicious habit of dosing themselves with these domestic medicines, would appear incredible, was it not too notorious to be disputed. For the continuance of this mischievious custom, Government, and the Members of the Medical Profession are alike responsible: the former, in the encouragement it holds out to the nostrum vendor; the latter, in their indiscriminate prescription of aperient medicines. A very little consideration will convince us that such a practice is both unphilosophical and injurious.

In the first place, every one will acknowledge that the body is not only marvellously perfect as a whole, but that every

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separate organ is adapted in an equally admirable manner to the performance of its peculiar function: that the eye could not be more beautifully constructed for vision, the limbs for motion and apprehension, the heart for propelling the blood, and the lungs for respiration. Faithful and unfailing in the discharge of their duty, we never dream of medicating these organs, unless called upon to do so by the presence of disease. This being admitted in words, why is it so perpetually contradicted in practice? If every portion of the frame be furnished with innate power proportioned to the labour it has to perform, what plea can be urged in excuse for the incessant prompting to which the *bowels* are subjected? Did HE, by whose fiat man was called into existence, leave these organs so imperfectly endowed, that they have ever since remained inadequate to the discharge of their functions, except when assisted by human instrumentality? Unless we have been sent into this breathing world, in this respect "scarce half made up," on what ground can we justify our unending interference? This suggestion will serve to expose the absurdity of the habit in which many persons, in the enjoyment of perfect health, indulge, of taking aperient medicines, simply because the action of their bowels is not sufficiently frequent and systematic to suit their capricious notions: forgetting that there is no prescribed standard to regulate this function; that nature is the best judge of her own necessities; and that individuals differ almost as much in this respect, as in their physical form and constitutional temperament.

In the next place, without dwelling upon a subject, which, until the problem of LIFE is solved, will in all probability remain a mystery, viz.:—the intimate and essential nature of disease, we may yet venture to state broadly, that it consists, as far as we can understand the matter, in a disordered action of the part or parts most prominently affected. This being the case, it follows, that for the rectification of that disordered

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action, a remedy should be employed, which will exert a direct influence over the seat of disease. The simple action of an aperient is to stimulate the *intestinal canal.* Yet this is the agent which the Allopathist employs, when the object sought is to rectify the defective performance of its duty, on the part of some other, and probably distant organ of the body. Has a patient inflammation of the eye? His physician purges the *bowels!* Has he inflammation of the *toe?* The same thing is done! Is there disease of the *lungs?* Still he *purges!* Fever? Still aperients! Gout—rheumatism—headache? whatever be the disorder, the remedy is everlastingly the same: like the laws of the Medes and Persians, it alters not. This mode of treatment would lead us to conclude, that every disease has a *material* existence in the abdomen, and may be expelled by the physical force of aperient medicines! It is difficult to conceive how *expulsion* of the natural contents of the *bowels,* can influence the progress of disease in a different part of the body, any more than would the expulsion of the contents of any other organ—the blood from the heart, or the air from the lungs. As well might we cause a patient to run about his room to *accelerate* his breathing, or apply an air-pump to his mouth to *exhaust* his lungs, as compel him to swallow an aperient to increase the action, and evacuate the contents of his bowels.

But one remove from the universal remedy of the quack, there is nothing else in the whole sphere of "old physic" which partakes so thoroughly of the empirical, as this illimitable indulgence in the use of purgatives. It places in a forcible light the pitiable poverty of a system, whose loftiest flights into the regions of philosophical deduction, can reach no higher than the barren conception of a dose of aperient medicine, as a panacea for "the thousand ills that human flesh is heir to."

But purgatives are not more opposed to the dictates of

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reason, than to the well-being of the patient. Their effects upon the system are positively injurious, and manifest themselves in two ways: first upon the intestinal organs themselves; and secondly upon the constitution generally.

If, (to use a familiar illustration,) we introduce any irritating substance, such as sand or dust into the eye, its natural secretion is instantly augmented: a copious flow of tears ensues—in other words, it is *purged*. The part at the same time becomes red, painful, and inflammed. If this be done only once, the injury, under the restorative power of nature, in all likelihood, speedily subsides. But let the operation be repeated again and again, for days, weeks, years! What would then be the result? The organ, for all its natural purposes, would be destroyed. Losing its functional powers, it would become a source of constant trouble and suffering to its unhappy owner!

In this we have, as nearly as possible, a parallel to the action and effect of purgatives upon the intestinal canal: with this difference—that in the one case the mischief may be seen and appreciated: in the other, though not less certain and enduring, it is hid from our sight, and therefore is less thought of, and less understood.

The office which the eye fulfils in the animal economy needs no description. The function of the bowels, though perhaps as well understood, is not sufficiently considered. It should be borne in mind, that those organs are intended by nature to receive only such articles of diet, as, being perfectly suited to their organization, are capable of undergoing digestion, and being converted into blood. Remembering this, the absolute necessity for maintaining them in the highest possible state of health, and studiously avoiding the introduction of every thing, which, by disturbing them, might interrupt their function, becomes at once apparent. As delicate in their structure as the eye, they are as incapable as that

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organ, of bearing with impunity the contact of uncongenial substances. The admission into them of harsh matters, such as irritating drugs, must as effectually interrupt the process of digestion and nutrition, as would sand and dust, used in the place of oil, impede the action of a delicate piece of mechanism.

How does the Allopathist regard this self-evident truth in his practice? No sooner (as I have before stated) does a patient come under his care, complaining of illness, it matters not of what kind, or of what part of the body—what may have been its cause—what the age or sex of the sufferer, than he at once, almost as a rule, prescribes a dose of aperient medicine, the unavoidable effect of which is *to irritate and inflame the whole extent of the alimentary canal!* Originating, in acute diseases, another source of disturbance to be superadded to that already in operation, this practice, in these cases is sufficiently unjustifiable; but it is in chronic diseases or those of long standing and slow progress, that the pernicious influence of aperients is most vividly apparent. In the former case, their operation, being repeated perhaps but a few times in a comparatively short period, the evil effects resulting from their action more speedily subside. In the latter, forming as they do, nine times in ten, the principal part of a course of treatment extending over a considerable space of time, their consequences are more lamentable. Digestion is interrupted or entirely suspended; the patient, being imperfectly nourished, becomes weak and emaciated; exhausting diarrhœa supervenes, or the bowels, losing their natural power, become obstinately constipated, and find no relief but in a constant repetition of the destructive dose. Chronic dyspepsia, with its thousand concomitants—headaches, palpitation, piles, fistula, flatulence, &c., fill up the catalogue of ailments which render life a burden, even if they do not curtail its duration.

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Disregarding for the moment the foregoing objections to the use of purgatives, there are, on the other hand, several powerful reasons, why the bowels should not be disturbed during sickness.

In the first place, the patient, in severe cases, being compelled to keep his bed, this alone with the attendant loss of exercise, has a natural tendency to check the action of the bowels.

In the second place, their principal office consisting in passing on the food, and the patient taking none, clearly they have no duty to perform.

In the third place, the disease weakening the whole system, the bowels partake of the general debility. In common with the legs, the arms, the stomach, the brain and every other organ, they become deprived of that power, by the possession of which in a state of health, they are enabled to discharge their proper function. Why are they, more than the other organs, to be impelled to the performance of a duty, to which, at the time, they are totally unequal?

Again, under the process of disease, the whole vital power is devoted to the struggle which is going on in the affected part. The attention of the system is, as it were, drawn off as well from the bowels, as from every other organ, not immediately engaged in the contest. On this account, also, they remain quiescent; and any interference with that quietude, by diverting the vital energy, weakens that force which nature requires to be undivided, to enable her to conduct her combat with disease to a successful issue—an additional reason why purgatives should be avoided.

Sufficiently convincing as these arguments might be considered, in reply to any objections against the Homœopathic plan, so accustomed have the public become to the employment of purgatives, that the question constantly arises, "If the bowels be constipated, what must we do?" The answer is simple—LET THEM ALONE.

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Constipation is an *effect*, not a *disease*. If it were, there might be some show of reason in the use of aperients. But being merely a temporary loss of power, we can no more restore that power by forcing the action of the bowels, than we can impart strength to a weakened leg by compelling it to walk. In the latter instance we should instinctively rest the part, until, by the removal of disease, motion might be resumed. The same reasoning applies with equal force to the removal of constipation. The exercise of a little patience, and the employment of judicious means for the eradication of that disordered condition on which the inaction depends, will as infallibly restore the bowels to their duty, as in every other instance, the effect must cease when the cause is removed.

In acute diseases this rule may be acted on with unlimited confidence. The resumption on the part of the patient of his accustomed food and exercise, by invigorating the frame generally, imparts also to the bowels that energy which enables them, in conjunction with the other organs, to resume the exercise of their proper function. It is in diseases of long standing, particularly those affecting the digestive organs—dyspepsia, &c.—which so often owe their origin to the abuse of aperient medicines, and are always aggravated by their action—that the Homœopathist experiences the greatest difficulty in carrying out his principles. He is, however, sure to find his reward for strictly adhering to them, in the rapidity and certainty with which he eradicates diseases that have baffled all the ordinary method of treatment.

If, however, as sometimes happens from the sudden withdrawal of a long accustomed stimulant, the bowels become obstinately confined; or to satisfy the mind of the patient, it be desirable to prompt them, the safest, as well as the most rational mode of accomplishing that object, is by the employment of an enema. Unirritating in its operation, and acting on the lower portion of the bowel, where the accumulation naturally takes place, this, in all cases where assistance is

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required, is an unobjectionable remedy. The blandest fluids, such as water, gruel, and the like, will generally be found to answer the desired end, without the admixture of castor-oil or other irritants. Administered in this form, the injection may be repeated at pleasure, without inflicting any injury upon the inside—it is, in short, the *only* legitimate aperient.

I am aware that in the foregoing remarks I have run counter to one of the most cherished dogmas of the old-school of medicine—a dogma sanctioned by age, and perpetuated by universal adoption. So far from these circumstances either modifying my opinion, or qualifying my opposition, they do but make me the more earnest in my desire to see abolished a practice which both reason and experience compel me to regard as radically erroneous; and though it may be long ere its abandonment becomes general, that it will ultimately yield to the spread of Homœopathic principles, I am as well satisfied, as that darkness will ever recede before light, and error before truth.

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INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS, AND PLEURISY.

CONSTITUTING by far the most numerous and fatal class of diseases which affect the human frame, and calling into action in a pre-eminent degree the heroic or active mode of treatment adopted by the Allopathist, the affections of the respiratory organs naturally demand our first attention.

Bearing in mind that these affections include inflammation of the lungs and pleura, bronchitis, croup, asthma, hooping-cough, and consumption, we shall be at no loss to account for their frequency; and the same list at once recalls to our mind the familiar names of the most dangerous and deadly diseases with which we are acquainted. It is calculated that at least one fourth of all the deaths that occur in this country, are caused by consumption; and when to these we add the scarcely less numerous victims of inflammation of the lungs, and pleura, together with the quota contributed by the other complaints just named, it will not be overstepping the bounds of truth to say, that, at the lowest computation, one half of the diseases which swell our bills of mortality, have their seat in the organs of respiration.

Next to consumption, (to which we shall afterwards refer more fully,) by far the most formidable in the list, is inflammation of the lungs. Beyond comparison the most frequent cause of death amongst children, in adults also, though not often immediately fatal, it but too commonly leads to that result, by calling into action a previously existing consump-

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tive tendency. It is a well ascertained fact that this consumptive tendency or tuberculous diathesis, as it is technically termed, will remain quiescent in individuals for many years, and in families from generation to generation, until, on the application of some deleterious influence, the latent germs of the disease are stimulated into active developement. That influence—however much the fact may be questioned by some high authorities—there can I think be no doubt, is, in many instances, an attack, more or less acute, of inflammation of the lungs, bronchi, or pleura. It has not therefore been without good cause that the public have learned to regard this disease with feelings of the deepest apprehension. It is, however, a lamentable fact, that this anxiety is in justice attributable, not more, if so much, to any inherent danger in the disease, as to the inefficient means commonly adopted for its suppression. Startling as this assertion may appear, it is made, neither in forgetfulness of its importance, nor without its accuracy having been thoroughly established on the most careful and extensive observation. Personal experience in some hundreds of cases, in which not one drop of blood was drawn, nor any other of the usual remedies employed; but which were treated in accordance with Homœopathic rules, has convinced me, beyond the possibility of error, that when so treated, there is scarcely any disease which is more thoroughly within control, or which need less excite the fears of the patient, or the anxiety of the physician, than inflammation of the lungs.

We will now pass rapidly in review the two modes of treatment to which allusion has been made: that pursued by the Allopathist, and Homœopathist, respectively.

Dr. C. J. B. Williams, in an article on inflammation of the lungs, in the "Cyclopœdia of Practical Medicine," quotes, and subscribes to this opinion of Dr. Cullen, "that a first bleeding, however large, will seldom prove a cure of the

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disease, and as the pain and other symptoms recur, the measure must be repeated even in the course of the same day, to as full an extent as before, and although the greatest efficacy is in the first three days, this recurrence will make a repetition of the measure proper at any period of the disease, within the first fortnight. At the first bleeding a quantity varying from sixteen to forty ounces may be taken."

Mr. Guthrie, in the lecture from which I have already quoted, says: "In young people, the bleeding should be repeated until the desired object is effected; and the quantity required to be drawn in inflammations, particularly after injuries, is often very great. It is almost a question in some cases, whether the patient shall be allowed to die of the disease, or from loss of blood." Bouillaud, whose authority is great in France, gives the following as an example of his mode of proceeding in a moderately severe case: "1st day. Morning sixteen ounces, evening twelve ounces. In the interval twelve ounces to be drawn locally by cupping or leeches. 2nd day. Venesection to sixteen ounces; local bleeding, if pain continues, by leeches or cupping. 3rd day. If disease permit, another bleeding, although it is usually cut short on this day. 4th day. If the disease should attain to the second stage, another venesection may be resorted to, but it is in general best to abstain from it, and apply a blister. As a general rule, however, the abstraction of blood should not be refrained from until the febrile action is removed or nearly so, until the dyspnœa and the pain have nearly disappeared; and this rule admits of very few exceptions. On the whole, four or five pounds of blood may be drawn in the case supposed above."

So much for bleeding.

As to Mercury—Dr. Copeland says, "mercury with opium, in large doses has been much employed, both with and after blood-letting, and calomel in doses of from five to twenty

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