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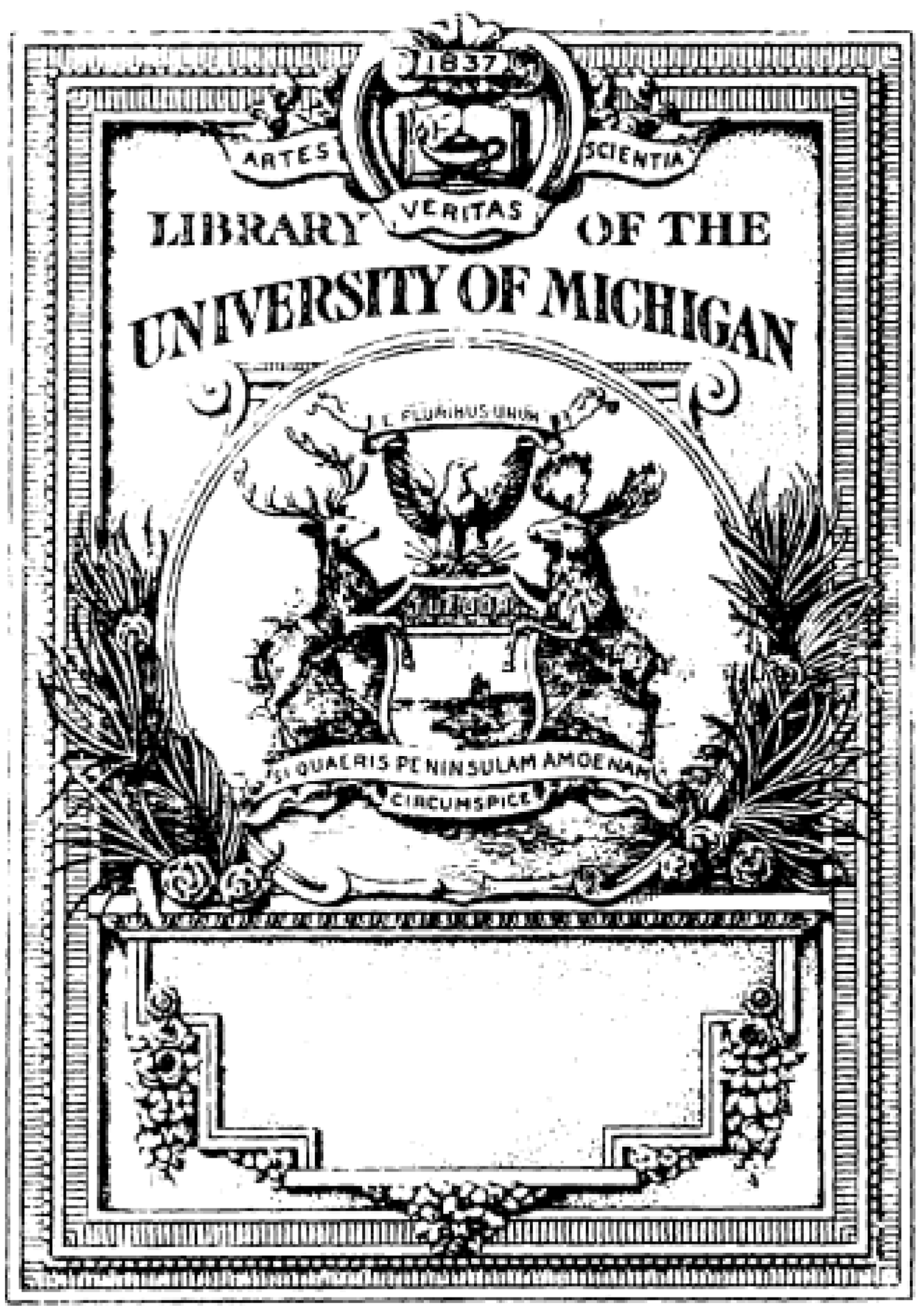

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HOMŒOPATHY

IN

ACUTE DISEASES.

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HOMŒOPATHY

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IN

ACUTE DISEASES.

BY

STEPHEN YELDHAM, M.R.C.S.

SURGEON TO THE LONDON HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL.

"To know well the irresistible evidence on which the truth is founded, is to believe in and to believe in it for ever."

Dr. Thomas Brown.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:

LEATH AND ROSS 5, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, E. C.

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

A FEW additions and explanatory notes, and a reduction in size and price, constitute the main points of difference between the present and former editions of this work.

The Author has nothing to retract from the opinions he originally advanced in these pages, concerning the relative merits of the old and new systems of medicine. Time and enlarged experience have confirmed his conviction that the Principle of Homœopathy is based on immutable Truth. The practice of it will, of necessity, as the science advances, undergo modification and improvement. The chief alterations in this respect which the Author has adopted, consist in the more general employment, now than formerly, of the lower dilutions of medicines in the treatment of acute diseases, and in the relinquishment of the Globule in favour of the Pilule, on account of the much greater convenience of the latter.

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

It only remains for the Author to acknowledge the very favorable reception extended to the previous editions of this volume, and to express an earnest hope that this will continue, like its predecessors, to induce the thoughtful reader to examine and adopt the great and beneficent system of Homœopathy.

7, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square,
London; *Sept.*, 1858.

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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.

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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 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;

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

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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 cases, 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, 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 occurred 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,

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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.

LONDON; *March* 1, 1849.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Preface to the Third Edition	v
Preface to the First Edition	vii
Bleeding	1
Salivation	12
Purgatives	16
Inflammation of the Lungs, and Pleurisy	23
,, ,, ,, in Robust Persons	30
,, ,, ,, in Delicate Persons	38
,, ,, ,, in Children	47
Bronchitis	53
Inflammation of the Windpipe	58
Croup	66
Hooping-cough	71
Inflammation of the Mouth	81
,, of the Throat	83
,, of the Stomach	88
,, of the Liver, and Jaundice	101
,, of the Bowels	109
Bowel Complaints.—Cholera	113
,, Dysentery	125
,, Diarrhœa	130

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	PAGE
Inflammation of the Kidneys and Bladder	136
„ of the Brain	143
Hydrocephalus, or Water on the Brain	147
Delirium Tremens	153
Apoplexy	160
Inflammation of the Eye	167
Lying-in Fever	173
Inflammation of the Breast	183
Convulsions	188
Erysipelas	196
Scarlet Fever	204
Measles	214
Acute Rheumatism	219
„ Lumbago	225
„ Sciatica	228
Tic-Douloureux	230
Fever	237
Spitting of Blood, and Consumption	245
Injuries	256

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BLEEDING.

When we remember that the blood is the source whence every organ of the body derives its nutriment, and that through its 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 bloodletting. His objections to that operation are of a *practical* character, and refer principally to the following points, namely, its pernicious influence over the progress of the disease —and the tedious and precarious state of convalescence, which, as a natural consequence, it superinduces.†

* Allopathist is a term used to designate the practitioner of Allopathy —the old or ordinary system of medicine. Homœopathist, in like manner, is applied to the practitioner 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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The most striking circumstance 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 bloodletting 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 take the case of a patient labouring under inflammation of the lungs, or pleura—diseases in which bleeding is universally recommended, in ordinary practice. 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 much weakness? Certainly not! Observe this same patient after the lapse of 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. It is to the *remedy*, and not to the disease, that we must look for a solution of the question. And 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 stay his hand. But though the victory of the lancet is complete, let not the reader imagine that the struggle is over: subdued, but not annihilated, the eradication of the disease is committed to the leech, the cupping-glass, the blister,

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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, it is but too faithful a 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 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, therefore, that it robs the system of its "vital fluid," 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-pneumonia, or Inflammation of the Lungs with Pleurisy, written by the late Mr. Guthrie, and reported in the 'Medical Times,' of Feb. 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 tartar-emetic, so as to keep up nausea; then calomel, antimony, and opium, and lost my patients. Discomfited 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

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The foregoing remarks have especial reference to those more favorable cases, which, occurring 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 is generally supposed, 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 destructive 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 favorite remedy—he must sheath his lancet—he is reduced to the half measures of cupping, leeching, blistering, and salivation: expedients which, whilst they exercise 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 is

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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the part affected, consumption but too commonly manifests itself as the disastrous consequence. It is no novel opinion that bleeding, and other debilitating remedies, so often recklessly employed in Allopathic practice, may be justly regarded as among the most powerful predisposing causes of those numerous chest affections which are generally, though erroneously imputed solely 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 anxious to alleviate 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 bloodletting. Adopted with so much the more confidence, as these cases, notwithstanding their obscurity, are for the most part attended by symptoms of a febrile or inflammatory type, it is nevertheless certain, as is evinced by the subsequent development of the disease, that bleeding is powerless in checking its onward progress. The symptoms which suggested 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 are undermined—disarmed and rendered totally unequal to the contest, he finds himself doomed to strive with an enemy whose strength increases 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 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,

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generally speaking, unattended with 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 adults, furnish those tests which enable us to judge of the extent to which it may be carried. Fainting, as a guide, 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 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 especially desirable to avoid the abstraction of blood in treating the diseases of children. Allopathy shows it to 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 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

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many years before I abandoned the Allopathic practice, I had entirely relinquished the employment of blisters in the class of cases now under consideration, and had resorted to the mustard poultice as a safe, convenient, and effectual substitute.

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 practised, a correspondingly painful and precarious convalescence. Daily experience has brought this matter to be so thoroughly understood 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 been subjected to this practice 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; like a citadel from which the garrison has been withdrawn, he falls an easy prey to the first foe by which he is assailed.

In the next place, the Homœopathist maintains that the abstraction of blood is *unnecessary* in the treatment of any disorder whatever.

This is proved by experience, and so far from shrinking from such a test, Homœopathy courts it: it is her stronghold. 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 in favour of her ancient rival,

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notwithstanding the superior attractions of her painless and tasteless remedies. But, it is alone through the irresistible force of her successful practice that Homœopathy has been enabled not only to withstand, but to triumph 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 wonderful power which Aconite exerts 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 anything 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 harassed by blisters, depressed by nauseants, nor exhausted by purgatives, so does he, as a natural

* 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; in 'The Introduction to the Study of Homœopathy;' in Dr. Henderson's recent work, 'Homœopathy fairly Explained,' and in 'Two Lectures on the Moral Evidences of Homœopathy,' by the Author of this volume, &c. &c.

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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 not observed by the artificial production of debility, recovery from its effects is proportionately rapid and certain. Convalescence, or the intermediate state between disease and health, (a period in Allopathic practice, so replete with danger to the patient and anxiety to his friends) is here almost entirely wanting. A decided 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 the interminable nursing and codling, and bitter tonics, which are required by 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 empty 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 hands," because, universal as its adoption

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has been in every age and country, there is perhaps no 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 of his friend, published in the 'British Journal of Homœopathy,' in January, 1848:—"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."

Though it is beyond a doubt, that much of this mistrust of bloodletting, as in the instance just quoted, is due to the rapid promulgation of Homœopathic doctrines, much is also to be

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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, in science, has been superseded by reason and experience; and that system, whether of medicine or any other science, which will not bear the application of such tests, 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 course 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 the latter case 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 therewith 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 induced, to render necessary an elaborate description of its effects, or of the painful symptoms accompanying its progress.

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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 favorite 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 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

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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 development. 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 bloodletting, 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 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 anything 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

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