A LECTURE

ON

HOMŒOPATHY,

DELIVERED

BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF MICHIGAN,

BY CHAS. J. HEMPEL, M. D.

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Ladies and Gentlemen:—Before entering upon my subject, allow me to express my warm acknowledgments to the honorable members of our House of Representatives for the privilege they have accorded me of addressing you in this Hall. The subject of my lecture is not altogether of a technical nature; it is one embodying deep philosophy and practical usefulness. The restoration and preservation of the public health is eminently a fit subject for enlightened legislation. At all times and among all nations the healing art has enjoyed the fostering care of the governments; the noble State of Michigan will not leave this important branch of human interests to accident or caprice.

The most superficial glance at the history of medicine during the last century shows that, amidst the wonderful improvements and discoveries which the genius of man has achieved in the domain of industry and science, the healing art has not remained stationary. It may be truly said that almost every department of medicine has been created by the philosophical minds of our age.

Look at the wonderful developments of the science of Anatomy; the structure of the human body has been unfolded to to our wondering senses, even to its ultimate fibres. Thanks to the microscope we have penetrated into the very workshops of the living forces of the organism, and have traced the beginning of organized existence to the delicate cell, with its

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nucleus, its surrounding envelope and its intra-cellular substance, which serves as a support and as nutriment to the first-named central starting-point of cell-life. Dutrochet's law of endosmose has likewise shown us how the nutrient fluids after having been sufficiently prepared for purposes of assimilation, pass through the delicate cell-walls as renovating principles of the living tissues.

Physiological chemistry owes its present magnificent developments to the genius of Liebig and a host of other experimenters who justly regard him as their head. Physiology, or the science of the organic functions of animals and vegetables, in its vastest sense, has already derived great advantages from the researches of this department of chemical analysis; diet and hygiene are no longer dependent upon human dictation or caprice, and the art of adapting food to the animal organism is in a fair way of being cultivated in accordance with the indications of science, and of proving a fountain-head of comfort, strength and health to toiling man. When we consider the crude notions which our predecessors entertained concerning the process of digestion, we are afforded even in this single stage in the gradual transformation and assimilation of food, a palpable proof of the immense strides which this age has made towards a knowledge of the laws and functions of the physiological organism. At one time it was supposed that the food was ground up in the stomach as between an upper and nether millstone, and it was not until about forty years ago when Dr. Beaumont, of the American army, had an opportunity of witnessing through a fistulous opening in the stomach of an American soldier, the manner in which food is transformed into a pulpy substance denominated chyme. He found that, as soon as the food comes in contact with the walls of the stomach, a fluid is secreted from their lining membrane, which is known as the gastric juice, of a powerfully acid nature, and admirably adapted to the business of dissolving the organic substances introduced into the stomach. Step by step Chemistry and Physiology are rendering us more and more familiar with the nature and functions of the organic viscera, and of the nervous system. If persons are unable to digest fat, if it nauseates and

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otherwise incommodes them, we know that these difficulties are probably owing to a deficiency of secretory power of the pancreatic gland, whose exclusive business it seems to be to secrete a fluid endowed with the power of dissolving fat and adapting it to the wants of the living tissues.

The introduction of Chloroform has changed even an amputation at the hip-joint from a horrid butchery to a comparatively easy and painless operation. Ligating arteries after an operation, instead of cauterizing their bleeding mouths with an incandescent iron, which from time immemorial had been the regular practice of the schools, is of comparatively recent origin; and rhinoplastic surgery, or the art of making a new nose, has been extended by the late Professor Diefenbach, of Berlin, to other portions of the face, with a dexterity and success that entitles him to being regarded as the author of this admirable art.

It would have been strange indeed, if, in the midst of these universal improvements in the different departments of Medicine, the most essential branch of the healing art, Materia Medica, had remained unchanged. It may be truly said that the healing art of this day rests upon entirely new foundations, and that nothing remains of the temple of the ancient god, but a mere vestige of its glory.

Yet, even in this direction, the improvements are chiefly due to the genius and devotion of the present age. The ancient Theriaca which Andromachus of Crete had to prepare by order of Nero, and which consisted of a farrago of sixty-one ingredients possessing the most opposite properties, has held its place in the Codex of the medical faculty of Paris with even an additional number of ingredients. The Opiate Electuary of this Codex, or the Electuarium Opiatum Polypharmacum contains acid ingredients, 5; astringent, 5; bitter, 22; indigenous aromatics, 10; umbelliferous aromatics, 7; balsams and resinous substances, 8; fetid ingredients, 6; narcotics, 1; earthy substances, 1; gummy or amylaceous substances, 3; saccharine, 3; total 72; and one of these the flesh of the viper! A little more than a grain of opium is contained in each dram of this compound.

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It is true that these and kindred compounds are repudiated by all enlightened practitioners. Nevertheless the art of applying drugs to the treatment of diseases seems to be revolving in a vicious circle. Even the horrible calomel-practice of former years is now being revived by the most distinguished practitioners of Paris. "The horrid spectacles," writes Dr. Heustis, of Alabama, in the second volume of the "American Journal of Medical Sciences," "frequently to be seen as the consequences of the mercurial treatment, are shocking to humanity and disgraceful to the profession. Even were mercury the only alternative, *that* life is dearly purchased which is bought at the sacrifice of everything that renders life desirable, the constitution broken and destroyed, the person maimed and disfigured, so that it is scarcely recognized by the unfortunate sufferer himself, who is an object of pity and horror to his friends. Deprived of their teeth, perhaps of their jaws, we sometimes see those pitiable objects with distorted features, the cheeks and palate partly destroyed by mortification, and the remaining portion cicatrized into an unsightly knot, with the mouth twisted from its natural position, drawn obliquely to the ear, and the lips and cheeks consolidated with the gums."

In the 19th volume of the "Journal" the same writer observes: "I have known an artificial disease produced and kept up by the daily exhibition of Calomel, and because a flow of saliva was excited, it was concluded that the medicine had not exerted its specific effect, or had not been given in sufficient quantity. It was therefore pushed further, and sloughing and mortification of the gums, cheeks and fauces, and death itself followed in the train."

I have it from the lips of the illustrious Valentine Mott, the prince of American surgeons, that he operated upon no less than twenty individuals whose jaw-bones had become united by ulceration in consequence of mercurial salivation. In some of these cases the jaws were pried open and their use in a measure restored, where the mobility of the articulation had not been destroyed. His last case was that of a beautiful young lady from New Orleans, the only daughter of a wealthy merchant, whose jaws had become firmly consolidated, from

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one articulation to the other. It was found impossible to relieve this interesting victim of a barbarous practice ; all that could be done for her was to remove the front-teeth and so administer nourishment through this narrow opening, in order to save her from starvation.

For a time it seemed as though the horrid consequences of mercurial poisoning had intimidated the physicians and fairly frightened their patients into an absolute unwillingness to be butchered in this manner any longer. But the vicious circle in which the science of Therapeutics has been unfortunately revolving, necessarily brought back the frightful abuses of this wretched empiricism with redoubled violence. The distinguished Velpeau, one of the surgeons-in-chief to the largest public hospital in Paris, is in the habit of prescribing the mercurial ointment, in doses of one to two ounces, in order to produce a speedy salivation. Trousseau, Professor of Medicine in the University of Paris, informs us that he does not hesitate to employ three to five ounces for a similar purpose, during the space of twenty-four hours ; and Paul Dubois, the most celebrated obstetrician of France, has carried this dose even to the enormous quantity of one pound and even one pound and a half. Think of it, one pound and a half of mercurial ointment rubbed into the human body for the purpose of producing a salivation which common experience informs us may lead to the most murderous mutilations of the human frame.

In this respect it would therefore seem as though all progress in the practice of the healing art had been illusory. Yet it cannot be denied that substantial improvements have been introduced in this branch of medicine during the last twenty-five years. If we contrast the prescriptions which our predecessors were in the habit of having compounded by the apothecary, with the prescriptions of the present day, we shall find that whereas half a dozen or a dozen ingredients were required in former years in order to constitute an orthodox recipe : one, two, or at most three make up the sum total of the remedial agents contained in a modern prescription. And even if three or four medicinal substances are seemingly enumerated on the tiny scrap of paper, a closer inspection will reveal such names

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as glycerine or some harmless odor or taste-veiling article in the place of some actual drug.

I was acquainted with a physician in the city of New York, who fancied himself a dead man unless he took a dose of cathartic medicine once a week. A few blue pills in the spring of the year or even once a month were considered indispensable to a renovation of the bile by many a faith-inspired middle-aged lady or gentleman. Who, in former years, could have got along without some sanguineous depletion? How could the blood have been renovated without drawing off the old blood by the lancet or by the favorite method of cupping? These abuses are not near as frequent now as they were even twenty-five years ago. The fact is physicians are reduced to the dilemma either of respecting the more refined susceptibilities of the human organism, or else of seeing their patients turn their backs upon the barbarous methods of treatment which a cruel and deceitful art had devised for their relief.

What causes have been chiefly operative in engendering a more or less universal aversion to the nauseous compounds with which the sick organism was habitually drenched by their pitiless dispensers? The increasing enlightement of the age; the conviction which has been gradually dawning upon the public mind that these compounds do more harm than good; the cries of distress which the barbarities of the common practice are every day extorting from the lips of childhood; the universal indictment which all delicately organized creatures are launching with an increasing intensity of antagonism and absolute hatred against the abominations of an Old-School drug-shop: these are some of the causes which are threatening the downfall of the dominant system of practice. But there is a spell operating back of all these revolutionary tendencies; this spell is the all-powerful and irresistible Truth, which it was given to the genius of Hahnemann to proclaim to the world as Nature's universal law of cure, and which he has embodied in the magic and mysterious formula "*similia similibus curantur.*" Let me now introduce you into the temple upon whose portals Hahnemann and his followers have inscribed the glorious and imperishable name of Homœopathy;

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let me first show you the technical structure of this new medical edifice; let me exhibit to your mental vision the beauties of this natural system of treatment; let me show you its immense practical advantages over the old-fashioned practice of the healing art, and, finally, let me demonstrate to you, in a few logical and comprehensive generalizations, the fact that Homœopathy, or a system of medical treatment by likes or affinities, is interwoven in the very framework of Nature; that it constitutes the law of the normally as well as of the abnormally existing organism; that its universal adoption as a law of cure must inevitably prepare the way for a more exalted and more glorious condition of the race, and become powerfully instrumental in its final and triumphant regeneration; and that, finally, the homœopathic law of cure, and the social life, or rather the social harmonies arising from the study and application of this law will be as eternal as the Providence which has created it.

Doctor Samuel Hahnemann, the discoverer of the homœopathic law of cure, was a German physician, a cotemporary of the celebrated Hufeland, physician to the late King of Prussia's father, and justly regarded by the profession as the most eminent medical authority of his age. Hahnemann had scarcely entered upon the practice of his profession, when he was struck with the uncertainties and fallacies of the medical art. Is it possible, he asked himself, that an art which is so intimately identified with the welfare of millions of our fellow creatures, should have been left by a bounteous Creator to chance, and to the caprices of human ignorance and superstition? Speculating in this manner, he gradually became so averse to the practice of medicine, that from conscientious motives as well as from personal dislike, he abandoned the field where even the most experienced sower was doomed to reap the tares of disappointment. For a long time he supported his family by preparing translations of medical and other scientific works for the press. While translating Cullen's Materia Medica, Hahnemann was struck by this author's explanation of the specific action of bark in the treatment of fever and ague. Cullen accounted for this action by the tonic properties of

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bark. Hahnemann argued that if this explanation was correct, a variety of other tonics must necessarily be capable of exerting a similar specific action in this disease. A flash of genius led him to suspect that this scientific action might possibly be owing to the power inherent in bark, of producing a train of symptoms in healthy persons resembling in all essential particulars a paroxysm of fever and ague. Being endowed with an extraordinary sensitiveness to medicinal action. Hahnemann swallowed a few ounces of bark in successive and divided doses, and, to his amazement, succeeded in developing a successive series of creeping chills, fever and subsequent perspiration, accompanied by a range of incidental symptoms, sallow complexion, thirst, coated tongue, local congestive symptoms, all of which justified the inference that bark is endowed with a specific power of curing fever and ague, because it possesses a specific power of eliciting similar paroxysms in healthy persons. From this single fact Hahnemann at once deduced the law that a drug becomes a remedial agent in a specific sense only in so far as it possesses the faculty of simulating, in all its essential features, the very disease which we are called upon to cure. This new relation of drugs to diseases was embodied by Hahnemann in the celebrated formula, "*similia similibus curantur*," or "like cures like."

At once, and with the energy of the most enthusiastic devotion to the cause of humanity and truth, Hahnemann set about instituting provings with a number of drugs ; in other words, he swallowed, of course within conservative limits, a number of doses of a certain drug at different periods, and for a length of time in succession, noting with care and accuracy, and in the chronological order of their development, all the changes which gradually made their appearance in the different parts of the body under the influence of this medicinal agent. In this manner a perfect image of the drug-disease which such an agent was capable of producing, was obtained by the prover. Gradually a number of followers joined Hahnemann in this laudable work. Men and women, professional and lay-persons, deemed it an honor and a duty of co-operating in the great reform which had dawned upon the world. In the year 1810,

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Hahnemann published his Organon containing a scientific exposition of his doctrines, and in the fifteen subsequent years a new Materia Medica of nine octavo volumes, containing the provings of several hundred drugs and a number of important critical and synthetical essays, was laid before the astonished multitude of practitioners. The new law of cure soon acquired popularity and renown. Princes and field-marshals became its adherents. The prince of Schwarzenberg, commander-in-chief of the allied armies in the battle of Leipzig, was one of its earliest and warmest advocates. The lancet had had its day. Thousands who had regarded blood-letting as a sovereign remedy, soon began to comprehend that Nature has provided a much more simple, more efficacious and more trustworthy remedy than blood-letting, for the diseases for which this barbarious practice had been deemed for centuries past an indispensable means of treatment. Hahnemann and his disciples showed by their provings upon persons in health that the Aconitum napellus, wolf's-bane, a plant which many of you, ladies and gentlemen, have undoubtedly admired in our gardens as an ornamental plant, on account of its blue helmet-shaped flowers, and its dark-green, incised leaves, affects the living organism in health, precisely as we see it affected in inflammatory and neuralgic diseases, and that, for this reason, Aconite proves a more powerful remedy against such disorders than the most heroic use of the lancet, or the most violent counter-irritants. In every direction the change in the treatment of diseases became radical and absolute. A diarrhœa was no longer treated by astringents, but by remedies which were known to produce a similar condition of the system when taken by persons in health, in sufficient quantity. Constipation was no longer treated by loosening medicines, which simply afford a momentary relief that is often followed by the old difficulty with increased tenacity ; on the contrary, a small quantity of Alum, Lead, Opium, Tannic acid, Ratania, or some other appropriate astringent was found to relieve the difficulty much more speedily and permanently. Belladonna, or the deadly night-shade, soon revealed in unmistakable signs its specific power over the old fashioned smooth Sydenhamian scarlatina.

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Among the provings of Belladonna, or the changes which this agent is capable of developing in the healthy organism, we find all the essential, or, as physicians term them, pathognomonic signs of scarlet fever enumerated with an exactitude and completeness which might lead us to mistake a case of Belladonna poisoning for one of scarlet fever. The peculiar cerebral symptoms; the inflamed, dark brown, parched and thickly coated tongue; the flushed face; the swollen neck; the enlarged and indurated glands; the intense fever; the heat and changes of the skin, and the characteristic redness of this organ, which at once disappears under the pressure of the finger, and as speedily reappears after the pressure is removed: all these pathognomonic signs of the disease are fully and accurately embodied in the series of our Belladonna provings, and the toxicological effects of this poison. Speaking of toxicological effects, let me say to you that a homœopathic physician is privileged to make the toxicological effects of drugs available for therapeutic purposes. In this respect he enjoys immense advantages over physicians of the dominant school. If one of them is called to a case of poisoning, he confines himself to administering the proper antidote and using such other remedial agents as will save the life of the patient. Under similar circumstances a homœopathic physician not only administers the required antidotes and saves life, but he likewise watches and records the development and character of the symptoms, as closely as the exigencies of the case will allow, with a view of using the effects of the poison as sign-posts to the restoration of health in a case of natural disease characterized by such symptoms. The cases of poisoning so accurately and graphically described in all recent works on Toxicology, afford to the homœopathic physician important indications for the selection of drugs as remedial agents. It is by studying these works that a homœopathic physician provides himself with substantial and very often infallible means of relief. The characteristic symptoms of the poisonous action of a drug pointing to the prominent features of a given case of disease, establish almost to a certainty the curative correspondence or affinity existing between the toxical agent and the natural malady.

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It is readily seen that the therapeutic uses of many of the narcotic as well as acrid poisons are of great value to a physician, when administered in agreement with the law of homœopathic cure. I have already alluded to the specific curative action of Belladonna in scarlatina lævigata, or the smooth old-fashioned form of this disease, so graphically described by Sydenham, and therefore named after him. The correspondence between Belladonna and scarlatina is so perfect, that Hahnemann was led to recommend this agent not only as a curative, but likewise as a prophylactic agent in this often frightful epidemic. The high-minded and immortal Hufeland tried the experiment, recommended others to follow his example, and the testimony in favor of the preventive virtues of Belladonna in epidemic scarlatina became so overwhelming that it would not be safe for any physician who values his reputation as a philanthropist and a conscientious and enlightened practitioner to deny these virtues as the chimera of fanciful theorists. Even Professor Mitchell, of Jefferson College, Philadelphia, a malignant opposer of homœopathy, admits the prophylactic virtues of Belladonna in scarlet fever, and enjoins the use of this agent during the prevalence of an epidemic, as a matter of duty and sound discretion.

In all cerebral diseases of an inflammatory or typhoid character, and in mental derangements not depending upon organic lesion, the narcotic poisons become most valuable remedial agents if administered in accordance with the law "*similia similibus curantur.*" The action of Belladonna, Hyoscyamus, Opium, Stramonium and some of the mineral acids upon the brain is characterized by symptoms so perfectly similar to the pathognomonic symptoms of typhus or meningitis, that it would seem as though an unsophisticated observer must necessarily be led to suspect that this absolute resemblance implies something more important and interesting than a simple accident or caprice of Nature.

Pereira reports a number of cases of poisoning where Belladonna caused delirium and phantasms, convulsive jerkings of the extremities, paralysis, sopor and coma. These symptoms are more or less present in all cases of Belladonna poisoning.

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In other cases reported by Orfila, Belladonna caused a convulsive closing of the jaws and contraction of the muscles of the face and extremities, irregular respiration, insensibility to the light, with dilatation of the pupils; this action of Belladonna, upon the sense of vision, is likewise more or less characteristic of every case of poisoning by this agent.

In other cases, especially in those of children, there is such a complete loss of sense, that the little patients do not even recognize their own parents; the Belladonna delirium is either of a laughing or furious kind; the patients attempt to bite and strike, grit their teeth, bark like dogs, or they act as if they were afraid, they want to hide themselves, desire to escape, complain of being threatened by wild beasts.

In many cases of poisoning by Belladonna, the symptoms of hydrophobia are so completely imaged by the action of the drug that the artificial drug-disease might at first sight be mistaken for the natural malady. Hence, homœopathic physicians argue that if hydrophobia can be cured, Belladonna is a specific remedy for this frightful disease. Murray, in his Apparatus Medicaminum, and Bayle in his Bibliothèque de Thérapeutique, report a number of cases which have been successfully treated with Belladonna. Let me state en passant that these old school authorities are of great renown and that their statements are not by any means disproved by a simple denial.

Everybody is acquainted with the fact that a small dose of Opium stimulates the brain, or produces a state of cerebral intoxication characterized by a highly wrought ecstatic fancy; whereas large doses have a narcotic effect upon the brain, which may soon lead to fatal coma, unless art speedily interferes with her antidotes. Homœopathic physicians avail themselves of these double series of effects, for the purpose of exerting a curative action upon corresponding series of natural morbid symptoms. In their hands appropriate doses of Opium not only quiet the brain when, as is often the case in certain forms of typhoid disorder, the brain is restless and wakeful and and troubled with all sorts of fancies of a more or less agreeable, exciting, romantic or passionate nature; but the same, or perhaps moderately larger doses stimulate the brain and restore

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consciousness, when this organ is held spell-bound by a comatose prostration of its functions.

Who that is acquainted with the symptoms of inflammation of the brain, typhus, mania-a-potu, apoplexy and other cerebral diseases, is not prepared to admit that the phenomena which characterize the action of narcotics upon the brain, reflect in all their essential features, the most important functional derangements of the central organ of vitality. This correspondence or homœopathic relationship is a matter of scientific record, and is therefore placed beyond the possibility of contradiction. Guided by the homœopathic law of cure, the treatment of these disorders which the dominant school often finds it so difficult and even hopeless to control, becomes comparatively easy and certain. Speaking of the mercurial treatment of acute hydrocephalus, which is the last stage of meningitis or acute inflammation of the enveloping membranes of the brain and the substance of the brain itself, Trousseau and Pidoux in their classical work on Materia Medica and Therapeutics, use the following language: "Whatever we do in acute hydrocephalus, death is certain. We have now grown old in the practice of medicine, we have been for a long time at the head of a hospital of children, and we confess with sorrow that we can hardly point to more than one or two cases where we have seen the little patients recover from brain-fever." The alterative action of Mercury is the main reliance of old school practitioners in this frightful disease.

Now let us turn to the homœopathic record. I am not prepared to assert that every case of brain-fever yields to homœopathic treatment. But we can show case after case of brain-fever, where the homœopathic treatment, even after exudation had set in, achieved the recovery of the little patient. We do not claim these favorable results as a proof of superior skill, but as a necessary consequence of superior means of treatment. Let an old school physician acquire an accurate knowledge not only of the gross toxicological effects, but likewise of the minor and more characteristic shades of the action of Belladonna, Hyoscyamus, Digitalis and other kindred agents upon the brain, and then let

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him apply these agents in cases of meningitis, even in the hydrocephalic stage of this disease, with conscientious care, not in the massive doses to which old school physicians are obliged to vow allegiance, in order to obtain their counter-irritant or revulsive effects, but in the small doses, which naturally result from the homœopathic law, and without which the saving power of this law would become converted into a principle of destruction ; let him imitate the proceedings of homœopathic practice in all their purity and scientific accuracy, without any meretricious admixtures of old-fashioned brews and decoctions, and he will soon be made aware that the brilliant results of this treatment are not the exclusive privilege of physicians who style themselves homœopaths, but that they are vouchsafed to any practitioner who applies drugs to the treatment of diseases, in accordanee with the great law that drugs, in order to become specifically reliable and efficient remedial agents, must be capable of producing disturbances in the healthy organism, characterized in all respects by phenomena similar to those of the natural disease.

A boy of twelve years old, of a very sensitive temperament and scrofulous habit, while running after his sister in the parlor, stumbled against the sharp edge of the mantle-piece, inflicting a rather deep, but apparently trifling wound in the scalp. For about a fortnight the parents applied an Arnica salve to the wound, which, however, refused to heal. During this period the boy lost his usual sprightliness, lounged about the chairs and sofa, and showed a decided disinclination to study. Suddenly the boy was taken with a chill, and the symptoms of meningitis speedily developed themselves. It now became apparent that the shock induced by the fall had caused a concussion of the brain, which is very apt, after the lapse of one or more weeks, to develope an acute inflammation of this organ. The scalp, round about the wound became detached, and the wound itself discharged an ichorous pus. Carefully noting the symptoms of the disease as it progressed in its dangerous course, it became evident that Hyoscyamus or henbane was the specific remedial agent in this case. The boy was lying in a soporous condition, with muttering delirium, contracted and

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staring pupils, cadaverous complexion, every now and then the delirium changing to the furious kind, with attempts to strike or bite. All these symptoms being prominently characteristic of the action of Hyoscyamus upon persons in health, a very small dose of this agent was administered about midnight; very soon the aspect of the case changed, the boy fell into a sound sleep from which he awoke on the following morning in full tide of convalescence. The wound in the scalp had closed over night. On the twelfth day after my first visit, the young gentleman called at my office with his father's check of $150, a very liberal reward for my services.

I have not related this case for the purpose of boasting, for any other properly educated physician might and undoubtedly would have achieved the same success. I have selected this case as an illustration of the nature and results of our treatment which is frequently supposed by good-natured and over-wise people to do well enough for chronic cases, but would prove entirely out of place in acute diseases. If these good-natured individuals are willing to admit that cerebral typhus is an acute disease, let us inquire whether the homœopathic law admits of a rational and successful application in this frightful malady.

A middle-aged man of a robust frame was attacked with cerebral typhus. After suffering agonizing rheumatic pains in the forehead and on the top of the head for thirty-six hours, typhoid symptoms made their appearance. The patient lapsed into a seporous cendition, began to mutter and pick at the bedclothes, sought every opportunity of escaping from the bed, complained that the pictures hanging on the wall were leaning over and would fall; at times he would use foul language and sing doggerel. These and a few other symptoms being prominent characteristics of the action of Hyoscyamus upon persons in health, a drop of the tincture of this agent was used in half a tumblerful of water. After taking a few tablespoonfuls of this mixture, the fever subsided, the patient fell into a sound sleep from which he awoke convalescent. He was able to sit up, read the papers, write a few letters, and soon experienced a ravenous appetite, which he found it impossible to resist. On

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the third day of his convalesence he treated himself, without his physician's knowledge, to a beaf steak, a couple of eggs and a glass of ale. In a few hours the fever set in again, and the patient relapsed into the most frightful form of typhus, going through all the stages of this disease, until he reached the paralytic stage and with it the brink of the grave. Two medicines now saved his life, Opium and Muriatic acid. He seemed to have lost all consciousness, was constantly settling down in his bed, rolled up his eye-balls so that the pupils became invisible; the lower jaw was depressed and a ropy saliva was hanging out at the corners of his mouth; the tongue looked like scorched sole-leather; the complexion was of an earthy, cadaverous hue; a white miliary rash had broken out over the whole body. He was now treated to a few drops of dilute Muriatic acid in water, by virtue of the law of similarity. Soon the paralytic symptoms subsided, the patient ceased to settle down in the bed, the eye-balls assumed a more natural position, the lower jaw was no longer depressed and the ropy saliva no longer escaped from the mouth. After the subsidence of the paralytic symptoms a deep sopor prevailed, for which Opium was prescribed, likewise in accordance with the law "*similia similibus curantur.*" The next day, instead of the natural exacerbation or rise of the symptoms, which in this particular case generally took place early in the morning, the patient sank into a deep and sound sleep, from which he finally awoke convalescent. All such cases are treated by homœopathic physicians without the use of alteratives and counter-irritants. In other respects the same dietetic and hygienic measures are adopted under homœopathic treatment which any careful, conscientious allopathic practitioner would see fit to recommend. The sick chamber is cautiously ventilated; all noise, loud conversation and friendly visits are avoided; the patient's linen is changed every day, frequent ablutions with cold or tepid water, according to the season, are instituted, and any other palliative means are applied which may tend to increase the comfort and facilitate the recovery of the sick.

In order to place the efficacy of homœopathic treatment in

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as brilliant a light before you as the actual status of homœopathic practice permits, allow me to refer to the magnificent results which the practitioners of our school have achieved in the treatment of Asiatic cholera, and of other epidemic diseases.

The miserable failures of the dominant school in the treatment of this frightful epidemic are so well known that it seems scarcely necessary to allude to them. Fifty to sixty patients out of every hundred were doomed to destruction in many localities. Massive doses of Camphor, ice, leeches, Nitrate of silver, Calomel and Opium proved unavailing to stay the hand of the fell destroyer. With the exception of Camphor, none of these drugs are in any sort of curative relation with the nature of the epidemic. Even before it had made its appearance in Western and Middle Europe, Hahnemann and his disciples, guided by the law of similar action, announced the spirits of Camphor, Veratrum or white Hellebore, Copper and a few other remedies as the specifically curative agents in this disease. When the epidemic broke out in the Russian capital, St. Petersburg, the stock of white hellebore on hand was so completely monopolized by old-school practitioners that pharmaceutists were scarcely able to supply the demand. Why is Veratrum so specifically adapted to the successful treatment of Asiatic cholera? A simple glance at the pathogenetic effects of this drug, or the effects which large doses of it produce when given to persons in health, will account for this mystery. Veratrum causes alvine discharges which resemble both in form and character the rice-water discharges of cholera patients. It has the same depressing effect upon the pulse, lowers the animal temperature, causes the same hippocratic alteration of the features, the same exhausting vomiting, the same prostration, the same coldness and shrivelled appearance of the skin. Do not be afraid if Asiatic cholera should invade your community; cholera is a frightful disease, and some patients will die of it, no matter what treatment is pursued; but let me assure you that Veratrum will prove a powerful deliverer from the clutches of this terrible enemy.

If any of you, gentlemen, should feel disposed to try the efficacy of this remedy in Asiatic cholera, let me beseech you,

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however, never to forget that Veratrum will prove of no avail unless it is in homœopathic relation with the stage and nature of the attack. There are forms of cholera which only yield to Arsenic. Among the series of the toxicological effects of Arsenic we find a group of symptoms eminently characteristic of an attack of Asiatic cholera. Death-like pallor of the face, an expression of agony, collapse of the features, unquenchable thirst with frightful burning and a sensation of suffocative anguish in the præcordial region; constant retching and vomiting, which is excited by every attempt to quench the horrid thirst by a draught of cold water; involuntary alvine discharges of a cadaverous smell, coldness of the skin, collapse of the pulse, excessive prostration: these are some of the more prominent symptoms which point to the use of Arsenic in a corresponding attack of cholera.

In some manifestations of the cholera epidemic, Copper controls the disease; in others, more particularly in the paralytic stage of the so-called stage of asphyxia, hydrocyanic acid may still have power to arrest the fugitive spirits. You perceive that in all these instances the determination of the remedial agent does not depend upon the arbitrary caprice of the practitioner, but upon the fixedness and comparative infallibility of our therapeutic law, which is as trustworthy to a medical practitioner as the needle is to the storm-tossed mariner.

In the last frightful epidemic which has carried off so many hundreds of children, both on this and on the other side of the Atlantic, I mean diphtheria, the superiority of the homœopathic treatment has been demonstrated in a manner which defies all contradiction. In the city and county of Albany, State of New York, where the epidemic first broke out with terrible fury, the homœopathic practitioners treated in all about one thousand cases, and lost only three per cent. This eminent success is not so much due to the superior skill of the practitioners, as to the superior certainty and precision of the homœopathic law of cure. In the first stage of diphtheria, when symptoms of acute angina develop themselves, homœopathic physicians prescribe such remedies as are capable of producing

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a similar condition of the throat in healthy persons; they are Aconite and Belladonna. If the disease is not stayed in its murderous course by the use of these agents; if the angina increases in intensity, and a whitish exudation is deposited upon the uvula, the velum and the fauces; if the glands become more and more enlarged, a fetid ptyalism sets in, the breath becomes foul, and deglutition is almost rendered impossible by the closing of the pharynx, another agent is required to meet this group of phenomena. An allopathic practitioner who is acquainted with the effects of poisonous doses of Mercury, will at once admit that the Iodide of Mercury meets these symptoms more accurately than any other mercurial preparation or any other medicine whatever. We therefore give the Iodide of Mercury in divided doses, sometimes alternating it with Belladonna, which may still be partially indicated by the original angina. In this manner we follow up the symptoms of the disease group by group, and if we do not cure every case, we certainly cure as many cases of diphtheria as we do of any other epidemic. The per-centage of fatal cases is small indeed. Of course the physician has to be called in time, for the vital reaction soon becomes extinct under the assaults of this frightful malady. I should add that homœopathic practitioners avail themselves of suitable palliatives during the treatment; a solution of the chlorate of potash, for instance, is sometimes resorted to as a wash or gargle, for the purpose of neutralizing the fetid odor from the mouth.

If I do not weary your patience, let me conclude these illustrations of homœopathic treatment by mentioning the admirable virtues of Aconite in neuralgia, in the treatment of rheumatic and phlegmonous inflammations and of acute congestions of a rheumatic or bilious character. Why is it that Aconite evinces such a magic power in neuralgia? Look at the effects of Aconite upon the healthy tissues. It is precisely neuralgic pains that constitute prominent features in the artificial or drug disease which Aconite is capable of developing. We have lancinating or stinging pains, tearing and wrenching pains, screwing and boring pains, pains as if a hot iron were

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thrust throught the part. And these pains are generally attended with soreness and extreme sensitiveness of the parts to contact or pressure. Even the dullest practitioners of the old school, those most impenetrable to progressive ideas, find that they cannot dispense with the use of Aconite in neuralgia. It would not do to say that Aconite cures neuralgia by virtue of its narcotic properties. Opium, Prussic acid, Belladonna, and various other drugs are powerful narcotics, yet they do not cure neuralgia. Aconite is possessed of specific powers over neuralgia, and these specific powers depend upon the fact that Aconite affects the nervous system in a state of health in a similar manner to what we know it to be affected in neuralgia. What tortures are spared thousands of sufferers by the introduction of Aconite as a remedial agent. It is chiefly to Hahnemann and his disciples that we are indebted for this blessing. When I attended medical lectures, allopathic professors were absolutely ignorant of the triumphant virtues of Aconite as an anti-neuralgic and anti-phlogistic agent. Many of you, gentlemen, have probably heard of the late Dr. Francis, of New York City. The doctor had been for many years professor of Obstetrics in the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. Fifteen years ago the doctor met me in the drug store of Messrs. Delluc and Soulard, two eminent pharmaceutists of New York city, at the moment when I was purchasing an ounce of the tincture of Aconite. With his usual gruff voice the doctor asked me: "What do you use this for?" I told him that I used it for acute rheumatism, congestions, inflammatory dysentery, which was at that time prevalent in New York, neuralgia,etc. The doctor gave another grunt, "Ho, I knew all about this thirty years ago; a tablespoonful of this stuff would not hurt anybody."

It was evident that the good man knew nothing about this agent, and never had known anything about it. Mr. Delluc slyly remarked to him; "I would not advise you, Doctor, to swallow a thimbleful of it." I may observe that it was a concentrated tincture of the Aconite-root, one of the most deadly poisons, and far more powerful than a tincture made of the leaves or blossoms of the same plant.

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Dr. Delafield, another eminent old-school practitioner of New York City, who happened to have heard of the eminent uses of Aconite in neuralgia and bilious derangements, prescribed fifteen drops of the concentrated tincture, to a young lady of fifteen, at one dose. He came very near laying her out. Old-school practitioners are very apt to play such fantastic tricks with medicines recommended by homœopaths; but they do not always use them with the same care and gentleness which characterize the homœopathic practice, and thus become instrumental in creating a prejudice against remedial agents which skill and consciencious care, from deadly poisons convert into harmless and reliable restorers of health.

If Hahnemann had accomplished nothing else than to familiarize the profession with the use of Aconite in the various inflammatory, congestive, nervous, gastric and bilious disorders, for which it is used with such signal and indeed incomparable success, his name would go down to posterity as one of the benefactors of the human race. The use of Aconite has in a great measure superseded the use of the lancet and the leech; it has rendered a great many barbarous practices, such as exsection of portions of a nerve, for the cure of neuralgia, extirpation of glands which had become indurated in consequence of mismanaged inflammation, superfluous; and, if there be such a thing as a cure for tubercular consumption, Aconite is this agent. I hold that Aconite is no more capable than any other medicinal agent of removing a tubercle; but it is eminently capable of counteracting and removing the capillary engorgements by which a tubercular deposit becomes easily surrounded in consequence of rheumatic exposure, a strain, or even through the sympathetic irritation which the tubercle may develope in the adjacent parenchyma. Unless these engorgements are dispersed, a fully-developed tubercular phthisis becomes the inevitable consequence of their continued presence. Surrounded by these engorgements, the tubercle gradually changes to a suppurating mass, which becomes the centre of an abscess that encroaches more and more upon the substance of the lungs and ends with destroying the patient's life. The illustrious Doctor

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Benjamin Rush was in the habit of recommending bleeding as the most powerful remedy against pulmonary phthisis. He assumed that in order to cure phthisis, it was necessary to keep down the vitality of the lungs and prevent nutrient matter from being assimilated by the tubercular deposit. But he was discreet enough to add that, if there existed in Nature an agent capable of accomplishing this object, bleeding might become unnecessary. I venture to affirm that, if Doctor Rush had been acquainted with Aconite, he would have exclaimed—*Eureka!* this agent is found. Aconite prevents this assimilation of nutrient matter by the tubercular deposit, not by depressing, but by fortifying, regulating and harmonizing the vitality of the lungs. And, it accomplishes this saving purpose by virtue of the specific power it possesses of creating capillary engorgements, not only in the lungs, but in other organs and tissues.

The pathological character of inflammation is an engorgement or congestion of the capillaries, with exudation of serum into the adjacent tissues. Wherever this engorgement exists, more especially before exudation has set in, accompanied by the usual heat and dryness of the skin, accelerated and bounding pulse, thirst, coated tongue, occasional dizziness or headache, Aconite is in its place as a specifically curative agent. But Aconite has likewise its anatomical preferences. It acts specifically upon the heart, eyes, upon the secretory organs of the bile, the liver, the gall-bladder, and the portal system of veins. It has likewise a specific action upon the articulations. Among the toxicological effects and systematic provings of Aconite you will discover a clear and indisputable record of these facts. Hence Aconite is one of the most reliable and most powerful remedies for derangements of the liver. Acute inflammation and congestion of the liver, acute jaundice, local engorgements of this viscus, with tendency to the formation of abscess, engorgements of the portal system of veins, whose special business it seems to be to carry the venous blood to the liver for purposes of purification; bilious attacks or bilious states of the system, characterized by yellow complexion, foul taste, coated and dry tongue, a certain depression of the pulse,

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a feeling of languor throughout the body, loss of appetite, a feeling of repletion in the epigastric region after partaking of a little food, nausea and vomiting of bile, constipation, troubled sleep, dizziness, headache of a throbbing, lancinating or burning character: these and a number of other abnormal conditions of the liver and its appendages, the gall-bladder and the portal veins, yield to the use of Aconite with a certainty and comparative rapidity that seems astonishing to those who first try the homœopathic treatment for such complaints.

Perhaps some of you, gentlemen, know by personal experience, what is meant by articular rheumatism. The joints are swollen, look inflamed and are exceedingly painful, even to contact; very often the patient experiences distressing pains in the interior of the articulation, a lancinating, burning distress; at other times the pains are of a laming-aching nature, or there may be a combination of all these different distresses. Under Old School treatment, articular rheumatism is a very serious matter. Every Old School practitioner knows that it takes weeks and often months to overcome the enemy, and even after the disease seems effectually controlled, the patient is often left with rheumatic pains and even partial disorganizations, which sometimes last him for life. Would that allopathic physicians could be induced to listen to their homœopathic brethren and try the use of Aconite in this disease. The provings of Aconite have shown that the action of this drug upon the joints is characterized by precisely such symptoms as I have enumerated. The record of a number of provers shows that Aconite induces a laming weakness of the joints, causing the prover to stagger; the ligaments seem to have lost their firmness. Aching-laming, or stinging, burning pains are experienced in the joints; the joints even show signs of swelling and capillary engorgement. No other known drug affects the joints in a similar manner. Not only one or two, but all the joints of the body are affected in this manner by Aconite; the ankle, knee, hip, wrist, elbow and shoulder-joints and the joints of the vetebral column are alike subject to this remarkable action of our drug.

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Now, this being the case, see what a powerful weapon Aconite becomes in the hands of a homœopathic practitioner, in the treatment of articular rheumatism. A young gentleman sent for me one Saturday afternoon, in a water-cure establishment in New York City. All sensible homœopathic physicians combine the rational use of cold or tepid water with homœopathic treatment. But this young gentleman who had but recently graduated in the New York Medical University, had vowed exclusive allegiance to hydropathy; in his case his exclusivism did not work, and after suffering for a week the most excruciating torments, he wisely came to the conclusion that an exclusive adherence to cold-water treatment does not work well in medicine. When I arrived I found him wrapped up in wet sheets and blankets, and lying under an open window during a pelting rain. In spite of this treatment he had not yet been able to excite perspiration, and the joints were so rigid in consequence of the swelling and inflammation, that the body seemed immovable. The joints of the upper extremities were particularly affected. I requested him to have his wet sheets and blankets removed, and gave him one drop of the tincture of Aconite in a tumblerful of water, in tablespoonful doses every two hours. Early next morning I visited him again. As soon as I entered the room he extended his arm to me, rotating it pretty vigorously, in order to show to me the radical change which the Aconite had wrought in his condition. That night he had perspired so profusely that he had been obliged to change his linen several times. In the morning the fever had left him, the pulse was down to seventy-five, and in the course of a week the patient resumed his usual walks in the streets of New York.

Not every case of articular rheumatism will yield with equal readiness to Aconite. There are cases of acute inflammation of joints which require Calomel, others Pulsatilla, others Iodine. An acute, or, as it is termed by physicians, phlegmonous or synochal inflammation of the knee-joint may require the Pulsatilla nigricans, a hardy little plant bearing a small flower with a dark-looking corolla, which is chiefly found in Germany and other countries of Middle-Europe. In scrofu-

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lous inflammations of this or other joints, Iodine may be an indispensable agent. It behooves a practitioner to perceive and comprehend these differences ; otherwise he might fail in relieving his patient. If he gives Aconite in the place of Iodine, a cure cannot possibly take place, because there is no curative relationship or agreement between the action of the agent employed and the nature of the pathological process. What so frequently happens to an allopathic physician, may likewise happen to a practitioner of the new method ; he may fail, even in curable cases, to cure his patient ; but in such a case the science should not be held accountable for what ought, perhaps, to be charged to the ignorance, or to the want of tact or judgment on the part of the attending physician.

The so-called neuralgic rheumatism very frequently leaves the patient crippled for life, under Old-School treatment. Patients who had been afflicted with rheumatism of the spinal cord, may be seen with their backs permanently curved, which never occurs whenever the attack is specifically treated with Aconite, Belladonna, or some other agent in accordance with the law "*similia similibus curantur*," without the use of the lancet or the leech, or of any of those barbarous revulsive or counter-irritant means which the Old-School still persistently employ, to the disgrace of the healing art.

Think of it ; having one's back ripped open with a knife, and afterwards scorched with a red-hot iron ! Is not such treatment disgraceful ? Yet it is recommended and carried out day after day in the civilized world. And think of the butchery which the treatment of neuralgia at one time led to, even at the hands of such a distinguished man as Sir Benjamin Brodie. An interesting young girl of eighteen was treated by two English surgeons for neuralgia of the tibial nerve. All treatment having failed, it was proposed to amputate the leg. The amputation was performed, but very soon the pain made its appearance, with a ferocious intensity, in the knee-joint. Thereupon amputation was performed above the knee-joint. The pain now became seated in the upper portion of the sciatic nerve. Sir Benjamin Brodie having been consulted, he proposed amputation at the hip-joint. The butchery was actually carried

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out, but the poor girl died during the operation. No homœopathic physician, not even the most brutal bungler, would ever rend r himself guilty of such infernal practices.

Gentlemen, these illustrations f homœopathic practice may suffice to give you an idea of the homœopathic law of cure. If I have not yet succeeded in convincing you of its correctness and scientific universality, I have at least presented to your attention facts which must have satisfied even the most prejudiced listener that a physician may treat diseases in accordance with the homœopathic law of cure without exposing himself to the charge, which has been so flippantly and stupidly bandied about by leading physicians of the dominant School, of being either a knave or a fool. Consciously as well as unconsciously the dominant School has been compelled to adopt many of the practices of the homœopaths. The sugar-coated pills, of which you may see whole rows on the shelves of every well-regulated allopathic drug-shop, have been suggested to allopathic chemists by the saccharine globules of homœopathy. In a lecture on tetanus, I have heard Dr. Mott exclaim: "Gentlemen, even if it is homœopathy, we are bound to treat tetanus with Strychnine." Almost every intelligent layman knows that Strychnine causes lock-jaw, and that it affects the spinal cord precisely as it is affected in tetanus. Even the disorganizations, and more particularly the softening which occurs in tetanus, is met with in fatal cases of poisoning by Strychnine.

Is there an allopathic drug-shop where you do not see Arnica-lotions, Arnica-plasters and the like? Who first introduced Arnica to the use of the profession? Hahnemann. Who first recommended it for contusions and lacerations of the muscular fibre? Hahnemann. Who first demonstrated the admirable effects of Arnica against the consequences of a violent concussion of the brain, spinal column, or of the thoracic and abdominal viscera? Hahnemann. The Arnica flower is a beautiful yellow flower which covers the meadow-slopes of Germany in the Spring of the year, like a golden carpet spread over the landscape. In perusing Hahnemann's provings of these flowers you will find them to contain all the signs of capillary engorgement, all the pains and symptoms of functional derangement which generally characterize contusions of

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the muscular fibre and the consequences of violent concussion. One of these consequences may be hæmorrhage from the nose, lungs, stomach or bowels, or from some other viscus. Never forget that all such accidental or intentional injuries require the use of Arnica, with which the internal exhibition of small doses of Aconite may be associated.

Treat a sprain with equal portions of Arnica and Aconite, a few drops of these tinctures to be taken internally in water, and a compress moistened with a solution of a teaspoonful of Arnica, and another teaspoonful of Aconite in a small cupful of water, to be applied externally. Part of the solution should be rubbed in occasionally, and the compress kept moist. A dentist once called on me with his right wrist badly sprained. He had applied salt and vinegar and several other articles for a couple of days, without the least abatement of the pain or swelling. He called on Saturday, saying that he had some important work to attend to on Monday, and that he wished me to restore the use of his hand. He had never been near a homœopathic physician before, but he had heard that we cured sprains very readily. I treated him with the above-mentioned lotion of Aconite and Arnica, and the gentleman called on me the following Monday, with his wrist in working order. Every Old-School physician knows that with the usual means it will sometimes take him two, three, and even six weeks to cure a bad sprain.

No intelligent allopathic practitioner would be willing at the present day to dispense with the use of Aconite in neuralgia, in inflammatory rheumatism, in paralysis or even in apoplexy. Yet Aconite produces paralysis of the sentient and motor nerves. A perusal of the provings and of the recorded cases of poisoning will show this to a demonstration. I might entertain you with a number of cases of loss of smell, hearing and taste, which I have readily and permanently cured with Aconite. Rheumatic amaurosis, and amaurosis resulting from the compression of the optic nerve, by the over-distention of the internal carotid artery, which encircles the nerve before it enters the orbital cavity, yields readily and surely to the use of Aconite. So does rheumatic paralysis of the tongue, of the

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œsophagus, of the extremities, and of internal viscera. Rheumatic paralysis of the bladder may become a very serious difficulty; Aconite relieves it without trouble. All these cures are effected in accordance with the law "*similia similibus curantur.*"

There are many, very many Old-School physicians who now begin to use Aconite in all these diseases, without caring whether this treatment is homœopathic or anything else you please. They call themselves empirical eclectics, and consider themselves entitled to appropriate all that is useful and beneficial in any system of medical practice. They are not afraid of availing themselves of Hahnemann's great discovery that Aconite has a specific action upon the nervous centers, which regulate the functions and movements of the heart. They use Aconite in rheumatic inflammation of the heart, and in those distressing palpitations to which plethoric and hysteric individuals are so frequently subject. Many an acute aneurism of the larger arteries for which no better remedy was known than the application of a ligature to the cardiac portion of the vessel, now is made to yield to the internal use of the tincture of Aconite.

In connection with this subject, let me observe that allopathic practitioners have practiced homœopathy long before Hahnemann announced his discovery to the world. Hippocrates already taught that vomiting is best arrested by emetics. Vaccination legitimately pertains to the domain of homœopathy. The cowpox-virus protects the organism against the invasion of small-pox, because it is in agreement or homœopathic affinity with the small-pox poison. The cowpox-pustule, from its incipiency to its desiccation resembles the pustule of small pox. About five days after the cowpox matter has been brought in contact with the absorbent system, a slight efflorescence makes its appearance at the point of contact. At the same time a little vesicle springs up, containing a thin, transparent lymph. In a few days this lymph becomes opaque and assumes a purulent consistence. The fully-developed pustule is pitted at the top like the small-pox pustule. About the fourteenth day desiccation has taken place and a crust begins to form, which falls

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off one or two weeks later. The formation and development of the pustules are sometimes accompanied with considerable fever and general symptoms of constitutional irritation ; in many cases a vesicular eruption makes its appearance. This artificial cowpox-disease or vaccinia, by which name it is designated in the books, absorbs or neutralizes as it were, the susceptibility to small-pox, which inheres in every human organism ; vaccination may have to be renewed after a term of years, but the neutralizing power of the vaccine-virus seems to be an incontestable fact. The fully-developed small-pox-disease is treated with eminent success by the internal exhibition of the cowpox virus, suitably prepared for this purpose.

Let us now inquire with what quantities homœopathic physicians are in the habit of operating and achieving their sometimes truly marvelous cures. When Hahnemann first commenced applying his discovery to the treatment of diseases, he was in the habit of administering one or two drops of the concentrated tincture of a drug at one dose, after which he allowed a considerable interval, sometimes one, two or three days to elapse before giving a second dose. Soon, however, he found that these quantities, acting upon tissues which were affected similarly to the action of the drug, produced a temporary increase of the morbid symptoms, and he at once contrived a method of dividing the dose. This was accomplished by mixing one drop of the tincture with ninety-nine drops of strong alcohol, and shaking this mixture vigorously in a long vial a number of times. This preparation was designated as the first centesimal attenuation or potency of the drug. Gradually Hahnemann was led to continue this attenuating process still further. Mixing one drop of this first attenuation with ninety-nine drops of alcohol and shaking the vial as before, he obtained the second centesimal attenuation. In this manner the process was continued until the thirtieth attenuation was obtained, with which Hahnemann habitually operated during the last ten years of his life.

At a later period, homœopathic physicians adopted another scale of division, the decimal. The difference between this

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scale and the former, consists simply in the substitution of ten drops of the tincture in the place of one, and the substitution of ninety drops of alcohol in the place of ninety nine, to make up a combination of one hundred. Physicians are at liberty to use either one scale or the other, according as they deem it advisable, to bring more or less of the drug substratum into action. Hahnemann seldom gave a whole drop of these attenuations at a dose; he was in the habit of moistening common saccharine globules of the size of a mustard seed, and consisting of starch and sugar, with the attenuated drug, using about three drops to several hundred of them, and giving one, two, or half a dozen of such globules at a dose, repeating in chronic cases such a dose once a week, or even a month, and in acute cases dissolving it in a small tumblerful of soft water, and giving a small spoonful of such a solution every half hour, hour, or even every six or twelve hours as the case might require. It is to these very minute doses that the term "infinitesimal" is generally applied.

From this statement it must at once be apparent that the size of the dose has no logical dependence upon the homœopathic law. Hahnemann was led to the adoption of such small doses by observation and experience. At the present day the utmost liberality is extended by practitioners of the homœopathic school towards each other in the matter of dose, some using exclusively the lower or more material preparations, others exclusively the higher, and some the whole scale of medicinal potencies, from the concentrated tincture up to the infinitesimal globule. Recently the attenuating process has been carried much higher by some of the enthusiastic theorizers of our school; but these very high attenuations are repudiated by the generality of homœopathic practitioners. If you hear people talk to you about homœopathic doses, say to them that there is no such thing as a homœopathic dose; that the term homœopathic is intended to designate and does designate, a certain relation of drugs to diseases, and, in our own good vernacular, expresses the doctrine that no drug can act as a remedial agent, unless it is capable of developing in healthy persons an artificial medicinal disease similar to the natural malady.

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A dose of 10, 20, or even 40 grains of Quinine, might be administered in strict accordance with the homœopathic law, in many cases of fever and ague, whereas, in many other cases, an infinitesimal globule might be without any sort of homœopathic relationship to the disease. It is not the quantity of the dose, but the nature of the remedial agent which constitutes the homœopathicity of the drug to the disease. And it must be apparent to my hearers that if allopathic practitioners tell their patients: we practice homœopathy, we give very little medicine or no medicine at all, a few bread pills, perhaps, they tell them either wittingly or unwittingly a falsehood. No physician prescribes the medicine homœopathically in accordance with the law "*similia similibus curantur*," unless the medicine is capable of eliciting in healthy persons the counterpart of the symptoms for which it is prescribed as a remedy.

Dry substances, if originally indissoluble in alcohol or water, are triturated with sugar of milk, one grain being invariably substituted for one drop. Each successive preparation is triturated for half an hour or even an hour in order to secure a thorough breaking up of the molecular constituents of the drug. The sixth and all subsequent attenuations are perfectly soluble, the former in water and all the rest in strong alcohol, according to the proportions indicated for tinctures.

For want of a better argument, the opponents of homœopathy have derided and defamed this great gift of God to man, on account of the small doses which Hahnemann had originally introduced. But Trousseau and Pidoux, in their classical work on Materia Medica and Therapeutics, which has been adopted by the Imperial Academy of France, as one of the text-books to be used by the medical students of the Empire, have set the quibbling about small doses completely at rest. "We do not belong to those," write these authors in their splendid introduction to the above mentioned work, "we do not belong to those who fancy that they have settled their business with Hahnemann, by invoking Arago's authority, in order to prove that an infinitesimal portion of a grain is to a whole grain what an almost invisible atom is to the bulk of the sun We are not aware that Arago has as yet been able to

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determine the weight of the quantity of pestilential or small-pox virus which is required in order to effect the destruction of human life." And instead of denouncing Hahnemann, they devote some thirty pages to a comprehensive and tolerably fair criticism of his doctrines.

Modern Chemistry furnishes a number of illustrations of the actuality of power inherent in small fragments of matter, and of its almost endless divisibility. The presence of a millionth of a grain of Arsenic is readily discovered by Marsh's test. A drop of Iodine in a quart of water will impart a blue tinge to the liquid, on the addition of a little starch. The great master of Chemistry, Liebig, one of the most inveterate opponents of homœopathy, furnishes a beautiful illustration of the power of homœopathic attenuations, on page 290 of the second volume of his Chemical Letters, where he accounts for the behavior of ammoniacal salts, table salt and the nitrate of soda towards the phosphates in the following manner: "It has been recently observed that the nitrate of soda and common table salt possess in a remarkable degree the faculty even in the most attenuated solution, of dissolving the phosphates of lime, magnesia, etc., and that hence these salts must be supposed to have the same share in the process of nutrition of plants as the humus and the ammoniacal salts."

Liebig cites these examples: "two hundred pounds of salt, dissolved in fifty thousand quarts of water, dissolve four pounds of tribasic phosphate of lime; 200 pounds of salt, dissolved in 50,000 quarts of water, dissolve about nine pounds of phosphate of magnesia."

These are dilutions of salt equivalent to a very high attenuation of homœopathic medicine. Liebig remarks of these solutions: The quantity of phosphates which are taken up by these solutions of salt, is not increased proportionally to the salt contained in the fluid; on the contrary, the more attenuated the solution the greater seems to be its capacity for dissolving the phosphates."

Homœopathy teaches that a suitable division and subdivision of the molecules of a drug increases their fitness to act as remedial agents, not because the sum of their active powers

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is increased by this proceeding, but because this minute breaking up of the molecules enables them to permeate the capillaries and to penetrate the morbidly affected cell-walls of the tissues more readily than the gross particles of the crude drug could do.

"The most plentiful manuring of the soil," writes Liebig in the second volume of his Chemical Letters, "the most plentiful manuring of the soil with the coarsely pulverized phosphates, as far as their effects are concerned, bears no comparison to a much smaller quantity in a state of endless comminution, which has the effect of distributing a little fragment to each little lump of earth. A single root-fibre only requires an infinitely small quantity of nutriment, at the very spot where it touches the soil; but, in order to secure the preservation and functional activity of the fibre, it is necessary that this minimum of nutriment should exist at this very spot."

Is not this a justification of the small doses employed by homœopathic physicians? May we not infer from this illustration that drugs should be comminuted until they can be taken up by the capillaries and pass into the inmost recesses of the delicate cells, these radicles of nutrititon? Hence the drug-particles have to be smaller than the diameter of the capillaries.

Homœopathic physicians have been charged with holding the absurd belief that small quantities of a drug act more powerfully than larger quantities of the same agent. I have already shown how this is understood by homœopathic practitioners The breaking up of the molecules of a drug does not increase its toxical properties. This extraordinary comminution of the constituent molecules of the drug increases its fitness to act as a remedial agent by enabling it to penetrate more readily the delicate cell-walls which happen to be in a state of corresponding or homœopathic receptivity to the action of the drug. Here again let Liebig be our authority for the propriety and indeed necessity of small doses. "The gluten of grains," writes Liebig on the 119th page of the second volume of his Chemical Letters, "the gluten of grains, the fibrin of flesh, are readily and speedily dissolved, under the influence of the

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bodily temperature, in water to which a scarcely perceptible acidity has been imparted by the addition of a little muriatic acid ; this solubility is not increased, if the quantity of the acid is increased." Liebig states that one thousandth part of a drop of Muriatic acid becomes a powerful solvent for the above mentioned plastic ingredients. A little, in this instance, is evidently of more avail than a large quantity.

The efficacy of these small doses in the treatment of diseases is no longer a subject of controversy. Ask the millions who have enjoyed the blessings of homœopathic treatment, whether these small doses have healing power. A stout man sent for me one evening. He was lying in bed, had a high fever, complained of an agonizing stitch and soreness in the left side, had a racking, very distressing, spasmodic cough, raised blood and mucus, and was slightly delirious. He had been attacked in the forenoon of that day. Here was a case of acute pleurisy. I gave him a few globules of Aconite in a tumblerful of water, to be taken in tablespoonful doses every hour. Next morning I found him free from fever; he had perspired very copiously during the night, his cough was loose and painless, the stitch had disappeared, and he was able to partake of a moderate breakfast. On the morning of the fourth day he walked out of his house, not only convalescent but cured.

Would you call this efficacious treatment ? And yet how gentle! A violent attack of pleurisy cured in a few days without the use of the lancet, without blisters, calomel or any of the barbarous appliances of allopathic art.

Doctor Tessier, one of the most brilliant physicians of Paris and physician-in-chief to one of the leading public hospitals of that capital, has published a list of fifty-two cases of pneumonia, which he treated homœopathically with very small doses of the appropriate remedies. Every case was examined by the head physician, as well as by the ordinary medical attendants, in the presence of a class of young graduates. The physical signs left no doubt whatever about the true character of the disease. Fifty cases were cured in five, nine and some in fourteen days; two terminated fatally. One of these was a patient far advanced in tubercular phthisis, and the other was brought to

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the hospital in a dying condition and pronounced beyond the reach of treatment And let me tell you that if patients recover from such diseases under homœopathic treatment, they are not left with a cough which sometimes racks them for weeks after, under allopathic treatment. These patients leave our hands without any subsequent irritation, without cough, without expectoration. This is the beauty and precision of homœopathic treatment; the cure is perfect, leaving nothing to Nature except the gradual strengthening of the organism by appropriate hygienic means.

The same acuracy, the same certainty and success may be observed in the homœopathic treatment of any other acute disease. The successful treatment of Asiatic cholera by homœopathic means is proverbial, many practitioners only losing three or four, and very few more than ten patients out of every hundred. Even yellow fever is much more readily controlled by homœopathic remedies than by any treatment which the dominant School has yet been able to devise. The last epidemic in Wilmington, North-Carolina, shows how futile this treatment is doomed to be. A few years ago, Dr. Holcomb, of Waterproof, La., published an interesting little work on the treatment of yellow fever. The epidemic had been raging in Memphis and on the neighboring plantations, and was so effectually controlled by homœopathic remedies that but few patients died in his hands.

If homœopathy were the exclusive property of homœopathic physicians, I should almost be ashamed of singing the praises of this method of treatment any longer. But homœopathy is designed to shower her blessings upon everybody. Her text-books are open to everybody. Any physician who feels interested in medical truth, and in the welfare of his fellow-creatures, may study the principles and rules of this great science and apply them to the practical business of curing. Day after day we repeat these statements to our allopathic brethren. We preach them in public places and from the house-tops. Some become converts to our doctrines; others close their ears unwilling to listen; "with seeing eyes they see not, with hearing ears they hear not." Upon their heads be the responsibility.

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What a blessing is this sublime discovery to children and to all delicately organized creatures! Blisters, emetics, drastics and the horrible lancet and the leech have had their day. King calomel like King cotton, has been dethroned. I have heard children attacked with croup, exclaim: "Oh, mother, let us die, we cannot take this horrid Calomel and jalap." How is it with our practice? Why, the children call for their nice little powders or little pills, not only because they are not repugnant to their taste, but because the poor sufferers soon begin to experience relief from their distress. How easily and how speedily is a child relieved during an attack of catarrhal or spasmodic croup, by a few doses of Aconite and Spongia, roast sponge! Even in membranous croup the treatment scarcely ever exceeds a week in duration and generally succeeds in saving ninety-five or even ninety-seven out of every hundred patients.

A homœopathic physician would consider himself disgraced, if he did not manage a case of measles in five or at most seven days. A little Aconite will promote the appearance of the eruption, and will keep the skin moist; soon the spots begin to fade, and in six or seven days from the first breaking out of the disease, the process of desquamation is ended. It may happen under homœopathic treatment, as it does under the treatment prescribed by the dominant School, that teething, whooping-cough, measles, etc., will rouse some latent constitutional taint, such as struma, scrofula or tuberculosis, into action. After an attack of measles, scrofulous children are very often left with sore eyes, ears or nostrils, or with a chronic catarrhal cough. All such morbid manifestations are managed with equal certainty and success, by homœopathic physicians. A few more doses of Aconite, with a few infinitesimal doses of Arsenic, Sulphur or the Carbonate of lime are generally sufficient to hush up these agonizing irritations.

"Give me the right fulcrum and I will move the universe," said Archimedes, the illustrious sage of Syracuse. "Apply the right remedy in the right way," says the homœopath, "and you will have no difficulty in restoring the harmonious movements of the organism." The right fulcrum and the right way in the business of healing, are the relation of affinity and agree-

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ment which should exist between the remedial agent and the malady, not a purely external symptomatic similarity, but an inmost harmony of state, the nature of which is manifested to the senses by sensations of pain and a variety of functional disorders. The remedial agent must be adapted to the disease as a means to the end. The principle of natural or spontaneous adaptation constitutes the very centre and soul of homœopathy. The physiological organism preserves its normal condition likewise by adapting appropriate means to that end. In proportion as man comprehends and obeys this law of adaptation in his daily business, in diet, education and the gratification of his social affections, the living organism becomes a temple of health and beauty. When diseased, the macrocosmic relations of the organism differ very essentially from those which the organism in health holds to surrounding Nature. The sick organism no longer craves its ordinary nourishment. The normal stimuli become unpleasant and often cause agonizing distress. The healthy organism is in sympathetic relations, or relations of agreement, with bread and meat, vegetables and the whole range of influences which naturally tend to develop and strengthen the physical tissues as well as the mental powers and soccial faculties of man. The sick organism, on the contrary, steps out of this circle of harmonious forces, and enters into sympathetic relations with a range of stimuli which the normally existing organism repudiates as destructive to its integrity. These stimuli are drugs, and as drugs in general are in sympathetic relation with states of disease, so are particular drugs in sympathetic adaptation to particular diseases. It is upon this law, thus expressed, that Hahnemann has erected the homœopathic edifice. It is by virtue of this law that the drug Aconite is in relation, affinity, correspondence (all these terms mean one and the same thing) or, as Hahnemann expresses it, in homœopathic agreement with a certain order of natural disturbances of the organism; Belladonna with another order; Calomel with still another, and so on, each particular drug with its own particular order of disturbances. Reasoning further from these premises, we are naturally led to conclude that the particular disturbances with

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which particular drugs are in agreement, must be characterized by phenomena which are similar to the phenomena characterizing the action of the drug upon healthy tissues. It is more than probable that the inmost force which embodies itself in a drug, is respectively identical with the force which causes the pathological derangement in the organic tissues; in their action upon the living organism, these forces produce effects that are similar; they develop similar sensations of pain, of functional disorder, and this similarity is so exclusively specific that a derangement with which Calomel for instance, is in curative agreement, could not be curatively acted upon by any other drug. Hence the homœopathic practice is sometimes designated as the specific method of treatment. Is this method of reasoning the logic of fools and knaves, as it has been charged by some of our flippant and unprincipled opponents, or does it not rather embody a deep and comprehensive philosophy?

The manner in which a cure is effected by the homœopathic agent may be readily accounted for. The first invasion of the disease takes place in the primary cells or nervous fibrils, the very beginnings of all organized existence. It is here that the homœopathic agent comes in contact with the morbific force. Being in natural or spontaneous agreement with this force, the remedial agent acts upon it as a modifying influence, and gradually, by continued action, absorbs it so completely that the drug-action or drug-disease alone remains. Being of infinitely small proportions, the renovated organism extinguishes every vestige of drug-action without the least difficulty. A cure by a homœopathic agent is achieved in consequence of the morbific force or principle which causes the natural disease, being in more intimate relations of affinity to the remedial agent than to the tissues of the organism; hence the morbid force, as soon as the remedial force or power is perceived by it, gives itself up to the latter without resistance, spontaneously, without the organism being conscious of this radical change in its vital chemism, otherwise than by the sensation of relief which naturally results from this apparently spontaneous restoration to a state of order and harmony.

"Can it be true that there exists no definite relation between medicines and diseases? Is it to be supposed that in the living harmony of things, the nature and use of drugs should be governed by chance and unphilosophical routine? The stars speak to us of harmony; the phenomena of chemistry depend upon definite laws; the movements and instincts of the brute

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creation are regulated in a most orderly manner, and the physiological functions of the human organism constitute an harmonious play of beautifully co-ordinated forces ; but woe unto man, if sickness strike him down ; then he steps out of this marvelous system of light and beauty into the night of chaos and chance ; then man is no longer made in the image and likeness of his Maker who is Himself the supreme type of Order ; then, when he is most in need of help, God casts him away upon the dark and desolate shores of empiricism and chance, a victim to the proud and pitiless dogmatism of the therapeutic theory which happens to be, for the time being, the idol of a besotted crowd. Can this be so ? If our children are sick, do we not nurse them all the more tenderly ? And why should not our Heavenly Father do the same to us ? "Consider the ravens; for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn ; and God feedeth them. How much more are ye better than the fowls?"

And again : "Consider the lilies how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

"If God so clothe the grass, which is to-day in the field and to-morrow is cast into the oven ; how much more will he clothe you, oh ye of little faith ?"

We are taught in these heavenly accents that man is most emphatically the particular object of God's Providence. If this be so, how utterly destructive of the very idea of Providence would be the fact that the treatment of diseases is not regulated by positive and unerring laws ! Does not reason, do not the very instincts of the heart force upon us the belief that the treatment of diseases cannot possibly be depending upon chance, but that it ought to be conducted in the same manner in which God conducts the business of His universe and of the humanity which He had created for His glory? If God has provided for this humanity, he must have provided for the wants of the sick man in a manner commensurate with His supreme love and wisdom. The treatment of diseases must therefore depend upon laws that are just as fixed, and just as accessible to the enquiring reason as the laws which regulate the growth of cotton or the movements of the stars."*

Homœopathy is the science which teaches the principles of this positive treatment of diseases. It is not the foolish thing that infatuated pedagogues and the thoughtless crew of their followers would like to make it. It is the divine science of Therapeutics which will outlive the malicious envy and the

* Hempel's Materia Medica.

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superstitious ignorance of a truth-hating race, and will shed blessings upon present and future generations. It applies exclusively to the treatment of diseases, not to surgical cases or to cases of chemical poisoning, or to any cases where obnoxious substances have to be removed by mechanical means from the stomach or bowels. In such cases emetics or cathartics may be indispensable. A boy while eating a pound of cherries, swallowed the pits, which remained incarcerated in the ileum and very soon developed incipient signs of enteritis. A good dose of castor oil brought away the pits and probably saved his life.

Nor is the practice of homœopathy incompatible with the rational use of palliatives, a gentle mustard plaster, ice to the head, or a little Morphine for the purpose of procuring sleep.

The use of these extra-homœopathic means has to be determined by the judgment of the individual practitioner.

Homœopathy is not opposed to any rational proceeding in the treatment of diseases; she is not opposed to any means of relief which are not simply illusory and are very soon succeeded by an increase of suffering. But she is emphatically and uncompromisingly opposed to the old-fashioned brews and decoctions, to the old-fashioned saline mixtures, the horrid abuse of drastics, emetics and narcotics which the dominant School has been guilty of; she is opposed to the horrid barbarities which the treatment by alteratives and counter-irritants has inflicted and is still inflicting upon the human race; in one word, she is opposed to converting the human body into a chemical laboratory or a filthy drug-shop, where the most noxious and disgusting compounds hold their diabolical carnival of destruction.

It is the high aim and duty of homœopathy not only to gradually free this poor humanity from the sufferings which the abuse of drugs has entailed upon it; but it is her exalted mission to prepare the way for the very extinction of diseases, to work out the physical regeneration of the race, to unfold new and saving truths of life to the philosopher and statesman, and to lay the corner-stone of that age of truth, love and harmony which poets have dreamed of and which is the hope and prayer of every friend of man. Like seeks like, like loves like, like cures like, is the universal law of order and freedom in Heaven and upon the earth; may the recognition of this law seem to you a pleasure and a duty.

ERRATA.—Page 8, second line from the bottom, for: "of co-operating," read: to co-operate. Page 18, 18th line from the top, instead of: "of the," read: or the

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