

A lecture on some minor superiorities of the homoeopathic treatment.

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Ludlam (R.)

A LECTURE

ON SOME

MINOR SUPERIORITIES

OF THE

HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT

BEING INTRODUCTORY TO THE COURSE UPON CLINICAL
MEDICINE IN THE HAHNEMANN MEDICAL
COLLEGE.

For the Session of 1861-62.

DELIVERED TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17th, 1861.

BY R. LUDLAM, M. D.

20, 6/20
CHICAGO:

H. L. CHAPIN, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER, 23 LAKE ST.

1862.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHICAGO, JANUARY 11th, 1862.

PROFESSOR LUDLAM :

Dear Sir :

At a meeting of the Gentlemen composing the class of the Hahnemann Medical College, Mr. M. D. Ogden, of Canada, in the chair, and Mr. B. Roberts, of New York, Secretary, the undersigned were appointed a committee to request of you, for publication, a copy of your highly interesting Introductory Address, delivered on Tuesday, October 17th, 1861.

Hoping that it may suit your pleasure and convenience to comply with the wishes of the class, we remain

Very Respectfully,

Yours, &c.,

M. D. OGDEN, Canada West, Chairman.

B. ROBERTS, New York, Secretary.

SCOTT B. PARSONS, Maine.

JOSEPH SPENCER, Mich.

F. BENHAM, Chicago.

JAS. OZANNE, Wis.

H. M. SAXTON, Henry, Ill.

E. J. FRAZER, Kansas.

W. OSBORN, Galesburg, Ill.

T. BUNKER, Cherry Valley, Ill.

L. KENDALL, Chicago, Ill.

No. 85 CLARK ST., CHICAGO JAN. 13th, 1862.

GENTLEMEN :

If the Class has discovered any "Superiorities," minor or major, in the Introductory Lecture of which it has done me the honor to solicit a copy for publication, I am happy to accede to so polite a request.

Permit me also to enclose the expression of my best wishes for your individual prosperity and welfare.

Your Friend,

R. LUDLAM.

To Messrs. OGDEN, ROBERTS, PARSONS, SPENCER, BENHAM and others,
Committee of the Medical Class, Hahnemann Medical College.

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN: For the sick-poor of this clinique, as well as in our private practice among the easy classes of society, we prefer to employ the Homœopathic system of medical treatment, because of the benefits accruing;

1. To the Sick.
2. To Society, and
3. To the Science of Medicine.

To heal the sick is at once the subject and the object of medical science. With those among you who to-day engage in your studies with all the ardor of a new enterprise, as well as with those whose faces are familiar, and whose re-enlistment encourages to renewed efforts in your behalf, this is the purpose and end of your labors.

It is this fact which affords the key-note to the anthem of your lives. By it your skill and success as practitioners will be measured. For, above everything else, to be found both able and willing to relieve distress, and to soothe the pangs of suffering in your fellow mortals, will yield you a superior and lasting renown. He who to the ability unites the disposition to beneficence, will find a wide field of labor in our profession. A sound head and a good heart are necessary qualifications of the good physician. If his premises and principles are correctly established in charity, there is no such thing to him as a failure, whether it be for this world or the next.

So true is this remark, which may appear commonplace, that, all things considered, those physicians are the more successful who merge self into a sincere desire for the welfare of their patients. He who, with an eye to his own aggrandizement, adapts himself to the caprice of the multitude, at the expense of the invalid's well-being, will assuredly pay the penalty of misplaced confidence. Such an one may for a time succeed in imposing upon the credulity of the populace, but nothing is more certain than that the star of his fame will suffer a merited eclipse.

Every patient applying to the physician for relief places reliance upon his ability to afford it. He invests, so to speak, so much of the coin of confidence as leads him in turn to expect an equivalent. What the counterfeiter is to the financial circle, the medical charlatan is to the family interest of a community. Nay, indeed, it is a more aggravated offence to defraud the sick, who, in the providence of God, are rendered in some measure incompetent for self-defence, and who, at best, would find it more difficult to detect the spurious doctor than the unsound dollar, than it is to palm off a fictitious currency upon the public at large.

We find the importance of this topic sufficiently illustrated in the arrangement and purport of the several branches of medical study. It is to the end of healing the sick that you strive to become familiar with the collateral sciences—Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Chemistry and the *Materia Medica*. You would learn the peculiarities of organic life under the varying circumstances of health and of disorder. You would resolve its functions, forms and forces into the simpler de-

tails of those sciences which teach them all. You would patiently unravel the tangled skein of disease, learn its causes and consequences, interpret its symptoms, and familiarize yourselves with its every feature. You would translate the pathogenesis of drugs into a series of available signs which shall signify their competency as curative agents. And why? Simply and manifestly that, by bringing every species of useful knowledge as it were to a focus upon each example of disease, you may at least relieve, if you shall not radically cure it.

This is the grand ultimatum of our labor; this the more than satisfactory issue contemplated in the reward of our toil. To heal the sick; to minister most successfully to the relief of suffering; to assuage the anguish of sorrowful hearts, whose fearful forebodings so weigh down the spirit, and whose tender chords are made to vibrate so harshly to morbid influences; to draw a new lease for life for a loved one, the pet of a household; or to smooth the pathway of the dying, taking the thorns from their pillow,—these are the incentives to diligence in your professional culture. Quiet and unobtrusive, the calling of the physician bears the stamp of domestic approval. Others may gain the applause of the world by eloquence or artifice, in the senate, the camp, or the sacred desk, but his road to honor lies through the kindly by-ways of sympathy and succor to those who are in need. He gains the diadem, not at the expense of his fellows' success, but in such a manner as begets a reciprocity of benefits and of gratifications.

Nor is the relation of the different systems of medi-

cal practice to the interests of the invalid a less vital one than is that of the individual physician. As regards the former, the rule is equally applicable, that the more promising and really valuable among them are those which will be most sought for, and, in the end, the most successful. The question with the future of Homœopathy is not, if she has been recognized by State authority, legislated into the hospitals, or allowed to bestow her benefits upon the soldiers who defend our liberties in the tented field, (God bless them!) not whether the Scribes and Pharisees of the social or professional orders have believed on it; but *whether it will heal the sick!* Establish the certainty of its success in this direction, that it is capable of effecting a speedy and satisfactory relief of all curable maladies, and this without detriment to the organism at large, or to the ulterior health of the subject, and, independently of all opposing forces, she will survive to fulfil her glorious mission. Let experience be accepted as the basis of knowledge, and we need have no fears for her future.

A Greek orator once said that "good men confer greater honor upon the State than the State can confer upon them." With all deference to the views of my professional brethren, I am decidedly of opinion that, by adapting herself to the needs of the thousands who compose an integral part of the commonwealth, quietly insinuating herself into their affections, and growing steadily and surely as generation after generation is permitted to partake of her fruits, the same is true of Homœopathy. She certainly has already conferred more benefit upon the State than the State has until

now conferred upon her. Everywhere the more intelligent classes of society are among the first to test her virtues, and bye and bye, these blessings are brought from the leaves and foliage down to the sterner stem and branches of our social tree. For, like the leaves of the giant oak, the better orders of existence among us are the lungs to society at large. If they respire a pure and agreeable medium, it is not possible that the great organism below shall fail to reap the benefit thereof.

Granted, that the medical creed of the cultivated and learned orders of society endorses Homœopathy, and that a sense of appreciation therefor is gradually rooting itself in the estimation of all beside,—for the reason of its success as a curative method, it is evident that the public recognition of the system is merely a question of time. An enlightened charity will soon begin to demand that the indigent sick shall have the same choice of medical counsel which at this very moment the more wealthy and influential among us are so free to exercise. All the clamoring about precedent and position, all the scuffling after the loaves and fishes of State patronage, all the jarring of sects, and the jetting of vile epithets each upon the other,

“In one weak, washy, everlasting flood,”

will be happily succeeded by a generous and wholesome recognition of the rights of individuals to elect their own means of relief. And we apprehend that nothing but the early dawn of the millenium will be apt to intercept its approach!

I am firmly persuaded that our road to success, both as individual practitioners and as public apostles of a

comparatively new system of therapeutics, runs parallel with the welfare of the sick and the unfortunate. If we shall pass by on the other side, and so misinterpret the design of our mission as to withhold its benefits from such as are needy, we are of all beside the worst enemies of mankind. Impersonality in its application is the besetting sin of Medicine. The interests of the non-medical community are too frequently lost sight of in the scramble for professional preferment. We are too prone to forget that the science was created for the sick, and not the sick for the scientific.

You will remember, gentlemen, that in the array of cases which are to present themselves for examination and treatment during the present Clinical session none have come hither merely for experimentation. It may, and indeed it should, gratify you to inspect and study the various features of disease as illustrated in these living examples thereof. And the poor unfortunates themselves may be rendering a far greater service to mankind than they have any conception of, by permitting us carefully to estimate in their persons the modifying and characteristic influences of diathesis and of diseased action, as well as of the actual capacity of curative measures for their relief, so that you shall go abroad to your mission of healing the sick with the greater security of success. But, notwithstanding all this, we are to adapt our remedial agencies to their varied necessities in as kindly a manner as possible. The physician never loses anything by an exhibition of interest in, and of sympathy for his patients, be they rich or poor, high or low.

There is one grand distinguishing feature separating

STOMATITIS ; MATERNA,

BY R. LUDLAM, M. D.,

CHICAGO, ILL.

20,604

This is one of the most interesting, as well as vexatious, diseases with which we are acquainted. It is interesting because of its limited history and prevalence, its peculiar pathology, its mortality under the dominant practice, and the imperfect development of its homœopathic therapeutics; vexatious, because of its multiplied forms and complications, and its intractable nature, if not modified and remedied by appropriate means.

Hence the desire, in the following report, to add, if possible, something in the line of perfecting its pathological detail, and likewise of pointing out the precise indications for such particular remedies as may promise relief for the same.

I. NATURE.—Regarding the essential nature of this malady, various opinions have been and are still entertained by the profession at large. The most plausible of these we apprehend, is that which refers its phenomena to a scorbutic cachexia. It has been convenient for the majority of medical men to attribute its origin to miasmatic influences; to a diminution of the red corpuscles of the blood; to scrofula; to menstrual irregularities, antecedent to conception; to a depraved and insufficient nourishment, and the like; but the

best writers incline to the opinion that this catalogue embraces only the crude outline of its causes and its consequences, while it leaves the radical nature of the malady itself an open question.

That it is of scorbutic origin is evident, from the following considerations:—

a.—Its causes are those which tend to derangements of nutrition and assimilation.

b.—It is invariably accompanied by anæmia.

c.—Except in degree of violence, many of its symptoms are identical with those of the scurvy.

d.—The same dietetic regulations are requisite to cure the one as the other. Both demand a pabulum largely composed of vegetables, and of vegetable acids especially.

e.—They are alike mortal under treatment by mercurials, &c., agreeably to the antiquated method of medical practice; and this fatality is induced by an identical process of disintegration of the tissues, in which their elements are forced to remain, without elimination, as abnormal constituents of the blood.

f.—Those homœopathic remedies which are most valuable in Stomatitis Materna, are also those most successfully employed against scorbutus.

II. PECULIARITIES.—The Stomatitis Materna has the following characteristics:—It is peculiar to females, and of these to women during the term of utero-gestation, or at some period of the maternal lactation. A few writers, indeed, claim to have witnessed examples of this disease in males, but such reports need confirmation, implying as they do some grievous error in diagnosis. As a rule, one would as readily anticipate attacks of “morning sickness” among the latter sex, as of this particular variety of stomatitis; and, in what follows, we are therefore to declare, and to keep in view the essential characteristics afore-named.

III. SYMPTOMS.—These may be very properly classed into local and general.

1. Of the *Local* symptoms.—These phenomena of the

Stomatitis Materna are not subject to a regular order of development, but vary with each particular example of the disease. Their more general approach, however, is as follows: The patient calls attention to a burning or scalding sensation in the mouth, which sensation is greatly aggravated by the taking of warm, or even by cold drinks, and by efforts to masticate her food. Upon inspection, the physician remarks a fiery, red look of the mouth, which redness is found to exist either in patches, or diffused more or less continuously over the whole buccal surface. Sometimes this eruption is isolated, presenting the appearance of ulcerate tuberculæ of the size of a pea, less or more. Again the aforesaid patches attain the diameter of a quarter of a dollar, when they may degenerate into ragged and indolent ulcers, thus constituting the worst examples of the disease which are to be met with, and which frequently spring of a chronic neglect, or from that still more deplorable cause—a dyscrasia induced by drugs that have been ignorantly prescribed for their removal.

With this local inflammation, whether it be diffused or isolated, deep-seated or superficial, there are other symptoms which are equally characteristic. Among these there will be found a marked pallor of the surface, resembling chlorosis; a sad and dejected expression of countenance; soft, flabby muscles, while the rotundity of the form remains as in health; anorexia, pyrosis, and other disorders of digestion; a profuse flow of saliva; the tongue is red and smooth; cutting colicky pains from the simplest ingesta; alternations of constipation and diarrhœa; strangury, with strong and scalding urine, which is acid to test-paper; palpitation, especially troublesome at night; the secretions are generally normal, the skin soft, but without any sensible perspiration; and, if during lactation, a decided sympathy between the child and its parent, whereby it is discovered to have inherited thus early, some of her more immediate and palpable frailties.

Chronic cases are likely to be accompanied by a diarrhœa, which is chargeable to an extension of the specific inflam-

mation to the middle and inferior portions of the alimentary mucous membrane. This symptom is frequently a very perplexing one, as well on account of the increased emaciation and debility which it occasions the general system, as because of its intractable nature, as shown in its alternating with the mouth symptoms, being better when they are worse, and *vice versa*.

In these examples it is not unusual to discover that all the mucous membranes lining the different interior surfaces of the body partake of this inflammation. Thus the inner coats of the larynx, the trachea, and of the lungs, of the pharynx, œsophagus, and of the whole alimentary tract, as well as of the vagina, urethra, &c., &c., are sometimes found to be either separately, or universally involved. Hence there results great disturbances of function, nutrition, &c.; for the destruction of the epithelial scales which marks the invasion of this disease upon local surfaces, interferes very materially with the healthy condition and requirements of those organs which are indirectly but more seriously implicated.

The foregoing symptoms are liable to so frequent modification both in the order of their succession and their severity, that authors have fancifully described some three to five distinct varieties of the nursing sore-mouth, for which classification, practically speaking, there would appear to be no real necessity. In order, however, the more fully to comprehend the significance and value of those symptoms as displaying the nature of this disease, and as indicating its proper therapeutics, we shall consider a few of them separately

(a.) Of the *buccal* symptoms.—These are the primary and more palpable symptoms of the Stomatitis Materna. There is very little question, however, but that these local phenomena are symptomatic of a more profound disturbance of the general organism; and that, properly speaking, we are to regard them as the certain evidence of some such original disorder. Examples are not wanting in which this disease is believed to have pursued a latent course in the system, during which interval, for a greater or less period of time prior to

the development of these symptoms, it has sapped the strength and impaired the functional processes of the economy.

Indeed there is every reason to believe that those cases of digestive and assimilative disorder, incident to utero-gestation, which distress and harass the patient exceedingly while carrying the foetus, and which, subsequent to her confinement, will not unfrequently result in a manifestation of the above local symptoms, are to be referred solely to the existence of a latent stomatitis from the beginning. These examples are perhaps as infrequent as they are invincible, but in the practical experience of those physicians whose opinions are of value, the remark will hold good that it is only through a close and careful study that we may come to appreciate the worth of this class of symptoms, as affording us an index at once to their pathology and treatment.

The peculiar characters which such symptoms present are found to vary with the severity and duration of the complaint. In very mild cases the eruption assumes more of an erythematous appearance, being diffused in patches over the sides of the tongue, and of the cheeks. Or it may consist of small vesicles resembling the *Apthæ Adultorum* of some writers, which vesicles ultimately degenerate into more or less troublesome centres of infection, each showing at its base a hardened and whitish colored ring. These indurations terminate either by cicatrization or ulceration. To this form of the complaint the name of Follicular Stomatitis has been given, for the reason that the peculiar eruption finds its more frequent seat in the mucous follicles of the mouth.

In the more aggravated examples, these apthæ upon bursting are very prone to ulceration, especially if the system has been previously depraved in any very considerable degree. They may have located themselves on the sides or the upper surface of the tongue, upon its frænum, or upon the exterior and anterior surfaces of the gums, the cheeks, or elsewhere, and are painful in proportion to the rawness of the surface exposed, and to the depth of the ulceration itself. In a few very severe cases these ulcerations are reputed to have grown very deep, even to the bone, it is said.

Generally speaking, this crop of vesicles and ulcers has a duration of a week to ten days or longer, when they disappear, sometimes very suddenly, leaving the patient with the consoling reflection of restored health. Soon, however, they re-appear, and thus keep coming and going to the mutual annoyance of the physician and patient, or until the former has happily succeeded in ridding her entirely of this troublesome and intractable malady.

As a rule, the more sudden the cicatrization and disappearance of this variety of local symptoms, the greater the reason to suspect a more serious constitutional sympathy, and to anticipate such untoward results as might arise from their sudden metastasis to some neighboring surface or surfaces. The worst cases are those which the professional tyro would be prone to declare the most readily healed by medical and especially by local measures. Hence the significant inference that in our treatment, the most prudent course does not always lie in the direction of efforts made to resolve away the local disturbance and suffering, but in keeping an eye also to the liability of their translation, as well as to their safer and more permanent relief through the employment of constitutional, and more strictly curative means.

(b.) Of the *dyspeptic* complications.—These symptoms almost invariably take the initiative among those which mark the existence of this variety of stomatitis. This is so literally true that they might with greater propriety be styled the primary symptoms, while those which we have already enumerated should take rank as essentially secondary.

In the writer's experience, symptoms of a more or less troublesome indigestion have been among the earliest and most reliable tokens of an incipient sore-mouth. We have seldom witnessed an example of this disease, during maternal lactation, which had not been previously characterized by epigastric uneasiness, anorexia, pyrosis, &c., &c. There are exceptions to the above rule, however, in which we shall find these symptoms are developed, only when the existence of stomatitis is confirmed by the appearance of the peculiar

eruption upon the buccal or lingual surfaces. Indeed, there may be such a thing as the sore-mouth running its course without any very decided sympathy of the stomach therewith, but such cases are believed to be rarely met with, as well as necessarily of a very mild nature.

Various reasons have been assigned in explanation of the occurrence of indigestion in this disorder, the more prominent of which consists in the interruption of mastication and deglutition, because of the mouth and throat being involved in the peculiar inflammation. Another has its origin in a transfer of this local disorder to the stomach itself; while a third depends upon the improper character of the food which is chosen. It will, of course, be of considerable importance therapeutically to determine in a given case, which of these or of other causes is the one in question, and how we shall set about forming a correct diagnosis of their more obvious morbid consequences.

(c.) Of the *urinary* symptoms.—After calling the attention of the physician to the local suffering in the mouth, it frequently happens the patient will voluntarily confess to a troublesome strangury, with considerable smarting and scalding of the urinary passages, either during, or immediately after micturition. These symptoms may have anticipated both the sore-throat and the diarrhœa. Where they are less promptly acknowledged, we shall find upon enquiry that they do really exist.

Testing this excretion will discover it to exhibit an acid re-action, a symptom reputed by some authorities as pathognomonic. Its specific gravity will, in most cases, vary from 1024 to 1030. The acid which is found in excess is the uric acid, or one or another of its salts—the urates of ammonia, soda, &c. Its presence is referred by physiologists to an absorption of certain protein bodies, furnished the system beyond its more immediate necessities.

(d.) *Diarrhœa*.—It will be readily conceded that among the numerous morbid sequelæ of pregnancy there are few more troublesome symptoms than an inveterate diarrhœa.

Especially is this true among patients of a scrofulous or consumptive diathesis. It is this latter class which is most liable to developments of this sort, during attacks of the nursing sore mouth. Hence it is important to be on the alert for such a symptom, which, while it complicates the case, will almost certainly contribute to augment its danger. The diarrhœa may either anticipate or succeed the mouth symptoms already enumerated. Most frequently, however, it will be found to alternate with them in severity, a fact which is significant of a metastasis of the peculiar irritation from the oral, to the intestinal mucous membrane.

Where disorders of digestion or assimilation have preceded the more obvious signs of this affection, we can readily conceive a fit condition of the bowels for the advent of an early and troublesome diarrhœa. Sometimes the local inflammation which may have disturbed the stomach in the outset will have been translated to the lower section of the intestinal tube, thus relieving the former, by so much as it increases the abnormality of function in the latter.

In the great majority of examples of the Stomatitis Materna, this symptom will be present. To the old school physician it constitutes the chief source of alarm, as indeed it is the principal cause for a noted mortality under his administration. If it be borne in mind, however, that the diarrhœa which accompanies this variety of the stomatitis, constitutes but a symptom of that disorder; that its essential pathology is analagous to that of the buccal erythema or eruption: its capability of metastasis, or of dangerous modification by harsh measures, and of relief by mild and specific means; there is no real necessity that we conclude it an unfortunate complication, or elect it as a drain to the strength and support of the economy at large. One's increased security under the guidance of the homœopathic law, as compared with the hap-hazard routine of the old school, is not more gratefully manifest in any other condition of any other disease, than in the one under present consideration. And, it is just here that some of our best cures are performed. We speak as an

Allopath who has had occasion to remark, and to confirm the truth of the assertion made, that, for this single disorder, there is nothing in the therapeutics of the opposite school which will compare, in point of efficiency, with the specific appliances of the homœopathic method.

2. Of the *General* symptoms.—These are for the most part such as imply a debility which is more or less extreme. The more prominent of this order of constitutional phenomena is the anæmia. In well-marked examples this symptom is seldom wanting. The patient wears a hue of the complexion which is less waxy and clear than in chlorosis, and with more of the sallow and cadaverous shade in it, than is common to almost any other among ordinary diseases. To one familiar with this tint, there is something peculiar, and which he will recognize at first sight.

The causes of the depraved condition of the blood, which is responsible for this, as well as the remaining constitutional symptoms, have been already enumerated and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat them in this connection. Excepting the anæmia, it is sufficient to refer the general phenomena of the nursing sore-mouth to the effect of local irritation and suffering, super-added to a cachexia which borders upon the scrofulous, and of which certain morbid symptoms are the most natural fruits. Such physiological perversions of function and of structure are found, however, to be more readily analyzed than ameliorated, and we accordingly pass to the more important divisions of our subject.

IV. DIAGNOSIS.—The peculiar circumstances in which the patient is found—*enciente*, or in one or another of the stages of recovery from confinement, with the characteristic local symptoms afore-named, will leave but little room for doubt in the diagnosis of the malady.

V. PROGNOSIS.—As the result of a somewhat extended experience in the practice of the Medical Profession, as well as of a wide correspondence with the Fraternity, your Committee cannot conclude this to be a fatal malady, under homœopathic treatment. Not one of the brethren appealed

to has reported a single death from this disease—always excepting, however, their previous experience as old-school physicians. Many of them, as is doubtless true of a majority of the members of the Institute, have succeeded in curing cases which have been abandoned by physicians of a different persuasion, and which if left to themselves or to the influence of mistaken advisers, would certainly have succumbed.

In brief, your Committee cannot agree with the sentiment of the following extract, from a report upon this disease, which was presented to the Illinois Medical Society (Allopathic) two years since. The writer, says, that “on the score of its *fatality*, this disease clearly has claims equal to any known to the profession in the Western part of the United States.”

In respect of its fatality, our experience may have been as peculiar as it has been satisfactory in its results to the patient; but, omitting the details, it certainly establishes the fact of the curability of the Stomatitis Materna by homœopathic measures. We can conceive of examples in which, by reason of their chronic and inveterate nature, or of a complication of its phenomena with the toxical effects of drugs upon a previously depraved condition of system, the prognosis might be unfavorable; but it is morally certain that, under this new and more successful method of treatment, such a decision is rarely called for in any other class of cases.

We apprehend, however, that in many examples of this disease where physicians have been led to pronounce a generally unfavorable prognosis, it has happened that they have confounded the symptoms present with those which characterize the aphthæ of advanced phthisis.

The idiopathic sore-mouth of nursing women is not, therefore, a necessarily mortal affection.

VI. TREATMENT.—This is of three kinds—Constitutional, Local, and Dietetic.

1. Of the *Constitutional* treatment. This division of the subject is based upon a proper selection of the true homœopathic *similiar*, which is appropriate to the relief of the more prominent and characteristic symptoms to be met with in each

individual case. There are various remedies which have been recommended as entitled to the rank of *specific*, by those in whose hands they have been most successfully employed. We shall name these in the order of their importance, pausing only to specify a few of their peculiar pathogenetic features, and confirming their value as best we may by clinical evidences and indications of a practical nature. The first order is the—

Arsenicum album.—The Arsenicum appears in general to be best suited to those examples of the Stomatitis which are to be met with in malarious districts. A majority of these cases are supposed to result from the combined influence of the miasm and of Quinine or other drugs, which are calculated greatly to disorder the healthy nutritive processes of the economy.

Dr. Wm. B. Murch, of Macon City, Mo., after many years experience, considers it a leading indication for this remedy in the nursing of sore-mouth, when this disease occurs in families residing in a malarious district, where the water which is drunk is more or less stagnant, and impregnated with the epidemic causes which are common to such an atmosphere. These causes are marked by a depraved condition of system which is analogous to Typhus, and it is to their relief that Arsenicum appears peculiarly adapted.

Dr. M. views this agent as being still the more strongly indicated in case the local eruption is *vesicular* in character. In debility, with considerable digestive disorder, he alternates the Arsenicum with small doses of Belloc's charcoal, and has never lost a case. He employs the former in a low attenuation.

Dr. D. T. Brown, of Milwaukie, recommends the Ars. in cases marked by a very considerable dryness and inflammation of the buccal mucous surfaces. Occasionally, where the patient has been greatly exhausted and enfeebled, he has witnessed the best effects from preceding the employment of Ars. by a few doses of the Carbo-vegetabilis.

Dr. W. C. Barker, of Waukegan, Ill., extols the use of

Ars.^o, given in alternation with Sulphur^o, once in four hours, in those examples of the nursing of sore-mouth, which are characterized by a very slight and almost imperceptible odor of the breath, along with considerable prostration of the general system.

These hints subtracted from the correspondence of experienced physicians, would seem to indicate those general features of the S. Materna which demand the use of this agent. It were superfluous to detail the more intimate pathogenetic characteristics of the Arsenicum, since these are already the property of the profession, and in the treatment of particular cases, have necessarily become matters of the most familiar reference.

Belladonna.—Dr. R. B. Clark, of Racine, Wis., records the radical cure of an inveterate example of the nursing sore-mouth by the employment of this one remedy alone. The *sixth* attenuation was the one chosen. The case had been abandoned as hopeless by several allopathic physicians, and the cure is undoubtedly authentic.

Calcareo Carbonica.—Where we have reason to believe that disorders of digestion in pregnant, or lying-in, women are due to a Stomatitis which may be either latent, or, perhaps, have so already localized itself that we may remark its real nature; and these symptoms are present in a scrofulous or consumptive habit of body; accompanied by an inveterate diarrhœa, which fails to respond to other remedies, we may sometimes prescribe the Calc. carb. with the most happy results. Indeed there are some cases which, in the experience of your Committee, it would seem almost impossible to cure without it.

These examples are marked by such symptoms as the following:—Great dryness of the mouth and tongue, with a sense of roughness and stinging; a dry, bitter, sour or metallic taste of the mouth; great aversion to boiled food and to meats in particular; inclination to salt diet, or to at such forbidden articles as pickles, dirt, chalk, slate-pencils, &c.; strong and unconquerable desire to sleep after dinner or tea; nausea, with acid eructations; vomiting of ingesta; profuse, colliquative diarrhœa, the stools being sometimes quite undi-

gested ; faintness, with swooning, after stool, or exercise ; a sudden metastasis of the eruption from the mouth to the alimentary mucous membranes ; acidity of the urine, with burning in urethra during micturition, &c., &c.

In cases also where it appears desirable to impress the child's system through that of the parent—the mouth and the contiguous mucous surfaces being considerably involved in the diseased action, we may find the Calc. carb. of very great service. We employ it in the third decimal trituration repeated thrice daily.

Mercurius.—The Mercurius has proved very beneficial in certain varieties of this disease. The form to which it seems best adapted is that in which the eruption has assumed the character of ulcers, which, in their nature, are more or less corroding and destructive to the adjacent tissues—the S. Ulcerosa of the older writers. In curing the most inveterate examples of this peculiar species of the nursing sore mouth, some of our brethren have been remarkably successful. With them, the Merc. vivus appears to have become the favorite preparation.

Dr. Barker recommends that the third attenuation of this latter be given in alternation with Sulph.⁶ once in four hours, where the corroding tendency of the ulcers is manifest, and the breath is characterized by a very offensive, putrefactive odor.

Dr. Brown regards a profuse secretion of saliva in this disease as indicating the Mercurius.

We have employed the Merc. iodatus³, in the S. Ulcerosa, where there was reason to suspect a syphilitic taint of system. For kindred complications, the Merc. præcip. rub.³, might also be of essential service.

Nitric acid.—This has doubtless been the most popular remedy in use by Homœopathists in this disease. It has been given in every conceivable manner, under almost every variety of indication, and with results surpassing those which have been recorded of any other constitutional remedy.

Dr. M. Troyer, of Peoria, Ill., has witnessed the best effects from the raw Nitric acid administered in water thrice daily. He has treated more cases of this disease during the last winter (1859—'60) than for twelve years before.

Prof. N. F. Cooke of Chicago, has the utmost confidence in this acid. He, however, considers some examples of the disease to be essentially *parasitical*; and, for these, regards this remedy as almost a specific.

Dr. R. B. Clarke is in the habit of employing this agent in very many cases, and "would scarcely know how to get on successfully without it."

Additional testimony might be adduced in favor of Nitric acid as among the most promising means of relief for this disease, and your Committee could enumerate examples and evidence in confirmation of its clinical and pathogenetic resources, but want of time and space forbid.

Nux vomica.—In its very incipency, and especially in cases where this disease is first manifest through perverse disorders of the nutritive system, we have administered the *Nux vomica* with the best possible effect. After the appearance of the eruption in the mouth, but more particularly after the advent of the diarrhœic symptoms, if they be at all serious, we recommend its discontinuance.

We frequently prescribe the *Nux vom.*³ in alternation with *Calc. carb.*³, a dose every two hours.

Rhus toxicodendron.—Dr. Davies has succeeded in some obstinate cases by the application of a trituration of the *Rhus tox.*, and an internal use of the attenuations of the same remedy. He triturates the berries of this plant with *Sacc. lactis*, in the proportion of one berry to ten grains of the sugar, and applies the powder, moistened, through the medium of a thin linen cloth.

Sulphuric acid.—In the experience of your Committee, this is an invaluable remedy for the Stomatitis Materna. We have certainly witnessed the most satisfactory results from its employment. In one example, in which two of our most prominent Allopaths had treated a lady for two months, and told her that she must wean her child, and that it would take her at least a year to recover her health, three visits and a fortnight's use of the *Sulph. acid*³ in water, effected a radical cure, and that without weaning the infant, or the employment of any local application whatever.

Our habit is to put twenty-five drops of the second attenuation in half a glass of water, of which two tea-spoonfuls are to be taken once in three hours.

Veronica baccaburga.—Dr N. F. Prentice, of Freeport, Ill., has employed this remedy and with the most marked success during the last three or four years. In a letter to the writer, he says:—"Formerly I had a great deal of trouble in the treatment of this disease, and of sore-mouth in children, but during the above-named interval I have used the Veronica (empirically it is true, for I have but a very few provings of it,) almost exclusively, and with universal success. I have been in the habit of giving it internally in the first decimal attenuation, and of applying it locally to the mouth in the proportion of ten to thirty drops in two fluid-ounces of soft water. When they are indicated, I use other remedies in alternation with Veronica."

2. Of the *local* treatment.—As might be anticipated, "Doctors will differ" upon this point of practical enquiry. It must suffice to say, in this connection, that in their treatment of this disease, the majority of Physicians, with whom your Committee has corresponded, prefer constitutional to local measures. A few, however, present the claims of some particular topical application, in the strongest possible light. Of these we may mention the following:—

Dr. Wm. Curran, of Hannibal, Mo., recommends the local employment of the Butternut oil (*oleum juglandis*), which he assures us has remarkable virtues in healing this disorder.

Dr. J. B. Tallcott, of St. Joseph, Mo., extols the Chlorate of Potassa with Glycerine, as composing an excellent wash for the buccal eruption.

Dr. Murch employs the Golden Seal (*Frasera Carolinensis*). He recommends to gargle the mouth well with an infusion of this substance, thrice daily. In case of severe ulcers of the oral mucous membrane, he applies the powder directly to the diseased surface. The infusion forms an excellent application to the mother's nipple, when it is surrounded with little vesicles, and has become almost too tender for the child to nurse the breast at all.

Dr. Barker has the greatest confidence in frequent rinsings of the mouth with *simple cold water*.

The mischievous results of local treatment already hinted at, are best avoided either by neglecting all such measures

whatever, or by employing only those which we are positive can produce none but a specific effect upon the eruption, healing it without harm to other surfaces or to the system at large. With these latter qualifications, we opine that certain local appliances may sometimes be used with advantage.

3. Of the *dietetic* treatment.—This is properly divided into that which concerns the mother, and that which is proper for the child.

(a.) Of the *mother's* diet.—Without spending time upon the various speculations and theories which have been advanced and supported by superior minds in the profession, your Committee would declare the conviction that the most important item in reference to this subject, and one which should constantly be born in mind, is that the diet of the patient must be as *nutritious as possible*. It should consist of an admixture of vegetable and animal food, taking especial pains to omit neither the one nor the other variety of aliment. We have witnessed the best of results from a rich diet of beef tea, or oyster soup, with good, dry, mealy potatoes, and some vegetable acid,—as afforded by baked apples, oranges or a weak lemonade. These latter we almost never deny the patient, and have invariably found them to be as really beneficial as they were grateful to her. The idea that, because she craves these acids, and would perhaps eat of them to excess if allowed, it is therefore best to deny their enjoyment at all, is a cruel relic of the ancient *regime*. The hint which Nature throws out in such a case, we may always find it safe to adopt; and we shall soon be led to remark that at least nine-tenths of the examples of nursing sore-mouth which are to be met with, like the Scorbutus, demand an extra supply of vegetable acid, in one form or another.

(b.) Of the *diet for the child*.—It was at one time recommended indiscriminately, that the infant be taken from the breast immediately upon the advent of this disease. But the opinion of our best modern physicians is adverse to this proceeding, where it can possibly be avoided. As a rule, it is not necessary to wean the child. We have never ordered it; and, unless the mother were weak and emaciated, with so great a lack of vitality, as at once to impair her power of re-action from the violence of the disease, and of furnishing her offspring a support at all commensurate with its necessities, we could not feel justified in making so unnatural a prescription.

Homœopathy from the systems of empiricism with which it has been classed and confounded by certain writers on Medicine. Homœopathy adapts its resources to the relief of disease, under whatever guise it may appear, and in so doing, challenges our admiration for it as a practical science. Quackery claims the ability and the method, but in reality never accomplishes so much, nor does the little she may effect betray anything akin to science or system in its application. Homœopathy is the firm reliance of many an household, no matter what epidemic may threaten to cross its threshold, or what bodily disaster befall its members. You will discover that the enlightened and intelligent Homœopathist is the stay and confidence of the best families in community for years together; while the empiric has but an ephemeral existence among them and is gone, no one knows where. The one is an integral part of society, respected, beloved, honored; the other a shameless itinerant, a tax-eater, a torment. To confound Homœopathy with the pseudo-sciences of animal magnetism, electropathy, clairvoyance, *et id omne genus*, is absurd in the extreme. It is as removed from these as are the Alps from the Alleghanies, or sincerity from hypocrisy.

There are not a few incidental benefits which all classes of invalids reap from the employment of the Homœopathic system of treatment, but which are too frequently overlooked by its appraisers as of little relative importance. Permit me, therefore, to direct your attention to some of the minor superiorities of this school of medical practice.

1. *Of the singleness of the dose.* You are already

aware that it is a principle with the adherents of this system not to compound their remedies. We are in no danger of prescribing incompatibles when we use but one medicine at a time. It is not possible that we throw fire and water together if but a single agent is employed. We apprehend that the complex systems and functions of the human body are so delicate and so prone to derangement that it is not safe or expedient to hazard the harmony of their order and efficiency by a cross-fire of perturbing influences which could hardly fail to complicate the case, and thus to make matters worse instead of better.

"One thing at a time," is a motto as useful to the medical practitioner in making his prescriptions, as to the man of business in the detail of his daily pursuits. Simplicity is a great virtue here as elsewhere. You may almost compute the months of experience which some young physicians have had in the practice, by the length and complexity of their written prescriptions—the shorter their term in prescribing the more lengthy and complex the recipe. Old heads are always the wiser in this regard. The most successful physician is not he who boasts the greatest catalogue of remedies at command, or who compounds an excessive number of drugs into a simple draught; but he, who, weighing the import of all the symptoms and the capacity of his art for their relief, is the more competent in the matter of of *withholding* rather than of *giving* medicines.

In his analyses, the chemist employs his tests and reagents with the utmost precaution, singly and alone. He is aware of the fact that the more elaborate his investigations the greater the need of care in the selec-

tion and application of the key with which he is to unlock the secrets of the inorganic universe. A shade of impurity in an acid may ruin his most labored and careful researches. Even daylight, as well as darkness is liable to becloud his vision when he would peer into the hidden recesses of Nature through the most delicate manipulations of sense. He deals with subtleties on their own terms, and detects an alloy by the very delicacy of his aim.

Now we insist upon it as most reasonable, that, when chemical affinities are vitalized, changed from the inorganic to the organic orders, and brought to a higher plane of created existence, the same idea has an increased significance, that in the analysis of animal functions, peculiarities and perversions, we are not to attempt to coerce Nature by an indiscriminate use of re-agents. If the mineral be so sensitive to a well-chosen test, so tender of an inanimate identity, what may we expect of man and his susceptibilities! If, in the laboratory of the chemist, the greatest care is requisite not to defeat the object of study by a reckless employment of acids and alkalies at the same time, of how much greater importance is it to be cautious in what concerns that other laboratory whose nicely adjusted sensibilities are moulded into being, and maintained in tact by the life-forces of the economy! You may depend upon it, gentlemen, the physician who is most lavish of drugs, and the most likely to incorporate a considerable number of them into one prescription, is he whose knowledge of the human organism, in all its varied relations, is very limited indeed.

The best fruits of employing medicines singly are

realized in the clear and definite results which are directly attributable to it. You are not ignorant of the fact that there are various sources of error regarding the seemingly obvious effects of remedies, as applied to the cure of disease. Many disorders are self-limited, while as a general rule, all of them, of whatever variety, tend towards a favorable termination, independently of medicines. Recoveries, therefore, are not restricted to those persons alone who employ the best skill of the physician as an aid thereto. Thousands of invalids, who for one cause or another have never resorted to the profession, are nevertheless restored to health.

Others, again, are healed through the influence of mental operations, which are brought to bear in some especial manner upon their bodily infirmities. Affections involving the nervous system, whether directly or otherwise, are frequently exorcised through a species of mental therapeutics, which, in the mode of its application, may or may not have been empirical. Every day's experience teaches the observant physician that the issues of life are not in the pharmacopœia.

Hence the skepticism of many with regard to the results of the Homœopathic treatment. The common mind is given to accredit them to every species of remedial influence excepting the proper one. Those inexact observers who are accustomed to jump at conclusions concerning the *modus operandi* and real efficacy of their compound measures, are not the most competent to pronounce upon the value of the simple and single agents of our materia medica. They will class these latter with the pretended panaceas of the ignorant and the

unscrupulous, denying them any possibility of remedial power, unless it be to operate through "a mind diseased," as did the horrible and disgusting mixtures of the ancients.

The sick, society and the science are the gainers, therefore, from this peculiar feature of Homœopathy. The good results of the single doses are apparent in the advantages which accrue to the patient, from the fact that the mind of the physician in attendance is not embarrassed with doubts concerning the source and genuineness of symptoms presented in any given case. By employing but one remedy at a time, and that in an attenuated form, he is not prevented from keeping a close record of those morbid symptoms which belong legitimately to the disease he would remedy. As the surgeon may sometimes witness the wonderful processes of cell-growth and development through a transparent dressing, so the physician is privileged to observe the curative operations of Nature, aided by Art, which are going on in the penetralia of the system. If it were rash for the former recklessly to interrupt the healing process in wounds and bruises in the bones and muscles, not less so would it be for the latter to complicate and counteract the curative efforts of Nature and Art by the administration of a dozen different drugs at the same moment of time. Opaque mixtures come of obscure intellects in Medicine. Your black and grumous compounds, like the inky product of the cuttle-fish, are almost certain so to darken the crystal waters, as at once to conceal and to foster the depredations of the serpent of disease. Were it possible to route the pests of humanity which come in a crowd of morbid influ-

ences, as one would disperse an army of mosquitoes or of lesser vermin, then the more of smoke and of brimstone the better!

The great forces of Nature act silently, but effectively. "The world is wrapt all around by chains of gravitation more invisible than the sunbeams, and think you those little strands are good for nothing?"

II. *Of the peculiar advantages which are gained because of an early resort to the physician.*—There is no question but the prompt and early recourse of its friends to medical aid, in the very outset of disease, furnishes a strong argument in favor of the Homœopathic system of therapeutics. Here is no danger of dosing an infant into a severe illness, and the little innocent may frequently be saved by the very promptness of the parent and physician in the use of the milder measures.

Under a different régime, some days might have elapsed—days of doubting and of danger, in which the disease might have fastened its fangs more firmly in the victim, before anything definite in the way of treatment would have been attempted. A slight skirmishing with domestic measures, which, in most hands, is very apt to decoy disease into some more vital part, is had, and thus the most precious time is wasted, and the best opportunity for aid allowed to pass by unimproved. Perhaps the difficulty might have been met and the danger averted by one or two visits or as many prescriptions from an intelligent Homœopathist. But now, delay brings the doctor, and it is believed that what might have been remedied by single and simple agencies at the onset, is become so serious as to demand the most vigorous treatment. The family become fearfully

alarmed, and well they may. Trepidation seizes hold upon them, and their better judgment topples beneath the infirmity which teaches that the *number* of medical counsellors should be multiplied in ratio with the severity of the disease. Then the whole neighborhood is aroused, and the nervous chords of sympathy which link communities together, are made to vibrate with the keenest concern for the little sufferer. It is in every body's mouth that such an one's child lies dangerously ill. A few hours, or days, at the farthest, tell the issue of this early mismanagement, but the monumental record never warns against its repetition over and over again!

We are not claiming it possible to save all this class of patients—Homœopathy *cannot cure everything*. The idea is simply this, that, whereas it is alleged that we are frequently called upon to prescribe for the most trivial departures from health, and that a large proportion of the cases treated Homœopathically are neither alarming or dangerous, we are led from abundant experience to testify that it is one of the superior merits of the system that its practitioners may be called in season to avert the disastrous consequences which are so certain to spring of an early neglect. The sick are thus directly benefitted, society in a secondary manner, and the science built up and fortified by this "ounce-of-prevention" method as applied to the treatment of the little juveniles.

A like superiority results from this species of promptness in treating disease among adults. A man of business—and none of our western men can spare the time to be ill—does not always relish the idea of consequen-

ces growing out of a severe "course of medicine," in order to supersede some slight derangement of health. For this reason, he very naturally neglects an early resort to professional advice until some troublesome disorder is fastened upon him, and he is compelled to address himself to the needed repairs. Days, or even weeks of delay may have afforded the seeds of disease an opportunity to germinate, and what was at the first but a slight functional embarrassment, may have come to involve the organic integrity of one or more of the different tissues. In this manner he must yield himself to treatment, but not until the most promising period for speedy relief has passed by unimproved.

A brief experience with the remedies employed by our school of medical practice, teaches such patients the value of an early resort to their milder virtues. A few pellets or powders carried in the pocket, and taken during business hours, or leisure, may intercept a more serious illness. In point of economy of time, of strength and of money, our patients are the gainers by such a prompt and most satisfactory recourse to the physician. Thousands of persons escape disease in this manner without realizing what they have done, or how much they owe to agencies which are at once so simple and so successful.

Those of you who were privileged to attend the summer Course of Lectures in this Clinique have remarked how peculiarly this especial management of the sick has conduced to their welfare. Patients have come hither daily while laboring under diseases which, to all appearance, were sufficiently serious to have confined them to their beds. Their little remaining strength

sufficed to bring them before us, and, by extreme caution in our prescriptions, the props which sustained their sinking energies have not been stricken away. With a very little medicine, coupled with counsel as to diet, exposure and exercise, not a few satisfactory cures have been accomplished among them. The poor, whose privilege it is to labor, have thus been permitted to support themselves even while out of health, and so to adjourn the encroachments of want. We have braced them up against a twin bankruptcy of strength and of spirit.

When you weigh this merit of the system we advocate, in all its wide chain of influences, and properly estimate its happy results in the prevention and palliation of the certainty and calamity of disease, among all classes of community, I am confident you will not charge me with over-rating its significance to the best interests of the sick, of society, and of the science of Medicine.

It is not that Homœopathy fails when applied to persons who have fallen seriously ill; not that she dreads to encounter the more decided and unmistakable examples of diseased action to be met with in a general practice; not that she would presume to step forward without a reasonable prospect of affording relief; nor that her friends are skeptical of her slender resources, and faithless in the hour of peril to the patient;—for these charges can never be sustained against her; but that, in the anticipation and thwarting of such calamities, she is endowed with the most superior virtues. In this regard it must be true that her practitioners have a great advantage over all others. The cruel consequences due to a practical application of the maxim

that a man must be made sick before he can be cured, are never expected to follow an early resort to their remedies. By the most happy and wholesome precautions, they may frequently turn aside the attacks of disease in its very outset. And no one need question this as among the more noble fruits of our professional labors.

III. *Of its non-interference with Nutrition.*—A slight acquaintance with the physiology of the nutritive process will satisfy you with regard to its rank in the order of importance among the various animal functions. And a single reflection upon the responsibility of this function in health should impress you with its proneness to disorder when disease has invaded the organism. Eminent authorities are of opinion that pathologically, as well as physiologically, whatever concerns it is of especial interest to the physician.

Virchow teaches that inflammation, of which so much has been said and written, results from different species and states of irritation, and that this irritation may be of a functional, nutritive or formative nature. In pneumonia, for example, where there is inflammation of a compound tissue, we may discover side by side all these forms of irritation progressing at the same moment, one part of the tissue undergoing functional or nutritive, another formative changes. How important, therefore, properly to balance these twin-facts of observation with the coveted results of our curative agencies. Whatever means would deprave the blood-plasma, and so interfere with the healthy nutrition of an organ, its form or its function, thus preventing it from throwing off the incubus of disease, and resuming position among its fellows,

would hazard its individual integrity, and render more certain those very results to the general economy which a prudent forethought would hope to avoid.

The truth is, when disease has instituted those primary changes in the textures which must always elude our scrutiny, physicians are too prone to forget the almost perfect analogy of morbid irritative processes with those which are purely physiological and healthy. For this reason, while admitting the need of a good plasma for the growth of structures and the maintenance of a proper animal temperature, they deem it the best to cut off all supplies to the system when diseased, and not unfrequently leave the good ship to founder in default of a simple physiological necessity. Multitudes of patients have been starved after recovery, or, to speak more properly, have died cured!

If not sufficiently cruel to effect so sad a result by the enforcement of a rigid diet, we may remark a fearful propensity among physicians to surfeit the stomach with all sorts of disgusting mixtures. Indirectly the same effect is produced. A disrelish for every variety of aliment is a pretty certain consequence of the application of such irritants to the gastric mucous membrane as would not fail to corrode the copper lining of a crucible. We have been called to a patient dying by inches from an irritable stomach, which was incapable of retaining so much as a teaspoonfull of cold water, in whom this revolt of the organ was caused and perpetuated by the very drugs designed for its relief. Such a loathing of food, such an absolute withdrawal of the materials of growth and of sustenance, such a tax upon the zoo-chemical capacity of the system to generate its opera-

tive forces, could not fail by perseverance to cut off the patient. And what is this but a species of horrible torture akin to the heathen method of capital punishment through the entire prevention of sleep.

As in health, so in disease, every tissue needs its appropriate nutriment. A less quantity may suffice its more urgent requirements, but it must be supplied with such organizable material as can be assimilated into its structure, and will aid it to withstand the assaults of disease. As well might we expect the soldier whose stomach had long since foresworn food, to possess the physical ability to route an enemy, as that the invalid's organism, weakened and depraved to the last extremity by a long-continued fasting, should survive its own digestive infirmities. His system will lack recuperative vigor. Under these circumstances there can be no exercise of a nutritive restitutorial power. If the necessary elements of strength and capability are wanting, the draft upon the life-forces will assuredly go to protest. Then each of those little cells which aggregate the parenchyma of all and singular of the bodily organs, and which must derive their support from a nourishing blastema, will be doomed to die of inanition.

One of the earliest and most wholesome fruits of experience to the intelligent physician, whose mind has been enlightened by a physiological inquiry into the function of nutrition, in all its organic relations, will be to teach him that it is seldom necessary to put a patient upon the old-fashioned starvation diet. He will learn to appreciate and to act upon the hints which Nature has thrown out in each individual example of disease for his guidance. If there be anorexia, or a loathing

of food, a decided disinclination to it in any form whatever, excepting under the peculiar circumstances which I shall by and by indicate, he will not insist upon its administration. If, on the other hand, the appetite is measurably good, and digestion unimpaired, it will be found the safer to allow what will satisfy it than to withhold from the system all necessary "aid and comfort." There is no more ridiculous department of medical literature than that which would prescribe a universal diet for invalids. It is bending the ship to the plank, and not the plank to the ship, to endeavor to construct a rigid diet-table for our system of therapeutics. There is no short-hand method to prescriptions of this sort, and none are reliable excepting such as are based upon physiological knowledge, tempered by that observation and experience which teach the medical adviser to adapt the aliment he orders to the peculiarities of each individual patient.

It is precisely in this respect that we may claim a decided superiority for the Homœopathic system of medical treatment. Acting upon the indications which Nature has so kindly furnished, we are careful to remove all obstructions in the way of a proper alimentation. The appetite is not rendered artificially morbid, neither is it entirely destroyed by the medicines prescribed. The desire that this important function should be fulfilled in its every detail, without a general implication in diseased processes, is, so far as is possible, carried out. In this manner the alimentary and assimilative workings are clearly discerned. Nature has an opportunity to contribute to recovery. There is no blockade to the river of life, for the liquor sanguinis is rich in all the

materials of repair to the tissues. There is little confusion among, and less hazard of undermining the life-forces of the economy, which, however imponderable in themselves considered, are nevertheless dependent for their maintenance upon material supplies.

And now, gentlemen, having directed your attention to the importance of a few of the minor superiorities of the new therapeutics, let me recommend you to search for such as are equally valuable among those which must for the present remain unnoticed. The limits of a single lecture will not permit me to enlarge upon the advantages accruing to the patient from a mind at rest and free from anxiety lest the means employed should prove prejudicial to recovery; or from the fear that obstructions might arise from the confounding of drug-symptoms with the dumb tokens of some latent or hereditary disorder; from a most delicate recognition of idiosyncrasies among all classes of patients; and from economizing the resources of the organism through a close and careful supervision over the eliminative processes.

These you can elaborate at your leisure. Enough has been said to indicate the proper course of your observation and reasoning. Remember that, by the true physician, nothing that concerns the welfare of the sick and the unfortunate will be regarded as common-place. The world is but an aggregate of littles, and we have sometimes thought the atomic theorist might apply his analysis with wonderful results upon what are familiarly styled the duties and responsibilities of the medical practitioner.

The sick are not to be disfranchised from your sym-

pathies. I have endeavored to disclose to you a few reasons why their interests should be recognized as so closely related to yours. The remarks already made should tend to confirm your faith in the system you have adopted, as promising the best results to this class of community more directly, and to society and the science of medicine in a secondary manner.

The singleness of the dose has the strongest claim to your confidence in that such effects as a given remedy may produce are not obscured by counteracting influences which are calculated to mystify rather than to make plain the phenomena presented. Symptomatology should properly be regarded as affording a revelation, in the clear and explicit language of nature, and through symptoms, whether natural or artificial, of those finely graduated links which connect health with disease, and which, if not too roughly read, may convey some adequate idea of its import and of its probable issue. Polypharmacy begets a Babel-like confusion of tongues, which, like the Milesian who had read the lexicon from beginning to end, but was unable to discover the plot of the story, the physician cannot safely interpret what should be most plainly presented. Nothing is more true than that "the difficulty of estimating the effects of a prescription is as the square of the number of its ingredients."

The peculiar advantages gained by an early resort to proper remedies must be apparent to you all. If pebbles have turned the course of rivers, why may not the early, as well as the later use of our pellets give direction to currents which should, but do not always set in the direction of health? It is believed that, in the very

prompt and satisfactory recourse to the physician which the patron of Homœopathy is so free to exercise, we possess a great instrumentality for good, both as regards the sick, society, and the science we are privileged to represent.

The non-interference with nutrition in therapeutics is the balance-sheet which registers and controls the nutritive repairs and expenses of the economy. We should succeed as poorly without it as would the engineer in driving the locomotive through a blinding storm with neither fuel nor water to feed and supply its giant energies.

But it is time to bring these remarks to a close. I have dwelt upon the lesser virtues of the system, first set forth in a clear and comprehensive manner by the illustrious HAHNEMANN, for the simple reason that they confirm the value of such as are of a larger growth. As in the field of the microscope the minutest crystal is recognized by its characteristic form and properties ; so, in the field of observation, you shall see these lesser grains of truth preserving their own peculiar symmetry of proportion, and crystalizing about a central nucleus of beneficence which is at once its own solace and reward.