

Reply to Dr. Simpson's pamphlet on homoeopathy : and second edition of the letter to the president of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, with a postscript / by William Henderson.

Contributors

Henderson, William, 1810-1872.
Simpson, James Young, 1811-1870.
Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh.
University of Glasgow. Library

Publication/Creation

Edinburgh : W.P. Kennedy ; Glasgow : D. Bryce ; London : Hamilton, Adams & Co., 1852.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zevms8tm>

Provider

University of Glasgow

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The University of Glasgow Library. The original may be consulted at The University of Glasgow Library. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





REPLY

TO

DR. SIMPSON'S PAMPHLET ON HOMŒOPATHY,

AND

SECOND EDITION OF THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, WITH A POSTSCRIPT.

BY

WILLIAM HENDERSON, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF GENERAL PATHOLOGY.

SECOND EDITION.

EDINBURGH:

W. P. KENNEDY, ST. ANDREW STREET.

GLASGOW: D. BRYCE. LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS, & CO.

MDCCCLII.

REPLY

THE SIMPSON'S PAMPHLET ON HOMOEOPATHY.

SECOND EDITION OF THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, WITH A PREFACE.

WILLIAM HENDERSON, M.D.

LECTURER ON MEDICAL TREATMENT.

SECOND EDITION.

EDINBURGH:

EDINBURGH: T. CONSTABLE, PRINTER TO HER MAJESTY.

GLASGOW: D. BRYCE, BOOKSELLER, WASHINGTON SQUARE, & CO.

MDCCCXXXII.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

It must be regretted by every friend of peace and propriety, that the controversy regarding Homœopathy should have assumed so much the character of a personal contest,—that a question which admitted of being debated on the high ground of scientific observation and cool reasoning, should have been assailed and attempted to be “put down” by arbitrary resolutions and the insidious poison of personal scandal. A very small part of what has been written of late against the system, can be admitted to the rank of argument; and in replying to such attacks, instead, merely, of the genial exercise of reason and reciprocal good will, the ungracious task has been thrust upon us chiefly of censuring calumny, correcting deceitful narratives, and exposing misrepresentations. In performing this duty to ourselves and our system, it was impossible to avoid the expression of a hearty disapproval of behaviour so unbecoming on the part of our opponents, and it became necessary, as a simply defensive measure, to shew them, by illustrations drawn from among themselves, the worthlessness of their allegations of professional charlatanry, and other examples of individual misconduct, as arguments against Homœopathy, when so much could be alleged of a similar nature against

the professors of the ordinary practice. As few instances of this kind have been adduced by me as would serve barely to make our adversaries sensible of their folly,—for retaliation was not my object, otherwise the list might have been greatly lengthened ; and even such few examples as I have given, I have preferred presenting, when I could do so, in the terms with which our opponents accuse one another. Having executed so much of this most disagreeable task as seemed to be imperatively demanded, I shall not again appear as a party, at any future stage of the controversy, in discussions that are not strictly relevant to the question properly at issue.

In replying to the second edition of Dr. Simpson's pamphlet, I have found it necessary, in accordance with the resolution I have just mentioned, to add only a few notes to what I have previously published, and to annex two articles of some length, the one a dissertation on the Homœopathic Law, to the extent at least in which it has been impugned by him ; the other a collection of extracts, from the common sources of information on the subject, shewing the manner in which the discovery of vaccination was received by a portion of the profession between forty and fifty years ago ; from which the unprofessional reader will learn that the treatment which Homœopathy is now receiving is neither unprecedented, nor ominous of disaster to that great discovery. This collection is from the pen of Dr. Simpson himself, as I thought it best that the inconsistency and impropriety of some of his proceedings against the most valuable of the truths added to medicine in modern times, should be exposed by the very same means which he employed to make others ashamed of their opposition to the comparatively small, but useful, invention for preventing pain during surgical operations.

A few particulars, which did not appear to me of sufficient

importance to be admitted into the body of my pamphlet, I have reserved for a brief notice in this place. The first that occurs to me is this,—that we, Homœopathists, do not stand in the same obsequious attitude before Hahnemann, as the disciples of the casuists did in the days of Pascal, when they held that “a single very grave doctor may render any opinion probable,” and simply because they believed that “a man particularly given to study would not adhere to an opinion unless he was drawn to it by a good and sufficient reason.”* We are greatly less confiding, and when Hahnemann advances anything for which we ourselves can see no good reason, we take the liberty of concluding that the venerable Master had gone astray. We do not, therefore, concur in all his doctrines; and yet we do not the less admire the genius of the man who wrote so much that is wise and true, at a time when truth and wisdom in practical medicine formed somewhat rare exceptions to the common rule. This being the state of our relations to the founder of the system, it need scarcely be added that we own no allegiance to the vagaries of such of his real or nominal followers as, deviating from Homœopathy, publish their crude speculations concerning “bugs for bug-bites,” “cholera dejections for cholera patients,” and similar fantastic excrescences from the sober and homely stem of the rational and very comprehensible formula of Homœopathy—like cures like. I presume that Allopathic physicians also venture sometimes to think for themselves, and that they do not believe themselves to be bound by all the foolish precepts and opinions that have issued from their side of the medical press during the last half century.

The “credulity” of some Homœopathic practitioners in England, regarding the delusion of what they called the “magnetoscope,” is adduced as a reason for regarding their

* Provincial Letters.

convictions respecting Homœopathy as mere credulity and delusion too; and it is hinted that the same delusion extended to Edinburgh. The truth is, that in Edinburgh we could not see how our friends in the south could be mistaken in regard to effects which it seemed so very easy to verify by careful experiment; and we are now equally at a loss to conceive how they could have allowed themselves to be so grossly deceived. But as to any participation in their delusion, when we had an opportunity of judging for ourselves, I can answer for it that the instrument did not impose upon us for a moment: it found no credulity here. Moreover, Allopathic doctors were likewise deluded in London by the witching apparatus, and so the two systems are on equal terms once more. Besides, did not chloroform perform wonders in the hands of some English physicians in the *cure* of cholera, and was not the delusion made equally manifest when its powers were tested in the cautious north?

Our good friend Dr. Forbes, it seems, has "for some time watched and studied, in the London Homœopathic Hospital itself," and has come to the conclusion that "Homœopathy is truly a nonentity." Well, he studied Allopathy for some six and thirty years, (he announced himself a few years ago as threescore,) and his conclusions on the matter were, that "the features of our ancient mother (Allopathy) assuredly look somewhat unattractive,"—that "she seems neither happy nor prosperous; yea, she seems sick, very sick,"—that "things have arrived at such a pitch, that they cannot be worse. They must mend or end."* Here, then, the scales are even again, or rather, our "ancient mother" seems somewhat light, seeing that so long an acquaintance could leave no more favourable impression. How could it be expected that a man, however candid, who confesses to

* See his Article on Homœopathy, &c.—*Brit. and For. Med. Review*, 1846.

being a "hard-headed sceptic," should see enough in a few months' yawning attendance at a small hospital,—where, as in all hospitals, the great majority of the patients would no doubt present chronic disorders, perhaps incurable, perhaps unimportant,—to satisfy him of the utility of the practice. It would need but little scepticism to put down any signs of amendment in such cases, to the account of rest, comfortable beds, and suitable diet. It is impossible that any degree of scepticism could be removed in such a place in so short a time. But I will add, on the other hand, that it is not creditable to the sagacity of Dr. Forbes, that he should, in such circumstances, have come to *any* conclusion whatever. His having done so is proof of his bias, and fatal to his character as an observer.*

Dr. Simpson's allusion to another gentleman's attendance at a Homœopathic Hospital is still more unhappy. His words are, "he attended the Homœopathic Hospital in that city (Vienna) for upwards of a month, but that matters did not seem to go on prosperously with Homœopathy in that school, which is acknowledged to be its central and chief seat. The whole number of pupils in attendance at the hospital amounted only to five."—P. 6. I shall only say of this, that I have good reason to believe that Dr. Simpson knew, when he wrote the above passage, that the gentleman in question attended merely *a small suburban*

* When men have made up their minds that a system is "all humbug," as the eccentric Professor of the Veterinary College said of Homœopathy the other day, in the Town Council, they may save themselves the trouble of "investigation." It is high time, however, for our friend the Professor to look about him, and abate his prejudices, for the intelligent farmers of this country are discovering that, with a few Homœopathic drugs, their live stock can dispense with the Allopathic Surgeon. He has a less perplexing field for experiment than *human* doctors have, for "doubtlessly," as Dr. Simpson says, the most preposterous calculations regarding the dose will hardly move the imagination of an ox.

hospital at Vienna, which is *not* acknowledged to be the central and chief seat of Homœopathy; the principal Homœopathic Hospital in that city being Fleischmann's at Gumpendorf! Even were the chief hospital as poorly attended, what has that to do with the truth of Homœopathy? Are *students* the best judges of the comparative value of rival methods of treatment? Nay, is the extent to which *any* doctrine is cordially embraced the true test of its worth? Let Christendom and Heathendom answer that.

I observe that applying the medicine to the nostrils is gravely objected to, as if Allopaths did not often recommend the very same mode of administering certain stimulants and restoratives. I observe also sundry sneers at oyster-shells, as if the Pharmacopeias of the old school did not possess the very same substance, and crab's claws, "crab's eyes," and burnt bones, to boot.

Dr. Simpson's pamphlet ends with a quotation from the speech of Dr. Williams, at the last meeting of the Provincial Medical Association. "A gentleman," says the Professor of Midwifery, "acknowledged on all hands to be standing in the foremost rank of the London physicians of the present day." The quotation commences thus:—"You see all sorts of quackery, with Homœopathy foremost, rampant throughout the land," and it ends in equally courteous terms, "Alas, what folly! and I fear we may add, what knavery too!" Dr. Williams, of all men, should have scrupulously avoided such insulting terms,—should have kept himself out of every controversy in which the motives and past history of men were likely to be scanned with a scrutinizing eye; for he cannot suppose it to be unknown, to some at least, that he is exhibited in a *very* equivocal character in the "Memoir of the late Dr. Hope," a gentleman of whom it is said by his biographer, that "a regard to his own

character for truth and integrity, obliged him to break off all communications with Dr. Williams." Nor should this "foremost" physician have presumed to utter any opinion on a subject of which he is so grossly ignorant, as the following quotation from one of his works shews him to be of Homœopathy:—"Who cannot but admire the expansive genius of Hahnemann, who discovered that the best cure for a disease is in the influence which caused it?"—*Principles of Medicine*, p. 22.

In addition to what concerns Dr. Simpson's pamphlet, I have added, in an Appendix, a correspondence which very gravely affects the *candour* of the President and Council of the Medico-Chirurgical Society. I regard the inaccuracy in my first edition, which led to that correspondence, as a very happy occurrence, involuntary as it was. It has brought out the highest testimony to my fidelity as a controversial writer, to the correctness with which opinions, statements, facts, and quotations, the most varied and ample have been recorded in the several pamphlets I have written; for it shews in the clearest manner, by the *avidity* with which a merely verbal inaccuracy, concerning an alleged occurrence of no great importance, has been seized upon by my opponents, how promptly and eagerly they would have exposed any graver inaccuracy, could they only have discovered such in any of my writings. The error in question was more in the *letter* than in the *spirit* or *essence* of what I wrote, related, too, to a circumstance of which I could have no *personal* knowledge, and would appear so natural and excusable in the manner in which it arose, did I feel myself at liberty to detail the particulars, that the nicest sense of honour could find nothing to be ashamed of in connexion with it. Can *any* of the Colleges, Medical Faculties, Presidents, Councils, Societies, Professors, and Speech-

makers, who are arrayed in such *manly* opposition, say as much of their *mistakes*? *Not one*. I feel myself entitled to claim credit for accuracy, even *unusual* accuracy; for I am not contending for *victory* in argument, but for *truth*, and have taken much pains to be as correct in all my statements as I possibly could.

January 20, 1852.

REPLY, &c.

ONCE upon a time, says Æsop, a man and a lion were journeying together, and came at length to high words which was the braver and stronger creature of the two. As the dispute waxed warmer they happened to pass by, on the roadside, a statue of a man strangling a lion. "See there," said the man, "what more undeniable proof can you have of our superiority than that?" "That," said the lion, "is your version of the story; let us be the sculptors, and for one lion under the feet of a man, you shall have twenty men under the paw of the lion." This little fable is not only an appropriate introduction to a critical essay on the fables lately submitted to the public by Dr. Simpson, but may serve, as fables are an approved manner of giving important warning and instruction to persons of slender abilities and scanty information,—the only persons liable to be imposed upon by the medical fabulist,—to convey in a form best suited to their tastes and capacities, the familiar truth, that the mere allegations of an avowed enemy ought always to be regarded with distrust. The educated and intellectual portion of his readers will have discovered for themselves the fallacy of his arguments, and will have suspected, when the subjects introduced have lain out of the course of their

studies, that a purpose which presses into its service details that are usually either impertinent or monstrous can be neither good in itself, nor the offspring of a mind that has any claim upon their confidence.

I once had the good fortune to peruse an attack on Homœopathy, which bore internal evidences of having been written by an opponent endowed with the feelings, principles, and education of a gentleman.* It is a long time, some six years, since, and in the interval many attacks have fallen under my notice, but they have not obliterated, rather perhaps they have deepened by contrast, the remembrance of the pleasure I experienced in following the accomplished author in his endeavour to unfold what he believed to be the truth. His elegant style and classical taste set off to advantage the honesty of his thoughts; and whether he condemned a theory, satirized a doctrine, or laughed at a fancied absurdity, the courtesy of good breeding and the candour of philosophy gave dignity to his rebuke and grace to his merriment. Pleasant, too, was the task of replying to the gentlemanly critic:† there was no gross accusation to repel, no vulgar abuse to condemn, no cunning artifice to expose. To his mind, kindred in intelligence and candour, "Hahnemann was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar;" and it appeared to him "but an act of simple justice to admit, that there exist no grounds for doubting that Hahnemann was as sincere in the belief of the truth of his doctrines as any of the medical systematists who preceded him, and that many, at least, among his followers have been and are sincere, honest, and learned men;" nor, while he believed that "there are charlatans and impostors among the practitioners of Homœopathy," had he any difficulty in

* Article on Homœopathy, by Dr. Forbes, Physician to Prince Albert, &c. British and Foreign Medical Review, 1846.

† Letter to Dr. Forbes, &c. British Journal of Homœopathy, 1846.

adding, "alas, can it be doubted, any more, that there are such, and many such, among the professors of orthodox physic?" His knowledge of men, and his love of truth and justice, forbade him to question the parity of the contending systems in the character and attainments of their respective disciples, and led him nobly to affirm, that "we have no more right to reject the evidence supplied in favour of Homœopathy by its professors, than we have of rejecting any other evidence in favour of any other medical doctrine, theoretical or practical."

The contrast presented by the work of Dr. Simpson, in every particular, literary, moral, and scientific, to the treatise of Dr. Forbes, is so offensive as to have excited general surprise that he should have ventured to publish anything so disgraceful to himself. So common is this feeling, that if I had desired to avoid any further collision with this *President of the College of Physicians*, on the subject he has so unwisely chosen to misrepresent, my silence would have been ascribed to a commendable self-respect. But as the position occupied by the author of the pamphlet in the estimation of a portion of the public, accidental as it is and temporary as it must be, may possibly give some little weight to his assertions in the opinion of some of his readers, I feel it incumbent on me to disabuse them at whatever sacrifice to myself.

It will not be expected that I should notice every little-ness, misstatement, and rudeness in the "Speech," and its appendages; for characteristics of that kind are so interwoven with the whole fabric of the publication, as to give their stamp to every page, and to form almost the sum and substance of the whole work. It may be enough to caution the reader to bear in mind, as he reads it, the story with which I began; and as no quotation bearing on Homœopathy is taken from any work superior to the "Speech" in char-

acter and taste, the same general warning may be given in regard to all the authorities that are adduced : including a Dr. Wood, who has been fully exposed in the "Defence of Hahnemann and Homœopathy;" a Dr. Cormack, who is disposed of in the Postscript of my Letter to the President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society; a Dr. Schubert, of whom no one knows anything, although he must be regarded as suspicious from the company in which he appears; and a Mr. Lee, the accuracy of whose statements will be seen from a little explanation I am about to give of the principal particular among them. In connexion with these same statements, however, I shall first take an opportunity of displaying in a strong light the *candour* of the author who quotes them. Dr. Simpson introduces the extract from "Bradshaw's Guide to the Continent," published in August 1851, in these words,—“The author, Mr. Lee, incidentally makes the following observations regarding the *present state* of Homœopathy in its native country of Germany.” A better illustration of the caution and watchfulness that are needed in order to be disingenuous without detection can hardly be adduced than that which I am about to expose. It is notorious that the last ten or twelve years have been the most momentous in the history of Homœopathy. Previously advancing but slowly and fitfully against the tide of persecution, ridicule, and unbelief, it has, within the period adverted to, made a progress the most remarkable throughout Europe and America. That such has been its fortune in Germany as well as in other Continental countries, the account quoted from Mr. Lee, as shewing, according to Dr. Simpson, the *present state* of Homœopathy, is expressly brought forward to disprove. But, by a fatal oversight, he has quoted, along with the extract, the title and date of a work published at Leipsic “a few months before” Mr. Lee's “*last visit*,” when Homœopathy is said to have been at a low ebb, from which it

appears that the whole passage applies to 1840, with the exception of the first two sentences, which relate to a *first* and earlier visit ! Great things have happened since then, even in Leipsic, and perhaps not the least significant was the inauguration, a few months ago, of a noble statue to Hahnemann, in its most public place, and in the presence of its magistrates and other public functionaries.

Next, in reference to the overwhelming statement of Mr. Lee, that "a few months before my arrival, the house-physician (of the Homœopathic Hospital) having become convinced, during a residence of some time in the dispensary, of the nullity and danger of Homœopathy, gave up his appointment, and published an exposition of the system pursued,* with an account of cases," &c. ; it is well known to Homœopaths, and the fact is singularly instructive, that there never has been but one renegade from their ranks ;† and his history is such as to render his defection as much an honour and advantage to them, as a loss and humiliation to Mr. Lee and his friends. The person in question began his vicious career by publishing false provings of some medicinal substances, a dishonesty which was detected and exposed by Dr. Trinks ; and he next, disgusted probably by the discovery of his crime, seceded from the cause altogether. Whether he ever was house-physician to the hospital I do not know, and it can be of little consequence whether he was or not ; but we certainly find him eventually a house-pupil in a common jail, studying the consequences of *swindling*. The hero of this eventful history is notorious by the name of Karl Wilhelm Fickel. Can he be the person, of the same name, selected by Mr. Lee, as a credible witness against

* " Ueber die Nichtikeit der Homœopathie, 1840."—Lee.

† A Dr. Koff seems alleged to be another renegade, (p. 46.) Is the author sure that this was not Her Fickel again ? He employed more than one designation for himself. At any rate, what are two or three such as he to the hundreds of Physicians who have fled for their lives from Allopathy ?

Homœopathy, and who published in 1840, at Leipsic too, a work entitled “Direkter Beweis von die *Nichtigkeit der Homœopathie* als Heilsystem?” If so, Mr. Lee, Herr Fickel, and Dr. Simpson, deserve the cordial thanks of the Homœopathic world for their respective, and about equally *respectable*, performances in this matter.

Humboldt is said to have felt, on first experiencing the shock of an earthquake, as if all that he had previously regarded as firm, sure, and established in the world, had become unsettled and insecure. A feeling, similar in some degree, naturally rises in the mind when ignoble actions are brought home to men, who, from the situations they occupy, and the reputation they may have previously enjoyed, had been habitually looked up to as creditable to their kind, and as evidences of human worth. “After these things,” one is apt to exclaim in sorrow, “who is to be believed? what man is to be trusted?” Such has been my own experience since these discussions began; and, though I cannot say that the conduct of Dr. Simpson could for a long time past have suggested to me any reflection of the kind I have mentioned, there may be some, dull of apprehension, and therefore shocked for the first time in the course of this controversy, who shall repeat the above sad exclamation on reading what I have next to lay before them.

On the fifth page, in a note, an extract is given from the “Confessions of an Homœopathist,” and *the reader is left to believe, without a word of explanation*, that it contains a *bonâ fide* confession of practices the most dishonest being common among Homœopathic physicians. Whereas the “Confessions” are merely a romance, tale, or novel, written by an enemy of Homœopathy, and so ill written and ill contrived that a reviewer, who would have gladly applauded any tolerable work of the kind, is constrained to say of it,—“We cannot compliment the author. The scenes are far-fetched,

and too grotesque to be truth-like ; and the story is withal tedious. The roguery displayed by the hero of Hahnemannism, is very much of the same stamp and character as that exhibited by the whole herd of miscreants—Homœopathic as well as Non-Homœopathic.* Dr. Simpson knew that the work was fictitious when he quoted it as an authority, in the same note with others, proving, as he wished his readers to believe, and as some of them *have* consequently believed, the guilty practices he charges against Homœopathists !

In the same note “the fate of the Duke di Cannizzaro” is mentioned, on the authority of Mr. Lee, as an instance of death from “Homœopathic globules,” which were in reality “a concentrated preparation of Nux Vomica,” while it was pretended that they were merely infinitesimal doses. I have information from a friend of the deceased Duke, that he died suddenly in Sicily some ten or twelve years ago, and that no rumour existed, at the time, of his death having been caused in the way mentioned by Mr. Lee. We have already seen how lightly that “traveller” takes up a report to the prejudice of Homœopathy ; and it must be obvious to every one that there can be no end to charges of this sort, if every allegation of “interested enemies” is to be thought worthy of publication and belief. Every description of injurious imputation and alleged wickedness may be bandied at will between the contending parties, if proofs are to be regarded as unnecessary. What would be thought of an opponent of Allopathy, who, travelling hurriedly through Edinburgh, should note down for future publication, and without inquiry into their truth, all the reports that reached him to the discredit of the old system and its professors ? What a catalogue of misery, mortality, and “charlatanry,” would he have to detail ! To give a few examples from the current news of the day ; he might assert that Miss P—— died in a

* Ed. Monthly Journal of Medical Science, 1846.

few hours, in consequence of a piece of *potassa fusa* having been thrust into the cavity of the abdomen, or some other fatal place; that Mrs. S—— was destroyed with promptitude, by a cut with the hysterotome; that Mrs. —— had a polypus removed which she never grew; that negligence and a sponge-tent proved rapidly fatal to Mrs. T——. And to vary the entertainment of his readers, our traveller might quote from the “Lancet,” the animadversions of a correspondent on “Obstetric quackery in Edinburgh,” in connexion with Dr. Simpson’s “infernal and impaling” machines, including the “pumping” apparatus, the “hysterotome,” the “poker,” and the “baby-sucker,” to which “dangerous weapons” all manner of mischief, moral and physical, is freely ascribed; or he might report from the “Medical Times” Dr. Lightfoot’s assertion, that one of Dr. Simpson’s most notorious instruments is neither more nor less than M. Velpeau’s, which this gentleman invented nineteen years ago, (as he himself declares,) and which Dr. Simpson introduced to the notice of the profession, without a word in acknowledgment of the Frenchman’s priority. All these rumours, and a hundred more of the same kind, may be, for aught I know, equally false; but still they are in the mouths of the public; and I say again, that the man who would repeat them, without ascertaining the evidences on which they rest, as facts damaging to the character of the common practice, or any of its professors, would be as justly to blame as Dr. Simpson and Mr. Lee are for the gossiping tales they would palm upon the public as facts, without having carefully examined the grounds on which they are based. It is satisfactory, however, to the Homœopathists of this country to reflect, that while their enemies, argus-eyed, are ever on the watch for incidents to be perverted to their disadvantage, the most unscrupulous of all their persecutors has felt himself safe to seek his examples of the baseness he alleges

against them only in Sicily and New York, or at such a distance of time or place, or both, as to render investigation, as he well knows, now impossible.*

I scarcely know how to express myself, in adverting to what is termed "Modern Hahnemannic Theology." If the author meant to insinuate that the "wild statements" he notices under that designation, have the smallest appearance or shadow of encouragement from the writings, the system, or the life of Hahnemann, I am constrained to say, that anything more slanderously untrue was never uttered by man.† I have no hesitation in affirming that in Hahnemann's works—nay, in but three of even his lesser writings—there is more evidence of piety towards God, and of love to man, as well as of sound and beautiful philosophy, than in all the other medical works this age can boast of. And to me it is not matter of surprise that one so venerable for the purity of his life and the dignity of his sentiments, so admirable for the vast reach of his learning and his wisdom, and so pre-eminent in his claims on the gratitude of mankind for his researches in the most important of practical sciences, should have some disciples whose reverence should rise to adulation. The tendencies of men under powerful excitement have been in all ages the same, and those of this age whose temperament inclines them to ecstasy, and whose judg-

* In his second edition Dr. Simpson says, that "Dr. Taylor (of London) found one-third of a grain of morphia in a powder *professedly* homœopathic and infinitesimal." If in that instance (supposing anything of the kind ever occurred) the Physician led his patient to believe that the powder contained an "infinitesimal" dose, he practised a *deception*; if he did *not* lead him to believe so, there was no deception, for he was at liberty to employ such a dose as he thought best. The deception remains to be proved.

† In order to make Hahnemann himself appear to participate in these extravagances, he has actually made the following quotation from his works, "a real SPIRITUALIZATION of the dynamic property" of each drug is produced. The type in which he prints the word "spiritualization," pointing to it in connexion with the theological argument, as signifying that Hahnemann had used the expression in a *religious* sense!

ment affords too scanty a ballast for the force which carries them away, are apt to repeat almost any of the follies of early superstition in respect to the objects of their wonder; and why should that special folly be excepted from repetition, which made Pythagoras a messenger from heaven, and led his followers to regard themselves as equal to the gods; which paid divine honours to Empedocles, and thought Epimenides inspired! This was the folly of the progenitors of the common sect of physicians; and when it is considered that the Mormonites, and thousands of crazy people besides, are disciples of Allopathy, we can account for the absence of a similar folly in our own days, in reference to physicians of their school, only by the circumstance that there is no Allopathic physician great enough for even insanity to revere.

Far be it from me to palliate irreligion, or even the appearance of irreverence to the Most High; but it is no palliation of either to say, that, were Hahnemann, instead of the reverential worshipper he was of that God whom he delighted everywhere to recognise, not merely a wrong-headed zealot, but even a cold and thankless infidel, the most shameful ignorance alone could regard that as an objection to his scientific labours, when the author of the "*Mécanique Céleste*" is understood to have been a sceptic, and D'Alembert had notoriously no faith but in mathematics. If the author of the pamphlet knew these facts, and were at one with all men of sense and education on the subject, how shameful of him to pander to the bigotry of the weak and the ignorant by attempting to introduce religious prejudices into a field peculiar to science! And if he knew, as he must have done, the monstrous injustice of stigmatizing Hahnemann and his system with the smallest tendency to any form of impiety or irreligion, what are we to think of the man who, in contempt of all that is manly

and upright, seeks to gratify his passionate animosity against opponents in a scientific controversy by insinuating imputations which he knew to be as groundless as he meanly wished them to be hurtful?

In dismissing the wretched artifice, I shall add only this, that, even supposing the "sermon" on which he comments to be as objectionable as he represents it to be, the society for whose service it was delivered are no more to be held answerable for the opinions it contains than the Medico-Chirurgical Society is for the "speech" of Dr. Simpson, which the council of that body have since felt to place the Society in so unpleasant a position, that they met for the purpose of taking steps to rid that body of the appearance of sanctioning its publication, as well as that of Mr. Syme.*

See 1st
Edition
p. 12

What remains to be discussed of Dr. Simpson's pamphlet admits of being treated without such personal severity as was unavoidable in exposing a succession of cunning and disgraceful devices. It is with unfeigned satisfaction, therefore, that I turn from the contemplation of these guilty practices to the few arguments, or attempts at argument, on which he has ventured. And if I have expressed an honest indignation at the course he has had the bad taste and the bad faith to pursue in his attack on Homœopathy and its adherents, it was from no fear that conduct so glaringly improper could do any injury to the objects of his malevolence, but from disgust at the means he was

* While the matter was under the consideration of the Council, the conductors of the Journal in which the speeches appeared, in order to quash any further proceedings of the Council, submitted to them an "explanation," which was afterwards published in the January Number, acquitting the Society of all responsibility, and confining it to the authors. Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson are among the conductors of the Journal in question. In my former Edition I stated that the Council had resolved to resign if they did not succeed in their laudable object. On this point I had been misinformed. See Appendix.

capable of using in order to accomplish his design. Detraction, abuse, and all the *matériel* of bigotry, animosity, and ignorance, have ever been to new and great discoveries—what the unclean but fertilizing manure is to the seed cast into the earth; and so far am I from wishing that a sense of decorum or delicacy should restrain the author of the pamphlet, or any one similarly constituted, from being as scurrilous as he pleases, that I cordially exclaim, in the words of the poet, “*Ne saturare fimo pingui pudeat sola,*” although, at the same time, I have myself no desire again to handle such impurities. This was the treatment under which vaccination grew into universal favour, and which welcomed the discovery of the circulation of the blood; and if Hahnemann has had both impiety and infatuation laid to his charge, it is no more than the superior magnitude of his discoveries should have entitled him to expect, since Jenner was accused of thwarting the purposes of Providence, and Harvey was held to have been “crack-brained.” To complete the parallel between a discovery which has long triumphed over opposition, and one that is now accomplishing the same destiny by the same means, if the Professor of General Pathology in the University of Edinburgh has been desired to resign his chair because he believes in the system of Hahnemann, so was Riverius, the celebrated Professor of Medicine in Montpellier, two hundred years ago, because he believed in the doctrine of Harvey!

The first observation in the pamphlet which makes any pretension to the sobriety of an argument, is that which implies that Homœopathy is opposed to *common sense*. This, if it mean anything, is tantamount, from the circumstances of the case, to an assertion that the system in question is opposed to the common sense of those who are not practically acquainted with it; for it is certainly not so to the common sense of those who are. Common sense—the

sensus communis—is the general consciousness of mankind in respect to the subjects of their experience, and when there is no such general consciousness in respect to any subject, there can be no common sense in respect to it; it lies as yet beyond the pale of the *sensus communis*, which has therefore nothing to say either for or against it. Homœopathy is in this very position; for mankind in general have no conscious experience on the subject of medicines given according to the Homœopathic law, and in doses the most suitable for giving effect to their Homœopathic virtues. It is, therefore, only the merest ignorance of the meaning of *common sense* that could make that the court of appeal in the question at issue, in so far as the question relates to the Homœopathic law and doses. Common sense is, however, quite competent to decide on another part of the question—namely, which of two systems of treatment is the best: that which has the greatest number of recoveries, or that which has not; and I leave common sense to give its verdict from the following data:—

Dr. Fleischmann, of the Homœopathic Hospital of Vienna, at various periods has published the results of his treatment of inflammation of the lungs between the years 1834 and 1848—the latter being the last period for which his statistics have reached me. Dr. Reiss, of the Homœopathic Hospital at Lintz, Dr. Schweitzer, of the Homœopathic Hospital at Kremsier, and Dr. Tessier, of the Hospital of “Sainte-Marguerite” of Paris, also have published the statistics of their Homœopathic treatment of the same disease, and the collective results are as follows:—728 cases of inflammation of the lungs, 35 deaths, or one death in 21 cases; less than five per cent. In my letter to Dr. Forbes, I have given an account of the comparative success, in the same disease, of the best hospital physicians, who use Allopathic remedies, in Paris; they furnish 531 cases, of which 81 died, or one

in six and two-thirds, or about fifteen per cent. In the "Introduction to the Study of Homœopathy," (to which and to the Letter to Dr. Forbes the reader is referred for a more detailed discussion of this most important subject,) various Allopathic authorities are referred to as furnishing 909 cases of this disease, with 212 deaths, or 23.32 per cent.; nearly one death in every four cases. In the same work is contrasted the mortality under each system of treatment, in pleurisy and peritonitis, and the same vast superiority of the Homœopathic practice is exhibited—the mortality of the former disease having been in Fleischmann's practice, among 224 cases, only one in 72, and of the latter, among 105 cases, one in 21; while under the ordinary system the mortality was from 8 to 16 times greater. The absence of sufficiently large statistics on the Allopathic side renders these last comparisons less satisfactory than in the instance of inflammation of the lungs; and in regard to other acute inflammations, we have no data whatever from Allopathy to enable us to form an estimate of its inferiority. I may add, however, that besides the diseases mentioned above, Dr. Fleischmann's table for the eight years prior to 1844 shews 181 cases of erysipelas of the face, and only two deaths; 31 cases of inflammation of the membranes of the heart, without a single death; 44 cases of dysentery, and two deaths;—results which are far beyond the reach of any other known method of treatment.*

Dr. Forbes, apparently surprised at the results published in one of Dr. Fleischmann's tables, yet combating the notion that the cases must have been slight which recovered under what are commonly believed inadequate means, observes, "It would be very unreasonable to believe, that out of 300 cases of pneumonia, (inflammation of the lungs,) 224 cases

* Since 1844 the German hospital statistics give us 164 cases of erysipelas, without a death; 84 of peritonitis, with 4 deaths; 75 of pleurisy, with 1 death.

of pleurisy, and 105 of peritonitis, (in all 629 cases,) spread over a period of eight years, *all* the cases, except the fatal cases (27 in number) were slight, and such as would have seemed to us hardly requiring treatment of any kind. In fact, according to all experience, such could not be the case. But, independently of this *a priori* argument, we have sufficient evidence to prove that many of the cases of pneumonia, at least, were severe cases. A few of these cases are reported in detail by Dr. Fleischmann himself, and we have ourselves had the statement corroborated by the private testimony of a physician (not a Homœopath) who attended Dr. Fleischmann's wards for three months."* And he says of Dr. Fleischmann, that he "is a regular, well-educated physician, as capable of forming a true diagnosis as other practitioners, and he is considered by those who know him as a man of honour and respectability, and incapable of attesting a falsehood." Of the whole 728 cases to which I have alluded above, 616 occurred in the hospital of this trustworthy observer. From my own experience in the treatment of inflammation of the lungs, and other acute diseases,† I have not a doubt of the thorough accuracy of the accounts given us by the physicians to whom I have referred. But how do Allopathic physicians get rid of these remarkable statements? Some by denying their truth, (for there are men who will deny anything,) and some,

* Brit. and For. Med. Rev., p. 243, No. 41.

† I have treated Homœopathically throughout 16 cases of pneumonia, with 1 death; 10 cases of croup, without a death; besides a few cases of pericarditis, pleurisy, peritonitis, and many of dysentery, bronchitis, and erysipelas, with only two deaths, one from dysentery in an old man long in bad health, the other from general bronchitis in an infant. In one case only was blood-letting adopted. Of other acute diseases, I have treated Homœopathically 39 of measles, without a death; 45 of whooping-cough, with 1 death; and 36 of scarlet fever, (exclusive of 5 at present convalescent,) with 2 deaths. Among the last two deaths, one is included of a gentleman who, having recovered from the fever, was seized with inflammation of the chest, and was treated during the greater part of that, his last, illness by Dr. Alison.

Dr. Forbes among them, by ascribing all to the bountiful hand of unassisted nature ! If this latter view of the subject be the correct one, then it is obvious that the medical men who believe it to be so should cease from all medical treatment in acute diseases. That it is not, however, the correct view of the matter appears very clearly from the cases published by M. Grisolle. He left eleven *mild* cases of inflammation of the lungs to follow their natural course ;* and we find that the consequences of the disease were not gone in any till the end of the third, and in some not till the end of the fourth week, whereas under the Homœopathic treatment every trace of the disease is usually gone, in severe cases too, in a third of that time,† proving that Homœopathy is not a merely passive system.

What does common sense say now upon the subject ? Is it so *very* plain, as some would have it supposed, that Homœopathy is a nullity ? Making all due allowance for incidental errors in the statistics I have quoted, a large margin is left which no ingenuity can divest us of in favour of our much abused practice. No doubt cures will take place by unassisted nature, and, as little doubt, fancy and folly will suppose cures where there was nothing to cure. These are truths that cut both ways, for the Allopathic Dr. Forbes comes to the following conclusions :—

“ 1st. That in a large proportion of the cases treated by Allopathic physicians the disease is cured by nature, and not by them.

“ 2d. That in a lesser, but still not a small proportion, the

* See Letter to Dr. Forbes.

† See for ample details, “ *Recherches Cliniques*,” par J. P. Tessier. Paris, 1850.

Dr. Simpson would have it believed (p. 26) that it is only *uncomplicated* cases of pneumonia that we cure so successfully. Even in such the proportion of recoveries would be far above what Allopathy can accomplish ; but that his statement is utterly untenable will appear evident to any one who consults Tessier’s work.

disease is cured by nature, *in spite of them*; in other words, their interference opposing, instead of assisting the cure.

“3d. That, consequently, in a considerable proportion of diseases, it would fare as well, or better, with patients, in the actual condition of the medical art, as more generally practised, if all remedies, at least all active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned.”

All that Dr. Simpson has said about the cures effected by nature had therefore been said long before, and said much better than he has succeeded in doing. He gives us the following curious passage on the subject:—“It is *constantly forgotten*, that men labouring under disease, even the most acute, and consequently *much more so* when suffering under slighter ailments, do not, as a general rule, die, even when untreated.” The italics are mine, in order to apprise the reader that it is *much more than constantly forgotten* that men do not, as a general rule, die when untreated, of slighter ailments, as they do when labouring under the most acute. I had thought it to have been constantly remembered that men did die mostly of the most acute diseases, whether treated or untreated, and therefore it was that I adduced the statistics of the most acute diseases in order to shew the difference between one kind of treatment and another. And when these facts are fairly met, and set aside on just and scientific grounds; we shall be ready to appeal to diseases of a slighter or more chronic description in testimony of the superiority of Homœopathy. As the matter stands at present, Allopathy seems to have a much better claim to Great-rakes, Prince Hohenlohe, the “Lee penny,” and the Lama of Tartary, than we can pretend to. And if any one should doubt this, let him read the following commentary on the means which Allopathy employs to gain its ends. The words are those of the Allopathic Dr. Paris of London, a very eminent person. “It is impossible to cast our eyes

over such multiplied groups (of drugs) without being forcibly struck with the palpable absurdity of some, the disgusting and loathsome nature of others, the total want of activity in many, and the uncertain and precarious nature of all, or without feeling an eager curiosity to inquire from the combination of what causes it can have happened, that substances, at one period in the highest esteem, and of generally acknowledged utility, have fallen into total neglect and disrepute; why others, of humble pretensions and little significance, have maintained their ground for so many centuries; and on what account materials of no energy whatever have received the indisputable sanction, and the unqualified support, of the best and wisest practitioners of the age."

To the same effect is the evidence of Dr. Christison, who, in reply to the question why the graduates he addressed had not such precise ideas as were desirable respecting the actions and uses of medicines, says it is "simply on account of the difficulty of Therapeutics," (the Allopathic,) "and because, of all the medical sciences, it" (the Allopathic) "is the most unsettled and unsatisfactory in its present state, and the least advanced in its progress." And a little farther on he says, "As for the theory of Therapeutics,—embracing a generalization of the actions of remedies, an accurate description of each, a just idea of their Therapeutic influences, and a knowledge of the conditions for employing them,—we" (Allopaths) "are little in advance of our predecessors thirty years ago."* And the ever candid Dr. Forbes, adverting to the "lamentable condition of medicine" of the Allopathic sect, remarks, "It is, in truth, a fact of such magnitude, one so palpably evident, that it is impossible for any careful reader of the history of medicine, or any long observer of the processes of disease, not to be aware

* Edinburgh Monthly Journal, September 1851.

of it. What, indeed, is the history of medicine but a history of perpetual changes in the opinions and practice of its professors respecting the very same subjects—the nature and treatment of diseases? And, amid all these changes, often extreme and directly opposed to one another, do we not find these very diseases, the subject of them, remaining (with some exceptions) still the same in their progress and general event? Sometimes, no doubt, we observe changes in the character and event, obviously depending on the change in the treatment; and, alas! as often for the worse as the better,” &c. I shall add nothing of my own to such graphic delineations of the ordinary practice, as given by its friends. From these singular, startling, but eminently trustworthy statements, it must appear plain to common sense, that but a small proportion of the recoveries which take place under Allopathy can be due to the treatment, and many a reader will now perceive for the first time the vast importance of almost the only truth contained in Dr. Simpson’s pamphlet, when he adverts to recoveries not due to physic,—“When reasoning on the efficacy of different medicines and different modes of cure, the mind is constantly liable to fall into the greatest errors, by neglecting this leading truth.” Homœopaths fully admit the great curative powers of unthwarted nature, and are happy to reflect that the existence of such powers gives their patients a double chance of recovery; for should the Homœopathic physician fail at first to select for his patient the remedy suitable for his case, that which he may have erroneously prescribed cannot do harm, as Allopathic remedies in similar circumstances (and how often do they occur!) must do, because he always administers medicines in such doses as can operate only curatively, and on the sensitive organs alone that are diseased, when they operate at all.

Dr. Simpson adduces the authority of a Dr. Schubert for

affirming that Hahnemann regarded nature alone as the great agent in curing diseases; but it is evident from the extract given in the pamphlet, at p. 19, from Dr. Schubert's evidence, that the latter had placed a forced and false construction on Hahnemann's language. "I have heard him declare," says Dr. Schubert, "that he looked with contempt upon medical practice, and he thought that a patient would be none the worse if left to himself." I firmly believe that such were Hahnemann's genuine sentiments, for I have read much, to the same effect, in his works. But of what kind of medical practice, and of what patients, was he speaking when he uttered such opinions?—*that* is the question; and of course the answer is—Allopathic practice and Allopathic patients. We know, too, from his books, without Dr. Schubert's testimony, that he gave medicines seldom, and was firm and absolute in his dealings with his patients, affording in this particular a dignified contrast to physicians in general. But he conceived nature, unaided by remedies, to be capable of doing so little for the cure of disease, that such mistakes as he may have committed in drawing inferences from his practice will, I apprehend, be found to have resulted from his having attached too little value to the powers of nature instead of too much. Dr. Schubert's accusation is most remarkably at variance with the whole tenor of Hahnemann's philosophy of disease, as the reader may satisfy himself by perusing his fine treatise on the *Medicine of Experience*.* Dr. Forbes, indeed, holds him up to ridicule for maintaining that chronic diseases are never cured spontaneously at all; but in doing so he somewhat mistakes, and rather overstates, the actual doctrine of Hahnemann in regard to such diseases.

Having adverted to the statistical evidence in favour of Homœopathy; and now reminding the reader that there are thou-

* Hahnemann's Lesser Writings, by Dr. Dudgeon.

sands of medical men in the world who practise Homœopathy with remarkable success, a very large proportion of whom had the advantage of a previous experimental knowledge of the old system, and deliberately forsook it, after inquiry, in favour of the new, I might dispense with the discussion of the reasonableness of minute doses, for the chief evidence of their reasonableness is to be found in their effects. To experiment, to practice, we constantly appeal; and we as constantly add, that no medical man has ever yet tested for himself the Homœopathic remedies, according to Homœopathic rules, without having become satisfied of the truth of the system!*

This, of itself, is testimony of the highest order, and ought to be conclusive, for it is not by dialectic disquisitions on the properties of untried substances that any question in any natural science is determined, but by putting them to the proof. Difficulties, however, having been felt by inquirers, who do not give due weight to such truths as I have now stated respecting the doctrine of "infinitesimal" doses, usually associated with the idea of Homœopathy, I must devote some little space to the question of dose. In the first place, then, "infinitesimal" doses form no necessary, and did not form an original, part of the system. Dr. Forbes, the only candid and intelligent opponent Homœopathy has ever had, in so far as I know, admits the truth of my statement, while others, for reasons best known to themselves, keep the fact carefully out of view, or expressly deny it. His words are: "It would appear that the doctrine of *infinitesimal doses* constituted no original or necessary part of the general doctrine of Homœo-

* The celebrated M. Andral tried the *remedies*, but not the *rules*. See *Intro.* to Homœopathy. Dr. Simpson says, that in Russia, and somewhere else, other trials have been made which issued unfavourably to Homœopathy. Is he sure that they were not conducted as foolishly as Andral's? Russia, however, can boast of not a few physicians who have tried the system and become satisfied of its truth.

pathy." He who is satisfied with the Homœopathic principle—*similia similibus curantur*—is therefore at liberty to employ any dose he finds to answer the best, and he still, however large his doses, remains a consistent Homœopathist. He will not practise long, however, without discovering that he must lessen his doses very materially below those of the ordinary practitioner, if he wish to avoid producing, now and then, very serious consequences. It was to avoid such evils—aggravations they are called—that Hahnemann gradually diminished the dose more and more, in order that he might at length reach a degree of attenuation which should cure, without the risk of distressing even the most sensitive. My own firm opinion is, that in his eagerness to get beyond the possibility of doing injury to any one in any form of disease, he overstepped the limits of attenuation that are the most suitable for the speedy and effectual cure of the majority of the sick;—that, indeed, in order to avoid offending the extreme sensitiveness of the few, he has sometimes decreased his doses so much as to have got out of reach of the sensitiveness of the many. Holding these opinions, which I do after long and careful investigation, I cannot but rejoice that Homœopathic Practitioners are gradually descending to the lower dilutions of the medicines, and generally reserve the higher for cases of unusual susceptibility to medicinal action. And I have peculiar pleasure in stating, that the apparently unanswerable objection of Dr. Simpson to Homœopathy and its doses, namely, that "Dr. Grosse and his followers use, however, the 200th, 400th, or even 900th dilution," turns, upon examination, to be singularly favourable to my views. The fact is, Dr. Grosse and his followers never had a 200th, a 400th, or a 900th *dilution* to use. These high *potencies*, as they are termed, were manufactured secretly by a German chemist, Jenichen, now dead; who, by adopting a meaning for the

word *potency*, different from that of Hahnemann, and preparing his medicines in a different way, produced a series of potencies (as he called them) as high, I believe, as the 2000th, but which were almost all a great deal stronger, in point of fact, than the *dilutions* of Hahnemann, that are termed only the 20th, 12th, or, for aught we know, the 3d! Jenichen's potencies were found more successful, not because they were *more* diluted than Hahnemann's, but because they were *less* so; and those physicians who used to employ them because they were so *high*, are now bound to give them the preference because they have been discovered to be in reality so *low*; or they should use the lower potencies of Hahnemann to which they corresponded. If it be said, that though the extravagances ascribed to Dr. Grosse, and the arguments against Homœopathy derived from them, have been easily disposed of, still a very extraordinary tenuity of dose remains to be defended in Hahnemann's scale of dilutions; I grant the extraordinary nature of the case as freely as any one can desire, but yet maintain the fact that the lower dilutions—the 1st, 2d, and 3d, especially—have been proved to cure the most acute and dangerous inflammations in a far larger proportion, and much more speedily, than any other means yet known, and that the higher have been found to exercise an unquestionably curative effect, apart from all possible sources of fallacy, on multitudes of human beings of all ages, and that even the highest have had some persons, in the experience of hundreds of physicians, who have been sensible of their powers. If any man doubt, let him try. Nature is full of examples that might be adduced to prove the reasonableness of even an *a priori* belief that "infinitesimal doses" would be not inoperative on persons whose sensitiveness to the action of medicines was heightened by disease. For a full and beautiful disquisition on the whole of this

question, I refer the reader to Dr. Samuel Brown's essay in the Introduction to the Study of Homœopathy—an essay which will refresh and delight those who are wearied and disgusted with the small philosophy of Allopathic argumentation. I can do no more at present than merely touch on the chief points of the subject.

Every well-educated medical man knows that some persons possess what are termed *idiosyncrasies*, or peculiarities of constitution; which render them liable to be more or less seriously affected by substances, or quantities of substances, which have little or no sensible effect, or no bad effect, on other men. Thus, Dr. Prout tells us of one on whom mutton, in any form or quantity, acted as a virulent poison. Erasmus, again, could not taste fish without being thrown into fever. Scaliger was seized with convulsions at the sight of cresses. A French secretary, Johannes de Querito, is reported to have fallen a bleeding if an apple were held near him. Orfila mentions of a woman, that she could not be in a place where decoction of linseed was being made without swelling of the face, followed by fainting; and examples are far from uncommon of persons who are incommoded, in one way or other, by the odours of flowers, which are agreeable to the great majority of human beings,—a well-known instance of which is the case of Cardinal Haüy de Carbonne, who swooned at the smell of a rose. Now, a person in disease has an idiosyncrasy or peculiarity of constitution, for the time, either of the body generally, or some part of it, and is sensible to influences which have no action, or no action of the same kind or intensity, on a person in health. Thus, the eyes, when inflamed, are painfully affected by a very moderate light; the ears, in certain states of disease, are acutely sensitive to ordinary sounds; the skin, when inflamed, is pained by inconsiderable heat or pressure; and similar instances of morbid

sensibility to the most common, and, to healthy persons, most innocuous impressions, abound. Homœopathists maintain it to be the result of their experience, that diseased parts are sensitive to still more delicate influences, when these are of a kind that have in each case a special and peculiar fitness to act medicinally upon the affected organ in accordance with the Homœopathic law—that is, when the diseased condition is one which closely resembles that which the specific medicine, taken in considerable quantity, is capable of exciting in healthy persons. There is *then* a special relation between the disease and the medicine which is Homœopathic to it—the part affected coming to possess an idiosyncrasy, or peculiarity of constitution, for the time, that renders it susceptible of an influence from a quantity of such medicine, which, in a healthy state, would fail to affect it at all. The most striking illustration of all this, from among the facts known to most medical men, is the following:—while druggists in general feel no inconvenience from handling ipecacuan, there are some, subject to spasmodic asthma, whose organs of respiration possess an idiosyncrasy at all times in relation to that drug, so that they cannot weigh it out to their customers, or even remain in the room with the bottle of ipecacuan unstopped, without experiencing some symptoms of their habitual disorder. Now, ipecacuan is one of our chief Homœopathic remedies for spasmodic asthma, and since it is capable of exciting the disease in such minute quantities as are present in the air of a room, in the instances I have mentioned, common sense must perceive, that, according to all analogy, still more minute, or “infinitesimal” quantities, must be selected as the doses that should be administered during an attack of asthma from ordinary causes, in order to produce the curative without the aggravating or injurious action of the medicine; just as we know, although the instance is

not perfectly apposite, that a scalded part of the skin cannot bear the application of water at a temperature nearly so high as it would have borne previously to the injury. It is, indeed, experience alone that can determine the degree to which medicines must be attenuated in order to produce only their beneficial effects when given Homœopathically; but, apart from such experience, there are facts known to scientific men which ought to prevent those who aspire to that honourable designation, from ridiculing "infinitesimal doses" as things incapable of having any effect even in circumstances the most favourable to their action. In the words of Dr. Samuel Brown, "Illustrations of the manifestations of great forces by little bodies, drawn from the region of pure physics, as distinguished from the study of animated objects, might disabuse of this vulgarity; and it would be worth while to marshal an array of them before contemptuous objectors, to confound their inbred prejudices. Davy, fearlessly following the principle of electrical induction by contact, discovered that half a dozen square feet of the copper sheathing of the British fleet are rendered electro-negative—(that is, the polarities of all the innumerable particles which make up that extent of surface are reversed)—by a zinc nail driven through the centre of the space, and are thereby protected from the corrosive action of the sea, with its stores of oxygen, chlorine, and iodine, everywhere ready to be let loose upon metallic substances. Nay, Sir John Herschel finds that the relation to electricity of a mass of mercury is such that it may be reversed by the admixture of an almost infinitesimal proportion of a body, such as potassium, in an opposite electrical condition: and with such electrical conditions are all chemical actions whatsoever inseparably connected; while every one is aware that physiological phenomena are complicated with chemical changes, as well

as chemical disturbances with mechanical alterations. So impressed is Herschel with this class of observations as to observe, 'That such minute proportions of extraneous matter should be found capable of communicating sensible mechanical motions and properties, of a definite character, to the body they are mixed with, is perhaps one of the most extraordinary facts that has appeared in chemistry.'" Again, "Dr. Daubeny having, in a memoir read before the Royal Society, in 1830, on the Saline and Purgative Springs of Great Britain, expressed his doubt of the possibility of any medical action being exercised by so insignificant a quantity as one grain of iodine shed through ten gallons of water, (the *largest* proportion he had ever found,) felt himself constrained to announce, in 1831, that the considerations above stated, 'now induce him to attach more importance to the circumstance of its presence; for it is just as possible, *a priori*, that this quantity of iodine should infuse new properties into the salts which accompany it, and cause them to act in a different manner upon the system, as that *less than a millionth* part of potassium should create so entire a change in the relations of a mass of mercury to electricity.'" Finally, on this subject of the "power of littles," physicians have lately been so impressed with the notion that "infinitesimal doses" of miasms, and other morbid agents, in the atmosphere or water, must be the causes of epidemic diseases, that even so great a scourge as malignant cholera has had its origin ascribed to microscopic animalcules or fungi; and minute quantities of magnesia in the water of some countries have been supposed, on what appear good grounds, to produce the goitre and cretinism that are endemic among their inhabitants; and Mr. Herapath lately discovered the cause of symptoms of lead poisoning among the occupants of a village in the west of England, to have been so small a proportion of carbonate of lead, in the water they used, as one

part to half a million of the fluid,—the lead having been introduced into the river, that traversed the village, from a mine, opened some time previously, at a distance of three or four miles.

As to the Homœopathic law itself expressed in the formula, *similia similibus curantur*—like cures like—there is no question, among intelligent physicians of every school, that it is in truth a law of nature.* It is a law, too, which Hahnemann does not even claim the credit of having discovered, for he quotes the following passage from Stahl, who flourished more than a hundred years ago: “The rule admitted in medicine, to treat diseases by remedies contrary or opposite to the effects which they produce, is completely false and absurd. I am persuaded, on the contrary, that diseases yield to agents which produce a similar disorder, (*similia similibus*.)” Nor is it a doctrine peculiar to professed Homœopaths that in order to produce the best effects from remedies given in accordance with that law, they should be given in much smaller doses than usual. Jörg is held to be a great authority among Allopaths on the action of drugs, and he makes the following remarkable admissions: “Medicines operate most powerfully upon the sick when the symptoms correspond with those of the disease. A very small quantity of medicinal arnica will produce a violent effect upon persons who have an irritable state of the œsophagus and stomach. Mercurial preparations have, in very small doses, given rise to pains and loose stools when administered in an inflammatory state of the intestines. . . . Yet why should I occupy time in adducing more examples of a similar operation of medicines, since it is in the very nature of the thing that a medicine must produce a greater effect when it is applied to a body already suffer-

* See remarks on this law, in reply to Dr. Simpson's objections, at p. 44, *et seq.*

ing under an affection similar to that which the medicine itself is capable of producing."

Dr. Simpson endeavours to be merry at the expense of the psoric, or itch-doctrine; ignorant, apparently, that it is no new doctrine, and that it has had some able advocates who have no other agreement with Hahnemann. The following passages on the subject are from my Letter to Dr. Forbes, and have not yet been answered:—

"The psoric theory, or rather hypothesis of Hahnemann, is, perhaps, the most unfortunate of his speculations. Not, indeed, on account of anything essentially unphilosophical in either its pathological or practical bearings; but because of the peculiar light in which the disease from which it takes its name is regarded, at least in this country. And as I, like yourself, am an undeniable Caledonian, I am not less sensible than you are, that there is something of the ludicrous about it. But if we lay aside our national feelings on the subject, and look at it in sober seriousness, we must admit, I think, that it may bear a construction discreditable neither to the pathological acuteness of its author, nor to his practical sagacity. It amounts essentially to this, that the majority of chronic ailments are due to a constitutional taint, which betrays itself by a variety of symptoms and sensible effects in different persons, or in the same person at different times; and that, in order radically and effectually to cure those chronic disorders, it is not enough that the physician should direct his treatment against them individually or collectively, but that he should also have regard to the state of the constitution from which they spring. There is nothing new in all this. Every one knows that in one form or another, the doctrine is applicable to a multitude of troublesome and dangerous disorders. Scrofula, gout, syphilis, rheumatism, are each held to be constitutional affections, and any one of them may persist for

years, or for a lifetime, sometimes latent, or lulled into inaction, sometimes betraying itself by more or less considerable disorders of one kind or another. In the treatment of these occasional outbreaks of disease, the prudent physician does not always content himself with seeing them disappear, but follows up his treatment of them by means that are supposed capable of improving the condition of the system, of modifying or subduing the constitutional evil.

“Had Hahnemann admitted psora to rank but as one among many constitutional taints that might from time to time discover itself by various local symptoms, I do not know that any one would be prepared to convict him of error. Nay, it is certain that his opinion would be strengthened by the concurrence of more than one respectable authority. For it is not a doctrine peculiar to Hahnemann, that the disappearance of the psoric eruption from the skin, gives occasion to other evils of a more serious kind. One of his opinions is, that the mischief to the constitution is less when the eruption is abundant on the surface; and it is at least some excuse for his notions on the subject, that when the persons affected with the disease are enfeebled by chronic ailments, of one kind or another, the eruption is much less considerable than in the vigorous and robust, as Bielt justly observes. He may be wrong in having supposed that the chronic disorders of such persons are due to the ‘miasm’ of psora being thrown in upon the system; but the two facts, first, that the eruption is abundant when it affects the robust; and second, that it is scanty in the feeble and otherwise unhealthy, form as good grounds for his particular view of the matter, as many of our common pathological opinions regarding cause and effect can boast of. And when it is further considered that such a man as Pringle, not to mention earlier writers, avers that the psoric eruption is sometimes critical, or appears on the surface just when some

serious internal maladies have ceased, and apparently in a pathological connexion with their cessation, we see some additional reason for regarding the doctrine of Hahnemann on this subject with leniency.

“ I confess I have not given the subject so much consideration as to justify me in giving an opinion on the question, Whether psora is ever the cause of a constitutional taint, which may appear in the form of chronic maladies of various characters? And I hesitate all the more to give an opinion regarding it, that the question is answered in the affirmative by men who are held, even in our day, as no contemptible authorities in medicine. For example, Autenrieth advocates the doctrine in the following remarkable terms, and at great length in the same strain :—

“ ‘ The most formidable, and, in our country, the most frequent source of the chronic diseases of the adult, are the psoric eruptions badly treated by sulphur ointment, or generally by other active greasy applications. I have so often seen here the misery which by psora occurs to the lower classes, and to those who have a sedentary occupation, and I see it daily in such a manifold melancholy aspect, that I do not hesitate a moment to declare it loudly as a subject worthy of the observation of every physician, and even of every magistrate, who lay to heart the health of those committed to their care.’

“ I may notice that pulmonary consumption is one of the diseases he traces to this cause. Again Schönlein, the present Professor of Pathology and Therapeutics in the University of Berlin, in his Clinical Lectures for the year 1840, is reported to have expressed himself to the following effect—(The case under observation was one of organic disease of the heart, with dropsy) :—

“ ‘ What is the cause of this affection? On looking backwards we find no other complaint than the itch. Latterly, the admission of sequelæ of the itch, that old medical dogma, is not only become dubious, but has been abandoned and turned into ridicule.

Among the older physicians, we particularly notice Autenrieth, who wrote a masterly treatise on this subject, so that it was remarkably impudent in Hahnemann to pretend that he was the first to point out the sequelæ of the itch.* I must confess that, according to my own observations, and to those of many other physicians who deserve the fullest confidence, I have no doubt whatever about the existence of sequelæ of the itch.'

"And then he goes on to give reasons for his opinion, and the grounds on which he presumes that the chronic disease under consideration took its rise from the itch, which had existed nine years before."

The concluding observations of Dr. Simpson are occupied with ridicule of what appears a fair enough subject for a passing jest; but in his hands attempted wit degenerates into coarseness and irreverence. To one unaccustomed to scientific studies, it may appear absurd and incredible that insects, such as the *Pediculus capitis* and *Acarus scabiei*, can possibly possess remedial powers. I confess my entire ignorance of their virtues, if they have any; but with the knowledge that there are very many insects in the world, besides the blistering beetle, which are endowed with acrid and poisonous properties, and that one of the two mentioned by Dr. Simpson is reported by so good an authority as Dr. Adams, an Allopathic physician, to have produced inflammation of the skin and fever in a person who had submitted his hand to its operations, I am not in circumstances to question the possibility, or even the probability, of these animals, like others, being possessed of some principle capable of sensibly affecting persons subjected to their influence. And if this admission be regarded as disparaging to myself, or the system which I practise, I shall have a more than compensating satisfaction in reflecting, that to truly scientific men, any more than to the Author of all science

* Hahnemann did not do so. He claims the credit only of having traced almost all chronic diseases to the itch, which is more than others had done.

and wisdom, there is no living thing in nature "common or unclean;" and that the opinions of the vulgar are not to be put into competition with the following sage remarks of Bacon:—"But for unpolite, or even sordid particulars, which, as Pliny observes, require an apology for being mentioned, even these ought to be received into a natural history, no less than the most rich and delicate; for natural history is not defiled by them, any more than the sun, by shining alike upon the palace and the sty. And we do not endeavour to build a capital, or erect a pyramid, to the glory of mankind; but to found a temple, in imitation of the world, and consecrate it to the human understanding: so that we must frame our model accordingly. For whatever is worthy of existence is worthy of our knowledge, which is the image of existence: but ignoble things exist as well as noble. Nay, as some excrementitious matters, for example, musk, civet, &c., sometimes produce excellent odours; so sordid instances sometimes afford light and information. But enough of this, as such delicacy is perfectly childish and effeminate."

At the same time, I am far from admitting that Dr. Simpson's insects have been proved to be so valuable as the author he refers to asserts them to be. Dr. Mure may possibly be a Herr Fickel in disguise; for a versatile personage of that name has found it convenient, owing to the particular nature of his pursuits, to have several designations, that which he has once worn soon acquiring a kind of notoriety with which he finds it difficult to prosper.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC LAW, SIMILIA SIMILIBUS CURANTUR.

IN the second edition of his pamphlet Dr. Simpson attacks the Homœopathic Law itself, and thus endeavours to strike at the root of the whole system. The attempt is, at least, bold, and if we cannot successfully defend that fundamental part of the doctrine of Hahnemann from the assault of Dr. Simpson, and of every other opponent who may choose to enter the lists against us, I, for one, shall not scruple to follow the example of Herr Fickel, in one of his evolutions at least, and publish my recantation without reserve. After all, however, the present attack is not so much upon the Homœopathic law as *a* law of Therapeutics, as against its supposed claim to be regarded as the *universal* and *only* law; for the author, while he disputes that claim, thinks it only "*doubtful* if it is *one* of the *general* laws of Therapeutics." He has, however, advanced no argument, or fact, that affords the smallest evidence of the reasonableness of his doubt regarding the *generality* of the law; and the four "*instances*" which form the groundwork of his contest with it bear only upon the question of its being the *universal* and *only* law of Therapeutics. In attacking such a proposition as this he has thrown away his time, for I maintain that no one, not even Hahnemann, ever asserted, in the unqualified sense represented by Dr. Simpson, that no benefit can accrue

from the employment of drugs, unless they be administered according to the Homœopathic law. In the following passages Hahnemann admits that other than Homœopathic remedies are *sometimes* of service, "In far the greatest number of cases of disease, however, I mean those of a chronic nature, these stormy, debilitating, indirect modes of treatment of the old school, are *scarcely* ever of the slightest use."—*Intr. to Organon*, p. 32. In another work, referring to emetics and purgatives, he observes, "When substances of a completely indigestible, or foreign and very poisonous nature, oppress the stomach and bowels," "it is permitted in some few cases to effect their expulsion by such evacuant medicines."—*Lesser Writings*, p. 530. And in another, still, of his works, he observes, "In the most urgent cases, where danger to life and imminent death allow no time for the action of a Homœopathic remedy—not hours, sometimes not even quarter-hours, and scarcely minutes—in sudden accidents occurring to previously healthy individuals, for example, in asphyxia and suspended animation from lightning, from suffocation, freezing, drowning, &c.—it is admissible and judicious as a preliminary measure, to stimulate the irritability and sensibility (the physical life) with a palliative, as for instance, with mild electric shocks, with *enemata* of strong coffee, with a stimulating odour, gradual application of heat, &c. . . . To this category belong various antidotes to sudden poisonings: alkalies for mineral acids, hepar sulphuris for metallic poisons, coffee and camphor, and ipecacuanha, for poisoning by opium," &c. Again, "In the ordinary school of medicine, the efforts made by nature for the relief of the organism in diseases where no medicine was given, were regarded as models of treatment worthy of imitation. But this was a great error. . . . These self-aiding operations of the vital force for the removal of an acute disease, performed only in obedience to the laws of

organic life, and not guided by the reflexion of an intellect, are at the most but a species of allopathy ;" the "vomitings, purgings, diuresis, diaphoresis, abscesses, &c.," constituting "a sort of derivation from the primarily diseased parts," which he admits to lead sometimes to "spontaneous cures," but which at the same time he affirms, to display to the observer "nothing that he could or ought to imitate if he wishes to cure disease in a truly artistic manner."—*Intr. to Organ.*, pp. 27-29. Besides, many examples occur throughout his works, in which Hahnemann notices the recoveries effected by other than Homœopathic methods, as "circuitous" and "indirect," and therefore unworthy of "the honourable name of *cure*," which is a term he restricts to recoveries under the Homœopathic treatment, as the "only proper one, because, of the three possible modes of applying medicines in diseases, it is the only *direct* way to a mild, sure, permanent cure, without injury to another part, and without weakening the patient."—*Organ.*, p. 156. The circuitous and indirect treatment, he condemns as too commonly injurious in many more particulars than it is beneficial, and as, at the best, or when not positively injurious, seldom more than palliative, that is, productive of temporary relief only. He does not overlook the fact that even acute diseases may *recover* under the indirect treatment, as the following passage very plainly testifies,—"The disease, if it be acute, and consequently naturally but of short duration, may certainly disappear, even during those heterogeneous attacks on distant and dissimilar parts—but *cured* it was not. There is nothing that can merit the honourable name of *cure* in this revolutionary treatment, which has no direct, immediate, pathological relation to the tissues primarily affected. Often, indeed, without these serious attacks on the rest of the organism, would the acute disease have ceased of itself, sooner most likely, with fewer secondary sufferings,

and less sacrifice of strength. But neither the mode of operation of the crude natural forces, nor the Allopathic copy of that can for a moment be compared to the dynamic (Homœopathic) treatment, which sustains the strength, while it extinguishes the disease in a direct and rapid manner."—*Organ.*, p. 32.

These extracts from the writings of Hahnemann amply justify me in saying, that he employed the terms "universal," "infallible," "unerring," and "great sole" Therapeutic law, to Homœopathy, not with the purpose of asserting that there was no other Therapeutic principle whatever, or that was in any case capable of benefiting the sick, but that there was no other law in medicine that pointed to the means of *curing* diseases *directly*, by operating *immediately*, and in a *purely remedial* manner, on the individual tissues or organs that were diseased, and on them only. His law is *infallible* in the sense that it *cannot fail*, if all the conditions necessary for its action be scrupulously sought out and complied with ; it is *universal* in the sense in which any other law in a science of observation and induction is universal, that it is found to have no exceptions in so far as experience of it has gone, in compliance with the conditions which are held to be necessary for its success ; it is the "sole" Therapeutic law, in the sense of being the only known direct, immediate, and purely remedial law for the extinguishing of *diseased action*. In order that it may deserve all these designations it is not necessary that it should enable us to cure all diseases, nor does Hahnemann maintain that it does so. He admits that some diseases are incurable, as in this passage, "There is in the interior of man nothing morbid that is *curable*, . . . which does not make itself known, &c."—*Organ.*, p. 117 ; and he professes, by an implication which all candid medical men will readily understand, to furnish by his Homœopathic law a rule of curative treatment for dis-

eases which are not organic and incurable, as when he says, "all medicines cure those diseases whose symptoms most nearly resemble their own," which excludes, at least as yet, organic diseases in general, or all of them, excepting the simpler and more elementary forms, which latter *may* be produced in the *provings* of medicines on previously healthy persons, and may thus become in some sense *symptoms* (because *effects*) of particular drugs. At the same time, it must be freely admitted, that Hahnemann adverts with too much reserve to incurable organic diseases, whether in consequence of the little progress of morbid anatomy at the time his works were composed, or from a lurking hope that even serious organic diseases might be eventually combated with some measure of success, when the system he launched into the world should, in the course of ages, have reached the highest development of which it was capable.

The preceding observations are, I conceive, quite an adequate and satisfactory reply to all that Dr. Simpson has said in condemnation of Hahnemann's high estimate of his Therapeutic law. But if it were not possible to explain Hahnemann's opinions on that point, in a way calculated to justify the language he employs, that impossibility could be of no real consequence to the Homœopathic system. It would be enough, in vindication of its claims, if we, who are the followers of Hahnemann, could only prove his law to be a *general* one. We might meet the opponent who should taunt us with the indefensible assertions of our master, with the remark of Thomas Reid, that "it is natural, and almost unavoidable, to one who hath made an important discovery in philosophy, to carry it a little beyond its sphere, and to apply it to the resolution of phenomena which do not fall within its province." And in reference to all the opinions and doctrines of Hahnemann, it can scarcely be necessary for me to say more than this, that we embrace or reject

them only after inquiry, when our own judgment and experience appear to qualify and entitle us to form an opinion concerning them ; neither slavishly acquiescing in his maxims when they appear to us erroneous, nor afraid to avow our conviction of their truth when they harmonise with the conclusions of our understanding and the evidence of our senses. We do not recognise in Hahnemann an infallible teacher, though we revere him for his matchless sagacity, and wonder at his patience under trials, his perseverance amidst difficulties, and his courage among dangers,* at the vast amount of his labours, at his diligence, and his erudition. To the four instances on which Dr. Simpson has lighted, and which he has adopted as the media of his attack on the Homœopathic law, I have no disposition to object ; and if I shall succeed in shewing that his reasonings, allegations, and conclusions in connexion with them, are all absolutely and alike fallacious, I shall be entitled to claim the palm for Homœopathy ; for although he professes to have fixed on them almost by accident, it will not be doubted that he would have selected others if he only knew any that were more to the purpose.

First Instance.—Cure of Ague by Quinine, or Cinchona bark.—In reference to the relation between Cinchona (Peruvian bark) and the discovery of the Homœopathic law, Dr. Simpson commits the same mistake as others had done before him, of asserting that its alleged production of symptoms of ague, (for the cure of which disease it is the ordinary remedy,) constitutes the *foundation* of the Homœopathic doctrine. This error he appears plainly to patronise by quoting with approbation these expressions of a Dr. Balfour in reference to the subject, “ What are we to think of a sys-

* His person is said to have been at one time in danger from the fury of the Apothecaries.

tem whose very foundation-stone is so unstable?" The error is inexcusable because it has been fully exposed on many occasions. What would be thought of the opponent of Newton's discovery of the law of gravitation, or mutual attraction among the heavenly bodies, who should object to it that it was *based* on the accidental witnessing, by the great philosopher, of an apple falling to the ground? yet the relation between the observed effects of cinchona by Hahnemann, and its curative virtues, bears no more important part, in the discovery or the proof of the Homœopathic law, than did the fall of the apple in the discovery or the proof of the universal law of gravitation. To Hahnemann the symptoms he experienced in his own person from large doses of cinchona, *suggested* the notion of Homœopathicity between drugs and the diseases they specifically cured, as the *reason* of their curative effects. Even if the instance which was the occasion of that notion were fallacious, that circumstance would be of no consequence whatever to the Homœopathic doctrine; the remedial virtues of cinchona would then stand merely as an exception to the law, or as an instance of the operation of some other law. In regard to Homœopathy we should, in either event, be entitled to say that cinchona, when tested by Hahnemann, suggested the Homœopathic law; while the provings, and employment in disease, of hundreds of other remedies would still remain as incontestable evidences of the reality of a Homœopathic law of cure.

But are these "so-called provings," and the curative use of cinchona, actually exceptions to Homœopathy? Most assuredly they are not. Dr. Simpson falls again into gross error on both of these points. He assumes that cinchona, and, by implication, that every other alleged Homœopathic remedy, when taken in considerable quantities, ought invariably to produce symptoms, or diseases, similar to those which they cure, if Homœopathy be true. Hahnemann ex-

pressly denies this. He knew, from a vast amount of experiment, that the susceptibility of human beings to suffer the pathogenetic, or, in ordinary language, the poisonous effects of medicines, differed so as to present "a vast variety on this point," while still the production of such effects in *some* he thought should be regarded as enough to shew, that the *human constitution* was liable to be so affected by such medicines, and that consequently, (in accordance with the Homœopathic law,) those medicines would cure such diseases, (when they arose from any other causes,) because in disease susceptibility to the action of medicines was very greatly increased, if the disease and the medicines held the Homœopathic relation to one another. His words are, "all the symptoms peculiar to a medicine, do not appear in one person,"—*Organon*, p. 221; and "although, as has been said, a medicine, on being proved on healthy subjects, cannot develop in one person all the alterations of health it is capable of causing, but can only do this when given to many different individuals, varying in their corporeal and mental constitution, yet the disposition (tendency) to excite all these symptoms in every human being, exists in it, according to an eternal and immutable law of nature, agreeably to which all its actions, even those that are but rarely developed in the healthy person, are brought into operation in the case of every individual, if administered to him when he is in a morbid state presenting similar symptoms; it then, even in the smallest dose, if Homœopathically selected, silently produces in the patient an artificial state closely resembling the natural disease, which rapidly and permanently (homœopathically) frees and cures him of his original malady."—*Org.*, p. 222. All this is not in the least degree contradicted by the quotation partially given by Dr. Simpson from the same work, in which Hahnemann says, that "every real medicine acts at *all* times, and under *all* circumstances, on

every living human being, and produces in him the symptoms peculiar to it, (directly perceptible if the dose be *large* enough,) so that, evidently, every living human organism is liable to be affected, and, as it were, inoculated with the medicinal disease at any time, and absolutely, (*unconditionally*;) which, as before said, is by no means the case with the natural diseases."—*Org.*, p. 132. By omitting the last clause in quoting this passage, Dr. Simpson has left what precedes it open to an unfair construction, he has, in fact, concealed the key to the meaning of the whole of what he did quote. Hahnemann, with his wonted sagacity, was contrasting the certainty and uniformity with which medicines will produce their peculiar effects on human beings, with the uncertainty and want of uniformity in the noxious agents of disease in *their* power to affect us, so that while the former will act upon us at all times if we take enough of them, the latter "do not produce disease in every one, nor at all times," however free his exposure to them may be. He obviously never means to say that medicines will produce *all* their peculiar effects at *all* times, and under *all* circumstances, but simply *some* peculiar effects, and that *that* is more than the causes of natural disease can do.

That cinchona *does* produce symptoms of fever in man (though not in all) when taken largely in health, is attested by the experience of some dozen of persons on whom Hahnemann proved the drug; producing some symptoms in one or two, some in others. Nor is the fact doubted by even Allopathic physicians of eminence, imperfect as their acquaintance is with the action of medicines on healthy persons. In his work on *Materia Medica* Dr. Pereira says of cinchona, that by large doses "a febrile state is set up, (manifested by the excitement of the vascular system and dry tongue,)" (p. 1404;) and Guersant observes of sulphate of quinine, a preparation of its chief Therapeutic principle, that it "excites a true

febrile movement of more or less duration ;” and of the bark itself he says, “ the reaction which it manifests many hours after its reception is, in general, much more marked (than of the sulphate); it manifests itself by heat of skin, by more vivacity and energy in the motions, &c., although the *febrile condition* is not long-continued.”—*Dict. de Med.* Again, in regard to the sulphate, the same author says, that in some it produces “ great anxiety, accompanied with *shiverings*, faintness, *cold sweats*, and agitation.” And Dr. Christison says of cinchona, “ it is apt to excite nausea, pain in the stomach, and *febrile symptoms*.”—P. 772. These are meagre details compared to those of Hahnemann, but they are, in so far as they go, all directly corroborative of the accuracy of his provings ; and they, altogether, form a sufficient answer to Dr. Simpson’s extraordinary statement, that “ observation roundly and entirely contradicts the allegation of Hahnemann, that its use can also produce ague.” An ague, when its complement of leading symptoms is complete, consists of *shiverings*, of *febrile heat*, of *sweatings*, all of which symptoms, and many more that resemble those of *particular cases* of ague, can be produced by cinchona.

As to the occasional failure of Homœopathy to cure agues by cinchona in minute doses, the fact proves nothing against its Homœopathic relation to ague. Its Homœopathicity being *proved* in the manner cited above, it ought to be given in *such quantities as suffice* to produce its curative results, if it be regarded as a proper and safe remedy in large doses. In this last particular Hahnemann is at variance with most other physicians. He held, as Ramazzini had done long before him, that while large doses of cinchona would, indeed, often remove or repress the fever, it was dangerous to employ it in large quantities for such a purpose, because, as he thought, it was apt then to produce serious, and even ultimately fatal diseases of internal organs. His fears upon

that subject were probably carried too far; but that they were not entirely unfounded appears from the statements of M. M. Itard, and Piorry, (Allopaths,) that they have known permanent and complete deafness follow the use of quinine for the cure of agues. Hahnemann's excessive caution was at least an error on the safe side, provided he could point out other remedies capable of removing the fever without any bad consequences. Such other remedies he *does* point out; and on the whole subject of agues he recommends that the remedy should be varied according to the particular symptoms of each case, in which event, that is, when the remedy selected is Homœopathically suited to the peculiarities of *each separate case* of ague, small doses of cinchona will cure some, small doses of other medicines will cure others, and without any risk of evil consequences. In point of fact it is found, by even Allopathic physicians, that agues often do not yield in any degree to any preparation of cinchona, while other medicines prove effectual; for cinchona is far from being the panacea for agues that Dr. Simpson seems to suppose. Not to multiply examples of an experience of which every intelligent physician knows something, I content myself with the testimony of a single unquestionable authority—that of M. Boudin, an Allopathic physician high in the medical service of the French army. Treating of agues as they occurred among the French troops in Algeria, and of the comparative merits of cinchona and arsenic as remedies, he observes,—“ I have just said that cinchona sometimes succeeded in cases in which arsenic had failed, it must, however, be confessed, that such results, to the credit of the former, constitute the exception, whilst nothing is more frequent than the success of the arsenic in curing agues rebellious to quinine. I have succeeded in a great number of cases, and that by very feeble doses of arsenic, in putting an end, in a short time, to quotidian, ter-

tian, and quartan agues, contracted in latitudes the most various, often complicated with chronic engorgements of the abdominal viscera, and which for a long time had resisted the sulphate of quinine."* Boudin is an Allopathic physician, yet he tells us that the dose he latterly employed did not exceed the *hundredth* of a grain of arsenic. I shall let him tell his own tale:—"I have often obtained by a *single* dose of the hundredth of a grain of this medicine the radical cure of fevers contracted either in Algeria or in Senegal, and which had resisted means of various kinds, including sulphate of quinine and change of climate."—P. 277. Now arsenic, according to Hahnemann, (and Dr. Christison, in his work on poisons, quotes his account of the poisonous effects of this substance, as no doubt the most graphic and accurate he could discover,) produces many of the symptoms noticed in agues, and must therefore be Homœopathic to *some* agues; and M. Boudin, an enemy to Homœopathy, informs us that a patient of his own, labouring under a skin disease, and otherwise in good health, at a time when no agues existed in the city, became affected with a quotidian ague after having taken, in divided doses, a quarter of a grain of arsenic, and, as he believed, in *consequence* of his having taken the drug. Biett, again, another Allopathic physician of eminence, affirms that he has remarked the effects of arsenic to observe a certain *periodicity* in their occurrence, an important remark when it is considered that the medicine in question has been so much employed, and with success too, in agues, neuralgia, and other diseases of an intermittent nature.†

* *Traité des Fièvres Intermittentes*, p. 280.

† Africa is not the only quarter of the globe in which intermittents are found which pay little heed to quinine, as the following serio-comic narrative by Guersant abundantly proves. He is writing of a Physician in France who believed that quinine failed only because not given in sufficiently large doses. "Such was the state of mind of our colleague, when his wife was attacked with

Second Instance.—Vaccination and its Effects upon Small-pox.—I cannot avoid expressing my surprise at the want of information, as well as of reasoning power, displayed by the Professor of Midwifery in connexion with this subject, especially considering that it lies within his own province—the diseases of children. I was not so unprepared for the *unfairness* of shifting the argument from vaccination to artificial inoculation with small-pox, an evasion which I think it unnecessary to follow and to expose in detail, but merely remark on the subject, that Hahnemann and his followers hold exactly the same opinions on the relation between inoculated and ordinary small-pox as other physicians do. Confining attention to vaccination and *its* relation to small-pox, I can prove that Hahnemann's view of the subject is the *only* view that is consistent with sound logic and actual experience. His opinions are contained in the following passage from his *Organon*:—"The cow-pox would even destroy the small-pox on its first appearance; that is to say, it would cure this malady when already present, if the small-pox were not stronger than it. To produce this effect, then, it only wants that excess of power

a paroxysm of ague, which he thought grave enough to need energetic treatment. Consequently, he gave her 16 grammes of sulphate of quinine in a very short space of time. The patient soon fell into a state of stupor, with weight in the head, dazzling, and then blindness, deafness, &c. M. Bazire, conceiving that these new symptoms were due to the approach of a new paroxysm of pernicious ague, gave his wife 25 grammes more of the drug. After the reception of this considerable dose, the symptoms increased with frightful rapidity; the patient became completely deaf and blind, her respiration embarrassed, pulse miserable, skin cold. . . . Whilst this deplorable scene passed, our unhappy colleague was a prey to many fatigues, on account of the great number of bad agues which abounded in the province; the reverses which he experienced had thrown despair into his imagination already exalted; he saw with dismay the malady triumphant, and the power of his remedy, which he believed infallible, too often useless. However, by a singular fatality, his very want of success only increased his blind devotion to the sulphate of quinine." Happily for his wife, it is added, he took the disease himself, and dosed himself so effectually with his infallible specific as soon to put an end to the disease and his own life together.—*Dict. de Med.*

which, according to the law of nature, ought to accompany the Homœopathic resemblance in order to effect a cure. Vaccination, considered as a Homœopathic remedy, cannot therefore prove efficacious, except when employed previous to the appearance of the small-pox, which is the stronger of the two. When so employed it excites a disease very analogous (and consequently Homœopathic) to the small-pox, after whose course the human body, which, as usual, can only be attacked once with a disease of this nature, is henceforward protected against a similar contagion."—P. 83. Now, the whole question turns upon this, are the vaccine disease and small-pox *identical*? If they are, then vaccination does *not* prevent small-pox by Homœopathic *antecessum*, as Hahnemann calls it, but by being the *same* as small-pox, which by *once* occurring, even in this mild form, does not usually occur again. If they are *not identical*, however *similar*, then we are entitled to claim vaccination as an instance illustrative of the law relating to *similars*. Dr. Simpson allows that Pathologists are not all agreed regarding the identity of the two diseases. He might have mentioned Dr. Gregory of London, physician to the Small-pox Hospital and therefore likely to have more experience than others on the subject, as *one* who is opposed to the doctrine of their identity. However, we do not care about *authorities*, we appeal to facts. It is no doubt true that inoculating the cow with small-pox virus will produce the vaccine disease; but the question remains,—Is the virus of this vaccine disease, the same in all respects excepting *strength* as the small-pox virus, or is it modified in *nature* too? If modified in *nature* as well as strength, it is no longer *identical* with small-pox virus, however closely it may resemble it. That it *is* changed in its *nature*, appears plainly the only rational conclusion, from the following considerations:—

1. The mildest case of modified small-pox, where only half-a-dozen pocks occur, will still produce by inoculation or contagion only small-pox, and *may* produce severe and even fatal small-pox, in others. Vaccinia may be said, however, to be still milder than the mildest *small-pox*; well,—

2. Dilute small-pox virus with *water*, and thus *weaken* it to the lowest potency still capable of acting by inoculation, and it will *still produce small-pox*, not the solitary vaccine vesicle.

3. Dilute small-pox virus with *cow's milk*, and, according to the experience of Dr. Basil Thiele in 3000 cases, inoculation with the mixture *will produce the vaccine vesicle*, and *not the small-pox* eruption.

Am I not then amply entitled to say, that the two diseases are *not identical*? If only *similar*, *very similar* it may be, the just conclusion manifestly is, that vaccination by producing a disease *similar* to small-pox, and which can occur only once, in general, prevents the occurrence of small-pox; that, in a word, vaccination acts *Homœopathically*, or according to one rule of the law of *similars*. I might adduce other reasons for the opinion that the vaccine virus and that of small-pox are dissimilar; in particular, the pretty certain, and very interesting circumstance, that *vaccination* is a surer preventive of future small-pox, than even an attack of small-pox itself is; but I believe I have said enough to establish our claims to vaccination.

Third Instance.—Prevention and Cure of Sea-scurvy by Lemon-juice.—I must reiterate my astonishment at Dr. Simpson's want of information, and express also my surprise that he should have adduced scurvy as a case for drugs at all.

He says, "I am aware, that on theoretical grounds, Dr. Stevens supposes that the use of lemon-juice should produce scurvy; but I believe that neither he nor any one else ever

observed that disease to result *from* the use of lemon-juice." Dr. Stevens, I venture to say, makes no theoretical assertions on the subject, at least I have never been able to find them, but *he does give an instance in which the citric acid* (the acid of lemon-juice) *produced scurvy!* His words are,—the scurvy "was decidedly brought on by the excessive use of citric acid, which an American gentleman had been recommended to use as a preventive against the yellow fever. His own conviction, as well as mine, was, that the scorbutic symptoms had been brought on by the acid."—(*On the Blood*, p. 451.) Here I might close the case for Homœopathy, for, in order to be homœopathic to a disease, the remedy need not be, as Dr. Simpson erroneously supposes, "often and constantly" the cause of similar symptoms.

But I prefer disposing of this "Third Instance" on entirely different grounds. Scurvy is a disease acknowledged on all hands to be essentially due to *unsuitable diet*—especially, if not indeed solely, to the loss or deficiency of some customary article of food. It is *cured*, therefore, by restoring to the diet the deficient ingredient, or something that will answer instead. The former is by far the most reasonable and effectual procedure; and, accordingly, a mess of potatoes, or a ration of milk, will answer as well or better than the substitutes given by physicians, either to prevent or to cure scurvy. If one man gives salts of potash, it is still not as a *drug* but as *food* to supply the unhealthful deficiency of such salt in the blood and in the food; if another recommend sulphur, phosphorus, &c., it is for the same reason, to supply the deficiency he supposes of these elements in the altered dietary of the scorbutic; and if a third recommend cheese, milk, or beef, it is because he presumes the patient to be suffering from want of the due supply of nitrogenous elements in his food. Lemon-juice itself is said by some to act merely dietetically, supplying

to the food, and consequently to the body, the potash salts which are believed to be defective. Even pure citric acid has been regarded in the same light, as furnishing elements suitable for the respiratory process, in the absence of the necessary quantity of combustible matter in the food. It is absolutely grotesque, therefore, to adduce scurvy as an instance opposed to Homœopathy. The ingenious Professor of Midwifery might as well have brought against us a case of starvation, with all its sufferings, and argued, that because we could not cure it by an additional dose of abstinence, or something *similar*, while *he* could by wholesome nutriment, therefore Homœopathy was unsound!

Fourth Instance.—Cure of Goitre by the exhibition of Iodine.
—Under this head I shall first correct a mis-statement. Dr. Simpson says, at p. 55, "The Homœopathists, in order to keep up this alleged universality of their immutable law of 'similia similibus,' are obliged, in contradiction to every rule in logic and philosophy, to enter in their *Materia Medica*, this (curative) action of iodine as one of the symptoms produced by iodine, though goitre was never, I believe, observed as a symptom of the use of iodine," &c. Now, the reply is, that Homœopathists do nothing of the kind. They prefix to the notice of such curative action of iodine a mark (o) indicating the very opposite of all this, or, that iodine has been *hitherto known not to produce goitre but to cure it!* But why do they put this curative action into their books at all? Just because they believe, and have no doubt that experience will ultimately *prove*, that this curative action depends on the capacity of iodine to produce the disease, though the circumstances necessary for such a pathogenetic effect have not yet been discovered. If iodine be not homœopathic in its action, what is it? no one can tell, or at least *prove*, anything on the subject.

I need not repeat at length what I have said regarding the rarity, sometimes, of certain effects in the provings of drugs. To be characteristic, they need not be *constantly* produced, or even in many persons. Some approach to the pathogenetic effect in question has been made in the provings of iodine; witness the glandular swellings in the neck and elsewhere that have followed its use. We have also an instance suggestive of its homœopathicity to goitre, in the increase or aggravation of the disease noticed at the commencement of the treatment.—*See Jahr's Manual, Iodine. American Edition.*

So much for Dr. Simpson's Quixotic attempt upon the Homœopathic law. He will learn some prudence and useful knowledge, at least, by this discussion, though he must lose very materially in reputation as a man of science, candour, and ability. In making the exposures of ignorance in a colleague, which I have been compelled to do, in connexion with this question, I should have felt some concern for the credit of the University, more especially in reference to the doubts expressed by Dr. Simpson as to the *existence* of a Homœopathic law, were it not that I believe his views and amount of intelligence on the subject to be peculiar to himself. That I have some grounds for this belief can be proved by referring to Dr. Christison's Dispensatory, in which many examples occur of the Homœopathic relation between drugs and the diseases they are commonly employed to cure. I at one time intended to give some instances from Dr. Christison's work of the relation in question, but the length to which this article has already extended restrains me. The reader who is curious on the subject may undertake the

task for himself, and may consult especially what is said regarding ipecacuanha, rheum, scilla, opium, mercury, lupulus, iodine, hellebore, sulphate of iron, sulphate of copper, colchicum, cinchona, and cusparia. Of one kind of information essential to the complete recognition of the Homœopathic action of medicines, Dr. Christison, as may be seen from a quotation given elsewhere in this Pamphlet, acknowledges that the ordinary school as yet possesses but little, viz., of the phynological action of drugs, or their action on healthy persons; but I sincerely trust that no colleague of Dr. Simpson will, in order to serve a temporary purpose, call in question the reality of a Homœopathic law, and thus make Edinburgh the laughing-stock of every other seat of learning in Europe.

In reply to Dr. Simpson's objection to the *provings* of drugs on healthy persons as detailed by Homœopaths, to wit, the large number of symptoms they are alleged to produce, I quote the following from my Letter to Dr. Forbes, and the explanation it contains applies to all other instances,—"You ridicule the idea of one thousand and ninety symptoms being produced by one medicine. And yet a very little attention to the proving of *culcareia*, (*i.e.*, carbonate of lime, from the shell of the oyster,) the medicine you specify, will shew you how unfair the inference is that you allow to be drawn by the bare transcription of the numerals which stand at the close of the list. The fact is, that scarcely one-tenth of the number consists of distinct and separate symptoms, (true or false.) For example, the first nine figures (the seventh excepted) relate strictly to only *one* symptom. And this is multiplied into what appears to be eight to one who does not read the sentences corresponding to the figures, by the degrees of the symptom (*vertigo*) at different times of the day being separately noted, and by the circumstances of its being present in the open air, on walking or sitting, on

moving or lying still, being also noted and numbered separately. In the same way, for the purposes of distinctness, and easy reference, are all the symptoms split up, as it were, and numbered. This was Hahnemann's method with all his provings, and you perceive how small a degree of explanation deprives your objection of its weight, and how little attention was necessary on this, as on other occasions, to save you the uneasiness of a misrepresentation."

RECEPTION OF JENNER'S DISCOVERY OF VACCINATION.

BY DR. SIMPSON.

AT the time of Dr. Jenner's first announcement of vaccination in 1798, and for many years subsequently, the proposal of substituting vaccine for variolus inoculation was encountered by various members of the profession with incredulity and ridicule, and direct and determined opposition. The measure by which he taught medical science to save annually from death thousands of human lives in England, and hundreds of thousands throughout Europe, was, on its first introduction, bitterly denounced and derided in different quarters, its effects doubted, and its own safety and propriety strongly and strenuously called in question.

Dr. Squirrell earnestly and publicly supplicated his Majesty George the Third to suppress "the destructive practice of vaccine inoculation throughout his dominions." "It ought," observed Professor Monro of Edinburgh, "to be prohibited by Act of Parliament." "The College of Physicians have," exclaimed Dr. Moseley, "a duty to perform, and I trust this business will not escape them." Others, despairing of interference on the part of the King, Parliament, or Colleges, appealed to the people themselves. "It would," said Dr. Brown, "undoubtedly be downright mad-

ness to imagine *they* will condescend to encourage it." The anti-Vaccinarian Society called upon the public "to second their efforts in supporting the cause of humanity against cow-pox injuries," and besought their aid to suppress "the cruel despotic tyranny of forcing cow-pox misery on the innocent babes of the poor—a gross violation of religion, morality, law, and humanity."

Frightful, and even fatal, consequences were boldly averred to be the direct and immediate results of vaccination.

Deaths from cow-pox inoculation were published in the mortality bills of London. "I have," alleged Dr. Moseley, Physician to the Chelsea Hospital, "seen children die of the cow-pox without losing the sense of torment even in the article of death." Dr. Rowley, Physician to the St. Marylebone Infirmary, professed to publish true accounts of fifty-nine deaths from "cruel vaccination;" and added, "that when humanity reflects on these and" (to use his own words) "a great heap of victims diseased for life, and likely to transmit to posterity, for ages, beastly chronic diseases, it is enough to freeze the soul with horror." And "it is," he exclaims, "the duty of honourable men in the medical profession to alarm mankind of the impending danger of vaccination; to warn society of the multifarious evils that await them in the form of this mild catholicon, of a sweetened potion that carries fatal poison in all its destructive particles."

He elsewhere eloquently declaims against "affectionate parents being robbed of their serenity, and the minds of tender mothers being wrung with eternal suspense," "while a few projectors or visionists are pursuing their deleterious projects on human victims, and perpetrating a dangerous innovation which so many fatal facts illustrate."

Mr. Lipscomb urgently maintained, in an essay on small-

pox inoculation, published in 1805, that cow-pox, "the new scourge industriously dispersed to afflict the children of men, is sometimes fatal of itself, and that the diseases introduced or brought into action by it may be also sometimes fatal, and can never be completely guarded against." One author had seen "numerous instances" of vaccination producing eruptions, remaining "for months and even years afterwards, undermining the constitution, and very frequently terminating in phagedenic or corroding ulcers." And he had likewise witnessed coughs, dyspnœa, hectic marasmus, tedious and difficult to eradicate, &c., result from cow-pox. "Shocking reflection," he adds, "to a human mind, that a poison should thus be introduced into the human constitution without the plea of necessity, or the support of reason and experience." "Several children," observes Dr. Moseley, "have died from diseases brought on by the cow-pox where no ulcerations had appeared, and others have lost their nails and ends of their fingers, several months after the inoculation." "My accounts from the country are," he continues, "full of dismal histories of ulcerated arms and mortifications." "Blindness," it was averred, "lameness and deformity, had been the result of employing the vaccine in innumerable instances, and its fatal venom had removed many an infant untimely from the world." Nay, it was strenuously maintained and believed, that not only were various old maladies, peculiar to man, thus excited into action by the "cow-pox poison," but that different new diseases peculiar to the cow were sometimes communicated to the human constitution by vaccination. "Various beastly diseases," writes Dr. Rowley, "common to cattle, have appeared among the human species since the introduction of cow-pox; as cow-pox mange, cow-pox abscess, cow-pox ulcer, cow-pox gangrene, cow-pox mortification, and enormous hideous swellings of the face, resem-

bling the countenance of an ox, with the eyes distorted, and eyelids forced out of their true situation; diseased joints," &c. This was published in 1806, eight years after Dr. Jenner's first essay on vaccination appeared. During the year subsequent to the first public announcement of his discovery, Dr. Moseley suggested the possibility of the "bestial humor" of cow-pox producing a "brutal fever, exciting incongruous impressions on the brain;" and, "who knows," says he, "but that the human character may undergo strange mutations from quadrupedan sympathy, and that some modern Pasiphæe may rival the fables of old?" Some, after vaccination, were actually supposed to "cough like cows," and "bellow like bulls." And one anti-vaccinist ingeniously suggested, that if cow-pox were known to have existed in a family, this fact might debar the members of it from the chances of matrimony; "for it would," he remarks, "be no letter of recommendation, and it would be cruel for the world to know, who had laboured under the cow-pox mange, evil, ulcer, or any other beastly disease; it might infallibly injure their fortune for life, particularly in matrimonial alliances. Who would marry into any family, at the risk of their offspring having filthy beastly diseases?"

Nor were theological reasons, of course, wanting for calling in question the orthodoxy of vaccination, as of other new discoveries and practices. "Small-pox," argues Dr. Rowley, "is a visitation from God, and originates in man; but the cow-pox is produced by presumptuous impious man. The former Heaven ordained; the latter is perhaps a daring and profane violation of our holy religion." And he subsequently proposed, "whether vaccination be agreeable to the will and ordinances of God, as a question worthy of the consideration of the contemplative and learned ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and whether it be impious and profane thus to wrest out of the hands of the Almighty the

divine dispensation of Providence!" "The projects of these vaccinators seem," it was affirmed, "to bid bold defiance to heaven itself, even to the will of God." "Providence," reasoned another author, "never intended that the vaccine disease should affect the human race, else why had it not, before this time, visited the inhabitants of the globe? The law of God," he continues, "prohibits the practice; the law of man and the law of nature loudly exclaim against it."

In short, vaccination was opposed and denounced on a variety of grounds. It was alleged to be occasionally fatal in its consequences; to be liable to excite various diseased actions and predispositions; to produce diseases new to the human constitution; to be "impious, unthinking, profane, and irrational;" to be an innovation, neither "established on the basis of reason, nor supported by the foundation of truth." "The vaccine," exclaimed one enemy to cow-pox inoculation, "was the damnedest thing ever proposed; he wished the inventors were all hanged, and he would give his vote for its being done." And strong pictures were held up to the public eye of the miseries it would infallibly lead to, in case of the recurrence of epidemic small-pox. "In many families," writes an author whom I have already quoted, "there will be none to attend the sick; nurses will quit their patients for their own safety, and servants fly from their masters' houses to shun the pestilence. Then we shall experience an horrid scene of public and private calamity, brought on by a medical experiment; embraced without due consideration; extended by a rash transgression over the bounds of reason; and after the fullest conviction of its inutility, obstinately continued, by the most degrading relapse of philosophy that ever disgraced the civilized world."—*Monthly Journal of Med. Science*, 1847.

The author might have added, that the early success of vaccination was in a great measure due to unprofessional persons. At a time (1800) when the late Dr. Gregory "knew very little about it, and of course did not encourage it," a private gentleman and his lady, in England, had practised it on above 600 persons. Cinchona in agues, and lemon-juice in scurvy, were first introduced into practice by persons who did belong to the medical profession

APPENDIX.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, AND THE SPEECHES OF MR. SYME AND DR. SIMPSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EDINBURGH ADVERTISER.

61, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, EDINBURGH,
8th January 1852.

SIR,—In my reply to the Pamphlet of Dr. Simpson on Homœopathy, the following passage occurs :—"In dismissing the wretched artifice, I shall add only this, that, even supposing the 'sermon' on which he (Dr. Simpson) comments to be as objectionable as he represents it to be, the Society for whose service it was delivered are no more to be held answerable for the opinions it contains, than the Medico-Chirurgical Society is for the 'speech' of Dr. Simpson, which the Council of that body have since felt to be so disgraceful to them, that they resolved to resign their office if it were not publicly announced that the Society did not sanction it by authorizing its publication."

My information respecting one point in this passage, I understand to have been incorrect. The Council, as a body, did *not* resolve to resign their office, as there alleged. In all other particulars my statement is, I believe, accurate. The Council met for the purpose of taking steps to rid the Society of the responsibility of authorizing the publication of the speeches of Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson. The conductors of the Journal in which the speeches appeared, in order to quash any further proceedings of the Council, submitted to that body a statement, since published in the Journal, to the effect that the "authors," and "not the Society," were the responsible parties. With this the Council were satisfied.

I may add, that Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson are among the conductors of the Journal in question.

I have taken the earliest opportunity in my power of correcting the error into which I had fallen, and I shall be equally prompt in publicly retracting any other inaccuracy I may have committed, or may yet commit, in this controversy, when pointed out to me. I am, &c.

WILLIAM HENDERSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCOTSMAN.

EDINBURGH, January 9, 1852.

SIR,—In reply to a letter by Dr. Henderson, I feel it my duty to state, that the character of the speeches delivered in the Medico-Chirurgical Society, on the occasion of the resolutions with respect to Homœopathy, was never at any time under the consideration of the Council; and that the Society, at its last meeting on the 7th inst., unanimously adopted a recommendation of the Council, declining all interference with the personalities involved in the discussion of this question.

As President of the Society, I take leave further to say, that Dr. Henderson has no authority whatever for any statement in regard to the feelings of the Council in this matter.—I am, &c.

JAMES BEGBIE, M.D.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCOTSMAN.

EDINBURGH, January 13, 1852.

SIR,—In your paper of the 10th inst. Dr. Begbie has inserted a letter intended to have the *appearance* of a reply to mine regarding the speeches of Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson. I find, however, that he denies nothing that I have asserted in my letter. He does not deny that the Council of the Medico-Chirurgical Society “met for the purpose of taking steps to rid the Society of the responsibility” of the speeches. He does not deny that the conductors of the Journal in which the speeches appeared, in order to quash any further proceedings on the part of the Coun-

cil, published a statement to the effect that the "authors," and not "the Society," were the responsible parties.

Dr. Begbie's "Reply" does not touch any statement in my letter, but it attempts to meet the assertion, quoted from my pamphlet in reply to Dr. Simpson, that the Council felt the speeches to be "disgraceful" to them. Dr. Begbie says that the "*character*" of the speeches "was never at any time under the consideration of the Council," and yet in the very same sentence he states, that the Society "adopted a recommendation of the Council" not to interfere with the "personalities" contained in these very speeches, as forming part of the controversy.

Dr. Begbie, in concluding, very unadvisedly asserts, "that Dr. Henderson has no authority whatever for any statement in regard to the feelings of the Council in this matter." If by this he mean to say that I have no specific information regarding the feelings of *any* of the Council, he is much mistaken, for I *have*; and, besides, I have the most indisputable authority for all that I have said as to the feelings of the Council itself. In the December number of the Monthly Journal, the "speeches" were published, and along with them a motion by Dr. Christison, which made it appear as if the Society sanctioned their publication. Soon after, my letter to the President *proved* the speeches to contain statements which were grossly untrue. It was after this that the Council "met to take steps," &c. Now, the question is simply this,—Did the Council, or did they not, feel it to be disgraceful that they should continue to have the appearance of sanctioning statements which they came to know to be untrue? Believing, as I still do, that the Council is composed of honest men, I could not have a doubt that they must have felt it to be *disgraceful* to sanction allegations they knew to be false. If Dr. Begbie says they did not feel it to be disgraceful, he is welcome to the alternative.—I am, &c.

WILLIAM HENDERSON.

FROM THE SCOTSMAN FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1852.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, EDINBURGH,
January 17, 1852.

At a meeting of Council held this day, it was RESOLVED, (unanimously?) in reference to DR. HENDERSON'S LETTER of the

13th inst., published in the *Scotsman*,—"That there be inserted in the newspapers of to-morrow, the following Resolutions unanimously adopted by the Society on January 7, 1852, and communicated by direction of the Society to Dr. Henderson on January 8th."

Moved,—"That the attention of the Medico-Chirurgical Society having been called to a statement, in a pamphlet just published by Dr. Henderson, as follows:—'The Council of that body (the Medico-Chirurgical Society) have felt (the speech of Dr. Simpson) to be so disgraceful to them, that they resolved to resign their office if it were not publicly announced that the Society did not sanction it by authorizing its publication.' The Society find it their duty to declare that this statement is entirely without foundation, and resolved to transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Simpson."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCOTSMAN.

EDINBURGH, January 20, 1852.

SIR,—In your last number an advertisement appears from the Council of the above Society, professing itself to be an answer to my letter in your paper of the 14th inst. I believe it is the only answer they can make; and it leaves *uncontradicted all the statements in my letter*. I had, previously to any communication from the Society, written to the Editor of the *Edinburgh Advertiser* a letter correcting the unimportant inaccuracy I had fallen into, in my Pamphlet, as to an alleged resolution of the Council *as a body* to resign their office. That the Council "met in order to rid the Society" of the appearance of authorizing the publication of the speeches of Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson; and that these, and the other, conductors of the Monthly Journal did, in order to quash any further proceedings of the Council, assign the responsibility of their publication to "the authors," and "not to the Society," are statements of mine which remain unchallenged. Nor does the advertisement of the Council unambiguously affirm that they did *not* feel the apparent responsibility of the Society for the publication of the speeches "disgraceful," as I had alleged they must have done, on the supposition that the Council contained honest men.

That matter is *slumped* with the other about resignation, in order that the answer which *applies* to one may serve for both.—I am, &c.

WILLIAM HENDERSON.

How unbecoming it is in "grave doctors" thus to play at bo-peep behind evasions, equivocations, and verbal quibbles! Why did not the Council frankly publish the minute of their first meeting, and narrate the conversations they had about the speeches, and the intercourse which took place between them and the conductors of the Journal? This procedure would have prevented any correspondence and misunderstanding. It is not yet too late for them to retrieve by candour some of what they have lost by timidity.

TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY
OF EDINBURGH.

61, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, EDINBURGH,
1st December 1851.

SIR,—I should not have troubled you, or the Society over which you preside, with any comments on the proceedings of your last meeting, did I not observe in the Report of the speeches made by Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson, published in the *Monthly Journal* for December, statements which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed without appearing by my silence to admit their substantial accuracy. In the Resolution* which called forth these speeches I feel no interest, for I had long ceased to expect from the Society a calm, candid, and unbiassed judgment on the important Therapeutic law to which that Resolution refers, and had for several years absented myself from its meetings, as being those of a sectarian body with whose limited views I could not sympathize. I need scarcely add, that the Resolution in question amply justifies the estimate I had formed of the Society.

In my Letter to the Patrons of the University, I allege that Mr. Syme on two occasions acted in the face of the motion which he had himself proposed in the College of Surgeons; that he twice met in consultation with one who "practises Homœopathy," while the motion referred to

* See Appendix.

maintains that to meet with those who do so is to countenance the system. That such meetings on Mr. Syme's part (if they occurred) were a countenancing of Homœopathy is an allegation of his own, as contained in his motion in the College of Surgeons. That they *did* occur I repeat, and Mr. Syme admits that they did, although he endeavours to explain away one of them as if it was not entitled to be regarded as a consultation at all. I sincerely regret that I am under the necessity of saying that Mr. Syme's version of that meeting, in particular, is most inaccurate. His printed statement is as follows:—"The first of these (cases) he would mention was that of a young man from Dundee, whom he had been requested, by Dr. Nimmo of that place, to take under his charge. Finding that he was attended by Dr. Henderson, he had requested a meeting with him, for the purpose, not of consultation, but of arranging for the medical treatment of the patient by the respected Secretary of the Society, Dr. John Taylor, with whom Mr. Syme might co-operate, as he could not do so with Dr. Henderson." Now, Sir, if such was Mr. Syme's purpose, he never communicated it to me; and I feel, as others no doubt will do, that there was something very marvellous in the manner in which I, all unconsciously, carried Mr. Syme's purpose into effect. Mr. Syme called at my house, and after stating that he had been requested to see this patient of mine by one of his friends in the country, an hour for our meeting was agreed on, as I then knew nothing of Mr. Syme to prevent my meeting with him.

We met accordingly, saw the patient together, retired to converse about the case, and then found that we differed both as to the seat of the disease and the suitable treatment. *I informed Mr. Syme that I could not superintend the execution of the plans he recommended! I suggested that Dr. John Taylor should take charge of the case instead of myself I*

called on Dr. Taylor, told him of the circumstances which had occurred, and sent him to Mr. Syme for his instructions! I never heard a whisper from Mr. Syme of his being unable to co-operate with me. Dr. Taylor, no doubt, remembers my visit to him on the occasion referred to; and those who know me cannot believe that I would go in search of him for Mr. Syme, had the latter given me the smallest reason to suspect that he entertained the purpose which he now says he did. Mr. Syme's account of the other case contains several inaccuracies, short though it be; but as he admits the fact of the meeting, and does not attempt to deny any allegation of mine in reference to it, I do not think it worth while to lengthen this Letter by adverting to it farther. In concluding this part of the subject, I think I am amply entitled to aver that all my allegations respecting Mr. Syme, in my Letter to the Patrons, are incontrovertibly true.

Mr. Syme says, in reference to Dr. Black, that he "had proposed to attend along with him a lady who had come from England to undergo an operation, but met with a decided refusal of any such co-operation;" but he does not tell us that he met with Dr. Black on another occasion, to which the following note refers; nay, he virtually denies that any such meeting took place, for he omits it from his account of "the whole amount of countenance which Mr. Syme had afforded to the Homœopathists of Edinburgh."

*From WILLIAM ERSKINE, Esq., late of East India Company's
Civil Service.*

"28, REGENT TERRACE, 17th September 1851.

"MY DEAR DR. HENDERSON,—On looking into my books, I find that Mr. Syme visited my late daughter, —, on the 8th November 1843. He was accompanied by Dr. Francis Black, who at that time attended her.—I remain, Dear Dr. Henderson, yours very truly,

WM. ERSKINE."

I come next to the speech of Dr. Simpson. The confusion, inaccuracy, mis-statement, and irrelevant matter, that abound in this production, make it difficult to deal with it so concisely as with Mr. Syme's, yet I hope to pick my way to the simple truth in this, as in the other case. That his hearers condemned the oration with "faint praise," I cannot omit to notice, as it was so very much to their credit. Why a member of my family is introduced to the notice of the Society, I can only conjecture; and I must, in common, I should hope, with all who heard the speech, denounce the very bad taste of alluding to "some long and anxious hours" of attendance upon her, made in a public place, and made most unnecessarily for any worthy purpose. If the allusion was made in order to prejudice me in the estimation of the Society, as having, in my various recent notices of Dr. Simpson, made him a bad return for obligations received at his hands, I take this opportunity of saying, that even had there been a balance of obligations against me, (which I utterly deny,) there are acts capable of cancelling any amount of obligation, and of such I hold Dr. Simpson to be guilty, by having aided in the composition of the scandalous Resolutions of the Royal College of Physicians,—if indeed he did not actually compose them. But, Sir, it is not my intention to lose temper even with Dr. Simpson, for I cordially agree with him who says, that "so much as there is of passion, so much there is of nothing to the purpose," in any discussion.

Dr. Simpson makes one distinct affirmation, when he avers that the case from which he removed a polypus, was, with the exception of the member of my family to whom he adverts, "the only patient at whose bed-side he had met Dr. Henderson." Were my own character not concerned in this miserable business, I should grieve to lay the following letters before the Society:—

From J. HAWKINS, Esq., late Judge H.E.I.C.S.

"2, REGENT TERRACE, June 17, 1851.

"MY DEAR DR. HENDERSON,—Dr. Simpson, at your request, attended a lady at my house on the 17th August last, and you and he met here together on the 20th of that month.—Believe me, yours very truly,

J. HAWKINS."

This was little more than a year ago, and cannot have been difficult to remember, especially by one who attached so much consequence to such meetings, as, on the other and previous occasion to which he alludes, "to have felt it was perhaps more than questionable whether he should have met him." These are the two cases to which I made reference in my letter to the Editor of the *Witness*, and I told Dr. Simpson so, when he called at my house professedly to make inquiries on the subject. I have never mentioned the case on which Mr. Syme subsequently operated, as having been one of those which Dr. Simpson and I visited together; and, therefore, all that Dr. S. has said respecting it, has nothing to do with the matter at issue. That there may be no evasion of the evidence of the last letter, I have to state that the meeting it refers to was at "the bed-side." And so was that to which the next letter bears testimony; and if it was not of a very recent date, it shews all the more clearly the probability of the statement contained in my letter to the *Witness*, that Dr. Simpson was in the habit of agreeing to such meetings whenever he was asked, a circumstance which can be attested, likewise, I believe, by my friend Dr. Russell.

From CHARLES CHALMERS, Esq., late Principal of Merchiston Academy.

"KATESMILL, COLINTON, June 17, 1851.

"DEAR SIR,—It consists with my knowledge, that towards the close of 1846, you and Professor Simpson attended professionally together one of the members of my family, who was then residing in Merchiston Castle.—I remain, Dear Sir, yours most truly,

"CHARLES CHALMERS.

"PROFESSOR HENDERSON, M.D."

Dr. Simpson excuses his having operated on the case of polypus in the company of Dr. Henderson, on the ground that "Dr. Henderson was the only medical man that the lady would, he believed, have allowed to be present." How he ascertained this, it would be curious to know. I know that there is no human being less likely to have had any such exclusive and unreasonable prejudice than the person in question. The plain fact seems most unquestionably to be, that when Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson were in the practice of doing just what they ought to have done, and what humane, candid, well-informed, and liberal-minded men will always do, it had not been generally believed that Homœopathy had stolen a march upon its opponents, and had fastened itself firmly in the confidence of all classes of the community. Medical men have waked up lately as from a dream, and having found themselves surrounded on all sides by this ubiquitous intruder, their alarm and hatred cry out with a vehemence proportioned to their former indifference or contempt, and with as little reason, too, if they would only make themselves acquainted with the subject of their ridiculous excitement.

I have no intention of taking to pieces Dr. Simpson's *rechauffé* of the stale jokes and vulgarisms on Homœopathy which are current among a certain class of men. I shall not even stoop to rebut the foul insinuations in which he indulges; but I will say this to him;—If you are conscious of rectitude, of truth, honesty, and fair dealing, and of these simply and alone, in all the particulars to which I have been alluding in this Letter, you must feel more deeply now than you have ever done before, the liability of an innocent man to fall under the gravest suspicions, and you will be prepared, by contemplating the peculiarity of your own position in this controversy, to judge hereafter more charitably of those whom you have reviled.

The story of the box, in which all the medicines are said by Dr. Simpson to have been mixed before they were given to me, meets me in the published speech in a somewhat different form from that in which I heard of it formerly from the author of the petty narrative. He told me on that former occasion, on the 10th of June last, that I had said to him some six or seven years ago, "your box has converted me." I remember well, Sir, and so must Dr. Simpson, that I replied to him emphatically on that occasion, that *I did not believe that I had ever said so*, and *that* because it would have been untrue. My first experiments on Homœopathy were made by medicines from five different sources in addition to Dr. Simpson's box. The "respected Secretary of the Society" favoured me with a box, in connexion with which there was, as became his character, no trick, but all that was fair and honest. Dr. Russell supplied me with many other medicines; Headland of London did so too; the Chemist in this city, at a later period, did the same; and some I prepared with my own hands. The results were published, and drew from Dr. Forbes of London the admission, that had the cases been treated according to the rules of the ordinary School, he would have regarded the results as "very satisfactory." Among them were "some wonderful effects and cures," which I have always regarded as evidences of the power of Homœopathic remedies; but that they were due to "Dr. Simpson's own former Homœopathic box," in which the trick was, I do not believe that I could have ever averred, because I was not in the habit of noting in each case from what source the medicines I employed were taken, for I suspected no trick. Since Dr. Simpson made his trick public, I have suspected, reasonably enough, that some of the failures which I could not formerly account for but on the ground of my own want of skill, must have been due to the dishonest box. At any

rate, if this paltry affair must be judged of on the word of either party, I ask you, Sir, to look back on what is recorded on the preceding pages, and to judge by that test, as to which of us is the most entitled to credit.

To one only of all the remaining rash and idle statements of Dr. Simpson, shall I advert at present. He avers, that there are men, who, to use his characteristic language, "doctored people according as people themselves wished, either with drachms of drugs, or billions of a grain of the same." That Dr. Simpson knows of any such persons I do not believe. I know a great deal more of those whom he delights to calumniate than he does, and I solemnly aver, that I neither know, nor ever have known, a single instance of the conduct he has ventured to lay to their charge. I dare him to the proof, and if he fail to prove his allegation, he must be contented with the disgrace of having uttered a deliberate and groundless calumny. I rejoice to say, that I know many physicians who, while they adhere to the Homœopathic law as the great regulator of their practice, consider themselves entitled, in the free exercise of their profession, as independent men, to prescribe any quantity of medicine they think necessary for their patients, and, where the Homœopathic principle cannot be of service to them, whether from its own present or necessary limitations, or their insufficient acquaintance with it, consider themselves not only at liberty, but bound in duty, to employ any other expedients for the benefit of their employers that may be within their knowledge.

This course has had my hearty concurrence, and public advocacy, as the only course of professional and scientific catholicity; and I confidently anticipate the time, as not far distant, when there shall be physicians, worthy of the honourable name, in all parts of our country, whose model shall be that philosophic greatness,—beautifully sketched

by one who formerly adorned our University, and whose spirit is not yet utterly extinct among us,—which “knows how to distinguish what is just in itself, from what is merely accredited by illustrious names; adopting a truth which no one has sanctioned, and rejecting an error of which all approve, with the same calmness as if no judgment were opposed to its own.” If the Society shall sneer at all this as inconsistent and unfair, I would remind them that the sneer will come with a very bad grace from men who, while they profess themselves to be Allopathists, often employ remedies which they admit to operate Homœopathically, and that it is incumbent on them honestly to restrict themselves to their sectarian principle of “*diversa diversis curantur*,” before they can consistently stigmatize others as dishonest for openly advocating a more comprehensive creed.

As I perceive, from the newly printed list of members, that I still belong to your Society, I conclude with the following motion; and, if it be not adopted, I request that my name may be erased from your records, for in that event it can be no longer reputable to remain a member of the Society. I move,—“That any one who cannot exonerate himself from the suspicion of deliberate mis-statement, shall be held disqualified for being admitted, or for remaining, a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh.”

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. HENDERSON.

POSTSCRIPT.

1st January 1852.

Since the former edition of my Letter was published, Dr. Simpson has endeavoured to exculpate himself from some of the very serious charges, which, in self defence, it was my disagreeable task to bring against him. I cannot say that he has succeeded in the very least degree. His whole defence is too plainly an attempt to evade the indictment, and to escape from the dilemma in which it has placed him, by mystifying his readers as to the real points at issue. If I return to the painful subject, it is truly from no pleasure I take in personal wrangling, and from no desire to gratify unamiable feelings by distressing another. Those who believe Homœopathy to be a great and invaluable system of practical medicine, have been with unsparing acrimony, and in the most offensive terms, stigmatized as unworthy of credit; all the courtesies that are usual among gentlemen have been denied us, and now that an occasion, apart from all the perplexities that pertain to the operation of medicines, has presented itself of testing the candour and uprightness of the contending parties, those who have been heretofore maligned have a right to appeal to the public, in a question which the public is qualified to comprehend—to decide between them and their opponents, as to which shall henceforth be esteemed the most entitled to confidence. This controversy, therefore, ceases to be a merely personal one; it is rather to be regarded as a combat in which those who are engaged do battle for the honour of their respective hosts. This is the only view of the subject that could induce me to recur to it.

When the President of the Royal College of Physicians affirmed in the notorious Resolutions of that body, that no

Fellow of the College could, "by any possibility," meet professionally with those who "practise Homœopathy," without "derogating from his own honour and that of his profession," I took the liberty, in order to shew the absurdity of that Resolution, of replying in the columns of the *Witness*, that the President had done so whenever he was asked, and that he had met me twice within the two years prior to the date of that reply. This statement of mine was felt by all parties at the time as, if true, fixing on Dr. Simpson the odium of the grossest inconsistency and want of candour; and he himself must have felt that it did so, for I have good authority for stating that he endeavoured to free himself from it by denying that he had ever met me professionally but in my own family. That he was capable of denying the accuracy of my statement, I was prepared to believe by a conversation I had with him on the subject, and I accordingly collected my proofs in expectation that I should catch him making his denial in print some time or other, when there could be no possibility of escape.

The conversation to which I have just adverted was partly to this effect, and there can be no mistake, for the whole was committed by me to writing very speedily after it occurred. "Besides, Dr. Simpson," said I, "you at once agreed to meet me on other occasions, but, as is not unusual with you, you failed to keep your appointments." "That," was the reply, "was because you practise Homœopathy." Now, what a dilemma had he fallen into here! If that reply was correct, what are we to say or think of the appointments which were made with the intention of being broken?

In the notes to his speech, and in his letter to Dr. Russell, Dr. Simpson endeavours to mystify the subject I am now dealing with, in two ways, first, by affecting to suppose that the charge brought against him was of *practising Homœopathy*; and, next, by speaking lightly of the past, and pro-

fessing to consider the whole question as relating to the future. Neither expedient can avail him. He was never accused by me of practising Homœopathy, though I perceive, in a recent pamphlet by a former pupil of his, that he is said to have stated in his class that he did practise in that way once at least, and with success, at the recommendation of his Homœopathic friend Dr. Arneth of Vienna. I raised no question with him as to the future, but the whole matter between him and me, is a question of fact and veracity respecting his conduct during the past. And how does he endeavour to escape from what I must call the awful position in which he is placed, between his deliberate and altogether unqualified denial of all but one professional meeting with me, and the confounding evidence of the letters I have produced? The one case, in no respect a more uncommon one than the other, my Letter "brought back to his recollection," though it was between five and six years ago; the other he has "quite in vain attempted to recall any recollection of," although it was little more than *one* year ago! Am I dealing harshly with Dr. Simpson in pointing out these very curious particulars? Before you condemn me for doing so, consider how *I* should have been treated had I fallen back on a defective memory; consider too that Dr. Simpson's allegation in his speech, that he did *not* meet with me, as I had alleged, was a direct attack upon *my* veracity, and that it was regarded by those who heard or read his speech, previous to the publication of my Letter, as establishing against *me* the guilt of deliberate misstatement.

I need scarcely add that all the frank and candid and tasteful confessions of frequent meetings with Dr. Russell, in his letter to that gentleman, are made too late; and that the apparent openness with which he admits them, cannot *now* be received as a justification of the virtual denial of them in a speech which professed to take advantage of an oppor-

tunity of replying to "charges which had been brought against himself" of countenancing Homœopathy, similar to those which Mr. Syme had been engaged in answering; those charges having included this—that he met with the obnoxious practitioners "whenever he was asked," and not merely with me. His audience, doubtless, thought that he had told them all; and where was the candour of trying to excuse or explain away the meetings with *one* such practitioner, when he knew that there was another with whom he had acted, as he now (alas! too late) admits, even more frequently! Mr. Syme professed to relate all *his* meetings with us; Dr. Simpson as plainly *professed* to do the same; and there can be no doubt that he would never have adverted to the meetings he concealed from the Society, had he not been threatened with the same exposure from Dr. Russell, that he had experienced from me.*

Dr. Simpson, in reply to my challenge to prove that any practitioner among us "doctored people according as people wished," with Homœopathic or Allopathic drugs, brings forward in a foot-note a quotation from a speech of *Dr. John Rose Cormack*! The medical public of Edinburgh will not think much of the authority, and will not expect that I should take the trouble of saying more in reply to the assertion of that person, than that his allegation is untrue.

W. H.

APPENDIX.

Resolution of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, of date the 19th November 1851.—

Moved by Mr. Syme, "That the public profession of Homœopathy shall be held to disqualify for being admitted or remaining a Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh."

* That exposure was, I believe, the cause of the proceedings of the Council of the Society referred to at p. 21.

...of trying to "change" which had been brought
against himself, of counselling Homoeopathy, similar to
those which Mr. Hume had been engaged in answering;
these charges having insisted this—that he met with the
obnoxious practitioners "wherever he was asked," and not
nearly with me. His audience, doubtless, thought that he
had told them all; and when was the chance of trying to
explain or explain away the meetings with one such prac-
itioner, when he knew that there was another with whom he
had acted, as he now (late) admits, even more dis-
creetly! Mr. Hume proposed to relate all his meetings with
me; Mr. Simpson as plainly proposed to do the same; and
there can be no doubt that he would never have admitted to
the meetings he concealed from the Society, had he not been
threatened with the same exposure from Mr. Russell; that he
had experienced from me.

Mr. Simpson, in reply to my challenge to prove that any
practitioner among us "doctored people regarding as people
wicked," with Homoeopathic or Allopathic drugs, I was for-
ward in a footnote a quotation from a speech of Mr. John
Ross Carmichael. The medical public of Edinburgh will not
think much of the authority, and will not expect that I should
take the trouble of saying more in reply to the assertion of
that person, than that the allegation is untrue.

W. H.

APPENDIX

Resolution of the Medical-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, 1851.
Resolved by Mr. Hume, "That the public profession of Homoe-
opathy shall be held to disqualify for being admitted or remaining
a member of the Medical-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh."



