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A BRIEF ATTEMPT

TO SHEW THE TRUTH AND VALUE OF

HOMŒOPATHY,

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF

Homœopathic Practice,

BY J. EDWARD NORTON, M.D.



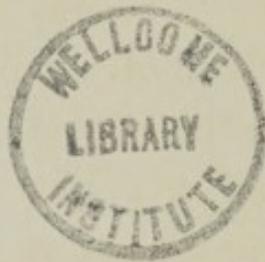
Third Thousand.

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A BRIEF ATTEMPT, &c.

THE Profession of Medicine has ever been deemed an honourable, a liberal, and a humane one; an honourable one, because, the acquisition of the needful knowledge inspires the possessor with the sentiments of a gentleman; a liberal one, because, its members have always been distinguished for the ingenuous adoption of new discoveries; a humane one, because, its professors have been conspicuous, in all ages, for their charitable aid to the indigent, who need their professional service.

The tardy, and in one case partial, justice which the three greatest improvers of the art have received at our hands does not militate against this eulogium. For, Harvey, the discoverer of the Circulation of the Blood, Jenner, the introducer of Vaccination, and Hahnemann, the founder of the new Law of Healing, were severally the authors of such startling novelties, involving as they did, entire revolutions in established opinions, that no sensible man, wishing to be free from the charge of gross credulity, could do otherwise than reject them, at first sight, unless supported by irresistible evidence of their truth. That evidence has been supplied, and

in the homage we pay to their memory, and the lustre we borrow from their discoveries, Harvey and Jenner have long since received their reward ; but time, the great discoverer of truth, has yet much to do, before Hahnemann and his discovery, shall attain that place in men's esteem which they are entitled to hold.

It is to promote the recognition of his claims, and to obtain for him a hearing at the bar of public justice, that these few pages are written. His character has not yet been duly appreciated in this country. Dr. Forbes is the first of his opponents here, who has had the candour to award him even a partial justice. In his essay on "Homœopathy, Allopathy, and Young Physic," in the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, he says :—

"Hahnemann was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar; a man of indefatigable industry, of undaunted energy. In the history of medicine his name will appear in the same list with those of the greatest systematists and theorists; surpassed by few in the originality and ingenuity of his views, superior to most in having substantiated and carried out his doctrines into actual and most extensive practice."

Some trifling or familiar circumstance has usually ushered into the world even the greatest discoveries. It is familiar to every mind, how Archimedes, when entering his bath, noticed that the water rose as he descended into it, and how, by reflecting upon this very ordinary circumstance, he was led to the theory of Specific Gravity, by which he was at once enabled to detect the adulteration of the metal in the royal crown of Syracuse. In the same way, the

genius of Sir Isaac Newton grasped, from the familiar event of an apple falling to the ground, the first idea—the crude thought of the Law of Gravitation; that Law which explains such a multitude of facts, and is accepted as “The true theory of the movements of the heavenly bodies, and the parent of innumerable discoveries.”

To an equally unimportant circumstance are we indebted for the new Law of Healing.

Dr. Samuel Christian Frederick Hahnemann, a German physician, was trying to explain the mode in which bark cures ague, and feeling dissatisfied with the many and contradictory explanations given in the books to account for this result, determined to take some himself, he being then in good health. After having taken a considerable quantity for some days, he began to experience a not very unusual effect of this substance, viz.—feverishness and cold shiverings, having somewhat of the intermittent or aguish character. What Hahnemann felt, was, most probably, not unlike what Dr. Pereira describes as a frequent effect of large doses of bark upon healthy persons, when he says, “A febrile state of the system is set up, (manifested by excitement of the vascular system and dry tongue) and the cerebro-spinal system becomes disordered, as is shewn by the throbbing headache and giddiness.” (*Mat. Med.*) It was, however, while experiencing something of this kind upon himself, that the thought struck him, “Does the curative power of bark, in the case of intermittent fever, depend upon this faculty of producing something like

it?" This occurred in the year 1790. For six years after, he patiently and zealously tried different medicines upon himself, his wife, his sons, his daughters, and his friends; and finding all his experience confirmatory of the above thought, he ventured to make his discovery known to the world. His humility, however, would not allow him to claim the merit of a discovery, and indeed, Stahl, some 150 years before him, says, "I am persuaded that diseases yield to agents which produce a similar disorder (*similia similibus*)," and Hippocrates likewise, some 2,300 years ago, enunciated the same thing, when he wrote "*Vomitus vomitu curator*," but he did claim the merit of having *discerned* the Law, and carried it into practical effect, by *proving* medicines on the *healthy* animal frame, and reducing their doses to a degree which is indispensable to their safety, on this principle of treatment. Having thus acquired a knowledge of the *disease-creating* powers of many medicines, or as they must be called, when in large doses, poisons, and of the cures effected by them on the sick, when given in conformity with this Law, he hesitated not to consider as established, and to promulgate, the grand and universal Law, that, "Every disease is best cured by that medicine which tends to produce on the healthy body similar symptoms," or in other words,—"*similia similibus curantur*." Like cures Like, *i. e.* homœopathically; but not Same cures Same, as it has sometimes been rendered. In contradistinction, he named the common medical practice, from employing in the treatment of

diseases, medicines producing an effect not like, but different, allopathy; or as frequently expressed,—*contraria contrariis curantur*.

We may select as an illustration of the homœopathic practice, the action of coffee, the immoderate use of which to those unaccustomed to it, is well known to be followed by a night of sleeplessness; when a homœopathist meets with restless sleeplessness, which is so very common a symptom in excitable children, when they suffer from dentition and other causes of irritation, he prescribes a minute dose of the *tincture of coffee*, and the result, to a degree of certainty unknown in the ordinary practice, is, healthy sleep. It may serve as some explanation, if we consider the sleeplessness here spoken of in children, as an *effort of nature* to overcome or ward off, more serious consequences of some injurious impression made on the system, and the remedy, by acting in sympathy, or in unison with nature's efforts, gives just the help she requires, and the morbid impression being overcome, a healthy sleep is the consequence; in other words, the medicine may be said to neutralise the disease and nature regains her pristine state of health the while.

Amongst domestic remedies, an illustration of the homœopathic principle is found in the practice of rubbing a frozen limb with *snow*, to restore the natural warmth; the practice of applying hot turpentine, or hot spirits of wine, to a burnt or scalded wound; and the practice of drinking warm tea, or warm spirit and water, to quench the thirst,

when overheated, is also explicable on the same principle. There are many other domestic remedies whose mode of action can only be so explained.

We may select for illustration, from amongst the diseases of childhood, one which is denoted by a scarlet eruption on the skin, sore throat, and fever (scarlatina): a similar effect is produced by a wild berry that grows in the woods (belladonna), of a sweet taste; it is sometimes eaten by children, ignorant of its poisonous character, when it produces a scarlet efflorescence of the skin, with fever, headache, and sore throat. Belladonna ought therefore, if there is truth in homœopathy, to be the remedy for scarlatina. We need not rely upon the testimony of homœopaths that it is so, for Dr. A. T. Thompson says of belladonna:—

“It produces a state of the skin closely resembling scarlatina, accompanied with fever, suffused eyes, dimness of sight, and frequently, though not always, headache.” (MAT. MED., p. 422.)

And another physician of the old school, writing in *Hufeland's Journal*, (May, 1812,) says,—

“I am also acquainted with a quarter in which during the prevalence of a very severe scarlet fever, the preservative of Hahnemann, (belladonna) was tried, and where all who tried it were protected from the disease. This fact is worthy of the greatest attention, and deserves to be frequently tested; for to allow ourselves to be prejudiced by the circumstances of the minute dose, would be to forget that we are treating of dynamic effects—effects upon a living body, which no one can appreciate by pounds or grains.”

One other illustration must suffice, and we select inflammation, because its treatment by the ordinary

plan is not altogether unsuccessful, though it will be acknowledged, it leaves much to be desired. One of the chief remedies the homœopathists use, for inflammatory diseases, is, the herb aconite, or monkshood. That it is successful is shewn by the unbounded confidence upwards of 3,000 homœopathic practitioners place in it. So great is its power over inflammation, that this disease, which is the terror of the old system, is comparatively harmless when treated according to the new. The intensity of the inflammation seems to furnish the susceptibility to the medicine, for the amendment is proportionately rapid and decisive as the former is severe. In highly acute inflammation, a diminution in the frequency of the pulse, is even perceptible while holding the wrist, a rapidity of curative action unknown in the ordinary practice. The truth of these statements is testified to by the greatest surgeon of modern times, the late lamented Mr. Liston :—

“The exhibition of extract of aconite in this (ERYSIPELAS) and other inflammatory affections, is often followed by great abatement of vascular excitement, so that the necessity for abstraction of blood is done away with. The medicine may be given in doses of half a grain in substance, or dissolved in pure water, and repeated every third or fourth hour. The sensible effect is relaxation of the surface, and frequently profuse perspiration; the arterial pulsations are diminished in frequency and force. The extract of belladonna, in doses of one sixteenth of a grain, may then be substituted with great advantage, and often with the most extraordinary effect upon the disease.”—

Again, in the *Lancet*, we find the following :—

“NORTH LONDON HOSPITAL. ERYSIPELAS IN THE HEAD.

REMARKABLE EFFECT OF THE EXTRACT OF BELLADONNA.—
 In going round, Mr. Liston remarked, that this was one of the most satisfactory and successful cases of erysipelas he had ever seen, the disease entirely, though not suddenly, disappearing in the course of a very few days. He was inclined to attribute this to the treatment, both local and general, which had been adopted, but more particularly to the administration of belladonna. This, the students might be aware, was given on the homœopathic principle, the doses only being somewhat increased. They had all probably seen the good effects of the aconite, and some of the other remedies employed by the advocates of homœopathy.”

The same report goes on to state:—

“The aconite has superseded bleeding in many cases at this hospital.”

In the course of some clinical remarks, he thus, in the most unequivocal manner, bears testimony to the efficacy of the homœopathic remedies.

“ERYSIPELAS OCCURRING IN THE UPPER EXTREMITY.—Since I last spoke on the subject of erysipelas, we have succeeded in subduing the action of the vascular system, without either the use of the lancet or tartarized antimony, by giving small doses of the aconitum napellus, and afterwards of belladonna. Two cases in which this treatment has been most successfully employed, have been accurately detailed in some late numbers of the LANCET. You have no doubt read them, as well as watched the cases themselves in the hospital. The first case was that of a woman, who, the first time she was in the hospital, was treated for erysipelas by antimony, punctures, and fomentations. It was some time before she recovered, and her convalescence was exceedingly tedious. In the second attack, after subduing the inflammatory fever in some measure by antimonials, we administered extract of belladonna, in very minute doses, and in two or three days she was quite well. The second case was that of a woman who had been much subject to the affection, having had

successive attacks of it at intervals, seldom recovering from them under a fortnight; small doses of the aconite, followed by belladonna, were given her, and in the course of three days she was also convalescent. There has been another case lately here, of a man with small ulcerations of the leg, from the toes up to the knee, aggravated by a scald, and who walked about until the leg became exceedingly swollen and red. He suffered besides considerably from fever. In this state he was admitted. We subdued the fever, and then administered to him the extract of belladonna, and in twenty-four hours the disease had quite disappeared. Of course we cannot pretend to say positively in what way this effect is produced, but it seems almost to act by magic; however, so long as we benefit our patients by the treatment we pursue, we have no right to condemn the principles upon which this treatment is recommended by the homœopathists in this affection, because it produces on the skin a fiery eruption or efflorescence, accompanied by inflammatory fever. ‘*Similia similibus curantur,*’ say they. They give in cases where a good night’s rest is required, these substances which generally, in healthy subjects, produce great restlessness, instead of exhibiting, as others do, those medicines termed sedatives. It is like driving out one devil by sending in another. I believe in the homœopathic doctrines to a certain extent, but I cannot as yet, from inexperience on the subject, go the length its advocates would wish, in as far as regards the very minute doses of some of their medicines. The medicines in the above cases were certainly given in much smaller doses than have hitherto ever been prescribed. The beneficial effects, as you witnessed, are unquestionable. I have, however, seen similar good effects of the belladonna, prepared according to the Homœopathic Pharmacopœia, in a case of very severe erysipelas of the head and face, under the care of my friend Dr. Quin. The inflammatory symptoms and local signs disappeared with great rapidity. Without adopting the theory of this medical sect, you ought not to reject its doctrines without due examination and enquiry.” . . .

Dr. Quin, who was one of Mr. Liston’s early and

most attached friends, thus speaks of his leaning to Homœopathy:—

“Mr. Liston was most struck with the action of aconite in subduing inflammation, and reduced vascular excitement; and he often expressed his regret to me that the power of aconite to abate vascular over-action, and supersede the necessity for abstraction of blood in many diseases, was not known to him earlier, because he was convinced that it would have prolonged the life of his father, whose death had been hastened, in his opinion, by ill-judged copious venesection.

“In a visit which I (Dr. Quin,) paid him a few days before his last fatal seizure, he, half in joke and half in earnest, said to me, ‘If in a short time I do not mend quicker than I am now doing under allopathy, I shall certainly send for you to treat me homœopathically.’”

After all, there may in reality be less difference between the two systems than at first sight appears, for the object in both is to bring about *a re-action of the natural powers*, and, in like manner, the good results of the cold water cure in chronic cases, are clearly referable to the *re-action* which follows that mode of treatment.

THE DOSE.—The dose of the homœopathic medicines is extremely small, for Hahnemann found by experience, not by theory, that the ordinary doses, when given on the new principle, were far too large. So that, step by step, he was obliged to reduce them, from a grain or a drop of the original substance, to the thousandth, or the millionth, and even the decillionth of a grain or drop. Greater experience has convinced his followers that any small quantity will suffice, provided always that the medi-

cine is the suitable one to the disease. Upon this we lay great stress, for we know that in proportion as it is exactly suited to the disease, a favourable result will follow. The practical rule which most homœopathists follow, is to give as small a quantity of the medicine, in chronic cases, as possible; in acute ones, rather more of the medicine.

These small doses have, however, brought down all the odium, opposition, and ridicule the new system has had to encounter. It is not surprising that it should be so, for it is contrary to all pre-conceived notions, that such small quantities should produce any effect at all; and if we could not demonstrate that they do possess the adequate power for the cure of every disease, no sensible man would be justified in believing us—no reflecting mind would hold them worthy of notice. It is, then, to the practical demonstration of their effects that we appeal for the faith that is in us; and while we expect no man to believe without this evidence, we ask for a suspension of judgment against us, before we are condemned.

The homœopathic medicines are prepared with the greatest care. The tinctures are made from the *green* juice of the plant, and not from the dried herb, as is customary in the ordinary practice of preparing drugs; it is then diluted with pure spirit of wine. The dry medicines, such as lime, metals, charcoal, etc., are triturated in a mortar, until reduced to an impalpable powder. The different degrees of strength are marked 1, 2, 3, etc., up to 30.

The lower numbers contain the most of the medicine; the higher numbers, the medicine in the finest state of subdivision, and the smallest quantity. If these minute doses exceed the capacity of our senses to grasp them, we should remember that modern science has brought to light many things that once were equally beyond our comprehension. Shall we like the Brahmin, who when first shewn the myriads of animalculæ that float in a drop of stagnant water, sought, in his impotent rage, to crush the microscope to atoms—try to annihilate a fact by an equally impotent attempt—denial? Shall we refuse to admit the stupendous wonders of the celestial world, as reflected in the telescope, because we had never before dreamed of them? Is it not a fact, that a single grain of musk will perfume a room, for years, diffusing its particles everywhere around, and still weigh no less than a grain? Can we weigh the particles of the infectious miasm that floats through the air, and may desolate a city with plague, pestilence, or fever? Does not the loadstone impart its magnetic property to many dozens of needles, and yet lose neither weight nor power? Has not the speed of the electric telegraph realized the fond aspirations of the poet,—

“To speed the intercourse of Soul with Soul,

“And waft a thought from Indus to the Pole?”

And is not the indelible fixing, on durable brass, of the mirror-reflected ray of light, by the photographic art, an every-day fact? Shall we then deny that even infinitesimal doses of medicine, may have power to

cure, when an unerring Law of Nature is their guide? Rather let us with Hamlet confess.—

“There are more things ’twixt heaven and earth, Horatio,
“Than are dreamt of in our philosophy.”

Some very important deductions flow from the use of these small doses. In the first place, as will be readily admitted, in these small quantities, they can have no effect upon a perfectly healthy person, yet one of the many errors that have prevailed with regard to the system, is, that we asserted and believed that they did possess such power. So far has this been the case, that a medical friend of mine, in a momentary fit of unwonted liberality, determined to inquire into the system, and began by swallowing a bottleful of globules. Finding no effects, he took a second, and then a third, nay, I believe he did not stop until he had consumed a whole pocket-caseful of them, and then gravely assured me he felt no effect from any of them, except a slight rawness of the throat after the belladonna, which, if true, shewed an unusual susceptibility, if only imaginary, that scepticism and credulity may be closely related. That they should be powerful to cure disease, and yet unable to make any impression in health, may seem paradoxical to many, nevertheless, such is the fact, and we are familiar with something analagous to this apparent contradiction, in the royal prerogative of our gracious Sovereign, who, though powerful for good, can do no wrong; even thus it is with these little doses, which though mighty to cure, can do no harm. Neither have they any effect upon a deceased person when given

according to the ordinary practice of contraries ; for if we give a globule of opium to a man with sleeplessness, he will remain sleepless still. It follows then, that their action, for act they do, must be because they are in *harmony* with the current of the disease, *i. e.* homœopathically. Thus, as Dr. Hayle says,—

“If the smallness of the dose has drawn upon the system the ridicule which arises from the violation of preconceived ideas, it has at least this advantage, that it discloses its principle of action, and thus proves the truth of Hahnemann’s assertion.”

If, moreover, these infinitesimal doses were not sufficiently powerful, we should at once change them for larger ones, as there is nothing to interdict our doing so, save the fact of their known sufficiency.

From the foregoing statements, the assertion we are about to make will hardly be expected ; nevertheless, it is a matter of almost daily experience with us, that these incredibly minute doses are frequently *too powerful*, that, in fact their use is sometimes followed by such an aggravation of the symptoms, as to cause no little alarm to the patient. Happily, this temporary rekindling of the fire is invariably and quickly followed by the most marked amendment. When it is remembered how vast is the difference of susceptibility betwixt a healthy and a diseased person ; when it is remembered how sensitive is a burnt finger to the least heat of the fire ; when it is remembered that these little doses must go to the very seat and heart of the disease, and make, as it were, the same chord to vibrate,—some explanation is furnished to account for such an occurrence, and lessen our astonishment at a result so little to be expected.

One of the incidental advantages of the new system is the remarkable unanimity of opinion which pervades its professors. This feature, which contrasts so favourably with the proverbial differences amongst the professors of the rival system, is well portrayed in the following anecdote, which may be relied upon as authentic. Dr. C. Herring says:—

“Whilst travelling through Germany, he was invited to the house of a rich old gentleman, who had been an invalid for twenty years. This gentleman had at first consulted two physicians of celebrity, but as they quarrelled about his complaint, he determined to seek other advice. But first he resolved, that if HE COULD FIND THREE DOCTORS WHO PERFECTLY AGREED UPON HIS CASE WITHOUT HESITATION, to allow himself to be treated by them, but not otherwise. For this purpose he had consulted many eminent physicians, whose opinions and prescriptions he had recorded in a book kept for the purpose, which, as may be supposed, had cost him a pretty sum of money, but never found any three who agreed respecting his case.

“This book had the appearance of a ledger in large folio, and was kept in the forms of tables. In the first column were the names of the physicians, amounting to 477; in the second, those of the disease, with explanations concerning its nature; of those there were 313, differing importantly from each other; in the third column were the remedies proposed, these consisted of 832 prescriptions, containing in all 1,097 remedies. The sum total of fees appeared at the end of each page.

“He took up a pen, and said coolly, ‘Wont you prescribe something for me?’ But having no great inclination to do so, I only asked if Hahnemann was not in the list. With a smile he turned to No. 301, name of the disease ‘O,’ remedy prescribed ‘O,’ ‘That was the wisest of the lot,’ he cried, ‘for he said that the NAME of the disease did not concern him, and that the name of the remedy did not concern me, but that the cure was the essential point.’ ‘But why,’ I

inquired, 'did you not allow him to treat you?' 'Because,' he replied, 'he was but one, and I must have three who agree.'

"I asked him if he were willing to sacrifice some hundred francs for an experiment, in which case I should be able to mention not THREE, but THIRTY-THREE physicians living in the neighbourhood, and in countries and parts of the world widely separate, who should all be of one opinion. He expressed his doubts, but at the same time resolved to undertake the trial. We then made out a description of his disease, and when the copies were finished, sent them to thirty-three homœopathic practitioners. He inclosed a louis d'or in each letter, begging each physician to name the remedies which were capable of curing, or at least of alleviating his disease.

"A short time since I received a cask of Rhenish, of the vintage of 1822. 'I send you wine of the year 1822,' he wrote, 'because twenty-two physicians agreed respecting my case. I thereby perceive that there is certainty in some things in this world. I have got various works on the subject, in order to gain information upon it. Out of about two hundred medicines, twenty-two physicians have fixed upon the same remedy. One could not expect more. The physician nearest me has got me under his care, and I send you the wine that I may not be tempted to drink too much from joy at seeing my health improving from day to day.'"

PROGRESS OF HOMŒOPATHY.—It was, as already stated, in the year 1790 that Hahnemann made his discovery; it was in the year 1796, six years later, that he made his discovery known to the world. The appearance of his book, containing its announcement, elicited, amongst many hard sayings, from one of his reviewers, that phrase which has since been so much hacknied,—“This book contains much that is new, and also much that is true, but unfortunately that which is new is not true, and

that which is true is not new." If, however, it had not been true, less than half a century would have sufficed to send it to the tomb of all the Capulets; if its merits had been ordinary or trifling, it would long since have had its day, and be quietly reposing on the shelf, where sleep the ephemeral wonders of every age. But instead of this, its course has been steadily, though slowly, progressive; it has always been opposed, but never arrested; it has always been assailed, but its territories have never receded. In truth, it is no idle assertion to say, that it is the oldest system extant, having neither changed its theory nor its practice for fifty years, while the ordinary practice is well known to undergo almost entire mutation every twenty years, and the hydropathic, as yet, numbers only seventeen years.

GERMANY, which had the honour of being the birth-place of the new science, and the cradle of its earliest years, now boasts so many adherents to this system, that almost every little village has its homœopathic practitioner. In Vienna alone, there are upwards of 100, where is also a large hospital exclusively appropriated to the treatment of diseases according to the homœopathic practice. It may be allowed, in reference to this hospital, to quote a gentleman of the other school. Dr. Wilde in his work, entitled *Austria and the Austrians*, says:—

"Whatever the opponents of this system may put forward against it, I am bound to say, and I am far from being a homœopathic practitioner, that the cases I saw treated by it in the Vienna hospital were fully as acute and virulent as those that have come under my observation elsewhere; and the statistics

shew that the mortality is much less than in the other hospitals of the city. Knolz, the Austrian 'Protomedicus,' has published those for 1838, which exhibit a mortality of but five or six per cent., while three similar institutions on the allopathic plan, enumerated before it in the same tables, shew a mortality as high as from eight to ten per cent." (p. 277.)

In the United States of America, where homœopathy was introduced earlier than in this country, the number of its medical adherents exceeds 1,000.

Dr. Pulte, of Cincinnati, on his recent visit to this country said, that,—

"He went to Cincinnati eight years ago, when the name of homœopathy was scarcely known, and at the time of revisiting Europe, there were eleven practitioners, besides himself, and five students, who would be in practice the following year, and that fully one half of the more enlightened portion of the inhabitants, in a population of 150,000, were supporters of the system."

A specimen of progress it has not been our fortune to witness in this country.

In Great Britain, homœopathy was first introduced by Dr. Quin, the president of the British Homœopathic Society, than whom, as the apostle of the system in this country, none better deserve the thanks of its adherents, for uncompromising zeal in advocating its claims, and ability in preserving it from the stain of corrupt practices. The number of practitioners in this country is shewn by the following tables:—

HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS

IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND, IN THE YEAR 1840.

LONDON.....	{ Drs. Quin, Belluomini, Simpson, Curie, Dunsford, Epps, Broakes.
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Since this time we have daily heard that "homœopathy is going down."—"It is a delusion that has had its day."—"It is dying away fast," etc., etc., etc. How much truth there is in such assertions is shewn by the following table:—

HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS

IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND, IN THE YEAR 1850.

LONDON.....	{ Drs. Quin, Chapman, J. Chapman, Curie, Laurie, Dudgeon, Epps, Cheppel, Partridge, Massol, Hamilton, Mayne, Batchelour, Broakes, Neville Wood, Malan, E. Cronin, Kelsal, McOubry Osman, Thompson, Barry, Fischer, Hunter, Kelly, Metcalf, Roth, Spillan, Vardy, Veittinghoff, Wilkinson; and Messrs. Cameron, Hering, G. N. Epps, Kidd, Leadam, Metcalf, Engall, Frith, Brown, Clarke, Cooper, Henriques, Hunter, Millard, Pearce, Reynolds, Robertson, Sherwood, Wilson, and Yeldham
EDINBURGH.....	{ Professor Henderson, Drs. Russel, Wielobycki, Lyschinski, Sutherland, Purdie
BARNSTAPLE.....	Mr. Joce
BATH.....	Dr. H. W. Luther
BIRKENHEAD.....	Dr. Wright
BIRMINGHAM.....	{ Dr. Fearon, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Laurence
BRIGHTON.....	{ Dr. Madden Dr. D. Laurie, Mr. Cobbe, and Mr. Wardroper
BRISTOL.....	Messrs. Gillow and Trotman
CANTERBURY.....	Mr. Parsons
CHELTENHAM.....	Dr. Ker, and Dr. Willis
CHESTER.....	Dr. Norton
CLIFTON.....	Dr. Black
DONCASTER.....	Dr. Dunn
DUNDEE.....	Dr. Cockburn
EXETER.....	Dr. Guinness, and Mr. Kingdon
GLASGOW.....	Drs. Scott, and Beilbe
GLASTONBURY.....	Mr. Newman
HALIFAX.....	Dr. Wright
HONITON.....	Mr. Holland
HUDDERSFIELD.....	Mr. Ramsbotham
HULL.....	Dr. Atkin

KIDDERMINSTER.....	Dr. Rosenstein
LEAMINGTON	Dr. Sutherland
IPSWICH	Mr. Hewitt
ILKLY	Dr. Macleod
LEEDS	Drs. Irvine and Cresswell
LEICESTER	Dr. Hanson
LIVERPOOL	{ Drs. Drysdale, Roche, and Hilbers, and Mr. Moore
MAIDSTONE	Mr. Watson
MALVERN	Drs. Gully, Marsden and Stummes
MANCHESTER	{ Dr. Walker, and Messrs. Phillips, Harrison, McDowal and Matthews
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE..	Dr. Hayle and Mr. Elliott
NORWICH	Mr. Hale
ISLE OF WIGHT.....	Dr. Lowder
SHEFFIELD.....	Mr. Smith
SOUTHAMPTON	Dr. Wilmot
SUTTON COLEFIELD	Dr. Freer
TAUNTON... ..	Mr. Blake
THURSO ..	Mr. Mill
TORQUAY.....	Dr. Mackintosh
WICKWAR.....	Dr. Stokes

There are also four Veterinary Homœopathic Practitioners, viz.—one in London, one in Manchester, one in Huddersfield, and one in Halifax.

Nearly all these gentlemen practised upon the old system, before their conversion to homœopathy; and it is worthy of notice, that there is no instance on record of a homœopathist returning to the old practice. In addition to the above names, there are several hundred medical men who partially practice according to the homœopathic method; and many of the younger members of the profession are diligently investigating it.

We cannot better sum up this part of our subject than by again quoting the talented editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review* :—

“ But homœopathy comes before us in a much more imposing aspect, and claims our attention on grounds which cannot be gainsaid. It presents itself as a new art of medicine, as a mode of practice utterly at variance with that long established in the

world; and claims the notice of mankind on the irresistible grounds of its superior power of curing diseases and preserving human life. And it comes before us now, not in the garb of a suppliant, unknown and helpless, but as a conqueror, powerful, famous, and triumphant. The disciples of Hahnemann are spread over the whole civilized world: there is not a town of any considerable size in Germany, France, Italy, England, or America, that does not boast of possessing one or more Homœopathic physicians, not a few of whom are men of high respectability and learning, many of them in large practice, and patronized especially by persons of high rank. New Books on homœopathy issue in abundance from the press, and journals exclusively devoted to its cause are printed and widely circulated in Europe and America. Numerous hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment of the poor on the new system have been established, many of which publish reports blazoning its successes not merely in warm phrases, but in the hard words, and harder figures of statistical tables. The last triumph which Homœopathy has achieved, is the conversion of the Professor of Pathology in the University of Edinburgh, from the old faith. As an established form of practical medicine, as a great fact in the history of our art, we must 'nolentes volentes,' consider homœopathy."

Since the above was written two other professors in the University of Edinburgh are known to favour this system, and at a late "capping" (for the degree of M.D.,) eight of the newly created doctors avowed their adhesion to homœopathy.*

Enough, I trust, has now been said, to shew, that homœopathy possesses much truth and value; that it is worthy the consideration of the humane, the phi-

* Every year gives us something new to record in the development of this science. The year 1850 will be amongst the most notable in its history in this country, for it has seen the establishment of three hospitals, exclusively devoted to this mode of practice. Two of these are in London, and one in Manchester.

lanthropic, and all who wish to lessen the amount of human suffering; that it is but kindly of the benevolent-minded, at least, to wish it to be true. I hope that the members of the medical profession, will receive what has been here said, as an incentive to further and better inquiries, and that they will see herein, at least a glimpse, of the realization of a long felt want—an universal law of healing—a harmless, yet not impotent, means of alleviating human suffering. And if further inquiry lead to conviction, as assuredly it should do, if conducted in a right spirit, then, will they help us in perfecting and disseminating a boon to mankind.

Hear what Hahnemann himself says of it, in his *address before the Homœopathic Society of Paris* :—

“I present to you a TRUTH long sought for—a divine revelation of a principle of eternal nature. I appeal to existing facts alone to convince you; and when a conscientious and complete course of study shall crown your researches with success, then, as I have done, bless Providence for the immense benefaction he has allowed to descend upon the earth through my humble agency, for I have been but a feeble instrument of the Omnipotence before which we all bow in humility.

“Oh, that it were mine to lead the better portion of the medical world, who can feel for the sufferings of our brethren of mankind and long to know how they may relieve them! Oh, that I might indeed direct them to those purer principles which may realize for them the desire of their hearts!

“Infamy be the award of history to him who, by deceit and fiction, can maim this art of ours, which is intended to succour the wretched!

“All-compensating, divine, self-approval, and an unfading wreath to him who helps to make our art one blessing to mankind!”

ILLUSTRATIONS OF
HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE.

HOMŒOPATHY then, is the art of treating diseases on the principle of Like cures Like ; it is a matter of after experience that this can be done safely, quickly, and pleasantly, by medicines in the smallest quantities. At the bed side of the sick the homœopathist, to practice successfully, must be pains-taking in obtaining as exact a knowledge of each individual case as possible. In acute cases he must ascertain the origin of the disease, so far as he can, and watch its progress most carefully. In chronic cases he should make himself acquainted with the previous history of the patient's health ; with the hereditary predisposition, if there be any ; with the foregone maladies of childhood, youth, and the adult period ; with the actual and present condition of the organism ; and with the different kinds of medication which may have been used by other medical men for the different disorders. And when this is done, he applies the remedy or remedies that may be best suited to each particular case, by virtue of their *homœopathicity* to the disease.

In proportion as he is most happy in thus applying his remedies, is the amount of his practical success. He has a law of general if not universal applicability. The larger he is guided by this law, and the more experience he has, the deeper is his conviction of its truth, for it is in very truth a law of nature, even as is the law of gravitation. Under the guidance, then, of this law, if he fails, he knows the failure is due to

himself, or to the, as yet, limited powers of the *materia medica*, and not to the method of practice. To the homœopathist, then, his law of healing is, in no small measure, what the mariner's compass is to the navigator. His *Materia Medica* is his chart, which he must evermore study.*

Attention to diet is enforced, as a matter of common sense. Two simple rules compose the whole subject: the first is, that the patient should use nothing in the way of diet which is hurtful to him in general, or under the present circumstances; the second is, that the patient should, while under homœopathic treatment, abstain from the use of condiments, spices, and the like, which are in fact medicinal, and would interfere with the specific treatment. It has been objected that homœopathy is not a medical practice, but one of diet simply. This objection is altogether unfounded. We cure children and infants of acute and other diseases, whose diet is not at all changed.

Homœopathy is a medical practice, and the object of these illustrations is to shew, in brief, that it is so. It is not only a medical practice, but as we homœopathists believe, it is the best. We have arrived at this conclusion in despite of the prejudices of our education, from the irresistible force of our conviction, and because experience, which is the great test of truth, year by year, adds confirmation to our faith.

The first two of the following cases are by Habne-mann, and they are the more interesting as being the only two he was ever prevailed upon to publish.

* The book which contains an account of the nature and properties of all medicines.

CASE I.

“ MR. S., laundress, forty and odd years old, had been laid up for three weeks when she consulted me on the 1st of September, 1815.

1. At every movement, especially when treading, she has stitches in the pit of the stomach, coming, as she expresses it, from the left side; the stitches are worst when making a step.

2. When lying down she feels quite well; she has then no pain any where, neither in the side, nor in the pit of the stomach.

3. She cannot sleep after three o'clock in the morning.

4. She relishes her food, but after having eaten anything she feels an inclination to vomit.

5. When this inclination to vomit comes on, the water accumulates in her mouth, and runs out of it, as in waterbrash.

6. After every meal she has several empty risings.

7. She is of a vehement temper, disposed to be angry. When the pain is violent, she is covered with sweat. No other abnormal symptoms.”

REMARK; AS TO SYMPTOM. “NO. 1. BRYONIA, is the only remedy which produces pain from motion, and especially stitching pain, and likewise stitches (in the pit of the stomach) under the sternum, when raising the arm during a mis-step it likewise causes stitches in other parts.

The negative symptom No. 2 is especially corresponding to Bryonia; but few medicines have no pain in a state of rest.

No. 3 indicates several drugs, also Bryonia.

No. 4. Unimportant.

As regards symptom 5, several drugs, among which Bryonia, cause an accumulation of saliva resembling waterbrash; but those other drugs do not produce the other symptoms of our group. Bryonia, therefore, deserves the preference in this respect.

The empty rising (of air merely) after a meal (symptom 6) exists in but a few drugs, but in no drug is it as constant and characteristic as in Bryonia.

No. 7. One of the principal symptoms in diseases is the temper of the patient: in this respect also Bryonia corresponds perfectly to the present case. From all these reasons Bryonia deserves a preference over every other remedy in this case." [VIDE MATERIA MEDICA.]

“As the woman was very robust, and as the forces of disease had affected her organism so painfully that she was not able to continue her work, and as, moreover, her vital powers were unimpaired, I gave her a full drop of the tincture of Bryonia, with direction to see me again in forty-eight hours. I told my friend E., who was present, that the woman's health ought to be restored after this period, which he doubted, not being yet fully converted to the new doctrine. I two days he returned to know the result, but the woman did not come. My friend, being impatient, and determined to know what effect the medicine had produced, travelled to the village where the woman resided, to inform himself. He found the woman, and inquired of her why she had not returned? She replied, ‘What should I do at the doctor's? Next day I was quite well, and able to go about my washing, and ever since I have been as well as I am now. A thousand thanks to the doctor, but folks like me have no time to spare of their work; I have not earned a cent for three weeks past.’”

CASE II.

“MR. W., a weak, pale man, of forty-two years, whose business was at the writing desk, consulted me on the 5th of December, 1815; he had been sick five days.

1. On the first evening he was attacked with nausea and vertigo, without any visible cause, accompanied with eructations.

2. Sour vomiting at two o'clock in the night.

3. Violent eructations in the three nights following.

4. On the sixth day eructations of a putrid and sour taste.

5. Sensation in the stomach as if the food lay raw and undigested in the stomach.

6. The interior of the head seemed to him enlarged, hollow, gloomy, and sensitive to pain.

7. The least noise affected him painfully.

8. He is of a mild and placid temper.

[The same comparison between the above symptoms and the effects of different medicines, as given in the *Materia Medica*, was instituted in this, as in the preceding case. Hahneman decided in favour of Pulsatilla, and thus speaks of the result.—*Author*].

This patient could not have been cured more easily, certainly, and permanently, by any other remedy than by Pulsatilla. Being weak and worn out, he only took half a drop of the 16th potency towards evening. On the day following he was restored; his digestion was good, and he has remained well ever since.”—*[Dr. Hahnemann]*.

CASE III.—NEURALGIA, (*Tic Douloureux.*)

MRS. A., a lady of full figure, and perhaps fifty

years of age, was seized with violent pain in the left side of the face, which had continued to increase for two or three days, up to the time of my visiting her, December, 23rd, 1846. The pain was excruciating, and extended up to the side of the face, over the forehead, and backwards to the nape of the neck. She had informed me that she had twice suffered from a similar attack on former occasions. The pain was accompanied with so much fever, denoted by a strong and quick pulse, frequent flushes of heat in the face, and considerable thirst, that I was induced to prescribe the following :—

Tincture of Aconite, 3rd dilution, ten drops, in six ounces of water. Of this mixture a tablespoonful to be taken every three hours.

On the 24th, the inflammatory symptoms were much better, indeed, nearly gone, and the pain was rather more bearable. The same medicine was continued.

I did not see her again for two days as I was obliged to go from home. On the 26th, I found her still suffering from the pain, but its character had changed since my former visit. It was at this time accompanied with a burning sensation, and as if a red-hot needle were plunged into the cheek, and passed upwards through the eye. It had also become periodical, having marked aggravations every morning about four or five o'clock. During the day she had several lesser paroxysms, which left such exhaustion of strength that she had to lie down upon the sofa. I prescribed Tincture of Arsenicum, of the 30th dilution; two drops to be taken every four hours.

On the 27th, she reported that soon after taking the

first dose the pain became less severe, and that a sensation of numbness and tingling in the cheek and forehead, accompanied the then moderated pain. But that after taking the third or fourth dose, the pain and numbness entirely ceased, relieving her from much anxiety, as her former attacks had continued for several weeks.

CASE IV.—INFLAMMATION OF THE PLEURA.

(Pleurisy.)

MR. P., aged forty, of a strong and robust constitution, was suddenly seized, after exposure to severe weather, with a sharp pain in the right side of the chest, which had been increasing the whole of the night previous to my seeing him, which was on the 13th of November, 1847, at eight o'clock in the morning. He complained of a pain in his right side, like the stabbing of a dagger, whenever he moved, took a deep breath, or ventured to cough. The dread of renewing the pain obliged him to lie perfectly still, and to speak in a lower tone of voice than was customary with him. His pulse was 112, hard and full; his skin was hot and dry; his tongue was also dry, but clean, and he complained of incessant thirst. He informed me that he had a similar attack some years ago, for which he had been cupped and blistered. On the present occasion, the indications for blood-letting according to the principles of the old school, were no less peremptory. I, however, prescribed the homœopathic substitute, viz.: —Aconite. Ten drops of the 6th dilution, were mixed with a wine-glassful of water, and of this mixture he took a teaspoonful every hour. About eleven o'clock, one of his friends called upon me to

express her fears that the smallness of the means might not be sufficient to remove so violent an inflammation, and begged that he might be bled or cupped, as on the former occasion. Upon making a few inquiries, I learned that a little moisture had appeared upon the skin since taking the medicine, and knowing this to be a favourable omen, I requested that the medicine might be continued a few hours longer.

At two in the afternoon, I found that the perspiration on the skin, which, though slight after the first dose, had increased with each succeeding one, was now considerable, and that the pain was certainly upon the whole less violent.

At seven in the evening, I saw him again, and found that the perspiration had continued during the afternoon, and was now profuse over the whole body, and that the pain was so much relieved as to permit him to take an ordinary inspiration without pain, although a deeper one still caused a sharp catching in the side.

On the 14th. He had passed a good night, notwithstanding occasional fits of coughing, and was able to sit up, and no longer felt any pain. For the cough he got Mercurius, and subsequently Senega and Sulphur.

On the 16th, the third day of his illness, he resumed his employment, that of a clerk in an office, having on the former occasion been three weeks confined to the house from a less severe attack.

CASE V.—TOOTHACHE.

JULY 3rd, 1848.—A young lady of a mild and uncomplaining disposition, who suffered much from toothache, and had many decayed teeth, sought some

relief from an attack which had continued for several days. The pain was on the right side of the face, almost constant and shooting backwards through the ear of the same side. She was unable to eat or drink anything hot without great increase of pain. I prescribed,—Pulsatilla, 3rd dilution; three globules to be taken every half hour. In four or five minutes after taking the first dose, the pain ceased, and for two or three weeks, during which I frequently saw her, there was no return.

The principal homœopathic remedies for toothache, are Belladonna, Pulsatilla, Nux vomica, and Mercurius: and the instantaneous manner in which they frequently arrest the pain furnishes a striking example of the rapidity with which a homœopathic remedy can act.

CASE VI.—NERVOUS HEADACHE.

MARCH 12th, 1847.—Mrs. L., on the fourth day after her accouchment, complained of insupportable pain in the forepart of the head, which had prevented her sleeping during the past night. Her face was unusually pale, and betokened great anxiety. She remarked that the pain was less excruciating when awake, but that if for a few moments she fell into a dose, it would increase to violence, and only abate when she was fully awake. I prescribed,—Tincture of Chamomile, 3rd dilution, two drops in a small quantity of powdered sugar-of-milk; one such powder to be taken every two hours. At six in the evening she reported that after taking two of the powders the pain had entirely disappeared. Her countenance had

regained its wonted expression, and her convalescence proceeded without any return of the pain.

CASE VII.—PERITONITIS, (*Inflammation of the investing membrane of the Bowels*).

I WAS called to see, on the 23rd December, 1846, Mrs. M., aged sixty-eight, about eight o'clock in the evening. She had taken cold a few days ago, and during the last twelve hours had felt a sharp pain in the bowels, increasing in severity with each succeeding hour. The pain was so severe as to oblige her to lie perfectly still and motionless, with her knees drawn up, and her shoulders supported by pillows. She could not bear the slightest pressure upon the bowels, and dreaded even the bed-clothes touching the seat of the inflammation. She had taken no food during the day, but had drank water unceasingly to assuage her thirst. The tongue was dry and coated; the pulse made 120 beats in a minute, and felt hard and wiry. All the natural secretions were diminished. Notwithstanding her age, I felt assured from the high tone the inflammation had assumed, that Aconite would free her from all danger on that ground, but I was not without apprehension for the sequences, which might be more severe than she could bear up against. I ordered,—Two drops of the Tincture of Aconite of the 3rd potency, to be taken every hour. On the morning of the 24th, I found that she had been restless during the night, and talking incoherently in her sleep, the pain in the bowels, however, was something easier, for she could bear to be gently pressed upon

them, the skin over which felt more moist, and the pulse at the wrist was less wiry. The Aconite was continued.

At eight o'clock in the evening, I found that the pain was still better than when I had seen her in the morning, and that she could even allow considerable pressure to be made upon the stomach, without shrinking. All the other symptoms were decidedly better. The same medicine was continued.

On the 25th, Christmas Day, she was free from pain, and able to join her family circle at the festive board, although she did not venture to partake of the good cheer.

On the 26th, she reported herself as quite well, and requiring no further medicine.

CASE VIII.—INDIGESTION.

OCTOBER 20th, 1848.—A gentleman of thirty-eight years of age, whose engagements obliged him to spend many hours every day at the writing desk, to which circumstance he was disposed to attribute a succession of bilious attacks and sick-headaches during the last six years, sought advice for the following :—Want of appetite, accompanied with a gnawing, craving, empty sensation, as if he had not tasted food for many days, at the same time a warning sensation that the stomach would reject food if taken. These feelings were especially distressing about eleven o'clock in the morning. After a very moderate dinner, he felt oppressively full, and distended with flatulence, which annoyed him for the remainder of the day. His sleep was unre-

freshing, and disturbed by confused dreams of tumbling down steep places, sudden alarms, and unavoidable dangers. His spirits, which were naturally lively, were at this time depressed, melancholy, and disposing him to view everything hopelessly. This feeling at times overpowered him to such an extent as to induce him to burst into tears, while his temper was so irritable that he could not bear the slightest contradiction. He had been losing flesh for the last two or three years, and looked thin and emaciated. During the three weeks preceding his application to me, he had been labouring under an attack of influenza, which had added to the above ailments a cough, hoarseness of voice, and shortness of breath on making any exertion.

I prescribed Bryonia of the 6th dilution; a Pilule to be taken night and morning for ten days, with instructions to eat more food than he had hitherto allowed himself.

On the 29th he called to say that he was in every respect improved, although he continued to feel all the symptoms in a mitigated degree. I directed the same medicine to be continued.

On the 3rd of November, he reported himself quite well; since then I have repeatedly heard of him, and learn that he continues in excellent health.

FINIS.