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American Institute of Homoeopathy.

1881.

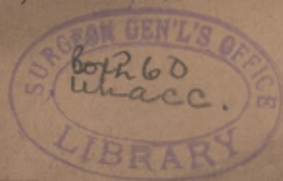
MEETING HELD AT BRIGHTON BEACH, JUNE 14TH-17TH

ADDRESS

BY THE PRESIDENT,

J. W. DOWLING, M. D.

OF NEW YORK CITY.



Printed and distributed in accordance with the following resolution:
"Resolved, That five thousand copies of the President's Address be printed,
aside from the proceedings of the Institute, for general distribution."

PITTSBURGH:

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1881.

*Abstract from the Report of the Committee on the
President's Address:*

Resolved, "That the President's definition of the words *regular* and *irregular*, as applied to schools and practitioners of medicine, be adopted by this Institute as correct."

Resolved, "That hereafter this definition be conspicuously printed in all published documents and Transactions of the Institute, in order that the profession, of all schools, may the sooner be familiarized with and led to adopt it."

Resolved, "That five thousand copies of the address be printed, aside from the proceedings of the Institute, for general distribution."

Resolved, "That the thanks of the American Institute of Homœopathy be, and are hereby extended to J. W. DOWLING, M. D., for his able and timely address, and that the General Secretary be directed to present him with a properly engrossed copy of this resolution."

NICHOLAS FRANCIS COOKE, M. D.

NATHAN R. MORSE, M. D.

WILLIAM OWENS, M. D.



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

A SHORT time since, in glancing over the pages of a reputable medical journal, my eye fell upon an article headed "Medical Societies Criticised." Now, this journal was thrust upon me just as I was sitting down, pen in hand, with a brain tired by a hard winter's work, to write the President's annual address for this meeting of the American Institute of Homœopathy. The title of the article impressed me, for naturally everything relating to medical societies has been of unusual interest to me for the past twelve months. I laid down my pen and perused the criticism carefully. All taking an active part in the proceedings of the meeting described were severely handled, but the poor President, it seemed to me, received more than his share of abuse. His appearance, his manner, and particularly his annual address, were subjects of severe animadversion. As I finished I drew a long and deep breath, and said audibly, and wickedly perhaps: I hope some day the author of that article will be President of a Medical Society; that he will have an annual address to prepare and deliver, and that he will be limited for a subject to the progress of homœopathy during the past year.

This matter of a President's address is not a voluntary act. The by-laws of this Institute say: "The President shall deliver an address, at the opening of each session, on the progress of homœopathy during the past year, and shall make such suggestions as he shall deem necessary for the Institute to take action upon during the session." He is not obliged to make suggestions, but an address must be delivered, and upon a certain topic. In delivering it he is simply performing an imperative duty. He does not invite criticism.

presented by the author -

The object of the American Institute of Homœopathy is stated in its constitution to be "the improvement of homœopathic therapeutics and all other departments of medical science." It is only necessary for us to glance over the pages of the thirty odd volumes of Transactions to satisfy ourselves as to how much has been accomplished by our national body in this direction. Although it is not stated in the constitution—has not this Institute an object beyond this? Is there not much benefit derived from the interchange of fraternal feelings between practitioners from all parts of the United States, and through our delegates to the International Congress, between brother practitioners throughout the civilized world? Is not the freedom from care, the rest from arduous professional labors, the change of scene, the recreation (to many of our number the only opportunity throughout the twelve months of the year to absolutely free themselves from the tiresome and trying daily routine of the physician's life), enough in itself to more than compensate for the expense and loss of time necessary for attendance upon its annual meetings? The friendships formed, the differences explained and reconciled, the pleasant reflections upon the meeting passed, the looking forward to the reunion of the year to come, combine to make these gatherings valuable to us collectively and individually. The days passed with the members of this Institute assembled in a body, particularly since it has been our custom to sleep, eat and drink beneath one common roof, have been among the happiest of my life, and I have reason to believe that this is but an expression of the experience of all whose custom it is to regularly attend the meetings of this our national medical organization.

I congratulate the Institute upon the prospect this year of a large attendance, a profitable and pleasant meeting.

Progress has undoubtedly been made during the past year—as has been in every year since our illustrious father in medicine first expounded our law of cure. But differences of opinion exist among our members as to what constitutes progress in homœopathy. Having been chosen to your Presidency by no faction or party but by a unanimous vote, it is proper that I should regard, in any remarks which I shall make, those differences of opinion. I am debarred, if I have any special views on important matters which to a certain extent divide the members of our school, referring to

them. It is not for me to say on this occasion whether I believe in the universality or non-universality of our law of cure. If it is my custom, in prescribing, to use the very high dilutions, the medium or the very low, and if my belief is that either one of these preparations is the only proper and rational method of prescribing when treating disease in accordance with our law—knowing that each of these views has its adherents among those who have elevated me to this position—a proper delicacy prevents me from giving utterance to my own.

If it is my belief that as a professed follower of Hahnemann, in my efforts to relieve suffering and cure disease safely, promptly and pleasantly, I am, regardless of diagnosis and pathology, to be governed in the selection of my remedy entirely by the totality of the symptoms; and perhaps being a non-believer in the theory that certain diseases are self-limited (some of these from their onset being incurable, while others tend to recovery and are not, so far as our present knowledge goes, shortened or greatly changed by medical treatment), if I hold with those who style themselves pure homœopaths, that provided a remedy can be found which, in its action upon the healthy, accurately corresponds with the superficial symptoms of a certain case of sickness, and that remedy be administered in a sufficiently infinitesimal quantity, the patient must recover—and that if he does recover, my single remedy has cured him—I am obliged to refrain from expressing such views as my own, for there are in our membership thoughtful and thoroughly educated men, successful men, and practitioners of large experience, who claim that to relieve suffering and cure disease in the most speedy and effectual manner—which all concede is the prime aim of the physician's calling—the homœopath should be untrammelled; that all that is worth culling from the experience of ages belongs to him, if in his judgment necessity compels him to use it; that cases arise requiring in their treatment purely mechanical measures, others where his knowledge of organic chemistry and the physiological action of drugs must be resorted to for means of relief, and that there are others positively incurable, requiring purely palliative treatment; and that physiology and pathology should never be lost sight of in the treatment of disease; that it is not the outward manifestations alone with which he has to do. And these men claim that they too are pure homœopaths, for they have pro-

claimed their belief in the homœopathic law of cure, and strictly adhere to that law whenever in their judgment it is compatible with the best interests of their patients so to do.

Harmony is always an evidence of progress, and I congratulate the members of our Institute on the fact that during the past year there has been a remarkable freedom from controversy and disputing upon matters of difference connected with our efforts as homœopathic practitioners to cure disease. There have been fewer unkind criticisms; fewer open letters in our medical journals; more respect has been paid to the views of those entertaining differences of opinion; liberalism of thought and action has been countenanced and encouraged; and the conclusion seems to have become almost general that it would be a misfortune if we, who have always been considered liberal, should now depart from our time-honored principles, and create dissension and possibly rupture by an attempt to restrict the adherents of our school. We are all believers in the homœopathic law of cure, and to the best of our individual ability practice in accordance with that law. Some, perhaps, are more successful in their prescriptions than others, but so far as I have been able to judge, no matter what his special views as to the size of the dose, as to the frequency of its repetition, as to whether greater reliance is to be placed upon the original provings of Hahnemann and his immediate followers, or upon those of more recent date—the homœopathic practitioner is well pleased with the results of his efforts. Few believe, fewer are ready to acknowledge, that a brother practitioner entertaining different views from himself is more successful than he. Some years since, in an article in one of our Western journals, the writer claimed a remarkable degree of success in his prescriptions for the sick, but he said: "There is a secret to my success, and that secret is, that I never use an *old* remedy where a *new* one is indicated." The following month a brief article appeared from the pen of another practitioner, who claimed that he, too, had met with remarkable success in *his* prescriptions, and felt that, with the author of the article in the preceding number, he, too, had reason to be proud, and that he, too, had a secret which he was ready, for the benefit of his fellow practitioners, to divulge—and his secret was that he never used a new remedy where an old one was indicated. It will not be out of place for me to suggest an

absolute cessation on the part of the members of this Institute and the practitioners of our school outside of this organization, of controversy and dispute upon the matters of difference to which reference has been made, and to urge our medical journals to refuse to publish articles of a general or personal nature calculated to breed dissension in our ranks.

Our school is not in danger from those who, styling themselves "regulars," have been for nearly seventy-five years, by fair and foul means, endeavoring to arrest its progress. Notwithstanding this abuse our members have steadily increased and are still constantly increasing. But little more than half a century has passed since Dr. Gram, the pioneer of homœopathy in America, first located in this country. Our system has grown in popularity till now six thousand physicians practice in accordance with our law—or perhaps, speaking more accurately, to the best of their ability in accordance with our law—in the United States alone, and we learn from the report of our Bureau of Registration and Statistics that we have eleven Homœopathic Medical Colleges, thirty-eight Homœopathic Hospitals, twenty-nine Dispensaries, twenty-three State Societies, ninety-two Local Societies, and some sixteen Homœopathic Medical Journals; and in addition to all this, although homœopathy is not credited with the change, our method of treatment is being generally adopted by the advanced members of the opposing school.

If the statement made by your President for the year 1879, and received by this Institute, that "one who only occasionally prescribes homœopathically is a homœopathist" is accepted, our number would be more than quadrupled. Taking this statement and that of the editor of the *Medical Record*, probably the most popular and influential of the old school medical journals in this country, in its issue of May 7th, 1881, in the response to the question, What constitutes a regular practitioner? it is difficult to draw the line between the homœopathic and so-called regular physician. That editor says: "Our correspondent's inquiry is a little difficult to answer in the absence of any distinct and authorized declaration on the part of the prominent medical associations of this country. The code of ethics is silent on the subject, and so far as we are aware the American Medical Association has never given a definition of the phrase 'regular physician.' The code, however, states that no

one can be considered a regular practitioner or a fit associate in consultation, whose practice is based on an exclusive dogma, to the rejection of the accumulated experience of the profession, and of the aids actually furnished by anatomy, physiology, pathology or organic chemistry." He says, further: "This, it will be perceived, is a negative declaration, and we believe that as a matter of fact, the persons answering this description are now quite few in number. It certainly does not strictly apply to a large proportion of the so-called homœopathists of this country. As the homœopathic colleges teach anatomy, physiology, pathology and organic chemistry, it is hardly to be supposed that their graduates reject these aids in actual practice." And again, this same editor says in another article entitled "Lord Beaconsfield and Homœopathy," "a physician should not be ostracised because he thinks there are some useful remedies in the so-called homœopathic therapeutics which can be prescribed in very small doses with good effect, or even because he thinks that the '*similia similibus*' principle is a suggestive guide in the use of remedies."

It strikes me there should be no great difficulty in defining the word "regular," as applied to practitioners of medicine. Homœopaths have always, since the term was introduced, taken exception to the exclusive use by the dominant school of medicine, as applied to themselves, of the word "regular," and we have also taken exception to the use of the word "irregular," as applied to ourselves, by our professional brethren of the old school, and claimed that there was no legal or rational reason for this misapplication of these terms; contending most positively that every regularly chartered college was a regular medical college, and that every graduate of such a college was a regular practitioner of medicine. Now, in the absence of any distinct and authorized declaration on the part of the prominent medical associations of this country as to what constitutes a regular practitioner, and as the code of ethics of the American Medical Association is silent on the subject, and as no medical body has ever given a definition of the phrase, "regular physician," and as the members of this body claim to be regular physicians, and as we have the same right to define the words regular and irregular, as applied to medical practitioners, as has any other organization, and as this is the oldest national medical organization, and, as there is much in the right of priority,

would it not be well for this Institute, taking Webster's Unabridged Dictionary as its guide, to define, for the benefit of the medical profession at large, the phrases "regular physician" and "irregular physician?" Webster defines the word regular as—conformed to a rule—agreeable to an established rule, law, or principle—to a prescribed mode as a regular practice of law or medicine—governed by rule or rules—steady or uniform in course—not subject to unexplained or irrational variation—instituted or initiated according to established forms or discipline as a regular physician. Taking the history of medicine for the past fifty years as our guide, I would ask to which system does the term regular, accepting Webster's definition, apply?

I can but consider it an evidence of the progress of homœopathy that there should be in the American Medical Association at this day men bold enough to express their views in opposition to attempted legislation on the subject of so-called irregular practitioners. It is an evidence of the progress of homœopathy, that the editor of the leading medical journal of the dominant school should have had the courage, in commenting upon the recent action of that association in declaring and making it a section of their code—that it is not in accordance with the interest of the public, or the honor of the profession, that any physician or medical teacher should examine or sign diplomas or certificates of proficiency for, or otherwise be specially concerned with, the graduation of persons whom they have good reason to believe intend to support and practice any exclusive and irregular system of medicine—to say in his leading editorial: "We have no hesitation in saying that the action taken will not be endorsed by a majority of the profession of the country." "We are forced to acknowledge that the Association has taken a step backward in its present course." "The Association, by its course, has done a stupid thing in voting as it has done." So far I have quoted from the *Medical Record*. I would myself add, that the American Medical Association has stultified itself in legislating with regard to irregular practitioners without being able from its code to state the meaning of the term irregular as applied to practitioners of medicine. It has stultified itself in refusing to take part in the medical education of those who believe in the homœopathic law of cure, or who propose to practice in accordance with that law, for its members well knew that our stu-

dents are no longer dependent upon them for their education in medicine. They well knew that we have colleges of our own, where every branch of medicine is thoroughly taught by able professors and specialists in every branch. They well knew that these colleges have the confidence of our school, and that the number of students excluded from their institutions by this anathema, if it should be carried into effect, would not in the entire United States amount to a baker's dozen. They well knew that this action would not in the least affect the standing of our school, interfere with the progress of homœopathy, or lessen the hold which it has on the confidence of intelligent communities in all parts of this broad and free land.

The majority who succeeded, notwithstanding powerful opposition, in passing that resolution, has stultified itself in the estimation of the laity, who have never countenanced the repeated efforts made to suppress freedom of honest thought and action in relation to the practice of medicine. It has stultified itself in its effort to appear above, in point of medical learning, the practitioners of our own school. Plutarch said: "The husbandman is always best pleased to see those ears of corn which decline, and by reason of their fullness bend downwards to the earth, but looks upon those as empty, deceitful and insignificant which, because they have nothing in them, grow bolt upright and appear above the rest." The future of homœopathy will prove that it had been far better had they quietly committed this whole matter to oblivion.

It is an evidence of progress, that when in this American Medical Association it was proposed to indefinitely postpone action on this amendment to the code, out of the two hundred and six members present, one hundred and two voted in favor of so disposing of it. Three more affirmative votes and the National Old School Association would have been saved the mortification in the future of having the follies of the past brought to their recollection by being obliged, in order to retain their self-respect, to rescind this unwise addition to their code. That time in this age of progress will surely come. But for the notable absence of many of their representative men this amendment would never have been entertained.

I consider it an evidence of progress that we are paying more attention to, and endeavoring to perfect ourselves and our students

more thoroughly in pathology, pathological anatomy and diagnosis. Whatever our views may be as to the "universality of our law of cure," as scientific men having the best interests of our patients at heart, we can but acknowledge the importance of a correct and early diagnosis in every case we are called upon to treat, the importance of a knowledge of the pathology of every case, that we may be able early to detect the remote cause of certain conditions and symptoms. The physician's duty does not commence and end with the selection of the most accurately indicated remedy for a given train of symptoms. Who of us cannot bring to mind instances of lives sacrificed to the want of an early and correct diagnosis; of patients who, from a lack of proper knowledge on the part of their physician, have been permitted to follow certain pursuits in life, to continue in the gratification of certain indulgences, which were the primary and only causes of the fatal diseases for which we have been called upon to prescribe—diseases in their early stages, and under proper hygienic measures curable? As a school we have been charged with neglect in the study of the etiology of disease, of pathological anatomy and of diagnosis. It is true that, owing to the time devoted to researches into the action of drugs on the healthy, and to therapeutics, we have not in the past given the attention to pathological investigations that has been given by our brethren of the old school. Until very recently we have been debarred the advantages of hospital experience, and without it these investigations cannot be properly made. Possibly, too, the crude idea entertained at the present time by but few, very few of our adherents, that pathology is of little or no service in therapeutics, may have had something to do with the comparative neglect of this most important branch of the homœopathic physician's education and researches. But, if we in our studies have paid perhaps too much attention to therapeutics to the neglect of pathology, have not our old school physicians paid too much attention to pathology to the neglect of therapeutics? Rhule says that all the trouble of the pathological anatomist has accomplished nothing; for it is no more consoling to die now-a-days of chronic pneumonia or amyloid degeneration with dropsy, than it was in times past to perish by tuberculosis or consumption. But this branch is no longer slighted by homœopathic physicians; the graduates from our colleges will compare favorably with those of

old school institutions in their knowledge of this as well as every department of medicine; hospitals have been thrown open to us, and the advantages derived from them have been eagerly grasped by our colleges in the education of their students. Although from the force of circumstances we, as a school, have been obliged to learn pathology from the researches of our old school brethren, in another decade they will be forced to acknowledge that a large portion of their therapeutics have been learned from the investigations of Hahnemann and his followers. They are learning now in spite of their prejudices, not by investigation, but by the evidence in their very midst—before their very eyes—the virtues of certain remedies in small doses heretofore used exclusively by us. Some among them are bold enough and honest enough to publicly acknowledge this. *Our therapeutics are in advance of those of the old school.*

There is a certain satisfaction—we have all felt it—in confirming a diagnosis by a post mortem, but there is an inexpressible joy, and every homœopathic physician has experienced it, associated with seeing the surprising results of the properly selected homœopathic remedy. I heard a prominent physician of our school say, not long since: No practitioner of medicine who has not carefully gathered the symptoms of an obscure disease and selected the remedy in accordance with our law of cure, has yet experienced the inestimable pleasure and pride associated with the practice of medicine. It is gratifying to make a correct diagnosis, even if powerless to cure, but how much more gratifying to effect a cure, even if unable, as we often are, to make a diagnosis! If the sick patient were consulted in the choice of a physician, we believe he would, in by far the greater majority of cases, select from the latter class. The medical practitioner in his enthusiasm is often surprised at the lack of appreciation of pathological knowledge and diagnostic skill on the part of the patient and his friends; surprised that the interest of his patient should centre solely on the results of treatment; but does he not sometimes forget, in the study of these fascinating branches, that the main object of the physician's calling is the prevention and cure of disease? But that they may decide accurately as to the nature of disease in its early—its curable—stages, it hardly seems possible for us to dwell too forcibly upon the importance of urging on our students the study of pathology, whether available at the sick bed or not.

It is an evidence of progress that at the present day the course of instruction at our homœopathic colleges comprises all that is necessary for a complete and thorough medical education,—and we are safe in adding, it comprises all that the average medical student can acquire in the short period usually given to study prior to his final examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. The views of the Institute on the subject of medical education are well known. An entrance examination has been recommended—a more thorough course of instruction—a lengthened period of study—and a rigid final examination by a board of examiners, in no other way connected with the colleges—and what is very important, it has been advised that preceptors discourage students deficient in general education from entering on the study of medicine. It undoubtedly seems to many of the members of this Institute an easy matter to conform to these suggestions made to our colleges. If by national law it were possible to regulate the course of instruction, the term of study, and the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, the task would be an easy one. But from correspondence had with some of the ablest legal authorities in the land, I am led to believe that a doubt exists as to the power of the national government to pass laws regulating admissions to our profession. Unfortunately, few medical colleges are endowed; and those endowed are not sufficiently so to enable them to be entirely independent. They cannot exist without students; and so long as a degree is more easily obtained at one college than another, a large majority of students will go to that college. Any attempt at reformation in these respects has had the effect of diminishing the size of classes; but, notwithstanding this fact, many of our medical colleges have profited by the suggestions of the Institute, and have made their course of instruction all that could be desired. Some have made three college terms compulsory; some have inaugurated an entrance examination, and some have an independent board of examiners; but there is a lack of uniformity. Our standard is certainly equal to that of the old school colleges of this country, as is also our course of instruction; and if there was a prospect of the newly-added clause in the code of the American Medical Association, excluding homœopathic students from their instruction, being enforced instead of being a dead letter, our colleges could in matters of medical education establish rules which would be

rigidly followed by all. From the date of his matriculation the student of medicine begins to look forward with feelings akin to dread to that final examination. To be placed back a year is magnified into a calamity, a disgrace, which will follow him through life. Is it any wonder then, that there should be a disposition on the part of the students, except by the few having confidence in their own abilities, to avoid colleges holding a reputation for thoroughness as regards these examinations?

One of the most popular of the old school colleges in the city of New York, in its announcement of one year ago, stated that in future three terms of study would be required, and that no student would be permitted to enter until he had passed a satisfactory preliminary examination on subjects pertaining to general education. Glowing editorials in all the medical journals followed the announcement, a large class was anticipated, but instead of the two or three hundred new matriculates which had in former years congregated within its walls, but fifty presented themselves for entrance examination. The final result was an announcement from the faculty that the attempt had proved a failure, and that they would return to their old method. There would be no entrance examination in future, and but two courses of lectures would be required for graduation. The seats of this heretofore popular institution had been comparatively empty, while those of the college on the opposite side of the street had all been filled, and many students had been unable to obtain comfortable admission to its lecture rooms. A prominent medical journal, referring to this matter, says: "There are very few who will learn of this relapse of Bellevue College without feelings of keen regret, and perhaps some contempt at the performance; for it is certainly a discouraging check to the cause of educational reform. Toll the bell, then, for another good intention gone, for another lofty purpose shriveled in an unthrifty soil. Write as its epitaph that Bellevue tried to be better than its neighbors, but it lacked the stamina, and returned from a moral to a commercial basis, leaving behind its high resolves. Learn from its action that money seemed better than educational elevation, and students than medical reform." The editor of a New York daily paper says: "Physicians must register in order that we may be protected from quacks, but in the light of what we now know, is it not quite possible that a quack of ten

years' experience is more worthy of confidence than a graduate of Bellevue?"

Several of the States have during the past year legislated upon the subject of the practice of medicine within their boundaries, the object being the suppression of quackery, but there is that same lack of uniformity, and in many of these States the law is not enforced. In the great city of New York, notwithstanding the stringent State law passed since the last meeting of the Institute, hundreds are engaged in the practice of medicine in direct violation of that law. It is the opinion of your President that a law could be drafted which would be acceptable to all the States and to the various schools of medicine, which would, if passed and enforced, not only regulate the practice of medicine throughout the Union, but would establish a uniform standard of medical education and a like standard of qualifications for graduation; and I would respectfully suggest that the Bureau of Organization, Registration and Statistics of this Institute be requested to consider this matter and draft a law which in their opinion would cover the whole ground, and present the same to the Institute for its approval. It is unfortunate that a doubt exists as to the power of our national Congress to legislate upon so important a matter, a matter which undoubtedly concerns the welfare of the whole people. A national Board of Health was established, the avowed object being the prevention of the extension of contagious diseases. How could the extension of contagious diseases, as well as diseases of all characters, be better prevented than by a national law excluding from the medical profession unqualified practitioners and pretenders?

We congratulate our school on the completion during the past year of the Encyclopedia of pure Materia Medica. As we gaze on those ten massive volumes—and the index—as we take down number after number, and pour over its closely printed pages—as we all do—we are struck with feelings of wonder that the editor has found time, aside from the labors associated with a professorship and an extensive practice, to gather together and present to us for our guidance in prescribing this extensive, and to the close student of the materia medica invaluable, collection of provings; and if we are awe stricken at the labors of the compiler, what must be our feelings in reference to the self-sacrificing ones who have furnished the material for this encyclopedia? As the editor says in

his more recent writings: "Cries of fraud, of trash, of superfluity, have become quite common of late," referring, of course, to criticisms on his contribution to the literature of homœopathy. It would indeed be strange, considering the enthusiasm of some of our provers, if in this almost complete history of all that has been learned with regard to the action of medicinal substances on healthy human beings, some material had not crept in which was possibly unworthy of our confidence. Over fifty years ago John Forbes, in discussing the merits of auscultation, said: "In science as well as in religion and politics, over-zealous and injudicious friends are often more injurious to the cause they advocate than its most determined enemies; and in regard to auscultation I am convinced that the most certain mode of preventing its general adoption is to attempt to extend it beyond its just limits." And in later years the great German pathologist, Liebermeister, in discussing the theory of a *Contagium Vivum*, says: "As in former times, so now, it is not so much its opponents as its imprudent adherents who threaten to bring the theory into discredit. The utter lack of critical discernment and method which have characterized some of the works in this field, and on the other hand the recklessness with which facts of uncertain significance have been proclaimed certain proofs, have also in our time driven away many an earnest investigator." So with certain of our published provings. Is not the general adoption of our method of practice interfered with by claiming for substances that are called drugs medicinal action which it is not by any means certain they possess? But of the ability, the honesty of purpose, the untiring labor of the editor of the *Encyclopedia* there can be no doubt; of the self-sacrifice and honesty of purpose of the individual provers there can be no doubt; and of the value of the book to practitioners of medicine of all schools there can be no doubt. It is true it is not a pocket manual, to be carried around and consulted at the bedside, but it is what the editor claims, a compilation of all available material on the subject, presented to the profession for use and critical examination. Let us in our criticisms suspend judgment until we have followed the editor through his studies—his critical and impartial examinations of the pathogenesis presented to us in that work. He says he is no longer editor but student, and we congratulate the Institute that the first sixty-four pages of his individual re-

searches have, within the past month, been presented to the profession. I feel that I am but expressing the sentiments of a large number of the members of this Institute when I say: It would be a source of gratification to us if the editor's researches should convince him of the necessity of a compendium of his immense work, and being so convinced, he should present a volume to the profession and students of medicine less terrifying in its proportions, and which might be a stepping stone to the careful study of the Encyclopedia.

(At the banquet given by the publishers to Prof. Allen on the compilation of the index, a professor of materia medica in one of our most popular colleges, in his after-dinner speech, thought that notwithstanding the dimensions of the work just completed, we had not as yet enough written on the subject of materia medica—we needed more. It was late in the evening, and it is not necessary for me to repeat, the remark was made in an after-dinner speech.)

I consider it an evidence of the progress of homœopathy during the past few years that members of our school, having the ability and the time, have devoted it to the writing and translation of books on medical topics other than symptomatology and therapeutics. It seems to me wise, now that we have so much written on these subjects; now that we have every specialty in medicine ably represented by practitioners of homœopathy; now that we have within our ranks microscopists able to detect quite small pieces of gold in our triturations of that metal—giving in ten thousandths of an inch the length, breadth and thickness of these particles, and now that we have hospitals under our control where investigations can be made, that some of the talent of our school should be employed in histological and pathological investigations and in investigations into the natural history of disease.

It is a source of pleasure to us all that the Transactions of this Institute for the session of 1880 have appeared within the time prescribed by our by-laws, and in such handsome form; and I feel that the thanks of the Institute are due our General Secretary for the able manner in which he has performed the duties pertaining to his position. I congratulate the Institute also on the final appearance of the Transactions of the World's Convention, and feel that the thanks of this body are also due the committee having this

matter in charge. The size of the volumes will convey some idea of the enormity of the work, which has been virtually a labor of love, for the small amount paid the editor is no compensation for the labor required in resurrecting, arranging and correcting these manuscripts, and I can but feel in the performance of the arduous labor connected with the production of these three volumes he has honestly striven to do justice to all.

It is a cause for congratulation that the International Congress, of which these transactions are a record, is to be followed this year by a like convention on the other side of the water, and that so many of our members will go as delegates from this body. But I heard a clergyman say not long since, at the close of quite a lengthy sermon, "There is a limit to the endurance of an audience in listening to an address." I feel that your endurance has been taxed on this occasion. Yet I cannot close without reference to the great loss the entire homœopathic profession throughout the world has met with in the death, since we last met, of Dr. Constantine Hering, President of the Convention which originated the organization of the American Institute of Homœopathy. In the midst of labors from which for over fifty years he had never rested, he quietly fell asleep. I could hardly feel that this was an occasion for mourning, for he had been with us more than half a score of years beyond the allotted time of man. And this long, this spotless life had been one of usefulness and unremitting labor in the cause he loved to the very end. The results of the labor of his later years are living, and will live to aid us and those who come after us in the work to which our lives are being devoted. We should rejoice that through all his long and active life not a truthful word had ever been uttered that could reflect on his character as a man, as a Christian, and that at the last his death was peaceful, calm, and free from protracted suffering. We should rejoice that his troubles, for he had sorrows—sorrows hard to bear, too—are at an end, and that there is before him an eternity of happiness, for I believe of such as he is the Kingdom of Heaven. Others of us, noble men and true, dear to their families, friends and clientage, have died since we last met together, but this pioneer was dear to us all, honored by us all, and he will be remembered by us all, and our children will be taught to honor his memory.



