

ORME. (F. H.)

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

THE PRESIDENT

OF THE

American Institute of Homoeopathy,

F. H. ORME, M. D., ✓

AT THE SESSION ON ITS FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY,
HELD AT SARATOGA SPRINGS,
JUNE 27 to JULY 1,

1887.



WITH AN APPENDIX OF BRIEF NOTES OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

DELIVERED AT SARATOGA SPRINGS, JUNE 27, 1887.

BY F. H. ORME, M. D., ATLANTA, GA.

Members of the American Institute of Homœopathy:

Our Earth has borne us once again around our Sun, and once again our Institute has come to this delightful rendezvous—where all things worked so well one year ago.

I should be worse than graceless were I to allow one moment to pass on this occasion without referring to your generous action with regard to myself at your last meeting. Prostrated by an illness that deprived me of the pleasure I had so fondly anticipated, of taking my Institute friends by the hand, I was reflecting upon my deprivation when the surprising intelligence was flashed to me by your direction, that you had elected me to the most exalted position, in my view, in the medical world—that in which I now appear before you. It was *medicine by telegraph* you sent me, and well it did its intended work; it cheered, it comforted, it inspired and strengthened me: It cheered me to know that I was not forgotten in my illness and enforced absence; it comforted me to find that I had such friends, with such confidence in me, and a desire to show it; it inspired me with a feeling of gratitude and with a determination to do my utmost to make this year of our noble Institute, in which I have had the pleasure of twenty-eight

years of membership, the best, if possible, in its history; it strengthened and encouraged me to be assured that I should have the support, in my efforts, of a worthy body of men and women, such as forget not friends during absence—and now it is a supreme gratification to me to be able to stand before you, to meet you face to face, and to tell you, with earnest soul, that the honor you have done me, and the kindness you have shown to me, shall never, never be forgotten.

The imperious shadow which has darkened the doorways of so many private circles during the past year, has appeared also at the portals of our Institute, and has beckoned away some of our truest and best—some of our most loved and cherished. Your necrologist will give the roll of these, with proper notice of each—but there has passed from among us one who should receive more than the ordinary mention—for he was not an ordinary, but a pre-eminent man: When we were compelled to yield up Dr. Alvan Edmund Small, we felt that we were suffering an inestimable loss. He was an early member of the Institute, one of its presidents, a “Senior” and a veteran. He was an early and a late teacher as a professor, and an early and a late author of works that will live long after him. He was honored in many ways, and he wore his honors, as he performed his duties, well. The world would be better for the life of more of such men, as it is better for his. We may “emulate his virtues,” which were many, and which we knew, but we may not be called upon to “avoid his vices,” for if such there were, we knew them not.

We cannot forbear mingling our sorrows as we meet together and miss our old and good friends and comrades who have labored long and faithfully with us—but, as in other fields in the battle of life, when our ranks are broken we must close up, even if with saddened hearts, and press on.

THE PROGRESS OF HOMOEOPATHY

during the past year has not only been satisfactory, but cheering. It will scarcely be necessary, however, to refer

to this in detail. The twenty-six journals of our school that visit your tables, laden with the best that the literature of the profession affords, have acquainted you with this. Your bureau of organization, registration and statistics will present you with statistics showing our growth, and the number and importance of our institutions.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

In eighteen hundred and twenty-five there were in the United States probably about ten thousand physicians, all told. There are now probably about eighty thousand non-homœopathic physicians, an increase of eight fold.

In the same year, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, appeared in the person of Dr. Gram, the first convert from old medicine to homœopathy, in America. Now there are about ten thousand homœopathic physicians in this country—an increase of ten thousand fold!

At this rate of increase, how long will it require for homœopathy, instead of "dying out," to become the majority school? Would it not have already become so, if the old school had not adopted so much from the new method, and modified its own?

Forty years ago we had no colleges or other institutions. Now we have thirteen flourishing colleges, with many hundreds of matriculates and graduates annually. We have a large number of hospitals, asylums, dispensaries, pharmacies, etc., and perhaps one hundred and fifty societies, the number of all of which is constantly increasing.

The attempt to ignore such progress and such strength is indeed like "kicking against the pricks."

But these figures do not fairly represent our progress. It is not enough to consider that the number of our practitioners has increased in a marvelous degree during the past forty years, and that all of our institutions have sprung up within this time, but we must also take note of the wonderful mitigations in the severities of old school practice, which we all claim have been largely due to the influence of our school. We may also claim, with pride

and pleasure, that we have contributed largely to the improvement of the therapeutic methods of "old physic"—albeit these contributions have too often been appropriated without thanks, or even acknowledgement of their source.

It is no honor to prominent teachers of another school that, while they have endeavored to belittle our art, pretending that we have contributed little to the general store of medical knowledge, they have made large and important drafts upon our improved therapeutics—presenting them as original discoveries. The distinguished physicians referred to are well, very well known to us all. Some men have been immortalized by their genius, some by their folly, some by their research and knowledge, and some by their audacious plagiarisms.

The increasing general respect shown to our system, with the larger share of official positions held by members of our school, are not among the least of the evidences of the progress we are making; while the large bequests and contributions, state and private, for the establishment and endowment of hospitals and asylums, to be under homœopathic administrations, show appreciation of the merits of our method of practice, and are certainly encouraging.

That the dominant school has failed to obtain the desired control of medical legislation in many of the states, is another indication of the strength of our influence.

The wonderful progress of the new school in this country as compared with that in Europe, is due in large degree to our freedom from the military domination which prevails there. With us, that succeeds which appears reasonable, and can show its superiority; while there, if a new method does not chance to meet with the approval of the medical department of the military system—which controls all such matters—no quarter is likely to be shown. We should therefore jealously guard our birthright, and not allow a military dictatorship in our more civil government. Our committee on medical legislation will look to this. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and we should

not fail in this while there are those who would wrest from us our rights.

In connection with a review of the progress of homœopathy, and in order to show the various changes of ground which its opponents have been forced, from time to time, to make, it may not be uninteresting to take a brief retrospect, so that we may compare the past with the present:

THE ERA OF THE CHARGE OF "FALLACY."

In the early days of homœopathy it was looked at askance. It was new, therefore it was suspicious. It opposed existing theories and practice, therefore it was a fallacy. Being such, although not investigated, it was not to be tolerated. Those who adopted it were simply to be tabooed. Its practitioners, however thoroughly accomplished as physicians and as gentlemen, were now to be excluded from professional recognition and denied the courtesies and assistance of those who had been their professional brethren. Feeling became amazingly bitter. Epithets were used with regard to those who accepted the new "heresy" that were neither professional nor polite, that we can afford to forgive, and that need not be repeated here. But it must not be forgotten that it was this unseemly and unprofessional ostracism on the part of the majority that *forced* the minority, for their own protection and improvement, to form associations of their own, and thus to become known as a sect. Let the responsibility for this division in the profession, if evil it be, rest where it properly belongs.

But time and experience brought more sober reflection, and some of the wiser heads remember, upon being reminded of the fact by other wiser heads, not only in the profession, but among the laity, that the exclusion of brethren on account of fallacy, real or supposed, was itself a demonstrated error--that attempts of this kind had been made from the most ancient times, not only in medicine, but in religion as well, and that disaster had generally attended such blunders. It was recalled that we have no

infallible and authorized censors in these matters, and that the assumption of such right, in a liberal age, was insufferable. Examples were shown to be not infrequent of the fact that those who assumed to be in possession of all knowledge were lamentably ignorant, and it was made manifest that what was, at one time, declared to be heretical and monstrous, was, at another time, accepted as demonstrated truth. Besides, it had to be admitted that people even have a right to adopt and entertain fallacies until these can be overcome by argument and enlightenment—not by coercion.

So this cry of "fallacy" ceased—but not the prejudice. Some other pretext must be devised for holding off the erring brethren. Then came

THE ERA OF THE CRY OF "EXCLUSIVISM."

It was asserted with regard to those who accepted the doctrine of *similia, similibus curantur*—whatever else they might know or believe—that they "practiced upon an exclusive dogma, to the rejection of the aids actually furnished by experience, and by the sciences of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, etc.," and on this account were unworthy of professional fellowship. A vain attempt again! As our colleges and our journals increased in number and in strength, it was found to be impossible to maintain this position—for was it not daily and constantly proved that all of the branches of medicine and surgery that were ever taught in any colleges or journals, were as thoroughly taught and as fully insisted upon in these? Was not the charge simply a slander?

So, with a position thus untenable, the era of the cry of "exclusivism" was not of long duration. The leaders of the prejudiced opposition must make another shift, however, and show some other reason for refusing to extend that courtesy and to render that assistance which common-sense and humanity sometimes demanded—and then was coined the charge, if possible, more futile still, that homœopathists were

“TRADING UPON A NAME,”

and therefore must be denied the benefits of affiliation! Not being experts as controversialists, it did not at first occur to them that there was involved in this imputation the important admission that this “name” had grown so potent that numbers sought its shade and its advantage—that it had not died, and was not “dying out!”

The era of an aspersion so illogical, so puerile, as well as so devoid of truth—so slanderous and so dishonorable to its utterers, could, of course, not be of long continuance, and so we have passed on to the era—even the present era—of the charge, the dreadful, heinous charge of

“SECTARIANISM!”

Those who have, under one pretext or another, and after one misrepresentation or another, held that homœopaths should not be regarded as regular physicians, and fit persons with whom to consult, finding that the despised heretics would not die in accordance with their prophecies, and could not be obliterated by being ostracised and maligned—but that they rather grew in strength, popularity and importance, notwithstanding all this unprofessional opposition—and that loss was suffered by refusing consultation with them—resolved upon another change of attitude: In order to make a show of reason for a still hostile position and at the same time invite a surrender by the erring party, it was at last, and is now declared, that opposition is not made to us upon the former scores, but that our offense is that we are a *sect*, and have a *sectarian name*—averring that we may practice what we please if we will only give up our odious distinctive title.

Let us, then, since we are fairly confronted with this last ground of complaint, consider to what degree of attention it is really entitled:

Is it really so sinful to be a sectarian—especially when the formation of the sect was a necessity, as has been shown, from the improper action of the complaining majority? Is there not, somehow, a sect called “regulars” or

“allopathists,” as well as one called homœopathists? And might not “regular” be considered a good name to trade upon? Have not sects existed, and to the advantage and progress of civilization, since the earliest times of which we have any history? Does it not seem as though we owe nearly all the advancement that has been made in religion, science, art, politics and medicine, to the work that has been done by sects or schools? Where should we be but for them and their enthusiastic labors? We read in Josephus that “the sect called Christians is not extinct unto this day,” and the term sectarian has, long since, ceased to be really a term of reproach—has lost all its terrors in the view of liberal minds.

The fundamental law of our land, the Constitution of the United States, properly secures the right of its people to assemble together in bodies, as sectarians, if they choose—for it is one of the natural, inalienable rights of those who hold peculiar views, especially when persecuted, to unite themselves together for their common objects and their common good. Sectarianism, of which all history is full, should rather be encouraged than suppressed—the people being benefitted, if parties suffer, and it is a marked evidence of weakness in the opposition that the best point they can make against us is the pitiful one that we bear a special name—when we have a reason for it that is so good.

Let us then be a sect, if we must, and continue to advance the cause of medical science, as we have done; but let us not be factious, as have been some of our prejudiced opponents. Let us be a liberal sect, working in our own sphere, holding the even tenor of our way, while we treat with respect, and wish God-speed to all other sects who think they can do better work by laboring honestly upon other lines—and let us use no undignified or unbecoming epithets.

Who can estimate the loss to medical science, especially in the departments of *materia medica* and therapeutics, if the work of homœopathists, as a sect, could be stricken

from the record? We may be a sect, striving in our own way for the advancement of the profession that we love so well—but we need not be a faction, obstructing others, defaming others, bringing reproach upon us all, and retarding general progress. We should be liberal, as our Institute is liberal—tolerating a variety of views upon various subjects.

We surely may, as a body, lay just claim to being liberal. While united upon *similia*, we embrace some who are regarded by other some as entertaining vagaries of woeful tendencies. We include the “high” and the “low,” the dynamizationist and the strict materialist; those who think we should adhere to the ideas and teachings of a “master” of half a century ago, and those who think we should keep abreast of the tenets and teachings of more modern times, using the measures of any and every school when available; and I do not know but we may even tolerate a few who are disposed to think that we might now afford to yield to the seductive wooing of the other side, and dispense with our characteristic title!

Yes, homœopathists of all phazes of thought are welcome under the canopy of our Institute. The homœopathist who cannot find himself in congenial companionship here, must be a victim of some misapprehension, have some fancied grievance, or be of so faultfinding a nature as to have no just claim upon our attention.

While we are a sect, in a proper sense, and from the necessity of the case, we are *not* a sect in an evil sense, or from a desire to be separate from the general profession of which we are a part—any more than is the allopathic branch, which can be called regular only as a distinguishing designation, and not on account of any essential regularity in its method of practice.

That it is reprehensible to be a member of a sect, *per se*, is a preposterous proposition.

Notwithstanding all the affectation of holy horror upon the subject, it is *not* a sin, it is *not* a crime, it is *not* a vice, to be one of a sect united in an honorable cause.

Specialization is in accordance with the laws of development and of progress, and a liberal profession should not unreasonably oppose the formation or existence of as many sects or schools as can be found to do good work, but all of these should be regarded as parts of one brotherhood—all alike laboring for the common benefit of humanity.

The profession being divided into schools, and the distinctions being known, however imperfectly, it is only fair and honorable that each member should allow the community to know with which branch of the profession he is aligned, that persons may select or avoid, as they choose.

But the era of the charge of sectarianism—a charge that is weak in itself, and that accomplishes no purpose, must soon pass—indeed is passing—and we now see the dawn of

THE ERA OF TOLERATION,

when we may look for more of common sense, more of courtesy, and more of consistency. It is coming to be realized that, while there may, and probably from the nature of things, must be sects, there can still be common respect and co-operation. We can see the foreshadowing of a better day in the tone of some of the leading men of the old school, who, with more wisdom than some of their *confreres*, recognize the true situation. That liberal, and sensible, and even kind words are used toward us by representatives of a school which was wont to treat us only with contumely, is a harbinger of a better time coming. As illustrations of the character of expressions referred to, may be given the following:

The *New England Medical Monthly* published last year a communication from Professor Romaine Curtis, of the the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, on "Rational Medicine and Homœopathy in Relation to Medical Ethics," which closes with these paragraphs:

"To conclude, it is impossible at present to indicate the grounds for reconciliation between these pathies from the scientific basis of coming medical practice, but I have no

doubt that there will be such a reconciliation, and good grounds for it.

"The medical profession are well acquainted with the new code, which assumes that ethics among gentlemen needs no particular definition, and includes a feature denying that it is a penal offence to hold a consultation with a homœopath.

"Nearly all the criticisms of this code show a most profound ignorance of homœopathy, and regular medicine as well. The man who thinks there is more science and less art in one or the other is only a man ignorant of the status of rationalism in medicine as well as its scientific possibilities. Persecution has made homœopathy rich, and kept not a few of its professional rivals poor. It pays in no possible way to persecute or pretend to ignore homœopathy, or to say that it is a system of charlatanry. Even if this were true, it would not pay to say so, and it pays less because it is not true. The often repeated assertion that 'a physician to be a homœopath must be first either a knave or a fool' has no foundation in fact, and has been worth its millions to the homœopathic profession. The system is old enough now to live on its merits, and free consultations and free intercourse and common medical societies will put homœopathy on its merits, and advance the cause and science of medicine and its much doctored ethics."

And the *Pacific Record of Medicine and Pharmacy* shows wisdom by giving the finishing touch to an editorial in the following well-tempered suggestions:

"We are of the old school, educated in the strictest interpretation of its dogmas, and for nearly half a century have obeyed its dictum, but, perhaps, 'the sunset of life gives us mystical lore,' and we realize how much more is to be gained by a courteous acquiescence in something we cannot help than an unsuccessful contest against the inevitable. Let us modify our code—let us extend to members of other schools, if not the hand of fellowship and communion, at least the olive branch of peace, and recognize them as followers of Him 'who came to heal the sick.'"

These sentiments come to us from the two extremes of our broad land.

Others are coming to, upon the same line, and we have only to continue on in our dignified and consistent course

to secure the respect of the most obdurate of the opposition.

And now, what response are we to make to the overtures of the liberal and progressive members of the old school—that large, growing and respectable portion who adhere to the ethics of the “new code?” A very simple one:

Your new code is our old code—the code of the Golden Rule—the code of common sense and of humanity—the code we have held to and have been controlled by, all the while. Our Institute defines the term *regular physician* as “a graduate of a regularly chartered medical college. The term also applies to one practicing the healing art in accordance with the laws of the country in which he resides.” Any one thus belonging to the profession is in duty bound to respond to calls for assistance from any medical brother, or from patients who may wish his counsel in connection with another physician—and he has not a right to decline on the pretext that he is of a different school. The medical profession has long been divided into schools—probably always will be—the laws of the land recognize it as one thus divided; but it should not be divided in purpose, nor should its members fail to answer, with alacrity, calls to co-operate in the interest of suffering fellow-beings. Whatever our differences may be, or whatever alignments we may choose to make, let us all remember the object of our art, and let us all, eschewing bickerings, so act as to uphold the dignity and honor of our profession, and thus command the respect of the world at large.

Homœopaths, then, having no thought of relinquishing their distinctive title, under present conditions,

WHAT IS THE TRUE BASIS OF HARMONY?

First, the Golden Rule; second, the acceptance, by the profession at large, of the definition adopted by the American Institute of Homœopathy, of the term, “regular physician;” third, the recognition and co-operation of

members of different schools, under the above conditions. These three articles constitute the basis, and the only sound basis, for the future harmonization of the medical profession.

The duty of making suggestions is one which I shall allow to rest but lightly upon me. There are, however, several recommendations which seem called for, and which it would show a remissness to omit:

All along through the controversy concerning homœopathy, charges which are entirely in conflict with the truth have been made against those represented by this national body. These have been repeated from the chairs of medical professors, through medical journals, by the general press, and from mouth to ear among the laity. Our journals have not so general a circulation, and our personal denials and disproofs of these unjust aspersions cannot reach so far—so that, with many, the misrepresentations of the enemy have passed unchallenged, and with some it is not even known that the false statements referred to have met with the repeated and emphatic refutations which they have received. In view of these and other facts, I recommend the adoption by the Institute of a declaration or resolutions in effect as follows:

Resolved, 1st, That the American Institute of Homœopathy adheres, as it has always done, to its *object*, as declared by its founders in the first article of its Constitution, namely: "the improvement of homœopathic therapeutics, and *all other* departments of medical science," and that it is proud of its achievements up to this time.

2d, That the imputations cast upon the character and intelligence of the early homœopathists (who were converts from the old school practice), by many of the profession, were the result of ignorance and prejudice, were unprofessional and unworthy of the members of a scientific and liberal profession.

3d, That the charge made at a later date by the American Medical Association that members of the homœopathic school "practiced upon an exclusive dogma, to the rejec-

tion of the aids furnished by experience, and by the sciences of anatomy, chemistry, physiology, etc.," is absolutely devoid of foundation in fact.

4th, That the still later charge by some of the profession (the above having been demonstrated to be untenable), that homœopathists "trade upon a name," is not only a slurring attempt to check a winning cause, but is a positive calumny.

5th, That the most recent and present position of a portion of the medical profession, that homœopathists are blameworthy for consorting under a denominational name, thus constituting a "sect," is a flimsy pretext, and an insufficient excuse for refusing to extend to them the usual courtesies of the profession.

6th, That the responsibility for the division of the profession into schools, as far as homœopathists are concerned, rests upon those who, by an illiberal and unprofessional course—refusing to examine into the doctrines of the new school, and aspersing and ostracising its followers—rendered the closer association of these latter a necessity.

7th, That there is no demerit in belonging to a sect, provided it be engaged in a good cause, and its methods be tempered with liberality; and that it will be expedient for homœopathists to continue to be a sect until their work shall have been accomplished, in securing a proper consideration of the doctrine of *similia, similibus curantur*.

8th, That inasmuch as the position of the homœopathic school has been largely misrepresented, all fair-minded editors of medical and other journals are requested to give space in their pages for these resolutions.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING.

From your delegates you will learn of the successful and interesting International Congress of homœopathists at Basle, in Switzerland, last August. Our country was honored by being selected as that in which the next quinquennial meeting shall be held. While it is perhaps too early for us, as a body, to make any arrangements con-

cerning this meeting, which will probably be held in connection with the session of our Institute, it may be well for us, as individuals, to consider about means for making the next the grandest of all of our international gatherings.

INTERNATIONAL HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACOPŒIA.

At the meeting referred to, among other excellent papers presented, was one by Mr. John M. Wyburn, F. C. S., of London. It was important, as it discussed a subject upon which this Institute should, in my judgment, take action, namely, "the need of an International Pharmacopœia." The argument in that paper is complete, and need not be enlarged here. We claim to have a system which is a refinement in medicine, and we should aim at exactness and uniformity. That homœopathists of all countries should have a uniform standard for the preparation of their medicines, goes without saying. I content myself, therefore, with an emphatic recommendation that the committee of this Institute upon a Homœopathic Pharmacopœia be instructed to co-operate with similar committees of homœopathic societies of other nationalities in the production of a pharmacopœia that shall be regarded as an authoritative and standard work.

PRECISION IN MEDICATION.

It may be questioned whether we have availed ourselves, as we should have done, of the results of the original researches of our bureau of pharmacology. This work has been in the right direction, and should be prosecuted further. We have much valueless material among our treasures, and the work of elimination should proceed. The demonstration of the fact that the principal vehicle for our triturations is often found to contain more foreign medicinal material than it is possible there could be of the substance triturated in some of the attenuations, should certainly awaken more attention than it has done; and every care should be observed in securing vehicles for our triturations and dilutions that are as near to absolute purity as is possible.

It is by reviewing our own work, and correcting our own errors that we shall not only make real progress, but that we shall secure the respect of the scientific world.

We, as a school, claiming to have a more definite and accurate method in prescribing, should aim at the utmost degree of precision as regards our *materia medica* and therapeutic appliances. On this account we should prove carefully, repeatedly, scientifically—under test conditions—and hold fast to that which is good. We have many articles that we know to be good, and we should learn further of their qualities—avoiding a waste of time upon questionable substances. Hahnemann's words should be well considered when he says (*Organon*, §122), "No other medicines should be employed (in provings) except such as are perfectly well known, and of whose purity, genuineness and energy we are thoroughly assured."

Let us build further and more securely upon foundations already laid, and not allow ourselves to be enticed too far into the proving of new and perhaps valueless or unneeded materials. Unless an article promises to be useful in spheres in which we require new remedies, let us give what time we have to spare to improving our knowledge of the full value of, say, fifty or one hundred of our best remedies. It is probable that this number will cover, as far as we are able to cover, the needs of our profession, and "more is vain where less will suffice."

Already the gardens, the fields, the mountains, the plains, the seas, and even the bowels of the earth have been explored with a view to discover drugs to prove, until we have listed over one thousand substances which are called medicines. Some of these are of such a character that to name them would be indelicate, to think of them disagreeable, to administer or to take them, revolting. The profession suffers from a knowledge that such materials are included in our medical *armamentarium*. Let us cease researches in such directions, and rather apply ourselves to the work of expurgation.

We are all aware that there is a limit to human capabil-

ity, and that it is beyond the capacity of the most comprehensive intellect to compass a knowledge of the full value of one-tenth the number of medicines advertised by our pharmacies. I am moved, therefore, to suggest to our bureau of *materia medica* that it might be well to take up the subject of determining, by such methods as may be devised, upon a certain number of the most valuable remedies we have, in order that study may be chiefly confined to them. We suffer now from an embarrassment of wealth; the student is confused. We have scattered too much, and we should now combine and concentrate. Our state and other societies should co-operate with our bureau of *materia medica*, and our standing committee upon drug provings. We may then expect good and trustworthy results—such as we may point to with pride.

In connection with this subject of precision in our work, a suggestion to our standing committees on “pharmacy” and “drug provings” may not be amiss, to the effect that it might be well to consider anew the best forms of medicinal substances for provings and for use—recommending, when other things are equal, or nearly so, those preparations which are most stable and of definite strength. When our early provings were made, our devoted pioneers had not the chemical preparations of the active principles of medicines which we now have. We should improve with the progress of science. A grain of sulphate of morphia is the same definite quantity of medicine the world over. It is not so with a grain of opium or twenty-five drops of laudanum. A grain of santonine also represents a definite amount of medicinal power, while it is not so with a given number of drops of cina.

Chemical compounds have much advantage in the quality of definiteness, and among these we have many of our best and most trustworthy remedies.

Tinctures and powders are known to be variable in strength, even under the most careful gathering and preparation, and these differences are multiplied indefinitely in the attenuations. We should overcome every element

of inexactness as speedily as possible, and it may be well to consider if the fluid extracts, reduced to a definite degree of medicinal strength, may not be better preparations, in some cases, than the tinctures.

THE CYCLOPÆDIA OF DRUG PATHOGENESY.

This Institute, in conjunction with the British Homœopathic Society, has commenced, and been for several years engaged in, the good work of securing precision in the matter of provings, under an admirable scheme, approved by both associations; and all work in the line of provings should be in accordance with the instructions laid down by the two bodies which have undertaken the editing and issue of the Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesy.

It is manifest that the Institute is committed to this work, which has an editor and consultative committeemen from each of the nationalities immediately concerned in the undertaking, and that it is in honor bound to continue its financial support of the Cyclopædia, as resolved last year, to the end.

OUR INSTITUTE.

And now, in closing, a word with regard to our grand old organization—the oldest national medical association in our country—the largest homœopathic society in the world. May we not justly feel proud as we take a retrospect of its history, or as we view its present condition and prospects? Are our hearts not stirred as we think of the noble men who founded it when courage was required for the undertaking—who counseled together and who fostered it through many trials and discouragements? May we not take pride in the long range of its annual volumes of *transactions*, with their many valuable papers and discussions, showing original work and research of a high order? May we not feel gratification as we consider the quality of its membership, past and present? Would we not be glad to have the world look in upon us to-day?

And while we thus pardonably, as we believe, exult (in our own house) in our past history and our encouraging con-

dition, let us resolve upon still better things. Let us gather certainly and regularly at these meetings, bringing our own contributions, and being benefitted by those of others; let us cultivate fraternal feelings; and let us, at every gathering, beside doing good work for the cause of medicine and humanity, have a genuine love-feast!

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMIOPATHY

Of the Federal Session and Forty-fourth Anniversary

The American Institute of Homopathy was organized in 1847, and has since that time been engaged in the promotion of the study and practice of the science of medicine as taught by Hahnemann.

The Institute has a large number of members, and its meetings are held in the city of New York, at the Hotel Astor, under the patronage of the Board of Directors.

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MEMORANDA OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY

On its Fortieth Session and Forty-fourth Anniversary.

Condensed from reports in the Saratoga papers.

On Monday evening, June 27th, the meeting was called to order by President F. H. Orme.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Joseph Carey.

Dr. S. J. Pearsal, Chairman of the Local Committee, then welcomed the Institute. He said:

"Mr. President--I was much pleased one year ago to welcome this Society to our beautiful village, and I am more than gratified to think that you thought so well of our accommodations as to return to us the second time. In addition to the privileges that we had last year, we have the monument at Schuylerville in remembrance of the surrender of Burgoyne in the revolutionary times, one of the decisive battles for our American independence. We not only welcome you twice or thrice, but as many times as you are willing to come to our world-famed health resort." [Applause.]

President Orme, in response, said: "We know your hospitality. Our Institute has shown the best evidence of its appreciation by returning to your beautiful place, and by throwing itself again into the broad arms of your glorious Grand Union. We accept your welcome, knowing it to be cordial; we shall abide with you for our pleasure and our profit, and shall depart with deepened impressions of the delights of Saratoga Springs."

The address of the President was then delivered.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered the President for his able and interesting address.

Vice-President Wright then appointed as a committee to take into consideration the recommendations of the President's address, Drs. W. T. Helmuth, G. A. Hall and B. W. James.

Dr. E. M. Kellogg, of New York city, who has been Treasurer for twenty-one years, presented his report:

Balance on hand, \$340.21; receipts, \$2,275 50; total receipts, \$3,715.71; expenses, \$3,209.63; balance on hand, \$506.08.

As recipient of the subscriptions to the Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesy, Dr. Kellogg said that he had received \$730.75 of this amount and he had expended for part fourth \$225.55 and \$279.18 for part fifth, leaving a balance to the credit of the Cyclopædia fund of \$96.32.

On motion the report was accepted and referred to the following committee: D. S. Smith, Chicago; J. H. McClelland, Pittsburgh, and H. Packard, Boston.

Dr. Burgher read the report of the Executive Committee in reference to a number of important changes necessitated by the sectional plan. Among these subsequently acted on and adopted are the following, proper changes having been made in the by-laws:

That all papers presented in each section, together with the discussion thereon, shall be referred to the Committee on Publication.

That the President shall appoint the chairman of all bureaus for the ensuing year, and shall announce all such appointments no later than the Thursday morning session.

That section 14 of article 7 shall not apply to sectional meetings, but for this session each section may adopt rules governing its own papers and discussions.

The report of the Bureau of Organization, Registration and Statistics was then taken up. The first paper was by the Chairman, T. Franklin Smith, New York.

Number of medical societies reporting, 123; number of medical societies not reporting, 27; number of national societies, 5; number of sectional societies, 2; number of State societies, 31; number of local societies, 112; number of hospitals, houses, etc., reporting, 43; number of hospitals and houses not reporting, 14; the hospitals report a bed capacity of 4,239; whole number of patients treated, 13,862; number cured, 5,935; number relieved, 4,471; number died, 910, showing the very low mortality of 15-10 per cent.; number of dispensaries reporting, 34; number of dispensaries not reporting, 12; number of patients treated therein, 142,629; number of prescriptions, 376,886; number of colleges reporting, 14; number of students, 1,171; number of graduates during the past year, 372; number of alumni, 7,732; number of journals, 24.

The Bureau also recommended that it should be the duty of the Bureau to prepare, during the coming year, a complete list of all those who have been members of the Institute since its organization, and their relations to it.

Other facts of interest, showing the progress of homœopathy, were presented.

The report, together with the recommendations, was adopted, and Dr. Smith was requested to remain in charge of the Bureau for the next year.

Dr. Strong announced that he had nearly finished the indexing of the reports of the Institute. He said he had all but six of the earlier volumes, and he relied upon the older members for those.

Dr. Kinne moved that the matter of indexing the reports be referred to the Publication Committee, they to recommend as to its expediency during the present session.

Dr. Coburn, of the Local Committee, stated that the members wearing the badges would be admitted to the Springs free. The fares for the round trip to Mt. McGregor and the Schuylerville monument have been reduced.

A large number of reports were then made from societies, hospitals, etc., all interesting and all showing satisfactory progress.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28.

The attendance was largely increased.

Dr. Peck moved that when members of the Institute were supplied with postal cards by directory publishers, they be requested to respond. Their true position in the profession will be given, and they will not be classed as quacks, as they are liable to be if they make no reply. After discussion the motion was carried.

The Board of Censors then presented a large number of names of applicants for membership.

President Orme stated that if any member knew of any blemish in the character or standing of any applicant, it is his duty to protest against the election of the same.

On motion of Dr. Kinne, the Board of Censors was instructed to post the applications where they can be seen by the members.

Dr. Allen moved that new applicants present be extended the freedom of the floor for debate until the evening session. Carried.

The report of the Committee on Drug Proving was taken up.

Dr. Sherman, of Milwaukee, was first speaker. He said that as the chairman of the committee was not present, there was no general report. Instead, however, he had a list of provings which he submitted. Three drugs had been proved by twelve provers. Referred to the Publication Committee. Dr. Martin Deschere was appointed on the committee in place of E. M. Hale, whose time expires.

The report of the Committee on Pharmacy was then made by the Chairman, C. W. Butler, of Montclair, N. J. The experiments have been made in regard to the physical properties and the pathogenesis of drugs. The provings outnumbered those of last year. The object is to ascertain the drug power evolved.

Dr. Sutherland presented a report of the work done by Dr. Conrad Wesselhoeft, of Boston, which was in the nature of a table, showing the comparative value of Mercurius Sol. in various powers as proved by a number of students of the Boston University School of Medicine.

“The discovery of the cause why prolonged grinding makes tritu-

rations dark," was the subject of the second report by Dr. Wesselhoeft. It adhered to the doctrine of limited divisibility of matter, and attributing the constant darkening of the trituration to the mortars in which they are prepared.

Dr. Lewis Sherman presented a summary of work done during the past two years in the Physical Properties of Trituration, bringing facts determined by experience, partly by observation and by reflection.

A vote of thanks was tendered the provers who aided the Bureau in its observations.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education was then taken up. Dr. T. Y. Kinne, of Paterson, N. J., presented the report. He said the report had been divided into four departments: Preparatory, collegiate, post graduate and the relation of the State to medical education. It was a scholarly production throughout. In giving his "our own diagnosis," he said that the fault, in his opinion, seemed to be, first, we are too much engrossed with self; second, we do not maintain our rights; third, we do not realize that only in union there is strength.

The following were presented in the report:

Resolved, That the President shall appoint a special committee of eight, he being *ex-officio*, to which shall be referred all reports, requests and resolutions concerning medical education, provided they do not require immediate action.

Resolved, That this committee shall, during the coming year, formulate a plan and course of study, both preparatory and professional, and present such plan at the next meeting of the Institute for its action.

Resolved, That this special committee shall be the Standing Committee on Medical Education for the ensuing year.

On motion, the resolutions were referred to the Publication Committee.

Dr. B. W. James moved, and it was carried, that the Committee on Medical Education, and the Intercollegiate Committee, should be instructed to appoint a Conference Committee, consisting of three members from each Standing Committee, and that the results of the deliberations of this Conference Committee should be reported to the Institute at the next session.

Dr. Millie J. Chapman then made the address of the Bureau of Obstetrics.

Dr. L. H. Willard, Chairman of the Bureau of Surgery, presented his address.

Dr. B. W. James moved that the discussion of the papers of the Bureau of Medical Education be taken up.

Dr. J. E. James thought it would be better to wait until after the meeting of the Intercollegiate Committee.

Dr. Beckwith wanted to have the resolutions taken up at once.

Dr. Dudley thought that it would be better for the Institute to express its views to the Intercollegiate Committee rather than to have the Intercollegiate Committee express its views to the Institute.

The motion of Dr. B. W. James was carried and the resolutions were taken up.

On motion, the resolutions and recommendations were referred to the Committee on Medical Education.

The session then adjourned.

At 3 o'clock the Bureau of Obstetrics met, with a large attendance, and had interesting discussions upon several valuable papers.

In another room was assembled the Bureau of Surgery, where the subject of "Hip Joint Disease" was discussed in an able and interesting manner, a number of papers having been presented upon different departments of the subject.

At the evening session the applicants for membership previously presented, were elected members.

The main subject for the evening was the report of the Bureau of Clinical Medicine, which was made by Dr. J. W. Dowling. The report included a number of excellent papers upon the subject of "Diseases of the Kidneys," and the discussions were participated in by a number of members, in all of which great interest was taken.

Vice-President Wright presided over the evening session.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29.

A further number of applicants for membership were elected.

The Auditing Committee reported through its Chairman, Dr. D. S. Smith, that they had examined the accounts of the Treasurer and found them correct.

Dr. Pemberton Dudley, of Philadelphia, presented the report of the Committee on Medical Literature. It was moved by Dr. T. F. Allen, seconded by Drs. G. E. Sparhawk and Dudley, and carried, that the *New York Medical Times* be stricken from the list of homœopathic journals, as being a constant opponent to all the interests of our school.

The Committee on President's Address commended it as able and interesting, and reported that they were heartily in sympathy with the sentiments expressed in the address, and recommended that the suggestions of the President should be adopted. Report adopted.

Dr. A. R. Wright, Vice-President, presented to the Institute, in the name of the President, a gavel made of Georgia pine, with side transfer impressions of the head of Hahnemann, from the seal of the Institute, bearing a silver plate inscribed, "American Institute of Homœopathy. Presented by F. H. Orme, 1887."

On motion of T. T. Kinne, M. D., it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Institute be tendered President

Orme for his gift of this beautiful gavel, in the hope that it may mark each onward step in our progress, until the final summons from labor to rest shall find us all in order at our eternal home.

Dr. S. P. Hedges, of Chicago, read the address on Gynæcology, which was an exhaustive paper on the progress in this department during the past year.

Dr. C. D. Crank, of Cincinnati, presented the address on Pædology in which he reviewed the literature and improved methods of treatment, calling especial attention to the increased interest manifested in the hygienic care of children.

The address of the Bureau of Ophthalmology, Otology and Laryngology, was read by Dr. Geo. S. Norton, of New York, in the absence of the Chairman. It contained a general resume of the progress in this department during the past year.

Dr. T. L. Brown, of Binghamton, N. Y., presented the following :

Resolved, That when one homœopathic college refuses to graduate a medical student, knowing him to be incompetent, every other college of our school should carefully respect that decision.

Resolved, That by so doing the colleges protect the people and deserve their support and confidence.

On motion, these resolutions were referred to a committee consisting of Drs. H. D. Paine, J. E. James and T. T. Kinne.

FILLING VACANCIES.

Dr. J. C. Morgan, of Philadelphia, offered the following, which was adopted :

Resolved, In cases of vacancy occurring in any bureau or committee, after the announcement of the same by the President, the Chairman shall have authority to fill the same, giving prompt notice thereof to the General Secretary of the Institute, who shall include such names in subsequent publications.

At 3 o'clock the sectional meeting of the Bureau of Gynæcology was held, and a number of interesting papers were presented and discussed.

In a separate room also met the Bureau of Pædology, where interesting papers were read, the discussion of which was participated in by quite a number of members.

The Bureau of Ophthalmology, Otology, etc., had also a sectional meeting this afternoon, when papers relating to subjects connected with the eye, ear, nose and throat were presented and subjected to discussion, which was engaged in by many.

The evening session was devoted to the report of the Bureau of *Materia Medica* and General Therapeutics, the subject being, "Remedies Causing Disturbed Sleep." Dr. H. M. Hobart, Chairman, presented a paper, as did others of his Bureau. These were discussed to the conclusion of the evening session.

The following Chairmen of Bureaus to serve for the coming year were appointed by the President:

Organization, etc., T. F. Smith, M. D.; Surgery, John E. James, M. D.; Obstetrics, George B. Peck, M. D.; Clinical Medicine, George E. Gorham, M. D.; Gynecology, Phil Porter, M. D.; Pædology, B. F. Dake, M. D.; Ophthalmology, etc., Joseph E. Jones, M. D.; Materia Medica, A. R. Wright, M. D.; Psychological Medicine, J. D. Buck, M. D.; Sanitary Science, H. R. Stout, M. D.; Anatomy and Physiology, W. von Gottschalck, M. D.

Committee on Pharmacy, Lewis Sherman, M. D.; Medical Education, T. G. Comstock, M. D.; Medical Literature, J. C. Burgher, M. D.; Medical Legislation, J. H. McClelland, M. D.; Railroad Fares, H. C. Allen, M. D.

Two meetings of the Editorial Association were held yesterday in one of the smaller halls of the house. Twenty-six medical journals of the school constitute the membership. The annual address was read at the afternoon session, by Dr. Bushrod W. James of Philadelphia, on "Successful Medical Journalism." The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Dr. Reuben Ludlam, of Chicago; Secretary and Treasurer, A. L. Chatterton, Esq., of New York.

Dr. Geo. M. Dillow, of New York, was elected to prepare the annual address for 1888.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30.

At the morning session the Board of Censors presented names of further applicants for membership.

The Special Committee, to which was referred the resolution of T. L. Brown, M. D., reported that, "This Institute condemns the action of any college which graduates an unsuccessful candidate from another school unless he attends, at least, one full course of lectures at the college where he applies for a degree." On motion, the report was accepted and adopted.

Dr. T. M. Strong presented his report on foreign correspondence, showing increased activity among the members of the homœopathic school throughout foreign countries.

O. S. Runnels, M. D., presented the report of the delegates to the International Convention, held during the past year at Basle, Switzerland. This Convention will meet in this country in 1891. President Orme appointed Drs. I. T. Talbot, of Boston; J. P. Dake, of Nashville; J. W. Dowling, of New York; B. W. James, of Philadelphia; R. Ludlam, of Chicago; O. S. Runnels of Indianapolis and T. G. Comstock of St. Louis, as a Special Committee to make arrangements for this Convention, and to report progress from year to year.

Resolved, That no member shall serve on more than one Bureau or Standing Committee during any one year.

The Special Committee on Pharmacopœia presented its report through Dr. A. C. Cowperthwait, in the absence of Dr. Dake, Chair-

man, recommending that Drs. Lewis Sherman, J. W. Clapp and F. E. Boericke be appointed a committee to confer with the Committee of the International Convention, the British Pharmacopœia to be the basis for a new one.

The Bureau of Psychology was reported by Selden H. Talcott, M. D., in the absence of the Chairman, Dr. H. B. Clarke, of New Bedford, Mass. The doctor read a paper on "Habits which Tend to the Production of Insanity."

Dr. J. D. Buck, of Cincinnati, read a paper on "The Physio-philosophy of Habit."

The report of the Bureau of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology was presented by Dr. J. C. Morgan, of Philadelphia, Chairman, who gave a brief outline of the work for the past year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :

President, A. C. Cowperthwaite, Iowa City, Iowa ; Vice-President, N. Schneider, Cleveland, Ohio ; Treasurer, E. M. Kellogg, New York city ; General Secretary, Pemberton Dudley, Philadelphia, Pa. ; Provisional Secretary, T. M. Strong, Ward's Island, New York ; Board of Censors, Drs. R. B. Rush, R. F. Baker, T. F. Smith, H. B. Clarke, Mary A. B. Woods.

Niagara Falls was selected as the place for the next meeting, and adjournment was made (for business purposes) until 9 a. m. to-day.

The Bureau of Sanitary Science met in the main assembly room at 3 o'clock, Dr. H. E. Beebe presiding. Important and interesting papers were read and discussed freely.

In the evening the body turned from work to the social festivities prescribed in the programme, and made the Grand Union for the nonce assume quite its midsummer gayety. These prescribers of pills appeared in full dress suits and patent leathers, while their ladies, mindful to a large extent of the pomps and vanities of Saratoga, came out in unsuspected richness. The parlors were brilliantly lighted, and the scene was very animated both indoors and on the piazzas. Near the entrance on the lawn side of the Grand Union, Klein's orchestra, of Troy, discoursed music, and the party was very sociable.

The President, Dr. F. H. Orme, of Atlanta, Ga., and wife, held a reception in the parlor, and the M. D.'s and ladies, in two files, approached and were duly presented to Mrs. Orme.

Dancing began in the ball-room about 10 o'clock, and the attentions of the party were then divided between the ball-room and the refreshment room adjoining, until midnight.

FRIDAY, JULY 1.

The final report of the Board of Censors was acted upon, the result being the election, in all, of eighty-one new members.

The report on Medical Legislation was read by Dr. Curtis, of Washington, in the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Sawyer, and was referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. A. C. Cowperthwaite presented the report of the Committee on Railroad Fares.

On motion, the Executive Committee was given authority to change the next place of meeting, should circumstances seem to justify it, and Drs. A. R. Wright, D. G. Wilcox, E. S. Coburn, Phil Porter and E. H. Wolcott were appointed the Local Committee of Arrangements.

On motion, it was resolved that hereafter papers in general or sectional meeting shall not consume more than fifteen minutes in the reading.

That not more than one-half of the time allotted to the report of the Bureau shall be taken up in the reading of papers, those whose authors are present being first read, the other papers to be read only at the pleasure of the meeting.

A report of the Special Committee on Transactions recommended that the present form be continued.

The Committee on a Testimonial to Dr. J. C. Burgher, reported as follows:

WHEREAS, John C. Burgher, M. D., has rendered faithful and efficient service as Secretary of the American Institute of Homœopathy for the past seven years,

Resolved, That on his retirement from this office, the Institute desires to place on record its high appreciation of the laborious work thus accomplished; its recognition of the the uniform courtesy extended to its members, and the promptness in performance of the various duties of his office.

Resolved, That these resolutions, properly engrossed, be sent to Dr. Burgher.

[Signed]

HENRY D. PAINE,
HENRY M. SMITH,
D. S. SMITH,
R. LUDLAM,
PHIL PORTER.

Henry D. Paine, D. D., Necrologist, presented his report, mentioning the deaths of the following members:

C. Theo. Liebold, New York; R. Sargent, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. P. Dake, Jr., Nashville; Henry Detwiler, Easton, Pa.; A. E. Small, Chicago, Ill.; H. B. Easton, Rockford, Me.; R. R. Gregg, Buffalo, N. Y.; David Cowley, Pittsburg, Pa.; Chas. Bossert, New York.

Dr. Paine was requested by the President to continue to serve as Necrologist.

Dr. Kinne moved the following resolution :

That the hearty thanks of this Institute are due our esteemed President for his uniform courtesy, justice and decision in presiding over our deliberations, and we assure him that through life we shall carry memories of our pleasant meeting and follow him with our prayers for his continued health and life.

Adopted by a rising vote.

A memorial service was held, during which feeling tributes were paid to Drs. Small, Detwiler, Bossert, Liebold, Gregg, J. P. Dake, Jr., and others, by Drs. T. F. Smith, Norton, Morgan, D. H. Beckwith, D. S. Smith, Wright, Curtis and Ludlam.

Resolutions of thanks were extended to the proprietor of the hotel for the care and courtesy extended to the members of the Institute, and the press for its full and more than usually accurate reports.

Business being finished, and a motion for adjournment having been made, President Orme said :

Fellow-members of the Institute—Your kindness in electing me President during my illness and absence last year, affected me greatly ; your uniform courtesy, deference and kindness during this session have deepened the impression. With grateful feeling, and with the expression of the hope that we shall all, with many others of the brethren, meet at Niagara Falls next year, I now declare the session adjourned.

NOTES.

The President announced that messages expressing regrets at inability to attend the session as contemplated, and good wishes for the success of the meeting, were received from Drs. I. T. Talbot, J. P. Dake, J. C. Sanders, J. S. Mitchell, F. Park Lewis, C. E. Fisher, J. A. Campbell, Joseph Jones, A. I. Sawyer, T. P. Wilson, T. L. Hatch, Milton Hammond and L. B. Wells.

The following Ex-Presidents were in attendance at the Institute: D. S. Smith, Chicago, 1858; W. T. Helmuth, New York city, 1867; H. D. Paine, New York city, 1868; R. Ludlam, Chicago, 1869; D. H. Beckwith, Cleveland, 1870; J. C. Burgher, Pittsburg, 1878; J. W. Dowling, New York city, 1881; B. W. James, Philadelphia, 1884; T. F. Allen, New York city, 1885; O. S. Runnels, Indianapolis, 1886.

Drs. A. S. Ball and H. D. Paine, of New York city, and S. R. Dubs, of Doylestown, Pa., in attendance on the meetings of the Institute, assisted in founding this organization, and attended the first meeting in 1844.

Judge Hilton entertained with refreshments and domestic sociability, at Woodlawn yesterday, about twenty of the prominent

members of the Institute and their ladies. All of them were quite captivated by the Judge's affability and hospitality.

The doctors and their ladies all agree that this has been an excellent and enjoyable meeting.

During the session the gavel was frequently in the hands of Vice-President Wright, who was quite at home in the chair.

The "Seniors" had several meetings, at times not in conflict with the session, which they always attend.

