

Sanford (E.)

HOMŒOPATHY

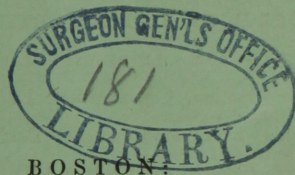
AND

HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS

IN EUROPE.

BY

E. SANFORD, M. D.,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.



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1857.

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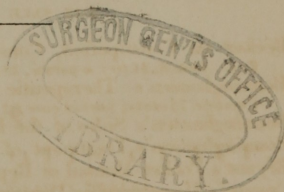
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INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages have been prepared from notes, made at the time of learning the facts to which they relate.

It will be seen, that homœopathy has attained an influential position abroad, and that its supporters embrace among their number many eminent names. The extensive adoption which it has received is extremely gratifying, and bears unmistakable testimony to the estimation with which it is held.

Some statistics gathered from Smith's Directory, relating to the condition of homœopathy in the United States, may be found of interest to the reader.

The whole number of homœopathic physicians in the United States is given as 1749. Number of Colleges, 2; Dispensaries, 8; Hospitals, 2; Homœopathic Societies, 24; Pharmacies, 23.

147 Benefit street, Providence. R. I.

(3)

HOMŒOPATHY.

WHILE in Europe, last summer, I made it a leading object of inquiry to ascertain the condition of homœopathy, and the standing of its practitioners in the regions through which I passed. In the older countries, where established usage has almost unlimited influence in determining the habits of the people, departure from former observances is attended with no common difficulty. Allopathy has possessed the field for centuries, and its corporate institutions are powerful and rich. Those whose fame and emolument is dependent upon maintaining the order of things as they have been established invariably discourage every innovation. The people, accustomed to rely upon doctrines sustained by the bodies which have long commanded their respect, are consequently slow to adopt any movement not supported by their ordinary advisers. The less intelligent portion of the community, in the habit of pursuing the paths of old usage without inquiring for reasons why, are not to be found among the earliest advocates for change. The better informed, if devoting any thought to the subject, may be presumed to conclude that those whose especial duty it is to examine the merits of medical questions have done so, and, in adhering to their old belief, have detected the unsoundness of any new system.

Notwithstanding these formidable obstacles, homœopathy has gained a permanent footing in Europe; and, at the present time, numbers among its supporters a large proportion of the intelligent and influential in the communities where its practitioners are found. These results have been attained within the space of fifty years since Hahnemann set forth the principles upon which homœopathy depends. Its success has been established, not by the use of means which confer a temporary notoriety upon some striking novelty, but by the success of treatment in disease, at first confined to a restricted circle, and gradually extending to a wider notice. Grave maladies, which have resisted the skill of allopathic medicine, coming under homœopathic treatment with marked improvement, cannot fail to become known, and in a progressive degree call public attention to the result. Thus homœopathy has grown, depending solely upon its intrinsic worth, until it commands the confidence of great numbers, and enrolls among its practitioners a large body of well-informed physicians.

At the present time, there are upwards of seventy homœopathic practitioners in London, all of whom have received their medical education at the allopathic institutions; and, while standing on an equality with their brethren of the old school, have to their original attainments, superadded a knowledge of homœopathy.

Among the best known in this country, of the London physicians, are Dr. Laurie and Dr. John Epps. The names of Dr. Rutherford Russell and Dr. F. F. Quin are also alike known by their writings. Dr. Epps has been eighteen years in practice, and commands a large share

of confidence, both in London and as consulting physician out of town. Before nine A. M., every day, he gives gratuitous advice to the poor, and prescribes for many patients in a morning. Until twelve, his house, standing on Great Russell street, Bloomsbury, next the British Museum, is thronged with patients seeking advice. The remainder of the day is occupied by the ordinary professional duties of the practitioner.

Dr. Epps adheres closely to Hahnemann, and condemns any departure from his precepts. He maintains that the success of homœopathy depends upon a correct interpretation of symptoms and the pathogenesis of drugs. He has an original bust of Hahnemann, taken from sittings to the artist.

In regard to potency, Dr. E. relies chiefly upon attenuations between the twelfth and twentieth. He assured me that he never used aconite so low as the third, but always in sthenic inflammations at the twelfth. If pneumonia supervened upon phthisis, the third of bryonia might be necessary. He keeps a record of every case, classified according to the seat of the disease, and has accumulated an immense mass of evidence. The spread of homœopathy is advanced here, as elsewhere, by arguments, which Dr. E. illustrates by relating the Scripture account of the man who replied to cavilers at his cure, "Once I was blind, but now I do see."

Two of our foreign ministers have been Dr. Epps' patients; and many persons from this country and the Canadas consult him. He professes to be an earnest republican, though a good subject, and claims descent from American stock. Many generations since, his ancestors received a grant of land in Massachusetts,

and several of his progenitors were among the earliest graduates of Harvard college.

Dr. E. is the author of a work on domestic medicine, which has had a large circulation in this country; and, as a reciprocal courtesy, Dr. Pultie's book has been re-published in London under his supervision. Among his writings, is a little work on the virtues of arnica; un-presuming in form, but highly valuable. Notwithstanding the utility of this drug, its properties are very imperfectly known beyond the homœopathic profession. I saw a case of concussion of the brain, at St. Bartholomew's hospital, under treatment by Mr. Lloyd, in which arnica would have been vastly more efficient than the formidable array of leeches, purgatives, and lotions.

In illustration of the certainty of the law of cure lying at the foundation of homœopathy, Dr. E. relates the case of a woman who applied for advice in a singular train of symptoms, consisting of a sense of levity in the body and limbs. When the feet were advanced in walking, it required an effort to bring them to the ground; and, on lying down, the body seemed to float and ascend. The books of allopathic medicine afford no specific guide to the treatment of such a condition; the homœopath is more fortunate in finding a remedy. *Asarum Europeum* produces these symptoms upon the healthy subject, and removes the symptoms in disease, when not caused by the drug. When Dr. Epps was lecturer on materia medica, at the Hunterian school of medicine, he used to assure his pupils, that the best-informed practitioners were merely educated quacks in the use of drugs; and when the genius arose who should disclose the universal law of drug action, the discovery

would render him immortal. It seems to be peculiarly appropriate that the prediction should have been made by one who has himself become better acquainted with the pathogenetic effects of drugs than scarce any other man.

Another case, related by him, illustrates his views of drug action. A gentleman, under treatment for hæmoptysis, had been benefited by the use of arnica and lycopodium. On leaving town the remedies were continued for a time in alternation; but, the latter medicine being expended, arnica was taken alone. Subsequently sanguineous expectoration returned, unexplained by any physical symptoms, but which Dr. E. accounted for by extreme susceptibility to the drug. He has used baryta and lachesis with favorable results in organic stricture of the œsophagus; and finds cannabis, after spigelia, the most effectual remedy in metastatic carditis.

One of the rare cases of arsenic eating, concerning which we have very little authentic information, had recently come under Dr. Epps' notice. A man was in the habit of taking three-fourths of a grain per day on his bread, and supposed himself unable to get along without it. During the first week of abstinence the secondary effects of the drug became apparent, causing extreme depression; but subsequent amendment ensued.

In manner, Dr. Epps is affable and courteous; in person, eminently after the English style. On entering, he approached with one hand extended, and, placing the other on my thorax, exclaimed, with the first salutation, that a narrow chest was characteristic of the Americans. At his house, as everywhere else, I found a most cordial welcome and an obliging willingness to communicate information.

Another practitioner of London is Dr. Laurie, who resides at the west end, near Hyde Park. Six years ago he was in this country, and received a degree at the Philadelphia Homœopathic Medical College, in addition to the degree conferred at Edinburgh, some years before. He states that the opposition to the more rapid extension of homœopathy in England is the influence of the old medical corporations, which neglect no opportunity to destroy the standing of any physician who dares depart from their doctrines.

Homœopathy was first introduced into England among the nobility, and its chief advocates are now found among the higher classes, and among the indigent. The middle classes, who are the immediate friends and associates of the great body of medical men, and who receive their opinions from them, do not readily depart from allopathy. The gratuitous dispensaries have caused a knowledge of homœopathy to be diffused among the poor; and it has been extensively adopted by them in London, certainly not from any motives other than a confidence in its worth, gained from observation of the effects of treatment among their friends. A dispensary, with which Dr. L. is connected, was opened in Manchester Square, near an allopathic dispensary; the latter, in consequence, soon became nearly destitute of patients.

The Duchess of Cambridge, aunt to the queen, is patroness of the London Homœopathic Hospital; and her family, when requiring medical service, call in homœopathic attendance. Her daughter, first cousin to the sovereign, was last summer under Dr. Quin's treatment when sick with measles. The Duchess of Kent, another royal dowager, is an advocate of homœopathy; and,

when the difficulty of departing from prescribed custom in England is understood, it becomes apparent that homœopathy has obtained a footing which establishes its permanency and respect. The queen permits her children to be treated by Dr. Quin, when they require attendance, but cannot yet adopt homœopathy for herself. Her physician, Sir James Clarke, who has been her adviser for many years, possesses a large share of the royal confidence; and she expresses the opinion that, if the new system were wholly true, Sir James would not withhold his belief. A personal regard for her old attendant only prevents the queen from fully adopting homœopathy.

Dr. Laurie adheres to the lower potencies, rarely going above the sixth, and as rarely using the tinctures. Conversing with him in regard to the use of aconite, in an attenuated form, he related an incident which occurred recently at Edinburgh. He happened casually to hear Dr. Miller, the university professor of surgery, lecturing upon inflammatory fever. Among other remedies, the speaker said he ought not to pass over aconite, which acted efficiently in very small doses, — three or four drops in a tumbler of water being sufficient, — but without any acknowledgment that he had got his information from homœopathy. A similar statement of the usefulness of aconite may be found in Pirrie's Surgery, a work by the lecturer on surgery in the Marischal college of Aberdeen.

I had an opportunity of stating to Dr. Laurie the virtues of hamamelis, which had not before been known to him. This preparation, so valuable in the treatment of venous congestions, introduced to use in this

section by Dr. A. H. Okie, has heretofore been entirely unknown among homœopathic practitioners in England.

Dr. L. has used glonoine, with the best results, in congestive and periodic headache. I found him retaining a lively recollection of his trip to America, and the medical men he met here. In features he is said to bear a marked resemblance to Dickens.

Just before I visited London, medical men had been much interested in the scientific testimony given in the case of Palmer, tried for murder by strychnine. Among the distinguished witnesses were Taylor, Rees, Brodie, and Christison. During a rigid examination, these gentlemen disclosed nearly every property belonging to the poisonous action of strychnia upon the human subject, and in experiment upon animals. The fact that it acts with the greatest violence upon carnivorous animals, and is comparatively inert upon animals feeding upon grain and herbs, was however entirely overlooked. This property is stated by Teste, and verified by Magendie, who found that ninety-five times as much nuxvomica was necessary to kill a domestic fowl as sufficed to destroy a large dog. The effects of this drug bear a precisely analagous relation to the human system. Upon robust, plethoric men, accustomed to take much animal food, its action is much more prompt than upon emaciated, sparely-fed subjects. This fact must necessarily have an important bearing upon any suspected case of poisoning, and can hardly be overlooked with safety when any doubt as to the origin of symptoms exist.

Homer says Machaon, a son of Esculapius, was a renowned hero, as well as a skilful physician, and made

“at least as much havoc among his enemies as among his friends.” The skill sometimes displayed in dispensing “vials of wrath, pills, powder, and potion,” is illustrated by the adventure of Sir Walter Scott. It happened, at a remote country town, that he required medical attendance for one of his servants, who was taken suddenly ill; and, on inquiry, learned that there were two doctors in the place, one long established and the other a new-comer. The latter, being found at home, soon made his appearance, — a grave, sage-looking man, dressed in black, in whom, to his great surprise, Sir Walter recognized a Scotch blacksmith, who had formerly practised in the neighborhood of Ashesteil as a veterinary surgeon, with considerable success.

“How, in all the world,” exclaimed he, “can it be possible that this is John Lundie?”

“In troth, it is, your honor, just a’ that’s for him.”

“Well, but let us hear: you were a *horse* doctor before; now, it seems, you are a *man* doctor. How do you get on?”

“O, just extraordinar well; for, your honor maun ken, my practice is very sure and safe. I depend entirely on twa *simples*.”

“And what may their names be? Perhaps it is a secret?”

“I’ll tell your honor” (in a low tone): “my twa simples are just *laudamy* and *calamy*.”

“Simples with a vengeance,” said Scott. “But, John, do you never happen to kill any of your patients?”

“*Kill?* O, ay, may be sae. Whiles they die, and whiles no; but it’s the will of Providence.”

British medical and surgical science is undergoing a

revolution at the present time, and the progress of homœopathy has had much influence in modifying its condition. Some years since, Dr. Harrison, who married a niece of the Archbishop of Canterbury, got rich by his profession, and retired from practice. His wife's sister, a woman of rank and fashion, was affected by spinal caries, which resisted the treatment of the best surgeons of the time. Ultimately Dr. Harrison was induced to undertake the case; and, by enforcing the strict observance of entire rest in a recumbent position, aided by pressure and friction, succeeded in accomplishing a cure. In consequence of this restoration, Dr. Harrison received constant solicitations to undertake treatment in similar cases, and was compelled to resume practice. Sir Benjamin Brodie, just then acquiring popularity, condemned this form of treatment in the most unsparing manner, and denounced it as a pernicious empiricism. Recently this distinguished authority has published a lecture, recanting his former belief, in which he adopts the treatment practised by Harrison. There is in London an infirmary, under homœopathic management, for the treatment of spinal diseases, known as the Harrison Spinal Institute, taking its name from Dr. H., the founder, who endowed it with a considerable fund.

The strongest advocates of homœopathy are found in England among the men of talent and cultivation. Several bishops, and large numbers of the clergy, Carlyle, Kossuth, and Whately, author of the standard work on logic, and many of the scientific and literary men of the day, accept the teachings of Hahnemann.

Two of the leading English life assurance companies offer lower rates of insurance to those who habitually

employ homœopathic treatment. Statistics have shown that the relative mortality is less, and the premium can be diminished.

There are in London quite a number of eminent names in the list of homœopathic physicians. Among them are Henriques, physician to the Spanish embassy, and David Griffiths Jones, assistant surgeon to the Hotel Dieu, at Paris, during the revolutions of February and June, 1848; Drs. Drury and Dudgeon are likewise prominent practitioners.

Medical fees in London are highly remunerative to a physician in large practice. A guinea a visit, paid at the time of making the call, is the usual reward; and the leading practitioners receive a guinea for an office consultation.

Every town in England, of any considerable importance, has one or more homœopathic physicians, and they are uniformly well sustained. There are, out of London, about one hundred and sixty practitioners, exclusive of Scotland and Ireland.

Homœopathy has acquired a commanding position at Paris, the city where Hahnemann passed the last years of his life. About ninety homœopathic physicians are in practice there, and some of them hold places of eminence. Though, as elsewhere, the same unscrupulous opposition has been encountered, the French people, less accustomed to be trammelled by prescriptive opinions, have earlier investigated and adopted the principles of homœopathy.

Andral instituted a series of spurious experiments, with the design of destroying the system of Hahnemann. It was admitted that he could not read the Organon in

the original German ; and at that time no French translation had been made. Thus it will be seen how incompetent he was to undertake the practice of homœopathy. The remaining particulars of the trial are told in the following extract from Dr. F. W. Irvine's article in the British Journal of Homœopathy, 1844 :

“ We have now to state a circumstance for which our readers are scarcely prepared. It is seldom, whatever system we follow, that one medicine suffices for the cure of a chronic complaint, even when the experience of years has guided the choice ; and it is rare indeed that *one* dose of the medicine brings about the desired result. To this obvious principle, however, M. Andral shut his eyes when experimenting homœopathically ; for we gather, from an attentive perusal of the article already referred to, what the author was doubtless ashamed to say in so many words : *That, though three-fourths of the cases treated were such as required a long course of treatment to cure, none of them received more than one dose of the homœopathic remedy, the administration of which was followed by some days of inaction, at the expiry of which, if not cured, the patient was handed over to allopathy. It was expected, it would seem, that scarcely had the globules been swallowed but the cure should be effected, if it lay in the power of homœopathy to cure at all. Diseases of every kind, bronchitis, pleurisy, and consumption, chronic inflammation of the stomach and hypertrophy of the heart, — diseases which had existed for weeks, months, and perhaps years, — homœopathy must cure them all, by one dose each, or it is held to be a delusion. Notwithstanding all this, however, we learn that, of fifty-four cases thus treated, eight made perma-*

ment recoveries, and seven others were better the day after getting the medicine."

Homœopathy is rapidly spreading in France. The Emperor has favored its partial adoption into the army, and the Empress Eugenie is among its active supporters.

The Queen of Spain, with whom the French empress is allied, and the Spanish court, all embrace homœopathy, and through these influences homœopathy has received aid at Paris.

Among the physicians of note, Tessier holds an important place, by his talents and position. Physician to the Hospital Beaujon, where he has upwards of one hundred beds, the opportunity is afforded him to exhibit the results of his treatment to those physicians who, though sceptical, are willing to receive information. Much is accomplished in this way; for it is scarcely to be expected that practitioners, who have been accustomed to depend upon crude doses of drug preparations, should, without an opportunity to observe the favorable consequences of homœopathic treatment, dare to rely upon unaccustomed methods.

The widow of Hahnemann is still living at Paris. Her husband continued to practice up to the last fortnight of his life, and died at the advanced age of eighty-eight. There seems to be a very natural cause for regret that he should not have sooner partially withdrawn from active labor, and husbanded the strength which might have prolonged his life. Still, he did not die until events had shown the truth of the doctrines he had striven to unfold, and fame had attested the value of his labors. Madame Hahnemann possesses voluminous manuscripts, in his handwriting, which contain

records of treatment; and efforts are being made to obtain them for publication. An English gentleman has offered to pay ten thousand pounds for the manuscripts; and Bonninghausen, for whom Hahnemann entertained a strong friendship, is negotiating for these works, which are supposed to contain their author's final views upon the magnitude and repetition of the dose, and the summing up of his extended experience.

Herring's account of Hahnemann's death is so brief and touching that it may be read with interest.

"He was a very learned man, and a great inquirer and discoverer. He was a true man, without falsity; candid and open as a child; inspired with pure benevolence, and a holy zeal for science. When at last the fatal hour had struck for the sublime old man, who had preserved his vigor almost to his last moments, then it was that the heart of his consort, who had made the last years the brightest of his life, was on the point of breaking. 'Why shouldst thou, who hast alleviated so much suffering, suffer in thy last hour? Providence should have allotted to thee a painless death.'

"Then he raised his voice, as he had often done when he exhorted his disciples to hold fast to the great principles of homœopathy: 'Why should I have been thus distinguished? Each of us should here attend to the duties which God has imposed upon him. Although men may honor more or less, yet no one has any merit. God owes nothing to me, I to him all.' With these words he took leave of the world, his friends, and his foes."

Teste, the author of a treatise upon the diseases of children, is resident at Paris. The work is a valuable

one, which no physician can afford to abstain from reading. His treatment of croup, by bry and ipec., has been found successful where other remedies fail. The results of experience sustain Teste's treatment, and render it of undoubted value. His work upon materia medica has been extensively circulated; it displays considerable ingenuity in arrangement and classification. The value of the treatise is variously estimated by those who have examined it. Very many of the considerable towns of France have homœopathic practitioners. At Marseilles there are five; at Bordeaux, three, one of whom is Count Donnevale; and at Lyons, six.

In Italy there are, at Naples, Turin, Genoa, Florence, and Rome, about twenty-five physicians. In Vienna, Austria, there are forty homœopathic practitioners; in Madrid, about fifty; and in the German States, many hundreds. The European Directory contains the names of seventeen practitioners who are court physicians. There are also upon the continent about twenty hospitals under homœopathic management.

The hospital of the Sisters of Charity, at Vienna, was opened in 1832 for the reception of cholera patients; and for two years a half-homœopathic, half-allopathic plan of treatment was pursued. In 1835 Dr. Flieschman was appointed physician, and adopted an entirely homœopathic treatment. This hospital is largely visited by medical men, who are anxious to see homœopathic practice.

On account of Dr. Flieschman's success in treating disease, the Emperor of Austria was induced to establish an institution at Vienna for the teaching of homœopathy, under the patronage of government. Dr. Wrumb is principal of the college.

Medical science at Paris is brought to a high degree of perfection; in all that pertains to diagnosis, and the rationale of disease, the hospital physicians are unrivalled. The opportunities for observing every form of disease are very great. The Hotel Dieu contains eleven hundred and fifty beds. This immense hospital is under the charge of nine physicians and three surgeons, assisted by thirty-two house-students, an apothecary, and a retinue of a hundred and fifty servants. Sixty *religieuses*, of the order of St. Augustine, patient and subdued in aspect, hooded in white, administer spiritual consolation to the inmates. Around the beds are curtains, for seclusion, but, being open at the top, present no obstacle to change of air about the patient. The surgeon passes down the wards, wearing a white apron, probably a tradition from the barbers; students follow, and attendants bearing water and instruments. This hospital stands upon the banks of the Seine, near Notre Dame. In the vestibule are portraits of Dessault, Bichat, Dupuytren, and other distinguished physicians and surgeons.

Ricord is followed through the wards of the Hospital du Midi, with which his name is closely associated, by hosts of admiring pupils. Born at Baltimore, in 1800, and subsequently living in England, he is still eminently French. The old convent of the Capuchins forms the present hospital, containing four hundred and fifty beds. The monkish cloisters are widely diverted from their original purpose.

“Quod vero, nunc si viveret
Bonus iste clericus disceret.”

Whether in the lecture-room or by the bedside, Ri-

cord is perpetually throwing off brilliant things. His massive features never subside into quiet. During the hot weather, the shady court-yard of the hospital constitutes his lecture-room. In this academic grove, he sets forth and enforces his doctrines with all the combined force of talent, wit, and accumulated experience.

Velveau may be seen at the Clinical Hospital of the Faculty. He is now advanced in years, but full of vigor. His first *concoure*s gained him the place of house physician at the hospital of St. Louis, unaided and unknown in Paris. Subsequently, after being three times unsuccessful in competing for the chairs of pathology, physiology, and obstetric medicine, respectively, he gained the professorship of clinical surgery over Lisfranc; and, by talent and application, has acquired fame in almost every department of medicine.

While physiology, anatomy, pathology, and chemical science have been rapidly advanced, therapeutics — the end for which all other branches of medicine exist — has scarcely been improved in a commensurate degree. Rejecting homœopathy, the only unerring rule, the practitioners of allopathy have adhered to the traditional dogmas received from an ill-informed age.

It is true that the portrait of Ambrose Pare, the distinguished surgeon, who first substituted the ligature for boiling oil, in amputations, hangs in the lecture-room of the faculty; but their clinical teaching stops at the theories of Hippocrates and Galen. It was a favorite hypothesis of the ancients, that the human system, when in health, contained four elementary humors, combined in a correct proportion, viz.: blood, phlegm, black bile, and yellow bile. If the first were in excess, venesection was the remedy; if the phlegm were too much,

expectorants, diuretics, and the kindred remedies; did the atrabilis or black bile abound, purgatives; for the yellow bile, emetics. The theory is exploded, but the practice remains.

Hahnemann disclosed the first systematic rule for the remedial use of drugs, which has happily been accepted by no insignificant number, to the vast amelioration of human suffering, and the increased assurance and rapidity of cure; and, in view of the abundant facts corroborative of the improvement, it is incredible that any should linger in the ancient paths.

It is undeniably true, that, where homœopathic medicine has been very generally adopted in any community, disease has there diminished. The improved sanitary condition is observed in the less frequent attacks of disease, and the shorter duration of the attack. After treatment by homœopathy, there are none of the injurious consequences of taking drugs remaining; and, when the disorder is removed, there is an immediate return to health. The results in a neighboring place illustrate the favorable consequences of homœopathic treatment. A dozen years ago, the town contained three prosperous allopathic physicians, who did a thriving business. Homœopathy was subsequently introduced; and first one, and then another, and ultimately the third, allopath left the field. Now one homœopathic practitioner is able to attend all the sick, while the population has increased. Such facts are significant, and may be seen in a less degree elsewhere.

The leading homœopath at Edinburgh is Dr. Henderson, University professor of pathology. Formerly an allopath, he has incurred much obloquy for embracing

the sentiments he holds. Notwithstanding the violent opposition directed towards him by the faculty of the college, and the repeated efforts to unseat him, he maintains his position with great firmness.

Dr. Henderson's reply to Dr. Simpson is one of the ablest defences of homœopathy ever made, and worthy of being extensively read, for its clearness, candor, and wit. * A single paragraph will show the keenness of his satire, in refuting 'a shallow argument brought against homœopathy.

"Dr. Simpson, referring to the 'moral symptoms' of the provings in connection with carbonate of lime and common salt, says, of man in general, who takes these substances with his food and his drink: 'Would not his mind have been rendered *sinful* by the very substances which his Creator obliges him to use constantly in the course of the common and requisite nourishment of his frame? If homœopathy were true, would not this arrangement form a strong and incontrovertible argument for sceptics to use, who wished to call in question the bountiful and beneficent arrangements of Providence?' (p. 74.) What a prodigious quantity of salt Dr. Simpson must have taken before he wrote this passage! that is to say, if it is *sinful* to assert what is not the fact, and if salt be a cause of sin. But there is not a single *sin* recorded in the provings as producible by either carbonate of lime or salt. The nearest approach to sinfulness that carbonate of lime produces is *peevishness*; and that is no sin, unless it be indulged. Salt, however, goes a step nearer, as Dr. Simpson knows, experimentally; for it produces 'want of discretion,' and 'vehemence without any special cause.' He must really take less salt with his food, lest he should give a handle to the 'sceptics.'"

Dr. H. has been compelled to remain continually on the defensive, and sustain a perpetual contest with his fellow-professors. When it is remembered that Christison and Simpson are his antagonists, it is no slight credit to him and the principles he maintains, to say that his defence has been made with honor and success. The only member of the faculty who sympathizes with him in the least degree is the professor of chemistry. He stated to me, that twelve years of experience in homœopathy has abundantly confirmed his belief, and enabled him to establish, by his own knowledge, the truth of the doctrines which Hahnemann promulgated. Such testimony from a man like Dr. Henderson carries great weight.

Dr. H. prefers the lower dilutions, rejecting the idea of dynamization. He allows the attenuated drug to possess a medicinal force just equivalent to the amount of matter it contains, but does not deny the efficiency of the higher potencies. Their action is explained by the homœopathicity of the remedy, and the augmented susceptibility of the disordered organization. He does not make use of mother tinctures, nor ascend above the medium attenuations. Dr. H. remarked, in allusion to his own experience, the difference of circumstances under which a case progressed in the two forms of treatment. Formerly, when blood had been taken, and purging enforced, or nauseants and narcotics given, he never felt any assurance of finding a patient in the same condition as on the previous day. Under the disturbing influence of drugs, new symptoms were created, and revulsions and crises continually occurred. Now, under the benign influence of homœopathic remedies, the case

goes steadily on towards recovery, without the intervention of any extraordinary symptoms; and great dependence could be placed upon the continuance of a favorable condition.

Dr. Henderson looks unfavorably upon the founding of homœopathic professorships in the old medical institutions, as proposed in some places. At Munich, where such a professorship exists, it is found to be practically useless. The difficulties which he enumerates are the inharmonious condition which must exist among the faculty; the cliques it engenders among the students; and the anomalous circumstances under which a candidate will come up for examination.

In this country, where there are able institutions designed to give instruction in a full course of medicine, it would seem obviously better to sustain such to their full extent of usefulness, rather than confer a divided patronage upon colleges where the distinctive doctrines of homœopathy are not taught.

Those practitioners in England and Scotland who were previously allopathic physicians, have brought with them into the homœopathic ranks, to a greater or less extent, the families which they were formerly accustomed to treat; and such is the tenacity with which old opinions are held, that, in former times, accessions to homœopathy rarely came in any other way. The scores of physicians in London, who have never been allopaths, are largely engaged in treating the various forms of chronic disease, and their houses are crowded day after day with patients suffering from long-standing ailments. Yet, such is the success of homœopathic treatment that the results continually enhance its reputation. The custom

of assigning the treatment of chronic and acute diseases to separate practitioners is attended with some advantages. The physician who is visiting large numbers of patients daily cannot devote the time to chronic cases necessary to insure their thorough investigation; and he consequently fails to do them justice. Likewise, the habit of directing a frequent repetition of dose in acute diseases is liable to cause him to give medicine oftener than necessary in chronic disorders.

It is a significant circumstance, in the present condition of medicine, that, while the physicians in active allopathic practice uniformly oppose every departure from their own system, the medical men who have returned from India, with a competence, and the retired East India surgeons, have very frequently embraced the tenets of homœopathy. It is also well attested, that large numbers of allopaths secretly and surreptitiously dispense homœopathic remedies. Among them, aconite is given for inflammation, in attenuated doses, and nuxvomica and arnica are likewise used in homœopathic preparations by very many of the English physicians.

At Edinburgh there are seven homœopathic physicians in good practice; which, for the size of the city, is a very fair proportion. Literature, and not commerce, is the business of the town. The inhabitants are intellectual in their pursuits, and their characteristics are thoughtfulness and sagacity. Altogether, though allopathy has long held a dominant influence in Edinburgh its soil is not unfavorable for the spread of homœopathy.

Dr. Henderson has a keen and penetrative Scotch intellect, a clear and well-ordered mind. His bearing is

courteous, — directness with suavity, — wholly free from the “sweet bedside manner” which makes the fortune of a mere fashionable physician.

There are two homœopathic hospitals at London; one in Golden square, founded in 1849, under the patronage of her royal highness the Duchess of Kent, and the Duke of Beaufort. The Earl of Wilton is president of the board, and among the vice-presidents are the Archbishop of Dublin, the Earls of Albemarle and Essex, Lord Francis Gordon, and several members of Parliament. During the first four years, 11,290 patients were treated at this hospital, at an annual expenditure of about four thousand dollars.

The Hahnemann hospital was closed in 1855, after continuing five years. The suspension was not consequent upon any lack of patients, but on account of the enormous expense attending its support. Its annual cost exceeded twelve thousand dollars, and afforded treatment, during the time of its operation, to about thirteen thousand patients.

The hospital for children is under the management of Drs. Drury and Luther. There are also fourteen gratuitous dispensaries, all of which are daily frequented by many patients.

In conclusion, it is impossible to meet any half-dozen persons in England, several of whom are not adherents of homœopathy. At the public houses, coffee-rooms, and in private houses, it is the same, homœopathy everywhere having acquired a prominence and consideration. The magnitude of its influence is apparent from the character of the opposition it excites. The hospital physicians, doctors who have written a book in support

of allopathy, upon which their fame and emolument depend, the *Lancet*, and *Punch* all combine to overthrow homœopathy; yet, under the united opposition of all the adverse influences, it continues to gain in public favor, and steadily increases.

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