

Webster, (F. P.)

supl

Allopathic Opinions

—) OF (—

HOMŒOPATHY.



—) BY (—

F. P. WEBSTER, M. D.,

NORFOLK, VA.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1883, by F. P. Webster,
M. D., in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

ALLOPATHIC OPINIONS

=)OF(=

HOMŒOPATHY.

Before I proceed to confirm the truth of Homœopathy by old school authorities it is necessary that I should explain the meaning of Homœopathy, as taught in its colleges, and practiced, viz :

1st. The single remedy.

2nd. The proving of drugs on the healthy.

3rd. The small dose (not necessarily infinitesimal.)

4th. The administration of drugs in accordance with indications drawn from the law *similia similibus curantur*, or that sick persons are to be cured by drugs which produce in the healthy symptoms similar to those of the sick persons.

Symptoms may be subjective or objective.

Subjective symptoms are those of which we get a knowledge through the medium of the patient's own intelligence. They comprise the various sensations, pains, and abnormal feelings.

Objective symptoms are those which are observed by the physician or by the attendants of the patient. They could be observed whether the patient were conscious or not. They are

the color, texture, temperature, the expression of the eyes and features generally, position, motions and attitudes of the body, secretions and excretions, auscultation and percussion ; in short, everything which the physician can take cognizance of in the sick man by the aid of the five senses, Physical and Chemical and Microscopic analysis included.

The single remedy alone is used in the proving of drugs on the healthy, that the same remedy can be used to cure a similar condition when found in disease.

In proving or in giving a drug to a person in health all of the symptoms, both subjective and objective, that are produced by the drug are noted down for future reference until a sufficient number of provings is made to establish its identity. In the proving of a drug small doses are first taken and gradually increased, so that the finer shades of symptoms and those that are more violent can be taken account of. To complete the proving the records of cases of poisoning from reliable sources are consulted, which form a complete picture of the drug.

For instance, Arsenic, Belladonna, Mercury, &c., have their special action.

For the necessity of knowing the action of drugs I will quote some of the most prominent old school authorities.

Prof. H. C. Wood, in the preface to his work on *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, says :

“ It is the especial province of the therapist to find out what are the means at command, what the individual drugs in use do when put into a human system. It is seemingly self-evident that the physiological action of a remedy can never be made out by a study of its use in disease. It is certain that in experiments made with medicaments upon healthy human beings is the only rational scientific groundwork for the treatment of disease.”

Sir Thomas Watson says :

“ Authentic reports of trials with medicinal substances upon the healthy human body must lead at length, tardily perhaps, but surely, to a better ascertainment of the rules, preadventure to the discovery even of the laws, by which our practice should be guided.”

Dr. King Chambers sneaks as follows :

“ And as to the use of medicines, with which it is a student's duty to be acquainted, do you not see that the safest guide to a knowledge of their effects upon a disordered body is the knowledge of their effects upon a healthy body.”

Prof. Stille, in his work on Therapeutics and Materia Medica, says :

“ If we are ever to acquire a distinct idea of the curative operation of medicines, that is, of their operation upon the tissues, organs, and functions, when they have departed from their normal condition, we must possess a standard with which to compare the effects that medicines produce ; and no other standard is available than the operation of the same medicines upon the healthy economy.” And in another place he says, “ The action of medicines upon the sound organism of man forms an indispensable key to their curative operation in disease. The more thoroughly it is known, the more intelligible must the mode become in which medicines bring about the restoration of soundness of structure and function, and the more will isolated facts of therapeutics tend to arrange themselves in systematic form.”

A paper read before the Cambridge Society for Medical Improvement by Dr. Frederick F. Moore says that “ Drug action possesses individuality just as does disease, and in the practical application of our knowledge of drug action to the treatment of disease, the individuality has an important bearing. That method of drug proving, then, should be adopted, which will not only demonstrate most fully the general action of the medicine on the various parts and functions of the body, but which will bring also out, in the clearest manner, these individual characteristics of the drug. It may be observed, further, that clinical experience is the crucial test to which all therapeutic method must be submitted, and no so-called scientific plan is worthy of a moment's consideration which is not in the great majority of cases supported and confirmed by the clinical method,” in other words, at the bedside of the patient.

To confirm the law *similia similibus curantur* old school authorities only are consulted in reference to the action of drugs. Arsenic will be studied first, to be followed by a few other drugs more briefly considered.

ARSENIC.

AUTHORITIES: Taylor, Christison, Stille, H. C. Wood, Ringer, Phillips, Tilbury Fox, Pereira, Waring, Fowler, Hunt, Trousseau, Bartholow, Virchow, Boudin, Imbert Gourbeyre.

ACTION ON
HEALTHY BODY.THERAPEUTICS OF
OLD SCHOOLI. Gastro-intestinal
Tract.

1. Mouth.—Dryness, Mucous membrane reddened and inflamed, inflammation of a low, malignant character, ulceration, sloughing, gangrene.

2. Throat.—Dryness, inflammation of low type, tendency to ulceration, sloughing, etc.

3. Stomach.—Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting with much straining and distress, vomitus consists of water, bile, mucus, blood, etc.; pain of a burning, gnawing character in epigastrium, sensation of weight at pit of stomach, aggravated by taking food, stomach very irritable, inflammation, acute and chronic; ulceration, gastrodynia, etc.

4. Intestines.—Inflammation, diarrhoea, stools scanty, generally greenish or blackish, sometimes watery, very offensive, accompanied by much abdominal pain and distress, nausea and vomiting. Stools often dysenteric; slimy, bloody, accompanied by tormina and tenesmus; vomiting, followed by palpitation,

Inflammation "malignant sore mouth," ulceration, sloughing, cancerum, oris, etc.

Inflammation, malignant sore throat, ulceration, sloughing, etc.

As a stomach tonic, vomiting, especially of drunkards, which is accompanied by great straining and distress -- in such cases arsenic arrests the vomiting, and restores both appetite and digestion—dyspepsia, irritative dyspepsia, gastritis, acute and chronic, gastric ulcer, allays pain and chronic vomiting, cancer, gastrodynia, etc.

Diarrhoea, dysentery, stools slimy and bloody, accompanied by much tenesmus and pain, and followed by great prostration of strength. When the diarrhoea is due to serious organic disease, e. g., bowel ulceration of phthisis, etc. arsenic is recom-

4. Intestines,—trembling of limbs, great weakness and prostration, out of all proportion to amount of stools. Symptoms often closely resemble those of cholera, and the post-mortem appearances are almost identical with those of cholera, ulceration, fever, etc.
- II. Skin.
- Eruptions closely resembling eczema, psoriasis, pityriasis, acne, urticaria, pemphigus, erythema, etc.
- Eczema, psoriasis, pityriasis, acne, urticaria, pemphigus, erythema, etc.
- III. Eyes.
- Conjunctivitis.
- Conjunctivitis.
- IV. Respiratory Tract.
- Coryza, acute and chronic, bronchitis, an asthmatic condition, etc.
- Coryza, acute and chronic, bronchitis, asthma, etc.
- V. Nervous system
- Chorea, epilepsy, tetanus, paralysis, (paraplegia), neuralgia, etc.
- Chorea, epilepsy, neuralgia, paralysis, etc.
- VI. Heart.
- Palpitation, cardiac dyspnoea, præcordial pain and anxiety, often very severe, endocarditis, hypertrophy, etc.
- Angina pectoris, functional and organic diseases of heart, etc.
- VII. Kidneys etc.
- Albuminuria, urine contains renal epithelium, blood corpuscles, fat globules, fibrin casts, renal dropsy, scanty urine, suppression of urine, coma, after death kidneys found congested, enlarged, undergoing fatty degeneration, etc. The power of arsenic to produce local and general dropsies is noticed by Dr. Weir Mitchel, Dr. Fowler, and others.
- Different forms of Bright's disease; local and general dropsies, etc.

VIII. Fever.

Symptomatic in many cases due to the gastro-enteritis set up, also produces an idiopathic fever, which may affect an intermittent type, thus closely resembling fever and ague. Also produces a fever of the continued type, closely resembling typhoid (most authorities notice this) fever. The irritative or symptomatic fever of arsenic stimulates a hectic form.

One of the chief remedies in intermittent fever; also much used in typhoid fever; also very useful in hectic fever, which accompanies chronic disease of lungs and intestines.

IX. Womb.

Menorrhagia.

Menorrhagia.

BELLADONNA Trousseau, in his work on *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, says: "Analogy, that guide so sure in therapeutics, ought to lead us to use belladonna in the treatment of mania, inasmuch as belladonna, taken in large doses, produces a temporary mania; for experience has proved that a multitude of diseases are cured by therapeutic agents which seem to act in the same manner as the cause of the disease to which we oppose the remedy." Belladonna produces inflammation of the eyes and throat and a condition resembling erysipelas.

Ringer speaks in very high terms of belladonna in acute inflammatory affections of the throat and eyes, as well as in erysipelas. In large doses causes convulsions, and is used in the same; it also produces a sore throat, febrile condition, delirium and scarlatinoid rash, and is used in scarlet fever by both schools of medicine. Produces irritation of the bladder, with constant desire to urinate, though very little urine is passed when the attempt is made. Is beneficial in those affections, according to many old school authorities. Causes congestion of the kidneys with defective secretion, hæmatina, albuminia, and is efficacious in such conditions, arising from cold, etc., but the condition is liable to be aggravated unless the dose is a very small one.—(Harley.) Although belladonna in the physiological state induces wakefulness and busy delirium, in certain morbid states of the brain it is hypnotic.—(Bartholow.) It is a singular fact

that the influence of atropia rapidly produces a state of over excitation and irritability of the vaso motor nervous system, at first increased, soon diminishes; the action of the heart becomes weak, the vessels dilate, and the blood pressure falls below the normal. Harley advises the use of Atropia as a stimulant.

Ipecacuanha causes nausea and vomiting. "It has long been known that ipecac, in small doses, has the power to arrest certain kinds of vomiting."—(Bartholow.) "Induces irritation of the bronchial tubes, with cough, dyspnoea, also a condition similar to asthma. Is employed in the treatment of asthma, bronchitis, etc." "Ipecacuanha is certainly a remedy of considerable power in the asthmatic paroxysm, but this seems altogether independent of its emetic properties. Practitioners of experience, without subscribing to the doctrines of homoeopathy, will certainly think more favorably of it on account of its peculiar tendency to induce fits of asthma in the predisposed (Sir John Forbes.)

Quinine induces a fever very similar to "fever and ague" and is the great remedy for this affection. "Each day's experience," says M. Bretonneau, "proves that cinchona given in a large dose determines, in a great number of subjects, a very marked febrile movement. The characters of this fever, and the time when it shows itself, vary in different individuals. Oftenest tinnitus aurium, deafness, and a species of intoxication precede the invasion of this fever; a slight shivering then occurs; a dry heat accompanied by headache succeeds to these symptoms; they generally abate, and end by sweat. Far from yielding to new and higher doses of this medicine, the fever produced by cinchona is only exasperated * * * But if strong doses are renewed each day and continued during a long time, besides the stomach pains of which we have spoken, there manifests itself a species of fever exactly indicated by M. Bretonneau, and which affects the intermittent type when the cinchona is given in an intermittent manner. This fever is a species of vicious circle in which very often inexperienced physicians turn, who are ignorant of the action of cinchona; they redouble the doses of the medicine, and throw the patient into a state which may be very serious... These physiological effects of cinchona—described, in terms just given, in our first edition—have been despised and denied by

the greater part of physicians of our own country (France); but for some years, works at first foreign, and then French, have been written on the subject, and although the writers have attributed to themselves the honor of this discovery, it belongs properly to M. Bretonneau, and to-day there are few physicians who have not been able every day to confirm these facts upon which we have insisted" (Trousseau and Pidoux, Vol. II.)

It is a most valuable remedy in erysipelas and erythema nodosum. It is a curious fact that in many subjects a full dose of quinia will cause erythema (Bartholow.) Bartholow says, Headache, vertigo and delerium are produced by cinchona and that he had observed great relief by the use of this remedy.

Mercury acts on the liver, causing congestion, enlargement, induration, inflammation, jaundice, etc.; and Graves, in his "Clinical Lectures," says of its curative influence in affections of the liver, "In this instance we are compelled to allow that our practice may furnish weapons to be used against us by the disciples of homœopathy." It has been found that mercury, in full doses, diminishes and often suppresses altogether the secretion of the bile; it is an important remedy in conditions where the secretion of the bile is diminished. Mercury causes symptoms so very similar to syphilis, that Trousseau has considered it necessary to make a careful differential diagnosis between the two conditions; it is the great remedy for syphilis, as is well known. Here, you perceive, we have a remarkable analogy between the disease produced by mercury and syphilis. . . . It is well known that some active remedies have a tendency to produce diseases somewhat analogous to those they are known to cure. This is frequently observed with respect to mercury, belladonna, strychnine, quinine, iodide of potash, and some other powerful medicinal agents; in fact, it is hard to expect a remedy will cure a disease affecting a certain tissue or tissues; unless it has some specific effect on such tissues; and in this point of view we have an example of the *similia similibus curantur* of the homœopathists." (Graves, Clinical Lectures, p. 784.)

Prof. Ringer says: There are persons who can never take even a small dose of mercury without provoking toothache, generally in a carious tooth. In Harris's Principles and Practice of Dentistry it is recommended for toothache.

Mercury produces diarrhoea and dysentery and is in general use in the old school in the treatment of these affections.

Recora and Grassi say, that "mercury diminishes the red corpuscles." "It is given in small doses by Dr. Keys to increase their number."

Iodide of Potash produces "frontal headache, coryza lachrymation, soreness of the throat, hoarseness, and difficulty of swallowing—phenomena strikingly similar to summer catarrh. Indeed patients who experience these sensations for the first time, suppose them to be an acute catarrh. The iodides are unquestionably serviceable in acute catarrh. In summer catarrh or hay asthma, the best results are obtained by the use of larger doses."—(Bartholow.) "Alarming symptoms of difficulty of breathing."—(Woodman and Tidy.) "The Iodide of Potassium is one of the most effective remedies which we possess for spasmodic asthma."—(Bartholow.)

Chlorate of Potash Dr. Ringer says: "This salt appears to increase the flow of saliva, and, according to Hutchinson and others, to produce ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth. It is largely used in various affections of the mouth, and is of signal service in mercurial and simple salivation, in ulcerative stomatitis, and aphthae."

Copper produces vomiting. Dr. Bartholow says: "The sulphate of copper is one of the remedies sometimes effective in the vomiting of pregnancy." Dr. Bartholow also says it produces gastro intestinal catarrh and that minute doses of sulphate of copper render excellent service in gastro intestinal catarrh, and that it produces dysentery, colic pains and tenesmus. The sulphate of copper is a most useful remedy in acute dysentery, colic, pains, tenesmus."

Cantharides excites irritation and inflammation of the urinary passages; and is greatly used by both schools in irritative and inflammatory conditions of these parts. Ringer speaks very highly of it in these cases.

"*Copaiba* also produces irritation of the urinary passages, and is a well known remedy for the same. "In some cases copaiba causes bloody urine, in others I have seen a large amount of blood in the urine quickly disappear under the use of copaiba resin."—(Ringer.)

“Nitrite of Amyl causes “flushings” by inducing dilatation of the arteries; and is very highly recommended by Dr. Ringer in the “flushings” so common in women at the change of life. What Dr. Ringer says in regard to the dose is very significant: “The author began with a minim dose, but was obliged to reduce the quantity; and he ultimately found that, for the most part these patients can bear one-third of a minim without any disagreeable symptoms, but that the tenth, nay, even a thirtieth of a minim will in some patients produce the desired effect on flushing.”

Tartar Emetic produces irritation and inflammation of the bronchial tubes and lungs. Tartar-emeti is a very efficacious remedy in bronchitis of adults and children, and in the ordinary “lung fever” or pneumonia; and is so employed by both schools of medicine.

I will now give a few extracts from a lecture delivered by Prof. A. A. Smith, Bellevue Medical College, New York, on the “Frequent Repetition of Doses,” Reported in the New York Medical Journal, February 10th 1883.

“It is not my intention this morning to deliver a scientific lecture; I shall make certain statements based upon clinical facts for which I shall not attempt to give any explanation.”

I will quote the first instance: “Urticaria is often caused by the administration of full doses balsam of copaiba in cases of urethritis, or inflammation of other mucous membranes, and it may seem strange to you when I make the statement that a single drop of the same drug given every half-hour will sometimes control urticaria; I myself have often observed the efficacy of the treatment.”

“Fowler’s solution, or liquor potassii arsenitis, half a drop given every half-hour for six or eight doses, will often relieve the vomiting which occurs after a debauch. It will also relieve the morning vomiting of drunkards, and is of decided benefit in the sympathetic nausea and vomiting of pregnancy.”

“The next preparation of which I shall speak is a solution of the sulphate of atropine, one one-hundredth of a grain in a goblet of water, a teaspoonful of which shall constitute a dose, amounting in all to about sixty doses. Now you will often be called to see cases of supposed croup, but which, in the majority

of instances, prove to be cases of false croup of a reflex origin. Ordinarily, you will be able to relieve these patients by giving them a teaspoonful of this preparation every hour, or half-hour according to the severity of the attack. If the child's face begins to flush, and show signs of the physiological effects of the drug the dose can be reduced in frequency."

"You will often meet with children of a nervous, excitable frame of mind, who are perhaps, naturally of a sensitive nervous temperament, who are disturbed by the slightest noise, and are unable to get to sleep before ten or eleven o'clock at night. An excellent effect will be produced by chamomilla in some one of its forms, as the tincture, administered in minim doses, every fifteen or twenty minutes."

"One of the most important remedies which can be administered with great benefit in frequently repeated doses is ipecac. You are aware that a teaspoonful of the syrup of ipecac is likely to produce emesis; but it is also a fact, regarding which I was at first quite skeptical, that a single drop of wine of ipecac will often arrest obstinate vomiting. It should be repeated every ten or fifteen minutes. When administered in this manner, I have often known it to relieve vomiting from different causes, among which are pregnancy and subacute gastritis. Children often vomit from very slight causes, and are liable to suffer from diarrhoea and vomiting which have no other assignable cause than disturbance of digestion. A single drop of the wine of ipecac, repeated every fifteen or twenty minutes, will often produce the most marked relief, both from the vomiting and from the diarrhoea.

"I will now make a statement, upon the authority of Trousseau and his enthusiastic successor, which may appear to you, as it once did to me, incredible—viz that one sixtieth of a grain of calomel taken every hour for ten or twelve hours will relieve the headache of syphilis occurring at night. I have administered it in one-fortieth grain doses in this manner and have obtained the results which they claimed for it, but I have not tried it in sixtieth grain doses.

"Nursing children often vomit or regurgitate their food; this has been relieved repeatedly in my experience by giving them a teaspoonful of a solution of one grain of calomel to the pint of

water every ten or fifteen minutes. Where the diarrhœa is accompanied by mucous passages, indicative of a certain degree of inflammatory action, or enteritis, benefit will be derived from the administration of one teaspoonful of a solution of bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate,) one grain to the quart, every hour."

"Another extraordinary statement, which at first seemed to me to be fabulous, and may seem so to you, but which, nevertheless, you will find to be based upon clinical facts: Put a grain of tartar emetic into one quart of water; teaspoonful doses of this solution every half-hour will prove effectual for the relief of the cough and wheezing accompanying a slight bronchitis in children."

"A single drop of the tincture of nux vomica given every ten minutes will often produce most marked relief in sick headache not of a neurotic origin."

"It is well known that cantharides, when given in large doses, is liable to cause inflammation of the urinary tract; but it has been found that a single drop of the tincture every hour will in many cases relieve vesical catarrh."

"You probably have heard that digitalis has been used in cardiac diseases. Certainly if you have not heard of it, you will, and, if you have already heard of it, you will hear of it again, particularly at the clinics. Ordinarily, it is administered in considerable doses only three or four times a day; but I do not hesitate to say that the frequent repetition of the doses will produce much more benefit than larger doses at longer intervals. A single drop of the tincture of digitalis, given to a patient suffering from symptoms due to organic heart disease when digitalis is indicated, administered at intervals of an hour or half hour, according to the severity of the symptoms, will often give greater relief than larger doses, and without liability to ill effects."

"For the diarrhœa of children, accompanied with slight inflammation, straining, and the passage of jelly-looking matter, but not true dysentery, five drops of castor-oil given every hour in water with sugar and gum, is an excellent remedy."

"A gentleman in this city, of authority in the specialty of venereal diseases, says he has given greater relief in a short time,

in cases of orchitis and epididymitis, by the administration of two-minim doses of the tincture of pulsatilla every hour than by any other mode of treatment. I can testify to the great benefit derived from the drug administered in this manner in dysmenorrhœa not of a membranous, obstructive, or neuralgic character."

"Aconite is one of the drugs to which you will probably have occasion to resort frequently when you enter upon the active practice of medicine. It has for a long time been used in quite small doses, but not so frequently repeated as it might be with benefit. There are many cases of febrile movement, with dry, hot skin, a full, bounding pulse, the mucous membrane of the throat and nose probably dry—cases in which the febrile movement is not the commencement of one of the continued fevers; the tincture of aconite, one-third to one-half a minim given every fifteen minutes, will be found of decided benefit."

"Two minims of the tincture of hamamelis every half-hour will often control hemorrhages. I was at first inclined to look upon this statement with a great deal of distrust, but I have since tried it in many cases of hemorrhage from the uterus, and in the hemorrhage from hemorrhoides, and have found it of great benefit."

"I began the use of some of these remedies administered in this manner on the recommendation of others, and I must say on a somewhat skeptical frame of mind, thinking that the effect which they produced was probably due to the moral influence upon the patient, or that it had no foundation in fact, it being a mere coincidence that the drug administered at a time when the patients would have recovered in the absence of any treatment; but having seen benefit follow their administration repeatedly, I concluded they must have a wider range of usefulness, and began to use them more frequently."

The above cases can be readily verified by referring to the standard works on materia medica and therapeutics. They are only a few instances of the many which might be given to confirm the truth of the Hahnemannian law, as well as to illustrate the fact that homœopathy is doing something more than simply to "modify the dose" of the dominant school. To endeavor to show, from allopathic sources alone, that drugs do produce in the

healthy conditions similar to those which they cure, is to work at a great disadvantage, as careful and complete provings of drugs are wanting in the records of this school. It is only in homoeopathic literature that such provings are to be found. These homoeopathic provings, however, remain unacknowledged, are even sneered at, by the old school; hence it would be of little use to bring them forward on the present occasion, as it is my endeavor to confirm the law of "*Similia similibus curantur*" by old school authorities. In every candid mind the question can not help arising, are these drugs, so widely different in their nature and physiological effects, acting as they do on so many different parts of the organism, the only ones subject to these generalizations?

Prof. S. W. Wetmore, of the University of Wooster at Cleveland, Ohio, in an address read before the Buffalo Medical Association, September 4, 1877, speaks as follows: "After more than twenty-five years of earnest pupilage in the various departments of our science, I feel that I have but a smattering of each; but this I *do* know, that there is *certainly* something in homoeopathy.

As philosophical practitioners, we all treat diseases homoeopathically every day, without giving it a thought of the homoeopathic law. He who ignores a doctrine, a drug, or a remedial measure, without giving it investigation, is unworthy of the name of teacher. It is true I have been culpable of that which I criticize; but then I was blind. Now I see and have the moral courage to say, *Peccavi*. I positively knew nothing of that which I condemned. The measure and cause of my intolerance was my ignorance, as is the case in nineteen-twentieths of the physicians of our school throughout the globe to-day. He must needs be blind in more than one eye, who cannot see that its superstructure is something more than imagination, faith, sugar pills, and delusion. It is seemingly unnecessary to detail the great variety of cases I have treated by the law of similars; that there is *multum in parvo*, though that little be of spectroscopic dimensions; and that these medical infinitesimals hold sway over morbid conditions, administered in accordance with the law *similia similibus curantur*, more satisfactorily than remedies given according to the principles of *contraria contrarii curantur*.

This result being the product of my own experimentation. I am positive of my deductions."

An extract from a pamphlet by Thomas Skinner, M. D., Liverpool, England, on Homoeopathy reads as follows:

"Having been connected with the practice of medicine for the past quarter of a century, it is due to the profession of medicine, to the public and to myself, that I should give my reasons for making so remarkable a change in my views of the principles and practice of my profession as to change from Alloecopathy to Homoeopathy.

During my career as a physician I have always taken a decided stand against homoeopathy and its practitioners, believing as I did most sincerely, that Hahnemann and his followers were not only deceived, but in turn they were deceivers. The whole system seemed to me, in my then profound ignorance of the subject, so preposterous, and so far beyond the bounds of human credibility and reason, so that no ordinary thoughtsman could be blamed if he refused to give it even a hearing, far less to take the system into his serious consideration. I was one of the physicians in this town who took an active part in prosecuting or attempting to put down homoeopathy.

Like the great apostle to the gentiles, who, before his conversion to Christianity, persecuted the Church and kicked against the pricks, I have persecuted the truth in another form, and I now, with bent knees, exclaim, *peccavi*, and trust to be forgiven.

So great was my abhorrence of homoeopathy, and so determined was I to put it down, I was instrumental not only in passing, but also in perpetuating, the most illiberal law that ever was made by a profession styling itself "liberal." The law is still existing, I believe, as one of the code of laws of the Liverpool Medical Institution, and is as follows: "The Liverpool Medical Institution shall consist of physicians, surgeons, and other legally qualified practitioners; but no one practicing homoeopathy shall be eligible, either as a member of the institution or as a subscriber to the library; and any member or subscriber who may become a practitioner of homoeopathy shall cease to belong to the institution." *Laws and Regulations of the Liverpool Medical Institution.* Law II. 1861.

As the existence of this law was tantamount to drawing up

and signing my own death warrant, I resigned my membership."

As it may be interesting to many to learn the chief cause which led to my intolerance of homoeopathy, I may state that I was born and educated at Edinburgh, and was a pupil of the late Professor Sir James Young Simpson, Baronet. In 1851-2 I took his gold medal in Gynecology and Obstetrics, and in 1855-56, after being about three years in practice in Dumfriesshire, I became the private assistant of Sir James at his residence, 52 Queen street, Edinburgh. Having been brought up from my youth to recognize in Sir James Simpson the leading medical light of the century, and having been in close contact with him, I could scarcely escape becoming, as it were, impregnated with his views and bias as regards the great contest between the old school of medicine and homoeopathy. So far as Sir James Simpson was capable of investigating the works of Hahnemann, he did investigate them in his own peculiar way--no quarter. He examined them only as a *litterateur* and a rival, never as a genuine truth-seeker or truth lover ought to have done. He never tried the practice on the smallest scale, except to ridicule it. If every new truth or discovery were investigated in the manner in which Sir James investigated homoeopathy, no other result could ensue but a wilful closing our eyes to the truth. Knowing no better, and having a greatly exaggerated idea of the capability of Sir James Simpson for the investigation of medical science, and being for the time spell bound by the greatness and power of his genius, which I fully acknowledge. I took his reply to Hahnemann and his works as a complete settlement of the question. Sir James Simpson and Samuel Hahnemann are both in their graves, but not so homoeopathy, which is only commencing to bud and develop, for *magna est veritas et prevalebit*. Truth is great and will prevail.

"The *Liverpool Daily Post*, in commenting on the doings of the late meeting of the British Medical Association, pertinently says: What can fairly be said is that homoeopathy is practiced by properly qualified physicians, many of them men distinguished in their profession, and respected by the scientific world, and that if the tenets which they have deliberately and intelligently adopted are mistaken, the mistake should be shown by rational

argument and experiment, and not blindly punished by irrational ostracism. * * * The general sentiment of the profession has repeatedly gone wrong. A great man discovered the circulation of the blood, and that general sentiment, though the fact was demonstrated before the very eyes of the doctors, pronounced the illustrious discoverer to be a charlatan.

The value of vaccination, though clearly shown by Jenner, was obstinately denied by the profession in his time and a new generation of doctors sprang up before the marvelous effectiveness of this preventive was generally admitted. The future, as well as the past, condemns the Association. Homoeopaths, if they choose might make a very strong point against their rival by directing their attention to the tendencies of modern science.

Physical science in relation to disease most certainly tends towards homoeopathy. At any rate, if it does not believe that like cures like, it has the very best grounds for supposing that like prevents like.

The germ theory, whether it be finally established or not, has revolutionized our ideas of zymotic diseases, and has directed the inquiries of physicists and doctors into a new channel.

Possibilities of prevention are coming into view which formerly were not dreamed of. And, singular to say, these preventive measures are homoeopathic in character. The experiments of Pasteur alone entitle the homoeopathist at least to a respectful hearing.

The great French *savant* has done much to demonstrate the desirability of a comprehensive system of inoculation for the prevention of other diseases than small-pox, and inoculation is in a sense homoeopathic."

The report contained in the transactions of the American Institute of Homoeopathy reads as follows: "This report embraces 284 homoeopathic institutions, viz: 1 national, 3 special, 26 state and 103 local societies; 13 clubs, 5 miscellaneous associations, 23 general hospitals, 31 special hospitals, 40 dispensaries, 12 colleges, 4 special schools, 15 journals and 8 directories.

Homoeopathy is now adopted in 54 hospitals in the United States; 23 of which are general hospitals designed to treat the different forms of acute disease. Of these hospitals 18 report

1,268 beds. They treated 6,675 patients last year (1881), with a mortality of 396, or less than six per cent., an extremely low rate as compared with allopathic hospitals. The cost of erection of 11 of these hospitals has been \$770,500, and they hold invested funds to the amount of \$230,000, making upwards of \$1,000,000 that have been contributed for these homoeopathic hospitals. This is exclusive of Ward's Island Hospital, which has been erected and supported by the City of New York, at a cost of nearly an equal amount. Of the 31 special hospitals, 17 report 1,028 beds. Twelve of these hospitals have been erected at a cost of \$1,034,500. A careful estimate shows that the existing homoeopathic hospitals in the United States have cost over \$5,000,000. The greater part of which has been accomplished within the last ten years."

The only difference in the instruction given in the Homoeopathic and the Allopathic colleges is that of *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics*. All of the branches comprising *Anatomy*, *Physiology*, *Chemistry*, *Pathology*, *Diagnosis*, *Surgery*, *Obstetrics*, etc., are taught in the same manner as in the Old School and are just as essential to all practitioners of medicine. It is often remarked by those that should be better informed, that pathology receives no attention in the homoeopathic school. I make the statement on personal knowledge, being a graduate of both schools, that it not only receives the same attention but is put to a more practical use by homoeopathic physicians, as it is necessary to know the change that disease produces in the different tissues of the body that we may more intelligently apply the law "*similia similibus curantur*."

"In Oct. 1859, the authorities of the Michigan State Prison, taking the lead of all similar institutions in the United States, first adopted the Homoeopathic treatment in the Prison Hospital.

Taking first, the facts for three full years under each medical system, we have the following result:

| | Average No. of in- mates per Annum. | Total No. of Deaths. | Total No. of days of labor lost. | Total cost of Hospital Stores. |
|---|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Under Allopathic treatment in 1857, 1858 and 1859, . . . | 435 | 39 | 23,000 | \$1,673 |
| Under Homoeopathic treatment in 1860, 1861 and 1862, . . . | 545 | 20 | 10, 000 | \$9,00 |

"The improvement was obtained, notwithstanding we had to contend, during the years of 1861-2, with epidemics of Small Pox, of which there were thirty-two cases; of Measles, of which there were thirty cases and of Sporadic Cholera, of which there were forty-four cases. Many of these last were of a very severe type; but all were successfully treated and speedily cured by Homœopathic doses, and without resort to any kind of heroic medication."

Taking another and later comparison, we find that in round numbers :

| | Day's labor lost by sick- ness. | Cost of Hospital Stores. |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Under Allopathic treatment in 1870 and 1871 | 24,000 | \$1,800 |
| Under Homœopathic treatment in 1873 and 1874 | 11,000 | \$900 |

While the average number of inmates during the last two years was greater than ever before in the history of the prison.

The average duration of diseases in general in the Allopathic Hospitals of Paris, Berlin, Gottingen and Stuttgart, as compared with that in the Homœopathic Hospitals of Vienna, Munich and Leipzig, has been published by Dr. Kurtz in the *Hygea*, vol. 18, part 2. This gives the mean duration of hospital diseases to be—

Under Allopathic treatment 28 to 29 days.
Under Homœopathic treatment 20 to 21 days.

Investigating the comparative duration of particular diseases, and taking pneumonia, or Inflammation of the Lungs, as an example, we find upon the authority of Louis, the eminent French physician, that its mean duration, under Allopathic treatment, is 21 days; while Tessier and Henderson, Homœopathic, equally distinguished physicians, give statistical proof that its mean duration under Homœopathic treatment is only 12 days. This one disease is quoted only as a fair sample of all; were it necessary, equally conclusive evidence could be adduced in regard to others.

We very frequently hear it said that Homœopathic treatment is good for children and in slight ailments, but that more heroic treatment is necessary for the severe forms of disease to which strong men are liable. To throw some light upon this point, we have checked off, in the medical statistics of Brooklyn and Philadelphia, all the cases which have died from some of the more common acute diseases. And due allowance being made for the respective numbers of physicians, we find the ratio of deaths under the two systems to be as follows :

| DISEASES. | DEATHS. | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Homœopathic | Allopathic. |
| Bronchitis, | 48 | 100 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, | 44 | 100 |
| Cholera Infantum, | 64 | 100 |
| Croup, | 37 | 100 |
| Diarrhœa, | 5 | 100 |
| Diphtheria, | 63 | 100 |
| Dysentery, | 39 | 100 |
| Erysipelas, | 33 | 100 |
| Inflammation of Brain, | 9 | 100 |
| Inflammation of Bowels, | 33 | 100 |
| Inflammation of Lungs, | 39 | 100 |
| Scarlet Fever, | 69 | 100 |
| Small Pox, | 61 | 100 |
| Typhoid Fever, | 88 | 100 |

IN THE DENVER ALMSHOUSE.

| | Allopathy | Homœopathy. |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| | 1880. | 1881. |
| Number on hand, January 1st. | 49 | 82 |
| Number admitted, | 711 | 926 |
| Number discharged, | 597 | 858 |
| Number born, | 10 | 13 |
| Number died, | 91 | 74 |
| Number remaining, | 82 | 89 |
| Average daily attendance, | 67 | 79.4 |
| Number of Jail and outside patients, | 212 | 337 |
| Total number treated, | 982 | 1358 |
| Mortality rate at hospital, with the number discharged as a basis, | 13 2-10 | 07 9-10 |
| Cost of drugs and surgical supplies in hospital, | \$1747 27 | \$1001 25 |
| Hospital druggist's salary, | 600 00 | 000 00 |
| Cost of prescriptions for jail and outside patients, | 316 90 | 000 00 |
| Total cost of drugs and surgical supplies, and druggist's salary, | 2664 17 | 1001 25 |
| Cost per patient from the above figures, | 2 71 | 73 |

"This result, from official records, confirms the argument of all other experience."

