

*From Dr. Hering's*  
*Humboldt*  
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**A CONCISE VIEW**

OF THE

81286

**RISE AND PROGRESS**

OF

**HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINE;**

BY

**CONSTANTIN HERING, M. D.**

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TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,

**BY CHARLES F. MATLACK, M. D.**

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DELIVERED BEFORE THE HAHNEMANNEAN SOCIETY, IN PHILADELPHIA,  
THE 18TH OF APRIL, 1833.

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"Is there a doubt—let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal.—Experience is the surest standard by which to test—real tendency."

"Facility in changes, upon the credit of mere hypothesis and opinion, exposes to perpetual change, from the endless variety of hypothesis and opinion."

**WASHINGTON.**

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## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HAHNEMANNEAN SOCIETY :

GENTLEMEN,

The Hahnemannian Society has conferred upon me the honorable task of delivering at its meeting a short exposition of the Homœopathic doctrine of Medicine. I know not that I can better fulfil the duty assigned me, than by an historical développement of the subject, whereby we may be able to trace it from its origin down to the present day.

He to whom the Hahnemannian System of Medicine is new, and who is at once brought to survey it as a whole, must be struck by its peculiarities. Indeed it differs so extraordinarily from any to which he has hitherto been accustomed, that at the first glance he would be prone to regard it with distrust; while at the same time, its colossal dimensions, the monstrous compass of its fundamental principles wear a discouraging aspect. It is, therefore pardonable that many, even enlightened and reflecting men, because they had no opportunity of gradually acquiring an intimate acquaintance with its doctrines, and of becoming familiarized with its spirit, or because they did not take the pains, by experimental enquiry, carefully to examine its foundation, which is reared on experiment alone; it is pardonable if these regarded the new doctrine as nothing more than one of the many effusions of learned revery, or as owing its origin to a love of system making; or at most, admitted that there might indeed be some benefit derived from it, but that it would be an excess of partiality to suppose it applicable to disease generally.

But amid all the opinions set up against the experience of Hahnemann, his person, at least, ought to have been spared. He who had himself never assumed an offensive attitude, and the truth of whose *doctrines* only could with propriety be combated, ought to have been treated with due respect, which I regret to say, he did not receive at the hands of some of the physicians of Germany. For previously to his appearance as the reformer of medicine, he had been known and esteemed as one of the most learned, accomplished and meritorious physicians in Germany. Distinguished for his acquisition in philosophical learning, possessing a comprehensive acquaintance with the natural sciences, and particularly with chemistry, his reading through the whole range of medical literature was extensive, and in every respect he had acquired a thorough medical education.

After he had laid the foundation of his education at one of the most considerable schools of classical literature, Afra, near Meissen, which afterwards led him to a familiarity with the writings of the Greek and Roman physicians, and had studied at several of the German universities, he went to Transylvania in the capacity of physician and librarian to a nobleman. Here he had an opportunity of cultivating an acquaintance with the works of the Arabian physicians, and the medical literature of the middle ages. During his residence as practising physician, subsequently at Dresden and Leipzig, he availed himself of the extensive libraries at those places, and his endeavours were incessant there to add to the stores of his knowledge in every particular. Nor were his extraordinary talents, which in ripe years

rendered him one of the greatest medical geniuses, unknown at that time. He contributed not a little, even at that early period, to the improvement of medicine; among other things he directed his attention to the subject of poisons, which were then treated in a very unsafe and precarious manner, and his book on the Poison of Arsenic, was at that time of great and acknowledged value. The Hahnemannian test for wines, spread his reputation extensively, and first placed a limitation to the nefarious practice of adulterating these liquors with lead. The discovery of the well known mercurial preparation *Mercurius Solubilis Hahnemanni*, as well as his instructions concerning a more simple and effectual mode of treating syphilitic diseases, secured to his name an honourable place among practitioners of medicine, and his translations from the English, French and Italian writers, were of considerable utility. In one of his large works he has provided for the more scientific instruction of the apothecary, and produced a very beneficial influence in this, hitherto, so indispensable a calling to medicine. This work brought him into great repute with the apothecaries of Germany, who at that time as little imagined as Hahnemann himself, that in so short a time he was about to render their entire profession superfluous. All his writings, including the many notes appended to his translations, denote the learned and thoroughly accomplished physician, the strict and conscientious man, the earnest enquirer after truth, and the profound observer.

But the more deeply Hahnemann penetrated into the study of medical science, and in proportion as his experience became enlarged at the bed side of the patient, so much the more manifest to him was the abundant penury of the healing art, and particularly the great uncertainty of its fundamental principles. The nature of diseases was involved in obscurity, notwithstanding the continual researches of numerous enquirers; indeed, the more learned the physicians, the more divided frequently were they in opinion respecting the proper cause and nature of a disease, and yet *against the cause and nature their treatment must always be directed.*

The result of medical treatment was in but too many cases unfavourable, very often wholly uncertain, nay, sometimes apparently depending upon mere casualty; in diseases too, which had already been investigated and described by innumerable observers—diseases whose original causes were known, the entire nature, the proper essence of which, it was presumed, were intimately understood. The numerous cases of failure in the cure must have convinced every impartial and candid physician of the melancholy truth, that injurious effects often arose from medical interference, that many diseases instead of being alleviated, were thereby, only the more exasperated—and that actual cures but too rarely occurred. Nor could it escape the notice of every faithful observer, that not unfrequently after the removal of one disease, another soon occupied its place, which if not worse than the former, was to a similar degree injurious. Such was the condition of medicine at that time, and notwithstanding the many apparent improvements it has acquired, such remains the condition of the prevailing art of medicine at the present day. These, by the way, are not the views of one discontented observer alone. The voices of physicians of acknowledged eminence, have at different times been loud on

the occasion, from the great observer Sydenham, to the energetic Cru-e-ger Hannsen,\* the Ulrick de Hutten of our days, declare to us but too well, that the greatest uncertainty reigns over the noble art wherein the greatest certainty is desirable, that it does not, in fact, accomplish what, after so many worthy endeavours for its advancement might have been reasonably expected from it. Especially uncertain was the knowledge of remedies. Herein implicit reliance was placed upon traditions, partly derived from antiquity, and partly from the common people. By means of numerous hypothesis endeavours were made, it is true, to give to those crude and empirical materials something like a scientific shape, but it was at all times liable to changes adapted to the views of succeeding speculators. It was almost an invariable rule to unite several remedies together into one mass, the combination being supposed, on hypothetical grounds, to be the preferable mode of exhibition, and as long as this process was observed in their preparation, no genuine experience could be acquired concerning the effect of individual or isolated remedies. To the quiet empiric, who would only cure according to modes recommended by experience, nothing at length remained but cathartics, emetics, sudorifics, rubefacients, opium, mercury—*par excellence*, a kind of universal remedy—and finally venaesection; that powerful means to weaken disease by weakening the strength of the patient. The sudden silencing of symptoms after blood letting, calomel or opium was considered a cure, because the apt employment of these remedies was then the best resource known to the physician, and without them he could effect nothing. When, however the symptoms were not to be silenced or removed by these remedies, when no specific remedies were known, or had failed of procuring relief, viz. in the most violent diseases—the resources of the most able physician were at an end. In England more particularly, the example of Sydenham was pursued, in relying upon individual and collective experience, and in the avoidance of discussion; but in Germany theories concerning the nature of diseases and of remedies were more the objects of attention, and, as respects the latter particularly, the most contradictory opinions were entertained. While, for instance, a remedy was extolled by one beyond measure, another entirely rejected it; while one appealed to a series of cures in proof of its virtues, another would tell you that in his hands it had utterly failed. In many cases of disease, which, by no means could be pronounced absolutely incurable, every imaginable remedy only aggravated the complaint; in others the physician was sometimes surprized with a cure as unexpected as it was inexplicable. Amid the uncertainty of these discussions nothing could be decided by an appeal to such authorities; opinions concerning the nature and essence of medicines were then, and still remain to be, mere matter of opinion, ever various and ever discrepant; nor were clinical experiments more decisive, for diseases as well as the constitution of the patient are subject to manifold diversities.

The more Hahnemann regarded these facts, and when he saw how precarious were the principles of the healing art, the more was he driven to deep and serious reflection. He observed that medicine had deviated from the true path since the time of Galen, that physicians had not like

\* Curbilder.

Hippocrates, nor like ourselves, in modern times, with respect to all other natural sciences, made pure experiment the basis of all their conclusions. Bacon, the first awakener of Europe, had indeed, established this method for the acquisition of all positive science, and had restrained metaphysical speculation within its proper limits. Sydenham likewise, by his own great example had taught, that experience should be placed above theory in medicine, yet the great truth had not been hitherto justly regarded. Much indeed was said of experience, but such experience was for the most part impure; experiments were made with a view to establish preconceived opinions, or were constantly blended with hypothesis, the former were made to bend to the latter, and the one was never rigidly separated from the other. Even from that country which gave birth to a Bacon, a Sydenham and a Jenner, at a subsequent period, flowed like a stream of desolating lava the murderous system of Brown—paralleled only in modern times by its two children, the choleric contrastimulus of Italy, and the inflated and enthusiastic, yet somewhat blood-thirsty system of Broussais. The Germans excelling all other nations in extensive, profound and various erudition, surpass likewise in the love of constructing systems, and in scientific fancies. A luxuriant and flowing tree, the natural philosophy of Schelling, shot forth, and upon this stock shortly after, new systems of medicine were engrafted, which were commanding, fair and seductive, in their promise of dazzling results; but at the bed side of the patient their results were found nugatory. The scientific zeal of the Germans became intensely enkindled by that spirit of research which penetrated into every department of science, and their endeavours to extend the bounds of human knowledge were excited anew; but at the bed side of the patient their fine ideas were unavailing. These researches led to important discoveries in all the natural sciences, but medicine, the most useful of all, received thereby no valuable acquisition. But previously to these events Hahnemann had already begun to ply his strength in an opposite direction. In the same country, where the towering edifice of hypothetical medicine was about to attain its loftiest and most giddy height, there arose at the same time in direct antithesis, the pure experimental science of Hahnemann.\* Convinced that enquiries after the reason of Phenomena were fruitless, and therefore inadmissible, Hahnemann sought to scan the *laws* of these phenomena. Antecedent experience did not suffice him, he desired to receive it more pure and authentic. For him, the descriptions of the symptoms of diseases hitherto made, were too deficient;—he required them to be described more carefully and precisely, free from all hypothesis, and according strictly with the phenomena presented. He therefore began to administer medicines in their simple form, he collected his experience of their effects and described the diseases in which they had been salutary. But though all this was very meritorious, his observations after all, were but isolated and individual. Although he assimilated with those great practitioners Sydenham and Hoffman, Boerhaave and Gaubius, Stoll, Quarin, Cullen and De Haen, whatever valuable experience these had

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\* "If Germany furnishes the bane, it gives us the antidote too."—Page 15 of C. P. KRAUTH'S Oration on the advantages arising to the American Student, from his access to German literature, by means of the knowledge of the German Language, 1832.

made in isolated cases, the darkness which rested over medicine as a whole, nevertheless, remained still the same. Hahnemann went so far after eight years practice, as to be upon the point of abandoning it wholly. He would not, he said, treat diseases, the nature of which was yet unfathomable, and therefore could afford no certain indication in their treatment, whose causes could but seldom be discovered, and which still more rarely pointed out their appropriate remedies. He became too conscientious to administer to the patient a remedy which he could not in advance know to be strictly adapted to the case. In a given disease what was it which gave the certain information—that out of the numerous remedies recommended, this or that is the one indicated?

But, said Hahnemann, I had several children, and when from time to time they were visited by serious sickness, I was forced to witness their sufferings without possessing the ability, with certainty, of administering to their relief. As it had been a matter of conscience with him to relinquish the practice of medicine, because of its uncertainty—was it a duty less imperative, that he should strive to attain to certainty? and as he felt the insufficiency of the healing art the most painfully at the sick bed of his children, he could not resist the belief that there must be solid principles of universal validity, but that they were only not yet discovered—that order must be brought out of the confusion hitherto abounding if we but faithfully examine and unreservedly observe nature, and interrogate her without the intrusion of our own hypothesis, and without moulding the result according to our own preconceived opinions.

At this time a ray of light penetrated his mind, and the dawn of a new day of Medicine broke forth. It was in the year 1790, whilst he was engaged in the translation of Cullen's *Materia Medica*, at the article cinchona. Hahnemann was thirty-five years of age when these new views first attracted his attention.



Peruvian bark had already for a long time been recognised as a specific remedy in Intermittent Fevers, and a discussion long existed among physicians why and how it properly affected the cure, a subject, however, upon which they were by no means unanimous. Hahnemann's enquiries were mainly directed to ascertain, in what species of intermittent fever it was peculiarly salutary; for he had clearly perceived that while it had been effectual in some cases, in others it completely failed; nay, not unfrequently, in spite of every precaution, it had been more prejudicial to the patient than the fever itself. While he endeavoured to ascertain precisely in what species of fever, and in what determinate forms of it the remedy was actually salutary, he closely observed all the cases which it had cured, and, indeed, more closely and circumstantially than he had hitherto been accustomed to think necessary. During the translation of Cullen's *Materia Medica*, before alluded to, he was reminded that the bark on being administered to persons in health, or those untouched by fever, sometimes produced a febrile condition of an intermittent character. But the symptoms of this condition were similar, in a remarkable degree, to the symptoms of that

fever in the cure of which bark was effectual—before all other remedies. These, then, were Hahnemann's reflections: How! then the bark actually possesses the property of producing an intermittent febrile condition, *and for that very reason to cure*, and preferably indeed, *such intermittent fevers as are similar to those which it can of itself produce*.

Upon this subject experience alone could decide, and for its elucidation a series of experiments were instituted; when behold! experiments both on himself and on other healthy persons taught Hahnemann incontestably, that bark effected peculiar changes in the animal economy of man in health; and when he collected, from the cases of different persons, all the symptoms which he had cured with this remedy, he perceived further, that in all the cases wherein the patients had been really cured with the bark, such patient had had symptoms highly similar to those artificially produced by the same agent. In this manner did he determine, the first, among the thousands of physicians who had given the bark as a specific against every intermittent fever, among the thousands who had prescribed it, sometimes to the injury, sometimes to the benefit of the patient—the only one who determined closely and definitely the cases in which bark was really salutary. To quote for example, some of the principal of them. In cases adapted for the use of bark, it is requisite that the attack should be ushered in with some accessary symptoms, so that before the commencement of the chill, palpitations of the heart, great anxiety or nausea, great thirst, canine appetite, or pressing head-ache takes place; that there be no thirst either during the chill or the heat, or at most between the two, or during the sweating stage; that there be considerable determination of blood to the head during the fever, with distension of the superficial veins; or heat of the face in the chill with coldness of other parts; that the bowels be loose, the sleep by night restless, interrupted by anxious and frightful dreams, with stupidity or long continued anxiety after waking, and the like. But those cases particularly are adapted wherein all the morbid symptoms which occur during the apyrexia, closely correspond with those produced by bark. This example may serve in some measure, at the same time, to show the closeness and accuracy, with which Hahnemann noted the symptoms in every case of fever.

After making these experiments with bark, Hahnemann prosecuted still further his enquiries into the same law of cure, whether it would be confirmed also with respect to other remedies. The next subject which offered itself for consideration, was the effect of mercury. The specific virtue of this remedy against syphilis had already long been known. It was clear that the mercurial disease, that it is to say, that change of the organization which is produced by mercury, in many of its symptoms manifested great similarity with syphilis. Sulphur, too, the well known specific against the Itch, every one knows, is capable of producing an eruption similar to that of the itch. Just as strikingly was the same law corroborated in the case of narcotic plants. These had long been recognised as the principal remedies in mental diseases, and it is incontestably shown in the histories of poisons, that they produce of themselves mental alienation. Another confirmation is extant in the vaccine. It is evident to every one, at first glance,

that this is a disease remarkably similar to the small pox, and that by it, the susceptibility to the latter is destroyed.

Hahnemann also found narratives in the writings of physicians of both ancient and modern date, of very many cases of one disease or the other being cured in a remarkable manner, with this or the other remedy, while other narrators again, ignorant of these accounts, related what the same remedies had incidentally produced, and *these incidental symptoms were strikingly similar to those diseases which had been cured by the remedies.*

A collection of such quotations has been made and communicated by Hahnemann in his work. Other facts tending to confirm the same law are also cited by him, such as the well known cure of frost-bitten limbs by means of snow, that the most appropriate cures for burns are not cooling but heating remedies, such as the application of cotton, spirits of wine, and oil of turpentine; the latter of which, since Hahnemann's observation, has been noticed by Abernethy, and by Larry, as an effectual remedy after the use of moxa. We recollect also, that the cure of certain cases of acidity of the stomach, we are told by an American physician, may be the best effected not with magnesia, but lemon juice. Other cures of a similar character might be mentioned, such for example, as the cure of the sweating fever by means of sudorifics; diarrhœa, by means of laxative remedies and the like—to be found in the writings of impartial observers; cures which though they may, indeed, be explained in another manner, are certainly very striking and remarkable by their great number and important bearing.

But, how much soever the preceding examples may declare in corroboration of the Homœopathic law, they do not prove that that law is the chief one, and to be laid down as the principle of the healing art. It still remained questionable whether the newly discovered law had universal validity, and was applicable in all cases. Hahnemann found during his researches, that several physicians had already conjectured and even openly asserted that it was. None however, had verified it in a manner by which alone it could be verified, that is, by a series of experiments. In some of the writings ascribed to Hippocrates, a passage occurs, which says: "medicines cure diseases similar to what they produce." Paracelsus, also, who had rent asunder the chains imposed by Aristotle and Galen, more than once observes, that "it is a perverted method taught by Galen, to give remedies which produce the contrary of the disease, remedies ought to be administered which act similarly to it." Hieronymus Cardanus and Thomas Erastus, at the same time expressed their approval of this law of cure. About the middle of the last century, a Danish physician very explicitly pronounces that the supreme law of cure is not *contraria contrariis*, but *similia similibus*. Yet, notwithstanding which, there never had been a physician who in earnest, made any use of this law, much less pursued farther these important speculations.

The same was the case in the discovery of America.—Among the ancient Greeks evident traces are extant of their knowledge of a country in the west; the northern navigators had traditions of vessels having really sailed there, and long before Columbus made the discovery of America, Martin Behaim, of Neuremberg, constructed a terrestrial

globe, upon one side of which he delineated this division of the earth, and upon the other a large country, its antipodes. Yet none had actually visited the western continent, and so doubtful was its existence, that Columbus was obliged to undergo ten years of anxious endeavour, before he received the little vessels for his expedition. Thus also was Hahnemann the first who prosecuted those speculations, the first who explored the great path, and bestowed upon that law of cure more than ten years of painstaking investigation.

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Experience however, alone could decide concerning it—pure, certain and enlarged experience. *And in order to realize this experience, much more knowledge was to be acquired of remedies than hitherto, viz.,* what they were capable of effecting upon man in a state of health, and what morbid phenomena they were able to excite. Here Hahnemann had a field of infinite extent before him, which could only be cultivated through the most patient and laborious investigations. Every step cost great sacrifices, and years were requisite to make even a small beginning. Before him, nothing at all had been attempted in this way. The German physician Stoerk, had, it is true, contrived similar experiments with some drastic plants, but his observations were too general, and he described what he had observed of their effects in expressions not sufficiently definite. The experiments of W. Alexander, of Scotland, valuable as they might otherwise be, were liable to the same objections.

The great Haller had once declared, that to be able to judge of the effects of different plants, experiments ought to be made with them upon persons in health—the result of which might then be assumed as the foundation of something stable and certain for directing their employment in disease. But none had yet carried this precept into practice. The enunciation was suppressed, and the glorious type was forgotten.

Hahnemann was the first who actually undertook these important investigations, and conducted them too with great precision, under the conviction that more certainty must thereby be communicated to medicine. Desirous of the co-operation of other physicians, in the prosecution of his enquiries, nay if possible the general co-operation, in 1796, he wrote his treatise: “Concerning a new principle for discovering the curative virtues of medicine,” and in a tone entirely peaceable, announced therein the views which he had formed during six years of patient investigation. Sneering animadversions were the only reply he received, but in general little attention was paid to it.—Hahnemann was obliged, therefore, to tread the path alone. With praiseworthy zeal and perseverance, he collected from the writings of physicians, both ancient and modern, whatever served to assist him, and whatever they had promulgated respecting the positive effects of remedies. But here his investigations were necessarily, and almost exclusively confined to the narratives of cases of accidental poisoning by medicinal substances. For, whenever a physician described the effects of any medicine, he had commonly not administered it alone, but in combination with others, and such experiments were therefore



disturbed, impure and inconclusive, affording but little assistance to Hahnemann in his exceedingly pure and simple observations. He was obliged, therefore, to institute a new set of experiments, with medicines generally, upon persons in health, but he had very few to aid him in these investigations. Indefatigably, however, did he prosecute them, and with admirable assiduity was this arduous path pursued by him for fifteen years, when he published to the world as the first fruits of his great labour, his *Fragmenta de viribus Medicamentorum positivis*. This work was answered either by indifference or downright ridicule. In short, it happened to him in Germany as it did to the inventor of the Steam-boat, in North America, when he first submitted his boat to the ordeal of an experiment. But Hahnemann was as little confounded as was Fulton. For it is indicative of great minds undauntedly to prosecute a noble design, in defiance of the whole world; the great idea becomes, as it were, an element of their souls. And history teaches us, that though men of exalted views have sometimes failed in the prosecution of magnificent undertakings, yet the greatest spirits always achieve the victory, and bear away the palm. Hahnemann who now stands forth as conqueror, at the time to which we allude, was obliged to witness his well-merited literary fame suffer a temporary eclipse, by reason of his new discoveries, and painstaking investigations; nay, in consequence of his unremitted application to scientific pursuits, to feel his station in society exceedingly embarrassed. But more convinced from day to day of the beneficial tendency of his enquiries, nothing deterred him from the prosecution of them, even at the greatest temporal hazards.



One of the first observations which Hahnemann made during these new investigations was, that children who had been poisoned by the berries of Belladonna, (an accident of frequent occurrence in Germany,) were sometimes attacked by an eruption of the skin, resembling that of scarlet fever; and that the same Belladonna, when given as a remedy in scarlet fever, cured the disease, and likewise afforded protection to healthy children against its attacks: Hahnemann lost no time in laying these facts before the public, in order that physicians might be enabled speedily to quell the ravages of the scarlet epidemic, which was at that time prevalent in Germany. But his instructions were either badly followed and misconstrued, or rejected with derision and contempt. Subsequently, however, not a few medical men of high reputation in Germany, established the curative virtues of Belladonna, in genuine scarlet fever, yet they denied that the medicine could of itself produce any thing similar; but others have, on the contrary, observed that it was capable of producing an artificial scarlet fever, as has been noticed by several German physicians, as well as by Jolly, in France,\* but denied to it the property of curing the genuine disease. Yet all these testimonies in its favour, did not bring the medicine into general repute.

To Hahnemann, who meanwhile pursued the even tenor of his way, this remedy afforded an opportunity for one of the greatest and

\* *Nouvelle Bibliotheque Medicale*, July, 1828.

most wonderful discoveries which the mind of man has ever made : namely, that of *Developing the medicinal virtue of Medicines*, (*Potenzirung der Heilmittel*.) This is the same, which, under the name of Dilutions—and of the Millionth and Billionth of a dose, has become so exceedingly obnoxious, and will be likely to remain so, as long as men obstinately doubt, rather than resort to experiment to investigate the matter, and because it is the easiest of all things to laugh at and hold it up to derision—to call it necromancy, mysticism, absurdity, charlatanerie and imagination, is far easier than to make experiments.

Hahnemann supposing that Belladonna, because it had the property of producing an eruption similar to that of scarlet fever, would also cure this disease, resolved to make trials with the remedy. He gave it in very minute doses, according to the prevailing views, viz. : in the  $\frac{1}{10}$ ,  $\frac{1}{100}$ ,  $\frac{1}{1000}$  of a grain of the extract, or a single drop of the juice. The result was salutary in many cases, but not unfrequently instead of the cure, he observed an aggravation of all the symptoms of the complaint. This was what might naturally be expected. The remedy, which in the healthy subject was capable of producing something similar to this disease, when administered to patients who were affected in a manner so entirely analogous, in whom it operated more especially upon the diseased organs, and so entirely similar to the disease, must necessarily increase the latter, even if the patient were endowed with but a moderate degree of sensibility. To this augmentation of symptoms, however, there commonly succeeded a rapid crisis and perfect recovery ; yet it sometimes proved so troublesome, as to call for the employment of antidotes. This almost constant aggravation of the disease, by the remedies which were chosen according to the new law, threatened to embarrass very much their trial, if not to render it wholly impracticable. To avoid these disagreeable results, Hahnemann adopted the most simple and natural expedient, viz. that of lessening the dose. He united one grain of the extract of Belladonna with a hundred drops of the spirits of wine. Of this mixture, one drop (which of course contained  $\frac{1}{100}$  part of a grain) he afterwards gave, in the suitable cases, for a dose. But to his astonishment he observed that *this drop acted too forcibly*. He now made the great stride which none had done previously to him; he took a hundred drops of spirits of wine, added to them one drop, which contained  $\frac{1}{100}$  of a grain of the medicine, shook them together, and, now had in every drop of the new mixture, therefore, the  $\frac{1}{10000}$  part of a grain. If the  $\frac{1}{100}$  of a grain was quite an unusual dose, Hahnemann went far beyond the limits of previous experience in his second operation, viz. that of administering the dose to the  $\frac{1}{10000}$  part of a grain. When he gave one drop of this second preparation in a case adapted to the remedy, he expected a very slight and inconsiderable effect. In the great majority of cases, indeed, a more rapid cure followed it than in the case of the preceding preparation, but to his great astonishment, much more frequently—the same impetuous aggravation of symptoms. In short, it was not to be mistaken : the virtue of the medicine had by no means been taken away in these high dilutions. How striking soever this phenomenon was in itself, and however wonderful and strange it must have appeared to Hahnemann, it had, nevertheless, been indisputably

the result of his manipulations; and as a quiet observer of nature, he proceeded, hand in hand with experience, still further. He added one drop of his second (the ten thousandth) dilution, to another one hundred drops of spirits of wine, shook them together, and thus procured a *third* mixture, in which each drop contained but the millionth part of the first grain of the extract of Belladonna. On administering this new preparation to his patients, he did not yet witness the desired and expected decrease of medicinal energy, the remedy remained as active as before, and in sensible children it operated frequently in quite as drastic a manner as the extract had at first; nay, it appeared as if it operated with even greater violence than before—and therefore rendered necessary the exhibition of an antidote. Hahnemann, who knew that the secrets of nature had not yet been fully unveiled to us, and that any thing new and important, though ever so striking, *if its truth be attested by repeated experiment*, ought to be investigated, continued to prosecute this great discovery. He added one drop of each successive dilution to a successive portion of one hundred drops of spirits of wine, and united them by shaking. He perceived in the progress of these manipulations, that every successive dilution was still operative, and though attenuated a hundred fold at every step of the process, yet by no means did it become in the same proportion a hundred fold less efficient; in fact, each dilution differed in activity, very little from the dilution immediately preceding. He continued, therefore, these processes with the medicine, until experience taught him, that it had, at length, become entirely mild in its operation. The troublesome increase of the morbid symptoms became gradually less and less considerable by dilution, nevertheless the succeeding salutary effect remained equally decided, and even the extreme dilutions themselves, were always sufficient to effect a cure. Remarking even from the thirtieth dilution, in very sensible subjects, an increase of the symptoms; he diminished the dose from one drop of this dilution, to a small portion of a drop. He discovered a mode by which a drop could be accurately divided into any desired number of parts, and from the  $\frac{1}{1000}$ , and even a smaller fraction, decided effects were witnessed from the medicine.

All other medicinal substances were found by him to be susceptible of a preparation similar to that of Belladonna. Not only those belonging to the class of narcotics, which, in quantities, operate confessedly as poisons, but all other medicines, which are ordinarily regarded as innocent, he was obliged in the same manner to dilute in order to convert them into mild remedies in the chosen cases.

Since Hahnemann defined (as before mentioned) so accurately the kind of intermittent fever for which bark is a specific remedy, he remarked also, that the more suitable this medicine was to the case, the more frequently did it produce an unnecessary and troublesome increase of the symptoms. He therefore gradually lessened the dose of this medicine from a single drop of the tincture to the hundredth, thousandth, and millionth dilution, and perceived clearly, that the latter, far from being too weak, in very sensible subjects was unnecessarily strong; he therefore continued the dilutions at first as far as the twelfth, and subsequently up to the thirtieth.

The medicinal virtue of insoluble mineral substances was developed by Hahnemann, in the following manner: He took the sugar of milk, it being an unmedicinal (or inert) vehicle, and triturated for the requisite time, one grain of the medicine generally, with a hundred grains of that substance. Of this mixture, one grain being rubbed up with another hundred grains of the sugar of milk, gave the second Trituration; in which every grain contained the  $\frac{1}{10,000}$  part of a grain of the original medicine, &c. When in this manner he prepared mercury, and at first gave the hundredth, and subsequently the ten-thousandth and then the millionth, he perceived that the latter doses were not only fully sufficient for the cure, but always acted with more rapidity and mildness, and assaulted with less violence the patient.

Hahnemann now treated all other medicines which he employed, after the same manner, and found the same principle confirmed alike in all. The virtues of none were thereby impaired, the dilutions were always operative, and might effectively be carried further at pleasure. Medicines which had undergone these operations, no longer possessed those long continued effects of a prejudicial character, which we so frequently have to witness from the crude articles. Their operation is always rapid, of short continuance, and without danger. If the opposition of the vital energies be inordinately excited by them, the salutary re-action is often protracted to an extraordinary length.—Should this not be the case, the disease subsides without any antecedent perceptible aggravation. For, medicines do not become salutary by their direct effects, such as are manifested in experiments on healthy subjects after strong and frequent doses, but they are salutary by reason of their after operation, or rather of the counteraction of the organization—the infallible contrariety which their secondary must bear towards their primary effects, and which must at the same time, be equally opposed to the analogous action of the disease.

Moreover, these dilutions were thus extraordinarily small in appearance only: they were in fact operative by reason of the pure energy proper to the medicine developed by art, and not by reason of the original matter of it. Hence they could not be too small or too weak; for it was shown in a manner not to be mistaken, that the proper medicinal virtue was by no means diminished in them, but, in their lower grades it was at first unfolded and developed, and it was only by their continuation that it began again to decrease. But as regards its capability of exciting the organization to salutary action, there was never any diminution, it was still witnessed, even though the dilutions were continued, until they reached some hundreds in number. In the higher dilutions, however, it was so modified, as more quickly to excite the organization to opposition, but the opposition continued for a shorter time.

When Hahnemann had made this great discovery, his important investigations and trials of the new law of cure were much facilitated, after, to use his own words, he “had tremblingly, but fortunately, laid aside this hazardous way,” and used the medicine in increasingly smaller and finer doses: that is to say, had learned to employ the developed virtue only. And now, after he had tested a great number of medicines in healthy subjects, and had investigated their pure effects, he could interrogate experience in the diversified forms of dis-

case. Then it was, that by innumerable facts, the truth of the great law of cure, and its universal applicability in disease, were unfolded to him. He perceived that it was a law of nature of general validity in every case of disease, that that remedy is always the suitable one which has the property of exciting in the healthy subject, such morbid symptoms as are the most similar to the natural disease. Therefore he gave to the new method of cure the name of the *homœopathic*, that is, a method which employs remedies in exciting a *similar* affection.



Meanwhile Hahnemann vigorously prosecuted his gigantic work, and his enquiries were directed not only into the virtues hitherto unknown, of medicines, but also into the special application of the general law of cure to the multiplied forms of disease. Finally, at the age of fifty, he gave to the world, as the result of twenty years investigation and experience, his *Organon of Medicine*, a work in which he attempts theoretically to explain and demonstrate that law, indicates the manner of its application to individual cases of disease; teaches the art of preparing medicines for this purpose, and offers the rules according to which the effects of medicines are to be investigated upon the system in health.

Beyond Germany this work remained for a long time wholly unknown. Germany was not then recognized as a central point of literature, as it now begins to be, even in London and Paris. The labours of the Germans, who constantly and eagerly borrow all that is most valuable in the arts and sciences from the available sources of all times and of every nation, were at that time misunderstood, and their comprehensive and disinterested enquiries into the labours of others, were mistaken for meagerness of resources. In short, until a few years, this new and important work, in common with many others, beyond Germany, was known scarcely by name. In Germany itself, it was received with real amazement. It found indeed, adherents and induced enquiry here and there among those not of the profession, but this was by no means the case among the mass of the *litterati*, at least among the professors. Among the contemporary professors of medicine, of which there were more than two hundred who received salaries in Germany, among all the hospital physicians, there was not one who was induced to study it. Before a single scientific enquirer of reputation had made any experiments, and thus investigated the truth of the new doctrine, the reviewers with very learned and subtle conclusions, proved that the author's theories were good for nothing, were not at all new, and that the small doses were ridiculous. This was the sum and substance of all the reviews and counter-statements at that time, and remains to be so at the present day. To no purpose did Hahnemann urge to the investigation of the fundamental principles of his doctrines by experiment—it was considered not at all worth the pains. The German *savans* appeared sensible, that if both these propositions were established, if remedies should be chosen according to the similarity of their symptoms to those of the disease, and hence must first be proved in the healthy subject, if they were sufficient as remedial agents in such small and unheard-of doses, then all the learned lumber

which theorists had been accumulating for two thousand years must fall to the ground. The multiplicity of theories and systems, and the many hypothesis according to which it was so convenient to write recipes, would be prostrated; *physicians must again become students, and that they were unwilling to do.* Truly, we could not contemplate the treatment which Hahnemann, the great benefactor of his race, has received, without the greatest indignation, were we not reminded by history, that such has been the destiny of all the great discoverers of new truths. Did we not know that it has thus happened to Copernicus and Galileo, to Columbus himself, and Harvey, the great discoverer of the circulation.

Amid the greatest opposition, however, a small band of faithful followers assembled around Hahnemann, who aided his enquiries by their experiments with medicines on their own persons. A few years after the appearance of the *Organon*, he began to publish his *Materia Medica*, in which all the morbid symptoms of the most important medicines were cited, symptoms which had been ascertained by experiments on the healthy subject. Thus was this great man, supported in a measure only by those few disciples, obliged to proceed in his immensely painstaking labour, yet ten years after the appearance of the *Organon*. Slowly in the meantime, had the number of his disciples increased, which though small, was yet strong through conviction, strong by the power of the truth which they had acknowledged. At this time, (1821) a new period dawns upon us.

In consequence of the united intrigues of the apothecaries and physicians in Leipzig, Hahnemann was now obliged to leave that city, wherein he had for the space of thirty years, been elaborating his new art, where he had practised it successfully, and where he had publicly taught, and gained his disciples. The laws which prohibit the dispensing of medicines by physicians, under a heavy penalty, and permit it only to the privileged apothecaries, were brought to bear against him. Hahnemann who always gave the simple medicine, in his entirely novel preparations, in which an extraordinary care and accuracy were indispensable, could not possibly commit this labor, upon which the certainty of the result, and the welfare of his patients depended, to the apothecaries; who, not at all familiar in such unheard of niceties, regarded the whole business as absurd, and whose pecuniary interests had to suffer thereby, quite as much as the pecuniary interests of the patients were benefited. When, therefore, in spite of his defence, the judges wrested the dispensation laws against him, he would no more practice in opposition to the laws, and in his old age he left his native land, obeyed the call of a German prince (who granted him the privilege of practising his profession in his dominions) and went to the duke of Anhalt Coethen.

The apothecaries and professors at Leipzig now triumphed, and supposed that the mischief which threatened their utter ruin would soon be entirely abolished. Instead of which, however, Hahnemann's disciples and adherents united themselves for the faithful defence of the truth, and a great number of practising physicians resolved on the publication of a periodical for Homœopathic Medicine. Dr. Ernst Stapf, present counsellor of medical affairs, placed himself at the head of this enterprize, and conducted it with such circumspection and ani-

mated it with such spirit and zeal, that this journal soon became an important means, as well to unite all the scattered friends of the cause to a mutual co-operation, as to operate beneficially abroad, to promote the extension and acknowledgement of the new doctrines, and for their constant and energetic defence against enemies. Violent accusations and invectives, and defences as firm and resolute now ensued. But day by day also new adherents were acquired, mostly among the *older practitioners*; a *phenomenon in new systems, entirely unheard of*. Their attention became arrested by the numerous cures, and when they took the trouble to make themselves so far acquainted with the thing as to be able to interrogate experience, they must in every instance have become convinced, for experience confirmed every declaration of Hahnemann.

But particularly the eyes of the public became more opened at this time. At first they had taken no part whatever in the medical controversy; they had been accustomed to these endless contentions, and therefore gave themselves no trouble about it. The most judicious of them knew but too well, in what a condition the whole art of medicine was situated, and that in the greater number of cases, in chronic diseases at least, it was more rational to do nothing at all, and bear their complaints with patience, than to acquire an additional disease by the use of medicines. But the language of Hahnemann and of his disciples, *which continually urged to a trial of the new doctrines*, and rejected all theoretical opposition; but above all, the many extraordinary cures, awakened an increasing attention. Several intelligent non-professional individuals, among whom were numbered some of distinguished rank and reputation, raised their voices and instructed their fellow citizens concerning the new phenomenon, as a matter of high importance for every one; spoke of the complicated state of the old system of medicine, of the want of unity and concord, which must necessarily prevail therein, of the obstinate refusal of the other physicians to interrogate experience and make trials with the new method of cure, of the natural simplicity and truth of the new doctrines, and the consequent unanimity of their adherents. Numerous publications were thrown before the people, nor was it long before patients obliged their physicians to the study of the despised doctrines; whole cities, indeed, were individually united in calling homœopathic physicians within their precincts, to be remunerated at the common expense. Physicians in several parts of Germany soon did homage to the new art, its light even penetrated into Austria, and was diffused throughout Hungary. It was carried to Naples, and in that kingdom gained stedfast adherents. In Denmark, also, as well as in Sweden and Holland, men of high reputation commenced the translation of Hahnemann's writings. It acquired numerous friends in France, particularly in Lyons, and in Geneva, where a homœopathic periodical publication, in the French language, has already made its appearance. The physician in ordinary of a Russian princess, carried the new doctrines into the wilds of Russia, whence at a subsequent period, a Russian nobleman has communicated observations of extraordinary value to the new system. This beneficent art has also confirmed its truth in the vilified diseases of the West India tropics; and many investigations to which nature gave occasion in these regions, were

not without their influence. Even from Egypt, that land of monsters, the missionaries extol the new art, and resound its praises from the sanguinary Gold coast.

In England and in the United States little is heard of the new art. They have scarcely begun to hear of the medical reformation even rising up before them. Some reviewers only within a few years past, have noticed the writings for and against Homœopathia. These countries have conducted with the utmost quietude and discretion. In both, the physicians of which, for the most part, are governed more by experience than by theories, it has been admitted, that if the system were true, it would lead to highly important consequences. Yes, certainly experience would long since have been appealed to on the subject, if alas! the almost general unacquaintance with the German language among the better classes (one of the most important languages for the arts and sciences,) had not hindered that result. Soon indeed, will this defect be supplied by translations, but may we not hope that the period is not far distant when, in the United States at least, the worth of German science and of the language of Germany will be generally acknowledged? May the day soon appear in which the rich and fortunate inheritance of two thousand years of European culture, uniting the practical views of the English with the ardent zeal of the French, embrace also the depth and solidity of the German, so that whatever Europe may produce hereafter of greatness in science, may, without difficulty be here appreciated in this central point of the future history of man.



While thus with blessings on its wings, the great discovery reached to every quarter of the earth, the master was silent, and his disciples imagined that he now reposed upon his laurels. But the old philosopher did not rest, and while his hair was growing grey upon his head, enriched with science, enriched with experience, his mind still retained its youthful vigour, and he boldly penetrated still deeper into the mysteries of nature. When an old man, at the age of seventy-three, he suddenly surprized his astonished admirers with a new and great work, which far transcended all preceding discoveries, and more than redoubled the power of the homœopathic physician. It was a work *On the Cure of Chronic Diseases*, the fruit of twelve years diligence; a communication concerning a new and most important species of remedies, a treasury of new observations and experience scarcely to be overlooked, with entirely new and peculiar directions for the employment of these remedies in disease. These new observations were soon confirmed on all sides, and this great increase of resources for the new healing art, acquired for it, every where, also a numerous accession of new adherents.

A second journal, in addition to that of Dr. Stapf, likewise soon made its appearance, devoted exclusively to the practice, followed by a third, besides a newspaper for the people, and lastly, at the same time with the French Journal, before mentioned, a fourth in the German language, intended speedily to extend the knowledge of new discoveries. In these and in a number of other publications, details of diversified experience were communicated, and the most interesting discoveries and



observations were accumulated, concerning the employment of remedies in particularly difficult cases. By these means, this, till recently, youthful art, soon attained the vigour of manhood, and now stalks forth with peaceful intrepidity through the world, certain of its victory over all other methods of cure.

We will now glance at the elevation to which Homœopathic Medicine has reached at the present day, five years since the appearance of the work on chronic diseases.



Experiments with medicines upon the healthy subject, as the basis of the whole structure, have now been made with about two hundred agents, and the most important medicinal energies of nature have been investigated. The works devoted to them are of such extent, that their study appertains to the most laborious within the realm of human knowledge. Not only are the more important remedies of the old school investigated, but many others; and besides this, most wonderful discoveries have been made. Substances in which not the smallest medicinal virtue had been recognised, as metallic gold, silver and platina, silicea, alumina, strontiana, selenium, several plants, the juice of the sepia, and many other animal substances, are ranked among the most important remedies. Old and effete medicines have thereby been elevated to their deserved rank, and in cases adapted for them are now without a substitute: for example, Lycopodium, Bryonia, Pulsatilla, Anacardium, Euphrasia, &c. Medicines which had seldom been used, and only for minor purposes, as Sem: Santonici and Sabadilla, Spigelia and Staphisagria, Mazerium and Cocculus are now recognised as indispensable remedies in the most dangerous diseases. Plants whose efficacy as remedies had been unknown, as Nerium Oleander, Ledum Palustre, Cyclamen Europæum, Cannabis Sativa, Caladium Seguinum, Drosera Rotundifolia and Lycoperdon Bovista are introduced into the medical store, and in part recognised as specifics, in some of the worst of diseases. Medicines which had been abused as insignificant domestic remedies, Matricaria Chamomilla, (the field Chamomile of Europe,) and Sambucus, Chelidonium and Ruta, are now received as highly valuable curative means in very different, but in closely defined cases; others, as Cinchona and Arnica, Ipecacuanha and Tartar Emetic display now, for the first, the whole compass of their curative energies and relations to disease, before wholly unsuspected; by virtue of which, for example, Cinchona may be usefully employed in many violent cases of tooth-ache, Arnica in biles, Ipecacuanha in the convulsions of children, Tartar Emetic in Coma, &c. Nux Vomica and Ignatia of which scarcely any use was made, from ignorance of their virtues, now developed them in such abundance, that they became necessary remedies of daily use. But the most extraordinary of all, were the effects displayed by the simple earths and salts, when their virtues were duly developed. (*Potenzirt.*) Never had it occurred to a physician to employ flint as a remedy, and he would not at all know for what he could administer it. But Hahnemann, who supposed peculiar virtues resided in particular substances, has by means of his experiments, elevated Silex among the most

important of all remedies. Among other diseases, it is quite indispensable in scrophula, inflamed swellings, ulcers, caries, diseases of the eyes, &c. In it, as well as in alumine, the salts and other substances, the wonderful discovery of unfolding medicinal virtues by trituration and agitation, was displayed in all its magnitude. The pure earths of Silix, of Alumine, &c., operate not at all, for example, on the healthy subject. When a grain of either had been triturated with a hundred grains of sugar of milk, and hence raised to the first developement of power, it yet produced no effect. Hundreds would now have desisted from all further investigation of its supposed virtues. But not so Hahnemann. He took a grain of the first trituration, which of course contained the hundredth of a grain of the substance under investigation, and rubbed this with another hundred grains of sugar of milk, elevating it to the second degree of developement, or as it may be denominated, to the second power. It still had no effect. Taking now a grain of the second trituration, he raised it to the third power. It still produced scarcely any effect upon the healthy subject, and the little which it did develop, could hardly be confided in. It was then raised as high as the sixth power; and in this state of high development every grain contained but a billionth part of the original matter first submitted to experiment. But now its energies were developed, and displayed so penetrating and powerful an influence upon the healthy subject of experiment, that the trials with it, appertained to the most difficult and assaulting, so that higher developments were obliged to be made for further experiments; and for remedial purposes the developments were continued up to the thirtieth power.— Thus was this, to all appearance entirely inert substance first converted into one of most extraordinary energy, and by further elaboration into a bland and innocent medicinal agent. By means of these *Triturations* and *Dilutions*, so called, it was the *matter* only which became so minutely divided, but it was the *energy*, the *virtue* only, which was thereby so astonishingly unfolded. It was now manifest that the proper energies of all medicines were unfolded by trituration and agitation, and that by the extension of the matter of them, their energies, before latent, became sensible, free and disenthralled. With still greater clearness was this established by the important fact observed by Hahnemann, viz. that when the process of Trituration or Agitation was too long continued, the energy of the medicine became too intensely raised, and he therefore exactly prescribes how long the trituration with sugar of milk is to be continued, and how often the vials in which a drop is united with a hundred drops of spirits of wine, must be shaken, in order to obtain a remedy perfectly mild in its operation upon the patient. These preparations ought not therefore to be transmitted from place to place in a fluid state, because their energy is liable to be excessively increased by the long continued, though moderate agitation, which they thus undergo.



But all these observations with medicines were but the basis of the new edifice. Still much more was necessary in order to be able to cure patients by these means. Among other things, Hahnemann was

obliged to strike out a new path in the doctrine of diseases, in which the first step was, totally to reject all hypothesis at the bed side of the patient, concerning nature, essence, and the supposed concealed seat of the disease. And this was done, not only because these suppositions, (of which every physician may have one peculiar to himself, the truth of which can be determined only when too late, namely, after the demise of the patient,) might in many cases be prejudicial to the patient, but because they became no longer necessary. The symptoms only in their integrity were necessary, and upon them the entire cure could be safely grounded. Nothing, indeed, but the symptoms are to be accepted as a guide to the treatment of the disease, because, in them alone, no error is possible. For just as clear of all conjecture, just as much by faithful observation alone, as was the case in acquiring a knowledge of the virtues of medicines, must a knowledge of every case of disease be acquired. Be the name of the disease what it may, it is nothing to the purpose, and is without any influence upon its treatment. But so much the more necessary is it, that every case of disease should be completely comprehended in all its symptoms and with great accuracy. Hahnemann therefore urges upon his pupils the propriety of addicting themselves to close thinking, by the study of the Mathematics, of qualifying themselves for minute observation, by the study of natural history, and when possible also by the art of drawing, for the purpose of sharpening the sight to close observation, but in an especial manner by testing the effects of medicines in their own persons.

While he recognized anatomical and physiological knowledge as by all means indispensable, he admitted the study generally, of the prevailing systems of medicine, on account of the historical knowledge and of controversies with other physicians. Yet he makes the *general* pathology as taught hitherto, and the greater part of the *special*, altogether unnecessary at the bed side of the patient. He regulates the examination of the sick according to entirely new views, in order that a clear, genuine, undisturbed and perfect idea may always be formed of the disease. The idea of the disease must, indeed, attain a degree of perfection such as has never hitherto been considered necessary by physicians. Hahnemann requires, therefore, as a matter not to be overlooked, the writing down on every occasion, at the bed side of the patient, all his symptoms; indeed, with an accuracy hitherto unheard of, he commits to writing all the complaints of the patient, in the verbal expressions of the latter, and these are to be included in the idea of the disease. Nor is it less novel that he requires the seat of every symptom to be exactly and expressly defined, even if, according to our present anatomical knowledge, this would appear unnecessary. With the same accuracy is the kind of pain to be noted, and he always carefully records the expressions by which the kind of pain is the most strictly designated. All the circumstances under which any complaint arises or disappears, increases or diminishes; whether in motion or at rest, in certain situations and postures, whether by warmth or cold, in the open air or in a room, by light, by noises, by talking or thinking, eating or drinking, touch or pressure, emotions of the mind or mental exertions—all must be taken into account. Sensations on falling asleep, during sleep and on waking,

the posture during sleep; even the dreams and the kind of them, whether of falling, of flying, of fire, of noises, of hunger, of motion, of seeing frightful objects, &c., all belong to the image of the disease, and any one of which, may not unfrequently be the deciding symptom. In every case of disease also, the symptoms proper to any particular organ, whether these symptoms be chronic or of shorter duration must be designated. Hahnemann was the first physician who recognized it as indispensable in every disease, to regard man as a whole. The fact may scarcely be credited, but it does not appear that this method had ever occurred to any other physician before Hahnemann.

It had always been deemed sufficient to know the symptoms which were manifested by the organs particularly affected, or by dependent organs and these were the symptoms which were supposed to belong to the existing disease, while all others were foreign to it. As, however, man has but one nervous system, and is as quickly susceptible of impressions on the small toe, as on the eye, and moves as quickly the former as the latter, at pleasure, as the blood streams through the whole body at every pulsation of the heart, no part can become disordered without affecting the system at large, and a part has an influence upon the whole as the whole has upon a part.

Hahnemann absolutely requires the comprehension of all the morbid symptoms of every patient, whether they be connected or not, or whether the connection can or cannot be pathologically pointed out: First, because he regards the human system as integral, the parts of which, as such, are not exclusively affected, but whose diseases are always general, and must be always cured by the vital forces directed against them. Secondly, because a knowledge of all the symptoms is necessary, as well as of the constitution and temper of mind, in order that among the many remedies the most suitable may be selected. This may be illustrated by a small example: Suppose a patient came under treatment for incipient *amaurosis*. Few physicians would be likely to regard, as of any importance, a slight eruption on the forehead occurring on the same patient, and still fewer a small wart of long standing upon the right cheek—nor would their attention be directed to a weakness of the right ankle, nor proneness of the same to frequent sprains. If, besides, the patient were affected with *borborygmi*, few certainly would think of connecting with *amaurosis* these various symptoms, which are all, nevertheless, deviations from a healthy condition; but Hahnemann requires this union as absolutely necessary. When a morbid symptom is present in the body he requires to know on which side it is seated. Occasion is hereby given in the present case, to find a new symptom, which otherwise would not have been perceived, namely, that it is the right side which principally suffers.

Unmindful of internal connections between the symptoms whether they subsist or not, regardless whether they be unfolded in a very interesting manner, as they might be, or not, the morbid symptoms are to be marshalled according to their relative value, and the same rank must obtain among the medicinal symptoms of the remedy, as among the symptoms of the disease, and should bear a strict correspondence in grade as well as similarity, to those of the latter. Regard being paid to the patient's mental constitution and temper, and especially to the psoric origin of the disease, to his previous diseases, and re-

medies already used, we very readily find the most fitting remedies which must exert a very favourable influence over the conditions of the case above described. The opposing vital forces infallibly awakened by it, will be directed against the general disease, against the morbid tendency, in consequence of which all the above recited symptoms have arisen. As soon as the opposition excited by one medicine has ceased, it is to be followed up by other remedies, according to circumstances, and the cure gradually completed. Now, if a part only of the symptoms in this case were taken into consideration, for instance, merely the incipient *amaurosis* and psoric origin, the choice of a remedy would be exceedingly precarious. For we have very many remedies suitable for these symptoms, proved by trials on the healthy subject. Causticum, a newly discovered substance, by Hahnemann, and Phosphorus, are very important remedies when prepared after the manner of the other Homœopathic medicines, sometimes Graphites also, and Petroleum, Kali, Natrum and other salts. Besides, almost any of the earths, as Silicea, Alumina, Magnesia, Calcaria might be chosen in the case. Among the metals, Gold and Antimony; among plants: *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Agaricus muscarius*, *Assafoetida* and *Corium maculatum*, and in some cases, *Cannabis* and *Colocyntis*. *Ruta* also and *Cinchona* may in some cases be serviceable, as well as *Dulcamara* and *Belladonna*. But only one among all these remedies, when all the complicated symptoms are regarded, will be found perfectly suitable. Whether the cure succeed or not, the patient will not in the least degree be incommoded with medicine, much less will injurious consequences ensue, nor will he be subjected (if it be not of an unusual character) to important changes in his customary diet. There never yet has been any other method of cure than the homœopathic, by which such results, produced with so much safety and certainty, and with so little inconvenience to the patient, could have been possible.

It might perhaps be further declared as ridiculous and unscientific, that the Hahnemannian physicians should attach so much importance to the merest trifles, and even parade them at length on paper: in fevers, for instance, they carefully enquire whether thirst takes place before, during, or after the chill, fever, or sweating stage; whether the chill and heat alternate, whether they are general or local, simultaneous, internal or external, what the order of their succession, with what other symptoms they are associated, &c. In tooth-ache, whether it occurs in the right or left side, above or below, in one tooth or several, whether the pain passes into other parts and where; whether it occurs at a particular time of day; whether it is excited, aggravated, diminished or removed, on any particular occasion, as by warm or cold air, warm or cold applications, warm or cold food or drink, by rest or motion, by smoking tobacco, the use of coffee, or wine, by mental exertion, or by particular mental emotions. In the case of a small cutaneous eruption of the arms and feet: whether the right more than the left side is affected, whether it occur more on the out than inside, more about a joint, or more distant from it.

But, indeed, this observation of trifles, which physicians have hitherto wholly overlooked, this careful collection of even the most insignificant and apparently unimportant circumstances, as is here required,

has been reckoned of the highest consequence in all other sciences which claim any pretension to the title of exact. Every one knows that the chemistry of the present day emerged from its early and rude condition to its present greatness and splendour, by reason of the great attention which was bestowed upon *minutiæ*. Such is the case also in physics, and how otherwise would the extraordinary discoveries of Oerstedt ever have arisen, spreading over all human sciences an entirely new light. This attention to *minutiæ* has long since renovated Anatomy and Zootomy. Folly only would esteem it ridiculous, should a great anatomist in the eyes of men, make the discovery of a nervous filament, which had been overlooked by preceding observers; for, every scientific man knows that it may hereafter be of great importance, and that an accurate knowledge of the smallest parts, contributes to the knowledge of the whole. No physician would disregard the discovery, though its practical utility should not become manifest for years.

What surprising and important acquisitions have the Botanists made to general science, by the discovery of the wonderful regularity of the structure of the smallest cryptogamous plants, wholly unnoticed in the observations of Linnæus! And should not the United States be proud of the discoveries of their Schweinitz? who in this new world, after years of diligent investigation, first established the fact, that the same laws, even in those microscopic figures, prevailed in both hemispheres; and plants which appear like grey points upon a diseased leaf, now solve the sublime problem of the laws of vegetable formation, which are recognized from those points up to the loftiest trees, and the most gorgeous flowers.

An entirely new mineralogy has arisen in our days, by the measurement of the smallest fascets and angles of crystalline formations. In short, *by careful attention to minutiæ* a new era has dawned upon all the natural sciences. Wherefore then should the physician in his pathology henceforth overlook things apparently insignificant? Surely even now, though nothing at present be added to the contributions of Hahnemann, a new period has dawned upon pathology, as well as on all the certain sciences; and in future time, the new pathology will as far excel the old, as do the natural sciences of the present period those of the last century.

But at the bed side of the patient the homœopathic physician is unmindful of this future science. His sole enquiry is after the symptoms, because the symptoms alone determine his choice of the remedy, and upon the fulness and accuracy with which these are noted, rests the entire management of the cure. All therefore depends upon the correct examination of the patient, but not upon any possible opinions concerning the nature and essence of the disease, nor upon learned views concerning its concealed seat. The symptoms must be arranged indeed, with science and skill, in which the genuine experimental propositions of the old semiotics and special pathology are of great utility; but this admits not of comparison with the mode of procedure hitherto adopted in medicine, wherein general experience, or hypothesis only, determined the choice of remedies. Hence the examination of the patient according to Hahnemann's directions, is an affair of no little difficulty even to the most learned and practised physician,

and those whose habits are perverted have considerable difficulty of conducting it aright.

As soon as the homœopathic physician has sought out the image of the disease in the manner above described, his next business consists in selecting out of all his remedies, that particular one, which comprehends all the symptoms of the patient in the greatest similarity, not only as respects the mere number, symptom for symptom, but also according to their different grades or relative value. He should always be convinced that the remedy which he selects is better suited to the case than any other, which, among the numerous remedies and the extensive range of the curative virtues possessed by many of them, is no easy business. To this frequently difficult and careful selection belongs an extensive acquaintance with medical observations, and a close study of the idiosyncrasies (peculiarities) of the patient. A mistake cannot, however, be easily committed in such selection; because it must, after all, depend upon the necessary similarity of the symptoms of the patient with those of the remedy. Injury cannot indeed result from a false selection; for it is soon to be discovered, and is free from all dangerous consequences to the patient. But in order to effect a rapid cure, to avoid a false selection, and to be convinced of the correctness of the selection by a close comparison, much time and pains are requisite, particularly in chronic diseases. Even with the advantage of several years practice, together with a comprehensive knowledge of the remedies, it often requires long and careful consideration and an unwearied search and comparison of the image of the symptoms presented by the disease, with the image of those presented by the medicine. The time between visiting the patient and dispensing the medicine is therefore the most anxious to the homœopathic physician, and his calling is a far more difficult one than that of the ordinary practitioner. With all his knowledge of the virtues of remedies he would be able to treat but a small number of patients, if the great mass of experience which is constantly communicated from all sides, embodied and daily increased, did not very much facilitate the selection. This experience already extends to all diseases, and particularly to the most serious, because these more frequently come under the observation of the homœopathic physician. The most acute and dangerous diseases, as inflammation of the lungs, pleurisy, inflammation of the brain and liver, and of the ear, apoplexy and convulsions, most of the diseases of children, and even the most malignant forms of typhus, are the easiest of all in the choice of a remedy. For, the multiplied experience with regard to them, has ascertained so precisely the remedy for every case, particularly cases of the most threatening nature, which require immediate relief, that he who is acquainted with the latter, can immediately select the suitable medicine. As this on the one hand facilitates the choice of the appropriate remedy, in all acute diseases, so, on the other, in chronic diseases, the frequently very protracted reaction of the organization following the exhibition of a rightly selected medicine, renders it practicable for the homœopathic physician to visit a larger number of patients than it would otherwise be possible. But so overwhelming a practice as many physicians of the old method have, in which they enjoy the advantage of short visits, and quickly writing a recipe—cannot be reconciled with Homœopathia.

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Hahnemann not only instituted a new method of examining the sick, and an entirely new Therapeutica, but also a new Diætetica. He gave to this important doctrine, which before him was composed on no certain principles, the first scientific basis. Opponents, who must have perceived this, cast upon him the ridiculous reproach, that he cured his patients by diet alone. Rarely, however, having all the advantage of the same diet, could they imitate Hahnemann in his cures. Nay, they carried the dieting system almost to starvation, a wholly unnatural proscription, yet it rendered them no assistance, and quite as little benefited their patients. Hahnemann's entire system of diet, besides his psycho—diætic precepts, wholly peculiar to himself, consists in removing from the patient all foreign medicinal influences, in order that the medicines given, may act in as undisturbed a manner as possible. Experiments performed on the healthy subject had taught him, that aromatics of every kind are endowed with peculiarly active properties, as well as medicines, properly so called, and exert on the animal economy an influence, which, though it may become imperceptible from habit, nevertheless exists, and is capable of disturbing the action of many remedies. As the result of these investigations, several of the aromatics were even classed by him among important remedial agents; among these may be enumerated Coffee, Saffron and Parsley, Capsicum and Tobacco. Moreover, in the course of his investigations, he discovered that some articles possessed the properties of antidotes; thus vinegar was found incompatible with some remedies, wine with others, coffee with others, &c. These articles would therefore naturally be interdicted, when they happen to be incompatible with the remedies prescribed for the patient. Among other things, Hahnemann also observed the prejudicial influence of the flesh of swine and of other animals inhabiting marshy places, in diseases of the abdominal viscera and of the skin; nor were the effects of very young animals, or of milk recently taken from the cow less injurious, and these articles of food were, therefore, prohibited in diseases of organs upon which they exercised a morbid influence. All his directions regarding the regimen, consist entirely of experimental propositions; they constitute, indeed, a strictly complete and scientific fabric, as respects the ideal of a perfect manner of living, but the prescriptions in individual cases, are modified according to circumstances. The more violent the attack of disease, the more does a strict avoidance of all foreign medicinal influences become necessary; but when it partakes more of a chronic character, the necessity for changes in the customary manner of living is proportionably diminished. In most chronic cases, indeed, nothing more is necessary than abstinence from gross excess, and caution in the use of aromatics. All pure unadulterated drinks may be used in moderation, as well as the customary spices, together with salt, sugar and vinegar, coffee, black tea, tobacco, &c. But the use of brandy and other spirituous liquors is in all cases to be refrained from, or if already become habitual, it must be gradually discontinued. Hahnemann considers all spirituous drinks positively injurious, and that the cure is obstructed by their use. The internal or external employment of all other medicines and domestic remedies, even those of a reputed harmless character, and as much as possible, all strong odors, as perfumery and



other substances used for their *aroma*, is to be avoided, because they are capable of producing prejudicial disturbances, and none more so than musk. Moderate indulgence in other things is not prohibited. Hahnemann has never forbidden the use of animal food, or prescribed a thin penurious diet, unless on the day succeeding that of overloading the stomach with food. Never has it occurred to him to think of curing the patient by means of diet alone.



Thus has Hahnemann beaten a new path on all sides. His admirable observations and manifold experience have constantly advanced the new art created by his instrumentality, and every year brings with it fresh proofs of his genius. He has discovered a numerous, useful and widely efficient class of remedies against Chronic Diseases, whereby the most of these complaints, when they have not been seriously impaired by the abuse of medicines, and become inveterate, can be perfectly cured. Against the mercurial disease; that artificial plague of the present day, he has discovered several new remedies, so that this multiform and too frequently incurable complaint, can at least be ameliorated and the more intolerable of its symptoms assuaged. Against Sycosis a disease allied to Syphilis, and hitherto totally incurable, he has discovered a specific remedy in the American *Thuya*. Against the genuine Scarlet fever of Sydenham, as already mentioned, he has discovered a remedy in *Belladonna*; against *Purpura miliaris*, *Coffea* and *Aconite*; against many forms of Measles, *Pulsatilla*; against the Hooping cough, *Drosera*; against Croup, *Spongia mar: tost*; against *Raphania*, which sometimes rages pestilentially in Europe, and once here in Albany, produced by *secale cornutum* he discovered the most speedy and certain remedy in *Solanum Nigrum*; against the often prevalent and mortal autumnal dysentery, the specific *Merc: cor: sub*. He also determined the infallible remedy against the camp plague of 1813, in the malignant forms of Typhus generally, and in most violent fevers. One of his most important discoveries, however, was a specific remedy against all pure inflammation, particularly that of the lungs, and in Pleurisy; whereby the hazardous, always debilitating, and commonly but apparently useful operation of bloodletting, can be altogether dispensed with.

But a real triumph of this new method of cure was Hahnemann's recent project of the specific remedies against the most violent and malignant forms of cholera. It consisted in the use of camphor, particularly against the Cholera Asphyxia, and cuprum against that attended with clonic spasms. But in the ordinary cases and in Cholera he did not deem it necessary to recommend any remedies, to the notice of his disciples, because all physicians who trusted to Homœopathia, though living in countries widely remote from each other, found of themselves the same specific remedies. However varied were its forms in the different countries and in different individuals, and as multiform and strange and malignant as it was, they cured in Russia as well as in Hungary, in Vienna and Prague as well as in Berlin, in Philadelphia, as well as in Germany with equal success. The most recent statements

received from all quarters have brilliantly established this. All homœopathic physicians, as soon as they saw the patients and made themselves accurately acquainted with the symptoms, were unanimous in their method of treatment, without having the opportunity of previous conference. While a hundred hypotheses, which were intended to illustrate the nature of cholera, arose and disappeared around them, the Homœopathic physicians gave themselves no concern about its hidden nature. They were guided by the symptoms alone, and thus they were all enabled to find the suitable remedies against the disease. This agreement of so many hundreds of physicians in the treatment of so terrible a disease, is unparalleled in the history of medicine, and proof enough of the truth of the new Doctrine.



The new Art of Healing is not to be judged by its success in isolated cases only, but according to its success in general, its innate truth, and the incontrovertable nature of its fundamental principles. In consequence of the prevailing views, according to which a cure is extorted by means of violent medicines, in consequence of the common manner of silencing, as soon as possible, troublesome symptoms, by means of palliatives, and the copious blood-lettings, which too often render a repetition necessary, and whose injurious consequences are repaired with difficulty, if at all; in consequence of the daily calomel and the nightly opium, and the terrible abuse of Nostrums, or quack medicines, the greater number of patients before they have recourse to Homœopathia, are so far spoiled that either no cure at all, or a very tedious process of cure is possible. The instances also are not rare, in which unintentional or careless interruptions on the part of the patient during the cure, mars the finest performance of the physician. Hence, we are desirous that every patient who may hereafter place himself under this method of cure, may in the first place acquire so much knowledge of it, as to be convinced that Homœopathia is a medical art which rests upon pure experience, according to which the remedies are always administered, and, when no relief whatever is possible they do no injury, but while it yet remains possible are capable of affording relief; that without extorting violent alterations, it always as much as possible supports the strength of the patient; and by it, every complaint as far as its nature permits, may be ameliorated, or entirely cured. Under this method, patients not previously injured by the abuse of remedies when their diseases are of rapid tendency, are almost always quickly, but when chronic, though more slowly, yet proportionably in a very short time, conducted to a safe cure. They must become convinced that every other method of treatment though conducted by the most judicious physician, is always, agreeably to its nature, uncertain, and that it may very easily become injurious. They must regard every cure by quack remedies as a prize in a lottery, in which blind accident only throws out to a few individuals the prize, but to a thousand the blanks; and in all lotteries no one is more certain of winning than the vender.

The same unlimited confidence which the physician has in this new

art, which after years of study, careful examination and comparison with others he accepts as the only beneficial one—the same confidence must his patients possess and retain, even if the result in some cases does not fully answer their expectations. The physician can perform his labours with pleasure, though tenfold more arduous than by other methods, and his vocation, otherwise so full of anxiety and solicitude, is rendered pleasant by the treatment of such patients.

May this essay contribute to conduct individuals who are not yet fully convinced, into the path wherein conviction may be attained. May the worthy members, at whose instance this hasty sketch was prepared, be at least incited to further investigations; may they be among the first who are thoroughly won to the truth of the new art, the important benefits of which, our grand children only will reap to their full extent. May our beneficent Society largely contribute to the wider prevalence and reception of the Hahnemannean doctrines; may that which single individuals can of themselves scarcely achieve, be effectuated by united efforts; then in this blessed country, may the miseries of disease be diminished, future generations be rescued from its leaden fetters, the bitterest human misery,—disease bearing down all earthly joy, become less from year to year, and the sweetest boon on earth—health and domestic felicity, become the portion of growing thousands here as well as in Germany. In spite of all adversaries, in spite of impediments, it will nevertheless succeed here sooner than in Europe; for, among a free people, who with practised eyes, soon discern the truly useful, a treasure like this new Art, must quickly be estimated in a degree commensurate with its real value; sooner than by the kings and princes of Europe, who have other and more important cares; sooner than in those countries where ancient institutions and prescriptive interests are supported by a vigilant police, who impede the progress of the new Art by processes, penalties and bayonets. Here we are beyond their influence. The American people demand facts, and upon these we can confidently and securely rest for our support. The language of opposition may be employed against it, but truth is not long obscured here by forms of speech.—The victory will be ours; and in a century to come the anniversary of our society,—this first step upon the way which must lead to the public and general acknowledgement of the new doctrines,—will be solemnized with grateful remembrance. So great an aim, indeed, cannot be attained without labour, but we are prepared to undertake it; we shall not arrive at it without conflict, but we stand equipt for conflict; we shall not reach it without defamation; but we will suffer ridicule and defamation with composure.

“So slowly does truth force its way in opposition to existing prejudices and interests, that we dare not indulge the hope of seeing such a reformation accomplished in our days. Yet a little impulse is sometimes sufficient to set in motion the stream of public opinion, which gathering force year after year, from continual accessions of experience and reflection swells at last into an irresistible current, and sweeps away the stubbornest mud-banks of corruption and error.”—(*Edinburgh Review*, September, 1826, p. 513.)