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Port Hope, 22nd Sept., 1859.

HOMŒOPATHY.

REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE RATIONAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE :

BEING A LETTER TO THE
Governors of the Hull General Infirmary,

BY

FEWSTER ROBERT HORNER, M.D.,

LATE PRESIDENT, AND PERPETUAL VICE-PRESIDENT, OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION ; LATE SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO THE HULL GENERAL INFIRMARY,
AND TO THE HULL DISPENSARY, &c., &c.

“ Quoth Hudibras—‘ It is no part
Of prudence to cry down an art,
And what it can perform deny,
Because you understand not why.’ ”—HUDIBRAS.

FROM THE LAST ENGLISH EDITION.

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1860.

TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE HULL GENERAL INFIRMARY.

MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

As senior Physician to your Infirmary, I think it a duty to you and to myself, now to give a full explanation of those circumstances which have led to a change in my medical opinions.

For the sake of the poor under my care, and as a test of the sincerity and truth of my convictions, I was anxious to continue my office, if arrangements for the Homœopathic treatment of my patients could be made. Hence, I presented a written request to the Chairman of the Infirmary *Weekly Board*, that two separate wards, one for female and one for male patients,—Homœopathic medicines and a dispenser,—should be at my disposal and under my own control. Though such arrangement has been denied, I have the satisfaction of reflecting, that the time is surely approaching when none other but the Homœopathic treatment of disease will be tolerated in our public Medical Institutions. This is not the utterance of a vain and specious sentiment, but the calm conviction of a mind impressed with the force of truth. For in proverbial language,—“*Magna est veritas et prævalebit.*”

The following remarks will show to you in what manner I, happily, became enlightened to the truth of Homœopathy. And so entirely am I convinced that, in my own case, the changing of opinion has been but the forsaking of error, that I wholly cast aside every apologetic sentiment or thought, and, in the simple candour of truth confess that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

“It is interesting,” says a modern philosopher, “to trace the principles by which an enlightened mind is influenced in receiving, upon testimony, statements which are rejected by the vulgar as totally incredible.” He then shows us how such a mind, reflecting that it now knows to be true many things which at one time it deemed incredible, is ever ready to admit that many other principles in science, or phenomena in nature, which it now comprehends not, may in reality be true; for it no longer dares to make its own knowledge the test of probability. How forcible is the lesson of wisdom here conveyed, and how applicable to the study of Homœopathy, as well as to the opposition and prejudice which would stay its progress!

I confess that it was not an unmixed, or a purely spontaneous and enlightened desire to search after truth, that first prompted my enquiry into this new system of medicine. I was also led thereto by the unsatisfactory and ever-varying systems of the old school of physic, and by the conviction, that positive evil is inseparable from the old method of cure.

I refer not especially to blood-letting,—that terrible evil,—but to another, a more insidious, yet a most serious one, and concerning which some of the profession would seem to be ignorant, and all maintain a significant silence: I mean the *retention and deposition of drugs in the various parts, structures, and vital organs of the body.*

Impressed with this startling and well-ascertained fact (and one which was so forcibly made known to the world at large by Professor Christison, Doctor Taylor, and others, on the occasion of a late criminal's trial), that drugs, administered to a patient, permeate every part of the human body, and there lodge for indefinite periods of time,—deposited or interwoven, as it were, in the internal vital parts and organs;—I felt, as some others have felt, and amongst themselves acknowledged, that this was, indeed, a subject for most serious and painful thought.

I shall refer to the subject again; and give you proof and examples where not only mineral, but also vegetable drugs, as aloes, colocynth, &c., which had been administered even some years before, remained deposited in the system, producing a miserable and wholly shattered state, both of mental and of bodily health; but where the patients were, eventually, happily restored, by the removal of these latent (and there poisonous) drugs.

It now affords me the deepest satisfaction to reflect, that I have not, to my present knowledge, prescribed blood-letting more than twice in the last ten or fifteen years, either in public or in private practice; and that I have ever discouraged what is called the active or heroic treatment of disease; a sort of treatment which oft may aptly be described as that which does the most mischief in the shortest space of time. Both in my course of lectures on "*Materia Medica*," (the properties of drugs), at the Hull School of Medicine, and in my occasional remarks made to students in the Infirmary, at the bedside of the sick, I have given the caution to avoid the evil of prescribing too much medicine; but so inveterate is this evil, and one so early imbibed, of drugging patients, and especially that of putting a variety of medicine into one mixture, "to fight together in the dark," as the late President of the Royal College of Physicians so truly observed, that I know how little orthodox my sentiments have been held by many. Nay, I have been roundly spoken of as one by whom neither surgeons nor druggists can live, and have suffered accordingly in the estimation of many. As my patients, however, not only lived but were cured, and that at least as quickly and as thoroughly as the patients of others, it was enough—or rather much better.

I had the satisfaction of knowing, that I was supported in my opinions and practice by the example of the wisest and most experienced among Physicians; for it is ever found, that such trust less and less to active and powerful drugs, bleeding, &c., &c., as experience and long observation of disease ripens knowledge into wisdom; and they use that knowledge rather in assisting nature, than in weakening or destroying her energies in bold, "heroic" efforts to subdue disease. Sir John Forbes, for example, as well as so humble an individual as myself, also "suffered in estimation;" and the Medical Journal in which he wrote his famous exposure of "*Old Physic*,"* shortly afterwards changed hands, as the phrase is; in other words, he had to relinquish his editorship, as a propitiation, to save the Journal. I shall not, however, in this place, speak further of this vitally important subject, but probably again refer to it.

Yet up to the very time of instituting my enquiry—and it is with humility I make the confession—blinded by prejudice and ignorance, like

* Sir John Forbes admitted and declared, that the science of medicine was now in such a state, with its number of clashing systems and modes of practice, that "it must soon mend or end."

the rest of the profession in Hull and elsewhere, I deemed Homœopathy a vain and impossible thing; and even when I began to read, to investigate, and to put it to the proof, I had far more expectation of unmasking and exposing it as a fallacy, than I had of discovering in it that good by which the evils of the old practice of medicine might be obviated, and a more gentle, but far more efficient method of cure, be substituted.

As an additional motive for investigation, I felt that the time had arrived when something must be done, both by the individual and the collective efforts of the profession—the onward spread of Homœopathy must be stayed. Notwithstanding the oft-repeated declaration of my professional brethren to the contrary, it was too apparent that it was not “dying out,” but was steadily progressing, nay, rapidly extending itself;—not amongst the credulous and uneducated, but the enlightened and higher classes of society were daily becoming its firmest adherents and determined supporters. Nor was this onward progress restricted to any town or district; but throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland; and yet far more, throughout America, Germany, and France; and throughout all the States of Europe was it adopted and cherished.

I was convinced that this progress was not to be arrested by the raillery, abuse, and misrepresentation of the medical profession; amidst it all, Homœopathy had but the more and more increased,—*people would think for themselves*. I now felt assured that the only rational and effective, as well as manly and honourable way, of disabusing and disinfecting the public mind, was to submit it to the touchstone of observation and experiment. I determined on its practical investigation.

Therefore, honestly divesting my mind, as far as I was able to do, of all feeling and prejudice against it, I first dilligently searched and studied all the best works on the subject. I thus obtained a thorough insight into, and knowledge of the science;—of the peculiar mode of preparation and stated powers of its medicines—of their nature and properties,—and of their effects and application as remedies in disease: *points, be it observed, absolutely necessary to a fair and enlightened test and examination*. This being at length accomplished, I most stringently, zealously, and I may add, jealously, conducted my lengthened and practical inquiry.

My first discovery was my own ignorance as to what Homœopathy really was, and the equal ignorance of the rest of my professional brethren with whom I had conversed on the subject. It was, I confess, with a feeling of shame that I recalled to mind how we had misjudged and misrepresented Homœopathy. *Strange, truly, that the Medical Profession should persist in denying, yea, in heaping obloquy and ridicule upon a science of which they know themselves—confess themselves—to be wholly or essentially ignorant!* Nay, I have often heard the most witty, as well as the most serious and earnest declaimer, give a scornful negative reply to the inquiry if they had ever thoroughly studied and fairly tried it.

So wild and indefinite are the notions, not only of the public, but of medical men also, that it is thought that Homœopathy chiefly consists in giving small, or infinitesimal doses of medicine! Now, *the magnitude of the dose has nothing whatever to do with the principle of this science*. The principle, the very essence of Homœopathy, lies in the law of *simile*; as usually expressed in the axiom, “*Similia similibus curantur*”—“like

cures like." Hahnemann himself at first tried the accustomed or usual dose; but he was speedily compelled to reduce it; so powerful and harmful were medicines in their common doses, *when given on the Homœopathic principle*.

It is as consistent with the true principles of Homœopathy, to prescribe either strong tinctures or the crude drugs, as it is to give the most infinitesimal globule; I repeat that it is the law of *simile—of like*—that alone guides the Homœopathist in his treatment of disease; the size, strength, or weakness of a dose is a mere contingency; he may give what doses he lists, but will soon find that medicines, *given on the Homœopathic principle*, must be administered, in nearly all cases, in very small doses, or the symptoms of the disease will be greatly aggravated.

For the sake of those who are anxious to know the principle of the Homœopathic cure, I will give its simple illustration. When a person, for example, is afflicted with sickness of the stomach, he will be relieved of it by very small doses of a medicine which produces a similar kind of sickness in a healthy person when it is taken in large or over doses;—*like cures like*. As sickness of the stomach may arise from different causes, so is the Homœopathist provided with a variety of medicines, which produce sickness by different modes of action, and also cure it. Again, the tempting berries of belladonna, when taken in large or poisonous doses (as by children), produce redness of the skin, and also redness, soreness, and swelling of the throat; hence, in very small doses, belladonna is one of our most certain remedies in scarlet fever, where there is redness of the skin, and, for the most part, soreness of the throat.

In proceeding to enumerate a few of those facts and circumstances which enforced the conviction on my own mind that Homœopathy was a great truth, I would observe, that no amount of mere reading or study of Homœopathic literature could have brought such conviction—real and indisputable—to my own mind. Had I stopped short here, though impressed with the sentiment that what I had read might be true, yet nothing but experimental testimony would have enabled me, in my own heart, to realise that truth. I trust that this remark will not be lost upon those who think that they have done enough in having read a book or two on the subject, and not feeling convinced, cast the whole aside, without trial, as unsatisfactory. I, unhappily, committed this very error nearly ten years ago. At that time I read two or three books on the subject—certainly they were not the best—but the whole matter appeared too extraordinary to be real, and I cast it off as a delusion. How much do I regret that I did not then go heartily to work, and after fully qualifying myself, duly testing and proving it.*

In my practical inquiry into the powers of Homœopathic remedies, I resorted to every species of proof which I could devise, and of which the

* I wish specially to notice and to recommend to all—the prejudiced and the unprejudiced—Dr. Sharp's Essays, now published in one volume. The calm, forcible, truthful, and philosophic spirit in which these Essays are written, deeply impressed my own mind, and determined me not to defer a practical investigation. Dr. Sharp is an old and much respected friend: and knowing so well the sterling probity and honesty of his character, his talent for observation and experiment, his knowledge of the exact sciences, and his clear judgment, I was enabled the more easily to divest my mind of that prejudice with which it was imbued. I honestly confess, however, that I had little expectation that Homœopathy would stand the searching trial to which I had determined to subject it; and I warned my friends who urged the investigation, that they might expect my exposure, rather than my confirmation of it.

subject appeared capable. I have now treated—successfully treated—a vast variety and number of diseases, both acute and chronic, occurring in both sexes, and at all ages. In every more important and interesting case, careful notes were kept; all the symptoms of the disease were primarily registered; and the effect of every medicine that was administered and every change of symptom, noted.

I felt that the investigation in which I was now engaged was, perhaps, the most serious act of my life. Not only my reputation as a physician, my honour as a man, and the relief of the afflicted, but yet more, the interest of truth itself, was equally involved.

To give a detail of all the cases so treated would be tedious, and indeed impossible, for they would fill a volume. I shall, therefore, at present content myself with simply citing a few examples of that testimony on which my convictions of the truth of Homœopathy are founded.

I witnessed, first, the painful and harrassing symptoms of chronic diseases—both external and internal—progressively, steadily, and in some cases rapidly, cured by the administration of Homœopathic medicines; and that, in not a few instances, where the old plan of treatment by other practitioners had failed; and in two or three examples, where I had myself been unsuccessful, by the old system, in giving relief.

On the other hand, I observed the distressing and alarming symptoms of acute inflammation of the most vital organs—as of the brain, the lungs, the windpipe (croup), and the bowels—arrested, overcome and cured, and that in a manner so observable and so evident, even to the friends of the patient, that, on the repetition of each succeeding dose, a corresponding improvement was confidently looked for; while to my own observation, the effects and efficacy of the medicine were most clear and indisputable.

Still how determinedly do practitioners of the old school repeat, that although patients treated Homœopathically may recover (of themselves) from chronic ailment, yet to trust to such treatment in inflammation of vital organs is nothing less than the abandonment of the hapless patient. Happy abandonment! yea, and fortunate escape from the lancet and leeches, from blisters, and cupping glasses, and from all those other appliances which, by *destroying vital energy, paralyse restorative power!*

Indeed, I here wish, in the most emphatic manner to notice, that it is especially in acute inflammation of the vital organs of the body (as of the brain, the lungs, the stomach, and bowels, &c.), that the curative action of Homœopathic remedies is so decided and so rapid. How unfortunate, then is it, that the professional opponents of Homœopathy should, in their total ignorance of the science, have stumbled upon that very point for their misrepresentation and attack, which is notoriously the strongest and most invulnerable! *It is these very cases, before all others, that the Homœopathic physician would select to prove to the inquirer, or to the unbeliever, the truly extraordinary power and efficacy of the system of treatment.* To this subject I shall again have occasion to refer.

I shall now describe, a little more definitely, the way in which I investigated and tested the powers of Homœopathic medicines. I first gave an unmedicated powder (simply sugar of milk), and of course without any result. I then selected and administered the proper remedy; amendment commenced, and a cure was effected, (I may here observe that all these

experiments were not confined to a single case, but were repeated again and again.)

Varying the means of testimony, I then selected some forms of disease, where the symptoms were well marked and persistent, and gave Homœopathic Medicines, and noted their favourable effects. Then, unknown to the patient, I administered a precisely similar-looking powder, but one that was unmedicated; when the patients, or in cases of children, their parents, voluntarily observed, that "this last medicine had lost its effect, and done no good!" Medicated doses were again given, and again improvement began, and relief was expressed.

Again, I chose cases of internal disease (they were two of chronic inflammation of the lining of the bowels, and three of consumption), in which the symptoms were of a decided character, and where the old system of treatment had given but very partial and unsatisfactory relief. These were then treated on the new system—Homœopathically—and marked, unmistakeable improvement followed. On resorting again to the old approved method of treatment, the progress lingered and was stayed, but was again restored by returning to Homœopathic remedies.

Further, I wished to select some diseases where the changes effected in the condition of the diseased parts could be *seen* by myself, as well as felt by the patient. I chose, therefore, some of the worst cases of inflamed and ulcerated sore throat (which have been so prevalent of late in Hull and the neighbourhood). Some of these I treated first on the old and approved plan; and with the usual tedious progress; but, when I now substituted the Homœopathic remedies, the rapid diminution of tumefaction and swelling, and the healing of ulceration, were most striking. Indeed few things could impress a common beholder with more surprise, than the witnessing of the effects of Homœopathic remedies in the very worst cases of ulcerated throat and palate; and one or two I shall briefly notice, in exemplification.

As collateral testimony to such effect of Homœopathic remedies, I may first cite the case of a well-known and respected gentleman of Hull, who, though deeply prejudiced against Homœopathy (for many of his nearest acquaintances were medical men), was driven at last to try it. He was wholly relieved, in a few days, of a chronic and harrassing affection of the throat, after he had, for two or three years, suffered the best surgical advice and treatment, not only of Hull, but of London, without cure. He himself recently related to me, how, in but a few hours, he experienced great relief, and felt the curative effects of the "absurd bits of globules," in which, at the time he took them, he had no confidence whatever. I need not add that this gentleman, having proved Homœopathy on himself, is now a firm supporter of it.

The first example of the remarkable efficacy of Homœopathic medicines, in "throat cases," which I shall introduce, is that of a girl about twelve years of age, with pale puffy features, and all the symptoms of a debilitated and scrofulous constitution. The eyes were bloodshot, and the eyelids red and tender; the nose was very much swollen, and of a livid red colour; the left nostril nearly obstructed by incrustations, and a most offensive discharge proceeded from it. Both the tonsils (glands of the throat) were much enlarged, and studded with ulcerated points; the back

part of the hard palate was similarly affected. Despairing of being cured, she had "given up doctoring" for many months. In rather less than one month the nose, palate, and throat were wholly cured; the chronic inflammation of both eyes disappeared at the same time. There now remains only a slight enlargement of the tonsils, but without any ulceration or any discomfort whatever. This was a case of *caries*, or ulceration of the bones of the nose, and had resisted all previous treatment.

I shall notice one other case, of a somewhat similar kind, as it was connected with your own Infirmary. Moreover, it not only shows the power of Homœopathic medicines, but is an apt illustration of their superiority over the old drugs,—of the new over the old system of treatment, and that, under the most adverse circumstances. It was a very distressing case of inflammation, with deep and foul ulceration of the tonsils, palate, and back part of the throat. The man had been under medical treatment for some months before his admission, under my own care, into the Infirmary. He was so worn down with disease and poverty, that pity for his condition, rather than hopes of affording relief induced me to admit him. After remaining within the Infirmary the allotted time of two months, he was discharged; improved in bodily condition certainly, but with very partial amendment of the throat. And, as I could not hold out to the Weekly Board of Governors any hope that he could be cured (if cured at all) in a month or two more, his bed was appropriated to other urgent cases, and he was made an out-patient. On his calling at my house next day, to ask what he should do, and where to get means of support, I determined, bad as he was, now to give him a chance of the Homœopathic treatment; and he went afterwards to a poor lodging. Though now debarred the comfort and the wholesome food of the Infirmary, yet, in the short space of ten days, this poor fellow's throat, tonsils, palate, &c., were quite healed and cured, by taking Homœopathic remedies. This being one of my earliest cases of "bad throat," made a great impression on my mind at the time; but I have now, in my extended experience, found in very many instances, how astonishing, and for the most part how rapid, is the effect of the Homœopathic treatment in the worst cases of nose and throat diseases. These two cases are not only deeply interesting, as proving the efficacy of Homœopathy, but as showing its superiority over the old plan—curing where the old system had failed.

I will briefly give one or two more examples where, in other diseases, patients were cured by Homœopathic remedies when they had not been relieved by the old system; and I will select cases from the Infirmary. A man had suffered from severe rheumatism of the hip and thigh for above a year, and had undergone a great variety of treatment in that time. When he came into the Infirmary, all the appliances of cure, as vapour baths, galvanism, &c., which your Institution affords, were used, in addition to appropriate medicine, but without avail, and he left the Infirmary. This man wrote to me a few weeks afterwards, that he was then at laborious work, having been cured in about three weeks by the Homœopathic treatment under which I placed him when he left the Hospital. Another man left the Infirmary unrelieved of a distressing pain of the head, after a paralytic stroke, which had quite incapacitated him for work for many months. He had a seton in the neck, leeches, and other means used; he then took Homœopathic medicines for two weeks and returned to work.

The next two cases possess a twofold interest inasmuch as they were not only cured on the Homœopathic system, but cured *in* the Infirmary. As one of the men had been suffering for above four, and the other for nearly seven years, and as they had been under the care of several medical men, and had undergone a great amount of treatment, I determined, after a short trial of the old remedies, to treat them Homœopathically. Both were diseases of the urinary organs, and both were cured in three weeks. One of the men suffered much pain in the bladder, and passed a considerable quantity of blood in the urine; from medicines given on the Homœopathic principle, all his painful and other symptoms *daily and perceptibly lessened*; and in about a month after his admission he left the Infirmary, quite well, and commenced work once more. The other, a younger man, had suffered for seven years, and had undergone much severe treatment. After the removal of his other troublesome symptoms connected with the bladder, there still remained a severe pain on the left side of his body, and to remove which "the doctors had done everything" (I think a seton had also been set). By the administration of the Homœopathic remedy, which acted directly upon the part implicated, a small flattened stone become dislodged and was passed. This stone had evidently been for some years impacted in the ureter (the passage from the kidneys to the bladder). He left the Infirmary, quite cured, in three or four weeks.

The third case of cure, within the Infirmary, was especially interesting; first, the patient was cured of a troublesome and unsightly disease, which, said he, "had been a-coming on for above ten years." It was a pustular eruption (by *pustular* eruption, I may explain in plain language, a *pimpley eruption* containing matter), with scabs, not only on the body and limbs, but during the last two years it had also extended to the face. Secondly, because the approved medicines of the old system were tried by me for several weeks, in the Infirmary, without the least abatement of the symptoms. And thirdly, because when I at last prescribed the Homœopathic remedy, I at the same time stated that it ought to cure the disease, and that, doubtless, we should see the effects at once. I may add, lastly, that it was interesting, because I recollect that the respected Chairman of the Infirmary Board (Mr. Gibson, of Prospect-street), was in the ward of the Hospital, and I had the pleasure of pointing out to him and explaining the cure, when I was giving directions to the House-Surgeon to report the patient as cured. Within four days of his taking the pathogenetic or Homœopathic remedy, viz., Tartrate of Antimony, the pustules and scabs began to disappear, and in some three weeks he was cured.*

Whilst I am engaged in writing these remarks, a case of acute inflammation of the windpipe (croup) occurring in a child sixteen months old, has come under my care, and, I might truly add, has just been rescued from close impending death, by Homœopathic remedies; the surgeon under whose care it was up to the time I saw it, replying to the mother's in-

* These three cases are chiefly interesting as showing what may be effected by some of the old medicines, of concentrated power, where given on the Homœopathic principle. The chief medicines used were spirit of turpentine, tinct. cantharides, nux vomica, and tartar emetic. The patient cured of the eruptive disease in so striking a manner, after other treatment in the Infirmary had wholly failed, took no other medicine but the tartar emetic, in doses of the 32nd (not the 16th) part of a grain. One of the other patients, after being really cured of his complaint by the medicine given Homœopathically, remained a little longer in the Infirmary, and then had other remedies for some ailment of which he complained; for it must be borne in mind, that I had no Homœopathic store of medicines of which to avail myself, so that it was only a few diseases which I could treat at all.

quity,—“that it might die in a minute.” The child had been leeches, had taken antimonial wine, and undergone all the usual old and inefficient treatment for three days previously, without the slightest check or stay to the disease, so that I myself judged that it could not survive the day without relief, so nearly had it been hurried to its end. The change by the administration of Homœopathic remedies was so extraordinary, and so unlooked for by the poor woman, its mother, that, in her gratitude and joy, she most thoughtlessly brought it to my house next morning. The day was very raw and cold, and as I feared, a terrible aggravation of the symptoms was incurred, and the child’s life was again placed in the utmost peril. The first remedies were again had recourse to,—a like subsidence of the symptoms was produced,—and in a few days the child was cured. Are we always to be told that it is the “imagination,” (this child was but sixteen months old), is it always “mere accident,”—or regulation of diet,—or are all Homœopathic physicians (and those who cure themselves and families in minor complaints) really what the old practitioners and medical journals say they are,—“dolts, impostors, and quacks?”—See *Lancet*.

Truly it is humiliating to witness physicians of the old school striving to explain away the palpable, the self-evident cures performed by the new system of medicine—Homœopathy! I can hardly imagine in what manner the following facts, as also the cases I have already cited, will be “got over.”

A young lady, a relative of my own, after her recovery from a severe cold, had still a troublesome cough for three weeks, which prevented her return to school. After resisting the usual remedies for this period, it was cured in three days by five doses of the Homœopathic remedy. Her brother had a large and very painful swelling on the lower jaw, caused, it was supposed, by the hidden fang of an old tooth. By the application of leeches, twice repeated, together with poultices, liniment, and plasters, the pain, inflammation, and swelling were cured in six weeks. A fortnight afterwards, from exposure to cold, all the symptoms returned; and this time with such violence that he could not bear even a silk handkerchief to touch the inflamed and tumified jaw. I gave him three globules of the appropriate Homœopathic medicine, and in *half-an-hour* the tumour was wholly freed from pain; in three days more, by taking this medicine, even every trace of the hard and painful swelling was removed. Thus, on the first attack, he recovered in six weeks by the old plan; on the second, and yet more severe one, he was cured in four days by the Homœopathic treatment. The disease did not again return.

A boy, nine years of age, had had a severe cough and expectoration for two years. He had been under medical treatment, and had taken a table spoonful of cod liver oil three times a day all that time; for, having no appetite, it was almost his only means of support, and he was worn and emaciated. The oil was not discontinued, but in twenty days his cough and expectoration were wholly cured by Homœopathic remedies; his appetite returned, and he soon gained his strength and flesh. This was so unexpected by his mother (as well as by myself,) that she took from his bed a poor crippled boy, of about twelve years of age, and brought him to my house, saying, to my remonstrances on her bringing a child so crippled and apparently dying, that as I had “made a miracle” of the other boy, I per-

haps could give relief to this. With one leg pined and shortened, the chest distorted, being also humped on the back, and with as severe a palpitation of the heart as I have ever witnessed, I thought the child was really in a dying state. Its head was supported by the mother's breast; while its prominent, staring eyes, purple lips and cheeks, and the throbbing in the arteries of the neck, showed the extent of the heart's disturbance. I felt relieved when the child was taken safely home; and truly astonished when, in three weeks time, it came cheerfully, hopping with its crutch, into my room, to thank me "for mending" it. The admirable effects of the Homœopathic medicines on the heart's action, &c., were evinced the first day of the boy's taking them; and the progress of improvement was never interrupted.

It will be observed, that I have selected those cases (out of many others) for proving the efficacy of the Homœopathic system of medicine, which had not been found curable by the old method; thus demonstrating that the new system not only possesses a power, but a greater power of curing disease. But this is by no means all; *there are other circumstances of vital importance, such as the difference of the means employed, the condition in which the patient is left after treatment, &c.*; and to which I shall soon, although but very briefly, allude.

I shall detail but one other case; and probably, from the lady's position in society, it may be known to some of you. It is that of a lady at present resident in the Garrison, on a visit to her son. This lady was at first attended for a few days by a surgeon of the town, when a physician was also "called in," who, after a brief attendance, told the patient's friends that there was no hope of recovery, and that she could not be expected to live, at furthest, above four or five days. The surgeon also expressed a similar opinion as to the utter hopelessness of the case.

My advice was then requested, and I saw the patient, together with the surgeon in attendance. I found her shrunk, worn, and debilitated, and supported in an arm-chair by the bed side; that being the easiest position for her. The small, rapid pulse, quick breathing, frequent cough, and profuse expectoration of purulent matter, in distinct pellets,—the greater portion at the bottom of the vessel, but some suspended midway, like round pieces of cotton wool soaked in pus (matter of wounds),—sufficiently showed, independent of the stethoscope, how severely the lungs were implicated in disease. I had, however, just had a case with like expectoration, which was cured by Homœopathic remedies in a few weeks; and although I could not give such medicines here, under present circumstances, yet the opinion I gave was, that notwithstanding the great danger, the patient might possibly get over it, and I counselled her to look hopefully forward. At the end of ten days or so, I thought that we had gained some little ground; but the surgeon did not think so, and told the friends that there was no real change for the better, and no chance of recovery. From circumstances unnecessary to relate, I found one day, on my visit, that the surgeon had voluntarily left the patient entirely to my own care. Immediately, and for the first time, I proposed the Homœopathic treatment, with which I found the family quite unacquainted. It was acceded to readily; for the lady had for the last two days been suffering severe pain around both sides of the chest, at its lowest part, and for which a blister, and then

turpentine in flannel, had been urgently proposed by the surgeon, but declined by the patient, as the former blister had failed to give relief, and she felt that she could not support its renewed application. This severe pain, of two days' continuance, was wholly relieved by the second dose of the Homœopathic remedy, and by the Homœopathic treatment every trace of cough, of expectoration, and of all other symptoms, wholly disappeared in three weeks. The improvement commenced with the second dose of the medicine; and I pronounced the lady out of danger at the end of the first week. It is now just one month since I began the Homœopathic treatment; and for the last week of this time, no medicine whatever has been taken, for my patient is without complaint and daily regaining strength. I avail myself of my patient's kind permission thus pointedly to allude to her case; for, as was feelingly observed, "she felt that Homœopathy was the blessing through which her life had been spared, and in simple gratitude was wishful to aid, in ever so slight a degree, in making that blessing known to others."

Nor is it a rare thing to hear such expressions as this, respecting the Homœopathic treatment,—the language of the once sick room, the language of the heart,—grateful for the blessing of health restored by its means.

The foregoing is not a more remarkable instance of the immediate efficacy, in severe cases especially, of Homœopathic remedies, than one which occurred a few weeks ago in a neighbouring town. The family is from home, and I have not asked permission more especially to allude to it; but the recovery is well known to friends and relations in Hull. This lady also, like the patient last mentioned, had suffered from previous "lung affections." She had, when I saw her in consultation with the enlightened surgeon in attendance, as well as with another professional gentleman, been suffering for three weeks from a severe and rare form of bronchitis (plastic), together with daily bleeding from the lungs and incessant cough, which caused a sharp pain. Neither all the means used before I saw her, nor those I prescribed at two subsequent visits, had any but the most temporary and partial effect on the severe symptoms. The patient was, without any doubt, nearly lost; I saw that she must sink, and that soon, and expressed those fears to friends in Hull. Being again telegraphed for, I determined that she should have the Homœopathic remedy so clearly indicated in such a case. I took it with me,—not as the "odious globules," but in mixture, with water and a little spirit. I explained to the surgeon its effects, and that although it was a drug used by Homœopaths, yet I had proved its efficacy in the doses contained in the bottle I produced. He agreed to give it in place of the mixture which our patient had been taking, and, at his request, the pills, such as she had taken previously, were continued; but so immediate was the effect and the change produced by two doses of my medicine, that the cough, bleeding, and pain left at once, and the lady slept soundly for six hours! She had not slept, on account of the incessant cough, pain, &c., for I know not how long before.

The anxious husband came to me in real alarm the next day, "on account of all the dangerous symptoms having gone at once!" I reassured him, however; but the following morning he repeated the anxious visit, asking "for some meaning of it all;" "for why had this cough, &c., gone in a few hours, when weeks were before spent in vain efforts?" "And my

poor wife," continued he, "has slept again for five hours at a stretch, and now calls out for food!" In four days more, this gentleman had the gratification of supporting his beloved wife to the sofa in the adjoining drawing-room. To this day he does not know "what it was that did it," for I had not, at that time, officially made known my Homœopathic principles. I only replied to his amazed inquiry, that "he should know some day soon," and he will now read it in this letter. I am as certain as that I now write these words, that this lady's life was saved by a few doses of the Homœopathic remedy. It was continued three days; one day too long, as it had put a stop to the diseased action, and was beginning to produce its own medicinal effect. On its being discontinued, the patient was really without complaint.

But I shall forbear giving any further examples of cure. Decided and unquestionable as those now adduced must appear, yet they are not selected as being the most remarkable I have met with in the course of my practice, but I cite them to prove that Homœopathic remedies not only do possess the power of curing, but a power so great that they will effect cures where the old system fails to do so. For of this I am quite convinced, both from reflection, observation, and practical testimony,—and I say it in all sincerity and truthfulness—*that many diseases are readily curable by Homœopathic medicines which will not yield to the old plan of medication.* Time will enlighten the minds of all on this vital point; even the minds of medical men themselves. But time it may require; for the profession is at present so prejudiced, so tied and bound—yea, "so cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd,"—by the old doctrines of colleges and schools—doctrines which they have imbibed from their youth up—that even the powerful wand of truth itself, though armed with conviction at its point, cannot, as yet, penetrate the dark armour of this prejudice and self-interest in which they have encased themselves. I add self-interest, for in our seats of medical learning, poor human nature pleads hard, and hesitates to doff her official robes, and with the honours to relinquish also the emoluments of office.

I say that I shall not bring forward other cases of cure, as it would be wholly superfluous to do so. My opportunities, at least, have been manifold, even from the increased number of the sick poor alone, who have sought my advice, since I gave them the benefit of the Homœopathic treatment. They have manifested the greatest anxiety for remedies which had restored to health so many of their own immediate neighbours, and friends; and that in not a few instances, where recovery had ceased to be hoped for. Let it not be supposed, however, that I wish to describe the practice of the Homœopathist as one uninterrupted course of success;—to do so would be idle, and trifling with truth. He, too, necessarily meets with obstacles which no medical art can surmount; but when overcome in the conflict, he has at least the satisfaction of feeling that he has done all that medical art could effect, *and that he has not weakened or injured the powers of the constitution.* The energetic practitioner of the old system—the man who fully acts up to its teachings—has no rightful claim to such a satisfaction as this.

Thus, then, I conducted a lengthened, practical, and impartial inquiry into the Homœopathic system of curing disease. I did so on the principles as laid down by Hahnemann, and by other high authorities; and discarded,

as irrelevant to my purpose, the refinements and subtleties of theories, about which its opponents so love to dispute, leaving its practical proof and testimony uncared for.

For me now to doubt the power and the efficacy of Homœopathic medicines, would be to doubt the evidence of my own senses, and the exercise of common understanding. I rest my conviction on the solid basis of experimental testimony—on proof. I do not come forth as a partisan, but simply speak that which I do know, and testify that which I have seen.

My testimony is, that Homœopathy is indeed a great fact, a mighty truth. Being so it must, in a mere scientific point of view, be looked upon as the greatest discovery of the age, and important as it is great. As health is justly acknowledged to be the choicest blessing, in what glad and grateful language should not Homœopathy be spoken of! not only as in itself a positive good, but also as an escape from the old practice, which is environed with so much that is positive evil.

Such are the calm and fixed convictions which have been forced upon my own mind; yet this is the stone which the very builders and teachers in the profession would refuse—the pearl which they would cast away, “though it is richer than all their tribe.”

How strange, how anomalous, is the conduct of the profession! for if the virtues of but one new drug be set forth in a medical journal, forthwith the whole profession welcomes it with a trial, and adoption. But when the grand, the comprehensive, science of Homœopathy is, on the highest testimony, set before them,—replete with a cure not only for one but for all diseases,—they straightway cast it forth with mockery and abuse, *without trial, and without investigation!* Nay, just as astronomers of old refused even to look through the telescope which Galileo had invented, even so do professional men refuse to look into Homœopathy. How, said the sage astronomers of old, can Jupiter have four moons, when we ourselves see them not with our own eyes? and how can a tube of wood, with a bit of glass stuck into each end of it, make the moons appear, even if they did exist? So say the old school of physicians. How can Homœopathy have power or efficacy when we do not see it by the light of our system? and if such efficacy did exist, how can these small doses make that efficacy appear?

But not only do medical men determine not to look through the telescope (Homœopathy), but they would break it to pieces, destroy it altogether, and cast it forth as a vain thing. If they would only first look into it in a manly and fair way, and thus prove to the world that no moons are visible—that there is no power in Homœopathic remedies—they would, at least, command respect; but they seek to destroy it by instilling thereinto the dry-rot of calumny. Nay, they not only refuse to test and prove its powers and efficacy, but they deal forth their severe condemnation on those who, in an enlightened spirit of inquiry, venture to do so, and who have the fearless honesty and candour to avow the truth as they have found and proved it. The veneration for the old system of medicine, evinced by physicians of the present day, seems to be as great as that of the disciple of Galen in the olden time, who declared that—“he would rather be in the wrong with Galen, than be in the right with any other physician”—so do medical men now seem determined rather to err with the old systems of medicine than to be in the right with the new one—Homœopathv.

It is with sorrow that I now feel called upon to expose the conduct of some members of the profession. My object is only to advise the unsuspecting, and not to enkindle shame in the doers. It is this: a nervous person is told by a medical man that Homœopathic medicines are rank poisons, and destroy the constitution; but a person of an opposite disposition is assured that they are "all humbug." He then brings forward the fact of some one having swallowed a handful without any ill effect, and declares this to be "proof positive" of the total want of power in Homœopathic medicines! As I know examples where some persons have been so practised upon, I make a special point of giving the simple, the most simple explanation.

It is this: Homœopathic medicines are definite in their action, and when taken, they effect only the *disturbed or deranged vital action* of certain parts implicated in disease; so that, when a person in health "swallows a handful," he does not of course experience their effect, inasmuch as there is no *highly sensitive and diseased part* to act upon. Nay, further, on the very principle of Homœopathy—"Similia similibus curantur"—the aforesaid "handful" would not produce specific effect, even on a person suffering from disease, unless the medicine so taken were pathogenetic, or in other words, was the proper medicine for acting on that disease. When a declaimer wishes to produce a double effect, he tells how *several* different handfuls (we must charitably suppose that he means small tubefuls) were eaten by some one and no effect was seen. By effect, he means of course the effects which he is wont to observe, viz:—vomiting, purging, blistering, violent pain, fainting, &c. This, however, is but a more silly trick than the first; for Homœopathic medicines, if mixed and taken together, annul and counteract the specific effect of each other; and this even in cases where there is a disease to act upon. "Now see, how plain a tale has put you down."

Here we see the excellence, the simplicity, and the safety of the Homœopathic treatment; and how favourably it is contrasted with the strong drugs, and the often yet stronger means employed by the old system of practice. Truly, well would it be for the public, if bleeding and blisters, emetics, purgatives, and mercury, &c., could also do no harm on *their* being used when they are not required!

That certain drugs do act specially on certain parts or organs of the body is acknowledged by all, whether of the new or of the old school of medicine. Thus Simon, not a Homœopathist, observes, "We know that medicines do chose their organs of manifestation with as decided, or almost as exclusive a preference, as governs the phenomena of inorganic chemical affinity;" and he shows that choice experimentally, by introducing certain medicines ("noxious agents," he calls them!) into the stream of the blood. Though all parts are thus exposed to them, "how differently," observes he, "are they affected! Inject opium, and the brain suffers;—arsenic, and it is the stomach that becomes inflamed; strychnia, and the spinal marrow is acted upon; cantharides (blistering fly), and the kidneys are irritated."

I wish now to make a statement of great importance,—so important, that it should ensure the conversion to Homœopathy of no less a personage than one of Her Majesty's court physicians, and certainly a clever, though eccentric man, Sir John Forbes. In his latest work, published I think

this year, he admits and honestly declares his evidence, that Homœopathists do, indisputably, cure their patients. But he affirms, that it is by the effect on the imagination, and by the strict regulation of the diet, that all the good is done; and leaves us to infer that, if the diet and imagination were not really the only curative powers in Homœopathic practice, he should then think well of this new system, and as he repudiates "old physic," he would doubtless adopt Homœopathy.

I will now show, that neither the diet nor the imagination could have any influence whatever in the cures I performed in the first 600 cases. I stated previously, that I determined to test Homœopathy, though stringently and jealously, yet honestly and fairly; hence, in every instance, I gave the Homœopathic medicines myself, and either in the form of mixture or in powders,—sometimes in pills; but I never gave globules in the simple form of globules, nor did the patients know that they were treated Homœopathically. Besides, a great portion of my patients were very young children, and some even infants at the breast; so that imagination could not, in such cases at least, be the curative agent; this would be doing Homœopathy too much honor, though certainly its cures are often marvellous enough.

As to diet, the subject was never referred to in my treatment, for, in the first place, my patients were chiefly the poor, too many of whom had no choice of viands, and it would often have been mere mockery to talk of their taking a little of this, and not a little of that. Further, it was the special object of my inquiry to discover if Homœopathic medicines—not if diet—had the curative efficacy claimed. In some cases of severe irritation of the lining of the bowels, and also in acute inflammation of the vital organs, I did, necessarily, give the usual and common directions as to the avoidance of wine, spirits, animal food, and heavy pastry, as every physician must do; but in these exceptional cases only was the diet alluded to at all. Sir John Forbes and the old school of physic will now see that these their objections are, but like the fabric of a vision, baseless; and baseless also are all other objections which they must now conjure up and substitute; for I have shown to you that Homœopathy rests on the broad basis of truth,—not of the conjectural or imaginative truth of theories and probability, like the old system, but on truth as arrived at, seen, demonstrated by experimental observations, by proof, and by facts.

I will take this opportunity of stating that, in my own practice, I have never yet found it necessary to give any stricter regulations as to diet than formerly; and further, it is my conviction, founded on my own observations, that such is the power and efficacy of Homœopathic remedies, that their action is not interfered with, as many Homœopathic practitioners—chiefly on theoretical grounds—have imagined;—it is my opinion, I repeat, that Homœopathy requires no stricter regulations, as to diet and regimen, than does the old system or systems of medicine.

In concluding my own brief testimony to the truth of Homœopathy—testimony solely based on experience—I may observe, that I have purposely adopted the briefest manner of stating the results of my investigation. Had it been meet to have entered into minute detail, not only in the few cases which I have mentioned, but also in the many hundreds that I have not particularized, the power and efficacy of Homœopathic remedies would, I am

morally certain, have stamped conviction in the minds of all of you; for, having no interest to subserve by incredulity or prejudice, I have the satisfaction of believing that, in the language of Herschel, "you would hold your former opinions and judgments without bigotry; would retain, but till you saw reason to question them, and would readily resign them when fairly proved to be untenable. He that refuses this", adds Herschel, "is incapable of science."

On one point I claim your entire reliance and confidence; it is this, viz: that I have not, knowingly, advanced one single statement that is not in strict accordance with fact. This is a matter so serious, that lightly or intentionally to mislead would be a crime against humanity itself; while, on the other hand, to withhold knowledge and testimony which may hasten that period when sickness and disease shall be administered to by the gentler, safer, and more potent hand of Homœopathy, would be scarcely less criminal.

I shall now proceed to lay before you the testimony of others, and the witness of statistics. I do so to give the more solidity to my own evidence, and doubly to assure your minds. I regret much that the limits of a letter compel me, in this case also, to be brief as possible.

The evidence of individuals cited shall be that of the old school, and I first notice the admission of a confessed opponent—the author of the "Fallacies of Homœopathy"—(whose work my friend Dr. Sharp has shown to be one huge fallacy itself). This author could not deny the evidence of his own senses to the extraordinary power of the Homœopathic system in acute inflammation of vital organs. I myself stated, in a former part of this letter, that it was in the most severe cases of inflammation that the efficacy of Homœopathic remedies was so undeniable and self-evident; so plain, indeed, that this boldest opponent confesses that it is indeed so; and he wisely adopts in his own practice the Homœopathic cure for inflammation of the lungs, and urgently recommends it to the rest of the old school, telling them, happy truth, that he has not used the lancet since! "*Ex uno, disce omnes*"—that is, from one sample judge the rest.

But I must bring you yet higher authority,—the evidence of that great surgeon and honourable man, Mr. Liston. Fortunately, he possessed a friend in a Homœopathic physician, Dr. Quin, of London, who induced him to try five or six remedies in inflammations, erysipelas, wounds, injuries, and other surgical cases. Though Mr. Liston was not a Homœopathist, he would doubtless soon have embraced this science to its fullest extent, had his life been spared; for he tried it in severe and urgent cases, and necessarily, so far as he did try it, found it true. His experience was limited to the employment of those remedies which are required in inflammatory and surgical cases. In his Clinical Lecture to the students at the North London Hospital he candidly observes,—"I believe in the Homœopathic doctrines to a certain extent, but I cannot, as yet, from inexperience on the subject, go the lengths its advocates could wish." (See *Lancet*, p. 106, April, 1836.)

Thus, with that liberality which always distinguishes a truly great mind, Mr. Liston hesitated not to make known publicly in lectures to the students, and otherwise, the extraordinary efficacy of the Homœopathic treatment in

the diseases just enumerated. He only tried a few—I think six—medicines, and very properly confined his testimony to those which he had himself used; and with a candour that did him honour, confessed in a letter, now published, to his friend Dr. Quin, that had he known of these remedies before, he should have saved many patients much protracted suffering, and in some cases, he thought, probably their lives; concluding with the expression of his opinion—and with how much feeling we may well imagine—that the life of his own father would have been saved, had these remedies been used instead of the lancet.

But I shall let this pass, and spare the feelings of others of the profession around, by not contrasting the conduct of this great surgeon with that which they are pursuing. Leaving the evidence of individuals (and those not Homœopathists) as to the efficacy of Homœopathic remedies, I hasten to bring forward public proof—the proof of statistics,—together with the testimony of a high medical official, and also one opposed to Homœopathy. Both of these testify to this efficacy, even in that most terrible disease which has ever afflicted man, I mean Asiatic Cholera. I cannot but regret that I am compelled at the same time to convict the very heads of the profession, in their blind prejudice against Homœopathy, of a conspiracy against truth, and against humanity itself.

I refer to the last visitation of cholera in London, when the Government, anxious for the future welfare of the community, determined to adopt the surest means of deciding what was really the most efficient treatment of this disease. Hence the establishment of a Medical Committee of the Board of Health, with the President of the Royal College of Physicians at its head; and also the appointment of a most experienced Medical Inspector of the Cholera Hospitals. By means of printed forms, which were furnished to each Hospital, all the circumstances of each case, its nature and virulence, the treatment adopted, and the effects and results of such treatment, were daily registered, and all under the constant supervision of the official inspector. The accurate statistics thus obtained were, lastly, considered and digested by this Medical Board, and, finally, reported on to Government. I feel humbled in recording to you that this paid Board—these heads of the profession, to whom Government had confided so important, so sacred a trust—deliberately, designedly, suppressed the statistical report of the Homœopathic Cholera Hospital! *This report testified that, by the Homœopathic treatment of Asiatic Cholera, above two-thirds were cured, while, according to the aggregate statistics of the other Cholera Hospitals, above two-thirds died.* In what other language can I truly designate this conduct of the Medical Board, but as a conspiracy against the truth and against humanity?

Truth, however, whether the truth of Homœopathy or of any other kind, although often attempted to be thrust deeply into the well, will eventually rise to the surface. Parliament demanded the whole truth; and then appeared to all the vast superiority of the Homœopathic over every other kind of treatment in Asiatic Cholera. This Medical Board found refuge for their conduct in the manifesto which I now quote:—"To publish," plead they, "the returns from Homœopathic practitioners, would be to give an unjustifiable sanction to an empirical practice, alike opposed to the maintenance of truth and the progress of science."

Let me briefly examine this plea set up by the Board of Health, and justify my strong condemnation. I take their own words. Homœopathy is not "empirical;" it does not use *secret* remedies; and all the medicines are given upon certain *fixed and established principles*, viz., on the law of *simile*.

That the record of treatment furnished by the Homœopathic Cholera Hospital was not, in any sense, "opposed to the truth," their own Medical Inspector, Dr. Macloughlin, testified. I quote his words:—"All I saw," says he, "*were true cases of Asiatic Cholera, in the various stages of the disease; and I saw several cases that did well under the Homœopathic treatment, which, I have no hesitation in saying, would have sunk under any other!*"

What is meant by the third allegation, that Homœopathy is "opposed to the progress of science," I confess that I know not. That it is founded on a true, simple, intelligible, and scientific basis—the law of *simile*—I do know. And how triumphantly it is contrasted, in this respect, with the old system of medicine, where each country, nay, where each college in the same country, has oftentimes its own particular system, such as Broussais', in France; Armstrong's and Clutterbuck's, in London; and Cullen's Brown's, &c., &c., in Edinburgh; while now, each and all of these are exploded and modified into something else! In Homœopathy, there is no division into sects; all its followers adopt the same principle of practice, founded on the same scientific basis,—"*Similia similibus curantur*." We may safely adopt that system as the best which cures the best; and if the Homœopathic is so immeasurably superior to the old system in Asiatic Cholera, a disease so rapid and so terrible in its progress (and this superiority has been proved in all other Hospitals as well as in London), we have evidence of efficacy and power which might well be expected to be also manifested in other diseases; and such truly is the case.

It is gratifying to my own mind to record any instance of candid and honorable conduct on the part of our opponents. Hence, I cannot forbear quoting the public testimony of that high-minded man, Dr. Macloughlin, the Government Inspector of Cholera Hospitals. He confesses that he is not a Homœopathist, "either by education, by practice, or by principle;" but yet he makes this remarkable statement, that, "were it the will of Providence to afflict me with Cholera, and to deprive me of the power of prescribing for myself, I would rather be in the hands of a Homœopathic than an Allopathic adviser."

Public statistics equally prove the superiority of the Homœopathic treatment in all other diseases, and furnish "testimony," says Dr. Cockburn, "which our opponents have in vain attempted to distort, twist and explain; the facts remain unaltered and speak for themselves." As it is always best to take the testimony of an opponent, I quote from Dr. Sharp's essays the statistics of a few diseases carefully *collated* by him from Dr. Routh's "*Fallacies of Homœopathy*."

As these statistics, thus collated, were the Doctor's own, and made such an impression on his mind as to induce him, in some of the diseases, to use the means of cure in his own practice (as already noticed), and never to resort to the lancet since, we may safely assume their accuracy.

The following are the severe diseases mentioned, with their treatment, and the comparative results of the two systems—the new and the old :—

HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.		THE OLD SYSTEM.	
	Deaths per cent.		Deaths per cent.
Inflammation of the Lungs.....	5.7	.....	24.
Do. of the Side (Pleuritis) 3.		.....	13.
Do. of the Bowels.....	4.	.....	13.
Dysentery	3.	.....	22.
All Diseases	4.	.....	10.5

I am sorry that I cannot, in the compass of a letter like this, present you with the various statistical tables, including all the chief diseases of the body, and which have been drawn up with the utmost precision, under the supervision of physicians both of the new and of the old school; in some cases, as in Russia and Bavaria, by command of Government. *Without any exception, the results are very greatly in favour of the Homœopathic treatment.*

I shall not, however, occupy more space in heaping proof upon proof, being satisfied that what I have now adduced, must be quite sufficient to convince every candid mind. The examples of cure which have occurred in my own practice, were selected from the number of those which had not been found curable on the old system of medicine. This selection was made with the two-fold purpose of proving that diseases are not only readily cured by Homœopathic medicines, but cured where the old plan of treatment has been found inefficient.

I find that I have not cited any cases of cure of severe disorders of the stomach and bowels, as indigestion, sickness, diarrhœa, &c.; I must, therefore, in justice, simply remark that, in the severest forms of indigestion, with all its long train of troublesome symptoms, Homœopathic medicines possess an efficacy which is truly remarkable. Nor must I forget to record their power in diseases of the lungs, and in consumption itself. In the last three months, I have had the deep gratification of perfectly restoring eight cases, which had been declared to be hopeless and incurable consumption, by their medical attendants; and four other “hopeless” cases of consumption are, at this present time, steadily progressing to recovery. One of these four cases is a dear and near relative of my own, who has been afflicted above two years, and exhibited the severest symptoms of the disease; as profuse spitting of blood, severe hectic fever, purulent expectoration, great emaciation, and the usual gastric symptoms. Medicine, except a palliative at bedtime, had been given up. Having proved the remarkable efficacy of Homœopathic remedies in several cases of consumption, I at once proceeded to the distant county of the lady’s residence, and adopted the Homœopathic system. In the three weeks that have elapsed since my visit, the most cheering and gratifying results have already occurred, and hopeful anticipations are restored to her family. But, as before observed, I should fill a volume, were I to attempt to recount the evidences and proofs of the power of Homœopathic remedies, and must at once desist.

Those of you who have already experienced the benefit of the Homœopathic treatment, or who have taken an interest in the subject, will lend willing credence to the truths which I have endeavoured to show and to

substantiate; while those who have been halting between two opinions—between the old and the new, the worse and the better system—must, I feel assured, have had their minds awakened by the only testimony that can be of any value, namely, practical trial. *Homœopathy is a fact resting upon evidence, and not upon mere reasoning.* It is a strong fact—one which you cannot fail to appreciate—that *Homœopathists rest their whole on experimental testimony. They challenge thorough investigation and the test of proof*; but the profession only responds with cunning arguments, or subtile reasoning, and will not look through the telescope.

Homœopathy has passed through the first stage of opposition from the profession, that of raillery and jest. It is now far advanced in the second stage, viz., that of abuse, and ere long, it will enter the third or last stage, that of general adoption. It is sad to read the almost weekly torrent of abuse poured forth by some medical journals, which serves only to shew the extent of the alarm now pervading the ranks of the profession, that “their craft is in danger.” But vain is the attempt to thrust forth the new light of Homœopathy, and vain is the cry that “Diana is great.”

It is a humiliating thought, that the medical profession has ever treated its grandest discoveries in the same manner. But, much as Homœopathists have had to endure, and are yet enduring, from the obloquy of their brethren, they have been persecuted less than either Hervey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, or Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination. These two physicians were called madmen; Homœopathists are only stigmatized as “fools and impostors, and the vilest of quacks.” (See *Lancet*.) We are but villified, thrust out of communion, and abused, for curing diseases; while Jenner was anathematised, and accused of blasphemy, for preventing or mitigating small pox, “visited upon man by Heaven,” as well as for “engrafting every kind of beastly disease, common to cattle, amongst human kind.” Nay, more, King and Parliament were called upon from the chairs of professors to crush the evil doers; whilst in our day, Parliament is petitioned to disseminate the blessing of Homœopathy amongst military hospitals at the seats of war; such petition, addressed to Lord Panmure, being signed by Bishops, Dukes, Lords, and other members of the aristocracy, to the number of about 700!

It would be instructive, and certainly amusing, had I space, to enumerate the “positive evidence” adduced by physicians of those days—men who occupied the chief places—of newly-vaccinated children beginning to “cough like cows,”—of protuberances making their appearance on their foreheads, “resembling the horns of an ox,”—of strange swellings breaking out in their faces, “so that the child’s mouth resembleth the muzzle of a cow,”—of “long hair beginning to grow on various unaccustomed parts of the body,”—nay, of long tumors “like unto the rudiments of a cow’s tail,” springing up on the back! These, and many other “facts,” were gravely put forth by London Physicians, “having testimony yet more and more” of such monstrous transformations and appendages! Whereas, the only monstrous thing ascribed to Homœopathy is, that its medicines cure diseases which they ought not to have cured; and still worse, cure them, in not a few instances, where the old system of medicine had wholly failed to do so, and this, despite all the hypothetical arguments of the old school of physic to prove that they have no power whatever!

The public, however, became at length convinced of the blessing of vaccination, as it is now fast becoming convinced of the equal blessing of Homœopathy; and then, why the profession, of course, became convinced also,—*they looked through the telescope!*

In closing these brief and imperfect remarks, I may observe, that I have withheld much that I wished to say; and had the present been the appropriate opportunity, I should have exposed the extraordinary misconception and misrepresentation concerning Homœopathy, so prevalent in this town and neighborhood, as well as elsewhere. I have also refrained from commenting on the clashing systems, and equally varying treatment, adopted by professors of the old school of physic. But the time is certainly at hand when our youths shall no longer be taught that “bleeding is the right arm, and mercury the left arm,” in the treatment of any disease; but when the safe, the speedy, the truly effective, and the unrepugnant system of Homœopathy shall alone be tolerated.

So certain are Homœopathists that this time is approaching, that the projects to build Hospitals are, by many, discountenanced; inasmuch as the existing ones must, ere long, cease to be conducted as they are, and the Homœopathic treatment alone permitted in them. This point remains, of course, to be settled by the Governors of those Hospitals; and when we consider how rapid and general is the spread of Homœopathy, it would be idle to doubt that this consummation is far off; for it is not alone amongst the learned, the enlightened, the rich and the great, that it has taken so deep and so wide-spread a root; but I now myself bear them record, that the poor cherish it and seek after it, at least in an equal degree. Though I have always had the gratification of giving my advice to the sick poor, at my own house, yet that advice is now sought in a ten-fold greater degree since I have treated them on the Homœopathic system; so that I feel called upon, when at home, to see them at night as well as in the morning: for I found that several had come even five or six times at the morning hours, unsuccessfully, to consult me; other professional engagements preventing me from devoting more than a certain time to seeing them. I feel, then, that I am not out of place in pressing upon you the facts just narrated; for I think that I have showed, that it is the urgent desire of the sick poor, to have bestowed upon them the blessing of Homœopathic treatment.

I wish to touch but gently, and with a sparing hand, on the evils which necessarily environ the old system of treating disease; and I would refrain from comment on the direct weakening and sapping of the vital energies of the body, by the powerful, though insidious operation of some drugs, such as calomel; and the immediate, and more manifest effect of others, aided, as often happens, by the lancet, leeches, cupping, &c. They are accustomed to be looked upon as necessary means to the end, and both patient and practitioner are wont to view their inroads on the constitution, as merely evidences of the violence and obstinacy of the disease! I pass even all this over, to fix attention on a more dangerous, because a more unsuspected cause of ruined health,—I mean *the retention of drugs within the system*. We have some idea of the effects of the long continued use of bad water, especially if flowing through leaden pipes, or from a leaden cistern, of impure air, and such like, and avoid them when we can do so; how much more hurtful to the delicate organization of our bodies, must be the

obstructive and contaminating presence of drugs! All medical men know and confess, that the continued use of digitalis (fox glove) is to be guarded against, because, when it accumulates in the system, as it is termed, dangerous syncope or death is not the unfrequent consequence. But the evil effects of other drugs, not directly poisonous, and of a vegetable as well as of a mineral nature, such as aloes, colocynth, gamboge, &c., are seen, when administered, in costive habits for a lengthened or indefinite period; the accumulation in the system being uncared for, and, indeed, unthought of. Even calomel, or blue pill, in children especially, is little stinted, provided it does not "touch the mouth;" that is, produce salivation.

This is a vitally important subject,—one that demands the calm and serious reflection of all. There is no room to doubt, but that the deposition and retention of drugs within the system, is not an uncommon cause of disorders; from a simple feeling of derangement of health, to serious illness; and what is worst of all, a hidden cause, and one unsuspected alike by the patient and the doctor. As this mischievous property of drugs has not, so far as I am aware, formed the subject of special medical inquiry, or at least of medical revelation, the evidence which I shall now adduce, may impress some with surprise, and others with the wish to disbelieve, but the facts are incontrovertible.

Dr. Macleod, of Benrhydding, after detailing some remarkable cases of shattered health from this very cause, and the subsequent recovery of the patients after the *perceptible* extraction of mercury, aloes, colocynth, &c., from the body, thus writes,—“The cases described illustrate the fact, that medicinal remedies taken for some time, remain in greater or less quantity, and for various periods, in the system; and that their presence either occasions diseased actions, or prevents their removal when present.” He then adds,—“*The baneful effect of medicines, in this point of view, have not been sufficiently considered by the profession.*” After giving other examples where medicines had been tangibly extracted by the processes of the water cure, he thus continues:—“These second cases are important, as they indisputably prove that *vegetable* medicinal substances may be retained within the system, and while there produce, *even long after the patient has ceased to take them*, serious and baneful effects upon the functions and organs on which they specially act, and ultimately upon the whole organism itself.” “It is not,” continues he “merely that these medicines so derange the tissues of the organs as to prevent them from acting in a healthy manner, after their use has been given up, but it is likewise, I believe, in consequence of the substances remaining in the organs that their functions are so modified.”

He then gives indisputable proof of the extraction of mercury, (which had been taken some years before), as evinced by its producing, during its elimination, profuse salivation, the intense mercurial fœtor of the breath, and the usual inflamed and ulcerated state of the gums and mouth. Such drugs as aloes, were extracted tangibly, and washed out of the compresses that had encircled the body; it also made the patient's room offensive with the distinct vapor of aloes!

Would that the medical profession would lay these things to heart, for they may rest assured that the public are now awake to the subject, and are doing so!

In what a different light does Homœopathy present itself to us! Here the small dose of the pathogenetic specific, or appropriate remedy, is directed to act on the susceptible vitality, or nervous power; or I may say, the life of that part, and that part only, which is in a state of disorder or disease. By such specific influence, the disordered action is overcome and corrected, the healthy functions of the part restored, and the body is placed in its wonted state of health. *No contaminating drugs are left in the system, and, no weakening or destroying of the powers of life has been incurred in the process of cure.*

Such considerations lead me to allude to one other matter, which greatly concerns the recipients of your benevolence; and should also interest yourselves, as Governors of the Hull General Infirmary, and, indeed, the whole community; it is, the comparatively quick restoration to health and strength, when a patient is cured by the new system of medicine, as compared with the old. When an individual has had the advantage of the Homœopathic treatment, so soon as the disease is overcome, he feels himself well, and shortly returns to his usual occupation. But, when he gets through his complaint on the old system of medication, a long, long period of convalescence has, too often, to be endured; for the man has to make up for the blood of which he has, in all probability, been drained; or *previously sound parts* have to be restored to their former healthy condition, having been blistered or burnt, scoured and irritated, in order to shift or remove the disease from some distant part of the body, which was *really* and *only* affected: or the natural functions of various parts are left in a state of irritation, or of disorder, from drug disease, &c., and thus the patient is long detained from returning to his labor, on which depends the support of himself and family; his bed and board must still be found him,—he must still be kept in the Medical Charity, and occupy room to the exclusion, it may be, of some other suffering applicant. Would that this were not so true a portraiture in hospital practice! It is, indeed, a matter of no unfrequent, nay often of almost necessary occurrence, under the old heroic system of medication; but it is one which would not happen in the Homœopathic treatment of disease. Let it not be inferred that in these remarks I am making special allusion to the Hull Infirmary; such is not the fact. Others, like myself, may escape the evils, or most of them, by laying aside the usual routine of practice; by not, in fact, doing that which the old system itself inculcates. I shall explain myself more fully shortly.

Happily for mankind, the old school of physic is being inoculated with the new system of treating disease; and some of the Homœopathic remedies are (though without due acknowledgement) adopted by it. But whether, like Mr. Liston, practitioners of the old school will magnanimously proclaim the extraordinary efficacy of Homœopathic remedies, or they will go on to use them quietly, Homœopaths view with delight this homage to their system, and to truth. Nay, so great is the influence of Homœopathy, that the old-school practitioner now gives frequent pause even to his lancet, seeing with what facility acute inflammation is subdued by Homœopathic medicine alone. But yet more, it is a matter of congratulation to the community, and one that speaks trumpet-tongued to the profession, that, in the chief medical society in Edinburgh, the great question for deliberation this session is,—*whether blood-letting be really beneficial in inflammation*

of the lungs! Had any practitioner of the old school but hinted such a thing a few years ago, he would have been laughed at. The Homœopathist views these things as signs of the times, *too significant to be misunderstood*. It is *not* strange that all this should have been foreseen just eighteen years ago, by an acute author, opposed to Homœopathy. Dr. Millingen, Surgeon to the Forces, and Physician to the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, in his "Curiosities of Medical Experience," says,—“The Homœopathic system is destined to operate a gradual but material revolution in the *practice* of medicine.” And he yet more forcibly states that—“He can prove, by the evidence of facts, supported by practical reasoning, that the art of healing is more indebted to the Homœopathic doctrines, than to any system that has hitherto been delivered in our schools!” This is candidly acknowledged by one while writing against the *doctrines* of Hahnemann! The few Homœopathic remedies which Mr. Liston tried—the extraordinary efficacy of which he proclaimed to his class—and acknowledged also in a letter, now published, to Dr. Quin, will soon prove the little leaven that leavens the whole lump. Others will take a few more of the remedies, bit by bit, until the whole Homœopathic system be adopted.

I beg, however, not to be understood as condemning, *in toto*, the old system of medicine,—this would be an injustice. On the contrary, there are a few, and but a few—men of experience, of calm thought and solid judgment—under whose guidance, the old system of medicine becomes efficient in the cure of disease. It will ever be found, that such men select drugs whose medicinal effects are of certain, or well-ascertained powers; there is a definite simplicity in their prescriptions,—a self-evident purpose,—and above all, they avoid that most universal evil of jumbling up divers drugs into the same mixture.* It is these who are always the most successful in their treatment of disease; yet, it rarely happens, that they are the most looked up to by their professional brethren, or most thought of by the public. There are, however, the more rational few who have been under their care, whose confidence and attachment are unbounded.

It is too often the bold, the energetic practitioner—the man who assaults disease, as it were, by storm—the man of many appliances and expedients—he who bleeds or cups to-day, and blisters on the morrow—the man of pills and mixtures—that is looked up to by the admiring surgeons, and too oft, it may be, by the confiding sick, whose confidence he does indeed “mightily abuse.” Such a man often “takes the lead,” or is the “successful” man in his town—as to the number of fees. But, it is of him that Sir John Forbes, one of our present Court physicians, writes, when he says—“Nature often cures the disease in *spite* of the doctor.” Yet he turns this very conflict with nature to account, and cunningly calls it a triumph over the *obstinacy* of the disease; and should the sick man recover, he is henceforth taught to consider his doctor invincible! Be the old system of medicine, however, ever so judiciously practiced, it lacks, greatly lacks, the simplicity, the safety, the power, and the efficacy of the Homœopathic. Such, I repeat, is my firm, my honest conviction;—a conviction established on proof and practical testimony. As to the old system, I have myself endeavoured to practice it for twenty-seven years on the first model, and witnessed with regret the practice of some others, on the second.

* It is well known that a late physician of Hull was in the habit of prescribing from twelve to fifteen different medicines in one mixture; and of directing a pill, also formed of from five to eight drugs, to be taken with each dose of this mixture.

I was duly forewarned, that in proclaiming my adoption of the Homœopathic system, I should be offered up a sacrifice to the offended old school; and the professional standing in that school, which, in the course of my long practice as a physician, has been accorded to me, will be my first sacrifice. The first Medical Society in the kingdom, the British Medical and Surgical Association, which comprises among its members the foremost in the profession, did me the honour, about five years ago, to elect me their president; and at the expiration of my year of office, constituted me perpetual vice-president. This Association will now, to my regret, require of me the sacrifice of resignation, or I must suffer expulsion.* Strange, passing strange, that just five years ago, when the Association held its annual meeting at Brighton, I opened its proceedings as its president; there were also present at that annual meeting, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, when, after deliberation and discussion, Homœopathy and Homœopathic physicians were alike denounced!

Since the first edition of this letter was published, I have been compelled to resign the honourable position of Senior Physician to your Infirmary—and also to the Hull Dispensary,—an office which I have held for twenty-seven years. As I stated to the General Meeting of subscribers, I resigned rather than I would treat my patients on any other than the Homœopathic system.†

Although a large body of the most influential Governors were desirous that two wards should be appropriated for the Homœopathic treatment of patients, yet as they did not form a *numerical* majority, I determined, for the pecuniary good of the Infirmary, to tender my resignation:—for I knew that, had my request been denied by a vote of the meeting, a very large number would at once have withdrawn their annual subscriptions.

Such, then, are the reasons for leaving the unsatisfactory and uncertain paths of the old school of physic; and such the kind of evidence that has *compelled* me to see and acknowledge the truth and inestimable value of the new, the more satisfactory, and the more certain system of Homœopathy. And yet, truly, some find it no light matter to pay sacrifice to truth; and how oft does every paltry passion in our nature take alarm at being offered up to her. Pride—professional pride—refuses to bend her head to the confession, that she has for a life-long while—with all her assumption of superior knowledge—been really the dupe of school and college-taught systems. Self-interest takes the alarm, and clings to her present securities of professional profit. Fear puts her trembling fingers to her lips, and shrinks from encountering the jeer and the scorn of those who cannot, or dare not, think for themselves, and would fright others from doing so. Prejudice, with darkened brow, frowns on the light of truth, and will not come to the light. While Falsehood says, “’tis a lie, and all its followers are impostors.”

* At its last annual meeting, at Nottingham, two months ago, I was expelled!

† It was purely the opposition organized by the Medical Staff of the Infirmary, that prevented the arrangements from being carried into effect; and they issued a “Protest” against me. What a sad spectacle—what self-condemnation was here; and, it may be added, what a triumph for the cause of truth! For if they knew that their own words were true—if they had just grounds for their assertions—or any evidence that Homœopathy was the delusion and imposition they professed it to be, why did they not seize upon such an opportunity of detecting and exposing it? Yea, I offered to submit the cases of my patients, and their treatment, to the surveillance of a duly appointed committee of medical men; surely a sufficient proof of my reliance on the great truths of Homœopathy, and on the efficacy and power of its remedies; but they shrunk from this fair and open test, and clamoured for my dismissal! *This fact speaks trumpet-tongued, and will not soon be forgotten in Hull.*

May not Dickens, in his present work, "Little Dorrit," be considered as hitting off the old colleges of physic in his celebrated "Circumlocution Office," where the great object was to quench the progress of the age, and to show how *not* to do it? Do not the Mr. Tite Barnacles of the Circumlocution Office aptly represent the doctors and Medical journals, that look down in amazed contempt on any poor "Clennam" like myself who makes inquiry into the truth of a thing, and "wants to know"?—"I say,—look here—you must not say you want to know, you know," says Mr. Tite Barnacle;—you must not "want to know" the truth of Homœopathy, say the doctors,—and if we still seek to know, straightway they cast us forth from amongst them as troublesome intruders.

But, assuredly, in the venerable colleges of physic, Homœopathy is appearing like the handwriting on the wall; while the terrible pen of Truth inscribes thereon—"Ichabod! Ichabod!"

Thus, having counted the cost of daring to think for myself,—of daring to investigate, practically, the Homœopathic doctrines, doctrines which so deeply affect the medical profession,—I honestly and fearlessly avow my convictions of their truth and inestimable value; and this I do after much diligent and careful enquiry—after having subjected them to every mode of proof that my mind suggested and of which they were capable. Although by no means ambitious of becoming a martyr, I am yet prepared, for Truth's sake, to pay the penalty,—be that penalty the loss of friends or the loss of profit, with both of which I have been threatened. One loss, at least, I shall not suffer,—the loss of that self-respect which upholds every right-doer. Come what may, there will remain the consciousness of integrity.

I am, my Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

FEWSTER ROBERT HORNER, M. D.

In thus attesting that the Homœopathic is the most efficacious and the best system of medicine, I by no means ignore or cast aside other aids. Four years ago, I made stringent enquiry into the Hydropathic system of treating disease; to this end I went to reside a few weeks at the Benrhydding Institution, and happening to be suffering at that time from considerable debility, &c., the result of a recent illness. I tested in my own person the effects of various processes of the "water cure." But more, my profession gave me ready access to the patients at the establishments, all of whom willingly communicated to me a history of their complaints and the effects of the treatment. I convinced myself, from personal observation and enquiry, that, in many cases, the system is a most valuable one and a powerful aid in the re-establishment of the health.

In simple, or in inflammatory fevers,—and in all those cases of broken-down and shattered health, often the combined effect of disease, and of the action, or retention of drugs within the system,—the power of the water cure is pre-eminently seen. But, without specifying other diseases, or entering further into its merits, or noticing various other means, such as galvanism, &c., &c., of relieving human suffering, I unreservedly state that it is the duty of every physician to seek out, and to avail himself of, all means,—come they from what source they may,—which will benefit his patients. Such an one will prove himself most worthy, and will secure the confidence of the public. The trammels of "legitimate medicine,"—or "orthodox practice," as it is called, with which the mass and the unreflecting of the profession are willing to be enchained, can no longer, in these enlightened days of scientific progress and discovery, enslave the thinking and the enquiring mind.

APPENDIX.

I HAVE not thought it necessary to make additions to this pamphlet, but again present it to the public in the state in which it first appeared ; for no evidence or practical proof can, in my own mind at least, establish more clearly and indisputably the truth of the Homœopathic science than that which I have already adduced.

I may take this opportunity of stating, that, when I wrote this "Letter," my object was but to lay before the Governors of the Hull Infirmary the clear, simple, and undeniable evidence which enforced upon me the conviction that Homœopathy was, indeed, the true system of medicine ; and thus to justify myself before them, both for so great a change in my views, and for the steps I felt bound, therefore, to take in respect of their medical charity. I little thought at the time, that in thus making known to them the result of my long and watchful inquiry,—an inquiry chequered in its progress by so many varied and anxious feelings, as step by step new and strange light broke in upon my mind,—discovering the darkness of former knowledge,*—I say that I had no thought that my little pamphlet was destined so to serve the cause of truth as it has done ;—nay, I add in all sincerity of feeling, the cause of humanity itself. It is truly a matter of deep gratification, that so many have already been led seriously to enquire into, and, therefore, to adopt Homœopathy, from reading the practical evidence of its truth in these pages ;—so powerful is the light of truth to penetrate and to dispel the darkness of prejudice and ignorance.

In respect to the science of Homœopathy, I feel convinced that it is, as yet, but in its youth. Its powers await yet higher and more matured development,—its full efficacy in disease,—great as that efficacy is now proved and experienced to be—has yet to be perfected and brought to light. Such a consummation cannot be far off ; whether it be achieved by the combined efforts of the earnest and intelligent of the present time, or it be the work of some enlarged and gifted mind, like that of its great founder.

So adapted are medicines, given on the Homœopathic principle, to reach and to penetrate every part of the human frame—so direct and specific in their action, that it is my belief, seeing that every part of the body can thus be influenced and acted upon—that all the diseased actions in those parts are capable of being controlled, corrected, and brought back into a state of health. The disciple of the old school of physic teaches that many diseases are incurable ; well may his experience tell him that they are so—since the very principle on which he treats them is founded in error, and the real effects of his medicines are unknown to him, because of their multifarious admixture. But, for the reasons just assigned, we should do injustice to the science of Homœopathy, did we place any limit to the power and efficacy of remedies, rightly administered on its principles.

In expressing my opinion as to the curability of all diseases, I include not, of course, those examples where diseased action, unchecked in its career, has termin-

* I freely communicated, by letter, to my friend Dr. Ransford, of York, the various phases of my mind while determinedly working out my researches into the truth of Homœopathy.

My friend now much regrets that he did not preserve for publication, that Diary ; though it was not written with any such view. The resistance of unbelief,—the struggling with convictions,—the cautious advancement,—as the truth *would* force itself to be felt, and all of which were, in the full confidence of private friendship, unreservedly communicated, would at least have shown that it is not on light or insufficient grounds that converts to Homœopathy are wont to relinquish doctrines long implanted in the mind, and the consequent treatment of disease founded thereon.

ated in the destruction or disorganization of parts. But in all cases of disease short of this, duty to our patients, to ourselves, and to the principles we hold, should urge us to hopeful perseverance in the use of our remedies.

Impressed with these views of curability of disease, by such perseverance in the use of the adapted remedies, I have, in not a few recent instances, met with success in curing severe diseases, often found to be incurable ; and which had failed to be relieved by Allopathic treatment. Some of these I take the opportunity of recording, both as encouragement to the less confident, and as further practical testimony of the efficacy and truth of that system I was happily led to examine, and hence to adopt. At present I do little more than enumerate them ; reserving the detail of the particulars of the most interesting for publication elsewhere.

The cases were, three of Epileptic fits ; one of which was of several years standing, occurring in a married gentleman of middle age : the power of the Homœopathic treatment was evinced from the very commencement—removing the pain in the head, want of sleep, &c., and finally, the convulsive attacks ; the other two occurred in young females of 16 and 20 years of age. Five cases of Palsy ; one in a young lady 20 years of age, the other in males aged from 30 to 55 years ; on one of these patients the efficacy of the remedy was clearly manifested ; thus, from certain causes, the medicine was intermitted for four or five weeks ; when, not only was the hitherto progressive amendment stayed, but the patient greatly “fell back,” as he expressed it ; he is now quite restored. Three examples of “spinal affection” in young females (with slight distortion of the spine.) Several cases of Cephalalgia, or severe long standing pain in the head ; some of these have afforded me the utmost satisfaction ; two of the instances especially, where the sufferers had been laid aside from important pursuits for some years, by the constancy and severity of their sufferings. Two well marked cases of threatened Apoplexy. Two of long standing swelling of the bones of the extremities. But to be brief, I just enumerate the mere names of some other diseases, that were chiefly remarkable for the severity or inveteracy of their attacks, and because also that they had not been relieved by the “old remedies.” Inveterate cases of “scald head,” and some other severe skin diseases ;—painful affections of the kidneys and bladder ;—ulceration of the bones of the nose and jaw bone ;—some long standing cases of “tic,” and also of rheumatic affections of the back and lower limbs. To these I could add several examples of internal disease, as of the liver, stomach and bowels, for which the sufferers had in vain sought relief “in London,” as well as elsewhere. I repeat, that I allude to the above cases, inasmuch as, on account of their individual severity and long standing, they called for determined perseverance and reliance on the powers of the remedies employed ; and secondly, because, in many of them, the usual Allopathic medicines had failed. I shall refrain, however, from piling up evidence on evidence, and proof upon proof ; being satisfied that no unprejudiced mind can resist the simple, unvarnished, yet stern truths which this little pamphlet gives forth ;—truths, not dependant for their acceptance on mere argument or reasoning, but, because they are established by the testimony of experiment, as well as of experience ;—by evidence, plain and practical, and by proof, tested and indisputable.

I confess that it is to me a matter of constant thankfulness that I was led to see the truth of Homœopathy ; and that I stumbled not at all those sacrifices which its adoption entailed or threatened. I am not alone thankful for the sake of those who seek my medical aid, but because, also, of the satisfaction, the reliance, the confidence which is imparted to the mind when treating disease on this true—this definite and intelligent principle ;—while simplicity and efficacy, safety and power, are the characteristics of its remedies.

In all sincerity of feeling, I deplore the determined obduracy of the profession *in not practically enquiring into, and proving, the Homœopathic treatment.* Yea, though on the one hand, their patients, weary of drugs, blisters, and bleeding, are leaving them ; and on the other, Homœopathists are urging, entreating them, for the sake of others as well as of themselves, to adopt this facile, rational, and only sure way

of searching out the truth, they yet hold on in obstinate disregard to extremity. It is pride—professional pride, that is at the root of this ; so few men can be brought to confess to the world, or even to themselves, that their knowledge has hitherto been a vain thing. Professors have lectured—authors have written upon—and medical men have adopted a practice of medicine, which their pride, and oftentimes self-interest, forbid them even to question, much less to abandon ; and thus are they bent upon pursuing their old accustomed course, and upholding it to the end. But that end is at hand,—the public mind is enlightened—the truth is not only perceived, but felt,—the sick and the afflicted amongst all classes of society, from the highest to the lowest, bear *the record of restored health*. (and often where the old treatment has been tried in vain,) to the value, the blessing, of the new system of cure ; a record and sure testimony this, which no mere argument, sophistry, or abuse of the profession can upturn or gainsay. For my own part I honestly avow that such is the indisputable evidence of the truth of the Homœopathic science, and such the success I have met with in the cure of disease, that were I debarred from practising on this principle, conscience would compel me at once to abandon my profession.

In the former part of this pamphlet, I very briefly alluded to the testimony of the first surgeon of the age, the late Mr. Liston, to the efficacy of the Homœopathic treatment. As Mr. Liston was well known to be a man of the most upright, honest and independent mind, and one who, untrammelled by routine, thought and acted for himself, I think it well that the public should more fully know his sentiments and testimony respecting Homœopathy ; and which he, with a candour that ever characterises a truly great mind, hesitated not publicly to avow, both in his lectures and in his published surgical works.

I proceed to quote, at some length, Mr. Liston's own words, from one of his lectures delivered to the students at the North-London Hospital ; and I make the extract, not from an interested source, but from the *Lancet* itself, notorious for its abuse of Homœopathy. These observations of Mr. Liston are to be found in the numbers for February and April, 1836, and also in later numbers of that journal.

Having alluded to several cases of cure by the Homœopathic medicine, in one of which he tells us, that after its administration, in “ twenty-four hours the disease had quite disappeared ; ” and that in another, the patient “ was cured in two or three days, although in her previous attacks she was seldom under a fortnight ; ” —he gives to the students the result of his experience and reflections in these words :—“ Of course we cannot pretend to say positively, in what way this effect is produced, *but it seems almost to act like magic* ; howsoever, so long as we benefit our patients by the treatment we pursue, *we have no right to condemn the principle on which this treatment is recommended and pursued*. You know that this remedy (belladonna) is recommended by the Homœopathists in this affection, because it produces upon the skin a fiery eruption or efflorescence, accompanied by inflammatory fever ;—‘ *Similia similibus curantur*,’ say they. They give, in cases where a good night's rest is required, those substances which generally, in healthy subjects produce great restlessness ; instead of exhibiting, as others do, those medicines termed sedatives. *It is like driving out one devil by sending in another*. ”

“ *I believe in the Homœopathic doctrines to a certain extent ; but I cannot as yet, from inexperience on the subject, go the length its advocates would wish in as far as regards the very minute doses of some of their medicines. The medicines in the above cases were certainly given in much smaller doses than have ever hitherto been prescribed.*

“ *The beneficial effects, as you witnessed, are unquestionable. I have, however, seen similar good effects of the belladonna, prepared according to the Homœopathic Pharmacopœia, in a case of very severe Erysipelas of the head and face, under the care of my friend Dr. Quin. The inflammatory symptoms and local signs disappeared with very great rapidity. Without adopting the theory of this medical sect, you ought not to reject its doctrines without due examination and enquiry.*”—See *Lancet*, April 16th, 1836.

In the February number of the *Lancet*, Mr. Liston speaks of cures of Erysipelas, by belladonna, "*the most satisfactory and successful he had ever seen*;" telling the students that "*it was given on the Homœopathic principle*." And in another of the *Lancet's* reports of the North London Hospital, we read the gratifying and important fact—"Aconite has superseded bleeding in many cases at this hospital."—p. 807, Feb. 13th, 1836.

That Mr. Liston's reliance on the great efficacy of these Homœopathic medicines which he had tested, was confirmed, he gives us proof in the second edition of his work, "*The Elements of Surgery*." For example, at page 61, he again testifies to the "great advantage and often the most extraordinary effect upon the disease," from the Homœopathic remedy, belladonna, in doses of *the sixteenth part of a grain*. In the same paragraph, he previously bears witness to the virtues of another of our remedies, Aconite;—"its exhibition," says he, "in this and other inflammatory affections, is often followed by great abatement of vascular excitement, so that the necessity for abstraction of blood is done away with!"

I could adduce the letter of Dr. Quin, a Homœopathic physician, and one of the most esteemed friends of Mr. Liston, in which he informs me, that, but a few days before this great surgeon's sudden death, he spoke of placing himself under his care, "if he did not soon begin to improve more rapidly."

As it will be satisfactory to my readers to know how it happened, that Mr. Liston adopted the Homœopathic treatment in the various surgical diseases that daily came under his care, I will quote from the obituary notice of this great surgeon, published by his friend, Dr. Quin. He says,—"*In the course of our frequent consultations and conversations, we generally communicated to one another any interesting facts, or cases, occurring in our respective practice: and one day, in the beginning of January, 1836, he was lamenting over the fatality that attended his treatment of the great majority of cases admitted into his hospital, with erysipelas of the head; and stated, that in the physicians' wards, the results were much the same as in the surgical wards. I mentioned that I, also, had had several very severe cases, but that they had every one recovered under Homœopathic treatment.*" Dr. Quin then relates how he took Mr. Liston to witness the treatment of a very severe case of erysipelas of the head and face,—how Mr. Liston visited the patient with him twice a day,—the great interest he manifested in the case,—and his astonishment at beholding the rapid curative effects of the aconite and belladonna—the Homœopathic remedies used. "*Mr. Liston saw the medicines prepared by me, and administered some of them himself; he was so astonished and satisfied with the beneficial results of the treatment, that he resolved to try the aconite and belladonna. I suggested to him to prescribe one grain of the extract of aconite, to be dissolved in several spoonfuls of water, and a spoonful given at intervals of several hours; and to dilute the same quantity of belladonna, in a much larger quantity of water, and give a spoonful in the same manner. He immediately followed this suggestion, and the results are related in the following extracts from the reports of the North London Hospital, contained in the Lancet of the 6th and 13th of February, and the 18th of April, 1836.*"

"Encouraged by the success which had attended his administration of aconite and belladonna in Erysipelas, Mr. Liston requested me to give him a few notes of other diseases treated successfully by Homœopathy, with the names of the medicines usually prescribed by me for their cure. This I immediately complied with. He subsequently informed me that he had employed the following medicines with great success:—*Arnica montana*, internally and externally, in severe contusions, lacerations, and incised wounds; *rhus toxicodendron*, in sprains, luxations, and swollen and painful joints; *nux vomica*, in irritation of the bladder, obstinate constipation, and in some cases of partial paralysis; *bryonia alba*, in rheumatism, and in arthritic pains of the joints; *chamomilla*, in diarrhœa, and as a palliative in toothache; *pulsatilla*, in retarded and suppressed discharges; *mercurius solubilis*, alternated with *belladonna*, in cynanche tonsillaris (sore throat,) and a variety of other medicines, the effects of which are familiar to every Homœopathic practi-

tioner. Mr. Liston was particularly struck with the action of *aconite*, in subduing inflammation and reducing vascular excitement ; and he often expressed his regret to me that the power of aconite to abate vascular over-action, and supercede the necessity for the abstraction of blood in many diseases, was not known to him earlier ; because he was convinced that it would have prolonged the life of his father, whose death had been hastened, in his opinion, by ill-judged copious blood-letting.

" In numerous cases demanding surgical assistance to which I had called him in, in consultation, he invariably left the whole constitutional treatment to me ; and frequently, after his professional services were no longer required, he continued his visits, merely from the interest he took in watching the effects of the Homœopathic medicines prescribed by me."

Dr. Quin concludes,—“ I have no doubt that had Mr. Liston's valuable life been spared, *his enlightened example would have tended greatly to dispel the prejudices which prevent an impartial examination of the doctrines and practice of Homœopathy.*”

After this deeply interesting and faithful testimony, which was published soon after Mr. Liston's death,—after Mr. Liston's own testimony, also published, even in the *Lancet* itself,—would it be believed, that, notwithstanding such evidence, some of the medical profession of Hull have recently published statements, wholly denying that Mr. Liston ever gave a single dose of Homœopathic medicine ;—yea, and charged me with untruth for stating the fact ! Nay, even the facts and experiments detailed in this pamphlet, and by which I established the truth and efficacy of the Homœopathic treatment of disease, were, in like manner, most discreditably assailed ; and, by a system of perversion and concerted denial of facts, even daringly impugned ! “ The Exposure,” however, that in the last edition of this pamphlet, I was indignantly aroused to inflict on the untruthful coalition against me, effectually put my detractors to silence, and I most sincerely hope,—to shame. It is, indeed, lamentable and humiliating to see how far men, accounted honourable and respectable, are led from the paths of honesty and truth, in their reckless opposition to Homœopathy !

It is assailed, both privately and publicly, by the members of a profession, styled liberal, and that in a manner so unfair and discreditably, that I cannot let their conduct wholly pass “ unwhipped of justice.” It is in vain, however, that the private practitioner now denounces Homœopathy as an absurdity, an imposition and quackery ; for it is known,—yea, he himself, in the affectation of superior wisdom, contemptuously declares it,—that he, forsooth, deigned not to study and put it to the proof of experiment ; he utterly fails, therefore, to impose upon the common sense of his hearers, seeing that he literally knows nothing of what he is talking about ; he stands self condemned, inasmuch as he condemns that of which he has no knowledge. It must needs be, that the mere prejudiced, self-interested, and ignorant opinion of such an one, weighs but as dust in the balance against the calm judgment of those who have deeply searched into the science, and patiently, practically, and perseveringly put it to the proof,—and it may be added, oft against their will, convinced.

But it is the unfair conduct of the public medical journalists that I feel especially called upon now to visit with exposure. The “ leperous distilment ” of abuse is weekly and quarterly poured forth to poison the public mind against Homœopathy. It is sad to read statements the most ignorant, calumnies the most derogatory,—nay, even untruths and perversions the most gross, disseminated in their journals ;—and mark the injustice !—*not one word from a Homœopathist, in refutation and disproof will they insert ;—nay, not even an advertisement in which the mere word “ Homœopathy ” occurs or is alluded to !*

May not this be truly designated a mere stabbing in the dark, a cowardice, which, secure within itself, dares to make attacks, while it lacks the manliness to meet those whom it traduces. This is so unfair, so un-English, that I am satisfied that every unprejudiced person, be he Homœopathist or be he not, will condemn

such a procedure ; and, what is more, strongly suspect an opposition which thus shuns to meet its opponents, and barring the doors—its pages—flees within itself for refuge. The public will now see how it is, that the allegations and misrepresentations of the various medical journals, are not replied to and refuted in their own pages,—*these are closed against us !*

By many it is counselled that we should bear all meekly ; that the public, now more enlightened, will, nay is meeting out to us full justice : and so it is ; but yet, 'tis well that all should know the true character of that opposition with which we have to contend ;—an opposition, which at one time stifles, and at another, calumniates and would crush, the truth. Be the fault our own, if we do not thoroughly enlighten the public mind ; how else should they know *how* reckless is that calumny which an alarmed profession, unmindful of its own derogation, both privately and through its journals, levels at Homœopathy.

Persecution never rooted out a creed ; religious history, which details to us persecutions the most fierce, attests this ; so, the now rapid spread of Homœopathy testifies the equal failure of medical persecution, to stay the onward course of scientific truth. Yet 'tis well that justice, public justice, though proverbially “lame of foot,” still overtakes to confound its violators ; but awards itself to truth.

Is there, then, “no virtue extant” in the editor of a medical journal ?—Is he, in reality, the truculent, anti-homœopathic individual that he appears, in print, to be ? Is he a man of such more than Roman virtue, that his immaculate love of truth, his stern sense of public duty constrain him to pour forth condemnation on the science of Homœopathy ? Let us examine into, and unveil a little, this virtue,—this truth,—this public duty,—this justice. Alas, 'twill soon appear, that this anti-homœopathic indignation lacks all semblance, of the “virtuous ;”—the man is a hireling,—he has his task-masters in his list of subscribers,—be his own private opinions what they may, they must be abandoned, for he knows what is expected of his journal, and he dares not eschew the bidding of those by whom he thrives ! Let us in proof, select the very brightest example, the great Liberal himself,—the professed redresser of wrong,—the man who sought and gained popularity by the profuseness of his liberal professions, and who the loudest put forth the cry of “equal justice to all.” Let us trace out the secret cause of the inimical attitude, nay, fiery hostility, he now assumes towards Homœopathy. I need but quote a letter signed by the sub-editor of the *Lancet*, Dr. Bennett ; now I believe, sole, or chief editor. It is addressed to Dr. Epps, and published by him in his *Epitome of Homœopathy*. After some preliminary remarks, the sub-editor says, “Mr. Wakley would willingly have given your cases a place *had it not been for the determined opposition of the subscribers and readers of the Lancet*, to anything in the shape of Homœopathy. When your case of hæmatemesis (spitting of blood) was inserted last winter, we received an avalanche of letters from all parts of the country, couched in such terms, as to make it next to impossible for us to insert any further communication of the kind.” He then expresses Mr. Wakley's regret that he must so treat one for whom he had “personal regard ;” but he felt it *imperative* upon him so to do !”

Comment is unnecessary ;—observe but how he “lets I dare not, wait upon I would, like the poor cat in the adage” That dread “*avalanche of letters couched in such terms*,”—the embodied threats therein to give up the journal, cripples his “justice,” and puts it out of joint,—turns “public duty,” of which we heard so much, to bare time-serving and mere expediency ;—while truth, bright truth of Homœopathy, reviled, discredited, and set at naught, becomes the sport of foolish mockeries !*

*Many professional revilers, even yet, are in the constant habit of declaring, that Homœopathy consists of nothing more than the giving of small, or infinitesimal doses—as I have pointed out in this pamphlet,—*the size of the dose has nothing to do with the principle of the science ;* and that the Homœopatheist may give as large doses as he thinks right.

While they thus abuse Homœopathy, they go on *filching its remedies* ! this is commonly done *clandestinely*, but within the last month a writer in the *Lancet*, Dr. Black, has the assurance to put forth arsenic as a grand discovery of *his own*, for the cure of cholera. He is enthusiastic on its merits ;—and well he may ;—but it is *an old Homœopathic remedy*,—recommended in all Homœopathic writings !

It rejoices me, however, that I am enabled to single out a few illustrious and noble exceptions to this general defamatory conduct of the medical profession ; and I gladly do honour to their names, that it may be seen how the liberal and high-minded think and write of Homœopathy ; though they themselves are of the old school of medicine.

Even Sir John Forbes observes—"Hahnemann (its great founder) was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar,—a man of indefatigable industry and undaunted energy. No careful observer of his actions, or candid reader of his writings, can hesitate for a moment to admit that he was a very extraordinary man. It is but an act of justice to admit that there exists no grounds for doubting that he was sincere in his belief of the truth of his doctrines ; and that many, at least among his followers, have been and are sincere, honest, and learned men."

Dr. Combe, the well-known writer on popular scientific subjects, thus writes,—"Let us scout quacks and pretenders as we may, Homœopathy presents too strong a case to warrant us to dismiss it with ridicule and contempt." He concludes thus his enlightened reflections :—"If I were now in practice, I should hold myself bound, without further delay, to test its truth, by careful and extensive experiment."

In France, the celebrated physician, Broussais, thus writes of Homœopathy :—"Many distinguished persons are occupied with it. We cannot reject it without a hearing. We must investigate the truth it contains." He died while he was engaged in his investigations.

In Italy, Professor Brera, the most celebrated among Italian physicians, says,—"Homœopathy is decried by some as useless, and by others as strange ; and although it appears to the great majority as ridiculous and extraordinary, it can nevertheless not be denied that it has taken its stand in the scientific world. It has its books, its journals, its chairs, its hospitals, clinical lectures, professors, and most respectable communities to hear and to appreciate. Having attained this rank, it by no means deserves contempt ; but, on the contrary, a cool and impartial investigation, like all other systems of modern date." He then proceeds :—"Woe to the physician who believes that he cannot learn to-morrow what he does not know to-day ! Do we not hear daily complaints of the insufficiency of the healing art, and are not those physicians who honestly suspect the solidity of their knowledge the most learned, and in their practice the most successful ? Let us always recollect, that the greatest discoveries have given origin to the most violent controversies. Witness the examples of Hervey, Jenner, Galileo, Newton, Descartes, &c."

America.—Valentine Mott, justly the pride of American surgery, says,—"*Hahnemann is one of the most accomplished and scientific physicians of the age.*" And Professor McNaughten, of the Western Medical College of the University of the State of New York, thus concludes his observations on Homœopathy :—"Whether Homœopathy be true or not, it is entitled to have its claims fairly investigated. The object of the profession is to ascertain the truth ; and if it should turn out that in any disease the Homœopathic remedies are more efficacious than those known to the ordinary system, they ought unquestionably to be used. *It will not do for the members of the profession to wrap themselves in their dignity and to call the new system absurd, without further enquiry. The history of the profession presents many lamentable instances of the obstinacy with which errors have been clung to, and improvements resisted.*" (See "Truths and their Reception," by M. B. Sampson.)

It must be seen that, in rendering this justice to the enlightened men who have borne such record as the foregoing, I am at the same time inflicting keen censure on the profession, whose conduct towards Homœopathy it has been my most painful

I can myself testify to its efficacy. I do not complain of the old school physicians and surgeons taking our remedies, (a thing they are now doing to a greater extent than is commonly known,) the more they take of them the better ; but common honesty demands that they should *acknowledge* the fact :—further the principle.—"The great physiological fact," in accordance with which he says that he gives the arsenic, is simply the Homœopathic principle !—Dr. Black is on the verge of truth ;—a few more such discoveries, and he will announce himself a Homœopathist.

duty to expose. If I have spoken sternly, it is because the cause of truth is stern, and admits not of dalliance with error. In fixing blame, if I have, happily, enkindled a sense of shame, also, in the minds of professional men, it will, eventually, become a matter of rejoicing to us all. Oh ! let not the yearnings of self-interest,—the pride of fancied knowledge,—neither the frown of former friendships,—nor the scoff of the foolish, and the jeer of the prejudiced and ignorant man, deter from an honest and *practical* enquiry into the great scientific truth, I have earnestly, though may be feebly, now striven to uphold. Would a feeling of false shame turn aside an honest search after a new truth, or stifle its avowal ? Let the last words of a philosopher—the late lamented Professor Hugh Miller, (who had been disengenuously reflected upon for his change of opinion,) I repeat, let the honest and noble spirit of these words be to all both precept and example—“ I have,” concludes he, “ yielded to evidence which I found it impossible to resist ; and such, in this instance, has been my *inconsistency*,—an inconsistency of which the world has furnished many examples in all the sciences, and will, I trust, in its onward progress, continue to furnish many more.”

F. R. HORNER, M. D.

Hull.

