

the defect or excess of function in Auerbach's ganglia to a point that causes them to lose control of the rhythmic muscular action in the intestines. The regular school treatment is not directly curative at all. It merely deadens the pain, enabling the patient to endure it long enough to let the disturbed nerve force recover itself, as it naturally tends to do. The morphia does not increase this tendency but makes the patient comfortable for the hours or days nature requires to accomplish the cure without assistance.

The colocynth of the homeopath meets a depressed nerve force and directly stimulates it until it reaches the norm, the extremely minute dose being a safeguard against over-stimulation, for, as is well known, a sufficiently large dose would produce the difficulty if absent, or increase it if present.

The dioscorea of the eclectic meets an excited or excessive nerve force, and directly sedates it to the norm, the large dose being useful to produce the effect quickly.

In these instances colocynth and dioscorea are *directly* curative, morphia is not.

In the use of colocynth the homeopath and the eclectic are on equal terms, because the eclectic adopts the minute dose of the homeopath. In the use of dioscorea, the homeopath is heavily handicapped by his faith in dynamization, and the resultant minute dose, for if he does not fail completely with it, it takes him much longer to cure than it does the eclectic with the much larger dose, which the homeopath refuses to adopt.

If you will, for the sake of argument, admit that the foregoing views are sound, you will be able to see that while each of the three schools may have therapeutic truth, neither one of them has the whole of it. And if you will reason the matter out from the foregoing data, you will understand why it is so difficult for one schoolman to influence the adherent of another school. A regular schoolman, called to a case of intestinal colic, due to depressed Auerbach's ganglia knows that morphia will relieve, but is not directly curative, and is more or less injurious. Possibly he also knows that eclectic claim that dioscorea cures colic. He therefore gives the latter remedy for several hours, with absolutely no effects, if (because he has a depressed nerve force) he is fortunate enough not to have made his patient worse. Disgusted, he gives a hypodermic of morphia, with the prompt effect of relieving the pain, and confirming himself and his patient in their belief in the beneficence of regular school therapeutics. Later, he is called to another case of colic due this time to an *over-stimulated* Auerbach's plexus. In the meantime, in his search for something better than morphia, he has learned that homeopaths use with success minute doses of colocynth for colic. He administers it faithfully, with results similar to those he obtained when he gave