

sented, partly to define the position I feel bound to take in all matters of science, and partly as an apology for offering some suggestions and opinions, without an overwhelming array of facts, in regard to a course of remedial treatment, which really had its origin in remote antiquity, but which within the last few years has been revived and vivified in a form which seems somewhat novel, and which may be destined to meet with much opposition from scientific men, notwithstanding it promises to be a therapeutic agent of great power and value. I mean the inhalation of medicated vapor as applied for the cure of bronchial and lung diseases. These maladies have always been considered the *opprobrium medicorum*, and the statistics of each and every kind of medical treatment which has ever been adopted, bear sad evidence of man's utter ignorance of their true specific remedies. Their treatment by the inhalation of medicated vapor, within the very few years during which it has been perseveringly tried, has proved quite a relief, and in many instances we may hope a permanent cure, and the theory of inhalation as a remedial measure is so consonant with reason and common sense that we need spend no time in arguing its merits or demerits. Medicines have been administered by olfaction since the time of Hippocrates, and many an eminent medical professor of past ages has confidently predicted the day when some remedy would be discovered, or some means of applying the remedies already in use more directly to the lungs and bronchial membrane, thereby rendering them as much the object of special remedial treatment as other and more external parts of the body. None who believe in the contagiousness or infection of such diseases as Variola, Scarlatina, Typhus and Intermittent Fevers, and other maladies of a similar character, can doubt the generally-received opinion, that the lungs are the media of their propagation from one person to another. Nor can there be any question, that poisonous vapors which never fail to affect the system morbifically, and that almost immediately, do

so through the agency of the only surfaces they can affect by contact, viz., the lungs. The function of breathing, considered merely as a chemical process for the decarbonization of the blood, is constantly bringing a vast and irritable surface into contact with healthy or morbid matters, which, mingling with the blood, and, if we may so speak, assimilated by the blood, are sent to every part of the body: but even considered as a vital function, dependant on that immaterial property called the vital force, still it is constantly exposing a vast nervous surface to the action of their peculiar morbid irritants. Hence, by all medical theorists the lungs are acknowledged to be the most common media by which diseases are excited and propagated.— Now, whatever is a medium of propagating and exciting disease, must also, if it can well be reached by remedial agents, become the most direct medium of curing disease, and, according to homeopathic principles, the more specific the relation or affinity, not only between the drug and the part affected, but between the exact tissue as acted upon by the drug, and that same tissue similarly but morbifically impressed, the more certain and permanent becomes the cure.

It was the recognition of this principle, which lies at the foundation of the Homeopathic Therapia, that first led me to observe with some considerable interest, the effects of the inhalation of medicated vapor, and make use of it in the treatment of bronchial and lung affections. In the summer of 1852, a Dr. Chas. H. B. Wellesley, purporting to come from the Brompton Hospital in England, visited this city, and publicly invited physicians as well as patients to call on him and try his method of treating bronchial and lung affections, asserting "that warm medicated vapors generated by the decomposition of certain alterative and balsamic substances, and inhaled into the lungs, have been the means of restoring thousands to health within the past two years, and that by their judicious employment the intelligent physician may save, instead of a rare case of consumption, *seventy* out of