

PATHOLOGY CONSIDERED IN ITS RELATIONS TO HOMEOPATHY.

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THE pathology of the delirium arising from belladonna, opium, hyoscyamus, stramonium, nitrous oxide gas, chloroform, Indian hemp, and alcoholic liquors; and also of the delirium of *mania a potu*, epilepsy, hysteria, chronic renal affections, erysipelas, typhus fever, rheumatism, and even of traumatic delirium, is regarded by Dr. Todd as essentially the same; and the same remarks will apply with equal force to coma, with the exception of the traumatic variety.

It is quite evident then, that belladonna, opium, etc., operate specifically upon those parts of the cerebral structure which are known to be the seats of *mania a potu*, epilepsy, hysteria, mania, cerebral typhus, and other forms of delirium, and give rise, not only to the *symptoms* peculiar to these diseases, but also to *morbid changes*, not identical, as Dr. Todd supposes, but of a *similar* character, viz.—specific irritation, or congestion of the vessels of the affected parts. A comparison of the few belladonna symptoms which we have enumerated, and of the pathogenesis of opium, with the symptoms of the several maladies to which we have alluded, will demonstrate that these drugs are true homeopathic specifics in these affections. If we now take into consideration the fact that these different drugs, and these different maladies, all induce similar pathological conditions of the cerebral structure, we shall be satisfied that the practical application of our law of cure, so far at least as the indicated remedies are concerned, must be simple, clear, and in all curable cases, entirely successful.

THE argument which we have advanced with respect to the symptoms and pathology of belladonna, in connection with the symptoms and pathology of diseases, applies with equal truth to other specific drugs. Thus, the *symptoms* induced by arsenic, and the *morbid changes* to which it gives rise in Peyer's glands, in the follicles of Brunner, and other por-

tions of the intestinal canal, simulate, in a most striking manner, both the *symptoms* and *pathology* of abdominal typhus; the *symptoms* and *morbid changes* produced by mercury can scarcely be distinguished from those of syphilis; the *symptoms* and *pathology* of spongia, hepatic s.c., and bichromate of potash, are a complete similitude of the *symptoms* and *pathological changes* which occur in the different stages of croup. These examples might be multiplied to a great extent, but as a sufficient number has been adduced to illustrate our meaning, we shall content ourselves by deducing, from the facts before alluded to, the following conclusions:—

1. That every substance capable of producing abnormal changes in the human organism, whether morbid or toxic in its character, exercises a specific action peculiar to itself, developing a specific irritation, or inflammation, which may be very *similar* to, but never *identical* with any other inflammation.

For example, the seat of the delirium of belladonna, opium, stramonium, hyoscyamus, cannabis, indica, nitrous oxide gas, chloroform, ether, alcoholic liquors, as well as of epilepsy, hysteria, *mania a potu*, cerebral typhus, erysipelas, gout, chronic renal affections, and mania, is the same; and the symptoms accompanying these different varieties of delirium exceedingly similar, yet the *kind of action* in each of the instances cited is dissimilar. This is apparent, not only from the shades of difference in the symptomatic manifestations, but also from the different pathological changes observed in the ultimate organic degenerations of these different forms of the malady; the seat, symptoms, and general appearance of mercurial and syphilitic ulcerations of the mucous membrane of the throat are the same, but the *kinds of action* induced by the two poisons are distinct and specific: that of the one tending to the destruction of the tissue involved, and that of the other to a spontaneous restoration of the affected parts; the contagion of typhus produces in the intestinal canal ulcerations like those caused by arsenic; and in the brain, disordered appearances,