

the middle ages. In truth, it would appear that he has introduced this part as an appetizer to the more gustatory repast which he presents in the rest of his book. If there be in the present day any rational practitioner of medicine, or (if that be possible) any rational believer in the mysteries of Homœopathy, who desires to obtain a clear view of this wonder of our wondrous century, we can, with perfect sincerity, commend to his perusal Dr. Smythe's unpretentious little book. It is cleverly and forcibly written, and exhibits a very commendable minimum of those grammatical abnormalities and rhetorical excrescences which would appear to find a congenial soil in the great valley of the "Father of Waters," where not only a new variety of the Anglo-Saxon family is being rapidly evolutionized, but also a new and far less tight-laced dialect of the English tongue.

Dr. Smythe's exposition of the original wonders of the theory of Hahnemann, and of the harmonies of its present interpreters, is amusingly instructive, and cannot fail to edify all who feel a desire for more ample knowledge of this marvellous conception of human mentality. It would be more than sufficient to make the crumbled bones of Hahnemann shake in their decayed cerements, to hear, or even to dream of, the transmigrations and transformations which his inspired revelations have undergone within the past quarter of a century. The once happy family of his disciples is now split up into discordant anarchical sections, the majority of whom not only repudiate his most cherished and most potent dogma of the *infinite-simals*, but also question that of the *similibus*, whilst a very large percentage of them, if not indeed the whole fraternity, are either professed freebooters, or stealthy poachers, ready for bagging game on either side of the boundary, with either the popgun of their own battalion or the blunderbus of their antagonists, just as their dupes may prefer.

Great and graciously acceptable in all ages has *mystery* ever been, and let it not be said, as long as homœopathy lives, breathes, and fattens on human credulity, that our age is unworthy of association with any that has preceded it. Should any one question this asseveration,

we would simply ask him to read Dr. Smythe's little book: it will not cost him much, and he may read it leisurely, at little loss of time. When he gets through, he may not turn it to bad account by lending it to the first strong believer he chances to meet with, and watch the result.

But here we are reckoning without our host. It is one thing to lead a horse to the water, and quite another to get him to drink. We will now offer a bet, at large odds, that of the first twenty patronizers of homœopathy to whom any *so-called* allopathist will read a page of this book, reproducing even the very words of Hahnemann, or his modern interpreters, and drawing from them their inevitable deductions, he will be told by nineteen, as the writer of these lines has been by an earnest disciple, "*it's all lies*;" yet this repudiator saw a homœopath dip the tip of his finger into a drop of some infinitesimal, and touch with it the navel of a baby yelling with colic, and cure it as quick as lightning. Great is mystery!

Diseases of the Pharynx, Larynx, and Trachea.

By MORELL MACKENZIE, M.D., London, Senior Physician to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat and Chest, Lecturer on Diseases of the Throat at the London Hospital, &c., &c. New York: William Wood & Co.; Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

This is an age of specialties, and probably one of the worst abused of them all is that of the "Throat." Quackery has reaped rich harvests from this diminutive portion of the body during the last few years. The man who studies diligently this region, and at the same time knows but little about the system generally, should never presume to say he understands the treatment of "Diseases of the Throat." Such diseases are so often only the local manifestations of constitutional disorders that none but well-informed physicians, in the broadest sense of the term, should be trusted with their treatment. Of course we cannot object to the latter class paying special attention to the throat, or any other portion of the body, if they are so disposed, but we must protest against the abuse of specialties by superficial one-sided men, which is so common at the present time. Every student of medicine should study diseases of the pharynx,