

Indeed, upwards of one-fourth of the symptoms have as direct opposites among the 271 and 144 as even the warmest advocate of "*Contraria contrariis opponenda*" could desire. In his practical remarks, *Ignatia amara* is "a remedy adapted to extremely irritable constitutions—those nervous habits which are alternately affected by joy and sorrow, with desire to cry, succeeding each other rapidly. It is of benefit in *epilepsy, chorea, hysteria, &c.*;" and, "*Belladonna* may be ranked among *antiphlogistic remedies*. It is a remedy of extraordinary benefit in cases of *cynanche tonsillaris* and *scarlatina*, and has been used with marked success in *inflammation of the brain and its membranes, erysipelas, enteritis, puerperal fever, &c.*" A mere glance at the wide distinction which is thus established by the "practical remarks," between *belladonna* and *ignatia amara*, will be sufficient to satisfy any unprejudiced mind that if coffee be a homœopathic antidote for one, it cannot possibly be so for the other.

How practitioners and students of homœopathy can overlook these palpable contradictions and absurdities, cannot but be a matter of great surprise to the impartial reader, and the question is irresistibly forced on the mind—Is there not a reason for their apparent mental obtuseness? Love of money, and love of notoriety, are justly recognized as two of the great principles which determine the action and conduct of men. History abounds with instances illustrative of the potency of these two motive powers—of the extreme lengths to which persons, thoroughly imbued with the spirit of either, will dare to go;—of the great privations to which they will voluntarily submit—of the contumely, contempt, and derision which they will put up with, so that they may attain their object; how they will dare to raise their unsanctified hands against things most sacred, with the purpose of destroying them; how they will ally themselves with false-

hood, and, with unblushing front, prevaricate, distort facts, and strive to make truth itself appear false—how they will work on the credulity of the masses, and how they will employ vituperation and descend to the vilest abuse to gain their ends. Looking, then, at these facts of history, and keeping in mind that there is no subject on which, of necessity, the public are more credulous than on medical matters, and, consequently, liable to be attracted by everything in the shape of practice which has the merit of novelty—is the reason not plain, and can it be a matter of surprise that many unworthy members are found willing to leave the ranks of legitimate medicine, to practice according to the doctrines of Samuel Hahnemann?

Montreal, Oct. 10, 1851.

ART. XXX.—*Letters to a Candid Inquirer on Animal Magnetism.* By WM. GREGORY, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea. 1851. Demy 8vo. Pp. 384.

If there is one thing for which the medical profession of the present day is pre-eminently distinguished, it is its tardiness in endorsing novelties, and the scrutiny with which all alleged facts are analysed. We consider this trait to be a meritorious one. A theory is erected upon an accumulation of facts. It must be sufficiently comprehensive to account for all the phenomena which it is intended to explain; and if it fails in one instance, it is evidently inadequate to its object, and must be discarded. On no subject has the truth of this remark been more amply verified, than with regard to the subject of animal magnetism. The hypotheses of Mesmer, Esdaile, and Townsend, or the more plausible one of Mr Braid, have all had their day. We have been more recently captivated by the "Electro-biologists," the "Phreno-magnetists," and the