

Canadian Journal of Homeopathy.

"Plus apud nos vera ratio valet, quam vulgi opinio."

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For the Homeopathic Journal.

WHAT IS HOMEOPATHY?

(Continued from p. 13.)

In our last No. we stated that the law of cure was the never-varying law of specifics, or similars. As proof of the truth of our position we enumerated several medicinal agents used and universally acknowledged by all medical men as acting in accordance with the same law, viz.—They will produce similar symptoms, if taken in the state of health, to those they are given in disease to cure. We might go on specifying until we included the entire *Materia Medica*, if necessary, but a few more examples will serve to elucidate the principle. Capsicum, Sulphate of Zinc, and other powerful stimulants, for example, will produce inflamed eyes; they are the remedies frequently applied to inflamed eyes with benefit. Does any one doubt that they will produce a similar inflammation when applied to the healthy eye? Experience teaches us that snow, or ice water, are the proper remedies for a frozen part, and heat or oil of turpentine for burns; Cantharides will produce vesication of the skin—experience has lately proved this to be one of the most reliable specifics for blisters resulting from frostbite. Ipecac will produce nausea and vomiting. Many of the standard authors of the old school laud it for its power to check nausea and vomiting in certain diseases. Mercury, that powerful agent for good or evil, furnishes another proof of the never-varying

law of similars. Its action upon the glandular system, producing ulceration of different parts of the healthy organism; its action upon the bowels, producing slimy, mucous, and bloody discharges when given in sufficient quantity to produce its specific effect. Mercury has been the most successful remedy in the treatment of those symptoms existing in disease. This is homeopathy. It will be seen that we rest entirely upon facts, ascertained and confirmed by experience. He who accepts and practises upon the principle of like cures like, accepts the law, and is in truth an homeopathist, whether he gives an infinitesimal or Herculean dose, for the size of the dose is necessarily no part of the law of cure; it is but one of the considerations growing out of it from necessity, and not from theory. From necessity, and not from theory, the homeopathist is led to administer small doses. He finds, in the first place, that larger doses often produce severe drug symptoms, which impede a regular curative action. Such was Hahnemann's experience. In the second place, smaller doses are more certain in their curative action.

In regard to doses one rule holds good among all judicious homeopathists, viz.—*To give a sufficient quantity of the drug to cure the disease with as little injury to the healthy part and to the general system as possible.* Our opponents, who reject homeopathic principles, by looking back over the recorded opinions of nearly all the older standard medical writers, will find that they were constantly hinting at or alluding to the truths manfully elaborated by Hahnemann in after times.