

single drop, that is to say, the ten thousandth part of a grain of the second dilution of the drug, most similar in its action to the totality of prominent symptoms then and there present. Well, what then—what next? Nothing, beyond the fact that this, simply this, is the sum and substance of homeopathy. This is proof positive; this is an unequivocal illustration of a great fact, that like cures like; this is the homeopathic theory and practice of physic, as will be abundantly made manifest by the subsequent cure, a happy result seeming well-nigh magical and astounding, as it ever does, to the uninitiated, when this specific healing art is skilfully applied. Power and violence are different, quite different things. *Artemon vi.* In skilful adaptation, not violence, consists the harmony of medicine in relation to disease, even as the drop which can hollow a stone, not by force, but by frequently falling. I admit that the homeopathy of some persons is an absurdity; but not so that true homeopathic system of medical reform, one of the advantages of which is the remarkable unanimity of opinion which pervades its professors.

This feature, which contrasts so favourably with the proverbial differences, amongst the professors of the rival system, is well portrayed in the following anecdote, which may be relied upon as authentic: Whilst Dr. Herring was travelling through Germany, he was invited to the house of a rich old gentleman, who had been an invalid for twenty years. This gentleman had at first consulted two physicians of celebrity; but as they quarrelled about his complaint, he determined to seek other advice. But first he resolved, that if he could find *three* doctors who perfectly agreed upon his case, without hesitation, to allow himself to be treated by them, but not otherwise. For this purpose he had consulted many eminent physicians, whose opinions and prescriptions he had recorded in a book, kept for that purpose, which, as may be supposed, had cost him a pretty sum of money, but never found any *three* who agreed respecting his case. This book had the appearance of a ledger, in

large folio, and was kept in the forms of tables. In the first column were the names of the physicians, amounting to 477; in the second, those of the disease, with explanations concerning its nature; of those there were 313 differing importantly from each other; in the 3rd column were the remedies proposed; these consisted of 832 prescriptions, containing 1,097 remedies! The sum total of fees appeared at the end of each page. He took up a pen, and said, coolly, "Won't you prescribe something for me?" But having no great inclination to do so, I only asked if Hahnemann was not in the list? With a smile he turned to No 301, name of the disease "O," remedy prescribed "O." That was the wisest of the lot, he cried, for he said that the name of the disease did not concern him, and that the name of the remedy did not concern me, but that the cure was the essential point. But why, I inquired, did you not allow him to treat you? Because, he replied, he was but one, and I must have *three* who agree.—I asked him if he was willing to sacrifice some hundred francs for an experiment, in which case I should be able to mention not *three*, but *thirty-three* physicians, living in the neighbourhood, and in countries and parts of the world widely separate, who should all be of one opinion? He expressed his doubts, but, at the same time, resolved to undertake the trial. We then made out a description of his disease, and when the copies were finished sent them to thirty-three homeopathic practitioners. He enclosed a *louis d'or* in each letter, begging each physician to name the remedies which were capable of curing, or, at least of alleviating his disease. A short time since I received a cask of Rhenish of the vintage of 1822. "I send you wine of the year 1822 (he wrote), because twenty-two physicians agreed respecting my case. I thereby perceive there is certainty in some things in this world. I have got various works on the subject, in order to gain information upon it.—Out of more than two hundred medicines, twenty-two physicians have fixed upon the same remedy. One could not expect