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HOMŒOPATHY AND SCIENCE.

The recent debate on this subject at McGill Medical Society's meeting seems to have brought out very little light on the question at issue. The speakers for the affirmative asserted that homœopathy was well worthy of being inquired into, without touching on the scientific aspect. The negative side contented itself with pleasantly ridiculing a system they knew nothing about and so attempted to laugh the whole thing out of court.

One great difficulty in arguments of this kind, especially among amateurs, is in keeping to the point of the discussion. Systems are apt to be confounded with parts, or adjuncts, of the same, and representatives of the system, become inextricably mixed up with the system itself, with the result that the shortcomings of fallible man are often charged up to a system in no way responsible for its followers or advocates.

For instance, in the debate above mentioned one of the telling (?) arguments of

the defence was the absurdity of the small dose usually given by homœopaths. Just wherein the non-scientific part of this comes in is hard to perceive, even if it had anything to do with the law of homœopathy in the administration of drugs. As a matter of fact, the size or strength of the dose has nothing to do with the principle of homœopathy. He who gives an ounce of Epsom salts in a case of diarrhœa, prescribes homœopathically just as truly as if he gave the same substance in the hundred millionth part of a grain. Time and experience have shown, and proved, that the small dose is fully as effective in curative power as the larger one, and has the added benefit of allowing Nature to more quickly recover from drug action; hence its adoption by homœopaths. In every day life we are constantly in touch with measures for the regulation of more or less delicate machinery, of whose construction we have some degree of knowledge, perchance sufficient to prevent us from sending our timepieces to a blacksmith, etc., without exciting undue wonder, or comment, yet we profess amazement when that most delicate piece of mechanism, the human body, is regulated by a slight dose of medicine.

The mistake of confounding men with the system they represent is a common one, and a frequent device of the ama-