

The circumstance which, before all others, arrests the attention in the foregoing statement is the great number of remedies recommended for one condition, and is highly suggestive of the uncertainty of the system. In truth of the whole 125 remedies mentioned, 123 of them are said to be beneficial in case of sleepiness, that is, according to the teachings of Homœopaths, 123 of the remedies produce sleepiness, when administered in sufficient doses to the healthy person. But again, 115 of the 125 are recommended for the very opposite condition, viz: sleeplessness. Here then, we have some hundred identical remedies proposed for the cure of states of the system, or symptoms indicative of a deranged system, if you will, directly opposed to each other. How Bonninghausen or persons holding similar views, reconcile this treatment with the principle contained in "*Similia similibus curantur*," unless they contend that, all things being equal, the same remedy invariably produces the most contrary effects at the same time in the same individual, such as thirst and want of thirst, increase and decrease of saliva, &c., which would be too palpable an absurdity even for the most gullible of their dupes to swallow, we cannot for a moment conceive. The "object" of this work as an "aid to the memory of the practitioner at the sick-bed, in the selection of remedies," is, we should imagine, altogether superfluous, as, after careful consideration, it will be evident that the whole matter might be very much simplified, e. g.: If the whole of the pharmacopœia be pressed into service when sleepiness annoys an individual, and eleven-twelfths of the same remedies contained in the same pharmacopœia be beneficial in the treatment of sleeplessness;—if 99 out of 125 remedies allay the distressing sensation of hunger; and 115 out of the same number produce the sensation of hunger;—if 117 increase the secretion of saliva, and 111 cause a great decrease;—

if the same remedies are thus capable of producing such opposite effects, what need is there of more than a simple statement of the general efficacy of the 125? Division and sub-division tend only, we should think, to confuse rather than aid the memory of the majority of those who pretend or really suppose they effect cures by administering medicines in homœopathic doses, in consonance with the axiom, "*Similia similibus curantur*."

The "indefatigable Jahr," as he is styled by Bonninghausen, judged in the same manner, cannot be considered as an effective aid to the practitioner, or an unerring guide to the student of homœopathy, for, in his "Repertory," we find 42 of the host of remedies recommended for "dry coryza," stated to be beneficial for "fluent coryza;"—27 good for "loss of appetite" as well as for "augmented appetite;"—and 25 indicated in cases of "profuse catamenia," said to be indicated in cases of "suppressed catamenia."

Dunsford, in his work, gives the pathogenetic effects of the principal homœopathic remedies, and along with each medicament places its antidote. "These antidotes," says Black, in his "Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Homœopathy," "are homœopathic to the pathogenetic effects of the drug, and are to be selected in strict accordance with the law, "*Similia similibus curantur*."

Coffee is the homœopathic antidote to belladonna and ignatia amara, and its pathogenetic effects are exhibited in 42 symptoms. If, therefore, the antidote be selected according to the "incontrovertible principle," it will be supposed that many of the symptoms attributed to coffee will be found among the pathogenetic effects of the substances for which it is stated to be an antidote.

Of the 42 symptoms said to be produced by coffee, but 5 are found among the 271 said to be produced by belladonna, and 6 among the 144 attributed to ignatia amara.