

passed through six editions within a few years, and many years later was translated into German. Blair and Cheyne, English physicians of the highest standing, recognized hydrotheraphy in their practice. The illustrious German physician, pathologist and clinical teacher, Hoffman, was the first to distinctly recognize the influence of water upon the "tone" of the bodily tissues. After his time, during the eighteenth century, the use of water in medical practice became much more popular in Germany. The surgeon of Frederick the Great, Theden, was the first to use it in fevers, small-pox and rheumatism. He improved the shower bath and warmly advocated its use. About this time Hahn and his son and Oertel helped much to establish the principles of modern hydrotherapy in Germany, in both acute and chronic diseases. The work of the illustrious Currie, published in 1797, first placed hydrotherapy on a scientific basis, it appears. It advocated the use of water in gout and paralysis as well as in fevers, and was translated into German and other languages. Although the practice of hydrotherapy was more popular in Germany than in England at this time, it is contended that it was by reason of translations of English writers, as Floyer and Currie. The practice of the latter was adopted in the Vienna hospital. To mention the wise, philosophic Hufeland as an enthusiastic and yet judicious advocate of hydrotherapy, as Baruch says, is to "give the imprint of true medical wisdom to it, and to indicate its wide adoption among the profession. He offered a prize for the best treatise on the action of cold water in fevers, determined by scientific thermometrical study." A Vienna professor was the successful competitor, whose treatise was published in 1823.

Notwithstanding all this, and more, hydrotherapy did not become generally popular until the time of the German farmer, Vincenz Priessnitz, who at his home in Grafenberg, Silesia, first received patients, enlarging his house as occasion required. In 1840 he had treated over 1,500 persons, from various parts of the world, and twelve years later had amassed an immense fortune. "His success was brilliant because he was a careful observer, a good judge of human nature, and his mechanical