

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
HOMŒOPATHY.

IT MET IN BUFFALO—CANADA AND MONTREAL REPRESENTED—DR. LAURA MULLER ELECTED A MEMBER.

The American Institute of Homœopathy met in Buffalo June 23-30. Several hundred physicians were in attendance, and meetings of unusual interest were held. The medical papers read were of a highly scientific nature, and were discussed by some of the most distinguished men of our school. The surgical side of Homœopathy was given considerable prominence, and the pleasing fact was developed that our surgeons are becoming more and more conservative, although quite capable and ready to resort to radical measures whenever found necessary. Very interesting and instructive discussions were held relative to diseases of women and children. Some of the greatest specialists of the country, irrespective of schools, were present, and gave to the younger members the benefit of their varied and extended experience. Failures and successes were equally related, and many interesting medical facts developed.

The erection of the magnificent monument to Hahnemann, in the city of Washington, was discussed. Several thousand dollars were subscribed to the rapidly increasing fund, and the committee expect soon to complete the work. The monument is to cost \$75,000, and will be one of the finest works of art in the country, and a lasting memorial to the founder of Homœopathy.

The city of Buffalo entertained the delegates in royal style, and the consideration given the proceedings by the daily papers showed clearly the popularity of Homœopathy not only in the Queen city of the lakes but throughout the United States.

It was pleasing to note the presence of a number of Canadians, and it is to be hoped the members of our school throughout Canada will unite with the Association and gain the support such a large society can give to Homœopathy in this country.

Dr. Laura Muller, of this city, was unanimously elected a member of the Institute. Indeed one of the features of the Buffalo meeting was the presence of a large number of bright and entertaining women physicians.

Next year's meeting will be at Omaha.

A. R. GRIFFITH, M. D.

THE FEAR OF DEATH.

Familiarity with death is apt to alter one's earlier conceptions of it. Two ideas are very generally accepted which experience shows to be false. One is that the dying usually fear death; and the other, that the act of dying is accompanied by pain. It is well known to all physicians, that when death is near, its terrors do not seem to be felt by the patient. Unless the imagination is stimulated by the frightful portrayal of the supposed "pangs of death," or of the sufferings which some believe the soul must endure after dissolution, it is rare indeed that the last days or hours of life are passed in dread. Oliver Wendell Holmes has recorded his protest against the custom of telling a person who does not actually ask to know, that he cannot recover. As that loving observer of mankind asserts, that people almost always come to understand that recovery is impossible; it is rarely needful to tell anyone that this is the case. When nature gives the warning, death appears to be as little feared as sleep. Most sick persons are very, very tired; sleep—long quiet sleep—is what they want. I have never seen many people die. I have never seen one who seemed to fear death, except when it was, or seemed to be, rather far away. Even those who are constantly haunted, while strong and well, with a dread of the end of life, forget their fear when that end is at hand. As for the act of dying—the final passage from life to death—it is absolutely without evidence that the oft-repeated assertions of its painfulness are made. Most people are unconscious for some hours before they die; and in the rare cases where consciousness is retained unimpaired until a few minutes before the end, the last sensation must be of perfect calm and rest. It is worse than cruel to add to the natural dread of death which oppresses us in health the dread of dying.—Dr. Roosevelt, in *Scribner's Magazine*.

That a simple test for digestibility, by which one can determine easily if a solid food is one which is proper to give to a sick person, is to drop a small piece of it into cold water. If it soaks up the water rapidly the food is moderately digestible. This test was given to a nurses' class.

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