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THE GROWTH OF HOMEOPATHY.

Oliver Wendell Holmes was a scholar, a delightful poet and doubtless a good physician, but when he turned his hand to prophecy he made a dismal failure. He prophesied the death of Homeopathy in a prophetic article written in 1848. At the threshold of the twentieth century there are more institutions, hospitals, public and private, in the United States than there were practicing physicians of Homeopathy in 1848. Professor Holmes lived to realize his prophetic failure.

In 1875 there was established in the University of Michigan a homeopathic department. Michigan was the first of our states not only to recognize the claims of the new school, but also that the taxpayers who supported State medicine, many of whom, and especially of the better and thinking class, should not contribute alone to the education of physicians of a school in which they had no faith. About that time there was much bitterness shown our school, not by the people nor the authorities, but by the physicians of the dominant school.

A physician who was practicing in a town of Southwestern Missouri, and a graduate of the old school department of that university, wrote a letter to the "Detroit Review" bemoaning the disgrace of admitting Homeopathy to the university. He stated in his communication that Homeopathy was dead in his part of the country; that there was only one homeopathic physician within a radius of one hundred miles from his town, and that he was on his last legs. He said that he felt like turning his diploma with the face forward the wall because of the indignity thus brought upon his Alma Mater. To-day the number of homeopathic physicians within a radius of one hundred miles from this town has increased over three thousand two hundred per cent., and it is far from being a populous community.

Ever since Homeopathy was promulgated it has been declared either dead or dying, but somehow or other, like Banquo's ghost, it will not down.

During the last two decades of the nineteenth century the growth of Homeopathy has been commensurate with that of any previous period. Let us compare briefly the status of the school in 1880 and in 1900:

In 1880 there was one national homeopathic body; in 1900, ten.

In 1880 there were twenty-three State societies; in 1900, thirty-four.

In 1880 there were ninety-nine local societies and homeopathic clubs; in 1900, one hundred and fifty.