

REPORT.	Year.	No. of inmates.	No. of deaths.	Ratio of deaths.
8	1843	184	2	
9	1844	169	2	
10	1845	175	0	
		527	4	1 to 132.

During the first seven years, the inmates were under Allopathic treatment, and the deaths averaged one to thirty-nine. During the last three years the treatment has been exclusively Homeopathic, and the deaths have averaged only one to one hundred and thirty-two. For the last eighteen months there has been no death. The children have generally continued free from ophthalmia and cutaneous diseases; but every child, on its first admission, is expected to have, and generally does have an attack of one or both of these complaints, which shows that the same causes which originally produced these affections are still operating, and that the exemption of the children from them for the last two years is entirely owing to Medical treatment.

PATHOLOGY,

Considered in its relations to Homeopathy.

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PATHOLOGY, in its widest acceptation and its most just signification, should include all diseased appearances which proceed from the action upon the human system of morbid and medicinal, or toxicological agents. Some of the most prominent agents of the first class are malaria, the contagious particles arising from variola, scarlatina, rubeola, plague, scabies, typhus, hospital, and other contagious fevers; the epidemic influence of cholera asphyxia, influenza, and analogous diseases; the infectious secretions arising from gonorrhea and syphilis; constant exposure to impure air, the use of unwholesome food, and atmospheric vicissitudes. The last class comprehends drugs of all kinds, whether derived from the vegetable, mineral, or animal kingdoms, capable of producing abnormal changes when introduced into the human organism.

Respecting the operation of all these agents, we think it cannot justly be denied that each of them exercises a distinct specific action peculiar to itself, and that all these different actions constitute so many distinct specific inflammations capable of developing pathological changes of almost infinite variety. We are aware that surgeons recognize but two kinds of inflammation, which they term the *common*, and the *specific*. Sir Astley Cooper, however, has added a third, which he calls *irritable inflammation*. The first kind occurs for the most part after mechanical injuries, and nature

makes an immediate effort at restoration, by pouring out upon the edges of the injured part an adhesive matter. In the second species, or *specific* inflammation, the action of the vessels of the affected structures is of a different character—varying in each case according to the nature of the virus, or poison exercising an influence. The varieties of this specific inflammation are almost infinite, since, as we have just remarked, there is scarcely a drug, or a morbid agent of any description, which does not exert an action peculiar to itself when introduced into the circulation through the stomach, lungs, or other absorbing surface.

Medical men have injudiciously limited specific inflammations to the action of syphilitic, gonorrheal, and a few other deleterious poisons, like the contagions of small pox, leprosy, plague, scarlet fever, and analogous affections; but it is equally susceptible of demonstration, that the action of every drug upon the human organism is peculiar to itself, and unlike, in some respects, that of any other drug. Thus, the inflammatory action to which large doses of mercury give rise, are as distinct and specific as the action of the gonorrheal virus. The discoloration of the teeth, gums, and the mucous membrane of the mouth—the lead breath, taste, and odor—the emaciation, the colic, and the paralysis which occur from the absorption of lead into the system, are as distinct and specific effects of this drug as are the chancre and its concomitants of the syphilitic virus. The same law holds good with regard to every drug—each one possessing an individuality—a specificity—a *modus medendi* peculiar to itself.

In view of these facts, and of the importance of selecting remedies, the pathogenesis of which shall correspond as closely as possible to the real condition of the diseased structure as well as to the visible symptoms which may be present, we deem it important that more particular attention should be directed to the subject of pathology in connection with the provings of drugs, and the selection of remedies, than has hitherto been done.

We fully appreciate the value, and absolute necessity even, of noting all the manifest symptoms of disease, and of selecting our remedies in as complete accordance with these symptoms as possible; but since many serious disorders are constantly occurring, which are either unaccompanied by any visible symptoms, or by those only which are vague and non-characteristic, thus rendering a proper selection of remedies extremely difficult, and sometimes impossible, we should not hesitate