

application of a law of nature, requiring time, labor, and judgment. He cannot avoid a careful retrospect of his practice with the query, Had not such a medicine or such a dilution a greater affinity for the symptoms than the one employed? had it been administered, might not the result have been more happy?

Thus it will be seen that the homeopathist does not lie on a bed of roses; that his means of livelihood are not obtained without that wearing care and toil which tend to curtail life; and that he has trials and annoyances enough from the open enemies of the system and its own peculiar and necessary difficulties, to entitle him to sympathy and encouragement, as well as a cheerful remuneration of his services from those who reap the advantage of his care and skill.—That such is, however, far from being always the case, the following classification of patients will show. Patients may be divided primarily into two great classes, the Non-Remunerating and the Remunerating.

The first may be subdivided thus:—

1. Those who neither pay nor are expected to pay anything; and, 2. Those who pay something, but not enough to remunerate a medical man for his services. In the former case he gives the whole, and in the latter a part, of his attendance.

The second primary division may also be subdivided into—1. Generous souls, who, remembering how much the medical man does for the unremunerating class, not only pay what, by law they are bound to do, but add what they can afford in the form of fee or present, and thus partially indemnify him for what he does gratuitously. 2. Those who pay the ordinary tariff bills as a matter of course, neither more nor less, thinking nothing of the matter; were all patients of this class, the physician would have no just cause of complaint. 3. Those who, from some mental obliquity of vision, either natural or educational, regard medical bills in a very different light from all others. It is the conduct of this class that has induced me to pen the present article, and to the following

considerations would I especially direct their attention. If medical treatment be regarded as a luxury, it should not be indulged in by those who cannot afford it; if, as a necessity, it should be paid for like any other necessity of life. Yet we often find patients who expect their physician, at all times of day and night, cheerfully to yield them his best services, and when pay-day comes, meanly endeavor to curtail his just bills, or grudgingly pay him his dues, while, at the same time, they freely spend large sums in the gratification of vanity, and the indulgence of luxurious tastes and habits. Such people seldom object to a bill, charging \$2 per visit, for ten or twenty visits in the course of a year; but when for a hundred visits a similar charge is made, they are perfectly horrified, forgetting that the diseases requiring so many visits are often more severe, demanding a much larger amount of labor and anxiety on the part of the doctor than the more trifling ones, for which fewer visits are paid; rendering the case exactly the reverse of a mercantile transaction, in which the larger amount of business done at once enables the wholesale dealer to work for smaller profits.

The tendency of homeopathy being to cure, the patient may indulge a reasonable hope that his bills will diminish year by year; while that to allopathy being to confirm disease, and ruin the constitution, holds out a prospect to its votary of a yearly increase in his medical bills. The experience of homeopathic medical men generally shows that, were it not for the extension of the principle, and consequent addition of new patients, their income would decrease year by year.

The following from the London *Punch* will serve to illustrate the idea (indeed we can hardly resist the conclusion that *Punch* had the superior advantage of homeopathy in view when he wrote the article):—"At present a medical practitioner is paid in inverse ratio to the good that he does his patient. The latter gives the most money for the least value received, and for much that is worse than valueless received into the