

It is not our purpose now to lay before you the evidence of the truth of this principle. We do not seek to present an argument, but an appeal to you, and therefore aim to restrict ourselves to such facts as are held by you and us in common. Among these, we think, there are many instances in which its applicability may be recognized, but we admit that they are not sufficient to establish it as a general fact in medicine. The reasons why decisive evidence on this subject has not been reached by you, we trust, will gradually disappear. In the meantime, there are some approximate steps on which substantial agreement between us has been reached, and on these alone would we dwell. Such, we think, to be the following propositions:

1st. Medicines often have a special tendency towards certain organs, and in many instances this tendency is manifested towards the same organs in disease, which the particular medicine is most apt to disturb if taken in health. The bowels, perhaps, will be the seat of the disturbing or remedial action in whatever way the medicine is administered.

2d. The same is true to a great extent in regard to tissues, a given article affecting some tissues more than others, both in disease and in health. The mucous membranes may be reached by one remedy, the muscular tissue or the nervous by others.

3d. The prominent effects of a medicine on the healthy organism may often be divided into two classes, which seem to have a fixed relation to each other. This is manifested variously, according to circumstances. We have, for example, in different forms, excitement and depression; stupor and wakefulness; constipation and diarrhoea; loss of appetite and bulimy; extreme pain and insensibility.

4th. The same is true as to the remedial effects of medicines; the same article modifying favorably two opposite morbid conditions. A medicine will not merely cause diarrhoea and constipation in health; but the same medicine will, very likely, in many cases of disease, remove the same opposite or alternate affections.

5th. These two classes of phenomena, both when morbid and when curative, seem at times to depend in some way upon the dose; so that the existence of one set of symptoms in connection with one dose, does not preclude us from predicating the correlative symptoms from another dose. In large doses, a medicine may cause purging,—in small, constipation. It often depends on circumstances, of which the dose is chief, whether a medicine impairs or restores the functions of an organ.

(Concluded next No.)

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#### IRREGULAR REGULARS.

One of the common charges brought against medical gentlemen who are known to differ in their therapeutic sentiments from those who make themselves needlessly unhappy about their neighbors, is this—*to wit*—"they are not regular practitioners."

What constitutes a regular physician? Those in the majority would