

the healthy, in order to discover their pathogenetic effects, and to administer the remedies so proved in accordance with the therapeutic formula, "*Similia similibus curantur*," and to administer these remedies in a simple state. And at this time he considered that the law was only applicable to the cure of those chronic diseases which in all ages have been the opprobria of ancient medicine, and that the best treatment for acute diseases was the so-called rational method so well known to us all. Accident demonstrated the fallacy of this theory.

In Hahnemann's great work "On the Nature and Treatment of Venereal Diseases," published in 1786, and re-published in his Lesser Writings, we find that he gives, for the treatment of syphilis, doses of one, two, or three grains of Mercurius solubiles, Hahnemanni, and the whole quantity which he thought it necessary to employ in the treatment of moderately severe cases amounted to about nine or ten grains. This was certainly a small quantity compared with that with which the heroes of the Old School saturated the unhappy victims committed to their care, for we read of Paul Dubois applying mercurial ointment in doses of from one pound to one pound and a half.

From 1790 to 1799 we find Hahnemann giving such doses as the following:—Three grains of vertrum album every morning for four weeks for a case of spasmodic asthma, which he cured. Camphor in doses of 20, 30, or even 40 grains per diem. Cenchona bark in drachm doses. Opium in doses of half a grain. Powder of arnica root in dysentery, in doses ranging from two to fourteen grains, according to the age of the patient, and it is only in 1799 or

1800 that the infinitesimal doses were used at all.

Hahnemann's reasons for the sudden transition from the massive doses given in 1798 to the infinitesimals of 1799, may be briefly stated as follows:—A desire to avoid the aggravation of the disease by larger doses; an observation of the power of remedies when given in small doses frequently repeated; and an observation of the great susceptibility of the diseased organ to a medicine having a homeopathic relation to it.

The dilutions were prepared, not according to the centesimal scale, but irregularly, each remedy being prepared according to a distinct scale, thus in the treatment of the war-typus, in 1814, he found that Bryonia and rhus toxicodendron were the specific remedies, and these were directed to be prepared in the proportion of 1 to 360, and to be carried up to the 12th dilution, which would be nearly equal to our 16th centesimal dilution, one drop being a dose. Although Hahnemann now in a great measure used infinitesimal doses, he did not remain constant in his attachment to them, for in the Lesser Writings we find him relating the histories of two cases of gastric affections treated by him, one of which was cured with a drop of the juice of Bryonia, and the second was cured with a drop of Pulsatilla¹². In the 3rd and 4th volumes of the *Materia Medica Pura*, published in 1835, we have the dilutions laid down at full length. Camphor is directed to be given in doses of one-eighth of a grain at short intervals. Sulphur in the 2nd trituration, stramonium in the 9th dilution, squilla in the 1st dilution, ledum in the 15th dilution, euphrasia in the mother tincture, ipecacuanha in the 3rd dilution, theja and