

HOMŒOPATHY IN HOLLAND.

In our latest number (*Leidsch Dagblad* of 21st December), we communicated what *De Standard* wrote over homeopathy, that there is not a chair of homeopathy at any of our universities, when a change in this state of affairs may be expected, and what trouble was before one who, in this country, applied himself to the study of homeopathy. We now draw attention to the fact that an allopathic physician of Leiden, Dr. Den Houter, in *De Standard* writes that he has read and agreed with—in so far as the chief thought is concerned—what the journal said in the interest of a chair of homeopathy at one of our universities.

Dr. Den Houter refers to a speech of Dr. Arthur Sperling at Berlin: that homeopathy was not yet ripe enough for teaching, but ripe enough for investigation.

But the writer justly disapproves that in the present circumstances students do not learn what homeopathy really is.

"Also it is unexplainable that the thus-mentioned heads of medical science do not experimentally investigate the homeopathic therapeutics when they have taken over so much that is good from it, and when, in certain interesting points, they must do justice to its methods, scientifically. Finally, for reasons of policy, it is to be wished that homeopathy be not slightly treated. The experience of all ages, in every land, teaches that oppression under any form was always the principal and first cause of the flourishing of any doctrine or principle whatever."

Moreover, Dr. Den Houter would call our attention to the fact that those who predict the doctrine of Hahnemann in the future are not perhaps wrong, but still overlook an important fact. In proportion as the older sister in theory and practice takes over more and more what is good in homeopathy, in the same proportion vanishes the necessity for the continuance of an independent existence for the new school.

"If one observes," says the writer, "the not-to-be-despised results of homeopathy, then he can easily understand that it has many followers, for sailors, for country people, and for all who are far from medical aid, the homeopathy family medicine chest is, in fact, a great boon.

"Homeopathy counts her adherents not the less among the noble and aristocratic; the people, too, who think it is not fashionable to be in too good health are its disciples, while the great host of men with unstrung nerves frequently trust temporarily in its elegant, harmless remedies, and

who would count that as a reproach to homeopathy?"

"It is less easy to explain that among Christians and Protestants there are to be found so many who in their zeal for the teaching of Hahnemann frequently go to such excess that they indulge in almost idolatrous worship."

In conclusion, the writer shows that there is, in this matter, much to be expected from the still youthful "Christlyke Vereening voor Natuur, en Geneeskundigen in Nederland" (Christian Union for the Natural and Medical Sciences of the Netherlands), which includes among its members men such as Dr. Hermanides and Professor Bakkus Roozeboom, and justly deserves the confidence of our Christian people."

In the *Weekblad van het Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde* of 19th December we read the following:—

In the Second Chamber of the States-General during the discussion of the State budget, under the section dealing with higher education, Mr. Kuyper brought forward the subject of homeopathy.* He reproached the Government with favoring a party view when, in making appointments to the chairs of our universities, they wholly neglect to provide for instruction in homeopathy, whereas the facts of the medicinal power of homeopathy should be fully demonstrated, and in other countries the homeopathic are placed alongside of the allopathic faculties. Fortunately, the Minister showed that he was not prepared to cooperate in the instituting of a special chair in homeopathy.

Homeopathy is characterized by the principles of *similia similibus*, from which its name is derived, and by the administering of medicine in a strongly diluted state. Are these two characteristics sufficient to warrant it being given a place beside the ordinary therapeutics as a special method of healing? In no wise. The ordinary therapeutics never scruples to prescribe medicine in strong dilution, whilst in many cases it deals precisely as if it made use of the rule *similia similibus*. For severe diarrhoea *oleum ricini* is prescribed, in many cases of obstruction opium, in some cases of vomiting an emetic, etc., and now, though people may dispute about the meaning of the expression "*Similia Similibus*," this appears certain, that the homeopaths think that, in the above-mentioned, and a number of other methods of treatment recommended by the usual therapeutics, their principles are really followed. They think that every medical man now and again reveals himself as a homeopath. And so all ground would fall