

symptoms, according to the law of similia similibus curantur. Likes are cured by likes. This is the only scientific and rational method of ascertaining the action of medicines. It is a creative distinction, universal in its application, true for all time.

The size of doses is another distinction between the practice of the old and the new school. Hahnemann found by gradual experience that small doses were best. This has been much ridiculed, but "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." It is certain these small doses effect cures. It is quite evident that the old brutal dosing is obsolete, the public will not submit to it. Ridicule of homoeopathic doses, therefore, seems out of place by allopaths, whose practice has been so greatly modified by Hahnemann. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." The continued use of violent medicines in large and increasing doses produces chronic diseases, and may be safely credited to allopathy as one of its fruits.

Slowness of cure is urged against homoeopathy. People want quick results in these days. The desire is very natural, and there is nothing to be said against it, but is it obtainable? If the foregoing contrasts in the two methods are admitted to favor homoeopathy, then the impatient must accept nature's estimate as to the time required for a cure.

The ordinary man, after reading this, will smile in a superior way and ask why such an advanced system should make so little progress. In reply, it may be said that any large organization is possessed of great vitality. That a system that can boast of the discovery of the circulation of the blood, of vaccination, of anesthetics, of antiseptics, must necessarily enjoy immense prestige. But although allopathy still holds the field, it is a modified allopathy, and less harmful than in former days. That it may gradually adopt all the teachings of homoeopathy without acknowledgment and without reserve, if necessary to its dignity, is to be hoped in the cause of human progress and happiness.

EUREKA.

AMMONIA FOR POISON IVY.

By S. V. Clevenger, M.D.

Thirty years ago, a troop of soldiers, going up the Yellowstone River on a steamboat were badly poisoned by contact with poison ivy. I recalled that Maisch, of Philadelphia, had found what he called "toxicodendric acid" in the vesicles of this skin disorder, but whether he suggested the alkaline neutralization or not I do not remember, anyway, I told the regimental surgeon about it, and that probably ammonia water would be a good application. He let me try it on some of the soldiers, who were instantly and permanently cured, while the surgeon's old-fashioned acetate of lead and opium application did little if any good.

There were two chambermaids on the boat, one was a respectable and worthy white woman, and the other a cantankerous drunken negress, who was much better off in bed, where the ivy poisoning kept her for four weeks, treated with the ancient lead method. The white woman, who was also poisoned, did not lose an hour from work after the ammonia water was applied.

During 1880, I published the result of using ammonia for ivy poisoning, also for stings of wasps, bees, etc., to destroy the formic acid that occasioned the pain, but, to my surprise, very few practitioners seem to have heard of this simple means of relief, though the publication was made in the Journal of the American Medical Association of the time.—Med. Brief.

KILLING PEOPLE BY TELLING BRUTAL TRUTHS.

Many people are killed by brutal truths. Some physicians are so conscientious—and so tactless—that they think they must tell patients the whole truth when they believe they cannot recover, instead of giving them the benefit of the doubt, for every physician knows that nearly always there is a doubt which way the case will turn. Cheering encouragement has saved many a life by helping it to pass a crisis favorably when the actual truth might have killed the patient or reduced his rallying powers to the danger-point. In all the affairs of life, cruel bluntness in stating cruel facts has caused untold misery and broken many friendships. Truth itself changes from a jewel to a dangerous weapon in the hands of a tactless person.—Success.