

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

IS HOMEOPATHY PRACTICABLE?—This question is often asked by those who can see nothing about homeopathy but infinitesimals and inertness. Were we asked if homeopathic medicine would perform the direct task of emetics, cathartics, and sudorifics, &c., we should be compelled to answer that it is impracticable, and more, is quite impossible; but were we asked if homeopathy could fill the indications with certainty for which medicine is used, arrest the rapid course of acute disease, stay the effect of fearful epidemics, and give permanent relief to chronic affections, we could answer with a consciousness of truth in the affirmative. We would not ask that our own *ipse dixit* be taken as proof, but could point the enquirer to the accumulated and constantly augmenting evidence of a multitude of competent and scientific observers, extending over a space of half a century forming a mass of evidence that would make a question of fact doubly conclusive, and to patients and patrons, now numbered by millions, who will cheerfully add their grateful testimony to a truth that has been full of life and joy to them and theirs. The testimony is not vague and shadowy, but will be found, on examination, to be as exact and circumstantial as medical facts can be.

We can give no better evidence than unvarying results. The *modus operandi* of medicine in changing the functions of the organism from a morbid to a healthy condition, like many other phenomenon, is not obvious and cannot be explained; hence, we are compelled to be satisfied that a certain effect invariably results from a specific cause. Of the existence of matter we derive evidence from the accumulation of its atoms until they become cognizable to the senses, while, of the existence of motive power we can gain a knowledge of only from effects produced. Gravitation is an existing power known only by its effect. Chemical affinity is another illustration of the existence of power without tangible properties to render its existence evident to the senses.

The same class who deny the practicability of homeopathy have objected to every discovery in science, from the earliest times. This class is no modern impediment to the progress of science, but is as old as