

dependence of things upon each other when we could logically establish nothing more than co-existence or succession; as if co-existence or succession necessarily implies connection or relation.* Look at the writings of a Spencer and a Huxley for illustrations of what I state. They, with Tyndall, have occupied a larger share of our thoughts than have many hundred more scientific writers who preceded and accompanied them. Yet what but bold assumption and word painting have we gleaned from the first of these; and a plausible but illogical mode of drawing conclusions.

SYNTHESIS IN MEDICINE.

While medical writers during the past and early part of the present centuries analysed, divided and separated diseases, and gave prominence to qualities and features by which one disease differs from, and is distinguished from another, (thereby clogging and oppressing the memory with varieties of dissimilitude,) there is a tendency now to synthetize, arrange and group in a more general way, diseases which may present some features of variance, but many of similarity and resemblance. Markedly is this the case in Cutaneous Medicine. Just one century ago, Shenck, of Vienna, completed his arrangement of cutaneous disorders. Willan wrote some twenty years later; and Hebra, also of Vienna, a half century still later. Compare the earlier with the later Vienna school, and we shall see that diseases are now classified on a sounder pathological and anatomical basis; that the skin is identified with "the rest of the organism;" and that the study of its diseases is clothed with a more scientific and philosophical

* We have had those assumptions on a large scale in Tyndall's assertion, recently, that the blue of the sky, as seen from the highest elevations, and above possibility of contamination with earth, is caused by vast numbers of foreign bodies floating in the atmosphere, so small as to be undistinguishable by a microscope magnifying 1500 diameters. Dollinger produced a magnifying power ten times that asked for, and *assumed* to be sufficient, but the minute germs still declined to exhibit themselves even to this powerful observer.

We have had the same thing on a small scale in our midst. We had in Canada predictions about the weather *many months in advance*, which were received by the thinking public with a smile of incredulity; but by the curious with avidity.—*dulce est errorari*. Had these been confined to foretelling the occurrence of the seasons, promising us much cold in winter, much heat in summer, many showers in spring time, and frost and falling leaves in autumn, we should have applauded so wise a reticence. But more definite prognostications were required by the public, and were given; still the heat came and went—and the "*froid vidait son sac*," with a wantonness and nonchalance regardless of the feelings and interest of Mr. Vennor.