

attack of illness. In the former case, development and growth are rapidly proceeding; the ordinary demand on the circulatory and nervous systems is very great. Any powerful additional stimulus, therefore, rapidly exhausts the nervous excitability, seriously deranges the various functions through the circulation, arrests development and growth, and soon terminates, if relief be not obtained, in the death of the individual. In the latter, a gradual decay has commenced, which would of itself eventually terminate in complete dissolution, and which may be very much hastened by many causes, particularly by disease. The circulation becomes languid; the functions gradually lose their activity and become almost torpid; there is less reactive power of the system.

Dr. Routh gives a table, (p. 45) in which he shews that the number, per cent., of cases admitted into the Homeopathic Hospitals is, under 10 years of age, 11.2; between 10 and 40, 73.7; and above 40, 15.1 per cent. Nearly three-fourths of all the cases being between the years, which mark the boundaries of the time when the body is most capable of resisting disease. Here, again, is evidence of careful selection, on the part of the Homeopaths, for the purpose of showing a small rate of mortality.

Dr. Routh, in the second section of the third part, takes up the subject of "mortality on particular diseases," and proves conclusively, from their own returns, that, under the heads of such serious inflammatory complaints as pneumonia, pleuritis and peritonitis, they include many diseases of a neuralgic character; and, indeed, have recourse to various disgraceful means, with the view of shewing that their treatment is even more successful in those diseases, than that pursued by the regular profession. "Thus in the Leipsic (1841-2) returns, we have 7 cases of peritonitis *muscularis*; in 1840-1, 1 case of peritonitis *muscularis*, another of pleuritis *muscularis* (Statistik); again the same year, 3 cases *muscular peritonitis* and *muscular pleuritis*, &c., in their cases of pneumonia, instances of *pneumonia-hypostatica* are recorded. This improper nomenclature it is clear, as including diseases perfectly different and in no ways fatal, must materially affect the cypher of mortality when a comparison is made for special diseases." (p. 48.)

In conclusion, Dr. Routh is deservedly entitled to the thanks of every member of the medical profession, for his able *exposé* of the "crooked statistics" of the Homeopathic Hospitals. His pamphlet is a *desideratum* which the opponents of this branch of quackery long wanted. Want of positive and reliable information on the subject, placed the defender of medical truth in a disadvantageous position; for when all other argument failed, the Homeopath was sure to bring forward his "statistics," and triumphantly point to the small cypher of mortality which they exhibited.