

ever did in his life; I can come to no other conclusion but that this horse had cramp; and that only.

Treatment.—In a well marked case of acute rheumatism, if there appeared much local inflammation or generally increased vascular action, I should be inclined to use the steam pretty freely; and open the bowels by aloetic purgatives and enemata. I should follow up this treatment by antimonial alteratives, combined with nitre and digitalis, and probably try the hydriodate of potass. Relief would also be afforded by any strong local stimulant; perhaps the *liquor ammonia*, in conjunction with camphor and olive oil, would be as good as any. When rheumatism becomes chronic, causing wasting of the muscles, and congestion of the membranes and tendinous parts, I believe that no treatment will be of much avail; we may, however, try mild doses of physic, with antimonials, alteratives, warm stimulating embrocations, bandaging, hand-rubbing, and so on, and try the effect of a few months rest at grass, if the animal be worth the expense.

Montreal, October, 1851.

ART. XXIX.—“*Similia Similibus Curantur.*” A notice of Homœopathy and its Doctrines, by D. M'CALLUM, M.D. M.R.C.S. England.

That there are a few remedies employed in the treatment of disease by the regular practitioner, the long continued action of which on the healthy system, develops certain phenomena remarkable for their resemblance to the symptoms induced by the disease for whose cure they are frequently exhibited, will not be denied by even the most orthodox of the profession. The observation of this fact by a German visionary, who for some years had remained in entire seclusion, devoting his whole attention to Chemistry and the translation of medical treatises,

led to the promulgation of a system of medicine, the fundamental principle of which is contained in the words which head this article. A principle recognized indeed by the great minds of the profession as applicable in a certain few isolated cases, but quite incompatible with, and invalidated by, the careful observation and experience of centuries on the general action of remedies.

Samuel Hahnemann published his first dissertation explanatory of his views in “*Hufeland's Journal*,” in the year 1796; this was followed in 1810 by his “*Organon der Rationellen Heilkunde*,” which contained a systematic account of his doctrine of Homœopathia, and is still regarded by his followers as the great authority—the sure foundation on which the system rests. Passing over a number of remedies whose actions might undoubtedly be referred to the operation of the principle that “like cures like,” he, unfortunately for the truth of his deductions from the results of the experiments he instituted, selected Peruvian Bark as the remedy which, from its invariable operation on the economy, was to attest the truth of his reasoning; unfortunately, as careful experiments instituted by such men as Andral proved, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the incorrectness of his assertion, that the exhibition of Peruvian Bark in certain doses, constantly produced an intermitting fever.

The immense number of symptoms, which simple substances, such as sulphur, common Salt and Soda, are said to produce as their effects on the organism, is of itself sufficient to create a suspicion in the minds of most persons, that everything conspired to morbidly excite the imagination of the experimenter. “Hahnemann” says the Rev. Mr. Everest, “for many years submitted voluntarily to privations of every kind; a severe regimen, daily, and, often extremely painful sufferings, caused by the ingestion of small doses of very active