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### NEW DISCOVERIES.

In the March number of McClure's Magazine is a very interesting article on the researches of Dr. Loeb of the University of Chicago. If the claims made are even partially true, and there is no reason for doubt on this score, one scarcely realizes what these discoveries mean to chemistry, physiology and medicine. It will cause such a scientific revolution that when peace has again been proclaimed hardly a vestige of the old time physiology and chemistry will remain to us; even the venerable bulwark of the school of traditional medicine, the *Materia Medica*, will have disappeared, shattered beyond recognition by the forces of the rational pharmacology.

Some of the paragraphs in the article are of peculiar interest to homœopaths, for instance:

"This was for half a century one of the deepest problems of chemical philosophy. It remained so until the distinguished Swedish physicist Arrhenius brought forward evidence to show that the molecules of the salts and acids are torn apart when they are dissolved, and apparently with tremendous force. We are but on the threshold of a knowledge of the actions which take place in the molecular world; in some instances, as in the case here under view, it seems as if these forces are so great that we have scarce any means of coping with them."

"It should," he said, "afford the basis for a national pharmacology. By means of the ionic theory the effect of drugs should be computable with a mathematical accuracy. So, too, in the field of psychology, its application should be wide."

The first paragraph borders dangerously close to the ground contended for by the unscientific (?) homœopathic, who has for the past century been a firm believer in the development of power (medical and curative) of drugs by what he terms potentization or the breaking up of them into the most minutely divided particles. In other words, the more minutely the drug molecules were broken up the more potent became its medicinal effect, and also the more far-reaching its action.

Hahnemann, in his *Organon* published in 1810, comes very near foretelling this