

dilution, one hundred such hogsheads to prepare the sixth, an amount of fluid equivalent to Lake Superior for the twelfth. The eighteenth could be prepared if the Atlantic could be converted into alcohol for the purpose; while the thirtieth, which I understand is the Procrustean bed to which all diseases, constitutions, and temperaments must stretch their limbs, could only be prepared by means of a globe of fluid about the size of the sun." And Gulliver Munchausen, M.D., proceeds to enlarge upon and illustrate the facts so lucidly set forth, stating that the twelfth dilution is about equal in point of therapeutic value to a single globule of medicine dropped into the Lake of Geneva, and a teaspoonful dipped out at the other end, and the twenty-fourth equal to a globule of the twelfth dropped into the Atlantic and a teaspoonful dipped out on the other side. In fact the final "coup de grace" is dealt to homeopathy by our friend's masterly article, and the dagger of mercy is not withdrawn till Hahnemann and his legions are exterminated.

Now, at the risk of disturbing the learned pundit in his pleasing labor of building "Chateaux en Espagne," I will state briefly the manner in which the homeopathic physician prepares his infinitesimals. Suppose the physician wishes to prepare the thirtieth dilution, then he places before him thirty clean half-ounce vials, formed of somewhat different materials from those in which our friend doles out "black-wash" or laudanum, and after labelling them with the name of the medicine, and numbering them 1, 2, 3, and so on to 30, he drops into the first vial ninety-eight drops of pure alcohol, and into each of

the others ninety-nine drops. He next drops into the first vial two drops of the remedy which he wishes to prepare—say *thuya occidentalis*. Now the fluid remedies are composed of equal parts of the juice of the plant and pure alcohol, which is called the "mother tincture;" consequently the two drops which he dropped into the first vial, contained one drop of pure medicine. The first vial, containing ninety-nine drops of alcohol and one drop of medicine, is then thoroughly mixed by succussion, and this is called the "first dilution," each drop of which contains the one hundredth part of a drop of the original tincture. One drop of the first dilution is next dropped into the vial marked "No. 2," and when thoroughly mingled by succussion, is called the "second dilution," and in like manner each drop of this contains the ten-thousandth part of a drop of the original *thuya occidentalis*. In like manner the "third dilution" is formed by the addition of a drop of the second to ninety-nine drops of alcohol, and so on till the thirtieth or any other required dilution is reached.

The preparation of a solid medication—such as *aurum metallicum*—differs from this, in that the attenuations from 1 to 6 are prepared by trituration. One grain of the medicine is triturated with ninety-nine grains of sugar of milk. "Of these pulverized substances, you take one grain. . . . Pour this grain into an enlarged porcelain mortar. Then you take thirty-three grains of sugar of milk, and mix them with the drug by triturating the mass with some force for about six minutes by means of a porcelain pestle; before you triturate, stir the mass for a little with a spatula. Having triturated the mass, you stir it again for