

healing art becomes universal, than that that art should, in five years, be known from the rising to the setting of the sun, and known in such a manner, as in five years more to insure its long sleep in the grave, where all the exploded humbugs of the past are sleeping. Great would be the gain to our cause, and great to suffering humanity, were such conceited practitioners yet more like angels' visits—few and far between.—*Phil. Hom. Jour.*

For the Homeopathic Journal.

THE SPECIFICS OF HOMEOPATHY.

ON glancing over the columns of a newspaper lately, my attention was arrested by an advertisement of a "Panacea" for Intermittent Fever, issued by some pseudo-homeopaths in a neighboring town; and I now purpose making a brief inquiry into the possibility of one medicine always curing the same disease, for that is the object of the so-called "Panacea."

It is evident that a disease, in order to be curable by one remedy, must be *essential*—that is, the disease must always present the same symptoms, and always return in the same form. Now, of all the diseases that afflict the human frame, Intermittent Fever is one which assumes an almost Protean variety of forms.

Some forms of fever consist almost wholly of coldness, others of heat; in one form the heat comes first, followed by chills, and these again by sweat; frequently the chills are followed by heat, and afterwards by sweat; in some cases the patient feels chilly, although the skin is hot to the touch; while in other cases the patient complains of heat, although the skin is cold to the touch; in some forms of fever there is a very long interval between the attacks; while in another form, much dreaded in the Southern States, the chill is closely followed by the heat, then sweat, which is almost immediately followed by another chill and heat, and so the circuit continues, frequently terminating in death, unless promptly arrested.

In addition to these leading features

of the disease, there are many other symptoms characteristic of each individual case; such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, hunger, thirst, sleep, delirium, temper, and pains in various parts of the body, before, during, and after the chills, heat, and sweat.

In addition to all this, the symptoms appearing during the intermission require to be taken into account, especially if the paroxysm has not been well marked. Speaking of the treatment of this disease, Professor J. S. Douglas, whose excellent monograph on the subject entitles him to rank as good authority, says:—"Few, if any, diseases require a more careful study, in order to treat each individual case successfully, than Intermittent Fever. There are so many elements in different stages of the paroxysm, and in the apyrexia, that each case constitutes a considerable study of itself."

And again, Dr. Franz Hartmann, one of the most celebrated of Hahnemann's pupils, says:—"The treatment of Intermittent Fever is not as easy as it would seem at first sight; every case has to be examined independently of every other case, for this reason, that almost every case differs from the other, even in an epidemic intermittent."

Let us now see to what extent the old school has succeeded in discovering a specific for Intermittent Fever. As is well known, Cinchona or quinine is one of the triumvirate of allopathic specifics—mercury, iron, quinine. In all intermittent diseases, this is the grand "Panacea," and, indeed under the use of large and repeated doses, the type of an Intermittent Fever is altered, the disease is suppressed, or rather is changed into a continuous fever, less violent in appearance, but much more difficult to cure. But when this suppression has been effected, is the patient cured? For answer we turn to Hahnemann's eloquent description of the patient's state:—"It is true the paroxysms do not occur any more, as before, on regular days, and at regular hours, but behold his livid complexion, his bloated countenance, his languishing looks! Behold how difficult it is for him to breathe, see his heavy and