

Homœopathic Messenger

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF HOMŒOPATHY AND OF THE MONTREAL
HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL.

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MODERN HOMŒOPATHY.

ITS HISTORY, DEFINITION AND PRACTICE.

HISTORY.

In its present form Homeopathy owes much to that greatest of the clinical observers of his age, Samuel Hahnemann. Through many years of severe hard-ship he investigated and studied the drugging of drugs, until in Hufeland's Journal in 1796, he was able to give to the world a Theory of Therapeutics which his own clinical experience convinced him to be the true and rational method of curing diseased conditions. The writings of Hahnemann form the foundation from which has risen, with amazing rapidity, the modern system of therapeutics known as Homœopathy. Hahnemann was the founder of Homœopathy, but the Homœopathy of to-day is a vastly greater, grander and more complete system than the Homœopathy set forth in his writings. At the present day Homœopathic practitioners exist in every part of the civilized world. Some of its best original work comes from Russia, France, Spain, India and Brazil. At present the Homœopathic journals of this continent rival in number, scientific information, original work and circulation, those of the Dominant or so-called "Regular" School. A greater number than this word "regular" cannot be imagined, for no two "Regular" text-books, no two "Regular" men agree on the treatment of a given case; while for a diseased condition presenting similar symptoms, the Homœopathic physician, no matter where found, if he knows his work, prescribes the same drugs. Homœopathy is the regular system. In the United States, a good proportion of the State Hospitals and asylums are under Homœopathic treatment. In New York city the second largest hospital maintained by the civil authorities is the Metropolitan, a Homœopathic institution whose total accommodation will reach 1,300 beds. The catalogue of Homœopathic books runs into the thousands, and every week new books of great scientific value issue from the Homœopathic publishing houses.

DEFINITION OF HOMŒOPATHY.

1. The materia medica of Homeopathy consists of the complete record, physiological, pathological and symptomatic of the action of drugs upon the healthy organism.

2. If a diseased condition (not resulting from the ill-effects of drugs), presents similar symptoms to any drug, so proved, that drug in the minimum effective dose will remove that diseased condition.

3. (Not) "Let the Same be cured by the Same."

(But) "Let Likes be cured by Likes."

THEORY OF DRUG ACTION.

We do not know all drugs; we cannot read all pathological symptoms. When we are perfect in the use, Homœopathy will cure invariably and people will only die from old age or accident.

All drugs so far effectively proved have three actions: 1. Primary or Physiological. 2. Secondary or Curative. Calomel in large doses produces marked symptoms, mainly on the gastro-intestinal tract. Take two of these, cramp and diarrhoea. The effect of the dose continues four to six hours. Then, as the drug is leaving the system by the bowels and kidneys, and only a small quantity remains, mark the opposite result. The diarrhoea gives place to obstinate constipation, the colic to the calm of an opiate.

If this result were only the stunning result of the powerful drug causing muscular exhaustion, this muscular exhaustion would pass away in a few hours, as in the case of other muscles. This result, however, lasts for days, and our clinical experience convinces us that this secondary effect is a true Secondary Action coming from the minimum effective dose. We have time and time again seen a diarrhoea like to that of mercury (but from chill), with small doses of mercurius, when large doses of tincture of opium in the hands of a Dominant School physician had failed.

QUESTION OF DOSE

The object is to find the largest amount of the drug that will obtain the Secondary Action and avoid the Primary. This has been learned by experience. An illustration will be clearest. A man comes to us presenting