

the chief aim of our study. The first class embodies what we know of the nature of disease, and for much of it we are indebted to your own writers. The second class forms the basis of our knowledge of the action of medicines. The latter is to a much less extent derived from your authorities. Our therapeutics is based, and, as far as is yet possible, is built upon the relation which we suppose exists between these two classes of phenomena. All theories, hypotheses, and speculations, as to the nature of disease, or the *modus operandi* of medicines, hold but a subordinate place, and might be excluded altogether without serious loss. But the requirements of our system include a full investigation and a rigid comparison of these two classes of phenomena. Whatever aid can be afforded by mechanical ingenuity or scientific experiment, all that the most minute observation can see, and the most enlightened reason can know, of the history, laws, and phenomena of disease on the one hand, or of the action of medicines on the other, are needed to do justice to that principle wherein consists the peculiarities of our therapeutics.

We will not venture to say but that the time will come when the knowledge of the nature of disease will be so complete, and the therapeutic action of medicines will be so well understood, that the proper treatment in a given case can be reached, with their aid, by some better process than we can now realize. But as yet, the best results thence attainable seem to us to be casual approximations only. Your "general principles," if we understand them, include a theory of disease and a theory of the action of its remedies. But in practice you, as well as we, constantly seek and use processes and results more direct than those furnished by the most successful theoretical researches in pathology and therapeutics. Yet we would not undervalue these. Their elaboration has been the work of ages. As channels of investigation, they have given an impulse where, perhaps, no other motive would have sufficed, for the most patient researches in anatomy, physiology, and pathology. The end which has been aimed at, the making them the basis of treatment, we are not content with, though we feel that the facts collected in the attempt are of inestimable value.

In tracing what we suppose to be the connexion between the physiological effects of medicines and the phenomena of disease whereby their use is indicated, we have a rule to work by, on which we place a very high estimate. The belief that there is in therapeutics one general principle, is the sum and substance of our heresy.

That medicines tend to cure diseases characterized by symptoms similar to those which the same medicines tend to produce, is the essence of homeopathy. This similitude is understood to include every trace of disorganization and disturbance produced by natural disease and by medicinal action. We should seek to know, as minutely as possible, not merely the obvious changes of structure which take place under these two morbid forces, but beyond these, such manifestations of morbid action as are none the less real, but which are, as to their causes and relations, hidden from our scrutiny. Majendie and others "ascribe to emetic tartar a specific power of causing engorgement or inflammation of the lungs." If this is correct, emetic tartar