

Correspondence of the Liverpool Journal.
OLD PHYSIC AND NEW.

SIR,—In a recent number of your highly-interesting and widely-circulated paper, you adverted to Raikes's Journal, which comprises reminiscences of social life in Paris, where the writer principally resided, and took pleasure in recording all the anecdotes and news of the day. Some of the anecdotes, it is stated, are amusing, and that the following is one of the best:—A German doctor, of the allopathic order, once, in jest, proposed the following question to Hahnemann:—"If the millionth part of a grain has so much efficacy, would not an ounce of the same substance thrown into the Lake of Geneva be sufficient to cure the whole of Switzerland?" "Sir," replied the arch professor, "the most violent storm that ever blew would never agitate the lake in a degree sufficient to make a general solution of the medicine in the water." That many cures have been performed under this system, it is further remarked, can hardly be denied; were it otherwise, the prestige would not long have existed, *but the strict rules of abstinence, which form an indispensable part of the prescriptions, may have essentially contributed to success*; moreover, your correspondent, who calls himself a Fellow of the Royal Society, Doctor of Physics, &c., (who, it would seem, has had as much to do with poisons as any toxicologist in the kingdom,) declares through the same medium, that if the horrible drug system was discarded altogether, and people *dicted* themselves, and let Dr. Nature, only, attend them, any other physician would, in his humble opinion, never be required; surgeons, of course, would be, in cases of accident and the like. All the globules, of arsenic, or nux vomica, in the shop of the homeopath, he continues, would never hurt any one, *therefore it is for this very reason that he has for the last few years so extolled the peculiar views of Hahnemann and his numerous disciples*. A pretty reason, truly, for embracing homeopathy. The *reductio ad absurdum* which he attempts is a gratuitous assumption

—the *small dose*, is no essential part of the principle of homeopathy; it is a corollary from a proved problem. He may be a very good and able man in his way; he was determined to find a mare's nest, and he found it; the *cheval de bataille* is still the globules, and diet. Nothing is more common than to represent the regimen as something intolerably abstemious. Our opponents simply state that which is not correct. I subjoin the customary "*starvation*" rule, and cordially from my heart of hearts wish every poor and deserving family in Liverpool was privileged to be put on homeopathic diet forthwith. Meats—Beef, mutton, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, pheasants, and other fresh game, plainly cooked. Fish—Soles, whittings, smelts, trout, sprats, and all flat fish. Soup or broth made from the lean of beef, veal, or mutton, to which may be added well boiled sago, tapioca, vermicelli, rice, semolina, or maccaroni. Eggs lightly dressed. Vegetables—Potatoes, brocoli, green peas, cauliflower, spinach, turnips, carrots, French beans, and asparagus. Fruit—Baked, stewed, or preserved apples, pears, cherries, strawberries, or any other not of acid quality. Beverage—Water, milk, cocoa, chocolate, arrowroot, gruel, toast water, barley water, and gum water. Indeed, sir, the philosophy of the homeopathic cure is a development of the scientific principles of practical medicine; but as vain is it for sufferers to appeal to our infatuated enemies for an unprejudiced opinion of its value, as it would be to expect an ordinary purveyor of the flesh of animals to admit the great superiority of vegetarianism; or the adulterating manufacturer of strong drinks to set forth, in glowing eulogy, the virtues of teetotalism. I am quite certain, as I have elsewhere so often urged, that the cause of homeopathy is greatly misunderstood, and that, in order to remove such misconception, the public mind cannot be too clearly indoctrinated in the general principles and chief points of our reformed system; hence it follows that the people require concise and intelligible views of what homeopathy means, which should be as plain.