

in September next has been postponed till April, 1912.

### The Eighth International Homoeopathic Congress.

The eight International Homoeopathic Congress in London, England, began on July 18th last, with the delivery of the inaugural address of the president, Dr. George Burford. There was a large gathering of medical men and women.

The Congress, said the president, was the most widely represented one ever summoned under the ægis of homoeopathy. Why did they as medical men meet as a detached body in separate assembly? Their isolated position was one of the anomalies of medical statesmanship in the past. A hundred years ago an original thinker in medicine, exercising the liberty of thought which was his professional birthright, carried the inspiring spirit of the Renaissance into medicine, and, by arduous and protracted experiment, evolved many new facts and a new law. This was a definite, and, as they considered, successful attempt to convey the methods of science into medicine. Had this discovery been made a hundred years later it would have linked up in a perfectly natural way with contemporary science and been hailed as *lux in tenebris* by original workers in medicine in search of a unifying principle. Appearing when it did, however, it was treated by controversial methods savouring of the Middle Ages. Hahenmann, a University graduate of the highest promise, master of eight languages, a brilliant physician, a first-class chemist, was subjected to much persecution and many indignities as the result of the publication of his *magnum opus*, and in three years was driven from his place of abode and practice. The whole account read like a description of a heresy hunt in the Middle Ages, and was totally at variance with the traditions and instincts of a liberal profession. Certainly the isolation of homoeopathists was not of their own seeking. It was one of the many tragedies of science which history had to record. The results had been deplorable. While possessing sufficient vitality to take root and spread all over the earth, homoeopathy had been cribbed and confined in its later development, and in many places squeezed out of existence.

But as an outside influence, homoeopathy had ousted the wholesale bleeding, blistering, mercurialization, and so forth of the Georgio-Victorian era from the practice of medicine. But even now every week witnessed the launch of some new "Dreadnought" in the shape of a much-vaunted remedy. Early enthusiasts obtained successes in all sorts and conditions of cases; later workers failed to repeat them, thus justifying the cynical advice of an astute physician who said that a new remedy should be given while it still cured. Inductive logic swept away the claims of the inventors of these new cures. He did not propose to dwell on the direct scientific proof of the law of similars developed and organized as homoeopathy. This was verified thousands of times daily. Vaccine therapy, serum therapy, X-ray therapy, and radio-active therapy were all unconscious illustrations of the intellectual groping of their sponsors after a therapeutic guide, and that guide, one and indivisible, was the law of similars. With regard to the future, they looked forward to a development of homoeopathy of which as yet they could only conceive the outline.

After referring to the origin of these Homoeopathic Congresses in 1876, the president proceeded to recommend the formation of an Inter-Congressional Board, with a view to securing continuity of co-operation among the homoeopaths of the world. He invited that Congress to become an epoch-making gathering by instructing its officials to draft a scheme embodying his suggestion.

### The American Veterinary Medical Association.

The American Veterinary Medical Association opened its convention in Toronto on the 22nd of August last. There were about 1,000 delegates present. Prof. Hobday represented Great Britain, and Prof. Gruener was the official representative of the Russian Government.

Dr. George H. Clover, Fort Collins, Colorado, in the course of his presidential address, touched on a number of interesting subjects, including the treatment of rabies and tuberculosis.

"Our work," he said, "must go forward by three parallel and seemingly equally important lines: first, combating