

regular profession. He witnessed the eminent success which attended the administration of specifics in *large doses*, and concluded, that as the effects on disease of all (some, however, would have been more correct) remedial substances bearing that name, might be referred to the operation of the principle, that "like cures like;" consequently, the remedies he employed, according, as he fondly thought, to that principle, would be equally beneficial. Unfortunate conclusion! Large doses were given, and, as might have been expected, a fearful aggravation of the symptoms ensued; the disease increased in intensity, and death hovered over the unfortunate one, whose every increased bodily pain and mental throes, spoke in terms not to be misunderstood of the fallacy of "*similia similibus curantur*" in his case. Again and again did Hahnemann try it, but with no better success. Homœopathy, as a system, was in danger! What was to be done? Act an honest part—retrace his steps—confess that the profession were already acquainted with the very few remedies whose effects on the healthy body resembled the symptoms of the diseases for whose cure they were administered. No! He had given it forth to the world that "*similia similibus curantur*" was a principle of universal applicability in the treatment of disease; he had already acquired considerable notoriety as the propounder of a new system. What was he to do? He could not continue to jeopardise the lives of his patients with impunity. Happy thought! He would hold fast to the axiom, but reduce the dose. And he consequently reduced the dose to such a degree, that the mind cannot form the most remote idea of the quantity of remedial matter contained in a Hahnemannian globule. That this is the correct explanation of the introduction of infinitesimal doses into Hahnemannism, will be evident from the following quotations. "The homœopathic law, and the

employment of small doses, are two things quite independent of each other. Hahnemann, when he commenced to practise homœopathy, *employed the ordinary doses; but observing the frequent and often dangerous reactions*, he was led gradually to diminish the dose, until he arrived at the systematic plan now adopted in the preparation of Homœopathic remedies. • • Large doses are opposed only to the peculiarities of Hahnemann; with them, patients may be treated Homœopathically, *but then, we may frequently expect a positive increase of the disease, OR EVEN DEATH. The experience of such painful and dangerous aggravations*, in no case necessary to cure, *led Hahnemann to employ minute doses.*"—"Principles and Practice of Homœopathy," by Francis Black, M.D., pp. 72 and 81.

"When he (Hahnemann) discovered the internal curing law, *he did not yet think of the small doses, and he employed the ordinary allopathic ones.* But though the truth of the fundamental homœopathic law was even thus confirmed at every step, he, however, observed at the same time, that by these strong doses *the symptoms of the disease were considerably aggravated*, and that a great many other *heterogeneous symptoms* usually appeared, *which caused long and sometimes not dangerous suffering to the patients.*"—"Allopathy and Homœopathy," by Karl Luther, M.D., p. 145.

"He reduced his doses considerably from those of ordinary practice; still, he found the aggravation produced was too great."—"Popular view of Homœopathy," by Rev. Thos. Everest, Rector of Wickwar.

"Hahnemann at first gave these medicines in nearly the usual doses, *but he soon learned to employ the minute doses, and the high dynamisations, &c.*"—"The pathogenetic effects of some of the principal Homœopathic Remedies," by Harris Dunsford, M.D., p. 6.