

raisins were highly recommended as a cure for mania. They were prescribed in large quantities and when the patient was well stuffed he became quiet. *Quantum sufficit* was all that was necessary to produce a temporary capitulation. Here is a wrinkle for some modern asylum crank who may be itching after evanescent notoriety among the *ignoble vulgus*. In this same principality manuscripts were found written in Coptic, which declared that a medical savant had delved into an investigation of the ultimate elements of nature. He was as familiar with the primitive atoms and molecules of matter as they clustered together by natural selection as he was with the members of his own family. He knew their shape, whether square, spheroidal, oblate or triangular. He knew their groupings, relations, affinities, behavior, misbehavior, especially in a subtle body called the ethyl series a diffusible stimulant which was then much used as a medicine. Knowing so well its secret history he warned his scientific and medical brethren of the bad effects of this mischief-maker on living tissue, especially brain substance. As Copernicus, Bruno, Kepler and Galileo had watched with eager interest the planetary systems as they made the grand march in "a wilderness of harmony," so had he similarly traced these atoms and molecules of ethyl pirates as they raided in their devastating course through intervascular and intercellular spaces, along nerve fibres, on the parietics of nerve cells or in the sanguineous streams of life. The proofs of his theory were found in the death rates and recoveries. He could make these fluctuate upwards and downwards with arithmetical precision, in accordance with the administration or withdrawal of this hated foe. In an appendix to this summons and report, we find a waggish friend propounding a conundrum and mildly suggesting that unless there was uniformity in age, physical condition, duration of disease, hereditary tendencies, no specific results from drug administration or the want of it could be traced except very remotely and generically in relation to so-called specific causes. The learned author replies sarcastically to the ignorance and verdancy of the questioner, and showed with lofty scorn that he despised these premises of the syllogism. He dealt only with the intuitions which suggested conclusions of *a priori* order. As an example of this Jovine power he did not hesitate to calculate among his recoveries the so-called "improved" patients, a classification which might mean much or nothing—so that by this latitudinarian grouping he might be able to establish a verdict against the indicted ethyl atoms and molecules. In justice to this theorist it should be said that the days of logic had not yet