

imponderable vital forces which are deranged, and thus constitute the essence of maladies, are acted on by *imponderable* medicinal agents to effect cures. In the first instance, the process of medication is *material, violent, and poisonous*, and these effects are in entire accordance with their law of cure, *contraria contrariis opponenda*; while in the second instance, the process of medication is *vital and dynamic*, and therefore incapable of leaving behind *toxical or poisonous* influences.

We have seen among the poisonous physiological effects of mercury as described above, palsy and apoplexy. Is it not reasonable to conclude that many cases of this description are superinduced by its constant and injudicious employment in the hands of the Hippocratics?

In order that the toxical action of mercury may become manifest as speedily as possible, old school physicians are in the constant habit of combining it with opium, so that it shall be retained in the system until absorption takes place. This confirms the remark already advanced, respecting the production of poisonous symptoms when allopathically employed.

ARSENIC.

According to Wood and Bache's U. S. Dispensatory, page 19, "Arsenic has been exhibited in a great variety of diseases, the principal of which are scirrhus and cancer; anomalous ulcers; intermittent fever; chronic rheumatism; diseases of the bones; frontal neuralgia; and different painful affections of the head, known under the names of hemicrania and periodical head-ache."

"In various *chronic affections of the skin*," says Pereira; Mat. Med. and Ther., vol. 1, page 547, "Arsenic is one of our most valuable agents."

The same writer also commends it highly in "*various chronic affections of the nervous system*, like neuralgia, epilepsy, chorea, angina pectoris, &c."

From the preceding quotations it will be observed that arsenic is a medicine in common use by the old school. In its administration for the cure of these common maladies, the usual allopathic rule holds good, of *pushing it until its specific or poisonous effects are produced*. The following quotations will substantiate our assertion.

"When commencing their exhibition, (*the preparations of arsenic*), the dose should be small, and afterwards gradually increased, its operations being carefully watched. *When the specific effects of the medicine are produced*, it must be immediately laid aside. These are, a general disposition to *œdema (dropsical swellings)*, especially of the face and eye-lids, a feeling of stiffness in these parts, itching of the skin, tenderness of the mouth, loss of appetite, and uneasiness of the stomach. The peculiar swelling produced is called *œdema arsenicalis*."^{*}

"Its effects are to be carefully watched, and whenever any unpleasant symptoms (as vomiting, griping, purging, swelling or redness of the eye-lids, dryness of the throat, ptyalism, head-ache, or tremors) make their appearance, it will, of course, be advisable to diminish the

^{*}Wood and Bache, U. S. Dispensatory, page 18.