

five to twenty drops of the tincture. This would have a directly opposite action to the doses I have indicated; such doses given for symptoms I have mentioned might prove fatal. Now, will the doctors generally, or any of them, test this matter and report in the *ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL*? I am willing to rest the whole homœopathic case on the test fairly made.

Now, as to the limits of the rule *similia similibus*, etc. In determining this point it will be necessary to adopt a correct mode of ascertaining the action of medicines. This, however, can never be accomplished by following the plan set forth by Lauder Brunton. The "proving of medicines," that is, ascertaining their actions on the human organism, is one of the corner-stones of homœopathy. It is a fair inference, I think, that the idea was thus suggested, as well as some other things, in Dr. Brunton's book, and well would it have been if Hahnemann's directions had been followed.

Dr. Brunton's pharmacology is fatally defective.

Firstly, in that, as he says himself, nearly all he knows about the action of drugs has been obtained from experiments on animals, and yet he admits that Hahnemann's method of experimenting on healthy human beings is a better way.

Secondly, and as is inevitable, Mr. Brunton knows nothing of the *subjective* symptoms of drugs; *ergo*, I claim that Mr. Brunton's opinions concerning what is homœopathic, or allopathic, or anti-pathic or isopathic are almost absolutely worthless. He attacks homœopathy in the lawyer style, and thinks that inasmuch as some drugs, at least, produce primary and secondary symptoms, therefore they cannot be homœopathic, just as if in the natural course of disease opposite symptoms do not occur likewise.

So I fear the task of showing the limits of the rule *similia* will be a hard one, but it devolves on those who say it is not of universal application. Besides, a large part of the indications depended upon by homœopathic physicians is derived from clinical observation without regard to pathics of any kind, and still other indications from "Schusslers' Tissue Remedies." It is supposed that in both the latter cases they come under the rule also. But the first experiment is easy respecting belladonna, and those who fairly make it will have come a long way towards my standpoint, from

which the medical landscape will look to them as if in a foreign clime.

I am indifferent to what may or may not be done. I am practically out of the field. I have lost interest in medical matters. I leave the catching of the medical hare to those who have taken out church and other popular certificates of qualification. But those who act in accordance with my suggestions will have cause to thank me and yourself also. You will have the honor of being the first to allow a heterodox physician, especially of the homœopathic school, to discuss the vital questions pertaining to medical practice in the ordinary medical channels. And is not free and open, honest and respectful discussion the surest way of exposing error and discovering truth?

I will not argue the matter; I know whereof I have affirmed, but have only touched on the subject.

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## Prince Edward Island.

DR. R. MACNEILL, Associate Editor for Prince Edward Island.

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### THE DRUG TRADE—INVADING THE PHYSICIANS' PRACTICE.

Our attention was recently directed to the trade carried on by the wholesale druggists of Montreal and elsewhere. Country stores everywhere are filled with nostrums for every disease, and the terms upon which they are sold afford the merchant sufficient profit to cause him to push the business to the very door and nose of every doctor. We noticed a cough mixture, called the Harvard Cough Mixture, composed of spirits of chloroform and simple syrup, very pleasant to the taste, placed upon commission in an ordinary country store, and that by the agent of a wholesale druggist in Montreal. When druggists will undertake to manufacture and compound medicines to cure diseases, and make a trade of them to everybody, we think they are going beyond their duty and invading the rights of every physician now devoting his time to the practice of medicine. If wholesale druggists confined their trade to druggists and physicians in the drug business the matter might be tolerated, but when they go beyond they