

Homœopathic Messenger

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF HOMŒOPATHY AND OF THE MONTREAL
HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL.

VOL. I. No. 2.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1896.

25cts. A YEAR.

Homœopathic Messenger

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

By the Woman's Auxiliary of the Montreal
Homœopathic Hospital.

All matters of business and subscriptions to be sent to C. S. De Witt, care of Montreal Homœopathic Hospital, 44 McGill College Avenue.

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ABOUT HOMŒOPATHY.

“Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.”—Bacon.

How much suffering might be mitigated if people would only apply this precept of the philosopher to homœopathy. Surely a system that has survived the storms and trials of more than a century, that has withstood the ridicule of the ignorant, the sneers of the self-styled men of science and seekers after truth, and has kept on the even tenor of its way, steadily increasing in efficacy and achievements, would merit at least an investigation by unprejudiced minds.

Just 100 years ago, Hahnemann, in 1796, published the result of his researches and provings of the law of similars, declaring anew to the world a therapeutical law, the discovery of which antedated the Christian era, and proclaiming the universality of its application in disease. A mode of treatment of disease, for the practice of which Dr. John Greenfield was committed to prison, on the warrant of the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London. This happened in 1694, just a century before Hahnemann. In 1825 Hans Burch Gram began the practice of homœopathy in New York

and was the sole representative of the new school of medicine in the Western hemisphere. Seventy-one years ago homœopathy on this continent had not an hospital, a college, a journal, a book, a patient, or a friend. To-day the college registers show the names of 2,000 students of homœopathy; in seventy-five hospitals 35,000 patients receive the benefit of homœopathic treatment; while nearly a quarter of a million people are cared for by the dispensaries annually. Twenty thousand physicians now practice according to the same law of similars which Dr. Gram championed alone seventy-one years ago.

In Montreal and the Province of Quebec, homœopathy as a public institution dates from 1894; prior to this date the burden of the struggle for the truth rested on individual doctors, among the earliest of whom was Dr. Arthur Fisher. The wonderful development and brilliant achievement of the hospital and other institutions of homœopathy in Montreal since 1894 are matters for congratulation, and a source of amazement to those of little faith.

Homœopathy in America has passed beyond the creeping stage of its infancy, and now walks boldly in the van of medical advancement, proud in the sturdy strength of its full manhood. Its ranks contain the largest proportion of the ablest and renowned surgeons on the continent, and the latest, up to date, works on medicine and surgery are the product of its pens and presses. Never in the history of medicine has any other doctrine passed through as fiery an ordeal as has homœopathy, and never has any other achieved so magnificent a triumph.