

There is no profession that sustains the responsibility to the community as does that of medicine, and the carelessness or neglect on the part of the physician will invariably cause endless suffering and pain. He must do his best, and to do the best costs much. The simple prescribing of the supposed indicated remedy will never suffice. Go to the bottom, learn the trouble and secure the diagnosis as soon as possible. "Be sure you are right, then prescribe."

ANTITOXIN AND HOMŒOPATHY.

Is the treatment of diphtheria with antitoxin in accord with Similia? Some homŒopathic practitioners seem to think it is; but it is generally considered that the remedy is isopathic rather than homŒopathic to this infection. Year by year the antitoxin treatment in diphtheria is used more and more by physicians of all schools, and while some still strenuously oppose its use, the weight of evidence seems to be in its favor.

HomŒopathic physicians have such strong faith in Similia that they would come to generally use antitoxin if it could be shown to act homŒopathically as a curative agent, not that they necessarily have a prejudice against everything that does not cure homŒopathically, but rather that the great curative agents do their work along homŒopathic lines, as they verily believe.

Dr. Charles H. Gatchell of Chicago, well known to the profession as the editor of the Medical Era, and the secretary-elect of the American Institute of HomŒopathy, takes strong ground that antitoxin, whether used subcutaneously or taken internally, cures diphtheria homŒopathically. He brings quite an array of proof in support of his theory. He says: "It has always been to me a matter of wonder that our school has not, as one of its tenets, accepted and promulgated the doctrine early announced by Hahnemann, that the prophylactic action of vaccine

virus in variola is but an exemplification of the law of Similia. Even the members of the dominant school have been quicker to see this than have we." He quotes eminent old school authors who consider the serum-therapy treatment of disease, practically an exemplification of HomŒopathy.

Dr. Gatchell then lays down the following proposition: "The therapeutic action of the antitoxin is an exemplification of the homŒopathic law of cure; it is an instance of the application of a medical substance to the cure of disease according to the indications of Similia." He then goes on to support the proposition with "ascertained facts."

Dr. Gatchell's position does not appear to have been successfully controverted up to this time, three years after his paper, "The Action of the Antitoxins in the Prevention and Cure of Disease" was read before the American Institute at Omaha from which the above quotations are taken. This paper of Dr. Gatchell's was a strong one and apparently has gained credence in our school. It is printed in full in the transactions of the Omaha meeting of 1898. Let the profession give it a general perusal; it is worthy of careful study.

For years I have accepted Dr. Gatchell's theory using the antitoxin subcutaneously in my cases of pronounced diphtheria where the well chosen remedy has not promptly checked the disease, and in every case the results have been all that could be desired.

Whether we accept Dr. Gatchell's theory of the action of antitoxin or not, makes no difference, the fact remains that it does the work when used early enough in the disease, which is generally before the fourth day, and when the quantity used is sufficiently great. And when I make use of the antitoxin in this manner to stay and cure the dread disease, I consider that I am still working along the lines of Similia. May not the method used in

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