

ful experimenting on the vital functions, the phenomena exhibited by the *corpus mortuum*, the healing properties of medicines, and the sad effects of poisons, all contribute to our knowledge as well as to yours. The essential tenets of our system are not based on visionary speculations. The conflict between them and those principles which you deem most important, exists not of necessity, but springs chiefly from the misconceptions and the alienation of the parties.

Now, I am aware that this is different from what you and your friends suppose. You are gravely told, and you listen to the tale, that by us all knowledge as to the nature and effects of morbid action is disregarded;—that the homeopathist has nothing to do with the causes or seat of disease;—that to him an accurate diagnosis is of no importance;—that he discards all that has heretofore been taught of the *modus operandi* of medicines. It is said, moreover, that we not only reject all the commonly received principles of medicine, but that we offer as substitutes certain dogmas of our own, conflicting with yours, and totally irreconcilable with the accumulated teachings of ages.

I will not stop to inquire whence these impressions originated. Doubtless our views may be stated in such a manner as to seem to justify these conclusions. Perhaps in the heat of controversy, or in the recoil from what we deemed error, we may ourselves have led you to these opinions. We assure you, nevertheless, that they are erroneous. We entirely disavow these conclusions, and assert that all opinions of homeopathy based upon them must be fallacious.

So far from rejecting the aid of Pathology, we believe that all that can be accurately ascertained of the nature of disease, its seat, and its laws, and the changes it produces, ought to be known, and made available in practice. This knowledge should include the organ affected, and the particular tissue involved, even to the minutest fibre wherein change can be traced; the characteristics of these changes, and the order in which they occur: their aggravations and ameliorations, and the mysterious sympathies which exist with distant organs. We desire to know, in short, every variation from the healthy structure and functions. It is often objected to us, that we attach too much importance to *symptoms*. But we mean by symptoms, the entire *ensemble* of morbid phenomena. Everything that can be known of these phenomena, in all their shades and in all their relations, is, or ought to be of importance to the homeopathist. If you pass beyond the limits of ascertained facts, and offer opinions on them, you must surely allow us the liberty you take for yourselves, to accept these or not. But the facts, whether exhibited in the patient before us, or known to exist by pathological or other investigation in similar cases, are each and all adjudged by us indispensable means to perfect the treatment.

We have constant occasion to regret that our best efforts furnish us but an imperfect knowledge of the phenomena of disease. More industry in study, more faithfulness in observation, and more skill in duly appreciating the relative importance of the gathered facts, are greatly to be desired. We acknowledge our indebtedness to you and to your predecessors, for your investigations in these departments of science. New discoveries made by you, we hail with satisfaction, confident that