

In the Medical world, changes are going on, less rapidly, perhaps, but with equal certainty, as in the other departments of Science. The discovery by Hahnemann, of one great Therapeutic law,—the law of *Similia*, in the treatment of disease, is destined, in a brief period, to sweep away the crude notions of the old school. It requires no prophetic vision to predict the future of Medical Science. The great art of Medicine is now settled on an enduring basis,—on a basis as unchangeable and eternal as are the laws that govern the motion of the Planets. It is a Science, and an Art pre-eminently for the people. And public opinion,—that mighty power,—is battering down Hierarchies in Science and Philosophy. Those who assume the right to command the understanding, and control the conscience, are awakening to a knowledge and just appreciation of the present condition of Medical science. The bright and glorious sun of truth already gilds the mountain tops with its morning rays.

What is Homeopathy? is the enquiry daily made by thousands who are anxious to know the nature of that, concerning which so much is now said, and in which all have a deep and abiding interest. If true, no argument is necessary to prove that its adoption should be universal and immediate. If false, its errors should be exposed, and the dangerous intruder expelled; for life and health are the issue, and are not to be trifled with. Those who make the inquiry are entitled to a sufficient answer, and a right to investigate its principles.

Homeopathy is truly an expressive term, being a compound of two words, *omoios*, analogous, or like, and *pathos*, suffering or affection. Thus Homeopathy expresses the principle, *like cures like*; in other words, Medical agents given to cure disease, should be those that would produce like symptoms, if taken in health. It is a fact well known to Medical men, that drugs taken into the system, in health, will produce Medicinal action,—each Medicine its own characteristic morbid symptoms.

It was long known that Peruvian bark would cure some varieties of fever and ague, and intermittents. Hahnemann tested the bark upon himself, and other healthy persons, and found that it would produce chills and fever corresponding to those it was given to cure. He found that Strychnine taken in health, would produce paralysis; it is also one of the specifics in that affection, given by the old school. Ipecac will produce nausea and vomiting. Experience has proved that it will,

when given in minute doses, relieve nausea and vomiting; it will also produce on certain healthy subjects, asthma, in a most violent form. Many Physicians have proved its usefulness in the treatment of this disease. Some five years since, and before my adoption of the Homeopathic method of treatment, I was called to see a patient, in the evening: a young Physician visiting me at that time, accompanied me to the sick room; the case was examined, and Ipecac was one of the remedies recommended. He left the room remarking, that Ipecac produced most violent asthmatic symptoms on himself, if he should even breathe the air in a room where it was dispensed,—explaining the symptoms accurately afterwards. I have since witnessed its curative effects in those same symptoms in disease. Rheubarb, Senna and Colocynth, produce, if taken in health, colic and diarrhoea. The fact was known centuries ago, that the above articles would relieve these forms of colic and diarrhoea.

A. T. B.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

From the New-York Scalpel.

Calomel—its Valuable Properties to the Profession.

When a Physician is ignorant of his patient's disease, it is very convenient to be able to prescribe medicine, which, whatever the cause may be, is sure to suit it. Suppose, for instance, that a person has an enlargement of the abdomen, and it cannot be ascertained whether it is caused by a collection of air, water, pus, or fat; give calomel. If there be air, calomel is *anti-tympanitic*. If there be water, calomel is *anti-hydrotic*. If there be pus, it is *anti-purulent*; if there be fat, it is *anti-steatomous*. Do you not understand these terms? It is of no consequence. You would not be the wiser, if you did. They are *technical designations of occult qualities, appertaining to therapeutical agencies*. Perhaps you do not comprehend this? If you did, you would be wiser than ourselves, and that is needless. We do not profess to teach this subject, but to treat it. We are medical, and *medical treatment*, of course, is obscure.

In a case of fever, lately attended by one of the old school, it was supposed to be "almost scarlet fever." As calomel was *white*, and the fever *red*, it was good medical logic, to give calomel and