

therefore, in a vast majority of instances, select remedies from visible symptoms alone, with the utmost certainty of success. At first view, this admission would seem to detract from the importance of our former positions; but this is not the fact, for we contend that whatever tends to confirm our provings of drugs, and render them uniform and positive, or to throw light upon any portion of our noble science, must be regarded as highly important.

4. The study of pathology, in connection with Homeopathy, must necessarily lead to a more accurate and reliable arrangement of both toxic and morbid symptoms, and thus eventually establish our whole system of theory and practice on an incontrovertible and self-evident basis.

One, among the many important results which would accrue from these investigations, would be the attraction into our ranks of a great number of medical men from the old school, who are at present groping about in the dusky mazes of eclecticism. This will be evident, when we contemplate the extraordinary changes of opinion which have recently occurred in the allopathic schools, respecting the nature of many diseases.—As an example, we may cite the facts that a majority of the most eminent allopathic practitioners now regard nearly all the forms of delirium as non-inflammatory affections, in which the antiphlogistic treatment is positively injurious.—This opinion is of recent date, and affords to the world an instructive commentary upon the mutability and uncertainty of the theory and practice of allopathy.—Until within the past ten or fifteen years, the lancet and the usual variety of antiphlogistics were deemed essential to the preservation of life, in a great majority of cases of this description. Now, this mode of treatment is denounced as murderous by many of the identical physicians who formerly employed the "heroic practice," and those excellent homeopathic specifics, belladonna, opium, stramonium, hyoscyamus, chloroform, ether, etc., (all of which produce delirium and coma when taken in health) are con-

fidently relied on by our amiable opponents. It is true, that they administer some of these medicines in a more crude and impure form, and in larger doses than necessary, and thus compromise to a certain extent the happiness of their patients, yet they do effect clumsy homeopathic cures with these drugs, as might reasonably be supposed from their pathogeneses, and from the morbid actions to which they give rise in the encephalon.

NATURAL HISTORY OF DRUGS.

THE more we investigate the general relations of our reputed drugs with the diseases to which man is subject, the more we are struck by the curious circumstance, that it is precisely in the districts where certain pathological affections prevail we meet, by some admirable arrangement of the Creator, an abundance of the substances which are most capable of curing them. This coincidence may only be the necessary result of climacteric, hygrometric, or telluric influences, which, acting simultaneously upon the plants, animals, and men of one and the same region, create in them certain elements of similitude, of which the *similia similibus* explains to us the consequences in the pathological order.

Let this coincidence be accounted for in any manner you please, what seems to me infutable is, that it exists. To cite a few examples—The *bitter sweet*, which is often successfully given for the effects of a temporary or prolonged stay in a cold and damp atmosphere, prefers damp and cool localities. The *wolf's bane*, on the contrary, which grows upon the mountain's top, corresponds, as is well known, to inflammatory fevers and acute phlegmasias, to which the inhabitants of mountainous regions are particularly exposed in consequence of the habitual vigor of their constitution and their habitual temperament. Whilst the *nux vomica*, which is so often given with success for dysentery and bilious affections, grows in the East Indies—the classic home of those kinds of affections.