

Another cause tending materially to reduce the bulk of the medicine administered, but operating very slightly on the amount of active remedy given, is to be found in the great number of active principles, which, during the present century, chemists have discovered, and separated from the mass of inert substance with which they are found connected. Formerly powdered cinchona was given in doses of a drachm and upwards for the cure of intermittents, the bulk required being a serious objection to its use. Now, however, a few grains of sulphate of quinine suffice for a dose, all the good effects of the remedy being obtained without loading the stomach of the patient with a mass of inert matter. Some of these active principles require to be exhibited in very minute doses. Aconitine, for instance, is considered too active a poison to be administered internally; one-fiftieth of a grain, according to Pereira, having endangered the life of an individual; and the dose of strychnine is from one-twentieth to one-sixth of a grain.

We have considered these few remarks on the probable causes of the comparatively moderate treatment which obtains with physicians of the present day, not uncalled for, as Homœopathists have not failed to arrogate to themselves the credit of having, by the advocacy of infinitesimal doses, worked a reformation in the views of the legitimate profession regarding, not only the kind but also the amount of treatment necessary in the various diseased conditions of the body. Physicians have been led to diminish their doses, as the result of their own observations on the effects of remedial measures on disease; in fact, they have observed that the present *type or constitution* will not admit of very active or powerful treatment. It is, therefore, sheer presumption on the part of those who assert, that in doing so, they have been influenced by a system of medicine which advocates the administration

of medicines in quantities which they regard as altogether useless. There is not, moreover, the least resemblance between the small dose of the regular practitioner, and that purely imaginary substance—the infinitesimal dose of the Hahnemannist; an infinitely greater disparity exists between the two, than exists between the minutest grain of sand on the earth's surface and the globe of which it forms a part. While, therefore, in common with the vast majority of the profession, we regard the administration of medicines in *small doses* as being the most judicious practice in the present day; we feel bound, unhesitatingly to condemn the *infinitesimal dose* of the Hahnemannist, for the following reasons.

*1st.*—*Because there exists abundant proof that they are the result of the unsuccessful application of one principle to the treatment of disease indiscriminately.*

It cannot be too strongly impressed on the mind, that the substances, such as quinine, sulphur, etc., which Hahnemann adduced as affording in their operation, the clearest and most conclusive illustration of the homœopathic law, are given in *large and repeated doses* by the regular practitioner in those diseases for which they are usually considered *specific*. Indeed, it is the almost certain curative effect which quinine has over intermittent fever, and every disease stamped with the law of periodicity, and sulphur over itch, when administered in this manner, which has obtained for these medicines the title of *specifics*.

No sooner had the founder of Homœopathy, in the quiet seclusion of his study, spun out his specious web of fine drawn reasoning and transcendental theorising—no sooner had he collected an amazing number of symptoms as the *pathogenetic effects* of a few remedies, than he at once essayed to treat disease in accordance with his theory, by giving remedies in doses similar in quantity to those used by the