

Canadian Journal of Homeopathy.

"Plus apud nos vera ratio valet, quam vulgi opinio."

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[ORIGINAL.]

"Homeopathy Weighed in the Balance."

We received, a few days since, from an anonymous source, a printed sheet, under the above caption, dated Hamilton, May, 1855. It is evidently an attempt of an unsophisticated hand to write down Homeopathy, or to prove that it is "arrant quackery."

The arguments consist of lengthy extracts from Dr. Forbes' *Medical Review*, *Periera*, *Materia Medica*, Dr. Simpson, the *Monthly Medical Journal*, and other Allopathic books and authors; and garbled extracts from Hahnemann's *Organon*, and Norton's *Brief Attempt to show the Truth of Homeopathy*.

The first assertion worthy of notice, is as follows: "All true discoveries have made their way first among the votaries of science immediately concerned with them, and become matters of faith with the public at large only in the second instance." Many things lack an important qualification to prevent them from being false,—that is TRUTH. Such is the failing of the above extract.

This assertion must be made on the presumption of the ignorance of his readers; for certainly no person who has read the history of many of the most important discoveries of the past, from the Christian era down to the present century, but will be forcibly struck with the obstinate opposition that has been maintained, at the period of their respective promulgation, against many things which this age deems incontrovertibly true. The opposite has almost been the rule,—many discoveries making first their way to popular favor, before the learned professions have been willing to accord to them their true merit. And it is a fact no less remarkable than true, that most of the improvements in the Arts have been made by comparatively obscure persons, who have passed away, perhaps before their true merit was acknowledged.

The writer proceeds by setting up four propositions as the targets for his Quixotic display.

1st. Homeopathy is wrong in its very foundation.

This he attempts to prove by assailing the character of Hahnemann for honesty, and his

scholastic attainments. These slanderous attacks are well refuted by Dr. Forbes, who the writer draws so largely upon for assertions. Dr. F. says, in his Review:—"No careful observer of his (Hahnemann's) actions, or candid reader of his writings, can hesitate for a moment to admit that he was a very extraordinary man,—one whose name will descend to posterity as the exclusive ex-cogitator and founder of an original system of Medicine, as ingenious as many that preceded it, and destined to be the remote if not the immediate cause of more important fundamental changes in the practice of the healing art, than have resulted from any promulgated since the days of Galen himself."

He continues,—"*Hahnemann* was undoubtedly a man of genius, and a scholar; a man of indefatigable industry and perseverance."

In regard to Homeopathy, the same writer says,—"*It* comes before us in a much more imposing aspect, and claims our attention on grounds which cannot be gainsayed. It presents itself as a new art,—as a mode of practice utterly at variance with that long established in the world; and claims the notice of mankind on the irresistible ground of its superior power of curing disease, and preserving human life. And it comes before us now, not in the garb of a suppliant, unknown and helpless, but as a conqueror, powerful, famous and triumphant."

He continues,—"*The disciples of Hahnemann* are spread all over the civilized world. There is not a town of any considerable size in Germany, France, Italy, Prussia, Austria, England, or America, that does not boast of one or more Homeopathic Physician, not a few of whom are men of high respectability and learning; many of them in large practice, and patronized especially by persons of high rank."

Such are the opinions held by all Physicians of learning, who have taken pains to inform themselves of the character of Hahnemann, and the principles of Homeopathy.

What weight in the balance the tracing of Hahnemann and those who may believe the doctrines set forth by him, this 'scholar and man of genius,' we cannot conceive, unless by this masterly attempt at "making the scale