

composition were hurled at the devoted heads of these medical discoverers. They flourished, as all systems do under persecution, and by a sort of apostolic succession an infinitesimal remnant remains in that land of mummies and crocodiles to this day. They have taken for a crest a sarcophagus with a mummy rampant in it. The motto is emblazoned on the dusty casket in letters so prominent as to be easily read all down the ages *Nihil desperandum*. The founder of this minute system had a good deal to do with the insane, hence these remarks are germane to the subject matter.

It is worthy of note here that some great military man in one of the provinces had made a discovery in finding a unique cure for insanity. It consisted in putting the afflicted under blue glass. As might be expected a learned discussion at once arose as to the varied effects on the human body of chemical, thermal and actinic solar rays and especially upon nerve tissue. Speculation ran rife over this strange doctrine of therapeutics and it is worthy of note that few of the learned psychologists of that age raised a doubt as to its efficacy. By a sort of law of selection those afflicted with the "blues" were put into and cured in blue rooms. Those having mania were struck dumb and mentally paralyzed at the surrounding blueness. Blue glass did wonders, while the blue sky of nature had in a sense "to pale its intellectual fires." This sombre color acted as a sedative, a soporific, a tonic and possibly a cathartic. Pseudo-philosophers wrote learned treatises on the wonderful effect of this occult color. Such did not dogmatically assert that the human ova were roused to unusual activity under its influence but they gravely asserted that the egg of another of the species biped felt its vivifying agency and the potential chicken became an actuality lying on the kitchen table while being made ready to consist of the duality of ham and eggs. Even the rice, the lotus, the sacred cat, the Holy Bull and the lethargic crocodile felt its diffusible stimulation; so saith these authentic records. It might be well for our advanced radicals in asylum progress to test this ancient remedy. On second thought, it seems to me I have heard a faint echo that such has been tried; not because of the knowledge such experimenters possessed of the contents of these manuscripts, but because of the old adage that "Great minds run in the same groove," or possibly "History repeats itself," or it may be "There is nothing new under the sun." The materia medica and therapeutics of those days are an interesting study to the archaeologist. It is found that in one refuge for the insane in Canadensis