

practice has secured a permanent foothold in Europe. This is asserted as an inducement for the credulous to become converts to the doctrine, the tendency to follow in the wake of European currents of opinion on some subjects being an obvious weakness of a portion of our countrymen. The following facts, communicated for the *London Medical Times*, exhibit the numerical ratio of homœopathy practitioners to the population, and the regular profession in Great Britain:—

1st. Of London.

The population of London amounts to about.....2,200,000

The number of medical practitioners, practising in London, whose names appear in the "*London Medical Directory*," is....2,571

The number of homœopathic practitioners, practising in London, according to the accredited "list," in the *British Journal of Homœopathy* for January, 1850, is. 48

Of these 48 homœopathic practitioners, 22 are *not* in the *London Medical Directory*, at all; and of the 26 which remain, 10 are graduates in medicine, and 16 are surgeons or surgeon-apothecaries.

Of the ten graduates, 6 appear to have the Edinburgh degree, 1 Aberdeen and Paris, 1 Aberdeen and Turbigen, 1 Aberdeen, 1 Erlangen.

2d. Of the Provinces.

According to the *Provincial Medical Directory*, there are of medical practitioners, practising in the provinces.....8,327

According to the "homœopathic list," already referred to, there are, of homœopathic practitioners practising in the provinces...52

Of these 52 homœopathic practitioners, 16 are *not* in the *Provincial Medical Directory* at all; 4 are in it, but their qualifications are not vouched for by the Editor of the *Directory*; and of the remaining 32 whose names appear in the *Directory*, 18 are graduates in medicine, and 14 are surgeons or surgeon-apothecaries.

Of the 18 graduates, 13 possess the Edinburgh degree, 3 St. Andrews, 1 Glasgow, 1 is an Est. Lic. Lon. Coll. Ph.

There appear, therefore, to be in England, about 10,898 medical practition-

ers; but suppose that we make a liberal deduction from this number of 898, as practitioners of doubtful license, and make the number of legalized practitioners 10,000 instead of 10,898; then out of this number appears the insignificant proportion of 28 graduates in medicine, and 45 general practitioners, who call themselves homœopaths, and who profess to practice as such.

By the foregoing statistics it is apparent that sugar pellets are not in very general repute in Great Britain. They are just now much more in vogue in this country. But the truth, probably is, that having travelled to England before visiting the United States, the system has had its day, and is now in the sear and yellow leaf of whatever popularity it may have had heretofore in that kingdom. That it will have its decline and fall in this country in a few years, it requires but little shrewdness to foresee.—But it may be doubted if this result will denote any abatement of the spirit of quackery. The same credulity and love of the marvelous which have fostered homœopathy, and other impositions, will remain. A portion of every community will still insist on being duped; and, doubtless, the fertility of invention will be adequate to supply a worthy successor to the fictions of Hahnemann.—*Buffalo Medical Journal*.

Assurance Offices & Medical Referees.

—The dispute which has so long existed between Assurance Offices and Medical Practitioners, respecting the payment of a fee for filling up the usual certificate of the health of a person, has been recently turned into a question of law in the County Court of Colchester. The profession is, we consider, greatly indebted to Mr. S. A. Philbrick, a surgeon of that town, for procuring a decision on a subject which has created so much discussion; and although this decision is, in one sense, not so favourable as we might have anticipated, it fixes the law on a clear basis, and shows how, in future cases, a man may place himself in a position either to secure compensation, or entirely discharge himself of the trouble and responsibility of filling up these assurance-certificates. The case to which we refer is that of *PHILBRICK v. WHETHAM*; it was tried in the County Court of Colchester on the 2d instant. As the