

"Thus helpless tender childhood does she nurse,
And in life's fountain plant her withering curse:
Thus also begins her ever active course,
With years increasing only in its force.
The robust youth she bleeds to syncope,
And drains the life-blood of humanity.
Endless catarrhs is her only hope:
Counter-irritation her utmost scope;
Ether and opium are her only balm
To soothe the stings of pain and bring sweet calm.
With ever loathsome, ever vile compounds,
Her blandest Pharmacopœa abounds.
What ere diseases cause, where ere its seat,
These same eternal round of drugs we meet.
The same old tortures, with perhaps new names;
The same old fires, only with hotter flames.

Time would fail to tell the Hydra's prances
With vile drugs and sanguinary lances.
With murderous moxas, seatons, and blisters,
With fuming acids, drastics, and clysters,
With burning caustics, eating to the bone,
And plasters such as made a Hercules groan,
With diaphoretics and emetics,
The anthelmintics and the diuretics,
With the myriad cruel tortures more,
By which she's crimsoned earth with human gore."

This they consider rational Medicine,—the ultimatum of human knowledge,—the height of reason, and the only appliances possible to meet the exigences of disease. To restore the healthy bloom to the blanched cheeks of their unfortunate patients, without destroying the constitution, reducing the strength, or implanting a Medicinal disease in their pain-racked or sinking invalids, is to them "unmitigated ridiculousness, and arrant quackery." As of old, "to the Greeks it is foolishness, and to the Jews a stumbling block."

Last and least, he appeals to "fastidious young ladies, and scrupulously clean matrons," because he has discovered something, at least that he thinks tangible, and raises his hands in holy horror at what he conceives to be disgusting, in the Homeopathic *Materia Medica*. This comes with bad grace from a Profession that has ransacked the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdom for nauseous and disgusting remedies. Not a part of the defunct human body but has been, in its time, a vaunted remedy for some disease: the excrements of almost all animals have made a part of their *Materia Medica*: disgusting reptiles have received high encomiums from them, for the value they added to their list of remedial agents.

We have continued this beyond the limit we intended, and given it a notice entirely beyond its merits; but while upon the subject we wished to make a few explanations that would give our readers a better understanding of our favorite branch of science.

We cannot close without noticing a note in the margin of the card, as follows:—"These remarks will apply to those druggists who in-

vade the country with all sorts of quack Medicine, and keep all sorts of Allopathic drugs, while they and their families swallow nothing but infinitesimal globules or drops."

I hope the writer is not envious of their better judgement. We would presume he was in the daily habit of swallowing his disgusting draughts and nauseous compounds as proof of their virtue and pleasantness, and wearing as standing evidence, a fly blister, to convince people that it is only imagination that renders it disagreeable, painful or dangerous. We had supposed that a man's domestic opinions were never invaded by those claiming a knowledge of ethics; but we, perhaps, were too unsophisticated. Notwithstanding, we are hostile to the sale of "Patent Medicines, and Allopathic drugs," and would not be understood as defending them, yet we presume they continue the business because it is legitimate, and from a knowledge of the fact, that the "daft" have not all ceased to exist.

W. A. G.

[ORIGINAL.]

What is Homeopathy?

One of the characteristics of the present age, is a disposition in the minds of the masses to investigate for themselves, and decide upon the merits of whatever involves the public good, and not, as in times gone by, delegate that high prerogative,—the right to judge,—to any man, or privileged body of men. Systems of Medicine, and Scientific knowledge generally, are examined with a boldness in this age, that at once precludes the possibility that error shall continue to be cherished, or even tolerated, merely because it happens to be a part of some time-honored creed or dogma.

This feature of the public mind to canvass ancient systems, and repudiate their errors, examine new ones and evolve their truths, is ardently hailed by the generous and good, the world over, as an earnest of permanent advancement. The march of the human mind is onward: its duty urges it on constantly to the evolution from the world of mind, truth for the use of man. Mankind, at this moment are striving against abuses, tyrannies, and systems that originated in extremes,—that are almost as ancient as sin itself.

The lumbering coach drawn by animals, the wonder of its time, is superseded by the locomotive propelled with lightning speed, more than realizing the prophecy of some considered fanatics. A tiny track for the lightning's flash, has followed up closely the invention of steam engines; in fact, there is a progressive tendency in all the Arts and Sciences.