

closely resembling those induced by belladonna and opium; but the natural tendency of the typhus action is towards the destruction of the vitality of the affected parts, while the tendency of the drug action, when not excessive, is towards a spontaneous restoration of the disordered structures.

Even if two substances should give rise to precisely the same symptoms and morbid changes, so far as the physician can discover, it by no means follows that the kinds of actions produced by these agents are identical; for death not unfrequently arises from affections of the brain and nervous system, where the most acute pathologists are unable to detect the slightest morbid change. In these instances the structures affected are so minute, and the pathological alterations so subtle as to baffle the skill of the anatomist, and elude the powers of the microscope.

2. We hold it to be a fundamental law of Homeopathy, that drugs, in order to prove curative, must produce direct topical impressions or actions upon diseased structures; and that the character of these impressions or actions should bear a close resemblance to that of the morbid ones we wish to cure.

A recognition of this law involves the necessity of a proper appreciation and classification of those symptoms which especially pertain to the morbid action upon which the disease principally depends, in contra-distinction to those phenomena which are more remote and sympathetic. Thus congestion of the vessels of that portion of the cerebral structure which gives origin to the optic nerves, induces, among other direct and legitimate symptoms, dilatation of the pupils, disordered vision, vertigo, headache, rush of blood to the eyes, delirium, lethargy, or sleeplessness. These are the direct symptoms which proceed legitimately from derangements of this portion of the brain, whether caused by morbid or toxic agents, and must therefore be looked upon as especially characteristic.

The symptoms which are more indirect, or sympathetic, are, general irrita-

bility of the nervous system, spasmodic movements, paroxysms of stiffness and immobility of the limbs, tremors, weariness, and uneasiness of the limbs, oppression of the chest, cramp-like pains in different parts of the body, and constant inclination to move about.

This last series of phenomena, although as strongly pronounced, when considered merely as symptoms, as those first enumerated, are by no means so characteristic of the pathological condition of the brain as the first series; for the former are uniform, distinct, and invariable, while the latter are somewhat dependent on constitutional and other accidental circumstances connected with the individual, and must therefore be looked upon as of only secondary importance.

So far, then, as the selection of a remedy is concerned, we deem a single characteristic symptom—one which we know arises from a drug-action similar, both locally and pathologically, to the morbid action—of more importance than a number of merely sympathetic symptoms. In the one case, the application of the remedy becomes reduced to the certainty of a demonstration; while, in the other instance, we cannot always reasonably entertain the same perfect assurance of success. Groups of sympathetic symptoms, apparently precisely similar, may arise from derangements of different tissues, from dissimilar causes, and from morbid actions entirely unlike; while the pathological symptoms (if we may be allowed the expression) can only proceed from disorders of particular parts of the economy, thus constituting groups *sui generis*. This important classification has already been obtained with a number of our medicines; and when the pathological effects of all our drugs, and the symptomatic phenomena arising from these changes, shall have become thoroughly understood, in connection with the pathology of diseases, the practice of our art will become reduced to almost mathematical precision.

3. A close correspondence of prominent drug-symptoms with those of disease, is *prima facie* evidence of pathological correspondence; and we may,