

efforts transcend our skill and are veritably a lost art. We never discuss these every day mundane matters now-a-days, because our transcendentalism soars upwards into the blue empyrean, or some other equally exalted place. The translation goes on to show that some of these unfortunate superintendents were also required to exhibit their knowledge of natural history, not only of rodents, but also of all the varieties of entomological life which carried on an "irrepressible conflict" against the peace, comfort and general welfare of these communities. Modern asylum tenants sympathize with the ancients in the unequal strife against these plagues of Egypt. By a sort of diabolic succession these scourges are not yet stayed, which have showed a robust vitality unparalleled in history.

In the time of Rameses II a medical system sprang into existence based on strictly scientific principles. It was founded by a philosopher of repute. He asserted with a good deal of emphasis that all diseases were conquered in an absolute manner by specific remedies. This law of exactitude raised the art of the practice of medicine at once into the high plane of science and if adopted put an end to hypothesis and empiricism. One of the tests to prove this new doctrine was the capacity or power of certain medical agents to produce in a healthy body certain unfailing signs and symptoms analogous to those generated in varied diseases. It was found that when such were assorted and classified in a sort of parallelism each medical agent was the true remedy for those pathological conditions thus associated. Herein was a great law enunciated from which there could be no appeal. It was formulated in the dictum "*similia similibus curantur*." Not only so, but it was asserted with a good deal of dogmatism that the potency of remedies was intensified in proportion to their attenuation: the more divided, the more effective, and so on *ad infinitum*. Triturations, sublimations and dilutions were of paramount importance even down to the edge of the great nothingness. Atoms, monads and molecules were sought after with great avidity. The more they were divorced from one another the more did they reach the *summum bonum* of therapeutic activity. As might be expected a fierce controversy arose over this new doctrine and is graphically described in these literary remains thus strangely resurrected. The bleeders, the blisters and salivators of that heroic age, as might be expected, fell foul of these innovators like wolves on the fold. Sarcasm the most biting, irony the most cutting, satire the most bitter and invective with a persecuting tinge in its