

## THE DEMANDS OF THE HOUR.

[Condensed from the Alumni Course Lecture in the Denver Homoeopathic College, February 21, 1901. By S. S. Smythe, M.D.]

Homoeopathy is a distinct medical entity. No other system or theory in medicine ever yet propounded, can lay claim to this pre-eminent honor.

From its inception Homoeopathy has been obliged to withstand the most violent opposition of the old school. It has been assailed in a way that would crush anything but truth itself. No ordinary medical theory could have withstood the assaults which have been hurled against it. Its enemies have been unscrupulous and unsparing in their denunciations, but such is the vitality of the truth in homoeopathy that no power on earth ever has or ever will destroy or crush it. A century of the bitterest antagonism has but served to show that the discovery of Samuel Hahnemann possesses that inherent force which we call "truth," and which is impregnable and indestructible. All other theories or systems of therapeutics which have been proposed, and they are innumerable, have, after the lapse of a short period, fallen from their own weakness.

For a long time homoeopathy appeared to be always on the defensive, but now in the beginning of the twentieth century this idea should no longer be allowed to prevail. The wonderful growth of our system in this country, as shown by a magnificent array of homoeopathic colleges, societies, journals and institutions of various kinds, demands of us at once, a declaration of independence. In order to advance, we must assume the aggressive.

Homoeopathy no longer needs defenders. By its own infallible truth it has fully met the claims of its great discoverer that it is a "A rule of practice which is of universal application—so far as medical ailments are concerned."

During the remarkable growth of homoeopathy in our own country in the last fifty years, we have been absorbed in developing and organizing a school of medicine, with the result that we now have a great national body of homoeopathic physicians, known as "The American Institute of Homoeopathy," a most powerful institution for the advancement of our cause. Besides, there are many state and

other societies of mere or less power and influence.

Homoeopathic educational institutions are to be found in all parts of the country, and the standard of our educational requirements is higher than that of any other school. Our journals are all strong, clean, and thoroughly in sympathy with progress and reform.

Professor David A. Strickler, in discussing the comparative statistics of this country before the American Institute of Homoeopathy, made the following sweeping, but entirely trustworthy declaration:

"It matters not in what city, what disease, nor what comparison is instituted, the records show universally in favor of homoeopathy."

In view of all these things, it becomes our highest duty to unite all our forces for the purpose of placing homoeopathy where it justly and rightfully belongs before the law and in the understanding of the people. It is a duty we owe to the truth, to the world and to humanity. Through our many organizations, it ought to be possible, under well directed effort, to convince all intelligent people that the law of homoeopathy is of universal application in the treatment of disease, and that its universal adoption would result in immense saving of human life.

Homoeopathy has been held in abeyance by sheer force of numbers and the unscrupulous opposition of the old school. The time has come when we must force upon public attention the advantages to be derived from homoeopathic treatment, not only among the people, but in all branches of public service, the army, the navy, and in all public institutions.

Not all the knowledge of the sciences, nor all of anatomy, physiology, pathology, biology and chemistry, nor all the mysteries of the laboratory would enable any one to prescribe intelligently for the simplest form of disease. Much more is demanded of the physician.

The objective in all of our colleges should be, the production of a class of physicians thoroughly trained in the analysis of our *Materia Medica*; skilled in the diagnosis of disease; masters in homoeopathic therapeutics.

It has been the mission of the homoeopathic school to search out and proclaim the truth in medicine, and the end is not yet. The daily record of progress in all