

CANADIAN  
JOURNAL OF HOMEOPATHY.

Vol. II.

HAMILTON, C. W., FEBRUARY, 1857

No. 2.

ALLOPATHIC AND HOMEOPATHIC MEDICATION CONTRASTED.

BY E. E. MARCY, M.D.

(CONTINUED.)

QUININE.

Another very common remedy of the ancient school is quinine. In the treatment of intermittent fevers, this may be considered as the almost universal medicine. It is likewise very often employed during the debile stage of most acute diseases, and as a general tonic in all kinds of debility. When it is administered in intermittent fevers, it is deemed essential to push the doses until poisonous effects are produced, in the form of ringing in the ears, dilated pupils, impaired vision, deafness, and more or less congestion of the brain. Without these powerful effects, there is not sufficient *revulsive* influence upon the brain, nervous system, and other important organs to overwhelm temporarily the morbid influence, and thus suspend for a few days or weeks the natural manifestation of the malady,—chills, fever, sweat, &c.

Dr. Corbyn states, "that in the fever which prevailed in Calcutta, in 1833, he employed quinine in doses of gr. vii.—viii., every four hours, and that out of several hundred patients thus treated, not one escaped deafness, noises in the ears, tightness across the forehead, &c.: in fact, all the premonitory symptoms of poisoning by quinine."<sup>10</sup>

Another of the deleterious consequences of the allopathic employment of this drug, is enlargement and congestion of the liver, and congestion of the portal vessels. Examples of this kind are of very frequent occurrence in all fever and ague districts.

But in our estimation, the most mischievous influence of all consists in a permanent depression of the vital powers of the organism which results in a majority of cases from the full action of quinine. Among these permanently injurious impressions may be cited, weakness of the

\* Waring's Ther. page 438.

at sixty. True, he was never intoxicated; he would have shuddered, always, at the thought of a lurking suspicion of this sort in any human mind. But he has drank his dram at five o'clock, ere rising; at eleven o'clock, as a preparation for dinner; and at four o'clock in the afternoon, as steadily and as certainly as these seasons have recurred, till his system is poisoned through every pore and fibre. And yet, till lately, he has scarcely felt a pain. Now, a host of exciting causes, as so many igniting sparks, have kindled into a flame all the latent predispositions to disease, which a long, but persevering course of transgression had induced. He realizes, just now,—*did he but realize it*,—the full import of the saying of Solomon: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set on them to do evil."

But what can be done with him? As surely as alcohol has circulated through every pore of his system for twenty or thirty years, just so surely has he been poisoned, as I said before, at every pore. The mucous membranes, in particular, are poisoned. For proof of this you have but to lay open his alimentary canal, or his bronchial tubes, and what do you see but hollow passages as red as fire—indeed, *on fire*—that is in a state of sub-inflammation? Now in these circumstances what can medicine do? or if *any thing in any shape, what shall it be, and in what shape?* No living medical man, be he wise as the wisest of the present or past, can tell. He can guess, and perhaps a little better than those who have neither studied the human constitution nor the nature or power of medicine. But he must *guess*, still; it is *only* guessing in such circumstances. Is there no difficulty in the practice of medicine?

Here is a female patient. She has lived twenty years, it may be more, for I have seen women—married women at least—who were over twenty. But young as she is, she is full of disease, and would gladly be freed from at least a part of it. What is to be done? We must look well to the causes of her suffering. She has neither drunk spirits nor used tobacco. I recall; she has done both. She has drunk *spirits*, alcohol, whenever she has drunk cider, beer, ale or wine. All *fermented* drinks contain more or less of alcohol; and though she would not for the world have drunk *distilled* spirits, she has not hesitated, occasionally, to drink *fermented* drinks,—wine, with considerable freedom. I have even heard her speak, with much emphasis, of the future triumphs of temperance, from the increased and very general cultivation of the grape, and the consequent manufacture of large quantities of wine in this country, as in France. But she has also drunk tea and coffee *ad libitum*; and her nervous system is in a most terrible condition. How, in such cases, is her family physician to apportion his dose, whether allopathic or homeopathic—whether botanic or mineral—to her case? Is he not quite as likely to madden, still more, her already half-frenzied brain as to allay irritation by his medicines?

Or, finally, what is still more frequent among us, here is a child, "dreadfully sick," with bowel complaint. As yet he has never drunk alcohol, whether in one form or another: or smoked or chewed tobacco. Nor has he become, at such a tender age, an inveterate tea or

coffee drinker. It is true he has been fed a year or two of the most important, because most formative stage of his existence, on the poisoned streams of the body of another individual; and it is equally true that he has been compelled to breathe, for many a juvenile hour, an atmosphere poisoned with the smoke of another's pipe or cigar. But this, though bad enough for incipient human life, is not quite so bad for him as another, and in its results, more deadly form of treatment still, at the hands of those who should have been his benefactors. Lay open his intestinal canal, and you will find it, from beginning to end, having, as the vulgar phrase it, an angry appearance, and, perhaps, thickly studded with ulcers. Is this diseased membrane a suitable place for the exhibition of active medicine? Will any scientific medical man be so daring and reckless, in view of such considerations as are likely to present themselves to his mind, in these days, when called to a sick child, as to venture on what is usually called an active or bold treatment? Yet he is expected to do something—something, too, which will inspire confidence. The parents, who have given their dearest child saleratus, pepper, spice, salt, lard, butter, and all sorts of concentrations, and the grandparents, who have, either by stealth or otherwise, give him extra rations, at all hours, especially those which were unreasonable, of pie, cake, sweetmeats and confectionary, will be the last to be satisfied with an expectant treatment. The physician knows all this; yet he knows that the more imminent the danger, the greater the necessity of leaving nature so undisturbed and unembarrassed, that she may exert the full force of her recuperative power, without which recovery will be impossible. So great will be his difficulty that it should excite no surprise to hear him say, in the deep anguish of his soul, that if it must be so,—if people will live in this intemperate manner and thus irritate and poison their solids and fluids, it were far better to trust the issue to nature and good nursing, than to attempt anything by means of medicine. Indeed, it may be laid down as an incontrovertible maxim, that all forms of medication in such cases, are much worse than nothing; and were society but aware of the facts in the case, they would either abandon their habits, or abandon physicians and medicine. Both cannot, with safety, be retained.

In the few remarks here made, I have alluded to a few only of the almost innumerable difficulties which beset the medical man, and sometimes seem actually to hedge up his way. In a future article I may advert briefly to the course which a truly honorable practitioner, in the world's best days, may be expected to pursue.

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#### DEMAND FOR NOSTRUMS.

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Immensely large warehouses in all the principal cities of the United States are stored with all imaginable preparations for human sufferings; and the vast capital employed in this branch of trade, which at

no period will yield a better profit than at the present moment, throws ordinary mercantile operations quite into the shade.

Very few, if any, of the large importing firms have ever accumulated fortunes by the regular processes of trade, in a long life of enterprising commercial activity, or amassed such prodigious estates as one or two bold pill makers, sarsaparilla manufacturers, and hair restorative venders have retired upon in the short time of five, six, and ten years. Philadelphia and New York possess the stateliest edifices in the world for carrying on these extraordinary plans for botching up frail humanity. And stranger still, notwithstanding a perpetually increasing demand for these various secret, mis-called remedies, not one of them possesses a single reliable property. Those who take them are in the end made worse, instead of better by them.

Take this astounding fact, in connexion with another, that men of the first medical distinction, in whom the public repose unlimited confidence, have never omitted warning the people of the danger incurred by patronizing those unknown mixtures from irresponsible sources, by lecturing, writing, and exhortations in season and out of season, without having stopped the sale of a single box of Brandreth's pills, or a vial of Davis's Pain Killer, since the batteries of scientific indignation opened the first broadside. A mortifying result,—but it is too true to be denied. That is not all. Resolutions solemnly promulgated under the authority of grave societies; appeals to the understanding, and a portrayal of the awful consequences that must inevitably follow, sooner or later, from the destructive effects of nostrums, have never weighed a feather, influenced a single mind, or retarded the wheels of this most profitable of all trades.

If the ignorant, the underwitted, and unconscious were the victims of patent medicines, we should have some hope of reaching that class of minds at last, by unceasing appeals and unrelaxing labor in developing their sensorial powers. But the patrons are the educated; the rich—the knowing ones; and the clergy everywhere give the weight of their clerical influence, without stint, by an array of certificates that must provoke the proprietors to laugh in their sleeves.

Physicians have certainly been on the wrong track in their hostility. The masses entertain an opinion that their warnings are nothing more nor less than exhibitions of selfishness,—which in rude language simply means, their own craft is in danger. Legislation has availed nothing, and it never will. People delight in this perverse mode of medication. Have it they will. The national appetite is hereditarily strong for this kind of food, hence any further attempts to deprive the people of their regular rations, of medicine, unless prescribed by a physician, must be abortive.

It would be an exciting scrap of medical intelligence to know whether educated medical gentlemen are ever interested in the nostrum trade. Where is the remedy? That is the question. Can a check ever be given to the manufacture and sale of quack medicines?—*Boston Medical World.*

## COURSE OF THE ELECTRIC CURRENT IN BATHS

BY DR E. E. SMITH OF NEW YORK.

As the subject of the Electro-chemical baths, for the extracting of deleterious minerals from the body, is attracting no small degree of attention as a lately discovered medical agent, scientific truth bearing on the subject is of interest to the public.

There are two kinds of electro-chemical baths now in use—the full body-bath and the foot-bath. In one the whole body is immersed in water up to the shoulders; in the other, the feet only. In the full body-bath the electricity does not pass down through the body under the water, but passes immediately from the body along and near the surface of the water to the sides of the metallic bath-tub. In the foot-bath, the electricity passes through the whole course of the body before it reaches the water.

I prove that the electricity in the full body-bath does not pass through the body, by the following experiment: First, provide a large metallic bathing tub, and fill it with water, and let the experimenter immerse his body in the water up to his neck. The body in the bath is to be insulated from the tub in the usual way, by being placed upon a board in the bottom of the tub. Connect the bath-tub to the zinc pole of the battery by means of a wire. Let this wire, before reaching the battery, be attached to a galvanometer. Now, let the man in the bath take hold of a metallic handle attached to a wire from the copper pole of the battery, and the needle of the galvanometer is deflected ten degrees. This shows that the electricity has passed from the man's body to the metallic bath-tub, and thence on the zinc pole of the battery.

Now, vary the experiment. Disconnect the galvanometer from the wire leading to the bath-tub. Place against the sole of the foot at the bottom of the bath-tub, a small metallic plate soldered on to the end of a wire covered with gutta-percha, to insulate it from the water and the tub. Connect this wire to the zinc pole of the battery, and attach it to the galvanometer. Now, let the man in the bath again take hold of the handle from the positive pole of the battery, and the needle still points north, proving decidedly that no electricity is passing down through the body in the bath, but that it has left the body at or near the surface of the water, and is passing along to the metallic bath-tub, and thence to the zinc of the battery. In this experiment the wire from the bath-tub must also be in connexion with the zinc of the battery, as well as the wire from under the man's foot. This circumstance is essential to the experiment, inasmuch as we thereby give to the electric current which has entered the man's body from above the surface of the water, an opportunity to take either of the two directions; that, along the surface of the water, or that, down through the body and out at the foot.

It is evident from this experiment that the foot-bath is preferable to the body-bath, in the elimination of minerals from the system, inas-

much the electric current in the foot-path passes through the whole body, while, in the body-bath it leaves the body at or near the surface of the water, passing, consequently, only through the arms and neck. To perform the above experiment, a battery will be required equal in power to ten of Groves' cups.

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#### BELLADONNA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical World.

MR. EDITOR,—Dear Sir: Allow me to ask, "Will belladonna prevent scarlet fever?" The opinion of medical men are sometimes so various, and physicians of one school are so blind and deaf to the discoveries and improvements of another school, that an important truth is often in danger of oblivion from no other reason. It seems to be so with belladonna.

Little less than a century ago, the immortal Hahnemann showed to the world the prophylactic virtues of this plant against the contagion of scarlet fever.

From that time to this his disciples have made no secret of it, but have habitually used it, thus confirming his opinions by their own experience. The observations of Hahnemann have been verified in the country by physicians of the homeopathic school generally. And the prevalence of scarlet fever at the present time, begins to force upon the public mind the value of belladonna as a real prophylactic to scarlatina.

For the last ten years I have made use of this medicine, in many cases, as a curative, and in all cases (where the occasion required) as a preventive; and I can now say, *with entire truth*, that I have never known an instance of the appearance of scarlet fever, among those to whom I had administered belladonna as a prophylactic, during exposure to the disease.

Very truly yours,

DAVID THAYER.

Boston, Dec. 15th, 1856.

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#### MEDICINE TAKING.

It is generally admitted that large doses of medicine is productive of serious injury to the patient. Of course the quantity must bear some kind of relation to the evil it is intended to remove; the age, sex, disease for which it is prescribed, and various other circumstances which are grouped together in the physician's mind. But the quantity given by some practitioners forty or fifty years ago, compared with the elegant prescriptions of these refined days of medical inquiry, are quite amazing.

There is a danger of erring on the other extreme, in not giving enough by the old school of allopathists, since the homeopathic system has become so generally popular.

Some of the most successful physicians in New England have been those who gave but little medicine. The great point is to know when not to give it all.

Had it not been for excessive medications by the physicians in their ordinary practice, homeopathy never would have been so ardently patronized. It has now become a permanency, and modified the views of its opponents, and the old evil also of overdosing.—*Medical World*.

The above is another illustration of the mistakes made by old school physicians in regard to homeopathy. They will persist in making homeopathy a system of small doses alone, without regard to principle of application. The new school of medicine does not owe its popularity to its small doses, for all know it to be one of the greatest stumbling-blocks to the inquirer; but to the unerring efficacy of the law of cure on which it is based. Hence, you gentlemen of the old school exhibit lamentable ignorance when you expect to approximate the success of homeopathy by curtailing your dose. It is not to be questioned, however that you will do less harm by diminishing your heroic doses to a point that human nature can withstand. Allopathy, to be most successful, must exhibit its remedies boldly until the drug action is manifest upon the patient, in order to produce a derivative effect or establish a drug disease in place of the existing malady.—*EDS. JOURNAL*.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Journal of Homeopathy.

SIRS,—Having taken your Journal for the last year, and perceiving therein many dissertations upon different subjects, and but few detailed cases of disease, and their treatment, which, I think, would be more interesting to many of your readers, laymen as well as members of the profession, I will give a few.

Case 1st. Miss C., aged 37, was attacked with severe cold in March; had been sick two or three weeks. When called to see her, I found her with continued fever, severe cough, much pain through the chest—no expectoration—severe pain in the stomach, with each day during the forenoon vomiting a dark, putrid substance, like coffee grounds, and with an enlargement of the thyroid gland (Goitre) as large as a goose egg. The ejections from the stomach were in quantity from a spoonful to half a pint each day. A case, to say the least, that presented a gloomy prognosis. I commenced the treatment with Acon. alternating Bell. and Phos. with it until the trouble of the respiratory organs was wholly relieved, which took over three weeks. I

then directed the treatment to the ulceration of the stomach, and gave iodine 3d, at night, conium in the morning, and arsenicum two or three times through the day, according to the amount of vomiting. This was continued until the vomiting of the dark substance wholly ceased, two months after the first change, and a transparent mucus was discharged. I then gave merc. sol. 3d, at night, continued the conium in the morning, and Lycopo. in the afternoon, for two or three weeks, and until the discharge of this character of mucus ceased. I then gave Cal. Carb. and Coni. alternately, at intervals of 24 and 48 hours, until there was entire reaction of the organism and the enlargement of the thyroid gland disappeared. The patient has remained well since, seven years.

Case 2nd. Mrs. E., aged 22, sanguine, lymphatic temp., full habit — was attacked with convulsions, which continued for thirty-six hours—the patient wholly unconscious. Gave Nux. Hyos. and camphor, alternately, until the convulsions ceased—upon which, a fever, with severe pain extending from the stomach throughout the œsophagus, with tumors, occurred, apparently from the centre of the sternum through the cardiac orifice; restlessness, with constant nausea accompanied with vomiting of white slimy mucus; pulse 120 to 130, tense and twitching. Gave Bell. and Merc. viv. alternately, every three hours, until the fever, restlessness, and vomiting abated, and deglutition became more tolerable. She then commenced ejecting a substance like dark coffee grounds, mixed with mucus, from the stomach, sometimes quite large quantities. I immediately gave Iodine 3d, and alternated with it Arsenicum and Conium, every four hours, until in the course of ten days the ulcers broke and discharged a large quantity of bloody pus, which continued for several days, gradually lessening as the ulcerated cavities healed; extending the time between the doses, as the case continued to grow better. This case was well in two months' time, and she has had no return of the disease since three years and a half.

Case 3d. Mrs. W., aged 22. Called 8 P. M., to see her; had been confined three days before; first child; child large and healthy. Patient rather large, full habit and sanguine temp.; had severe pains through the whole abdomen, which were very tense, extremely tender to the touch, and very hot; was attacked with chills about 4 P. M.; pulse full, tense, and frequent. Gave Acon. in solution 3d, and Bell & Puls (as the Lochia was entirely suppressed,) in alternate doses every three hours. In forty-eight hours patient well and remained so.

Case 4th. Mrs. M., age 25, was confined with second child; doing well until the fourth day, in the afternoon, was taken with severe chills.



which lasted three hours; then fever with pain through the bowels; great heat, nausea at stomach, with some vomiting; severe pain in the head, and very restless, with quick, soft pulse; was subject to developments of urticarial rash. Gave Bell and Rhus-tox alternately, every three hours. Next day comfortable, and remained so for several days; then came a full rash, which disappeared in four days' time, leaving the patient well.

Case 5th. Miss S., age 16, fair size, sanguine temperament, large head, with remarkable precocity; had enjoyed good health: called to consult about her right arm, the surface of which was swollen and red from the elbow to the wrist, on the outside of the forearm. On examination I found a tumor on the Ulna, equidistant from the elbow and the wrist. The bone enlarged to double its size in the centre of the tumor, and gradually tapering some two inches each way; had been several weeks coming to its present size and appearance. I pronounced it a bone tumor; had some doubts of a cure, but said to her, if she would faithfully follow out a prescription, I would try. She promised to do so. I gave asafœtida and Lycopo, in alternate doses, every 24 hours, at night, and silica each morning. This was to be continued until the tumor began to lessen; then to discontinue. The remedies were taken for about three weeks, and in six weeks, no vestige of the disease remained. Thus was a most dangerous disease cured with little trouble to patient or doctor.

P. H. PETERSON, M. D.

Brantford, C. W., February, 1857.

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#### EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Reader, did you ever study Physiology? Did you observe, the beauty, perfection, and harmony existing in all the organs and functions of the tenement we inhabit? Did it not occur to you that this organism was made by Him who made nothing in vain and made all things perfect? Were you not lost in amazement when contemplating the varied functions of the organs, the beauty of their texture, their peculiar adaptation to accomplish their appointed purpose, their exact economy, their sanative power in removing useless particles of worn-out matter and replacing it with new and wholesome material—their power of adaptation to circumstances, change of climate, and the vicissitudes of the seasons, their power of restoring their own texture injured by violence, their complete harmony of action, each doing its specific duty—digestion, assimilation, absorption, secretion, and excretion—of circulation, seeing, feeling, hearing, tasting, and smelling—in

elaborating thought and obeying the impulse of the will? Does it not occur to you that all its sanative functions are performed in a silent, yet active and efficient manner? That morbid or disease producing influences are violent, agitating, and tumultuous, leaving disorder and derangement where before existed order and concord? Such being the condition of the human body in a physiological or healthy state, did it not occur to you that violence or violent means would be irrational in restoring harmony should disorder prevail? Could you trace any connection between a blister and healthy physiological action? Could you find any existing relation between an emetic, drastic cathartic, or bitter tonic, and the natural function of the digestive organs? Did you find anywhere in its teachings, instruction for, or even toleration of blood-letting?

We think you did not. In truth, we know you did not. All its teachings, studied impartially and guided by reason, would direct us to a more rational procedure than burning raw and inflamed surfaces to cure local inflammation, or giving drastic purgatives until a sufficient diseased action is produced in the stomach or bowels to attract disease from the chest or head—by instituting one disease in place of another (which is the doctrine of allopathy) nothing is gained. The organism is no nearer health when filled with mercury to cure a diseased liver, than when laboring under the primary disease—nor as near, for undisturbed, the recuperative power of the body would in time restore its diseased member; but of the mercurial disease never. The tendency of nine-tenths of disease is toward health. The only advantage of medical treatment is to assist nature or the "*vis medicatrix natura*," and bring about a state of health more speedily.

The possibility of healthy reaction is more uncertain and its proximity less direct after a full bleeding than before. We grant that relief is often experienced after local or general blood-letting, but if we examine more closely and wait for final results, we observe that the combatants (nature and disease) are only temporarily prostrated, and return with their impaired strength to a more deadly conflict.

Every physician of judgment and non-professional observer knows right well that health is not established when an eruptive or inflammatory disease of the skin is made to disappear under the action of ointment, lotions, and salves; but that the disease is apt to become more violent and unmanageable as it is changed to organs more vital.

We intend, when our time will permit to discuss in a few short articles, the variance in fact, essence, and principle, of the established laws of Physiology and the doctrines and practices of allopathic medicine.

P. H. Peterson, M. D., late of Union Springs, N. Y., writes us that he has decided upon making Brantford, C. W., his future residence. We can congratulate the people of the last named town on so valuable an acquisition to their medical staff. He brings with him a high reputation as an Homeopathic physician, matured by long practice and extensive experience. We trust his success will be equal to his merits.

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NOTICES OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

THE MEDICAL WORLD: J. V. C. Smith, M.D., and E. S. Smith, M.D., Editors. P. 28 (weekly). Boston, Mass.: Published by Damrell, Moore & Co. \$2 per year.

This is an anomaly. The senior editor of this publication was intimately connected with the Boston Med. & Surg. Journal for more than a quarter of a century, and in that connection has gained for himself a world-wide and enviable reputation as a medical writer. "Believing in the virtue of progress," he has established this publication and "opened its pages to medical writers of every denomination *throughout the United States.*" Could you not, Drs., be persuaded to admit the Canadas? He permits "Allopathic, Homeopathic, and Hydropathic practitioners, and indeed all others to have an opportunity to propagate their views side by side in an open field for the diffusion of truth."

Being anomalous does not render it the less valuable, interesting, or instructive. We predict for it great success. The necessity of medical reform is being felt by all the most learned of the allopathic school; and the claims of reformers can no longer be answered by dignified silence or contemptuous ridicule. Their position is too well maintained to be resisted by such logic.

The eminent character of its chief editor assures us that it will be conducted with ability, liberality, and fairness. We are convinced that the cause of homeopathy has spread less rapidly in consequence of old school physicians never reading, consequently, never knowing what Homeopathy really is; for we are all prone to be influenced in our judgments by our reading, and if we read only one side of an argument our conclusions are likely to be prejudiced.

We have no fear for our cause in this arena, if our qualified champions will come up to the contest. We would advise all homeopathic physicians to sustain it as a progressive step in medical reform.

generative sphere, impaired sight and hearing, paralytic affections, neuralgia, hypochondria, and diminished powers of rationation.

It may be urged that homeopaths also make use of quinine in intermittent fevers. In cases where it is homeopathically indicated this is quite true; but when thus employed in accordance with our therapeutic law, it is never necessary to prescribe it in such quantities as to induce toxic effects, in order to insure cures. In such cases the specific affinity between the disordered tissues and the drug is so strongly pronounced that very minute doses produce curative responses.

Will the reader mark the contrast between the empirical employment of this substance in *all* causes of intermittent fevers by one school, and its occasional use by the other school for definite and specific groups of symptoms? By so doing, some idea may be formed of the comparative scientific bases upon which each mode of medication is founded.

#### OPIMUM.

It has been well remarked, that if our adversaries were deprived of opium and calomel, their "occupation would be gone." If their standard works on Theory and Practice be consulted, it will be found that in nineteen out of every twenty maladies treated by these gentlemen, one of these medicines is doomed indispensable.

With regard to opium, it may justly be ranked among the most pernicious and insidious of poisons. Exhilarating, soothing, and eminently pleasurable in its primary effects, it speedily attracts its victims with visions of celestial beauty, and with thoughts and ideas such as angels might envy, towards an abyss of unspeakable wretchedness and despair. Day by day the habitual opium-eater is obliged to augment his dose, until the quantity amounts to two or three drachms in twenty-four hours. The energies of the system are thus gradually impaired, until the opium-fiend rules triumphant, and the functions of life can only be accomplished under his influence.

That the constant and indiscriminate use of this drug by the old school, very frequently leads to its habitual indulgence, does not admit of doubt. Every day does the medical man come in contact with instances of this kind, and in every street may be seen *secret* indulgers, withered and sallow opium-eaters. The responsibility in these cases rests, for the most part, with our opponents.

The following is an excellent description of the habitual opium-eater by Dr. Oppenheim:\*

"The habitual opium-eater is instantly recognized by his appearance. A total attenuation of body, a withered, yellow countenance, a lame gait, a bending of the spine, frequently to such a degree as to assume a circular form, and glassy, deep, sunken eyes, betray him at the first glance. The digestive organs are in the highest degree disturbed, the sufferer eats scarcely any thing, and has hardly one evacuation in a week; his mental and bodily powers are destroyed; he is

\* Brit. and For. Med. Rev. Vol. iv. p. 374.

SMITH'S HOMEOPATHIC DIRECTORY.—Arranged by Henry M. Smith.  
Published by J. T. S. Smith, 484 Broadway, New York—price 30 cts.

“The object of the publication is to furnish general information in regard to Homeopathy.”

The name and residence of all homeopathic physicians on this continent are given, together with hospitals, dispensaries, colleges, journals, pharmacies' publications, societies, &c. From it we learn that there is at present about two thousand physicians of our school on the continent, two colleges in successful operation, eight dispensaries, twenty-four organized societies, and three hospitals.

We heartily approve of this compilation as forming a most correct data of the advancement of our principles.

Dr. H. B. Gram, we believe, was the first to introduce homeopathy on this side of the Atlantic. At the time of his death, in 1840, there were but a very few homeopathic physicians, probably not exceeding fifty in all. In seventeen years the number has increased to about two thousand, and this has been mostly from the old school profession. With a knowledge of this fact, our old school friends will not venture to use as an argument against homeopathy, that it is “dying out.”

It is a convenient book for persons travelling, who, should they be necessitated to call a strange physician, will have a means of knowing who to call and where they may be found.

We observe, also, that there have been published in the United States alone one hundred and twenty-five volumes of homeopathic medical literature.

Every physician, at least, should have a copy of this little volume. Copies may be ordered by mail from the publisher, or procured by the order of all booksellers.

Agents for the Journal:—All Homeopathic physicians in the Province; Dr. J. C. Peterson, St. John, New Brunswick; L. G. Carter, Port Colborne, C. W.; V. C. Price, Buffalo, N. Y.; P. E. Gumaer, Cuddebackville, N. Y.; J. G. Houard, Bœricke & Tafel, and Rademacher & Sheek, Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. J. P. Dake, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. J. C. Burbank, Polo, Ill.; Otis Clapp, Boston, Mass.; J. Hall, Cleveland, Ohio. All Homeopathic Physicians throughout the States are requested to act as agents.

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impotent. By degrees, as the habit becomes more confirmed, his strength continues decreasing, the craving for the stimulus becomes even greater, and to produce the desired effect, the dose must constantly be augmented."

"When the dose of two or three drachms a day no longer produces the beatific intoxication so eagerly sought by the opiophagi, they mix the opium with *corrosive sublimate*, increasing the quantity till it reaches to ten grains a day; it then acts as a stimulant."

"After long indulgence the opium-eater becomes subject to nervous or neuralgic pains, to which opium itself brings no relief. These people seldom attain the age of forty, if they have begun to use opium at an early age. The fasts in the months of Ramasan are for them fraught with the most dreadful tortures, as during the whole of that month they are not allowed to take any thing during the day. It is said that, to assuage their sufferings, they swallow before the morning prayer, besides the usual dose, a certain number of other doses, each wrapped up in its particular paper, having previously calculated the time when each envelop shall be unfolded, and allow the pill to produce the effects of their usual allowance. When this baneful habit has become confirmed, it is almost impossible to break it off; the torments of the opium-eater, when deprived of this stimulant, are as dreadful as his bliss is complete when he has taken it; to him night brings the torments of hell, day the bliss of paradise."

Cases similar to these are by no means uncommon after courses of allopathic medication, where the stimulant has been continued for weeks and months to relieve pain or procure sleep. When administered from its primary action; while its secondary and permanent operation is constantly adding to the force and permanency of the disease. But who ever heard of an opium-eater, a dinner-pill man, or a toper, in consequence of homeopathic medication? Who ever heard of permanent deafness and ringing in the ears after the homeopathic employment of quinine? or of ulcerations, bone diseases, palsies, mercurial cachexias, &c., as a result of the homeopathic administration of mercury? or of heart-disease and dropsy from the homeopathic use of colchicum? Who ever heard of a confirmed dyspeptic from the use of cathartics in the hands of the homeopathist? or of a blue man or blue woman from the homeopathic employment of nitrate of silver? or of absorption of the breasts or testicles from the homeopathic use of iodine; or of hæmorrhoidal affections from abuse of aloes? or of any other of the numerous allopathic drug diseases, as a consequence of homeopathic medication?

Nearly all writers upon the other side, entertain the opinion that most drugs produce their legitimate effects after having been absorbed into the blood. With regard to very many substances, this doctrine of absorption has been demonstrated to be true by actual experiments. This fact taken in connection with the allopathic mode of medication, is pregnant with interest. *Contraria contrariis* being the rule of action, *healthy* structures must be impressed in such a manner as to produce a *revulsion* from the *diseased* part. In other words, the *afflux* of blood upon the inflamed organ which is determined by the recuper-

ative energies of the system, is diverted to a greater or less extent, to medicinal inflammations which the physician induces in normal structures. In order that these artificial inflammations shall be effectual, it is necessary that they should be so violent as to force the action of the *vis medicatrix nature* from the *natural* to the *medicinal* disease. This is what is termed *revulsion*. This diversion of the recuperative forces from a natural to an artificial disease, is the improvement which ancient and modern allopathy have made upon the good old ways of dame nature.

Nature strives to throw off morbid actions in her own primitive manner, by directing the vital energies of the organism to the affected point, and inducing those changes which free the system from the offending cause. Allopathy steps in and takes the matter into her own hands, and forces nature to concentrate her efforts upon other points. It matters not how many complications may arise from these active drug actions in a body already weighed down by some natural malady, the empiric routine of the school must be carried out, and if the patient dies, he falls *secundem artem*; or if he recovers, he does so "in spite of both the disease and the doctor."

From the few examples we have adverted to, the reader will be able to appreciate one of the fundamental facts connected with allopathic medication, viz., the necessity of saturating the entire organisms of patients with the selected drugs in order to produce the requisite amount of *revulsion*. It matters not how many foreign and deleterious substances shall be introduced into the vital current, or whether such agents shall be eliminated or remain in the system to impair the integrity of some organ or tissue, *revulsion* must be induced at whatever sacrifice to the healthy parts. In those cases where the drug might be rejected by the stomach or bowels before absorption could occur, it is the universal custom to combine it with opium. By this means the most poisonous article can be retained in the alimentary canal sufficiently long for the absorbents to take it into the blood.

If space permitted we should take up all of the more common remedies of our opponents in detail, and demonstrate from their own authorities the abominations of this mode of medication. Such an *expose* would satisfy any enlightened mind that a vast amount of the illness and suffering which are witnessed on every side are due to the poisonings of this school. Is it reasonable to suppose that the body can be saturated with powerful minerals, narcotics, alkaloids, &c., without entailing upon it permanent drug maladies? Can any sensible person calculate the actual quantity of medicines administered by the Hippocratics during an ordinary attack of fever, rheumatism, or other malady, without shuddering at the result, and experiencing a sense of relief if the poor patient survives?

So well recognized and common are these drug diseases, that allopathy has long since found it necessary to classify and arrange them in their books, and designate modes of treatment. Among these diseases may be cited mercurial cachexia, sulphur cachexia, arsenic cachexia, iodine cachexia, lead cachexia, mercurial rheumatism, nodes, palsy, lead palsy, &c., &c. These acknowledged drug maladies constitute

only a small amount of the actual disease and suffering which are superinduced by this mode of treatment; for we may justly attribute to this source the numerous cases of impaired constitutions, and the endless train of anomalous symptoms which are constantly met with in those families who have long employed old school physicians.

Let us suppose a case of allopathic treatment. The patient has a bilious fever, and an active mercurial purgative is prescribed to evacuate the *prima vie*. But the fever continues to progress, and tenderness of the abdomen is superadded since the operation of the cathartic. Small doses of calomel and Dover's powder are now prescribed for the purpose of inducing the alterative (poisonous) action of the mercury, and these doses are repeated at short intervals until irritation of the salivary glands, the liver, the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, ulceration of the mouth, throat, and gums, and a general derangement system indicate that the body has been effectually poisoned by the drug. Still the fever pursues its course unchecked, with many serious drug symptoms superadded. Tortured and prostrated more by the doctor than by the natural disease, the unhappy invalid loses both his strength, his patience, and his courage, and feebly begs for relief to his sufferings. Now comes the grand placebo *Opium*, which benumbs the patient, and covers up temporarily his pains and his complaints under an artificial stupor. Still the malady is not arrested, but pursues its destructive course throughout every nerve and fibre of the torpid organism, aided in its deadly work by the impaired condition of the entire system, which has been caused by the narcotic. A few days pass by and the poisonous effects of the opium are manifested in the form of congestion of the brain, delirium, prostration of the nervous system, and a general suspension of the functions of nearly every organ of the body. A new and serious condition of things now exists, and the friends of the unfortunate victim of empyricism are coolly assured, that the *disease* has assumed a *typhoid* type! The dreadful drugging which has been employed—sufficient to reduce a healthy Hercules to the brink of the grave, is entirely overlooked, and all untoward symptoms are attributed to the natural malady! But the patient is fast sinking. His muttering delirium, his trembling nerves, his wan and sunken face, his foetid breath, his tympanitic abdomen, his rapid and feeble pulse, and other indications of extreme illness, require prompt attention, and he is put under full doses of quinine every hour or two as a tonic. The patient sinks hour by hour, while the poisonous effects of the quinine become developed in the form of deafness, ringing in the ears, and an aggravation of all the typhoid symptoms. As the victim sinks, the poisoner plies his trade, as his fancy, or the fashionable doctrine of the day may influence him; and the father, the wife, or the child expires, his body loaded with deadly poisons—a victim to an empirical mode of medication, which originated in the dark ages, and which is at present sustained by medical bigots similar in mental constitution to those who scoffed and rejected the discoveries of Harvey and Jenner.

If the homeopathic practitioner be followed to the sick-bed, no violent drug-symptoms which impair the entire energies of the system,

complicate the original disorder, and thus prevent the successful operation of the recuperative forces, are ever observed. The symptoms almost uniformly subside under the mild influence of his remedy, and the invalid is speedily restored to health with an unimpaired constitution, and with no fear of any future manifestation of a drug-disease.

We have detailed a few of the actual differences between the two modes of medication; but sufficient has been written to enable the reader to extend the comparison fairly, and to draw those conclusions which the merits of the question require.

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#### MEN WANTED.

Passing through the Bowery, some time ago, a flag was observed, extending over the side-walk, in large black letters, "MEN WANTED."

So they are; wanted everywhere; for the pulpit, for the press, for the judge's bench and the halls of legislation. In our opinion, it requires a man to do anything well, to black a shoe, construct a locomotive or build a ship; men of mind and men of body; stout men, strong men, men of vigor and of high health are "wanted."

But the object for which "men" were "wanted" at the place above, was enlistment as soldiers of the Army. All over the world the best specimens of physical humanity are selected for the army. The halt, the lame, the deaf, the blind, the little, the sickly, the deformed, are turned off with contempt by the inspecting officer. Of such importance is this physical perfection in some despotic countries, that boys are purposely trained by all sorts of gymnastic exercises, until their feats of agility are scarcely surpassed by the professed circuit rider or rope dancer.

So it seems that tyrants and despots are the first to perceive the value of physical training for developing the highest capabilities of man.

But if it is thought of such importance to have well-developed men for purposes of killing their fellows, it might be well to inquire if it would not be advantageous to train men to high bodily health and physical perfection for better callings and for nobler purposes. How long will it take to teach the world, that physical perfection and mental power or the highest order go hand in hand. We cannot say that the world is any the better for the *whole work*, of any mind that operated through a sickly body.—*Hall's Journal*.

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#### SUGAR AND TEETH.

In a previous number it was stated that pure sugar and candies, having no residue, could not, by lodgment about the teeth, injure them, and that if used in moderation, neither sugar nor candies were preju-

dicial to the teeth or health of young children or grown persons; that there was more or less sugar in all vegetable food; but as concentrations were liable to abuse, we advised that they should be taken at regular meals.

The *Medical Journal* of Charleston, S. C., states the conclusions of M. Larez:

1st. Refined sugar injures teeth, either by immediate contact, or by gas developed in the stomach.

2d. That a tooth soaked in sugar water, becomes jelly like, from the sugar combining with the lime of the tooth.

To which the *Scientific American*, good authority in cogs and pulleys and piston-rods, and all that, dogmatizes thus: "The foregoing conclusions are correct, and candies and condiments should be avoided, especially by children. Maple sugar renders the teeth sensitive."

The whole statement is based on the assertion, that a tooth put in a saturated solution of sugar becomes gelatinous. This is not denied. But it is no argument. The gastric juice begins to eat up the stomach as soon as a man dies. But we know that the gastric juice has no injurious effect on a healthy living stomach. What injures a dead tooth may have no effect on a living one. The argument from the living to the dead; from the hospital to the private house; from the rich to the poor; from the tropics to the poles; from the healthy to the diseased; from animal phenomena in the natural state, to those presented when agonizing under the knife or virulent poisons, has strewn multitudes of delusions throughout the whole of medical literature. If an isolated case were worth anything, we can state for ourselves, that we ate all the sugar we could get while a child; and now use "lasses" three times a day, and we think our teeth will compare favorably with those of any other person on our side of forty-five. It is general ill-health which makes us toothless before our time, induced by over eating and under exercise, by hot bread and late and large suppers. Away with your single hobbies, gentlemen. Widen your views.—*Hall's Journal of Health*.

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#### SOUND SLEEP.

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Any man who can bound out of bed as soon as he wakes of a mid-winter's morning is worth somethin; no fear of his not making his way through the world creditably, because he has the elements of a promptitude, decision and energy which guarantee success. To invalids we make a comfortable suggestion worth knowing. If you have force of will enough to keep you from taking a second nap—and it is the "second nap" which makes its baneful influence felt on multitudes—it is better for you to lie awhile and think about it, until that feeling of weariness passes out of the limbs which you so commonly feel. But

to sleep soundly, and to feel rested and refreshed when you wake up of a morning, four things are essential—

1. Go to bed with feet thoroughly dry and warm.
2. Take nothing for supper but some cold bread and butter and a single cup of weak warm tea of any kind.
3. Avoid over fatigue of body.
4. For the hour preceding bedtime, dismiss every engrossing subject from the mind, and let it be employed about something soothing and enlivening in cheerful thankfulness.—*Ib.*

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#### THREATENINGS OF DISEASE.

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All serious diseases give their far-off warnings. Intelligence and careful observation would make a doctor's calling almost a sinecure. A gradual failure of the memory is a sure indication of approaching bodily infirmity or decay. Another important fact is, if any set of muscles are unduly exercised, they will lose their power; so also, if any function of the mind or brain is unduly stimulated, the result is temporary prostration or permanent destruction, according to the intensity and duration of that stimulus. Thus it is, that the young, who learn by memory, if highly stimulated to learn, become precocious, and either die early, or disappoint the expectations of their friends by settling down into mortifying mediocrity. Hence

1. Let the young learn slowly.
2. Under intense bodily or mental application, if you find your memory failing you, as you value bodily health, and the mind itself, break away at once from all your engagements, and spend weeks together in out-door recreations.—*Ib.*

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#### SLEEP.

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The unwise of all economies is time saved from necessary sleep, for it begets a nervous irritability, which masters the body and destroys the mind. When a man becomes sleepless, the intellect is in danger. A restored lunatic, of superior mental endowments, said: "The first symptom of insanity, in my own case, was a want of sleep; and from the time I began to sleep soundly, my recovery was sure."

Let this be a warning to all who are acquiring an education. Every young person at school should have eight hours for sleep out of every twenty-four; for, as the brain is highly stimulated all the time, in the prosecution of study, it will break down, just as any other part of the frame, unless it have time for full recuperation. Better a thousand times to give another year to specified studies, than by curtailing sleep, to endeavor to get through that much sooner, at the risk of madness.—*Ib.*

## MEDICAL DIFFICULTIES.

BY WM. A. ALCOTT, M. D.

Medical men, like men of other professions, have their difficulties. They have not always smooth sailing, unembarrassed by winds, breakers or tides, which are unfavorable.

Here is a tobacco-chewing or smoking patient. Perhaps he has used his tobacco forty years, till he is fairly mithsidated by it.\* Had you called on him a few days before he called on *you*, and after kindly inquiring about his health, had you suggested, with ever so much modesty and moderation, the necessity of a change in his habits, he would doubtless have told you sarcastically, "Oh, I have used the 'poisonous creature' half a life-time, and am not injured by it yet." And had you labored with him two hours, or even a whole day, to convince of him of his error, your labor might have been wholly in vain. But now he is sick; not merely a little sick, but severely so. His nervous system is prostrated, as well as his muscular powers. Does he know how much greater the prostration is for having benumbed his nervous system with a filthy narcotic, every day, for one hundred and fifty thousand successive days? There is great irritation and tenderness about the region of the liver; with seasons of nausea, and perhaps vomiting; does he know how much more severe his bilious affection is, in consequence of having narcotized his system daily for almost half a century? Constipation, alternated, perhaps, with occasional diarrhœa, is another troublesome symptom; does he know how much of this is owing to his long use of tobacco? In short, he has been using medicine daily—for if tobacco is not a medicine, pray what is it?—for forty years or more; and now does he expect other medicine, such as his physician may think it needful to prescribe, will have its wonted effect? Is there no danger of having his disease aggravated, rather than relieved, by the administration of new medicine? Does he not know that no physician in the world, however skilful he may be, can so apportion his doses to the case of an individual who has, for many long years, been dosing or drugging himself, till he has either become mithsidated, or has passed beyond the mount of mithsidation to the gulf of cachexy or general prostration and helplessness, which lies beyond it? And does he not know—for if not, his physician, if he is a man who is worthy of the name, knows it quite too well—that all active medicine is like a sword with two edges, which cannot be used in the vital domain without doing execution in some way? for if it does not cut in one direction, it does in another.

Here is a patient who has used alcohol all his life. Perhaps, indeed, that life is as yet but a short one. He is hardly thirty-five years of age; yet his constitution is as much impaired as that of many people

\* For the benefit of the non-professional and non-classical reader, it may be needful to observe that Mithsidates, king of Pontus, is said to have taken poison from day to day, in small, but constantly increasing quantities, till he became so hardened against its influence as to be proof against that death from hemlock, which was then so customary in high life. We are not told, however, what were the remote effects on his system, or on those who came after him.