

Canadian Journal of Homeopathy.

"Plus apud nos vera ratio valet, quam vulgi opinio."

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[ORIGINAL.]

Why Publish a Homeopathic Journal?

"Every man," says the proverb, "is a Physician or a fool, at forty;" or, as it may be rendered, the man who has attained the age of forty, so deficient of observation as to remain ignorant of some of the various aspects under which disease attacks the principle of life, and a general knowledge of the curative agents employed to baffle the enemy, is little better than a fool: indeed, such results are but the natural effects from a natural cause. An inheritor of a fearful legacy, man finds himself launched into being with the seeds of dissolution firmly implanted and twining around the very citadel of life; and a vigorous and active mind, in conjunction with a perfectly organized body, being the exception rather than the rule, existence is a perpetual struggle between health and disease,—vitality and death. Under these circumstances, need it be wondered at that he should resort to every expedient which offers a prolonged existence, or successfully to repel the assaults of the enemy, and the most rational course to adopt in the exigence of the moment, the proper remedies, the right time and application, and the most effective dose, are matters of vast importance,—questions upon which not unfrequently hang the issues of life and death.

If, in bringing more prominently before the public the principle advocated by Homeopathy, of "*similia similibus curantur*," a safer and a surer method of treating disease is introduced to popular notice, it would alone be a sufficient reason for the publication of the 'JOURNAL.'

In their frantic efforts to eradicate disease, and obtain longevity, mankind have submitted to inquisitorial rigors, and borne, without a murmur, tortures that would have out-heroded the most fanatic

ascetic. The lancet, calomel, cupping, blisters and searons have, with the best intentions, been called to the assistance of humanity; but unhappily they have been implacable enemies in the guise of friends. Phlebotomy and depletion have carried on their fearful work of depopulation until their thousands slain will bear comparison with those terrific scourges of the human family, War and Pestilence. A perfect infatuation has apparently existed and pervaded over the different departments of Medical Science,—so much so, that every potent manifestation of disease has been but the signal for a furious onslaught upon the unhappy victims. Nauseous draughts, drastic purgatives, poisonous emetics, together with the lancet, have, while professing amity, traitorously assisted the enemy, and treacherously sapped the citadel, until nature, unable any longer to maintain the unequal conflict with disease and the Doctor, has quietly succumbed, and the miserable patient, with mustard plasters at his feet, a large blister on the chest, the vital fluid exhausted from his bandaged arm, and a body swollen to bursting with mercury, gives up the ghost, and is gathered to his fathers.

Nor can the Physician be accounted solely blameable in the matter, since the patient has generally been as anxious to be physicked, as the Doctor has been willing to physic him to death. Alarmed by a slightly ruptured blood vessel, an incipient diarrhea, or the forcible ejection of some offensive and crude substance from the injured stomach, they have sought by some powerful drug, to correct the evil and eradicate disease; while Physicians seem to have been actuated by the desire to see how much virulent poison they could pour into the human system with impunity, without producing immediate dissolution.

By the mutual consent of the patient and prescriber, simples were discarded, and the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms were ransacked for violent and active agents. It was true that life was sustained by simple and nutritious aliments; therefore, *poison* was the very thing to restore health; and deadly drugs, which produced such fearful havoc with the healthy human system, were poured down in the vain hope of alleviating disease, and restoring the drooping energies of nature; thus what would bring death to the well, was preposterously expected to give health to the sick.

The great and unmistakable fact, that nature performed all her mighty functions by small and almost imperceptible efforts, had been written broadly upon the face of creation, from the beginning; yet men regarded it not. It had been engraved in stone on the geological formations; the doctrine of "little by little," had been endorsed in the minute projections of vegetable juices and sap, and confirmed by the growth of the plant,—the commencement and increase of the animal in embryo,—the secretions of the human system,—all bore testimony to the minuteness of Nature's operations in detail, working out gigantic and wonderful results. Restoration and sustentation made no startling outburst,—no sudden display. It was manifest to all, that the silent sunbeam, the minute dew drop, and the gentle rain, developed the bud, gave beauty to the flower, and maturity to the fruit; while the thunder storm, the hurricane, and the earthquake raged but to destroy.

Thus in Medicine, men copied after the storm and the earthquake, and overlooked the gentle influences of the sunbeam; and as a natural consequence, the results were destructive. None ever thought that what large doses failed to accomplish, might possibly be brought about by small ones, frequently repeated; and it remained for Hahnemann to merit the blessings of his race, by not only promulgating the doctrine that "*like cures like*," but that small doses, judiciously administered, were more effectual in

checking and eradicating disease, than large ones. This at once disarmed the science of Medicine of its terrors, gave it a friendly aspect, and by its very safety will render it eventually the most popular, as it is the most rational mode of practice.

To disseminate these doctrines, will be the principal object of this "JOURNAL:" in doing so, we shall deal largely in well authenticated facts,—FACTS,—"*stubborn facts*," which bid defiance to argument, and put ridicule out of countenance; and if by so doing, we in any degree serve to introduce a safer and more effectual method of treating disease,—check the ravages of the lancet, with its fatal attendants of sweating, blistering, and depletion: if we save but one victim from being hurried through poison to an untimely grave, the "JOURNAL" will have served a noble purpose, and the publisher rewarded.

We appeal to no scientific bigot, bound like Ixion to the wheel, not daring to move from the allotted circle; but to the public at large,—satisfied by their judgment to stand or fall. All we ask is, that for their own welfare they will give Homeopathy a fair, impartial, dispassionate trial,—having no fear for the result. Should we be successful, a noble work will have been accomplished; but should failure attend our efforts, we will have the consolation of knowing that we were actuated by a purpose which was benevolent in its design, and laudable in its object.

[ORIGINAL.]

Truths, and their Reception by the Medical Profession.

The era in which we live, is distinguished for its vast discoveries and developments in the Arts and Sciences.—Chemistry, Physiology, Astronomy, Electrical Phenomena, etc., have and are undergoing a scrutinizing investigation. New truths are discovered, and hoary errors consigned to the depths of oblivion; and even the art of Medicine has not escaped the ordeal of having its merits proved and its fallacies exposed. Antiquity or ancient usage in the art would fain point us to the shadowy past,

and frown upon the mention of progress; but the light of Science is pouring a brightness into the dark recesses of mystery, error and hypothesis, that exposes its vacuity and slender foundation.

We might give a chapter of the unsatisfactory progress of Medicine with the leading Physicians of the old school, and the following is but one version of the same expression that has fallen from the lips and pens of many of the most eminent Physicians of their time.

Sir Wm. Knighton; Physician to King George IV., in one of his private letters, published after his death, says: "It is somewhat strange that, though in many arts and sciences improvement has advanced in a step of regular progression from the first, in others it has kept no pace with time; and we look back to ancient excellence with wonder not unmixed with awe. Medicine seems to be one of those ill-fated arts, whose improvements bear no proportion to its antiquity. This is lamentably true, although Anatomy has been better illustrated, the Materia Medica enlarged, and Chemistry better understood."

Why is it? One of the chief causes why the art of Medicine has not kept pace in its progress with the other arts of life is, that every new step has been met with virulent opposition: it has been treated as an innovation, and denounced as empiricism or quackery.

Before the 16th century, the practice of restraining hemorrhage after surgical operations, by the ligature; or tying the artery, was neither practised nor understood. The only means in those days were, burning the bleeding wound with red hot iron, plunging it in boiling pitch, or applying potential caustic to the surface. Sometimes a little refinement of this barbarous custom was practised, and the amputations were performed with red hot knives, so as to divide the parts and arrest the hemorrhage at the same instant. This exquisitely humane practice was introduced by Hildanus, the patriarch of German Surgery, if surgery it might be called. An art, to some extent indeed, it was.

The ligature must have been hailed at once as a great boon. We would sup-

pose a means so simple, so perfectly adapted to accomplish its purpose, and the only means resorted to now, in amputation, would have been at once adopted; but quite otherwise. The profession looked upon it with contempt. Ambrose Pare, principal Surgeon to Francis I., who introduced it, was ridiculed for "hanging human life upon a thread," when boiling pitch and hot iron had served the purpose so long and so well.

When Antimony, (the value of which, at the present day, when properly administered, is undisputed.) was first introduced as a Medicine, by Paracelsus, it was met by an act of the French Parliament, at the instigation of the College of Physicians, making it penal to prescribe it.

Previous to the discovery of Vaccination, Inoculation was found to mitigate the severity of small pox, and was introduced into England by Lady Mary Montague, who had witnessed its success in Turkey. But how was it received? Lord Wharncliffe, the distinguished gentleman who wrote her Biography, says: "Lady Mary protested that, in the four or five years immediately succeeding her arrival at home, she seldom passed a day without repenting of her patriotic undertaking; and she vowed that she never would have attempted it, had she foreseen the vexation, the persecution, and even the obloquy it brought upon her. The clamors raised against the practice, and of course against her, were beyond belief. The Faculty all rose in arms to a man, foretelling failure, and the most disastrous consequences: the Clergy descended from the pulpit, on the impiety of thus seeking to take events out of the hands of Providence; and the common people were taught to hoot at her as an unnatural mother, who had jeopardized the lives of her children."

Grave Medical Biography informs us, that the discovery was instantly hailed, and the practice adopted, by the principal members of the profession. But professions, like individuals, are sometimes possessed of a moral obliquity, and fortunate forgetfulness, that enables them to believe their own assertions.

And it not unfrequently happens, when a project or invention has struggled its way to enviable reputation, against opposition, neglect and malignity, that those persons who have been most loud in their denunciations, suddenly find that they have been patrons of it from the beginning, and endeavor surreptitiously to receive a portion of the praise.

But what says Lady Mary of the actual time and fact? "The four Physicians deputed by the Government to watch the progress of her daughter's inoculation, betrayed not only such incredulity as to its success, but such an unwillingness to have it succeed, such a spirit of rancor and malignity, that I never cared to leave the child alone with them for an instant, lest it should suffer in some secret way from their interference."

Previous to 1616, the circulation of the blood was not understood. It was supposed to have some movement in the system, by its flow from wounds; but the opinions were vague and absurd. Some supposed that it was superficial at one season of the year, and deeper seated at another. Others imagined that it came to the surface in the day time, and retreated to the internal organs at night. And by others, equally false and ridiculous opinions were maintained.

During this year, William Harvey, an English Physician, Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery to the College of Physicians, promulgated his discovery of the circulation of the blood, or the system of arterial circulation. How was it received? It was treated with ridicule and contempt. Persecution awaited him, and the combined efforts of the profession to destroy his reputation, were so far successful that he lost the greater part of his practice. The same College of Physicians, who afterwards opposed the improvements of Montague and Jenner, made the circulation of the blood the subject of their bitterest satire, and many refused to meet him in consultation,—a practice scrupulously adhered to by many of their brethren at the present day.

This same opposition was encountered by the immortal JENNER, the discoverer of Vaccination, in 1798. The Clergy united their influence with the Medical Profession, in denouncing it as quackery, and endeavored to prove from the Scriptures, that it was verily *Anti-Christ*.

We might give other instances of the opposition that discoveries and improvements have had to encounter, from the stream of prejudice, that has worn for itself a wide and almost unfathomable channel; but we think these will suffice to satisfy every unprejudiced mind.

The foregoing will answer the remark frequently made,—“If Homeopathy is really an improvement in the art of Medicine, why, Physicians must know it, and would adopt it. Let me see the Medical Profession recognize it, then I shall feel bound to believe:” which amounts to saying,—“Let me see that happen in regard to Homeopathy, that never occurred before, under like circumstances, and I will then give it a trial. Let us see miracles wrought; let the dumb be made to speak; the congenital deaf made to hear; the idiot brought to reason; the exhausted libertine and debauchee restored to youthful vigor, and we will then give it attention.”

“Physicians understand it; and if it were of real utility they would not deny its advantages to their disease-stricken friends.” That Allopathic Physicians are unacquainted with its principles, the *modus operandi* of the Medicines, or even the manner of prescribing the remedies, is an undeniable fact. Physicians, like other men, know only what they learn. And we have yet to meet the Allopathic Physician, who has studied Homeopathy with an unprejudiced mind, and faithfully proved the remedies in the treatment of disease, that has not given his testimony to its superiority and advantage over old school Medicine, by adopting it as his future profession.

Men who have spent years in acquiring knowledge in a particular calling,—who have been schooled to certain dogmas, and adopted the knowledge so obtained as a profession, have a certain pride of opinion, and the reputation of their art to maintain. In their reasoning

they are apt to take as a correct basis, their imbibed sentiments, and bring every thing to them as the touch-stone. Finding them irreconcilable, they reject the *new* as false, maintaining it must be so, because it conflicts with their pre-conceived opinions.

When you tell a Physician of the old school, that the one-thousandth part of a grain of Antimony or Rhubarb, when properly prepared, and administered under circumstances that require it, will produce a powerful impression on the physical system, he denies it because he is in the daily practice of prescribing it in grain doses, in a cruder form, and under other conditions. He concludes, *a priori*, that he is right, and consequently the other mode *must be wrong*.

In the light of past Medical history, would it not become the Allopathic school to examine and *test* the principle, *similia similibus curantur*, and if they find it false, so promulgate it: if true, they surely will be magnanimous enough to confess it.

N. American Homeopathic Journal.

New York Dispensary Report.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the Report of the New York Dispensary, which is contained in the present number of our Journal. The statistical tables annexed to it, which have been compiled with great care by Dr. Peters, of this City, are exceedingly interesting, and are the most extensive that have ever been brought into so small a compass. The most of them speak for themselves; it will be well, perhaps, to make a few observations, suggested by the last of them, the Collective Hospital Report.

It will be seen from that, that the average Hospital mortality out of 16,777 cases, was 5.17 per cent., or very little more than 5 in a hundred; the usual mortality in Allopathic Hospitals being from 8 to 9 per cent. In the following table we have extracted from that Report the more common diseases, with the number of cases and deaths and the percentage, and have placed side by side the mortality in the same diseases for the last five years in the New York

Hospital—one of the most carefully conducted Allopathic Institutions.

Diseases.	Homeopathic Hos- pitals.			Allopathic Hos- pitals.		
	No. of Cases.	Deaths.	per cent.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.	per cent.
Erysipelas	349	3	.86	325	75	23.07
Diarrhoea	310	3	.96	316	68	21.52
Fever (except Typhus)	3,273	41	1.25	1,991	107	5.36
Pleurisy	371	5	1.34	51	8	15.68
Small pox and varioloid	211	6	2.84	284	1	.35
Scarlet fever	102	3	2.94	102	1	.98
Inflammation of bowels and peritonæum	211	13	6.16	46	19	41.30
Fever of all kinds	5,369	331	6.18	4,367	487	11.15
Inflammation of the lungs	710	45	6.34	309	91	29.44
Dysentery	98	7	7.14	447	120	26.84
Typhus fever	2,136	93	4.35	2,373	380	16.01
Disease of the heart, organic	100	17	15.60	50	29	58.00
Apoplexy	91	6	6.59	35	17	48.57
Consumption, tubercular	502	194	38.64	247	130	52.63
Total in Homeopathic Hospitals	23,553	1,150	4.88	17,282	1,924	11.13
For five years in New York Hospital						

These results present a gratifying picture of the present state of medical science, and a glorious vista for the future. They show us what we can do, and also what remains to be effected. While the whole list of formidable diseases is thus made amenable to Homeopathic remedies—erysipelas, fevers, pleurisy, small-pox, scarlet fever, pneumonia, and dysentery, yielding with an ease and promptitude unknown to the old school—the dark side of the picture, typhus, and consumption, represents to us in what direction suffering humanity would have us point our future beneficent researches. Our fiercest adversaries have not denied but that our statistics, under any construction, show *favorable* results as those of Allopathic Medicine. We thank them for an admission fatal to their pretensions, for surely he must be a gratuitous hero who would undergo their heroic tortures when he is convinced that our mild means and gen-

the appliances will give him an equal chance of life and health.

Journal of Homeopathy.

W. A. GREENLEAF, M. D.—EDITOR.

The Late Medical Lecture.

"The first great discovery of Hahneman was, that LIKE CURES LIKE, or SIMILIA SIMILIBUS CURANTUR, or the hair of the same dog cures the bite; that is, if you freeze your foot, and wish a cure, you should freeze it harder; if you burn your hand, you must burn it deeper; if you have a headache, you should take something to make it ache harder."—EXTRACT FROM A LATE LECTURE BEFORE THE ST. CATHARINES MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Had we no other reason to deny the pretensions of the Lecturer to a knowledge of Homeopathy, the above would be quite sufficient. Every statement, it will be perceived, is on the principle of *identity* not of *similarity*. Consequently, it is not so good an exposition of Homeopathy as of the amiability of the Lecturer. What he endeavors to ridicule is, that the *same cures the same*, or *identities cure identities*; and we surmise the Doctor must have been thinking of his favorite Allopathy, which operates much on that principle. If you have a diarrhœa, he would give you physic; had you pain in your chest, he would cause one to correspond on the surface; had you sore eyes, he would make sores behind the ears; had you a sick stomach, he would give an emetic.

Admitting him to be honest in the matter, he does not seem to be aware of the difference between the words *same* and *similar*. This being so, are not his audiences "humbugged." However, those desiring information in regard to Homeopathy, will not be so unwise as to seek it from their Allopathic friends.

PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE.—When we have violated the physiological laws, and are suffering the penalty, *i. e.*, are tormented with local or constitutional disease, then remedies are needed to assist nature in restoring the obstructed organs to the free use of the vital principle. These remedies are called Medicines, and are abundantly provided for this very purpose, by the hand of Him who made the organism, fixed its laws,

and forbid their violation. They are to the body what the Saviour is to the soul,—restoratives from sin committed; and as such, are not an evil, as the incurably drugged, or, as our Water Cure friends say, but a positive good. They have derived their erroneous opinions from the fact, that they have seen persons physically ruined by crude drugs, an evil sure enough. They reason imperfectly here. Because "the whole need not a Physician," they suppose him an evil to the sick. The evil consists in needing the Physician, and in the violation of laws that demand his attention.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.—**HOMEOPATHY VS ALLOPATHY:** An Address delivered before the Homeopathic Medical Society of Canada, at its Annual Meeting in Hamilton, May 15th, 1855; and repeated, by request, in the city of Toronto, June 25th, 1855,—by JAMES LILLIE, M. D., D. D., Professor of MacLay College, Toronto. Published by the Society, with an Appendix containing its Proceedings. Toronto, 1855, (pamphlet,) pp. 40. For sale by BARN & THOMPSON.

HOMEOPATHIC NEWS: Drs. C. Hering & A. Lippe, (monthly,) September to February, 1856.

HOMEOPATHY VS. ALLOPATHY.—The manner in which public attention has become engrossed by the struggle existing between Homeopathy and Allopathy, for supremacy, is a fact apparent to all who have, in the least, studied the progress of medical science. Never before was so fierce a warfare waged as that which at present distinguishes the proceedings of our opponents, who, one and all, seem to consider that they are engaged in a special duty in attempting to annihilate us—that is, if they can. The wish is certainly, in this case, the father to the thought, but the futility of the endeavor will, before long, be found out.

The most aggravating part of the business, to the Allopaths, is, that while the small and junior members of their body are rapidly assaulting us, with the coarsest epithets the vocabulary of Billingsgate can produce, we, to our perfect satisfaction, are daily being made acquainted with the recognition of our principles by some of their brightest ornaments, who do not hesitate publicly to adopt them whenever it suits their

convenience; this must be highly exasperating to the gentlemen who "write down" Homeopathy in the Allopathic press, and who have invariably asserted, for the last ten or twelve years, that this "sham and delusion" was nearly worn out.

It is not necessary to advert to recent events to strengthen our position in this respect. Our old school friends of the *Lancet*, have ample time to rake up these transactions, and well its *employees* effect this description of business. Ours is the more grateful task of recording the steady and increasing success of Homeopathy, and the important additions making to our ranks, both of the professional and lay members. The doctrines of Hahnemann are now sufficiently appreciated by the public to induce them to test them, and not to cast aside those principles which have been eliminated for their benefit.

In days that are past, the bigoted and prejudiced disciples of the old school would have discovered the task they have undertaken one of less onerous a nature than it in reality appears. The march of intellect unfortunately has set in with too strong a tide to permit them the exercise, as formerly, of that unbounded control over liberty and conscience, which, in a measure, constituted their prerogative. They learn this to their sorrow, and are, therefore, proportionately disappointed.

But for us, the crusade is one of remarkable significance. It establishes our position; it secures at least an augmented auditory. The larger the number of inquirers, the greater our prospect of conversion. In this manner, and through similar auxiliary means, will the truth concerning Homeopathy be spread through the length and breadth of the land, and when that shall have been accomplished the result need scarcely be predicted.—*Homeop. Times, Eng.*

The Hahnemann Hospital in London, was closed on the 27th of May, by the Board of Trustees, to unite their efforts and means with the London Homeopathic Hospital, which is in a very prosperous condition.

From the 10th of April 1850, to the 31st of March, 1854, inclusive, 1,137 patients have been received: out of which number, 814 were cured, 52 died—the rest were either relieved, or are yet under treatment.

Among the patrons of this flourishing Institute, we find the Duchess of Cambridge, and many other persons of high standing. The Hospital has a building fund of over \$20,000, contributed by friends of the cause.

In *Lieut. Herndon's Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon*, published at Washington, 1853, p. 307, we find the following:

"Antonio, a Portuguese, with whom I generally got my breakfast, told me that there were many poisonous serpents in the neighborhood of Obidos, and showed me a black swelling on the arm of his little son, the result of the bite of a scorpion. In five minutes after the boy was bitten, he became cold and senseless, and foamed at the mouth; so that, for some hours, his life was despaired of. The remedies used were Homeopathic, and, what is a new thing to me, were put in the corners of the eye, as the boy could not swallow. I found Homeopathy a favorite mode of practice, from Barra downwards. It was introduced by a Frenchman, (no doubt one of Dr. Mure's school,) a few years ago, and there are now several amateur practitioners of it."

When the discoverer of a new truth, whether it be in art, science or philosophy, first announces his discovery to the world, there are two classes of persons who are his peculiar enemies. Those who, like the Athenians of old, are always inquiring after some new thing, and whose greedy appetite for novelty can only be satisfied by exaggerations and inventions; and those who, on the other hand, shut themselves up in their narrow brains, think every novelty ridiculous or wicked, and are therefore incapable of being convinced by reason or evidence.

"Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of sense,
Lie in three words, HEALTH, peace and competence."

Almost half of the human species die in infancy, from the ignorance, mismanagement and neglect of mothers.—*Buchan.*

CURIOUS EXPERIMENT.—In the report of the experiments of the New-York Farmer's Club on the 18th inst., the following account of experiments, by whom made does not appear, of the effects of ether upon that class of plants known as sensitive plants:

The *mimosa pudica* being placed under a glass vase with cotton wet with the ether, in twenty minutes the plant lost all its sensibility, and could not be made to move by touching it with a pin. At its most susceptible parts some change in its color was perceptible. The plant was ten minutes insensible, and then gradually recovered. This experiment was tried on the *oralis sensitive*, which is less irritable than the first named, and did not lose its susceptibility in less than twenty-five minutes, and recovered slowly.

The plant *dionæa muscipula*, after twenty minutes began to close up its young leaves gradually, and then lost all its sensibility.

Those who give proper attention to sleep, air, diet, exercise, wearing apparel, etc., will seldom want a Physician; and those who do not, will seldom enjoy health, though they employ as many as they please.—*Buchan.*

Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts and thoughts.

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