

Canadian Journal of Homeopathy.

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

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Considerations concerning the Functions of the Bowels.

[CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST NO.]

It is an error, and a serious one, to suppose that purgatives are harmless in their operation; and equally so to imagine that they will cure the numerous derangements for which they are usually and by many persons habitually employed. They create a necessity for their repetition, and hence the frequent remark—"Were I not to be constantly taking aperient remedies my bowels would not act." These organs are like many individuals—to assist them liberally is to paralyse their efforts. There is a mode of encouraging both which calls forth the latent energies they possess; and it should be the special study of the delicate—of those on whom nature has not conferred vigorous bodily endowments, or whose health and strength have been undermined by close sedentary application—by depressing emotions—by undue active medical treatment—by the baneful influence of disease, or by the loss of blood either from excited natural or abnormal causes, to conserve by every possible means the vital powers of the digestive apparatus.

Purgatives are used for a great variety of disorders. There is scarcely any morbid affection of the body for which they are not prescribed, and there is little discrimination in their employment, or consideration of the effects which they are calculated to produce. A difference of constitution or habit modifies only slightly the selection of the remedies, or the doses in which they are given. Whether the seat of suffering be

the head—the chest—the throat or any of the abdominal viscera; and whether it be chronic or acute in its character, and often when they are not so, it is deemed necessary, as a curative step, to act with more or with less severity upon them. It is regarded both by the practitioner and patient as a safe, if not a salutary course to pursue, and were it neglected, so prevailing is the impression of its importance, the invalid would quickly come to the conclusion that he was very improperly treated. Whatever might be the degree of relief derived or the progress made towards convalescence, he and his friends would be distrustful of the amendment—would be doubtful of its soundness—would question its permanence, if the bowels had not been acted upon almost daily. It is difficult to deal with prejudice so intense and general. It is to be met only by an exposition of just physiological views concerning the functions of the organs co-operating in the process of digestion: the nervous and other relations by which they are associated to each other, and to the rest of the animal system: the nature of disease, by which is to be understood not simply the condition of the organ particularly suffering, but the aggregate of the powers of life, which is the measure of their derangement and the extent of their vital resources: and lastly, what remedial agents shall be selected to meet the requirements of the occasion.

This selection, if judicious, implies a knowledge of their properties and action which few are studiously anxious to attain.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Prof. D., C. B. T., Dr. J. W. F., J. T. S. S., J. R. C., D. C., T. N.

Journal of Homeopathy.

IS HOMEOPATHY WORTHY the CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOPATHIC PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC.

THE importance of the end sought to be obtained, the possibility of the proposed means to accomplish the desired result, should govern us in the investigation of facts presented to accomplish a specific purpose.

The object of all medical learning and treatment, is to relieve "the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to," to bring back the rosy-hued health to the pale and shrunken cheek, and find a balm for man's infirmities, and to discover and point out the means of resisting the effects of the changing seasons, pestilential miasms, and contagious, that spread on the wings of the wind.

To accomplish this, the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms have been ransacked for remedies to meet the requirements of disease; the garden, the field, the ocean, and the bowels of the earth have been tortured by the hand of science to develop agencies with which to control disease and cut short its duration. Theory, speculation, and hypotheses have been reared to the same end; learning and genius have wasted their energies on the vexed question; but still, down to the beginning of the nineteenth century, but little progress had been made in the successful application of medicinal agencies to the cure of disease.

The medical world have become wearied with the absurdities and contradictions of the innumerable theories that

have from time to time been presented, until, in the language of the venerable Dr. Waterhouse, they have "become sick of learned quackery."

The allopathic profession appear to have become sceptical as to there being, or ever to be, a system of medicine discovered that shall stand, like the Newtonian philosophy, a rock amid the storm of ages. It is almost universally acknowledged that there is no system in the present day by which "old physic" is guided in the practice of its disjointed art. It appears to have relapsed into a species of eclecticism, the most specious delusion and mythical philosophy that science was ever burthened with.

Allopathic physicians of the best attainments are no way reluctant or sparing in their denunciations of the existing state of allopathic medicine. Dr. Forbes, of London, says, "The present state of old physic is lamentable—it cannot be worse—it must either end or mend."

Hahnemann presents to the profession a system of medical treatment, founded on an unchangeable law of nature, an immutable basis that never deceives its votaries. It has been introduced with peculiar success in all parts of the civilized world. It has been tried in all forms of disease, and rendered a satisfaction unknown to the annals of allopathy. We would not present this as mere assertion, but would refer our readers to the article by our friend T. N., in this No., wherein will be found statistics gathered by Dr. Routh, an allopathic physician, which should have that weight with allopathists which they usually attach to their authors; also to other evidences of success, published from month to month in the JOURNAL.

We present to the profession and public a system of medical treatment that

has proved itself superior to any and all others ever promulgated or practised—a system sustained, practised, and advocated by men of the best medical learning and talent. Adapted to the requirements of all forms of maladies that the human organism is liable, easy of application, and innoxious in its effects.

For these reasons, and others equally cogent, we claim the attention of all thinking and unprejudiced men, who would enlarge their sphere of usefulness, and add to their means of enjoyment.

Does any person doubt the importance of a more efficient, safe, and rational mode of treatment than the old school has proved itself to be? Will any doubt the evidence constantly presented to them, of the superior efficacy of homeopathy?

The denunciations we indulge in are from the best and most learned allopathic writers, and the evidences of the superior results in homeopathy are mainly from the same source. We envelope ourselves in no mystery. We have no object to deceive. We practise an art which cannot fail. Time and trial will prove the soundness of its pretensions, and discover its immense importance to mankind.

The Homeopathic Medical Society of Canada held its second annual meeting in the City of Toronto on the 20th of May.

Much interest was manifested by its members in the prosperity of the cause which they are combined together to promote. We would have been better pleased to have seen many of our friends whom we have had the pleasure of meeting with before in attendance.

These meetings are calculated to redound to the benefit of its members and

the cause of homeopathy, and we wonder how any of our physicians can consent to absent themselves voluntarily.

The officers of last year hold over until the next meeting of the society.

The annual address, by Dr. Bull, was a well-timed production, and attentively listened to by a very intelligent and respectable audience.

A Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at Woodstock.

For the Homeopathic Journal.
**THE MISREPRESENTATIONS OF
 HOMEOPATHY.**

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST NO.]

3. *Homeopathy is Quackery.* This is a statement frequently made, principally by individuals who know nothing at all of the system of medicine which they so confidently condemn.

Quackery is usually defined to be:—“The possession of some secret remedy which the individual retains for his private gain, but refuses to disclose for the public good;” or it is frequently understood to be “a pretension to knowledge which the individual does not possess.” Now, Homeopathy is the medical antipodes of quackery. *Homeopathy progresses amongst the educated and the refined.* Speaking on this point, Dr. Routh,* of London (England), says:—“Homeopathy is daily extending its influence, *even amongst the most learned*, and those whose high position in society gives them no little moral power over the opinions of the multitude.”

Quackery flourishes amongst the most ignorant. They alone are the legitimate supporters of Indian therapeutics and eclectic-mysticism.

Homeopathy courts inquiry. Shortly after the discovery of the therapeutic

* A distinguished allopathic physician, and author of “The Fallacies of Homeopathy.”

law, Hahnemann enunciated it in Hufeland's Journal, at that time the leading medical journal in Europe; and neither Hahnemann nor any of his followers have ever made a mystery of homeopathy, its principles, or practice. Does the inquiring physician or layman desire to investigate the principles of homeopathy? He is referred to Hahnemann's "Organon of Homeopathic Medicine," originally published at Dresden, in 1810, and since translated into English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Danish, Swedish, and Hungarian. After having read this work, the inquirer can study the treatises on the Institutes of Homeopathy, written by Rau, Hempel, Black, Dudgeon, Joslin, Sharp, and Holcombe. Does the physician wish to study the homeopathic *Materia Medica*? Then, in addition to the glorious tomes of Hahnemann—"The *Materia Medica Pura*" and "The Chronic Diseases"—we possess the valuable works of Jahr, Hempel, Teste, Slapf, Hartmann, Lippe, and Bönninghausen; and, in addition to these, many provings of drugs are contained in the Transactions of the American Institute of Homeopathy, and the various homeopathic journals published in almost every European language. Does the inquirer wish to study the practice of homeopathy? Here the principal work is undoubtedly Hartmann's "Acute and Chronic Diseases;" and, in addition, we possess the excellent works of Small, Marcy, Laurie, Kreussler, Hering, Hempel, Guernsey, Casperi, and Chepnell. Does the physician wish to consult a monograph on any particular disease or range of diseases? Then foremost amongst the crowd of works of that class we have Joslin on Epidemic Cholera, Rapau on Typhoid Fever, Morgan on

Indigestion, Douglas on Intermittent Fever, Humphreys on Dysentery, Holcombe on Yellow Fever, Becker on Consumption, Tessier on Pneumonia and Asiatic Cholera, Teste on Diseases of Children, Ledum and also Williamson on Diseases of Females and Children, and many more. Does the physician wish to become thoroughly educated in homeopathy? Then in the United States we have the Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, and the Western College of Homeopathy at Cleveland; and in South America we have the Imperial Homeopathic College at Rio Janeiro.

Quackery dwells in darkness. No quack ever yet revealed the secret of the composition of his medicaments—no quack ever published a book on *Materia Medica*, or the practice of medicine, and no college was ever founded for instruction in quackery.

Homeopathy is unchanging and unchangeable. The manner of administering the medicines may change, but the principle never can. Ages ago Hippocrates cured cholera morbus with veratrum album, and that drug is a leading remedy in this disease at the present day. Even the dose was settled long ago, for Hippocrates states that "it is necessary to give a smaller quantity to the sick than would produce similar symptoms on the healthy." How much smaller he does not state, and probably the experiments of that most acute observer never were pointed in that direction.

Quackery is changing and changeable. The most common form is that of the well-known pill-box, "with the proprietor's signature in white letters on a red ground, without which none is gen-

wine, and to counterfeit which is felony;" but it also appears in the form of some "panacea" for Intermittent Fever; or, taking another direction, it recklessly offers to cure stammering in five minutes without an operation; or it shoots, meteor-like, before the eyes of some elephant-seeing editor, in the form of an ingenious knife-grinding machine for whittling nitrate of silver or some other caustic down the throats of hapless patients. These are all forms of quackery, and with these homeopathy has nothing in common, any more than the stately oak has aught in common with the foul parasite which clings around its base.

Comparisons might be multiplied, but I trust sufficient has been said to prove that homeopathy is not quackery.

4. *Homeopathy is inefficient against violent diseases.* When Hahnemann enunciated his great discovery in that remarkable *Essay on a New Principle for ascertaining the Remedial Powers of Medicinal Substances*, published in Hufeland's Journal, in 1796, he stated that in *chronic* diseases, at least, the remedies ought to be chosen in accordance with the law of similars; and for some time after the publication of that essay, he continued to treat *acute* diseases after the ordinary method. Accident, however, revealed the remarkable efficacy of the new system against acute diseases, against which it has been employed with unvarying success since about the year 1798.

Forty years had passed away since the eventful year when the sagacious experimenter discovered that cinchona produced similar symptoms to intermittent fever, when the tidings spread through Europe that the cholera—the scourge of the Ganges—had left its Asiatic home,

and was rapidly advancing westward. A full description of the disease was placed in the hands of Hahnemann, and, after a careful comparison of the symptoms of the disease with the well-ascertained symptoms of a number of drugs, he fixed upon the remedies *camphor*, *veratrum*, and *cuprum*, which, he stated, would prove the principal remedies, and also prophylactics.

The respective symptoms of these drugs are as follows:—

CAMPHOR.—At the commencement of the disease, when there is neither thirst, nor vomiting, or diarrhoea; sudden prostration, with wandering looks and hollow eyes; *bluish appearance and icy coldness of the face and hands, also coldness of the body*; disconsolate anguish, with fear of suffocation; the half stupified and insensible patient utters hoarse cries and moans, without complaining of anything in particular; but, if asked, he complains of *burning pains in the stomach and throat*, with cramps in the calves and other muscles, and utters loud cries when one touches the pit of the stomach. *Camphor* is seldom suitable when vomiting, diarrhoea, and thirst have already set in, but it should never be given except when the following symptoms are present:—*Icy coldness and blueness of the limbs, face, and tongue*, with tonic and painful cramps in the extremities and calves, *dulness of sense, moaning, tetanus, and trismus.*

VERATRUM.—Principal remedy when there are violent evacuations upwards and downwards; icy coldness of the body, great debility, and cramps in the calves, vomiting, copious watery inodorous stools, mixed with white flocks, pale face without any color, blue margins around the eyes, deathly anguish in the

features, cold tongue and breath; great oppressive anguish in the chest, giving the patient a desire to escape from his bed; violent colic, especially around the umbilicus, as if the abdomen would be torn open; the abdomen is sensitive to contact, with drawing and cramps in the fingers, wrinkled skin in the palms of the hands, retention of urine.

CUPRUM. — Vomiting and diarrhoea, *convulsions of the extremities*, especially of the fingers and toes, sometimes with rolling of the eyeballs, great restlessness and coldness of the prominent parts of the face; aching pains in the pit of the stomach, getting worse by contact; *spasmodic colick pains without vomiting*, or vomiting preceded by spasmodic constriction of the chest, arresting the breathing, or vomiting attended with violent pressure in the epigastrium; audible rolling, along the œsophagus, of the liquid which one swallows.

These are the symptoms produced by these remedies on the healthy organism, and, in accordance with the law "*Similia similibus curantur*," they are administered for the cure of similar symptoms in the sick.

The dreaded enemy came, and passed like a destroying angel over the fairest provinces of Europe, and after its departure the published statistics afforded means of comparing the results of the rival systems. I shall first glance at the French statistics, as given by Dr. Mabit, of Bordeaux, in his work "*Élude sur le Cholera*:"—

Treated Allopathically, 495,027; cured, 254,788; died, 240,239, giving 49 as the per centage of deaths.

Treated Homeopathically in the same districts, 2,239; cured, 2,069; died, 170, giving 74 as the per centage of deaths.

I believe Dr. Mabit was the second homeopathic physician who received the

Cross of the Legion of Honor, the first having been Dr. C. Croseris, Surgeon-Major to the Old Guard, who received the Cross from the hand of Napoleon the Great, as a reward for his services after the battles of Aspern and Wagram.—The official organ of the French Government* states:—"Dr. Mabit has been created Knight of the Legion of Honor, a recompense rendered to his devotion and exertions on the appearance of the Asiatic cholera, as well as to his steadfast zeal and continued researches for the interests of humanity and progress of medicine.

I now turn to Austria, and here the epidemic was particularly virulent. I shall only give the statistics of one city, that of Raab, in Hungary. Dr. Bakody undertook the homeopathic treatment of cholera patients, and his official reports were placed in the public archives by the Imperial Health-Commissioner, Count Franz Ferraris. Population of the city 16,239. Results of the homeopathic treatment:—

	No. of Patients	Cured.	Died.
Cholera.....	154	148	6
Sporadic affections....	69	67	2
Total.....	223	215	8

Results of the allopathic treatment of the same epidemic:—

	No. of Patients	Cured.	Died.	Re-moved.
Cholera in Hospital.....	284	154	122	8
" " in Private Houses.....	1217	699	518	0
	1501	853	640	8

During the existence of cholera the deaths from sporadic diseases amounted to..... 140

Total of deaths during the cholera.... 780

The proportion, then, for allopathic treatment is *thirty-five* deaths for *forty-nine* recoveries, and for the homeopathic *two* deaths for *forty-nine* recoveries.

* *Le Monteur*, Feb. 1, 1836.

At a time when cholera raged in Vienna with the greatest intensity, Dr. Werth treated *one hundred and twenty-five* cases, of whom only *three* died.

The general results of homeopathic practice at Vienna, and in Moravia, Bohemia, and Hungary for the years 1831 and 1832 are as follows:—Out of every 23 patients 21 were saved.

The results of a comparison of the systems in the cholera epidemics of the United States are equally favorable to homeopathy.

During the epidemic of 1849 the number of persons admitted into the five allopathic hospitals of New York was 1901. The results are as follows:—

Deaths.....	1621
Cures.....	850
Percentage of cures.....	46.29
Percentage of deaths.....	33.71

It thus appears that nearly *fifty-four* persons died for every *forty-six* who recovered. The above numbers are taken from the official report of the Board of Health.

During the same epidemic a number of homeopathic physicians in New York kept a careful record of their cases, and the following is the result:—

Number of cholera patients....	350
Number of deaths.....	53
Percentage of deaths.....	15 1-7

During the cholera epidemic of the same year, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Drs. Pulte and Ehrmann met with the most brilliant success:—

They had cases of cholera.....	1116
Deaths only.....	35
Percentage of deaths.....	3 1-7

Again, in the official returns made to the Government, respecting the number of cases, deaths, and cures in Great Britain during the epidemic of 1849, we have the following:—

Total number of cases.....	12546
Deaths.....	5546
Recoveries.....	3788
Remaining under treatment, or result not stated.....	3164

Here there can be little doubt but that the mortality was *half of those attacked*.

Compare this with the results of the homeopathic treatment in Russia and Austria, and at Berlin and Paris in 1831 and 1832, in Edinburgh in 1848, and in Liverpool, New York, and Cincinnati in 1849:—

Cases of cholera.....	4830
Deaths.....	445
Percentage of deaths.....	9.21

Thus, under the application of the law "*Similia similibus curantur*," out of every *hundred* persons attacked *ninety-one* were saved; while under the law "*Contraria contrarii curantur*," only *fifty* are saved out of every *hundred* attacked.

I have been thus minute in regard to the statistics of cholera, because that most appalling disease has already visited us in Canada, *and may visit us again*; and also because cholera has been more fatal to our gallant army in the Crimea than the battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkermann, and all the horrors before Sebastopol.

I have not yet seen the official statistics of the French and British armies, but I know that in the Sardinian *corps d'armee* of about 17,200 men, while only 35 died of their wounds, no fewer than 1224 died of cholera. To these brave but unfortunate troops, at least, cholera was more fatal than Muscovite *metraille* or Cossack lances.

Typhus Ictericus (yellow fever) is a very prevalent disease in the Southern parts of this continent, and it is almost as fatal as cholera. Omitting all notice of inferior authority, I refer to Dr. R. La Roche's voluminous work on this disease in two volumes of 1400 pages, and I find that he states that the average mortality is 100 out of every 350 attacked. So much for allopathic treatment.

During 1853, 1854, and 1855, Drs. F. A. W. Davis and W. H. Holcombe treated 1016 cases, of which 55 terminated fatally. This is a mortality of 5.4 per cent., or nearly 19 deaths out of every 350 attacked.

During the terrible epidemic of 1855, at Portsmouth, Va., Dr. L. Augustus Bilisoly, a gentleman whom I am proud to claim as a fellow-student, treated 137 patients, of whom eight died, and of these five had previously been under *allopathic treatment*.

I will conclude this section of my subject by giving a few statistics of various diseases, and I wish it to be distinctly understood that they are given by an *allopathic* physician, Dr. Routh, already alluded to, in a work—"The Fallacies of Homeopathy"—which was written against homeopathy.

PLEURISY.

	Admitted	Died	Mortality per cent
Allopathic hospitals.....	1817	134	13
Homeopathic ".....	386	12	3
PNEUMONITS.			
Allopathic hospitals.....	638	81	13
Homeopathic ".....	184	8	4
DYSENTERY.			
Allopathic hospitals.....	162	37	22
Homeopathic ".....	175	6	3
FEVERS, EXCLUDING TYPHUS.			
Allopathic hospitals.....	9637	931	9
Homeopathic ".....	3062	84	2
TYPHUS.			
Allopathic hospitals.....	9371	1509	16
Homeopathic ".....	1423	213	14
ALL DISEASES.			
Allo. hos., grand total.....	119310	11791	10.5
Hom. ".....	32655	1365	4.4

Now as—

"Facts are chieft that win'n a ding,
And dow'n'a be disputed."

I trust it will be seen that homeopathy is *very efficient* against violent diseases.

London, C. W.

T. N.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Dr. Warren, of Boston, says that for the last two years he has been in the habit of making frequent use of the freezing mixture, as recommended by Dr. James Arnott, of London, for the purpose of alleviating pain in surgical

operations; and in many of those cases to which it was applicable, he had found it very convenient and effectual. For instance, in the removal of tumors of the skin, and those placed immediately under it, in superficial tumors of the breast not of a large size, for opening abscesses and for the incisions necessary in that intensely painful affection, paronychia, the effects were perfectly satisfactory.—It is not so disagreeable as ether, and is more convenient, and does not induce sickness.

A medical writer says that the rocking-chairs, as now constructed, ought never to be used, for they produce a double bend of the spine inwardly, and of the shoulders forward, which is preventive of free respiration. He says they might be constructed to flare exactly the other way—their sides warping outwardly, and their tops turning backward—thus warping the sitter backward instead of forward, with infinite benefit. Some chair-maker might do well to improve on this very rational hint.

In London there are two consumption hospitals now flourishing. The City of London Hospital for diseases of the chest, was established in 1845, since which time the number of persons who have received benefit from it, including both in-door and out-door services, is 22,815. The other has been in operation about fifteen years, and has attained great success in its treatment and operations. About four hundred persons are annually received as in-patients, and about ten times that number classed as out-patients.

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We now come to the consideration of some of the constitutional causes of constipation, or of the differences observed among individuals with respect to the greater or less facility with which the bowels are accustomed to act. On one part of this subject a uniformity of sentiment prevails. The necessity of a daily evacuation is a universal opinion. It has been adopted without much thought, both by the profession and the public. To superficial observation it seems a legitimate inference. In a great number of instances it is the rule, and in many of these it is important that it should be so. The regularity with which the effect is produced in many originates in two widely different classes of causes. It is a natural result flowing from a state of health conjoined with generous living, or in other words where the appetite is freely indulged. When an abundance of food is taken, and readily acted upon by the digestive apparatus, the *residue* of the vital operations, which is designated excrementitious matter, will so affect the bowels as to lead to its daily expulsion. Habit will also greatly influence the functions of these organs. They may, in some measure, be trained to perform their duties at stated times. In this there is nothing singular, nor is the phenomenon difficult of explanation. The mode in which it occurs, or the physiological principles which account for it, are not generally understood, nor has attention been given to it. It is nevertheless worthy of investigation.

The regularity with which this effect takes place from what is considered habit, depends on a particular state of the *mind*, or in other words, on mental emotion. It is the brain directly operating on the nerves of the intestines—as directly as volition influences the nerves of the arm or hand in any of its muscular contractions. A feeling co-exists with the suggestions or promptings of nature, and this feeling is a peculiar condition of the cerebrum—of the whole mass of its nervous matter, which places the nerves extending from it and the spinal cord to the bowels, in certain *organic* relations with these important

nervous centres. The result is the action of the bowels.

The mental feeling plays an essential part in this affair. It must be kept in view that, like all other emotions, it implies a temporary change in the functions of nervous substance co-operating in the production of this effect. This feeling will be apt to arise from the occurrence of the hour or other circumstances, in which an uneasy sensation of the intestines is not included, and at a time when the necessity may not be urgent, nevertheless the *feeling* is capable of generating this necessity from what is called the laws of sympathy, by which the brain and spinal cord directly influence the nerves of the bowels, which sympathy, rendered into intelligible language, means a direct association between the nervous organs affecting and those affected—and the effects produced are as purely physical changes or modifications in the condition of nervous substances as any that occur in nature.—Habit, in this case, *depends on organic relations established between the nervous centres and the nerves of the bowels*—relations which become obvious and efficient when the mental *feeling* arises which is necessary to their manifestation.

The formation of such a habit is unobjectionable, but it is liable to abuse, and may in fact be injurious in its influence. It not unfrequently leads to the urging of nature, when from particular circumstances she does not at once respond to the induced mental feeling; and in this case there is a straining of the bowels, and ineffectually, which is one of those causes tending to produce *prolapsus ani*, or the protusion of the rectum, which is often observed in young children after severe purging. The habit, however, is prejudicial in another way. It begets an exaggerated idea of the importance of the daily action of the bowels, and when such action does not take place with its accustomed regularity, the individual begins to be mentally uneasy—nervously anxious—imagining that something must be extremely wrong, not from any painful or disagreeable sensa-

tion experienced, but simply from the quiescent state of the bowels. The usual practice is then to have recourse to aperient remedies of some kind, and hence the baneful habit of irritating and disturbing the finely organised intestines—forcing them to act when their temporary and prolonged repose may be essential to their future vigorous operations. The advantage of this repose, in connexion with the weakened or disordered functions of the bowels, is not at all understood by mankind, nor is it appreciated in any degree by the profession. The opinions of both on this matter—on the necessity of the regular action of these organs, in health, and in every stage of disease, are in extraordinary accordance. It almost invariably happens, whatever may have been the nature of the derangement, if conjoined with any degree of constipation, that the patient, when the medical practitioner is called in, informs him, as a circumstance altogether unobjectionable, *that he had previously taken care to act freely on the bowels*; but as the result proved with no decided benefit. Such indiscriminate conduct is fraught with evil. In numerous instances it precludes the possibility of recovery; and in others so exhausts the vital powers that what would otherwise have been an ordinary and easily curable disease, becomes a severe and aggravated affection, requiring for its successful treatment great skill and patience. The practitioner likewise, whatever be the character of the symptom, *goes at the bowels*. They are regarded, either as the cause of the ailment, or the channel through which it is to be relieved; and, with few well marked exceptions, the profession concentrate their attention on these organs, and imagine that they cannot do wrong in keeping them in active operation. If a patient dies after being bled, blistered, and well purged, the surgeon is spoken of as one who has done his duty—that in fact he treated the disease with becoming energy—and unfortunately his skill is measured by the severity of the means which he employs. It is lamentable that medical science or knowledge should be judged by such a scale.

There is frequently consummate wisdom manifested in doing little.

The interference of the practitioner has for its object either aiding nature in her efforts to throw off disease—seconding these efforts in their salutary direction; or attempting to arrest the progress of disordered action. To accomplish either end, it must be kept in mind that we have to depend on the vital organs, *and that it is by these and through these that our remedies influence the animal system*; and therefore it should be our study to economise them, as every undue expenditure of their resources proportionately limits the efficiency of our agency. There is less vital capital to co-operate with our endeavors, and without such active co-operation medical treatment is of little avail.

We have stated that persons who live generously, or who are prone to gratify their appetite, in reference rather to amount than quality or variety, are seldom troubled with constipation. It likewise only occasionally occurs in those who are corpulent, or those who border on this condition. There are two causes which account for this. In the first place such individuals are not often found among the abstemious of society. They may be moderate in stimulating liquids, but as a rule they indulge largely in ingesta of some kind; and further, either from the evenness of their temper or the sluggishness of their disposition, their slumbers are easy, sound, and prolonged. Nature has an excellent opportunity of appropriating, whether to advantage or not, is not the question, the materials furnished to her. She adds steadily to the existing bulk, until at length corpulency displays itself in its imposing rotundity. This is generally accompanied with a tendency to a laxity or frequent action of the bowels. The accumulation of adipose matter or fat, is evidence of the want of vigorous constitutional tone or vital energy. It mostly characterises the phlegmatic temperament, which does not imply bodily activity or powers of great endurance. Severe medical treatment quickly prostrates the strength, and recovery, after the removal of dis-

ease, is tedious and protracted. There is little of what may be designated vital elasticity. We have often witnessed the injurious effects of purgatives on such constitutions, prescribed for the purpose of keeping down the imagined fulness or plethora of the system, and persevered in beyond just limits, as a preventive against the determination of the blood to the head. Symptoms seldom fail to arise from the *practice*, which, as they are usually interpreted, seem to establish the necessity for its continuance, such as dizziness, lightness, or a swimming sensation; or at times a feeling of weight or pressure at the back or upper part of the head, or occasionally a constant humming in the ears, or a distressing throbbing at the temples; and not unfrequently palpitation of the heart on slight exertion, or on the occurrence of any sudden emotion: great nervous anxiety—an apprehension of some serious, undefined evil, almost invariably accompanies this class of symptoms. The patient is withdrawn from his usual nourishing and stimulating diet, and he soon becomes unequal to any steady mental or bodily labor.—He gradually loses flesh—the countenance becomes sallow or partially jaundiced—the tongue furred—the appetite indifferent—the pulse small and frequent—the extremities mostly cold, and yet alterative or aperient remedies are enforced, as the brain is still disordered in its functions—the symptoms, of which it is the seat, are indeed aggravated and must necessarily be so from the injudicious character of the practice pursued.

Purgatives and other depletory measures which have been employed are the *cause* of these effects. They have reduced the system beyond its normal standard—they have exhausted the nervous energy, and yet the treatment is persevered in for the purpose of keeping down that degree of corpulency, which is as natural to some men as the colored skin is to the negro; whilst the attempt to accomplish the object by such means is scarcely less ridiculous than would be the effort to wash the negro white. We have at present under our care two cases which illustrate the justness and force

of these observations. The one is that of a gentleman turned fifty, who has suffered for years from distressing head symptoms, such as weight and pressure at the forehead extending to the crown—dizziness—palpitation of the heart—and latterly an acute pain in the region of this organ on slight exertion.

The symptoms which first showed themselves were those of the head, and as he was inclined to be stout, he was bled several times in the arm—had leeches frequently applied to the temples—blisters to the nape of the neck—blisters to the calf of each leg—was salivated on several different occasions, and the bowels for a long period were constantly freely acted upon. He consulted various practitioners in his own immediate neighborhood, as well as in the metropolis, but they similarly bled, blistered, or purged. Palpitation of the heart, and acute pain in the chest, were the consequences of this treatment; and they are effects, as well as others kindred in their nature, which must necessarily follow such practice. It is this, and not the original disease, that gives rise frequently to lamentable results.—Under milder measures—which had for their object the gradual restoration of the exhausted nervous system, displayed in the improved appetite—in the digestion of nutritious food—in the regular action of the bowels—in the production and distribution of a more liberal stream of healthy blood throughout the body, the patient rapidly advanced to convalescence.

The other case, which is equally fraught with instruction, is that of a manufacturer, aged 34, who, a year and a half ago, was seventeen stone in weight and remarkably healthy and strong. He had some head affection, for which he was bled, blistered, and purged. The purging was steadily continued with scarcely any intermission for at least nine months, and was enforced, as the bowels would not otherwise act: but it must be remembered that the cessation of their natural functions was to be ascribed altogether to the uninterrupted operation of the purgatives which had

been employed. It was these and not the disease which produced inveterate constipation. It is their natural effect. They weaken and exhaust the nerves not only of the bowels, but of every other internal organ, until at length none of them are equal to their duties; and in addition to their disturbed action, we have a variety of other symptoms, as nervous anxiety and excitement—distressing sensations of the head, occasionally presenting those indications which are imagined to forbode an attack of apoplexy, but without any just foundation. The symptoms lead to further exhausting measures, and to consequences which we leave to the surmise of others.

The patient, whose case is here alluded to, when he came under our care was about *thirteen* stone in weight, and was still suffering from the head affection and other derangements, for the cure of which such active treatment had been used. At the very moment he consulted us, he was told, in a very decisive tone, of the sad results that would follow if his bowels were not acted upon daily. We took a widely different view of his case. We regarded their comparative repose or freedom from disturbance as essential to the restoration of their exhausted energies. Otherwise it would be in vain to attempt to invigorate the body. For this to increase in strength—in the activity and correctness of its vital actions, it is clear that in a given period it must acquire more than it loses. One mode of making the gain to exceed the loss, is to diminish the latter. One channel through which this loss finds a ready exit, or by which it is produced, IS THE FREQUENT ACTION OF THE BOWELS. If we allow them rest, within proper limits, they are soon in a condition to do something for themselves; and whilst they are struggling to gather together their powers for the desired effect, the food which has been digested is carried *into* and left in the system, and not drawn *out* of it by the prejudicial influence of purgatives.

The reader will probably exclaim, What, allow the bowels to be confined for several days! There is no rule for

their action in disease, and not one that can be defined as co-existing or necessary to health. Nature, if she were better understood, would be much less interfered with in matters of this kind. Concerning many of her operations we have no particular anxiety—the changes to which they are subject do not arrest our attention, unless accompanied with some painful or unusual sensation; but this is not the case with the bowels. We think it needful that they should act as regularly as the best adjusted time-piece. An alteration in diet, in regard to quantity or quality—in the activity of the digestive functions—in the habits of the individual, especially in reference to bodily or mental exercise—in the vicissitudes of temperature, or other conditions of the atmosphere, are circumstances which are never taken into account; and though the temporary constipation may give rise to no uneasy feeling—no pain of head—no heat of hands—no flushing of the face—no dryness of the mouth, yet the bowels must be worked at, and nature in vain pleads for rest for a portion of her important organs.

The case, which has led to these remarks, has rapidly improved under a different system of treatment. For a time we did not at all disturb the bowels. We had other objects in view, viz., the strengthening of the digestive organs, the production of more abundant blood, and its more liberal distribution throughout the body—effects which were incompatible with the frequent action of these organs, or indeed with that degree of action which would be natural in an ordinary state of health. If the muscles of the arm are fatigued with labor, rest is essential to the restoration of their strength; and the same argument applies with undiminished force to the bowels—with this difference, that on the prolonged repose of the latter—the duration of which is to be measured by the extent of the previous demands made upon them, *depends the well-being of the whole animal system.* The analogy, which is physiologically just, never enters into the consideration of the profession they

scarcely dream of the bowels being *exhausted* by their frequent and reckless interference. These organs can be called into play in virtue only of the nervous power which they possess, and this power is as susceptible of waste from the operation of purgatives as that of the muscles by their continued exercise.

We are inclined to think that the best constitutions—such as exhibit a combination of the *muscular* and *nervous* temperaments—have a tendency to constipation. Those who are examples of this class may be described as follows: They have no superfluous flesh. They are lean, and have active and well-knit frames. They can undergo great fatigue and labor, and are readily refreshed to enter upon the same tasks. They are generally of a restless and enterprising character. The ease and alacrity with which they step, and almost every movement of the body, are evidence of the activity of the nervous system. They are liable to few diseases, and what they suffer from are mostly of an acute inflammatory nature. Why such are frequently prone to constipation is not difficult of explanation. The *quantity* of the excrementitious matters in the bowels, which has to be expelled, clearly depends on two causes—the amount of food taken, and the degree in which it is digested and conveyed *into* the system in the form of chyle, which becomes blood the moment it reaches the lungs. We will suppose the amount taken, by different individuals, equal, the *residue* of it, which has to be removed by the action of the intestines, will vary in each.

This fact, which is indisputable, leads to the consideration of interesting and important views. A difference in the quantity of the *residue* can arise only from a difference in the activity of the *absorbents* of the bowels, whose office it is to select and convey *into* the circulatory system that which is to constitute the future nourishment of the body. The activity of these vessels is modified by various circumstances. It is increased by all kinds of muscular movements, as walking, running, horse exercise; and by mental application, within moderate

limits, if only slightly sedentary in its character. The reason is obvious: bodily motion produces several effects—an accelerated circulation of the blood, an augmented distribution of it towards those organs which are brought prominently into action, and at the same time a more stimulating condition of this fluid; and the causes of these effects are accompanied with an expenditure of vital power, and hence a constant demand is created for a supply somewhat proportionate to the loss, which necessitates a corresponding activity on the part of the absorbents of the bowels. They extract, not only rapidly the nutritious matter which is in contact with their open mouths, but a far greater quantity than when the same vessels are not thus excited by the causes in question. Nutrition, in fact, flows in those directions where it is quickly wasted. Compare an individual, who is a type of this mixed temperament, with one who belongs to the phlegmatic, and then it will be easy to appreciate the justness of the foregoing train of reasoning. The latter is active only by fits, if active at all. If he walks, his steps are slow and measured. The spirit by which he is animated, urges him gently along his course, whether it be business or pleasure. Even the pursuit of the latter scarcely makes him restless, or materially accelerates his movements. He is prone to quiet and sensual indulgence. It is evident that the chyle, resulting from the process of digestion, is differently circumstanced in such a constitution from what it is in the other. There are not the same demands for it in the direction of the extremities and surface of the body, from frequent or long continued muscular exertions, and hence the *residue* of the digestive process of the bowels will be more abundant, and will give rise to more copious evacuations than in the other case, and there will rarely be a tendency to constipation.

This *residue* arises from two sources, the consideration of which will explain the modifications to which it is subject, both in quantity and character, in the same individual at different times, as

well as its conditions characterising different temperaments. It results in part from that portion of the ingesta or aliments which is not adapted to the purposes of nutrition; and further, from the secretions of the abdominal viscera, as the liver, the stomach, the pancreas, and the bowels. These are the only two sources from which the *residue* can be derived. In the muscular and nervous temperament there is a less amount arising from these two sources than in the phlegmatic, and consequently a less tendency to the frequent action of the intestines. The general activity of the body is, as previously remarked, accompanied with a proportionate waste of nutritious materials, and the vital actions by which this expenditure is caused, not only draw the blood abundantly to the parts which are exercised, but maintain it there in vigorous circulation; and consequently there is a less amount left in the internal viscera to promote copious secretions forming largely the *residue* which has to be expelled, and facilitating its expulsion from their stimulating action on the bowels. In the phlegmatic temperament it is widely different. The blood is less rich or vitalized in its properties, as, in a given time, it is not subject to the same extensive changes in the lungs; these changes being in the ratio of the frequency with which the whole mass passes through these organs. It is scarcely necessary to observe that they are proportionate to the general activity of the body. Therefore, as a rule, in a constitution of this or of a kindred temperament, the abdominal viscera (not having any great demands made upon them by a restless or active disposition, and its consequences, excited muscular movements,) will be in a condition fitted to promote copious secretions, which will lead to the production of a large *residue* and its frequent evacuation.

Active exercise, on those not accustomed to it, may for once facilitate the action of the bowels, but it is afterwards followed by constipation, especially in those in whom the powers of life are finely balanced, or who have no surplus vital energy to spare, and the explana-

tion is to be found in the foregoing remarks on the muscular and nervous temperament.

...
Homeopathic Hospital for our Sick Troops engaged in the War.

THE "horrible and heart-rending" accounts of the sufferings of our troops in the East, the acknowledged insufficiency of the Military Medical Staff, the inefficacy of the method of treatment pursued in the hospitals already established, as shown by the long lists of mortality published, and the fact that many of those engaged in the campaign prefer the homeopathic method of treatment—all these circumstances led a number of the believers in homeopathy to wish that some method could be devised to provide our soldiers and sailors with an opportunity of availing themselves of homeopathic treatment in the East. Lord Robert Grosvenor, who is always warmly interested in everything relating to homeopathy, summoned a meeting of the principal practitioners and influential supporters of homeopathy at the end of February last, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken in order to bring homeopathy within reach of our countrymen at the seat of war. It was determined to memorialize the Minister of War on the subject, and a committee was appointed to draw up a memorial and carry out the wishes of the meeting, while at the same time a deputation of noblemen and gentlemen was named to present the memorial to Lord Panmure when it should have received a sufficient number of important signatures.

In a few days the memorial was very extensively signed, and Thursday, the 29th March, was appointed by Lord Panmure for receiving the deputation.

The following is a copy of the memorial drawn up by the committee appointed for that purpose:—

To the Right Honorable Lord Panmure, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the War Department, &c.

"MY LORD,—We, the undersigned peers, members of the House of Com-

mons, clergymen, officers of the army and navy, lawyers, merchants, and others unconnected with the practice of medicine, beg to state to your Lordship—

“That the proposed organization on the part of her Majesty’s Government, of civil hospitals at Smyrna and elsewhere, for the treatment of the soldiers and seamen now serving in the Crimea and in the Black Sea, and the circular emanating from your Lordship’s department, inviting the co-operation of the medical institutions of the metropolis in this beneficent work, have suggested to many who have derived personal benefit from homeopathy, that it would be desirable to secure for those of the sick in our army and fleet in the East who prefer this mode of treatment, the advantages which it affords in the treatment of those diseases of an acute form so unhappily prevalent in the Camp before Sevastopol.

“That the homeopathic system of medicine, promulgated in 1796 by Saml. Hahnemann, a German physician, distinguished by his contributions to science, has obtained the recognition and support of several of the leading States of Europe and America.

“That the Legislatures of two of the most important States of the American Union (Pennsylvania and Ohio) have granted charters of incorporation to homeopathic universities to which hospitals are attached; that the Chambers of the Kingdom of Bavaria, of the Grand Duchy of Baden, and other German States, have authorized professorships of homeopathy in the public universities; that the Imperial Government of Austria has instituted a professorship of homeopathy and sanctioned the establishment of homeopathic hospitals in Vienna, Hungary, and other parts of its dominions; that similar hospitals exist in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and that one hundred beds in the hospital Beaupon in Paris, have been for several years devoted to patients who are openly treated on the homeopathic system by Dr. Tessier and his hospital assistants.

“That when the Bavarian Parliament and the Hungarian Diet, in 1843, unani-

mously agreed to recommend homeopathy to the favorable consideration of their respective governments, it was shown:—

“1st. That in Germany the mortality in homeopathic hospitals was not quite 6 per cent., whereas in other hospitals it amounted to more than 12 per cent.

“2nd. That in severe inflammatory diseases, the mortality in homeopathic hospitals was not quite 5 per cent., and in the other hospitals nearly 15 per cent.

“3rd. That in cholera the mortality which in other hospitals was 56 per cent., was in homeopathic hospitals under 33 per cent.

“4th. That the average number of days which the patients remained in the hospital, was 28 to 29 in the ordinary hospitals, and from 20 to 24 in homeopathic hospitals; and

“5th. That in homeopathic hospitals the charge for each patient is not one-half that in other hospitals.

“That the results obtained in homeopathic hospitals on the Continent have been fully corroborated by those obtained in the homeopathic hospitals and other charitable institutions in Great Britain.

“That moreover one of the medical inspectors of the Board of Health has borne testimony to the successful results obtained in the London Homeopathic Hospital in the treatment of the cholera epidemic which broke out with such violence in the Golden Square District during the month of September last.

“That those results have been embodied in a return made to the Medical Council of the Board of Health, and Dr. McLoughlin, the medical inspector alluded to, who carefully watched the cases received into the wards of the London Homeopathic Hospital, has recorded in a letter addressed to one of the medical officers of that institution, his opinion of the superior results obtained in cases of the most malignant form of cholera there treated, over those of any other mode of treatment he had witnessed; and he has expressed his readiness, when called upon, to corroborate the return in question.

"That the undersigned and others, who met together for the purpose of considering this matter, have appointed a deputation to present this memorial to your Lordship, with the view of obtaining your Lordship's authorization for the appropriation of some portion of the premises her Majesty's Government propose to devote to the purposes of a civil hospital at Smyrna or elsewhere in the East, and for such assistance as your Lordship may see fit to grant, so as to enable a staff of properly qualified physicians and surgeons practising homeopathy to be selected and sent from this country, to receive and treat those officers, soldiers, and seamen who may desire to place themselves under the homeopathic system of treatment, during the period of their sickness.

"That many of the undersigned have sons, brothers, relations, or friends serving her Majesty in the army and navy in the East, who have the fullest confidence in the efficacy of homeopathy in the treatment of diseases to which many of their comrades have fallen victims, and to which they themselves are hourly exposed, and who feel greatly the want of that mode of medical treatment in which they have faith.

"That should your lordship require detailed statistics demonstrating the successful treatment of diseases by the homeopathic system, we are able to furnish them most abundantly from authentic documents already before the public, but we forbear to trespass further upon your lordship's time in a memorial of this nature.—We have the honor to be, my lord, your lordship's obed't servants."

In a very short time this memorial received the signatures of 1 archbishop (the philosophic Whately of Dublin), 2 dukes, 1 marquis, 10 earls, 2 viscounts, 6 lords (peers), 17 peers' sons, 14 members of parliament, 18 baronets, 17 generals, 27 colonels and lieutenant-colonels, 49 majors, captains, and subaltern officers of the army, 2 admirals, 7 captains of the royal navy, 8 commanders, &c., R.N., 65 clergymen, 45 justices of the peace, barristers, and solicitors, and 314 bankers, merchants, and others. This

list might have been almost infinitely increased, had more time been given for the collection of signatures, but it was thought advisable not to delay the presentation of the memorial.

Accordingly, a deputation, consisting of the Earl of Essex, Lord Lovaine, M.P., Gen. Sir John Doveton, K.C.B., Admiral Gambier, Col. Wyndham, Col. Taylor, R.A., Capt. Fishbourne, R.N., and Lord R. Grosvenor, M.P., waited by appointment Lord Panmure, Secretary of State for War, on the 29th of March. Lord Panmure listened very attentively to what the various members of the deputation had to say in support of the memorial, and promised to take the matter into consideration, and give his reply in writing. It is now a matter of history that immediately after the date of the presentation of the memorial, Lord Panmure had a fit of the gout, which, not having been treated homeopathically, laid him up for nearly five weeks.

☞ The effect of milk upon the human system is not so generally or so well understood as the importance of the matter would seem to demand. The milk of cows kept stabled, or where the phosphate of lime is exhausted, becomes putrid, and, when examined through a microscope, is seen to contain globules of corrupted matter, which is generally eaten, because unknown to exist. The effect of it on infants and children who use it daily for food, is weakness, sickness, and premature death. A child might as well be put to a nurse in the last stages of consumption, as to feed on such milk.

☞ In a post-mortem examination of a person who died lately while under the influence of chloroform, the chief morbid appearances were found in the heart.—The organ was small, the right side flaccid and full of blood, the left firm and contracted. The walls of the right side were unusually thin and their tissue was soft and lacerable. The father of the deceased had died of disease of the heart. Persons in any way troubled with heart disease should forego the use of chloroform.