

Canadian Journal of Homeopathy.

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

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ON DIET.

BY DR. ROTERFORD RUSSELL.

[Continued from our last.]

For the important discovery, which, like the appearance of a point of rock in a plain, suggests a series of hitherto undiscovered analogous facts, we are indebted to Dr. Claude Bernard. He found, that on puncturing a particular spot of the fourth ventricle of the brain close to the eighth pair of nerves, one of Sir Charles Bell's respiratory system, in an hour or so, evidences of an excessive quantity of sugar were observed. The blood and all the secretions were loaded with it. In one instance a cat with kittens was the subject of experiments, and even the fetuses were all sugared through. The artificial diabetes mellitus lasted for about a week, and then disappeared spontaneously. Besides obtaining this result as a constant consequence of irritating the brain at the particular point mentioned, he observed it to occur after any violent perturbation or lesion of the nervous system. No doubt a portion of sugar, and a large portion, may continue unchanged in the blood, till it passes through the lungs, where it may be oxydized and converted into carbonic acid and water; but there is as little doubt, that what we consume as sugar is largely converted into fat; and hence the fattening effect of a purely sugar diet upon the negroes who work at the sugar-cane plantations. The facts which seem to me of such immense importance to us practically, are these two, that we are now on the road to discover what substances yield the elements of fat to the body, and what the condition of the body

is which enables it to turn its opportunities to account; and what the bodily states are, on the other hand, which debar it from the privilege of converting the bounties of nature into that ductile element, which rounds the harsh masculine features of bone and muscle into feminine beauty, and tends to mollify the temper and tranquilize the mind.

Besides the fat we obtain from the starch and sugar we consume, there is a considerable quantity of it in the principal grains employed in making the various kinds of bread, or the cakes and other forms in which meal is prepared for use. And it is of consequence to know the proportion in which it exists in the different varieties of these bread-stuffs, for upon the amount of fat seems to depend the laxative or binding action of these articles of diet upon the alimentary canal. Professor Johnston, in the book we have before so often alluded to, gives the following proportions:

In fine English wheaten flour.....	2 per cent.
In bran of English wheat.....	6 "
In Scotch oatmeal.....	6 "
In Indian corn.....	8 "

From this table we learn that fine wheaten bread contains only one-third the quantity of oil contained in oat-cake or bread made from bran, and that we may derive a useful hint from this in the management of cases attended with constipation. It is generally supposed, that the bran acted as a foreign body upon the mucous membrane, and that from the irritation it produced, the peristaltic action was increased. This may be partly true, but the presence of the oil is undoubtedly highly conducive to the greater activity of the bowels. Rice contains very little fat, and hence its binding ten-

more. The physician nearest me has got me under his care, and I send you the wine, that I may not be tempted to drink too much from joy at seeing my health improving from day to day." This is the brilliant medical philosophy propounded by the immortal sage of Saxony, which has shed a halo of deathless fame around the Royal Bavarian University at Erlangen; the almamater of an almost unexampled galaxy of gifted sons of *Æsculapius*, both in ancient and modern times. Yes, it was reserved for the genius of Samuel Hahnemann, one of her graduates, to establish a new epoch in the art of healing man's sicknesses, founded on a general formula, expressive of the intimate relation subsisting between the phenomena of disease and the action of remedial agents; and criticise as much as one may, a scientific reform of therapeutics conformable to sound sense, but worthy of a man of reason, long desiderated, but never before attained—without which medicine remains but an incongruous art, possessing which, it is constituted, and at once takes rank as a positive and regular science, *the cures, not mere recoveries*, resulting from which are far more frequent, speedy, and lasting, and effected by the benign means of a beautiful harmonic medicine, more health-giving than all others, because more in harmony with nature, and far surpassing them in the ineffable charm of being unaccompanied with horrors, and alike free from all pains and penalties. Under its peaceful dominion man is exempt from the life-destroying bleedings, leeching, scarifications, cuppings, with all their irreparable results, the searing red-hot irons, the scorching caustics and burning issues, the draining, and colligative purgings, the direful poisonings of salivary glands and rotting of teeth, the grinding anguish of mercurial neuralgias and face-aches, the mountains of flesh-burning fire, and combustible matter employed as Moxas, and other coarse measures, now fitly designated medicinal diseases. Hahnemann submitted his discoveries long and patiently to a severe ordeal—the searching scrutiny of an extended experience, which

served but to confirm their truth and perfect adaptation to the pressing wants and requirements of suffering humanity. Truth like the infinitely wise and gracious God, is eternal. Men may disregard it for a time, until the period arrives when its rays, according to the determination of Heaven, shall irresistibly break through the mists of prejudice, and like Aurora and the opening day, shed a benificent light, clear and indistinguishable, over the generations of men. Homeopathy is great because rich in truth, and will ultimately prevail over all the opposition of men who presume to be wiser than those laws which govern the actions of the animal economy,—pursuing a practice and routine duly appreciated and promulgated by their forefathers as in days of yore, when men were alike in happy ignorance of railroads, electric telegraphs, and other delusions of the age, as of the refined and unfarrier-like mode of treating the numerous ills, to which flesh is heir adopted in this, our own day. It is the exemplification of a great principle, and one fruitful in philosophical considerations. It displays for the first time the extraordinary susceptibilities of the animal system, the exquisitely refined character of its organization, and the power of infinitesimal quantities of remedial agents to affect the laws, by which it is governed. Mankind will yet acknowledge their gratitude to the illustrious discoverer. They owe to him obligations equal to any that can be claimed by any of the great spirits that have adorned human nature, and left the traces of their existence in the good which marks their footsteps.—Health of mind and body, is the first of earthly blessings, and he, who, by his doctrines and practice, most largely contributes to its restoration, when disturbed by the many contingencies and vicissitudes of life, is the greatest philanthropist and benefactor of his species.

Yours, with respect,

WILLIAM HITCHMAN, M.D., L.R.C.S.

The fee of the Accoucher, of the Empress Eugenie, was twenty-five thousand pounds.

AN OLD SCHOOL DOCTOR'S
SOLILOQUY.

Oh dear me! What terrible inroads these troublesome Medical Reformers are making on regular practice—but I must call and see Mr. R's daughter. A bad case that. I have faithfully attended her more than six months, and she has been constantly failing. Fowler's solution of Arsenic answered no purpose at all. Let me see—she has had over forty blisters upon her stomach since I commenced treating her, a seton in her side—cupped fourteen times—bled three times a week, and leeches have been applied repeatedly, and still she grows worse. Can't hold out a great while longer. The old gentleman is abundantly able to pay, and I will continue on.—I'll try the blue pill till I produce salivation, and see what that will do. I have used all the remedies laid down in the books, and inasmuch as medicine will do her no good, there will be no harm in trying a few experiments upon her. Two hundred grains of calomel a day, with copious bleedings may effect a change in her—I'll try it. If I should cure her it will give me great celebrity; if it should happen to kill her no one will be any the wiser, I'll—

Rap, rap, rap!

Good morning, Doctor.

Good morning sir. I was just about starting to go down to see your daughter; how is she this morning?

Rapidly failing.

Oh you must be mistaken, sir. This dull weather, no doubt, will produce a temporary debilitating effect, but I saw her only day before yesterday, and she was decidedly better. I am about trying calomel in her case which I have no doubt will operate like a charm. A thorough salivation will set her upon her feet at once.

She is my only daughter, and she has proved a dutiful and affectionate child. I need not tell you how highly we prize her. Her death to us would be a very afflictive event. Mr. L's son you know was a long time in much the same situation, and after his case had been pronounced desperate by nine doctors, he

was cured by a short course of Reform treatment, under the care of Dr. P. who has recently located in town.

Cured! No, he didn't cure him. He was getting well before, and just as I got the disease subdued, they called in that contemptible Homeopathic quack, and he got the credit of the cure.

I have neither the time nor the inclination to discuss the merits of that case, but called to inform you that my wife and I have finally concluded to call in Dr. P— to take charge of our daughter.

I have been accustomed to consider you a man of sense, but you give me unquestionable evidence this morning that you are a consummate fool. You had better call at the cabinet makers as you go along, and speak for her coffin, and engage the service of the undertaker, for you will need them both before Sunday night.

I hope not sir; but I must bid you good morning.

I expect my bill will be settled *immediately*.

Confound these Reformers. They are thicker than the frogs of Egypt, and are creeping into every nook and corner in the land. If he should happen to cure her it would knock my business in the head; but he can't do it. I would cheerfully give the amount of one year's labor to have her *die* in his hands. This has been an unlucky year to me. Twenty-five patients have died under my treatment, besides six that have been put under the care of that arrant quack. I had much rather they also had died than that they should have been placed under his treatment. One patient died in consequence of my dealing out arsenic to him by mistake; but accidents will happen; his friends thought he died of cholera morbus. Two children have also taken laudanum instead of paregoric; but accidents will happen; but they would have died at any rate. Five have died in a state of salivation, and three were probably bled a little too freely; but then no man can cure everybody.—Mr. M's case went prodigiously against me—the hardest case of cholera I ever

met with. In six days I gave him *twelve hundred* grains of calomel, besides croton oil and other powerful remedies; and when I advised the friends to send for the Reformer I was positive he would die in six hours; and I thought in case I got him into the quack's hands, that I should get clear of the responsibility, and he would be effectually used up. But when I heard that the scoundrel had actually cured him, I had a great mind to cut my throat. It was too mortifying. I have lost Mr. M's influence, and that of all his friends.

There is no other way for me to work my card now, and keep my practice, but to tell the people, when they are a little inclined to favor Medical Reform, that the medicines are good in *some cases!* and when they are rather prejudiced against it, I can give it a kick. I understand nature as well as I do anatomy; it will work *right*.—*Medical Reformer.*

Journal of Homeopathy.

For the Homeopathic Journal.

THE MISREPRESENTATIONS OF HOMEOPATHY.

8. *Homeopaths cannot prepare their infinitesimals.*—After stating alternately that Homeopathic physicians give their patients no medicine at all, and that they give them violent poisons; that they starve their patients, and that they cure by diet alone, the opponents of Homeopathy, by which, of course, is meant all who are ignorant of it, as a "*dernier resort*," state that "Homeopathy cannot prepare their infinitesimals."

Now, such a statement can only be made in great ignorance of Homeopathic pharmacy. "Homeopathic pharmacy!" exclaims our learned friend, Gulliver Munchausen, M.D., who makes a great stand on this point; "I know nothing whatever about the contemptible delusion." And proceed to question that

estimable representative of "Rational" medicine, on his knowledge of the medical system to which he is so bitterly opposed, and you soon find that he defines Homeopathy to be a system of small doses—stating that Homeopaths purge with the millionth part of a grain of senna, and vomit with the ten millionth part of a grain of ipecacuanha or tartar emetic, and the good man concludes his experiences of Homeopathy by expressing a wish to see the femoral artery ligated "Homeopathically," expecting, no doubt, that the knives used would be quite invisible.

Now, take a peep into the sanctum of our learned friend, and see the depth to which he has explored the realms of mathematics, and just glance at the formidable columns of figures in which he demonstrates beyond the shadow of doubt that it is impossible to prepare any medicine higher than the fourth attenuation. After wasting the "midnight oil" to an extent which would excite the envy of a pulk of Don Cossacks, our friend produces some such calculation as the following, which is at once inserted, with thanks, by the Medical Journal, to which Dr. G. M. contributes:

"Homeopaths prepare their remedies by means of attenuation with alcohol. Now, as it requires one hundred drops to prepare the first dilution, it will require ten thousand drops to prepare the second, and one million of drops to prepare the third, and one hundred millions of drops to prepare the fourth, and ten thousand millions of drops to prepare the fifth dilution." His arithmetic getting doubtful at this point, our friend generalizes as follows:—"Therefore the homeopath will require a very large hogshead of alcohol to prepare the fifth

dilution, one hundred such hogsheads to prepare the sixth, an amount of fluid equivalent to Lake Superior for the twelfth. The eighteenth could be prepared if the Atlantic could be converted into alcohol for the purpose; while the thirtieth, which I understand is the Procrustean bed to which all diseases, constitutions, and temperaments must stretch their limbs, could only be prepared by means of a globe of fluid about the size of the sun." And Gulliver Munchausen, M.D., proceeds to enlarge upon and illustrate the facts so lucidly set forth, stating that the twelfth dilution is about equal in point of therapeutic value to a single globule of medicine dropped into the Lake of Geneva, and a teaspoonful dipped out at the other end, and the twenty-fourth equal to a globule of the twelfth dropped into the Atlantic and a teaspoonful dipped out on the other side. In fact the final "coup de grace" is dealt to homeopathy by our friend's masterly article, and the dagger of mercy is not withdrawn till Hahnemann and his legions are exterminated.

Now, at the risk of disturbing the learned pundit in his pleasing labor of building "Chateaux en Espagne," I will state briefly the manner in which the homeopathic physician prepares his infinitesimals. Suppose the physician wishes to prepare the thirtieth dilution, then he places before him thirty clean half-ounce vials, formed of somewhat different materials from those in which our friend doles out "black-wash" or laudanum, and after labelling them with the name of the medicine, and numbering them 1, 2, 3, and so on to 30, he drops into the first vial ninety-eight drops of pure alcohol, and into each of

the others ninety-nine drops. He next drops into the first vial two drops of the remedy which he wishes to prepare—say *thuya occidentalis*. Now the fluid remedies are composed of equal parts of the juice of the plant and pure alcohol, which is called the "mother tincture;" consequently the two drops which he dropped into the first vial, contained one drop of pure medicine. The first vial, containing ninety-nine drops of alcohol and one drop of medicine, is then thoroughly mixed by succussion, and this is called the "first dilution," each drop of which contains the one hundredth part of a drop of the original tincture. One drop of the first dilution is next dropped into the vial marked "No. 2," and when thoroughly mingled by succussion, is called the "second dilution," and in like manner each drop of this contains the ten-thousandth part of a drop of the original *thuya occidentalis*. In like manner the "third dilution" is formed by the addition of a drop of the second to ninety-nine drops of alcohol, and so on till the thirtieth or any other required dilution is reached.

The preparation of a solid medication—such as *aurum metallicum*—differs from this, in that the attenuations from 1 to 6 are prepared by trituration. One grain of the medicine is triturated with ninety-nine grains of sugar of milk. "Of these pulverized substances, you take one grain. . . . Pour this grain into an enlarged porcelain mortar. Then you take thirty-three grains of sugar of milk, and mix them with the drug by triturating the mass with some force for about six minutes by means of a porcelain pestle; before you triturate, stir the mass for a little with a spatula. Having triturated the mass, you stir it again for

about four minutes, scraping up that part which covers the bottom of the porcelain mortar, and also that which adheres to the pestle; then you triturate again with great force for six minutes, without, however, adding anything new. This mass you scrape up again, for four minutes, add another thirty-three grains of sugar of milk, stir the new compound for a moment with the spatula, then triturate it for six minutes with the pestle, scrape it up for four minutes, triturate again with great force for six minutes, scrape the mass up again for four minutes, then add the last thirty-three grains of sugar of milk, and with this last added portion proceed as with the two former. This powder you enclose in a well-corked glass, and mark it with the name of the substance, and the figure 1 to show that this is the first attenuation of the substance.*

Upon considering this statement, it will be seen that all the fluid required for the preparation of the 30th dilution is $99 \times 30 = 2970$. just two thousand nine hundred and seventy drops which, upon the whole, would not *quite* form a globe the size of the sun.

I am not here discussing the question of the action of the infinitesimals, but describing the mode of preparing them, and at some future time I purpose contributing an article "On small doses," in which the matter will be impartially discussed. From what I have said it will be seen that homeopaths can prepare their infinitesimals.

T. N.

THE London *Lancet*, has for years led the van of attack upon Homeopathic physicians, which has been characterized

* Hahneman's Chronic Diseases, Vol. I.

by the most bitter invectives, opprobrious epithets and gross anathemas. Hahnemann he simply calls a *knave, fool, and madman*, while Homeopathic Physicians are politely termed *liars, cheats, and vagabonds*. This is the kind of warfare the *Lancet* has carried on for years; these are the principal arguments, that old school has used against their vigorous young rival. At least we should suppose so, for they rarely employ any other terms in discussing the merits of a rival system than those in use among the fraternity for aspersing each others character. But apparently finding that its attacks on practitioners is of no avail, it, like a skilful maneuverer, changes his tactics, and assails what he hopes may prove a more vulnerable point, viz: the patrons of Homeopathist. Here is one of his most choice and refined missiles, from the *Lancet*, of February 2nd, 1856, "When William the third was induced, on one single occasion, to lay his hand on a poor wretch wishing to be cured of the King's evil by the royal touch, he said, may God give you better health and more sense. We must confess that our wishes for patients of Homeopathic Physicians, are not so seemingly merciful, and that we are prone to utter such imprecations on them as would make the shade of Eonulphus walk disturbed.—*May your vigor of mind and body fail, your bones decay, your limbs be eaten by disease, your joints stiffen, and be everlastingly immovable.*" The people have been alternately coaxed, and threatened, because they will not yield themselves "a willing sacrifice" to the rack and tortures of "old physic;" and this failing to retain the patrons and votaries to the "unroofed temple, uncovered at the top, and cracked in the foundation," (Dr. Rush)

they resort to imprecations and curses inhuman.

There case is humiliating, when they are compelled to beg the people to sustain them, and desparate when indulging in such imprecations as above: indeed we think the state of old physic must have been desparate before it went in the hands of the "*Coroner*" as chief guardian of its *corpus vivens*. Old school showed for once their appreciation of the fitness of things and circumstances when they gave their case into the hands of Coroner Wakely, as no doubt we shall hear that "old physic" is defunct, regularly, "according to law and the rules of civilized society." The proprietor, and chief editor, of the *London Lancet*, is Coroner of the *City of London*.

[WE cannot forbear inserting the subjoined extract, from a private letter of Dr. Matthews, President of the N.Y. S. Homeopathic Medical Society. The Doctor was one of the pioneers in Homeopathy, and this extract is a stubborn fact in the way of our old school friends, who are trying to make themselves and the people believe that Homeopathy is "dying out."—EDS.]

"Nothing affords me more pleasure than to learn, through the columns of your journal, of the successful establishment of Homeopathy in the Canadian Provinces.

When I reflect that only thirteen years ago last spring (the time of my own conversion), I was the sixth Physician to adopt and practice it in this State, west of Albany; I am not a little surprised at the rapidity of its progress.—It seems, indeed, almost incredible that in that short space of time, notwithstanding all the opposition, prejudices and slanders of the so called *old school*, it

should have attained a position, and an accession of members, (principally by conversions from that school) that now places it beyond the fear of opposition, and establishes it as one of the permanent "Institutions" of this country.

Homeopathy no longer acts on the defensive, but on the offensive. Its adversary "Old Physic," has been compelled to change places with this youthful competitor, and now acts, solely, with a view to defend itself against the successful encroachments of our victorious *new system*.

As the result of this rapid advance, Western New York and Canada, now claims over two hundred intelligent practitioners of Homeopathy. In consideration of those facts, we need certainly have no fearful forebodings for its future progress.—Very respectfully yours, &c.

M. M. MATTHEWS, M. D."

Rochester, N.Y., 15th Oct., 1856.

DR. LEWIS AND THE WESTERN HOMEOPATHIC COLLEGE.

A letter having been recently forwarded from Canada to the Trustees of the Western Homeopathic College, at Cleveland, Ohio, containing information that an individual by the name of Dioclesian Lewis, lately expelled from the American and Canadian Homeopathic Associations, seeks to sustain himself by claiming to be both a graduate and a censor of the Western Homeopathic College; the Trustees would say that Dioclesian Lewis is not a censor, and never was a student at the W. H. College. A total stranger to the Board of Trustees, he was some six years ago, through the then unsuspected recommendation of a former member of the faculty, enabled to obtain a *complimentary* diploma, and an appointment as censor.

The censorship was of short duration, and the diploma was a most unfortunate gift. The Trustees would add that they do not endorse the professional character or the medical attainments of Lewis, since they have no evidence of his having received a medical education; nor have they testimony that they now regard of the slightest value in favor of his character as a man or physician.

JOHN WHEELER,
President.

WM. H. BURRIDGE,
Secretary.

Our Allopathic friends in this province do not appear to be profited by their own teaching. They do not understand the nature of *affinity*. Chemistry would teach them the necessity of this; but they have neglected the benefits of affinity until there is no body left to them.—Upper Canada is now without an organized Medical School, we are informed. Cannot the elements be made to combine? We apprehend if more of the people's money was kept out of the compound, that the result would be perfect unity. Why should the Allopathic school be sustained at public expense, and by government patronage, to the exclusion of other schools of medicine, who have as good a right to public support? Allopathy needs here, as elsewhere, some wind of favor, some Legislative propping to keep within it the appearance of a health organization. Let them depend upon their own resources; and if they are right they need have no fears of the result. If they are wrong, the sooner Allopathic medicine is done, and forgotten, the better. Do not be afraid of your own strength. Homeopathy thrives without Legislative aid, why not Allopathy?

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

NORTH AMERICAN HOMEOPATHY JOURNAL.—Edited by E. E. Marcy, M. D.; John C. Peters, M. D.; William H. Holcombe, M. D.; H. C. Preston, M. D.;

published by Wm. Radde, New York, quarterly, p. 144.

This journal should be received by every Homeopathic physician on the continent. It is edited with sterling ability, and contains just such reading as is required to keep physicians informed of improvements in our profession, and of the best mode of treating the diseases incident to the climate of this continent.

HOMEOPATHY DEMONSTRATED, AND YOUNG PHYSIC COMPARED WITH OLD PHYSIC.—By J. C. Preston, M. D.; with an introduction by Rev. F. Tomkins, M. A., 68 p. octavo, published by the proprietor, St. Johns, N. B.

This little work, intended for lay reading is filled with facts and arguments, illustrative of the mode of cure, progress and successes of Homeopathy. It will doubtless do much for the cause of medical reform in New Brunswick, where Homeopathy is just beginning to claim the attention of the public. We wish the author and his first volume that success which his industry and merits deserve.

THE MIDDLE STATES MEDICAL REFORMER.—Palemon John, M. D., and S. S. Prettyman, M. D., editors, Millville, Pa., 16 p. monthly. A very spirited and readable journal, devoted to medical reform.

COLLEGE JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.—Edited by the Professors of the Eclectic Medical College, Cincinnati, O., 32 p. octavo, monthly. This Medical paper is devoted to the interests of Eclectic Medicine, and is well conducted. We regret to see so much talent thrown away on a subject that is mere myth and mirage. Eclecticism is an imitation of old school on a feeble scale. However it has done much to *humanize* old physic, and we wish the editors success.

MATTHEW'S

HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY, 129 S. Eighth Street, above Spruce, Philadelphia. Supervised by J. G. HOWARD, M.D., where will be found constantly on hand a good assortment of *Homeopathic Medicines*, in Tinctures, Triturations and Dilutions; also, Family Medicine Chests, Physicians' Pocket Cases, Sugar of Milk, Pellets, Refined Sugar of Milk, and all the Homeopathic Books and Pamphlets published in the United States.

dency upon the bowels. Indian corn on the other hand, is very rich in fat, and might probably be more extensively used in this country, with great advantage.—All travellers in America dwell with much gusto on the delicious cakes of Indian corn that are there served up at breakfast.

Although we derive the elements of the fat, which enters into the composition of every tissue of the body except the enamel of the teeth, and constitutes the bulk of the brain and nerves from various forms of fat that present themselves both in the animal and the vegetable kingdom, yet the modifications these endure before they take their new place in our frame, is much greater than any which the other primary constituents undergo. In the brain it is found in the form of two acids, the one called cerebrie, the other oleophosphoric; the latter possesses the interesting property of being resolved by heat and water into Elaine and Phosphoric acid. This fact may throw a light upon the important observations recently made by Dr. Bence Jones, upon the amount of phosphates in the urine being the measure of the waste of the nervous system.

It does seem strange that with such facts as this one and many others staring us in the face, to shew the immense value of fat as a source of nourishment to all parts of the body, and chiefly to the most noble part of all the brain, it should be the fashion of chemical physiologists to speak of fat as if it served no other purpose than to be burned at the lungs to warm the rest of the body. Surely the curious fact of hibernation alone might teach us that fat went far to sustain life, for from the store accumulated in themselves during summer and autumn, must the beasts and other animals which pass the winter in sleep, without food, draw the whole nourishment during the months of their retirement from active life. To deny the name of nourishment to that which sustains the life of an animal, involves a paradox; and in this instance the paradox results from an exclusive application of the term nourishment to substances which supply the ma-

terials for constructing the fleshy parts of our tabernacle, and ignoring the existence of the earth and fat, which are essential to the formation of the organs of sensation and locomotion.

The sophism implied in this paradox lies at the root of the entire misrepresentation of the effects of alcohol, by those who deny to them any nutritive qualities; and as the subject is one of unsurpassed importance and interest to us as physicians, it will be right to enquire fully into the properties of alcoholic drinks, regarded, not as medicinal stimulants, but as articles of strictly dietetic or nutritious use.

The ground we are now entering on, demands from us a most dispassionate investigation, for it is beset with difficulties on all sides, and requires that we should at the outset clearly define what are our special duties in this matter, as contradistinguished from those who are most prominent in leading public opinion upon it.

To those who devote themselves to the arrest or mitigation of the frightful evils produced by intoxication, whether by popular lectures, or by addresses from the pulpit, or by the organization of societies, we wish to express the deep sense of our obligations, for their noble and patriotic efforts, and in so far as it is in our power to advance the great cause of temperance, in our capacity of citizens, it is surely our bounden duty to do so. But the restraint of excess is a wholly different question from the proper use of any article of food; and if out of dread of offering an obstruction to the promoters of a great philanthropic movement, we shirk a candid investigation of the alleged benefits to be derived from a temperate indulgence in all the drinks they find it expedient to condemn, we should be abdicated our position as advisers to those who consult us as to what is best for them, and be betraying their interest and our duty for the promotion of a remote and hypothetical good. We have no right to sacrifice our patients upon the altar of temperance. There is no more inconsistency in promoting the cause of temperance, and recommending

the use of wine, than in doing all we can to advance a Fire-Insurance office, with all its machinery for extinguishing a conflagration, and each of us at the same time making these very efforts by the comfortable warmth of his "ain fire side." Temperance is the law of life; the torrid and the frigid zones are equally inimical to man, nor less so probably would be found the universal abstinence from wine and all its kindred. Nay, we do not take up a merely negative position in reference to temperance, while thus claiming a fair hearing for what its *soi disant* advocates condemn, we go further and maintain, that if it be shown that the use of wine, spirits, and beer, be conducive to health in certain circumstances, by recommending their use, we are really doing more for the ultimate triumph of temperance, than by passing no end of Maine-liquor laws; for it is a fact beyond all denial, that one of the most fertile causes of intemperate indulgence is traceable to some bodily infirmity or depravity, and that intoxication is hardly possible for those whose bodily and mental conditions are in the highest state of vigour and refinement.

I have been thus free in the expression of my opinion, because I find myself opposed to the views of many, whose opinions deserve the highest attention and consideration at our hands, and with none more than Dr. H. Madden, who in an article published in 1846, in the British Journal of Homeopathy, makes the following observation. "Alcohol when acting not as a stimulus, but substantially, is not and cannot be a pabulum to any organ, and for the following reasons:—*first*, its chemical composition disqualifies it from taking any share in the formation of muscular fibre, or other azotized compound, since it possesses no azote; and it has now been proved that the higher orders of animals have no power to compound their proximate principles, but must obtain them ready formed:—*second*, although its chemical constitution has some approximative relationship to nervous matter, we have no proof that it is or can be transformed into that substance, while numerous ar-

guments may be drawn from transcendental chemistry, to show its extreme improbability."

In opposition to this statement, we think we shall be able to shew that alcohol may supply a pabulum to every organ by affording it the materials whence to derive its fat which is essential to its healthy action, and also that there is every probability of its nourishing as well as cherishing the nervous system. Human fat, according to Chevreul, contains 79 per cent. of carbon, while alcohol contains 53 per cent. of the same element, and the conversion of alcohol into fat, rendered thus probable by their similarity of atomic constitution, is put beyond a doubt by the examination of the blood of persons who have imbibed alcohol in large quantities, in whom this fluid has been observed to be of a whitish, milky appearance, from the quantity of fat globules that float there.* So great indeed may be the transformation of alcohol into fat, that there is a case on record in which all the organs of the chest and abdomen, and even the muscles in the body of a drunkard, were found converted in a great measure into a fatty substance.†

So much for the first proposition, that alcohol go to make fat in the body. As to the second, that alcohol by loading the blood with fat, probably affords special nourishment to the nervous system, which consists in a great measure of this substance, it seems highly probable, not only from the fact of the chemical composition of the two, but from its physiological action as a narcotic. We know indeed, as a positive fact, that the brain is nourished during sleep, and we also know that, as a general rule, the tendency to sleep is in direct proportion to the quantity of fat in the body. Fatness and somnolence are mutual cause and effect, as we see in the example before referred to, of hibernating animals who do not go to sleep till they have laid in a great store of fat, and who then pass their whole time in this condition, and the converse we see in the effects of sleep-

* Wilson on the Pathology of Drunkenness.

† Rosch, Der Misbrauch geistiger Getränke, p. 93.

lessness producing all the evils of insufficient nutrition on the brain. "All the causes," says Dr. Bucknell, in a recent article in the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, "even of the acute forms of insanity, point to an interference with the due nutrition of the brain. Starvation causes raving delirium, mortification produces muttering delirium. * * * If anything is positively known of the brain and its functions, it is that it expends its powers during the waking state; and that it is nourished and its powers are recruited by cell-growth, or otherwise, during sleep, * * * and during the prodromic period of threatened insanity, opiates often acts like a charm."* That alcohol does act narcotically, especially if combined with another narcotic, such as that of hop, requires no proof. It is an admitted fact, and now we are in a position to perceive how it is that the English and the Germans are a fat race, while the French and the Scotch are lean. The former drink beer, which contains about the same amount of alcohol as the light French wines, but in combination with a narcotic and nutritive extract to the extent of from 4 to 8 per cent. While in milk, the model food, the nutritive matter is about 12 per cent. So that a pint and half of good beer is equal, in respect of solid nourishment alone, to a pint of milk. But it has this immense advantage over milk, that it soothes the over-active nervous system at the very instant that it presents to it its means of nourishment. It cherishes and nourishes at once. Shall we then, misled by the crude speculations of modern chemists, reject the evidence of all history in favor of the mighty boon conferred by Bacchus on our race? When we reflect that in the present age the work is done more with the brain and the nerves, than with the muscles and the bones, that we have now bones of iron and muscles of steam, which relieve to a great extent those of the human frame, and that this substitution is daily progressing; while, on the other hand, the strain upon the mental

and cerebral system is proportionally increased, for we cannot multiply brains by any process of machinery yet invented, and that this very liberation from the toil of the hands begets greater and greater competition in the race of mental achievement; when we reflect on all this, is there not something very presumptuous in venturing against the most advanced investigations of physiology, to enforce more than monastic asceticism upon those who instead of the dawdling life of the monastery, with the trifling expenditure of its libenating existence, have daily to undergo a waste of cerebral and nervous matter in the furnace of a city, to an amount hitherto unknown in the annals of our race? If we forbid alcohol in all its forms, is there not a danger of our starving the brains and the nerves? May not a portion of this substance be absolutely necessary for those who like pleaders have to go through a work of intense cerebration, so to speak for hours together? Certainly in my own practice I have met with many instances where the health was kept in a state of deterioration by abstaining from alcoholic drink, and where the addition of a glass of ale or a glass of wine permanently improved the health and comfort of the persons; and I believe, notwithstanding all the averments of the teetotallers, will contribute to the prolongation of a life it has already made happier. There is wisdom in the adage that wine is the old man's milk.

[TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

IN press, to be published soon, *Homeopathy Explained, and Homeopathy versus Allopathy*, by J. C. Peterson, M.D., of St. Johns.—*New Brunswick.*

PHYSICIANS have been tinkering the human body for about two thousand years to cure disease; and the result of all their labors is, that brimstone, mercury, and the lancet, are the only specifics. Diseases remain what they ever were.

LACON.

* Brit. and Foreign Med. Chirurg. Rev., Jan. 1855.

Correspondence of the Liverpool Journal.
OLD PHYSIC AND NEW.

SIR,—In a recent number of your highly-interesting and widely-circulated paper, you adverted to Raikie's Journal, which comprises reminiscences of social life in Paris, where the writer principally resided, and took pleasure in recording all the anecdotes and news of the day. Some of the anecdotes, it is stated, are amusing, and that the following is one of the best:—A German doctor, of the allopathic order, once, in jest, proposed the following question to Hahnemann:—"If the millionth part of a grain has so much efficacy, would not an ounce of the same substance thrown into the Lake of Geneva be sufficient to cure the whole of Switzerland?" "Sir," replied the arch professor, "the most violent storm that ever blew would never agitate the lake in a degree sufficient to make a general solution of the medicine in the water." That many cures have been performed under this system, it is further remarked, can hardly be denied; were it otherwise, the prestige would not long have existed, but the strict rules of abstinence, which form an indispensable part of the prescriptions, may have essentially contributed to success; moreover, your correspondent, who calls himself a Fellow of the Royal Society, Doctor of Physics, &c., (who, it would seem, has had as much to do with poisons as any toxicologist in the kingdom,) declares through the same medium, that if the horrible drug system was discarded altogether, and people dieted themselves, and let Dr. Nature, only, attend them, any other physician would, in his humble opinion, never be required; surgeons, of course, would be, in cases of accident and the like. All the globules, of arsenic, or nux vomica, in the shop of the homeopath, he continues, would never hurt any one, therefore it is for this very reason that he has for the last few years so extolled the peculiar views of Hahnemann and his numerous disciples. A pretty reason, truly, for embracing homeopathy. The *reductio ad absurdum* which he attempts is a gratuitous assumption

—the *small dose*, is no essential part of the principle of homeopathy; it is a corollary from a proved problem. He may be a very good and able man in his way; he was determined to find a mare's nest, and he found it; the *cheval de bataille* is still the globules, and diet. Nothing is more common than to represent the regimen as something intolerably abstemious. Our opponents simply state that which is not correct. I subjoin the customary "starvation" rule, and cordially from my heart of hearts wish every poor and deserving family in Liverpool was privileged to be put on homeopathic diet forthwith. Meats—Beef, mutton, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, pheasants, and other fresh game, plainly cooked. Fish—Soles, whittings, smelts, trout, sprats, and all flat fish. Soup or broth made from the lean of beef, veal, or mutton, to which may be added well boiled sago, tapioca, vermicelli, rice, semolina, or maccaroni. Eggs lightly dressed. Vegetables—Potatoes, brocoli, green peas, cauliflower, spinach, turnips, carrots, French beans, and asparagus. Fruit—Baked, stewed, or preserved apples, pears, cherries, strawberries, or any other not of acid quality. Beverage—Water, milk, cocoa, chocolate, arrowroot, gruel, toast water, barley water, and gum water. Indeed, sir, the philosophy of the homeopathic cure is a development of the scientific principles of practical medicine; but as vain is it for sufferers to appeal to our infatuated enemies for an unprejudiced opinion of its value, as it would be to expect an ordinary purveyor of the flesh of animals to admit the great superiority of vegetarianism; or the adulterating manufacturer of strong drinks to set forth, in glowing eulogy, the virtues of teetotalism. I am quite certain, as I have elsewhere so often urged, that the cause of homeopathy is greatly misunderstood, and that, in order to remove such misconception, the public mind cannot be too clearly indoctrinated in the general principles and chief points of our reformed system; hence it follows that the people require concise and intelligible views of what homeopathy means, which should be as plain.

self-evident, and luminous as possible. The essentials I regard as eminently these:—Every article in the *Materia Medica*, prescribed by a homeopathic practitioner, shall have been previously taken by a healthy person (intentionally or otherwise), and its disease producing (pathogenetic) symptoms duly ascertained and accurately recorded. That medicine be uniformly administered in a pure and unmixed state, singly, alone, and by itself (or mixed with water, spirit of wine, or an inert substance, termed sugar of milk.) That the remedy in question shall be strictly homeopathic, or similar in its properties to the group of morbid symptoms presented by each individual or peculiar case. We further maintain, that medicines which are injurious in large quantities, will in small ones be found not only soothing, but generally curative, when employed homeopathically; and that our medicines to be curative, by direct and positive homeopathicity, must also be efficient to produce analogous derangements in a person of sound health. Our medicines are, therefore, efficient to induce, and multiplied experience assures us, to cure, and, as a general rule, to operate best—that is, in the language of Asclepiades, of old, *cito, tuti, et jucunde*, quickly, safely, and pleasantly, when given according to the right indications for their selection, in infinitesimal, or very minute quantities. On the subject of the *psoric* hypothesis, or the peculiar nature of chronic diseases, a doctrine similar to which, in all essential particulars, was held long anterior to the time of Hahnemann, and that of *dynamization*, or the exaltation of latent power, elicited by long-continued trituration and succession, notwithstanding they are, in my judgment, substantially correct, and incontrovertible doctrines. The people are committed to their rejection; for, whether believed in or not, *homeopathy, justified by experience, remains a great fact*. We are often appealed to for an answer to the interrogatory, What is homeopathy? Were we disposed to retaliate, and return evil for evil, may it not be aptly inquired, What is allopa-

thy?—the regular, orthodox, legitimate, practice of medicine, in what consists its laws, its rules, its unerring principles, its never-failing and infallible data, from which to deduce a trustworthy guide, a beacon-light, to aid and assist us, in our difficult task of healing the sick, cleansing the leper, making the blind to see, and the lame to walk? and, as we have heard and read so much of late about the fallacies of the homeopathic faculty, and the facility with which statistics can be cooked (I humbly submit they are not cooked with strychnine, after the alleged manner of Palmer, of Rugely), and made to subserve our purposes of warfare, I say does it not become, in all fairness and justice, the imperative duty of opponents of the new system of mild medicine to ask themselves whether *their* mode of practice so closely approximates perfection as to admit of no improvement? Were they to do so, I apprehend a very little reflection would soon convince them that there is something “rotten in the state of Denmark,” something more in heaven and earth than is dreamed of in their philosophy, which prejudice or interest (or both) dictates to them the propriety of doing all in their power to conceal. In answer to the question, What is homeopathy?—Emphatically, the lawful and allowable method of perpetrating physic on the people of Great Britain, her army and navy, her Crimean heroes, and brave defenders of the faith. Answer it, Sir John Forbes, physician to the Queen's household, what say you? You are an elegant scholar, an elaborate writer, and have grown grey in the allopathic service—“it would fare better if all drugs were abandoned.” Dr. James Johnson was long the talented editor of the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, an experienced practitioner, well versed in the literature of his profession, and physician to the fourth William; though dead he yet speaketh. “Verily there would be less mortality among mankind if there were no doctors and druggists.” Dr. Reid avers “that more children are daily destroyed by the pestle and mortar than in the ancient Bethlehem fell victims in

one day to the Herodian massacre." Sir Astley Cooper was wont to remark, that "the art of medicine (as generally practised) was founded on conjecture, and improved by murder." Sir Benjamin Brodie, the present Sergeant-Surgeon to her Majesty, has lately stated, that for years past he has ceased to torment his patients with "this painful and loathsome mode of treatment," and is convinced that the "change has been attended with the happiest results." More than this, I have, myself, heard the late lamented Robert Liston (second to no man that ever lived as a skilful surgeon, and a shrewd observer), tell his class, that the best medicines in erysipelatous inflammation were the homeopathic, for "he had cured some of the worst cases he ever saw with them:" and the surgeon in ordinary to H. R. H. Prince Albert informed me, he had invariably noticed that the longer a man of science practised his profession, the smaller became his doses, for he appeared to feel that he was introducing drugs, of whose beneficial properties he knew little, into an organization of which he knew less, and yet, in the face of all this, our ancient friends, the allopaths, are as averse now to the reception of truth, and to render justice to Hahnemann, the founder of the new law of healing, as were their predecessors in by-gone times. The same drama is re-enacted. The reward of Harvey, who taught that the blood-vessels contained blood, *not* air; Ambrose Pare, who taught that a simple ligature would effectually stop bleeding better than *boiling pitch*; Jenner, who declared and demonstrated that vaccination would prevent or modify small-pox:—the reward of these discoverers and authors of scientific revolutions was Hahnemann's, the love and admiration of his brethren—nay, rather scorn, contumely, and oppression, the imputation of madness, and the most venomous of all slander and vituperation, arrogating to themselves the prerogative of utterly condemning the modern system of therapeutics, and maligning its supporters as the veriest and vilest of all quacks and impostors, with whom it would be de-

rogatory to their honor to hold any kind of professional intercourse; with no adequate inquiry into its practical merits, and without any impartial examination of its claims to be considered as belonging to that high order of medical science which has sternly demonstrated that no pathy is better by a long score than allopathy, and that homeopathy considerably eclipses doing nothing. The principal objections of sceptics may be summarily comprised thus: Homeopathy is humbug, because it pretends to cure all diseases with infinitesimal doses of (so called) medicated globules or sugar-plums. This is one very common and erroneous impression. Another demurs that it is only a do-nothing system, with a strict regimen, almost amounting to starvation, which cures by rigid attention to an exclusive diet. Granting for the sake of argument that all diseases are curable by diet or unaided nature, as many imply by this kind of ratiocination—alas! for the science and art so contumaciously adhered to by the powers that be—what can be said in extenuation of the filthy and disgusting superfluities had recourse to by the allopaths? Another class of objectors urge that recoveries are due to psychological influences, or in other words, to the effects of the imagination, a species of sophistry and subterfuge they are careful to eschew and avoid when applied either to veterinary practice of the diseases of infancy or early childhood, in which departments homeopathy stands pre-eminently high and unrivalled.

Lastly, we are accused of resorting, as with the wand of a wizard, to other expedients. We are guilty, forsooth, of helping their dangerous and abandoned cases to a restoration of health, sound and vigorous, by invoking the aid of nature—that nature which is *deaf* to their supplications, and will not assist *them*. We must give allopathic doses, in tasteless and infinitesimal forms, (it is presumed if possible,) thus significantly, yet reluctantly, giving us the victory; meanwhile, themselves commit suicide with their own worthless and tarnished weapons. Comparatively few appear to

understand and comprehend what homeopathy really is—that it is a science of medicine founded on the discovery of a law in nature, which teaches that like should be treated by like; that it is, in fact, not necessarily so much the absolute smallness of the dose of a remedy as the appropriateness of its selection and administration in conformity to the revealed law; that it is a scientific principle of giving medicines to the sick, that are known to have the power of causing in the healthy a diseased condition similar to that arising in the system of the patient from other causes. For example, tartarized antimony is a good remedy in inflammation of the lungs; yet, it is an indisputable fact, as proved by Majendi and other experimenters in physiology, that nothing induces congestion and inflammation of the lungs sooner than this remedy. The same poisonous substance, too, is most efficacious in certain forms of cholera, as observed by Dr. Billing. This ought not to surprise us, when we know that this is owing to the property it possesses of producing nausea, copious vomitings, burning heat in the stomach, colic, diarrhoea, syncope or fainting, small, quick pulse, cold skin, shortness of breath, cramps, prostration of strength, and death, as testified by numerous instances on record, without particularizing that of the unfortunate lady (Mrs. Ann Palmer) in whose body it has been found accumulated in large quantities. I might go almost all through the nosological catalogue, and furnish illustrations of the truth of the homeopathic principle; suffice it, however, for the present purpose, to adduce a few examples, only, of the many medicines capable of producing an affection similar to the cases they cure or relieve. A weak solution of lunar caustic, or nitrate of silver, will greatly relieve an inflamed eye, which, in strong solution, will violently irritate a sound one; this, though homeopathic in action, is one of the most popular applications at the various eye infirmaries. Alcohol, largely diluted, and externally applied, will relieve headache; when taken largely internally, will cause it, as too many practically

know. Aconite, which in large doses violently disturbs the circulation, when so disturbed by disease, will in small doses be found most tranquilizing. Belladonna, in full repeated doses, acts violently upon the throat; in small doses, under similar circumstances, speedily cures. The same plant, in large doses, will produce a scarlet rash, difficulty of swallowing, nausea, redness and swelling of the face, delirium, convulsions, and so forth; and, accordingly, has very properly become a popular remedy in some varieties of, epidemic scarlatina, and to a large extent it is preventative of that fearful and fatal scourge. Ipecacuanha, in large quantities, distresses and sickens the stomach—in small doses soothes and allays vomiting. The influence of this root in exciting fits of difficult breathing, resembling asthma, is beyond all doubt, as is also its great utility in the relief of this and other affections of the respiratory organs. Nuxvomica (and necessarily strychnine, with which, as well as cocculus indicus, publicans and sinners take the liberty of sophisticating divers sorts of nameless liquors) causes spasms, indigestion, bilious disorders, sickness, and retching, convulsions (tetanic), obstinate constipation, hemorrhoids, headache, giddiness, business on both sides of the road, as well as in the gutters, and the like; given in extremely minute quantities, it affords signal relief in almost all these ailments. Corrosive sublimate largely corrodes and ulcerates the intestinal mucous membrane; in a similar condition, from dysentery, proves curative.—Cantharides, in full repeated doses, causes urinary affections; in small repeated doses allays the like disordered states, to which those passages are liable. Copper, arsenic, mercury, are known to occasion violent headache, and other characteristic derangements, vomiting, diarrhoea, cutting, and burning pains in the abdomen, cramp-like pains in the legs, jaundice, convulsive movements, &c. Well, what then? interposed the captious disputant. Given: A poor unfortunate fellow-creature, suffering after this peculiar fashion, let him take a

single drop, that is to say, the ten thousandth part of a grain of the second dilution of the drug, most similar in its action to the totality of prominent symptoms then and there present. Well, what then—what next? Nothing, beyond the fact that this, simply this, is the sum and substance of homeopathy. This is proof positive; this is an unequivocal illustration of a great fact, that like cures like; this is the homeopathic theory and practice of physic, as will be abundantly made manifest by the subsequent cure, a happy result seeming well-nigh magical and astounding, as it ever does, to the uninitiated, when this specific healing art is skilfully applied. Power and violence are different, quite different things. *Arte non vi*. In skilful adaptation, not violence, consists the harmony of medicine in relation to disease, even as the drop which can hollow a stone, not by force, but by frequently falling. I admit that the homeopathy of some persons is an absurdity; but not so that true homeopathic system of medical reform, one of the advantages of which is the remarkable unanimity of opinion which pervades its professors.

This feature, which contrasts so favourably with the proverbial differences, amongst the professors of the rival system, is well portrayed in the following anecdote, which may be relied upon as authentic: Whilst Dr. Herring was travelling through Germany, he was invited to the house of a rich old gentleman, who had been an invalid for twenty years. This gentleman had at first consulted two physicians of celebrity; but as they quarrelled about his complaint, he determined to seek other advice. But first he resolved, that if he could find *three* doctors who perfectly agreed upon his case, without hesitation, to allow himself to be treated by them, but not otherwise. For this purpose he had consulted many eminent physicians, whose opinions and prescriptions he had recorded in a book, kept for that purpose, which, as may be supposed, had cost him a pretty sum of money, but never found any *three* who agreed respecting his case. This book had the appearance of a ledger, in

large folio, and was kept in the forms of tables. In the first column were the names of the physicians, amounting to 477; in the second, those of the disease, with explanations concerning its nature; of those there were 313 differing importantly from each other; in the 3rd column were the remedies proposed; these consisted of 832 prescriptions, containing 1,097 remedies! The sum total of fees appeared at the end of each page. He took up a pen, and said, coolly, "Won't you prescribe something for me?" But having no great inclination to do so, I only asked if Hahnemann was not in the list? With a smile he turned to No 301, name of the disease "O," remedy prescribed "O." That was the wisest of the lot, he cried, for he said that the name of the disease did not concern him, and that the name of the remedy did not concern me, but that the cure was the essential point. But why, I inquired, did you not allow him to treat you? Because, he replied, he was but one, and I must have *three* who agree.—I asked him if he was willing to sacrifice some hundred francs for an experiment, in which case I should be able to mention not *three*, but *thirty-three* physicians, living in the neighbourhood, and in countries and parts of the world widely separate, who should all be of one opinion? He expressed his doubts, but, at the same time, resolved to undertake the trial. We then made out a description of his disease, and when the copies were finished sent them to thirty-three homeopathic practitioners. He enclosed a louis d'or in each letter, begging each physician to name the remedies which were capable of curing, or, at least of alleviating his disease. A short time since I received a cask of Rhenish of the vintage of 1822. "I send you wine of the year 1822 (he wrote), because twenty-two physicians agreed respecting my case. I thereby perceive there is certainty in some things in this world. I have got various works on the subject, in order to gain information upon it.—Out of more than two hundred medicines, twenty-two physicians have fixed upon the same remedy. One could not expect