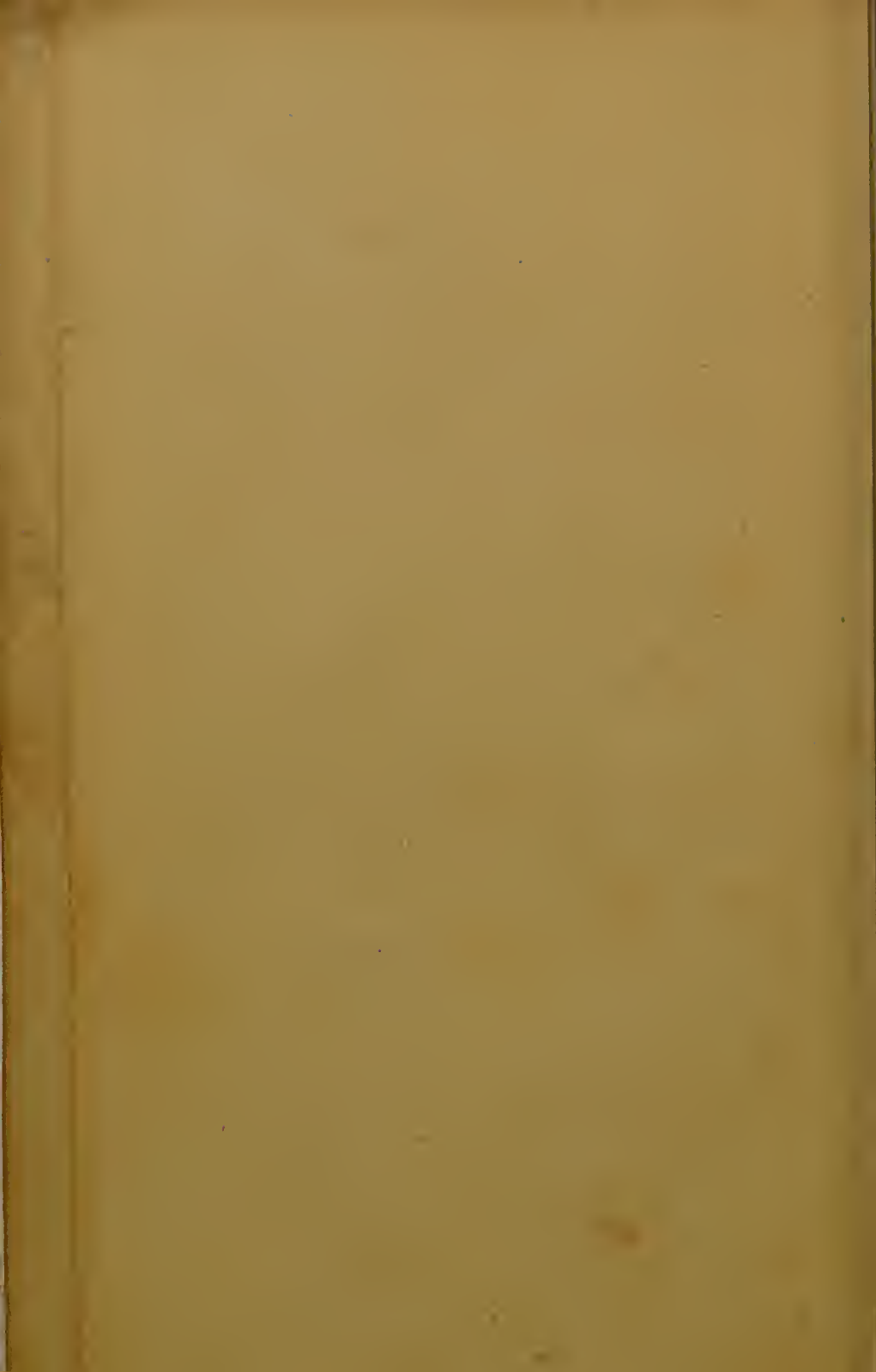


DIGEST
OF THE
HOMŒOPATHIC PRINCIPLES
BY
DR. EDW. WILLIAMS, M.B.

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With the Author's respects.
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DIGEST

OF THE

HOMŒOPATHIC PRINCIPLES.

BY EDWARD WILLIAMS, M.B. CANTAB.

The imputation of novelty is a terrible charge amongst those who judge of men's heads, as they do of their perukes, by the fashion: and can allow none to be right but the received doctrines.

LOCKE.

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TO

THEOPHILUS FAIRFAX JOHNSON, ESQUIRE,

DEPUTY-LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN,

THIS IS

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR.



P R E F A C E.

SAMUEL HAHNEMANN, M.D., the originator of Homœopathy, was born in Upper Saxony, and studied at the university of Leipsic and other learned schools. In the year 1790 being engaged in translating the *Materia Medica* of the celebrated Dr. Cullen, in which is described the peculiar property of Cinchona bark for the cure of ague, he became desirous of ascertaining its mode of action. With this intention, notwithstanding the enjoyment of a robust state of health, he commenced his experiments by taking the substance, and was soon afterward seized with symptoms which characterise an attack of intermittent fever, similar in every respect to those the medicine is known to cure; this singular effect induced him to observe the specific influence of individual medicines on the constitution when in a state of *health*, and from

oft-repeated trials on himself and some who appreciated his motive, he was led to conclude, that the substance employed, possessed an inherent power of exciting in the healthy body symptoms like those it is said to cure.

Having satisfied his mind as to the truth of this inference, he published a dissertation on the subject in a medical periodical, ‘sed evanuit vox, neque exaudita est.’ Various works have subsequently appeared emanating from the same source, and farther corroborating his views.

Moreover, the numerous volumes which are daily issuing from the Continental as well as our own press, testify the doctrine fails not in attracting notice, and assuredly whatever tends to modify the treatment of disease demands consideration, nor let opinions be condemned without other reason than because they are new.

W.

10, *Bedford Street,*
Bedford Square.

INTRODUCTORY PREFACE OF THE ORGANON.¹

IF the spontaneous efforts of nature ever tended to re-establish deranged functions of organs, then ought we to follow so infallible a guide in our treatment of disease. But we find this nature is governed by the instinctive laws of organised matter, nor capable of reason and reflection; being solely adequate to the maintaining the various functions and systems of organs in one harmonious whole.

When the healthy balance has become disturbed, the vital power is stimulated in disproportionate excess, and constitutes in itself a disease both difficult and uncertain as to its result, nor unfrequently, contrary to the object required, assailed too in its course by contingencies which prevent a desirable termination.

¹ Organon, from ὀργανῶν, to arrange—A systematic treatise.

The observing such imperfect attempts to restore the integrity of parts, led physicians to assist and promote this conservative power—an imitation of an injurious and inefficient principle.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

Review of the Allopathic ¹ Doctrines.

It is not my intention to impair the honourable distinction acquired by physicians, who have devoted their talents to the developing and more accurately defining the boundaries of sciences auxiliary to medicine; but to censure the erroneous principles by which the faculty are at present guided, the antiquity of the healing art being the only received evidence of its scientific basis.

It was the boast of the ancient school, that by discovering and removing the cause of disease, they would at the same time extirpate the

¹ ἄλλων πᾶθος, another disease—the result of medicaments, none of its symptoms resembling the original malady.

malady ; yet as most diseases are of immaterial origin, at least not apparent to the senses, they were driven to the necessity of inventing the morbid essence.

By comparing the aberrations presented by organs after death, and the derangements of their functions in the living body, they deduced conclusions, relative not only of the changes which occur in disease, but also of the essential *source* of the disturbing power, although it is evident, the consequence cannot be in itself and at the same time both cause and effect. How fallacious must any system be, that prescribes medicines whose curative tendency is unknown, for a cause equally obscure !

The pursuers of this untangible cause, which, like an ignis fatuus, still eluded them, now turned their attention to the symptoms which appear in disease, hoping thereby to discriminate with unerring precision the character of the malady : here was displayed a boundless region for hypotheses, and systems followed theories in quick succession, each in itself containing, like the produce of the Colchian soil, elements for its own destruction ; because the alleged variety of diseases could only be combated by

medicines *similar* in their effects to the morbid irritation, and these were prohibited, having been found, when casually used homœopathically, to yield dangerous results; the idea of minute quantities never being entertained, or the specific influence of medicines surmised.

The cure of diseases was attempted in the same school, by subduing the most prominent symptoms with medicines that produced effects directly opposite to them, hence termed the mitigating or palliative mode.¹ Or by a removal of the supposed material cause, nor were they at any time led to consider the origin of disease otherwise; the reaction of affected organs being regarded as sources of morbid irritation, an opinion still prevailing, and which regulated their treatment towards expelling the material cause by evacuants and bleeding, imagining they were thus enabled to attain a rational mode of cure. The consequence of this symptomatic method was the reappearing of maladies under an aggravated form, evincing the internal evil was only suppressed.

An hypothesis of a morbid change in the composition of the blood either ingenerated or

¹ See page 17.

introduced, and exciting diseases, was a long cherished doctrine: and the system was to be cleansed from such impurities, by inducing perspiration, and scouring the stomach and intestines, on their favourite principle, remove the cause and the disease will disappear. Hence the classing of medicines under the general effects characterising them, as purgatives, diuretics.

These gratuitous and vague suppositions served the purpose of convenience, as they were reduced under the form of systems of treatment, and solely expounded in the *vivifying* atmosphere of the schools. But the extreme susceptibility of the system at any attempt to introduce a foreign body into the circulation, should satisfy us, so irritable a principle could not endure a cutaneous affection of twenty years' continuance, if proceeding from material particles. By whom has been detected the morbid principle of gout or scrofula? Disease, then, is to be attributed to the deviation of the vital principle from the healthy standard.

The intelligent disciples of the former school conceal the fact of their treatment being directed towards the expelling peccant materials, professing to imitate nature in soliciting discharges

similar to those by which she *sometimes* terminates disease; endeavouring to deflect the evil, by exciting evacuations from organs which resemble in construction the affected part; this is the derivative or counter-irritant system. And thus has the experience of ages been accumulated and misapplied, in the imitating results equivocal and inefficient for the dissipating disease, indolently copying nature, whose preserving influence is subordinate to the organic laws of the body, which laws were incapable of arresting the fatal hemorrhage from a lacerated artery, nor competent to the bringing into apposition the gaping lips of a wound. It was not to be expected, a monitor so void of reason should inculcate very exact principles.

It is true the torture of counter-stimulus not uncommonly suspends the primary symptoms, yet in the majority of diseases, when nature has become accustomed to the distant irritation, the malady returns with increased virulence, the constitution being less able to withstand a twofold contest.

Whilst some physicians modelled derivative systems from the manifest salutary efforts of nature, others were exerting their skill in ob-

serving the tendency of the vital organs to relieve themselves from disease by evacuations, which they encouraged and promoted, fancying the true method was at length acquired; nor did they suspect such seeming relief, far from contributing to a permanent cure, by exhausting the strength prolonged the evil, the primitive affection at length returning under a disguised and malignant character.

Yet, where organs indispensable to existence are threatened with a mortal disease, the energy of the vitality is enabled to avert immediate danger, by means of external local symptoms, transporting it to parts of less moment, these efforts are only temporary, and without the aid of homœopathy, procrastinate to no distant period that fate which is inevitable.

The allopathist assuming the efforts of nature to be salutary, and exaggerating the effects ascribed to this power, sought to promote and still farther develop them, expecting by so doing he was performing a radical cure; thus in yielding to an opinion embraced without scrutiny, he practised to the detriment of his patient and the disappointment of his hopes, nor did he remark the derivative symptoms not only combine with

the original disease, but also modify and change its general features.

The instinctive principle of life, with which the body is endowed, for maintaining a uniform agreement amongst the organs and their functions, which constitute a variety of systems elaborately designed and nicely adapted to the fulfilling their purposes, that innate power, I affirm, is not guided by reason or reflection in restoring the vital equilibrium when disturbed, it is the homœopathic doctrine which alone will lead us to this result.

This antique school essayed to cure disease by stimulating and strengthening medicaments, a system specious in appearance, which indeed imparted momentary vigour at the expense of increased subsequent debility, the little advantage derived in acute affections never being equivalent to their injurious effects on diseases of long continuance. Thus, by regarding the *symptoms* as the origin of disease, their treatment proved equally vague and indecisive.

Nor less perverted became the curative intention by associating, as they were wont in a prescription, substances differing in properties, the peculiar quality of each rendered inert by such

union, and giving rise to a compound that operated obscurely, masking the primary disease and occasioning the reverse effects to those anticipated.

Thus have we reviewed the outlines of a science defective in its construction, yet so sanctified by time, that to impugn its doctrines is more offensive, than efficiently soothing the throes of anguish is deemed expedient.

CHAPTER II.

Successful terminations of maladies, selected from preceding writers, to be ascribed to Homœopathy.

TILL now, the ailments of mankind have been treated agreeably to fancied curative notions, rather than to a system founded on experience; in disease, the healthy results to which the instinctive laws of organised matter sometimes tend were imitated, or the counter-stimulating mode influenced the choice of remedies.

With me, practice and meditation are conclusive, as to the reasonableness of a method which selects a substance that discloses symptoms similar to those for which it is prescribed, and becomes in consequence a mild and efficacious restorative.

Admitting the force of my argument, glimpses of this doctrine might be expected amidst the scattered relics of the art, nor has the endeavour to trace it been unrequited.

Those periods in which disease permanently disappeared, nor this by the fortuitous prepon-

derance of the general health, I declare to have been the consequence of a homœopathic remedy, an assertion substantiated by the fact, that when in violation of established precepts, a single remedy was prescribed in itself capable of exciting a like morbid state, it was attended with a speedy cure.

The epidemic that occurred at the close of the fifteenth century, the English sweating sickness, and which from the magnitude of its ravages resembled a malignant pestilence, yielded to no mode of treatment till sudorific medicines were exhibited.

Colchicum, or the meadow saffron, has the reputation of being eminently serviceable in a certain form of dropsy—it possesses, too, the property of rendering the system peculiarly liable to internal effusions.

A dose of the poison sumach is followed by the appearance of numerous pimples on the surface of the body—it is not surprising to find this plant most useful in cutaneous eruptions.

Belladonna administered to one in health excites symptoms resembling mania—in numerous instances of madness and melancholy it has proved successful.

Except for this principle of the homœopathic

doctrine, could we otherwise interpret why opium, which in moderate doses is attended with obstinate costiveness, should yet be found the only cure in severe and dangerous cases of constipation.

It is unquestionable, that sulphurous mineral waters have the virtue of causing eruptions resembling pruriginous affections—it is this same property that enables them to remove various cuticular diseases.

In mercurial salivation, accompanied with ulcers in the mouth and throat, nitric acid is especially available—similar effects ensue from bathing with it the surface of the body.

Arsenic in healthy persons gives rise to indurated tumours; it has the character of dissipating scirrhus glands—in fevers of an intermitting type its curative power is well attested; it has also been accused of occasioning like symptoms.

These cited observations show, the homœopathic principle of curing, through the medium of a similar disease was casually adopted, though contrary to their determinate mode of reasoning; yet the simplicity of its operation and its satisfactory results, could not but raise, though momentarily, the veil of prejudice.

PART II.

Homœopathic Precepts of the Organon.

IT is the intention of the healing art to remove disease on intelligible principles, a purpose only to be accomplished by the judicious discrimination of remedies, by an acquaintance with the distinct effects of medicines, and by the skilful application of this acquired knowledge.

Disease, implies a change in the human economy opposite to a state of health, the primary cause of which deviation remains still concealed; symptoms being the evidence of this alteration, and alone accessible to the inquiry of the physician.

Every one not swayed by systems, may remark the external variations of the mind and body from their usual state of health; the grouping of these changes constitutes the true sketch of a disease, this outline being our sole guide in selecting appropriate remedies, where no manifest exciting cause presents itself for removal: nor is it otherwise than reasonable to con-

ceive, from the gradual amendment and ultimate disappearance of these symptoms, that the original integrity of the constitution has been completely restored. Moreover, as neither this mischievous principle nor its symptoms can exist apart, that which effaces the image of the malady ought also to destroy its cause; consequently it is the duty of the physician to direct his endeavours towards effecting their simultaneous removal.

Experience instructs us, that diseases are simply changes in the animal economy from a state of health, that medicines have the faculty of producing similar alterations, and it is on this peculiar influence their curative quality is based. Whence, by ascertaining the malady each excites in a *healthy* habit of body, we may premise the affection in which it will prove most beneficial.

As in disease we view the symptoms collectively, so in medicines we recognise no qualities, except those that generate in the healthy, morbid symptoms, which they remove from the disordered. Besides, in attacking the apparent malady, we *must* select a medicament having effects either similar or contrary to the symptoms; if opposite, we ascertain from cautious ob-

servation the more vehement recurrence of the distemper, it therefore remains for us to adopt the homœopathic mode, which practice shows to be unerringly successful, because a disease is certainly extinguished or suppressed, by another of greater intensity, which may differ in its species, and yet bear some resemblance in the manner of its appearing.

Since the homœopathic sanatory qualities of medicaments depend on their occasioning a train of symptoms like that attached to the disease, yet somewhat more intense, necessarily without this concurrence, we find it impracticable to effect a cure; for every malady not surgical, is an unhealthy change of the vital principle expressed by symptoms, the homœopathic application converts it into a medicinal disease slightly exceeding this in virulence, to which the invisible miasm succumbs, leaving the artificial distemper to be dissipated by the natural functional powers. An explanation sustained by unquestionable facts.

Disease is subdued by medicine, it is therefore subordinate to it in the influence exerted on the constitution.

Till the economy becomes debilitated, the de-

viation of a function changes not the general state of health.

But medicaments on the contrary never fail in exhibiting their peculiar operations.

It follows, that the system is susceptible to the effects of medicines, rather than to morbid principles.

But for the erasing a disease, it is indispensable there should be a conformity between the fictitious and the natural affection, conjoined with an excess of intensity. A weak natural disease is not destroyed by the appearance of a stronger, but only superseded for a time, when it will again return, thus

Typhus suspends the progress of phthisis, ultimately to accelerate its ravages.

The rash of measles and the eruption of small-pox sometimes simultaneously appear in different parts of the body, yet the former will remain stationary till the latter has progressively ceased.

The infection of the vaccine virus is not received, if the constitution is tainted with measles; these having faded, its peculiarities then become manifest.

Such futile efforts of nature in dissimilar ma-

ladies, ages have witnessed, yet physicians notwithstanding have condescended to copy these imperfect endeavours.

Medicines long persevered in, not homœopathically prescribed, give rise to a complication of symptoms, which associate themselves with the primary disease, and often cause effects most difficult to remove.

Numerous diseases may exist in the same body at once, but they will be found of a dissimilar disposition, not occupying the same part, or destroying each other. When, however, two of distinct species, yet evincing an accordance in their symptoms meet, that portion of the system which was under the influence of the previous malady, becomes not only accessible but subject to the more energetic action, the lesser evil being obliterated by that which is excessive. A few instances will suffice to show, that disease when naturally cured, it was through the medium of a similar yet more intense affection.

Dysentery, an ordinary attendant in the progress of small-pox, is homœopathically remedied by it.

Vaccination frequently gives rise to a cutaneous eruption, removing any which may have pre-existed, if analogous in their nature.

In an epidemic of measles and hooping-cough, those attacked with the former were exempt from the latter, in consequence of the resemblance between them of the fever and pulmonary irritation.

Neither is it a light objection to these natural homœopathic agents, that their use is no less formidable, than the sphere of their protecting influence is limited. This circumstance should bring to our remembrance the countless medicines placed at our command, in every of which resides some principle, capable if duly understood of mitigating disease.

Hence we learn from these instructions simple yet persuasive, that neither the physician nor nature proves successful, where a disease similar and more violent is not employed. Such is Homœopathy!* a doctrine founded on experience, and consistent with the closest reasoning.

The allopathic, or the ordinary system of administering relief, has already received our comments; it is now my purpose more minutely to survey that branch of it termed the palliative,

* *δμοιον παθος*, an artificial disease similar in its symptoms to the original affection.

which means the prescribing to the most urgent symptom, neglecting others however numerous, the remedy exciting an effect contrary to the disease. Conformable with this specious supposition, acuteness of pain is opposed by opium, constipation by cathartics, and inveterate weakness by wine and stimulants.

A design thus partially conceived frustrated the expectation, diseases of long continuance being invariably augmented in severity; it is true the intervals of pain were lengthened, till the influence of the opium subsided! that the alvine canal became not more inactive, whilst purgatives were exhibited!! nor was the depressing languor felt, under the artificial stimulus!!!

This allopathic school relied on medicines that afford momentary ease, not perceiving the secondary effects tend to increase the sufferings; wherefore, as the disease advanced, it was met with enlarged and oft-repeated doses, so desirable appeared the maintenance of the primary medicinal action: the quantity of medicaments was at length an inconvenience, and the patient lingered under a combination of circumstances, embarrassing the practitioner and pernicious to himself.

Had physicians carefully analysed their failures, the epoch of this momentous truth would ere now have been determined. The cause of the salutary effects of homœopathy shall appear, and in continuity, the deplorable results which proceed from the reverse method.

Every medicament exerts a positive, though indefinite and peculiar influence on animal existence, which we term the primary effect. The laws of life tend to repel any extraneous impression, and when for this purpose they operate, we have reaction or the secondary effect.

The vital power of a healthy body passively endures the primary action of a medicine, it at length resists in degree equal to the counteracting such artificial change.

If however a state contrary to this primitive effect exists, the vital force is stimulated not only to subdue the medicinal but also the natural disease; in illustration, undue excitement from wine is the primitive symptom, the secondary is the chilness and lassitude that follow. Constipation from opium the primary action, is succeeded by diarrhœa or the secondary.

The vital reaction of a healthy constitution, if not mortally depressed, opposes a condition contrary to the primitive influence of medicines; if the effect is violent the reaction will be in like proportion excessive, if mild as from homœopathic doses, then will the vital impulse be scarcely perceptible.

In homœopathic cures, the slight medicinal disease that survives the natural one, needs but a gentle reaction to expunge it, in consequence of the minuteness of the dose; precisely the reverse occurs under the palliative mode, for the following reasons.

That an artificial symptom contrary to the natural one is opposed to destroy it, and the medicinal disease not assimilating except with a like affection. That it is requisite to administer enlarged doses of palliatives for obtaining their primitive actions, these effects speedily disappearing. And that ultimately, there ensues a reaction of the organism equal in intensity to the magnitude of the dose, the state thus produced being analogous to the natural malady, which is still present and assuming a more formidable appearance.

Diseases being but groups of symptoms cura-

ble alone by medicines, it is advisable we should be enabled to distinguish the deviations, together with the peculiar effects of substances and their suitable appliance.

Our object will be simplified by arranging the groups of symptoms under two comprehensive divisions—Those of moderate continuance where the vital change from the natural state is instantaneous into acute diseases—When the variation in its approach is almost imperceptible, yet advances more certainly to undermine the constitution, we term chronic or affections of tedious endurance.

Instances of acute attacks happen from excess and imprudent exposure, hereditary tendency to disease becoming thereby visible; or whole districts may be devastated by the withering miasm. Both maladies are acute in termination, there is between them this difference, the former have not the same constancy of symptoms which identifies the latter.

Modifications of health to which many are liable from their pursuits, habits or privations, but which are removed by change of circumstances, are not diseases. That alone is a chronic disease, the progressive course of which

is unimpeded by change of habits and situation, and when not treated specifically, embitters or abbreviates existence.

Miasms appear to be few in number, the proteus forms of disease being the consequence of these passing through so many constitutions for an infinite period.

The image of an acute disease is speedily traced, as the symptoms are decisively and rapidly developed. That of a chronic disease is delineated, by inscribing the disclosures of the sufferer with the remarks of the physician concerning the lesser symptoms that may only have been alluded to, but which are often characteristic of the remedy; a record thus faithfully afforded will form a basis to the treatment.

To insure the utmost benefit of the homœopathic system, it is indispensable we should be acquainted with the extent of the specific influence of individual medicines on the healthy, and with the elements of disease they engender. The conformity between the pure effects of medicines on myself and others, though less elevated in action in consequence of the minuteness of the dose, when compared with those reported cases of poisoning from the excess of

some medicament fortuitously conveyed into a healthy stomach, attests medicinal substances to be governed by certain fixed laws in exciting a morbid state in the healthy.

Every medicine, except narcotics, manifests simply its primitive symptoms on the constitution; and as plants differ in form and growth, and the varying combinations of bodies give rise to compounds so opposite in quality, so each substance exerts peculiar and independent modifications on the health of man.

Medicines low in the scale of their effects will only yield results when given to the irritable and delicate; those of a somewhat increased energy will be proved by augmenting the dose, and those still more potent need a cautious exhibition even in minute quantities. A medicament is to be taken without admixture, the use of any neither genuine nor recently prepared being rigorously avoided.

The juice of indigenous plants is simply to be expressed and a little alcohol added to prevent decomposition; when the virtues of remote productions are required, it is more convenient to pulverise and prepare them as spirituous tinctures, diluting them when resorted

to. Infusions of plants whose properties are not otherwise procured, and the solutions of gums or saline substances, ought instantly to be administered.

During this experimental process, the diet must be restricted to simple nourishing food and unstimulating drinks, withholding vegetable soups, spirituous potations, exotic condiments, as pepper, ginger, cardamoms and such like, added to which there must be present, a mind unclouded by care nor ruffled by excitement.

Constitutions being affected in proportion to their irritability, it is more fitting to commence with minute doses fasting, and progressively increasing them at longer or shorter intervals till the medicinal symptoms display themselves. Should the first dose be very powerful, the *series* of the symptoms will be evolved, a fact most desirable in the study of medicines. The general morbid changes will be obtained by persisting for several days with augmented doses.

For the more accurately determining the character of an individual symptom, when manifesting itself with unusual violence, the effect from change of posture, exercise, a state of rest, or any other action of the body, must be diligently

observed. The *sum* of the symptoms peculiar to a medicine is not discoverable in the same person or experiment, but only by repeated trials on constitutions differing in physical and moral qualities. Yet although certain medicinal agents do not excite every healthy habit, they cure homœopathically in all, the morbid symptoms they develop in those most subject to their influence.

According to the limited minuteness of the dose, will the primitive effects be apparent, the traces of reaction being almost imperceptible; an immoderate dose will be followed by excessive and dangerous symptoms, and by reactions too indiscriminate for defining with accuracy. Thus, collecting the positive actions of medicines on the healthy body, we are supplied with a *materia medica* free from conjecture, and replete with the symptoms of artificial disease, applicable to the cure of natural and similar maladies.

It is hence the duty of the physician, discreetly to select from this *materia medica* the medicine whose effects are most consentaneous with the symptoms of the malady; if judiciously chosen the disease gradually subsides, the transition to

a state of health being almost imperceptible. A slight indisposition is removed by change of habit, if more acute the symptoms will be numerous, and that remedy is to be sought, whose artificial action bears the closest relation to the natural malady; the most prominent and remarkable symptoms of these groups are first to be compared, the greater the similitude, the more homœopathic and suitable is the medicine.

The specific remedy seems less propitious in its operation with the irritable and delicate, appearing for a time to exacerbate the original malady, but this is the medicinal affection and the surest harbinger to a successful issue.

As cases are rare in which a homœopathic medicament admits not of extreme and efficacious dilution, it is easy to comprehend that without due regard to the minuteness of the dose unpleasant symptoms will ensue. The catalogue of medicines whose curative qualities are ascertained being incomplete, the symptoms of a disease will sometimes only partially be recognised under the artificial or homœopathic restorative; this must not retard our endeavours, although we may not anticipate a perfect cure.

Or perhaps we may be unable to perceive any direct similitude between the homœopathic symptoms and the natural disease except in general appearance, an inconvenience of unfrequent occurrence and obviated by selecting another medicament nearer in analogy.

In chronic diseases where sundry remedies are employed, the present group of symptoms is to be regarded without reference to anterior proceedings. A medicament partially appropriate, gives rise to accessory appearances that confer a character on the totality of the symptoms.

When a change, not occasioned by external violence, is experienced on the surface of the body, it has been customary to view it as strictly local, nor complicated with internal irregularity, a supposition incorrect, since it is a modification of the vital principle that is sympathised with by these irritable parts, the local malady being a continuation of the original disease. A course of treatment having for its object the general state of health will be attended with the most salutary results; topical applications are altogether needless and tend to increase the internal sufferings.

The diseases which arise from constitutional predisposition excited by some chronic miasm, would not have given birth to so numerous a progeny had physicians prescribed to the disorder itself rather than to the local symptoms. Whilst tracing the image especially of acute maladies, the moral state of the patient is to be considered, every medicine causing a greater or less change in the disposition, the remedy must be equally adapted to the mind as to the body.

Mental alienation nowise differs from corporeal affections in the principles of its treatment, the changes in the moral faculties being imputed to the conversion of bodily disease, assuming from the greater delicacy of the brain local and more virulent irritation.

The condition of the patient previous to the cerebral excitement must be known for ascertaining the totality of the symptoms. Should the physician be summoned during a maniacal accession, narcotics in minute doses will render latent the chronic miasm, these succeeded by a prolonged course of antipsoric remedies, coercive measures being wholly inadmissible; the superiority of homœopathy is never more apparent than in mental aberration.

Intermittents, the result of chronic miasm, consist of paroxysms each of several stages, the non-antipsoric remedy is to be chosen, which induces in the healthy a condition similar to the strongest of these states, and as every medicine has peculiarities in its mode of operating, the variety of substances offers the means of homœopathically opposing all natural intermittents.

Both in acute and chronic diseases an amendment, however inconsiderable, forbids a repetition of the medicine till the effects of the preceding dose cease ; the group of symptoms on examination will now be found changed, rendering another homœopathic remedy necessary. The only exception is where a dangerous malady gradually approaches a fatal termination, evincing the medicine in the first instance was not homœopathic.

In the selection of remedies, that one is invariably to be preferred whose symptoms nearest coincide with those of the malady. In chronic diseases diet and mode of life being strictly circumscribed, and excitants of every kind and degree carefully precluded. In acute affections, the desire of the patient may be gratified in moderation.

Medicaments in a soluble form, alone admit of their actions being regulated with precision. The application of a remedy does not solely depend on its homœopathic adaptation, but also on the minuteness of the dose, because it is more sensibly observed on those parts which have already been assailed by the natural disease. A remedy is therefore efficacious in proportion to its homœopathic selection, and the nearer it approaches the finite bounds of dilution.

The extreme minuteness to which a dose may be diminished, still to retain its medicinal influence, is to be learnt by observation rather than by ingenious reasoning; and experience proves, in diseases not of structural change, that the attenuation of a substance is scarcely appreciable.

The effects of a remedy do not decrease in continual proportion to its dilution, on taking eight drops of a tincture, they produce not four times the action of a dose of two minims, but only about twice the result.

According to the diminution of the volume of a dose are its symptoms weakened, fewer extremities of nerves being exposed to its stimulus; similarly, as a greater number of nervous fila-

ments are diffused over a more extended surface, so will augmenting the volume of the fluid increase the power of the medicinal.

END OF THE ORGANON.

HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

WHAT is life? we know not ! its effects are ever visible, without enabling us to comprehend them ; it is in vain we adapt the principles of hydraulics to its circulating fluids, or compare its functions with chemical processes. This attribute connects with a vital bond the materials of our bodies, and suspends by its presence the influence of physical laws.

Doubtless the human system was, originally, in the most perfect state for being equably excited by the vital impulse, but from irregular tendencies and certain miasms, it has become subject to modifications of susceptibility, giving rise to the phenomena which constitute disease.

That sickness, not the result of disorganisation, may be changed to a state of health will be admitted, and it is not less evident that medicines are the medium of this salutary alteration.

Hitherto the effects of compound medicaments have alone been considered in disease, a system open to many practical objections. We, on the contrary, use simple medicines and reason from their effects on the healthy constitution: homœopathic pharmacy becomes therefore an important study.

It is not by the appearance, odour, taste or chemical elements, we can anticipate the symptoms substances will excite in the living system, but solely by trying them on a subject free from disorder; hence the absolute necessity of simplicity of form and unadulterated medicaments, for accurately obtaining their specific virtues.

The only admissible vehicles for homœopathic medicines are, the saccharine basis of milk which is insoluble in alcohol, and obtained by evaporating whey to the consistence of syrup, cooling and afterwards refining it with albumen and a second crystallisation—Amidine or starch—Distilled water—and Alcohol or rectified spirit of wine, drawn from three parts wheat with one of malted barley reduced to the specific gravity .815 at 60° F., and the process conducted in a glass apparatus.

The vegetable, mineral and animal kingdoms,

yield their choicest remedies to the homœopathist; in preparing them the greatest cleanliness is requisite, the laboratory not being exposed to the solar rays, yet well ventilated nor liable to the accumulation of vapours or medicinal odours.

Jars and bottles are to be kept clean, nor used a second time till purified by washing and heating in a stove or furnace, new coverings and corks replacing the former. Such instruments of the art, as mortars, pestles, spatulæ, spoons and funnels, should be wholly of porcelain, wedgwood or horn.

A balance so delicate in its poise as to turn with the hundredth part of a grain is a necessary auxiliary, also two minim measures graduated one for 98 and the other to 100 drops.

Mode of preparing extracts.

Before the flowers are fully expanded, plants and their roots with few exceptions are to be gathered, freed from foreign materials, reduced to a pulpy mass, and in this state submitted to a wooden press; the juice after filtering through

linen is to be mixed with an equal, or when much gluten and albumen are present, a double quantity of alcohol; after remaining twenty-four hours, decant the limpid fluid, which is afterward to be secured in well-stopped bottles and deposited in a dry cool and shady situation.

Dried vegetable preparations and tinctures.

Vegetable bodies which are imported dried, should carefully be examined as to their genuineness and pulverised; moisture will be detected by the clotting of the powder, which must be exposed to a water-bath till the particles no longer cohere, then closed in glass jars and defended from the atmosphere by a stratum of resin over the cork or stopper.

Tinctures are prepared by adding to a determinate quantity of the powder, alcohol in the proportion of twenty minims of the latter to one grain of the former, exposing it to a moderate temperature, and after a few days pouring the pellucid liquid off the sediment and preserving as previously directed. Animal matters are treated in the same way as dried vegetables.

Substances from the mineral kingdom and their salts, are either dissolved or comminuted; when the metal cannot be had in leaf, it is to be levigated, *not filed*, under water with a stone, till sufficient powder of the metal is obtained.

Dilution and attenuation.

Medicines prepared in the concentrated form already described, before administering need diluting or attenuating, that is, the joining with a minute portion of the remedy progressively, a large quantity of a substance not medicinal, their *latent* specific virtues are in consequence rendered sensible, the principle of this operation is more correctly expressed by the term *expansion*.

Essences are expanded by mixing ninety-eight minims of alcohol in a glass vessel with two of the essence, the bottle is to be briskly shaken, this is the first degree of expansion, by joining one drop of the first solution with ninety-nine of alcohol, the second degree is obtained, and so continuously, until we reach the ultimate limit of attenuation.

Of a tincture twenty minims are to be poured on eighty of alcohol, and a farther expansion, by adding one drop of the antecedent mixture to ninety-nine of spirit of wine.

Equal parts alcohol and water previously united, form a solvent for such metals, salts and acids, that are not decomposed by it. One hundred drops of this fluid is mingled with every grain of the medicament; ninety-nine minims of alcohol to one of the combination, expands the medicinal quality another degree, so on for every subsequent dilution.

Medicines develop their virtues in proportion to the space occupied. When it is not possible or convenient to expand this surface by liquefying, the cohering of their particles may be diminished by mechanical division; in homœopathic pharmacy the agent employed is sugar of milk, eleven grains being for an hour diligently triturated with one of the medicament; a grain of this mixture added to eleven of sugar of milk and triturated as before, produces another degree of attenuation.

Expansions vary in number according to the nature of the substance: powerful or heroic medicines, as belladonna and arsenic, are avail-

able to the thirtieth degree, whilst some comparatively are low in the scale of attenuation.

The degrees of expansion are adapted to the malady and to the various constitutions of the sick, this general rule may guide us "That the degree of expansion must be raised in direct ratio to the acuteness of the disease."

Mode of denominating medicines,

Extracts and tinctures are marked with the name and date when prepared, if attenuated the number is affixed. It was shown that from one portion of a prepared tincture mixed with ninety-nine alcohol, there resulted one degree of dilution, this with the second degree are marked with Arabic numerals, by Roman notation are the remainder characterised,

1. First <i>deg. of expansion</i>	A hundredth part.
2. Second	Ten thousandth.
I. Third	A Millionth.
II. Sixth	Billionth.
III. Ninth	Trillionth.
IV. Twelfth	Quadrillionth.
V. Fifteenth	Quintillionth.
VI. Eighteenth	Sextillionth.
VII. Twenty-first	Septillionth.
VIII. Twenty-fourth	Octillionth.
IX. Twenty-seventh	Nonillionth.
X. Thirtieth	Decillionth.

The fourth fifth, seventh eighth, and other intervening expansions being parts of a whole, are thus expressed, $\frac{1}{I}$, $\frac{2}{I}$; $\frac{1}{II}$, $\frac{2}{II}$, &c.

Powders have not only the attenuation of the sugar of milk inscribed, but also the medicinal with which it is mingled, as gold, silver, 1, 2, I, $\frac{1}{I}$, $\frac{2}{I}$, II, &c. and fixed with gluten to the vessel; those bottles alone are to be used that are marked with whole numbers, where it is requisite, the fractional quantities may be written on the cap or cover.

Mode of preparing medicines for chronic miasms.

Triturate a grain of an antipsoric remedy pulverised, with ninety-nine of sugar of milk, for sixty minutes, the powder thus prepared is to be kept in a small stopped bottle and marked as the first degree of expansion; one grain of this mixture compounded with ninety-nine of sugar of milk, is in the same way preserved distinct, as the second attenuation, and by a like process to the third degree.

A salt or powder of the *third degree* may be farther expanded by submitting a grain of it to the solvent described under the article ‘dilution or attenuation.’ It is necessary to observe a bottle must not be more than three parts filled with one hundred minims of a diluted medicine.

Mode of preserving medicines.

Concentrated tinctures, as those of musk and camphor, are to be closeted apart from expan-

sions, lest the qualities of the latter become tainted and inert; for the same reason it is proper to remove powders from others of strong odours; and since attenuations constitute independent remedies of each medicament, differing in the time and degree of developing their specific actions, they must be carefully kept, nor transposed in dispensing. Every preparation being secured in an opaque glass stopped bottle with a cap or covering.

Dispensing of remedies.

Having discovered the proper medicine and degree of expansion, the dose itself, if liquid, may be absorbed by five grains of sugar of milk; if powder, lightly compounded, this form proving unpalatable may be converted into a draught by the addition of a little distilled water.

Formulæ for the dispensing medicines should be clear and concise; the number or degree of expansion being affixed to the name, thus—

℞ Tincturæ Belladonnæ X. i. e. take of the thirtieth expansion of Belladonna: then follows

the quantity which is signified by the customary minim signs.

Minute globules the size of poppy seeds, two hundred of which should not exceed a grain in weight, are generally used, prepared by kneading together sugar of milk and starch. A number of these globules in a small bottle are saturated with a tincture, and in this state retain their properties a year or longer; when used they are to be well enveloped with the recipient.

Medicines are prescribed after the under-written manner

R Tincturæ aconiti VII gutta j.
 vel
 Globuli ij, iij. &c.
 Pulveris sacchari lactis, gr. v.
 Misc. Fiat pulvis.

Take of the twenty-first expansion of the tincture of aconite a drop, or two three or more globules, which with five grains of the sugar of milk is to be formed into a powder.

THE END.

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To which will be appended,

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BY EDWARD WILLIAMS, M.B., CANTAB.



