

Launceston Examiner (Tas. : 1842 - 1899), Thursday 27 March 1890, page 3

,SCIENCE P. HOMŒOPATHY. Ssa,-In your issue of Saturday last "Science v. Homœopathy's" letter calls for some little comment. It commences by saying that it is a "sham" for me to quote such a OH?O as Lander Brunton. That is his opinion. He then mentions something about "suffusing my face." In reference to this, I may say that my face is never suffused whilst, as then, speaking the truth. In reference to Dr. Brunton's work on Pharmacology, etc., which our "scientific" friend (I speak so much about, perhaps if he knew who composed a most important part of that work (namely, the "Text"), he would not be so ready to uphold it. Where did Dr. Brunton collect all the various therapeutic tips contained in his work? He began with Bartholow, H. C. Wood, Waring and Neale's "Medical Digest," then he found that the work on which he was engaged had already been done for him by Dr. H. Q. I. Potter, in his "Compendium of the Homœopathic," published in 1860. Now, Dr. Potter was a graduate of the Homœopathic Medical College of Missouri in 1878, and was some years back a member of the American Institute of Homœopathy, and practising homœopathically at Milwaukee. So that it is to the work of one who made himself familiar with homœopathic practice that Lander Brunton is indebted for his "Index." Having at one time intended to cancel the Index led him, he says, "to omit any acknowledgment of my indebtedness to Dr. Potter, and I have pleasure in acknowledging it." Our "scientific" friend will see that the "work" he mentions is for the most part cribbed, and a very important part of same from the work of a homœopath. I may here say that I did not say anything against Dr. Brunton or his work. I merely gave a quotation from his own speech. As for "isolating words" and thereby "misrepresenting the man," I deny having done such a thing. It is very easy for a man to refute the saying of another, and very common groundless refutations are made. So in this case I am inclined to think that our "scientific" friend has made a mistake, not being prepared, if called upon, to prove such a statement. However that may be seen. Our "scientific" friend goes on to make the same statement about what he terms my "long list of quotations." If he has read the speeches of these men I have quoted, he will doubtless be satisfied. He complains of so being absent in my quotation, viz, the "contexts." If he has not done so, he is not in a position to refute what I say, and therefore has no right to do so, and his refutations and questionings stand for nothing. He then goes on to mention something about the "bright features in scientific medicine." During the last few years many

now substances and liquids have found their way into the market; no doubt this result of "scientific research," at least so our friend would say. What are the new substances, etc. A chemist in making "scientific" experiments, accidentally or otherwise, comes across some fresh product. Considering that it has been discovered whilst experimenting with a certain drug, he classifies it with that drug as a new active principle. It is then given a name, a "scientific" one no doubt, and is advertised under that name in the different medical journals. It catches the eye of the practitioner who by the way as a rule knows as little about its action as the manufacturer of its composition. Nevertheless it is given to the patient with very uncertain results, and as a rule falls into disgrace and disuse. Why? Because the practitioner has little or no knowledge as to the sphere of its action. It may be that good drugs are on this account sometimes cast aside, whereas were they to be proved and administered when indicated they might possibly prove beneficial. Not a fifth of these so-called new drugs ever remain in use more than a few years. So much for the advance of "scientific medicine" and the "brightness" thereof. In conclusion I may say that I await the production of the proofs of my misrepresentations.-Yours, etc., March 26. IRAToviAr, MNuDIIsNE. . -- -