

FERRUM MET.

Congestive headaches with a surging of blood upwards. There is a sense of fullness and distension with a red face. There is relief from pressure. Every quick motion aggravates the headache, especially coughing, but gentle motion, if it is done very deliberately, such as careful walking, will ameliorate.

Suitable for congestive headaches from excitement, from taking cold, and from exposure.

Concomitants: weakness, relaxation, ravenous appetite, regurgitations; but no nausea, mental weariness, and depression.

SANGUINARIA

The typical *Sanguinaria* headache is periodic. It begins in the morning and wakes the patient up. It starts in the occiput and travels upward to settle over the right eye and temple. It gets progressively worse during the day, causing the patient to seek the dark and to lie down quietly, which seems to relieve. Vomiting ensues and the vomitus is bile mixed with indigested food. Following vomiting, the relief is marked: the patient goes to sleep and the attack passes off. During the height of the attack, the pain is so severe that the patient will frantically bore his head into the pillow for relief. Like *Gels.*, profuse micturition relieves the headache.

Sulphur, *Silicea*, and *Sanguinaria* have periodic weekly headaches. *Arsenicum*, *Sulphur*, and *Niccolum* have periodic headaches every 2 weeks.

—*The Homœopathic Recorder*, November, 1950.

DO WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE ?

RUDOLPH F. RABE, M.D.

Recent years have still further emphasized the gradual changes which have for a long time been taking place in the homeopathic school of medicine. These changes began

many years ago and were greatly accelerated when standardization and regulation of all medical colleges and hospitals throughout the country had been established. The advances made undoubtedly had value, both for the medical profession as a whole as well as for the public which it serves. Specialism in medicine made rapid progress, until today its dominating position gives rise to the fear that the general practitioner is threatened with extinction. Of late there has been evidence that such a calamity must not be permitted to occur, and it is beginning to dawn upon the public that after all the old family doctor has his indispensable place. However, in the homeopathic profession, specialism has led to an unfortunate and increasing neglect of the basic principles of homeopathy and a rapidly spreading ignorance of the homeopathic materia medica. Forty years ago homeopathic specialists relied upon homeopathic remedies in the treatment of their patients, at least as adjuvants associated with their mechanical and surgical work. Today, such employment of medicines is seldom found. It is a highly interesting revelation to browse among the ten hundred and ninety-two pages of Helmuth's "System of Surgery," published in 1887 by F. E. Boericke of the Hahnemann Publishing House in Philadelphia, for this work, which went through five editions, contains many valuable indications for homeopathic remedies as adjuvants in surgical diseases.

Today, very few surgeons even think of homeopathy in the treatment and after-care of their patients; the comparatively few Hahnemannian homeopaths, as distinguished from the rank and file of the homeopathic profession, well know the advantages and great value of homeopathic prescribing in the field of specialism and more especially that of major surgery. Now that the teaching of homeopathy is pathetically, even tragically inadequate, a yearly decreasing number of graduates have any knowledge of its great value. Thus it has come to pass that, in a broad, general way, the members of our school may be roughly divided into the nominal homeopaths and the Hahnemannians. By and

large where medicinal therapy is concerned, the two groups, of which the former is by far the larger, do not speak the same language, hence do not understand each other. To deny that this is the fact is to close our eyes to what is going on among our younger physicians, graduates of so-called homeopathic colleges. The evidence is too strong to prove the contrary. As for the public, some of which has in former years been homeopathically indoctrinated, it is finding it increasingly difficult to discover genuine homeopathic physicians. Today, the ascendancy of homeopathy is to be found in Great Britain and in continental Europe, no longer in our own country which so many years ago welcomed Hans Burch Gram, Constantine Hering and Adolph Lippe.

Truth never dies, though it may be submerged over long periods of time. Homeopathy will not die, for its principles are true, but in this hectic age homeopathic practice has been discarded by many physicians who should and ought to practise it. Those who understand its philosophy, well know the truly marvellous results which can be obtained from its application, provided this be in strict harmony with its basic principles. The latter take cognizance of its limitations, usually pathological in nature, for when pathology has advanced too far, homeotherapy can at the most, serve in a palliative capacity. Such palliation is not however, to be compared with that so widely prevalent in orthodox medicine which merely dulls the sensibilities of the patient and in so doing, far too often does him harm or leads to his untimely exitus. The obituary columns of the daily newspapers are filled with such incidents, more especially in diseases of the heart.

Homeopathy demands of its practitioners constant study of the materia medica and therefore far greater familiarity than is now the case. Also, it needs physicians who have the courage to apply it in serious cases, not doctors who at the first sign of danger resort to unhomeopathic methods and measures. Unfortunately, there are few who give serious study and thought to our materia medica. As for the repertory, with the exception of Hahnemannian physicians,

there are few who ever resort to its use and many more who have no knowledge of it. The practice of homeopathy cannot be encompassed by a superficial knowledge of two or three dozen remedies; likewise, it cannot limit itself to prescribing for diseases, but must, on the contrary, prescribe for and consider the patient as a whole. Diagnosis is one thing, but prescribing for a patient in whom a diagnosis has been made, is quite another. We cannot exercise diseases, but we can treat patients who have them. This demands the proper taking of the case, an art which is to an increasing extent, neglected. The science and art of homeopathy are inseparable.

At the present time, in our own country, the decadence of homeopathic practice gives cause for apprehension, not only for the reason that so many of our school have become members of the American Medical Association, a membership to which they are fully entitled, but also for the far more important reason that a large part of the public still depends upon the genuinely homeopathic physician in periods of illness. Where such people are unable to find a homeopathic physician they are then obliged to resort to the ministrations of the orthodox practitioner, however reluctant they may be. Actually, such incidents are far more common than is surmised. The answer to this problem is to be found in the establishment of post-graduate schools of homeopathy, fully equipped in every respect and adequately endowed. There are physicians of the Old School as well as osteopathic physicians who are interested in homeotherapy, but who do not know where to turn in order to find instruction. It is true that The American Foundation for Homeopathy, Inc. has given courses of six weeks duration in the philosophy of homeopathy, materia medica, case-taking and repertory analysis, but thus far at least its student body has been small in numbers, probably due to the absence of clinical material sufficient for demonstration purposes. In England the Faculty of The Royal London Homeopathic Hospital does furnish the necessary instruction and clinical facilities, but this fact is hardly

of advantage to the American physician who is seeking such instruction here in the United States. Homeopathy has done so much for suffering mankind and has so often proved superior to orthodox methods that the failure to extend its use is tragic in character.

There is still another side to the question of decadence and this is concerned with recent graduates who have been indoctrinated by Hahnemannian physicians with the truth of our basic principles and philosophy. These young men, owing to the nation-wide spread of knowledge of the antibiotics, are finding it difficult to deny their use in daily practice, for the very good reason that, their patients insist upon the immediate employment of the modern, so-called miracle drugs. To oppose this demand may mean the loss of patients and the ultimate wreck of the doctor's practice. He cannot afford to run this risk and must, therefore, abandon his homeopathic principles for measures to which he is reluctant to resort. For the older Hahnemannian physician to advise the beginner to practice pure homeopathy, is to assume a serious responsibility and one which may have disastrous consequences for the younger man. Such instances are by no means rare, as is evidenced by the statements of recent graduates that they cannot afford to practise homeopathy. American laymen, throughout the length and breadth of the land, are subjected to all kinds of propaganda through skilful advertising and highly plausible articles in the daily papers, the weekly and monthly magazines and over the air waves. Much of this propaganda has to do with the practice of medicine and the insistent assertions that Modern Medicine will solve the problems of nation-wide medical care. The voice of homeopathy is never heard and the layman who might or would listen to it, is deprived of the knowledge he vainly seeks. It is, therefore, small wonder that the language of Hahnemannian homeopathy is scarcely, if at all understood by the medical tyro in homeopathy.