

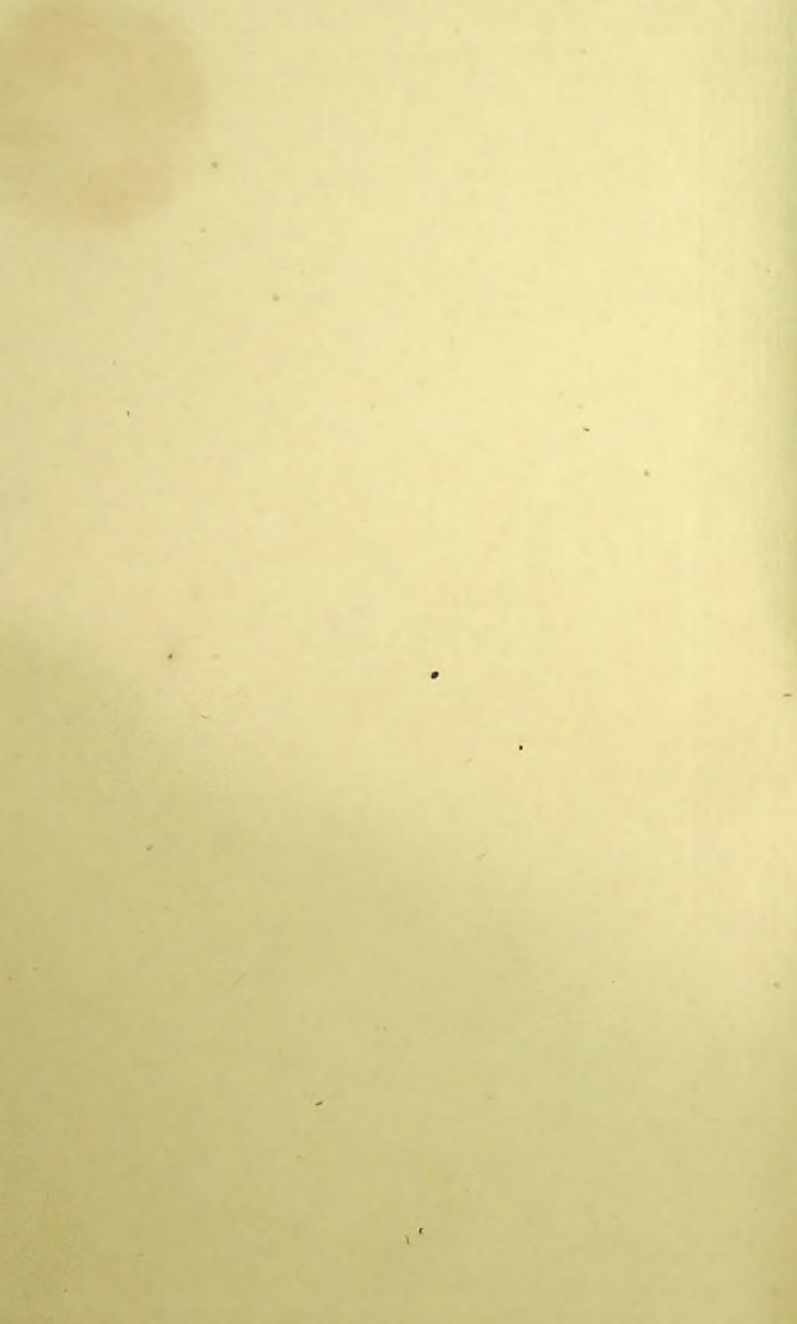
# WHAT IS HOMOEOPATHY?

BY

Dr. Gilbert Charette



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# WHAT IS HOMŒOPATHY?

AN INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICIANS  
AND LAYMEN

*by*

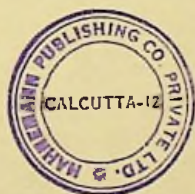
DR. GILBERT CHARETTE  
(of Nantes)

*Translated by*

WILLIAM J. WEBB, D.Sc.

“There is a vast reservoir of energy locked up inside the human machine which can be tapped and utilized by those who know how.”

E. R. THOMPSON, *The Human Machine*,



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## FOREWORD

“Traduttore, traditore” (Translators are traitors), the authors often say when furious at the sight of their text distorted by unskilful and inaccurate translators.

Besides, I myself have experienced such an adventure. The Dutch translator of this little book—although a physician—has worked so well, or rather so badly, that one of the newspapers of his country, whilst introducing him to its readers, has considered it a duty to put them on guard against “the clumsy and embarrassing style” of the French doctor.

A sufficient knowledge of the English language permits me to feel confident that such will not be the case with regard to this translation, and I desire to express my gratitude to Dr. WEBB for having rendered my thought so faithfully. As a matter of fact, that is the reason why I have authorized him to translate also the second edition of my *Précis d'Homœopathie*.

It will be a great joy and at the same time a great pride to me, and for which I will be indebted to Dr. Webb, to see both these works propagated in Great Britain and its Colonies, where Homœopathy numbers already many physicians of repute and so illustrious clients.

DR. GILBERT CHARETTE

127, RUE DES HAUTS-PAVÉS,  
NANTES (FRANCE)



## INTRODUCTION

The English translation of *Qu'est-ce que l'Homœopathie?* (*What is Homœopathy?*) by Dr. Gilbert CHARETTE of Nantes is presented with a sincere wish that it may achieve the approval of the British public to the extent the original work received from the French.

In a masterly and convincing manner the author raises the curtain upon his allopathic opponents, exposing them to the footlights of logical argument—reasoning based upon his extensive experience of the Law of Similars.

The subject matter of this, Dr. CHARETTE's first book, initially appeared as a series of articles in the *Journal des Praticiens* (*Journal of Practitioners*) in 1924-25. Despite this fact, seven thousand copies were rapidly sold when by popular demand the articles were published in book form. After the publication in 1926, no less than 5,341 physicians from France and other countries wrote letters of appreciation and inquiry to the author. The *Leitmotiv* of them all was: "The system of therapeutics which we practise is disappointing." To reply to these physicians and to provide them with a concise guide to homœopathic therapeutics, Dr. CHARETTE commenced work upon his *Précis d'Homœopathie*, this being welcomed with great appreciation on publication, so that a second edition soon proved necessary.

The *Précis* is an outstanding work, excellently written and concisely arranged, and constitutes, in my opinion, the authoritative homœopathic *Materia Medica* of France. It incorporates the principal features of the better-known homœopathic works, and has in addition original ideas of classifying the remedies.

Clinical cases are here and there interspersed in the author's inimitable style, which greatly enhances its value. Physicians, students, laymen, and beginners have pronounced the *Précis* to be of outstanding interest and utility. Having personally utilized it, I consider it a duty to Homœopathy that I should present an English translation, and am already engaged upon the task.

The fact that I have derived great pleasure from the present translation does not necessarily imply that I am always in perfect harmony with the author. On the other hand, this does not detract from my sincere admiration of him as a physician who possesses a high degree of homœopathic skill.

As far as possible, I have translated technical terms, medicinal names, and foreign expressions into popular English, in order to present an easily readable book to the layman. To the more erudite, as also to the physician, I make no apology, since all have the right to knowledge and understanding.

In Chapter IX is the story relating to HAHNEMANN'S request during his last illness for a certain remedy prepared by himself. Dr. BALZLI, in the foreword to his German translation, has characterized this as a myth. I am indebted to him also for his observation that HAHNEMANN was not the first to use the expression "experimental biology," as written by the author in the same Chapter IX. As Dr. BALZLI states, the master of Homœopathy has spoken not of "experimental biology" but of "the healing art of experiment."

Dr. CHARETTE refers in the tenth chapter to the scarcity of books on Homœopathy. It must be remembered that the author is speaking primarily to the people of France, and his words do not therefore imply that England suffers also from a dearth of homœopathic literature. Indeed, England has to a very great

extent been much more progressive and prolific in homœopathic literature than France or any other European country, with perhaps the exception of Germany. Amongst excellent works obtainable in this country, mention must be made of the following, for the benefit of students and newcomers: *The Dictionary of Materia Medica, Clinical Repertory, The Prescriber, and Constitutional Medicine*, by Dr. JOHN H. CLARKE, the *Vade Mecum* by Dr. RUDDOCK, and VON BOENINGHAUSEN'S *Pocket Book*. These should prove an effective armamentarium for any physician desiring to commence the practice of homœopathy.

I should like to express my appreciation of the publishers of this book, who have contributed largely to the spread of homœopathic knowledge, by making their publications available in Spanish and even Indian vernacular.

*Qu'est-ce que l'Homœopathie?* has already been translated into seven languages, a convincing proof of the logic of two fundamentals—the Law of Similars and the infinitesimal dose. Surely this will at least provide the incentive necessary to stimulate a desire for further investigation, and perhaps clinical tests, of the homœopathic system.

There are upwards of fifty thousand practising physicians in England, but, unfortunately, only the minority are HEALERS. The physician who heals by infinitesimal doses generally pays for his faith and convictions by a life of sacrifice dedicated to the highest expression of a noble calling. He is a true healer who has no knowledge of SPECIFICS for any disease, who relies entirely upon his ability to seek and find the SIMILLIMUM in relation to the symptom-complex. He then leaves the CURE to the vital reaction of the living human body. Dr. CHARETTE is obviously in agreement

with Dr. Pierre JOUSSETT, who favoured the term "Positive Therapeutics" instead of Homœopathy, and I am in harmony with both. Whilst reading of JOUSSETT's proposed name, I happened to refer to some old notes of 1921, in which the suggested term "Positive Medication" had been written by me. Since Homœopathy is so closely linked up with an extensive insight into scientific drug action, it is obvious that this suggested name is more capable of expressing all that Homœopathy is and does, bearing in mind that the term "drug action" should be construed in the widest possible sense. Many substances inert in a crude form are transformed into very potent weapons after dynamization; furthermore, food and even thoughts have a very potent action on the physico-chemical functions of the human organism, hence "drug action" implies a most extensive knowledge of innumerable substances and stimuli.

Unfortunately there are some who cannot or will not admit that there is dynamic energy locked up in the infinitesimal particle; these, however, may be assured that there are many manifestations available to them in substantiation of this. I have been constantly faced in the laboratory with incontrovertible proof of the power of the infinitesimal, but even those with no laboratory facilities may seek and find undeniable evidence that matter is infinite, indestructible, and ever active.

Medicine to-day tends more and more to the minute dose. Vitamin D concentrate in two-drop doses is prescribed to favour the assimilation of calcium, the mineral which in combination with albumen forms the bones and teeth. Mineral salts which are an integral part of, and hence a vital necessity to, the human organism, are nowadays administered in the form of

colloidal solutions and triturations. These contain the mineral salts in infinitesimal amount, generally approximating to the proportions and requirements of the body. Colloidal solutions usually have the essential mineral element present in the proportion of 1:1,000 or 1:2,000, and such solutions are extensively prescribed by allopathic physicians—truly an argument in support of the minute dose. This proportion is approximately equal to the 3rd decimal trituration of the homœopath, and yet some of those who prescribe them ridicule the corresponding dose when prescribed by a homœopath. It may be that the minute dose loses its potential power in the hands of homœopathic physicians—who knows?

Adrenalin, the secretion of the medulla of the suprarenal glands, is normal to the blood in the proportion of 1:1,000,000, and plays an important rôle in bodily activity under the stress of emotion. Diminution in this infinitesimal amount (equal to the 6th decimal of Homœopathy) results in the condition known as Addison's disease. On the contrary, fear, hatred, anger, or similar emotions stimulate the secretion and consequently considerably increase energy, making it possible to flee from danger, or to perform feats which would be impossible in a state of normal tranquillity. This is brought about by stimulation of the sympathetic nerve endings, mainly in the splanchnic area, which increase blood pressure and bodily activity.

There is a record of an organ the chords of which, when skilfully combined by the operator, enable him to produce the taste of salt, or the action of calomel in the body. This is apparently due to the synchronous vibration of the organ chords with those of the electronic particles of sodium and chlorine (sodium chloride, salt) in the first case, and in the second

with calomel (the mercurius dulcis of Homœopathy). This is a very interesting example of the power of the infinitesimal.

Everyone has heard of the singer who shattered a glass each time a certain note was sung which corresponded with and superimposed itself upon the fundamental vibration of the glass. By increasing the fundamental vibrations of the human organism over the point they just fail to reach unaided, the minute doses of Homœopathy shatter or break up an abnormal condition in the same manner that the singer shattered the glass—merely by superimposing a “similar” vibration upon an existing one. The singer gave out the right note: the homœopath must necessarily do likewise, which means—match the symptom-complex, find the simillimum, superimpose identical vibrations upon the disease vibrations as manifested by the symptom-complex. Symptoms are really nothing but an effort on the part of the organism to establish normality or to compensate for abnormality, and as such are merely the expression of a CONDITION. Since a number of individuals each APPARENTLY with the same disease are ALL DIFFERENT, they each manifest a different symptom-complex. The vibrations are raised “that little more” in each case by harmonizing the drug vibrations with those of the symptom-complex—hence with the CONDITION producing them.

The majority of people have the strange idea that Homœopathy cures by producing a disease “similar” to the one it is desired to cure, but of greater strength. Scientifically this is a mistake, and, since Homœopathy acts through an intensive knowledge of drugs on the part of the prescriber, needs some little explanation. A person with a disease is ABNORMAL, and hence the vital reactions of the physico-chemical processes are



naturally *impaired*. This must be true or the person would not be ill. The effort of the organism to restore normality manifests itself in the form of a symptom-complex, and the longer this remains the greater is the indication that the natural efforts of the body are under-effective. If the physico-chemical reactions of the organism are unable to terminate or throw off the condition causing the symptom-complex, how could these reactions be expected to combat also a stronger disease of a similar character, superimposed by a drug? This, then, cannot be the explanation of homœopathic drug action. The symptom-complex is the way in which the body endeavours to restore normality and to remove the abnormal condition. If successful, the symptom-complex is *sufficient* and disappears, together with the condition which was the CAUSE. Alternatively, a compromise or compensated condition results. The disappearance of the symptom-complex spontaneously means that the vital reaction which produced this complex has caused the body to act in the *OPPOSITE direction* to the stimulus of the symptoms—that is, by removing the condition which produced the symptoms. The administration of a “similar” drug simply *augments* the symptom-complex, which is alone insufficient stimulus to cause the organism to react in the “*OPPOSITE*”—that is, in the direction of *NORMALITY*. Considered from this angle, it will be seen that the Law of Similars rests upon a firm scientific basis which does not exist in the allopathic system.

Finally, I desire to emphasize that true Homœopathy does not suppress symptoms, as is the case with allopathy, but rather it recognizes just what symptoms really are—the reflection of a condition which Nature is endeavouring to remove—and it seeks to cure by harmonizing its “similar” drug to the symptom-

complex, thus reinforcing Nature's effort up to the point when the organism *will react* in the *opposite direction* to the stimulus of her own insufficient symptom-complex by means of the matched, superimposed drug "similar." The result is the restoration of NORMALITY IN THE MANNER NATURE HERSELF DESIRED.

If this English translation succeeds in its mission, that is, to create a new interest in Homœopathy—better named "Positive Medication"—I shall be amply rewarded for the time and care expended in order to present it accurately and in a readable form.

WILLIAM J. WEBB, D.Sc.

8, HARLEY STREET  
LONDON, W. 1

## DEDICATION

One winter evening, seventeen years ago, while stationed at VILLERS-CHATEL, in Artois, I was requested by a young assistant-physician to explain the basic law of Homœopathy. On expressing my surprise at this interest in such an unorthodox and discredited system of therapeutics, he replied to me: "It is because I was born at Lyons and know how highly the homœopaths of that town are appreciated by the other physicians. I heard some of the latter—and certainly not the least amongst them—utter their regret at being unacquainted with Homœopathy. Therefore I have made up my mind to thoroughly study this therapeutic system after the War."

We fixed an appointment to meet again the next day. Unfortunately on that very day my heroic comrade, whilst running to assist one of the wounded in "no man's land," was killed on the spot by a bullet which penetrated his neck.

Therefore I dedicate this book

TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF

PIERRE POUCHIN

Assistant-Physician to the 158th Regiment of Infantry, who died for France on January 12, 1915, in the accomplishment of his medical duties.





# WHAT IS HOMŒOPATHY?

## I

### DEFINITION BY EXAMPLE

“Homœopathy seems strange to you only because it is foreign to your mind.”

J. P. TESSIER, Physician of the Paris Hospitals.

The death of Homœopathy has been pronounced many times, but once again its resurrection is apparent. Never has it attracted so much attention as it is doing at the present moment. The learned HALLION, of the Academy of Medicine,<sup>1</sup> BERTRAND and DEJUST of the Institut Pasteur,<sup>2</sup> do not scorn to seriously familiarize themselves with it. Medical Societies<sup>3</sup> have at last opened their doors to the homœopaths and listen with interest to their communications. Medical journals<sup>4</sup>

HALLION: *Sur certaines données justes de l'Homœopathie* (On Certain Precise Facts of Homœopathy), in the July 1923 issue of *Revue pratique de biologie appliquée*.

DEJUST: *Examen critique de l'Homœopathie* (Critical Examination of Homœopathy), with a preface by Professor G. BERTRAND (Paris, 1922).

NAVEAU: *Les Etapes de l'Homœopathie* (The Stages of Homœopathy), communication to the Society of Medicine of Mans (June 3, 1910).

DARDELIN: *Gazette médicale du Centre* (Medical Gazette of the Centre), February 15, 1923.

PARENTEAU: *La Clinique ophtalmologique* (The Ophthalmological Clinic), April 1916.

BONNET-LEMAIRE: *La Presse médicale* (The Medical Press), September 21, 1921.

PICARD: *L'Hôpital* (The Hospital), September 1924.

insert their articles and allopathic formularies<sup>1</sup> reserve in their columns a place to Homœopathy—a place very small, it is true, but nevertheless marking an immense progress which terminates the prejudice and ends the hostilities between the two schools.

Now that Homœopathy is the topic of the day, it is just and necessary that medical students as well as the lay public should be accurately informed.

A homœopathic colleague has stated: "The physician has the right to be partial, but he has no right to be ignorant." It is to dissipate your ignorance of the Hahnemannian therapeutics that I write these lectures. When you have read them you may not, perhaps, have become homœopaths, but you will at least know *what homœopathy is*. You will then be able to talk more judiciously than your chemist, your porter, or the man in the street, who have the right to remain ignorant.

RABIER: *Paris-Médical* (Medical Paris), February 24, 1924.

NAVEAU: *Anjou-Médical* (Medical Anjou), August 1911.

Since the first edition of this booklet was published there hardly any allopathic journals which have not mentioned Homœopathy. The well-known journal *Le Progrès médical* (Medical Progress), of which M. LOEPER, Professor of Therapeutics at the Paris Faculty of Medicine is the chief editor, has devoted a whole issue (May 2, 1931) to it, the articles therein have been drawn up by homœopaths; and the *Bulletin médical* (Medical Bulletin), which has as its chief Professor ACHARD, has proceeded in the same way (July 30, 1932). Nothing demonstrates better the favour which Homœopathy nowadays enjoys in official circles. Four theses, by LANCELOT, CAILLEUX, Cecile DUHAM and TOURETTE, which all conclude in favour of Homœopathy have been successfully supported before the Paris Faculty in 1930 and 1933. CAILLEUX's thesis has been examined by M. LOEPER, Professor of Therapeutics at the Paris Faculty of Medicine.

<sup>1</sup> *Formulaire Astier* (Astier's Formularies), 1921 and following years.

*Les Remèdes galéniques* (The Galenic Remedies), by Professor JOANNIN (1922).

We sometimes hear the public and even physicians speak of the mysteries and secrets of Homœopathy, but, let me tell you, in this doctrine no secrets or mysteries exist. On the contrary, everything is so clear, so simple, and so logically deduced from the Law of Similars that the recognized founder of the contemporary School of Homœopathy, Dr. Pierre JOUSSET (late surgeon, gold medallist of the Paris Hospitals) proposed to replace the heavy and pedantic name of Homœopathy by a more elegant French expression, "Positive Therapeutics."

Two examples will enable you to understand what Homœopathy is better than long discourses, and in what manner it differs from the so-called "official" therapeutics, which are *the only teachings* of the French Faculties.<sup>1</sup>

M. D——, sixty-three years of age, came to consult me. For a month past he had been suffering from headaches, eye troubles, giddiness, and buzzings in the ear. The pain in the head was so violent that he could not bear any form of head covering. His attitude was singular: he took very small steps, held his hat in his hand, whilst the head was carried in a rigid position. The slightest movement or wrong step increased his pains to an intolerable extent. He also had the strange

<sup>1</sup> Over fifteen thousand homœopaths practise in the United States. New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia possess a homœopathic Medical College. At the University of Boston there exists a mixed homœopathic and allopathic college. At the University of California the teachings of Homœopathy are optionally pro-  
 fessed. Professor DEWEY, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, teaches the homœopathic Materia Medica at the University of Michigan.

In Brazil and Mexico Homœopathy is also officially taught.

Since the first edition of this book, chairs of Homœopathy have been established at the Faculties of Berlin and Frankfurt.



sensation that his head became larger, as if filling itself and that his eyes seemed too large and falling out of their orbits.

Observation demonstrated that the face was greatly congested and the pulsation of the temporals very visible. No exophthalmia, although digital touch and the tonometer revealed slight hypertension of the ocular lobe with dilatation of the vessels of the conjunctiva. Cardiac impulse strong, pulse 118, with the tension a little lowered. Auscultation revealed no weakness of the heart or lungs, whilst meticulous examination of other organs, analysis of the urine, inquiries regarding personal and hereditary antecedents furnished no further information.

Finally, this patient presented a marked degree of cardio-vascular irritability, with dilatation of the vessels and cerebral hyperaemia, the cause of which was quite obscure.

The first physician consulted prescribed purgative mustard foot baths, and leeches to be applied at the back of the ears. A second (evidently a disciple of LANCEREAUX) favoured cold douches and sulphate of quinine. The third, more modern, decided to administer the inevitable adrenalin (internal secretion of the suprarenal glands), to be followed by the excellent eclectics, atropine (active substance of belladonna = deadly nightshade) and esserine (active substance of Calabar bean). On each occasion the patient experienced slight temporary amelioration, and could not hide his fear that I would not be able to help him to any greater extent.

Let us see! Therapeutics are the science of indications. I conjecture those by which my colleagues have been guided, and, since the result has not been very marvellous, have the right, I imagine, to search



thers in the Law of Similars as the basis and foundation of Homœopathy. This as an alternative to surrendering to the whims of imagination or to following the therapeutic fashion of the season. Therapeutic fashion is in a state of constant change, largely controlled by manufacturing drug houses.

The most simple expression of the Law of Similars was given by HAHNEMANN, in paragraph 50 of his *Organon*: "CURE BY SIMILARITY."

Now, you will not have failed to be struck, like myself, by the analogy and similarity existing between the symptoms presented by my patient and those produced by the administration of trinitrin in too strong doses, or by normal doses in particularly sensitive subjects. There was no need, therefore, to hesitate. The patient having declared his lack of confidence in the small granules usually given (and which for him symbolized the entire system of Homœopathy), I quietly prescribed the following, the pharmaceutical form being of little account:

Glonoïn, <sup>1</sup> 6th dilution	..	..	xxx drops
Distilled water	..	300 grm.	(10·5 ounces)

One tablespoonful to be taken a quarter of an hour before meals thrice daily; to cease as soon as amelioration exhibited itself, but to be taken again should the troubles reappear.

Now for the result. Soon after the end of the second day all symptoms had disappeared; the patient ceased all medication for six days, but took again three tablespoonfuls on the seventh day, having felt headache and slight giddiness on that day. For over a year the recovery was maintained, and I believe can be considered as permanent.

<sup>1</sup> Glonoïn is the name which the homœopaths have given to nitro-glycerine, and which is called trinitrin by the allopaths.

This, then, is Homœopathy: THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW OF SIMILARS, without trimmings or elaboration.

The use of small doses is a natural outcome, since it is quite evident that had the trinitrin been prescribed in the usual therapeutic doses, aggravation of all the troubles of this patient would have been inevitable from the commencement.

I anticipate the objection you will raise, and quite rightly so, but, if you agree, we shall examine it after the observation which I am going to report first, and to which your protest will equally apply.

When I was mobilized during the Great War far from my domicile, I one day was requested by Dr. L—, who absolutely ignored that I practised Homœopathy, to visit with him one of his patients of the civil population, attacked three weeks previously by a very painful right sciatica which did not appear to be subdued by any remedy. My colleague, a very conscientious practitioner, had most carefully searched for the cause of this neuralgia. He had, however, found nothing; no infection, intoxication, or diathesis. Analysis of the urine had been negative, and not even the possibility of appeal to the classic and common chill as the cause could be considered. In the absence of the slightest etiologic indication, Dr. L— first had recourse to the whole series of analgesics, and prescribed successively acetanilide (antifebrin), exalgine (methylacetanilidum), pyramidon (dimethylaminoantipyrin, a compound derived from coal tar), etc., without any result.

Eventually, passing on to the revulsives, he applied to the sciatic region a long and narrow strip of vesicant plaster, followed a few days later by a styptic of chloride of methyl. No amelioration was apparent, and the patient was suffering even more when I saw him.

In order that the etiologic examination should be absolutely complete, I begged my colleague to explore the prostate gland of this man, aged fifty-two years. This was found to be perfectly normal. I was not any more advanced, therefore, than my colleague, and but for benevolent Homœopathy offering other resources, the only remaining alternative would have been the injection of morphine, *ultima ratio medicorum* (the last argument of doctors).

To the great astonishment of the excellent Dr. L——, I put to his patient quite a series of questions, through which it appeared clearly that the pain of which he complained was *burning* pain, relieved by *hot applications*, and which presented regularly an *aggravation towards one o'clock in the morning*.

Afterwards, when according to the old-fashioned custom, always somewhat solemn, we had retired to an adjoining room to discuss the case in the absence of the family, I remarked to my colleague:

“In the attempt to heal your patient you have shown admirable zeal, though unnecessary and dangerous. You have only succeeded in intoxicating him with your drugs, and in torturing him in a scientific way with your revulsives. Hence, I now propose to try another method—Homœopathy, which I understand and practise continually.”

“As you will not poison my client,” Dr. L—— smilingly replied, “I have no objection to raise, and if you heal him I shall be disposed to enter your school and become a homœopath.”

Thus the patient took every three hours, under the name of “analgesic granules,” the remedy indicated by the Law of Similars, *arsenicum* in the 3rd dilution, which produces in strong or toxic doses, apart from the gastro-intestinal symptoms which you all know,

*burning pains relieved by heat and increased after midnight.* The night following the first intake of the remedy the pain was so great that the patient shrieked, but after this crisis the pains commenced to decrease, until on the night of the third day but a slight sensibility remained along the course of the sciatic nerve.

You will not fail to object immediately that nothing here proves that the recovery was due to *arsenicum*, that sciatica usually ends in healing itself, and that I had simply intervened at the critical moment. Ah! but just you await the end of my story! Six months later, finding myself far distant from his town, I received a letter from Dr. L——, which explained that his patient had again developed sciatica and that *arsenicum* administered to him as in the first instance produced no effect. He added that the burning pains were still there but *were not decreased by heat, became worse towards ten o'clock in the morning.* Moreover, a new symptom had appeared: *trembling* of the affected limb.

The great remedy for “trembling” of the homœopathic Materia Medica is *gelsemium sempervirens* (yellow jasmine), which produces in strong doses *burning pains worse towards ten o'clock in the morning.* I did not hesitate to send my colleague granules of the 3rd dilution of gelsemium. On the night of the second day recovery was complete.

In this case, as in the preceding one, it was only necessary to remain loyal to the Law of Similars in order to heal *cito, tuto et jucunde*, i.e. rapidly, certainly, and mildly.

You will now be convinced that in practising Homœopathy nothing mysterious or fantastic is being done. It remains only to demonstrate to you that the Law of Similars is an important law of general therapeutics and that the use of infinitesimal doses could

not possibly encounter serious objection nowadays. Furthermore, I will refute the criticisms made in all times on Homœopathy, and this will be the amusing part of my survey. Finally, in passing, I will not fail to teach you the art and method of securing, right from the start, some easy cures in your practice. These personal experiences will be of more value in convincing you of the efficacy of Homœopathy than the mystico-philosophic arguments still applied nowadays, with predilection, by certain homœopaths.

## II

### THE LAW OF SIMILARS

“The Law of Similars, old as medicine, which Pasteur has triumphantly applied and sanctioned by his immortal discoveries.”

HUGHARD: *Les maladies du cœur et leur traitement*), p. 218.

The Law of Similars is, as already explained, the entire basis and foundation of Homœopathy. It is therefore important to examine its value right from the beginning.

This law did not come spontaneously by means of a sudden inspiration and divine illumination from HAHNEMANN'S brain. It is a natural law which existed and healed long before his time. In all periods of medicine, men of intellect and good understanding had a presentiment of it and surmised this law, or had a more or less clear glimpse of it, but it remained for HAHNEMANN to discover the way to generalize and develop all its therapeutic consequences, in the method which he called “homœopathic,” derived from the two Greek words *ὁμοίος* (*homoios*) which means “similar” and *πάθος* (*pathos*) meaning “affection.”

Let us commence by presenting to you the Birth Certificate of Homœopathy as we find it in HIPPOCRATES' work, *Upon the Localities in Man*:<sup>1</sup> “Disease is produced by its similar, and by the similars which are administered the patient returns from disease to good health . . . fever is suppressed by what it produces, and produced by what it suppresses.”

<sup>1</sup> HIPPOCRATES: *Œuvres complètes* (Complete Works), translated by LITTRÉ, vol. vi, p. 335.

PARACELSUS<sup>1</sup> teaches: "The names of diseases do not serve to indicate remedies, it is the similar which has to be compared with its similar . . . and that comparison serves to reveal the secrets of healing."

STAHL:<sup>2</sup> "The rule admitted in medicine, to treat diseases by contrary or opposed remedies, is completely false and absurd. I am persuaded, on the contrary, *that diseases yield to agents which produce similar affections.*"

HUFELAND:<sup>3</sup> "Most of the nervous diseases cannot be treated effectively except by the use of substances producing in the body of a healthy man similar sufferings."

BARTHEZ:<sup>4</sup> "The abuse of antiscorbutics produces symptoms of scorbut in subjects which previously did not at all seem disposed to it."

BARBIER:<sup>5</sup> "We may find it astonishing that in spasmodic affections the most effective remedies are all substances which themselves have the power to produce spasmodic accidents when taken in strong doses."

TROUSSEAU:<sup>6</sup> "Analogy, this so sure guide in therapeutics, leads to the use of belladonna in the treatment of mania, by the mere fact that belladonna produces a state of temporary mania."

Finally, HUCHARD<sup>7</sup> states that *the therapeutics of internal diseases obey in most instances the Law of Similars.*

It speaks for itself, if you will consider what you are

<sup>1</sup> *Paragranum*, p. 36.

<sup>2</sup> HUMMEL: *Comment. de arthritide tam tartarea quam scorbutica, seu podagra et scorbuto* (Budinga, 1738, in 8-0, p. 40).

<sup>3</sup> *Hufeland's Journal*, vol. ii, p. 266.

<sup>4</sup> Quoted by CHARGÉ in his journal entitled *L'Homœopathie*, p. 49.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> TROUSSEAU and PIDOUX, vol. ii, p. 69, first edition.

<sup>7</sup> *Les maladies du cœur et leur traitement* (The Diseases of the Heart and their Treatment), p. 220.

doing daily, for it is the application of the Law of Similars which permits you to cure the following conditions:

- The vertigo of Ménière's disease by quinine (Peruvian bark);
- Buzzings in the ear by salicylate;
- Dysentery by calomel (mercurous chloride);
- Nettle-rash by antipyrin;
- Sweating sickness by sudorifics;
- Sialorrhœa (excessive salivation) by pilocarpine (alkaloid of pilocarpus);
- Certain metrorrhagiæ (uterine hemorrhages) by quinine;
- Acute nephritis by cantharides (Spanish fly);
- Asystole by digitalis (foxglove), etc.

As you may be doubtful with regard to the last three affections, allow me to quote your own authors:

In the *Revue thérapeutique*,<sup>1</sup> Professor GUBLER's journal, the following appeared: "For certain kinds of metrorrhagia the use of sulphate of quinine is incontestable," and conclusive observations are reported. Now a short time later, DELTHIL gave in the same journal the explanation of those healings: "Women who put quinic alkaloids in bottles and who thus inhale the finely divided dust particles of such smelling salts, become metrorrhagic and lose the power to carry pregnancy to its final state."

LANCEREAUX<sup>2</sup> writes: "Cantharidine, which administered in a certain dose has the power of destroying the renal epithelia, can, given in a weaker dose, modify that element in an advantageous manner." The famous professor reports no less than thirty-six

<sup>1</sup> 1886, p. 641 (quoted by SIEFFERT, p. 226).

<sup>2</sup> *Tribune médicale* (Medical Tribune), April 17, 1909.



cases of acute nephritis cured with a few drops of tincture of cantharides. You surely will object that the example of LANCEREAUX has scarcely been followed. My reply is that the reason for this is that the doses which he used were too strong; but make use of small doses, and you will obtain the same recoveries without needing to deplore aggravation.

DEJUST contested the homœopathic action of *digitalis* (foxglove) in the case of *asystole* (defective heart contraction and expansion). He will permit me to give preference to the opinion of HUCHARD himself, who, in studying the digitalic intoxication, has found that "as to the circulatory apparatus, absolutely contrary accidents are noted to those of therapeutic effects, that is to say an acceleration with irregularity of cardiac beats and falling of the arterial tension. This is why *digitalis* heals *asystole* and is also capable of creating a kind of toxic *asystole*." LAUDER-BRUNTON, in his *Action des médicaments* (Action of Remedies), makes the same remark, which has been still further confirmed by an experiment by HUTCHINSON on himself.

The Law of Similars finds also an application in the following external affections:

The X-rays produce in the healthy man lesions which are healed in the diseased. Too long exposure proves this superabundantly.

NUSSBAUM, of Munich,<sup>1</sup> remarks: "Sulphur acts sometimes in a marvellous manner in cases of eczema, and yet there are subjects in which the application of sulphur produces eczema."

In the *Presse médicale* of September 21, 1921, you might have read, under the signature of an allopath,

<sup>1</sup> *Ueber das schwefelhaltige Ichthyol* (On the Sulphur Contents of Ichthyol), in *Therapeutische Monatschriften* (Therapeutic Monthly Magazine), 1888, p. 175.

on the subject of erythema (superficial redness of the skin) consecutive to injections of salvarsan: "It is curious to state that *arsenic* can give birth to cutaneous lesions of the same type as those combated successfully by that remedy, *in conformity with the homœopathic adage: similia similibus* (likes by likes)."

I could still further enlarge this list, but I can do better by demonstrating to you, whilst continually sustaining myself with the testimonies of physicians of your school, that the most precious discoveries of the contemporary medical science are only applications and justifications of the Law of Similars, that is to say of Homœopathy.

"The *calf-lymph vaccination of Jenner*," says DEJUST, of the Institut Pasteur, "must be considered as an example of the most perfect application of the principle of similarity."<sup>1</sup>

And further on: "The *healing of an anaphylactic condition* (exaggerated sensitivity to certain substances, especially of an albuminous character), is obtained in conformity with the principle of similarity. . . ."

Likewise, adds the author, in cases of *organotherapeutic* recoveries. This has been stated previously by Leopold LEVY and ROTHSCHILD, who wrote: "*Thyroidin according to the dose is capable of producing what it is capable of making disappear.*"<sup>2</sup> Does not this sound like HIPPOCRATES or HAHNEMANN?

Finally, are not the discoveries of PASTEUR applications of the Law of Similars? Listen to BEHRING, to whom you will surely grant some competence in bacteriology: "How is anti-epidemic immunity of

<sup>1</sup> DEJUST: *Examen critique de l'Homœopathie* (Critical Examination of Homœopathy), pp. 28 and 29.

<sup>2</sup> *Société médicale des hôpitaux* (Medical Society of Hospitals), July 5, 1906.

sheep vaccinated for anthrax obtained, unless by the influence previously exercised by a virus *similar* in its characteristics to those of the mortal virus of the anthrax? What more appropriate term could we use in speaking of that influence of a similar virus, if not by using the expression of HAHNEMANN: Homœopathy?"<sup>1</sup>

You now know that homœopaths, those eccentrics, those illuminated, those revolutionaries, those charlatans (for all those amiabilities have been thrust upon us), are in reality the most traditional of men, since through the path of the most eminent names of all times they are linked up directly to HIPPOCRATES, the Father of Medicine!

You also will understand why your scoffings, far from irritating us, amuse us very much indeed, as they come from you who achieved the most brilliant and certain cures merely by application of the Law of Similars, in other words, *in practising Homœopathy unconsciously*.

So, you will tell me, you pretend that we shall never be able to heal without remaining truthful to this famous law? No, certainly not; and I surely would not dare to take to my own account that categorical affirmation of one of our authors: "It has been possible to heal without knowing the Law of Similars, but it has never been possible to heal without applying it." Let us not exaggerate anything. We are here in the domain of Biology, that is to say, in the living world, and consequently one infinitely varied, changing, and diverse. Biological laws have not and cannot have the universality of the laws of the physical world, but it is equally true that *similia similibus* is the most general

<sup>1</sup> *Beitrag zur experimentellen Therapie* (Contribution to Experimental Therapy), vol. ii, Berlin, 1906.

of therapeutic laws, and the one which will always indicate to you the most sure curative remedy. This should suffice to prove to us our duty, as to myself, to remind you of it with insistence, and as to you, to remember it . . . especially when you are tempted to joke about homœopaths!

It remains for me to tell you how HAHNEMANN, after HIPPOCRATES and PARACELUS, discovered in his turn the Law of Similars, and founded on that law a really experimental therapeutic system.

In 1790, HAHNEMANN translated the *Materia Medica* of CULLEN. When he arrived at the chapter on quinine (Peruvian bark), he was struck by the confused and often contradictory way by which its action was explained. In order to become personally convinced, he had the idea of taking, whilst being in good health, strong doses of quinine. He was not a little bit surprised to observe the development in his body of a fever presenting the characteristic of intermittence. He attempted the experiment again on his neighbours, with the same result. An ordinary mind would probably have left it at that. HAHNEMANN went further, and experimented in the same way—that is to say on healthy subjects—with belladonna, Indian berry, digitalis, and a hundred-and-one other substances. The result was always identical: all medicines administered in strong doses to the healthy produced symptoms similar to those which were made to disappear in the diseased man. A constant and natural relation between the medicine and the disease was discovered from which a really positive law was established. HAHNEMANN devoted himself entirely to his work, far from foreseeing the tribulations and persecutions of all kinds which would assail him before his ultimate triumph.

### III

## THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOSES

“Corporibus caecis igitur natura gerit res”  
(Thus Nature influences matters through  
substances in themselves inactive).

LUCRETIUS: *De natura rerum*, 55 B.C.,  
vol. i, verse 22.

“The importance of the infinitely small  
physical or chemical forces on the life of  
living beings can never be exaggerated.”

CH. RICHTER: *Traité de physiologie médico-  
chirurgicale*, 1931, vol. i, p. 23.

You were told in the previous chapter that the whole basis of Homœopathy rests on the Law of Similars. I am afraid, however, that you still share the prejudice of the public, for whom the homœopath is merely a physician *obstinate in prescribing medicines in infinitesimal doses* constantly and systematically. Well now, nothing is less exact. On opening accidentally one of our formularies, I happen on the treatment of simple acute endocarditis (inflammation of the endocardium, i.e. inner membrane of the heart). The principal remedies which the Law of Similars indicates in most instances and the doses recommended by the author are the following :

*Aconitum* (monkshood), xx to xxx drops of mother tincture (M.T.).

*Cactus grandiflorus* (night-blooming cereus), ii to v drops of M.T.

*Colchium* (meadow saffron), M.T.

*Spigelia* (pinkroot), M.T. in 1st decimal trituration.

*Arsenicum*, 3rd decimal trituration.

*Lachesis* (a Brazilian snake called Bushmaster),  
6th centesimal dilution.

So, one single remedy out of six is given in really infinitesimal doses, namely lachesis, the poison of the *Trigonocephalus lachesis* (Bushmaster). I make an identical statement with reference to the treatment of pericarditis (inflammation of the external membrane of the heart, i.e. the pericardium), hæmoptysis (lung hemorrhage), gout, rheumatism, etc., that is to say that, in these affections, the mother tincture and the first decimal triturations, comparatively ponderable doses, are more often prescribed than infinitesimal doses. Therefore these latter are absolutely independent of the principle of Homœopathy.

As a matter of fact, at the beginning of his experiments, HAHNEMANN did not in the least suspect the necessity for very small doses. When, according to the Law of Similars, he opposed against a collection of morbid symptoms the remedy which produced a similar symptom-complex, he necessarily observed, before the phase of recovery, a first phase of aggravation. This was often of a very dangerous nature, and he personally paid for the fruit of his experiments with violent pains. Naturally, he then got the idea of decreasing the doses, at the same time fearing greatly to see the curative phase disappear together with the phase of aggravation. To his great amazement, however, he discovered that the more he decreased the amount of the medicine, so the aggravation grew less, and the healing became more rapid providing the remedy had been rightly chosen. Thus a second therapeutic law was discovered, which my late friend, Jules GALLAVARDIN of Lyons, summed up as follows:

“Every physical or chemical agent provokes in the healthy or sick organism, according to the large or small quantity of the agent, two opposing groups of symptoms: active effects and reactive effects.”

It is this law which was admitted in general physiology as the *law of action and reaction* by CLAUDE BERNARD, MAREY, FRANÇOIS-FRANCK, etc., and which HUCHARD so often repeated to you in the *Journal des Praticiens* in the following terms: “It should be known and admitted that each remedy possesses two actions, the primary action and the secondary action, the latter being opposed to the first.” Remember, for the sake of fairness, that HAHNEMANN was the first to say this.

In order to diminish the mass of his medicines and thus attenuate their primary action or active effect, HAHNEMANN had recourse to the following three simple procedures: For the insoluble substances he mixed intimately, through prolonged trituration, one part by weight of the substance with nine parts of an inert powder (sugar of milk), and thus obtained the 1st decimal trituration; one part of that 1st trituration treated in the same manner with nine other parts of the powder gave him the 2nd decimal trituration; and so on, up to the 6th trituration.

After an attenuation to the 6th trituration (each grain of powder containing a millionth part of a grain of the medicine), HAHNEMANN considered that every substance could be treated as if it were soluble, by the procedure of preparing dilutions. This process consists of: 1 drop of mother tincture, for instance, intimately mixed through numerous successions with 9 drops of water (or diluted alcohol), constituting the 1st decimal dilution; 1 drop of the 1st dilution mixed in the same manner with 9 drops of water or dilute alcohol gives the 2nd decimal dilution, and so on. When the pro-

portion is 1 drop of solution  $n$  for 99 drops of solution  $n + 1$ , the centesimal dilutions are obtained. HAHNEMANN prepared a whole series of them in this way, going up to the 30th.

But, you will tell me, there was no longer anything else in the bottles but water! That is the objection made to the first homœopaths. "How could you possibly heal?" they were asked, "you are giving only pure water to your patients." Convinced of the success obtained, they were not in the least shaken by the reproach. They could have answered: "Say that the imperfection of our instruments do not permit us to detect the ultra-microscopic particles of medicinal substance in our dilutions, any more than the microscope enables you to see the active agent of the vaccine in a drop of virus, but our cures are there to demonstrate the certain presence of the medicine in what you please to call our bottles of pure water, in the same way that the vaccinal pustule proves to you the presence of an invisible miasma on the tip of your lancet. . . ."

Where should we be, in these days, were we to deny the existence of all physical, chemical, and biological agents which do not fall directly under our senses and of which we only know the effects!

The discovery of the spectroscope by KIRCHHOFF and BUNSEN enabled OZANAM to prove in 1862, in an irrefutable manner, the presence of the active substance in our 9th centesimal dilutions. This was a bombshell in the camp of the stubborn opponents to the reforms of HAHNEMANN, but the experiment was there, irrefutable, easy to produce, and thus the homœopaths were granted the right to use the remedies up to the 9th dilutions, but no further! Time has gone on, and the instruments have since been perfected to such a



degree that a savant whose name is well known to you, LANCIEN, Director of the Paris Bio-physical Laboratory, was able to demonstrate in 1914, with a spectrograph of his own invention, the presence of copper in a 100th centesimal dilution. Thus a conclusion forces itself: in drinking even our very high dilutions patients absorb something other than clear water.

Here I foresee your second objection: "Admitted there *is* something in your dilutions, even in the 100th, yet that something is so minute, so infinitesimal, that it obviously cannot act." I should reply to you by citing the very numerous cures obtained during the last century with infinitesimal doses administered by homœopaths of the two hemispheres. Since you would however, attribute them to the effort of Nature, suggestion, or emotional shock (dear to M. Ch. FRIESINGER), I do not mind abandoning this argument, although an exceptional one.

You will, at least, permit me to state the *non-curative* effects of our medicines. All homœopaths have observed analogous facts to those which I shall now quote, to such a degree that HUFELAND had reason to say: "There exists a reagent more subtle than all chemical substances, namely, the living body."<sup>1</sup>

Arnica (leopard's bane) taken in strong doses has produced in our experimenters, amongst many other symptoms, headache, pains in the nape of the neck, and an eruption of boils. Now, at the present time I am giving my services to a marine officer who exhibits a very remarkable sensitivity to arnica: a 30th centesimal dilution (the figure preceded by sixty noughts!) produced on him those same symptoms, i.e. headache,

<sup>1</sup> *Klinische medizinische Schriften* (Clinical Medical Magazines), vol. iii, p. 472.

pains in the nape of the neck, and a furuncular eruption. Do not hasten to exclaim at the coincidence, since identical symptoms were stated with the same dose of arnica on the same patient by my eminent colleague, Dr. DUBOIS of Saujon, who had him under treatment a few years ago. From a letter which my client recently wrote to me I extract the following: "I have never had one single boil in my life except during the periods when I took arnica, and eight days after the cessation of that remedy the boils, instead of properly maturing, failed to develop and were aborted. This experience happened on several occasions, and is so conclusive that it has completely converted me to Homœopathy."

HENRI DUPRAT reported, in 1907,<sup>1</sup> facts of aggravation with high dilutions of bryonia (wild hops) and sulphur.

MENDEL published the case of one of his patients who, ignoring what she was taking—which excluded all possibility of autosuggestion—presented symptoms of iodine intolerance after taking during three days three-hundred-millionth of a milligramme of iodide of potassium.

Before pondering over these facts, just search your memory. You all know the chemist from Tours, DECOUBRAY, famous since TROUSSEAU, who dared not remain in his laboratory whilst a bottle of ipecacuanha was uncorked for fear of an attack of asthma. Several identical cases have been published, as well as the case of another chemist who could not prepare parcels of rhubarb without experiencing the next day a real purge. The quantities of ipecacuanha or of rhubarb having produced a reaction, were *they* not infinitesimal?

You were taught that BOUCHARDAT demonstrated, in 1843 at the Academy of Science, that 1 milligramme

<sup>1</sup> *Propagateur de l'Homœopathie*, 1907, p. 159.

of iodide of mercury dissolved in 4 gallons of water is sufficient to kill in a few seconds the fishes plunged into that solution.

RICHET proved, in 1905, that formol in the process of lactic fermentation acts up to the improbable dose of one-millionth of a milligramme to about 222 gallons. "However amazing this fact may seem to be at first sight," says the famous physiologist, "in reality we must state after reflection that *this action of weak doses is general.*"

More recently, Gabriel BERTRAND proved that the growth of *aspergillus niger* was favourably influenced by the presence of 1 milligramme of manganese in about 2,220 gallons of culture medium. "Well now," says DEJUST, "the cellular sensitivity increases ordinarily with the differentiation. Therefore it is to be supposed, by a simple but probable hypothesis, that certain cellules of superior animals (human organism) are more sensitive than those of the inferior mushrooms!"

Just consider the things you see being done around you, and what you yourself are doing.

You are aware with what ultra-infinitesimal doses *anaphylactic symptoms* are produced, and that the infinitely minute particles provoke the most serious accidents.

Furthermore, you are not ignorant of the fact that the action of *colloids*<sup>1</sup> is not at all proportionate to the quantity of colloidal substance, and that the condition

<sup>1</sup> THE TRANSLATOR: COLLOID is a permanent suspension of very finely subdivided substance, solid, or liquid in a continuous medium of a different kind. The state of minute subdivision increases the surface of the substance and hence enables it to be more easily influenced by the body fluids. Colloidal iron, sulphur, calcium, and other mineral constituents of the human body may thus be administered in a form approximating to the normal proportions required. As a result, assimilation becomes more probable and dietetic deficiencies compensated.

of extreme subdivision, the smallness of the particles, is the only important factor.

You know the curious phenomenon of D'HERELLE: his *bacteriophage*<sup>1</sup> filtered by a Chamberland filter permits a culture of dysenteric bacilli to pass through even after the 935th filtration. Note that each passage through the filter is made with a *trace* of the preceding dissolution.

You surely have heard of the extraordinary therapeutic results obtained by WRIGHT with his *opsonins*?<sup>2</sup> He has recorded amelioration by giving one five-hundredth part of a milligramme; further amelioration with one eight-hundredth; and a still further marked amelioration with one-thousandth. Amelioration varied, therefore, directly as the quantity was reduced.

Finally, has not DENYS of Louvain proved that one ten-millionth of a milligramme of active substance of his *tuberculin T.O.* develops incontrovertible effects on tuberculous subjects?

Do not, therefore, invoke their infinitesimality as an argument against every action of our remedies.

<sup>1</sup> THE TRANSLATOR: BACTERIOPHAGE is a bacteriological culture made from the faeces of dysentery and in which a condition of lysis was produced. Lysis is the state communicated by lysogenic or bacteriolytic action to a normal colony of bacteria by an extract of the affected culture passed through a filter. The phenomena were repeated indefinitely by taking a drop of the preceding filtered solution and adding it to a new culture. The lysis results in the production of corresponding bacterium, whereby it becomes granular, swells up, and often undergoes dissolution. The experiments have been carried out with *B. typhosus*, *B. para-typhosus*, *B. coli*, etc.

<sup>2</sup> THE TRANSLATOR: OPSONIN is a constituent of blood serum which renders pathogenic bacteria more susceptible to the action of the phagocytes. Thus allopathy, by the use of various laboratory products, endeavours to raise the "opsonin index" artificially. The laboratory vaccines are usually prepared from dead bacteria of the type to which it is desired to increase the resistance.

You daily use *sera*. Since it is admitted that these do not act through biological properties, but through a physical dynamic action dependent upon the infinitesimality of their active substances, one cannot see *a priori* why our dilutions should not also act in the same way through dynamism, by the mere fact of their presence.

Really, from a therapeutic point of view, our century could be called THE CENTURY OF INFINITESIMALITY, and the moment seems to me very wrongly chosen to deny all possibility of action to our doses, unless you would claim that by a singular property, active only in your hands, they show themselves inactive as soon as they are used by a homœopath!

Anyhow, I have something better to offer than reasonings by analogy, with which to prove to you the action of our remedies, and I shall enable you to verify it with your eyes, or, more correctly spoken, *with one eye only*.

The headache due to overwork, characterized by dull pain localized principally in the frontal region and an almost complete cerebral inaptitude, is accompanied always by an increase of the calibre of the venous vessels at the back of the eye, and of a diminution of the diameter of the arterial vessels.

Now, on the indications of CLAUDE, PARENTEAU discovered that the administration of pulsatilla (wind flower), from the 3rd to the 30th centesimal (once again the figure preceded by sixty noughts!) always brings about amelioration of circulatory trouble of the retina; and I myself have had the opportunity to make the same observation eight times, with five women and three men. All those who know *how* to look at the back of the eye with the ophthalmoscope (which is much easier than to auscultate a heart) will be able to verify my statements.

After the clinical tests there are the laboratory tests. By means of experiments submitted to the most critical scientific verification, Dr. BOYD, of Glasgow (working on behalf of the British Homœopathic Association), has demonstrated by means of his emanometer (instrument for measuring emanations), *that a medicine in infinitesimal dose has a real action, and that for each medicine the action is specific.*<sup>1</sup>

The opsonic index has proved in a definite manner the action of homœopathic remedies in the hands of Dr. WHEELER of the London Homœopathic Hospital, of BURRETT of Michigan University, and of WATERS of Boston. The latter investigated the coli-bacillic opsonic index of a patient *with the homœopathic remedy* corresponding to the symptom-complex, and administered it in the 30th dilution (the figure still preceded by sixty noughts). *The opsonic power rose* and the patient left the hospital cured!! But it is understood that I shall not make any statement of our cures. Only remember from that experiment, as well as from the effect of pulsatilla on the vessels of the retina, the proof of *the action* of our infinitesimal doses, for that is the main point I desired to demonstrate to you in this chapter.

I could also prove to you that neither the Law of Similars nor infinitesimal doses are due to the imagination of a homœopath in a state of delirium. Numerous allopaths, and not the least amongst them, have foreseen or confirmed the necessity of their use before and after HAHNEMANN, such as BOERHAAVE, STAHL, CULLEN, TROUSSEAU, PETER, etc.

At the present time, I would only have some difficulty in making a choice, but in terminating this chapter I will just quote two of them.

<sup>1</sup> See the interesting article by Dr. P. FERREYROLLES, of La Bourboule, in *Bulletin medical*, 1925, No. 27, p. 762.

Albert ROBIN: "The remedy acts dynamically and not quantitatively."

Gustave LE BON: "In order to secure this action, weak, *infinitesimal* doses, so reduced that they may be given the opportunity of corresponding to a commencement of atomic dissociation, are indispensable."

As in the case of the Law of Similars, so also here regarding infinitesimal doses, perfect harmony reigns between homœopaths and allopaths. Therefore it is difficult to understand the objections which have been made continually and which I shall now easily refute.

## IV

### EXAMINATION OF THE OBJECTIONS

“It is never possible to oppose a reasoning to a fact; there is nothing to be said against a fact once it is firmly established.”

LACORDAIRE, Seventh Conference,  
1846-47.

For a century past, homœopaths of the two worlds have been publishing observations identical to those which have been mentioned to you, that is to say, where the cure always appears as the result of an experiment made under rigorously determined conditions. When you find yourselves in the presence of similar conditions, act precisely as we do, and if you fail to obtain similar results we shall at least have a solid base of discussion. In experimental science, facts are answered by facts, experiments by experiments. We are still waiting for facts from our opponents, for, in order to imitate us exactly, it first of all would be necessary to study our *Materia Medica*, which demands work and patience. Furthermore, to probe our method of individualization. Finally, to apply it for a sufficient length of time without becoming discouraged through the inevitable failures of all novices.

It has been considered much easier to reply by offensive remarks, jokes, and metaphysical discourses.

The time for offensive remarks is past, but when I write in my next book the history of Homœopathy, I shall not fail to show to what excesses in language well-educated people, savants, professors, and academicians have dared to go towards confrères and perfectly



honourable colleagues, merely considered guilty of practising the Hahnemannian therapeutics.

We know, just as you do, of jokes—besides, we are the first to laugh at them if they are witty—but it seems to me that you have not been spared, and that in this domain at least we can shake hands—with a smile. Moreover, jokes, witty though they may be, have never constituted arguments; therefore, let us proceed.

The purely hair-splitting and unjustified criticisms thrown at us, have been since 1920 repeatedly exhibited in the *Journal des Praticiens* by M. CH. FIESSINGER, who expressed himself with regard to Homœopathy and homœopaths with moderation and courtesy, but—and I regret to add this—incompetently, because he has not studied and practised the method which he pretends to judge for a *sufficiently long period*.

“We know Homœopathy fairly well,” he tells us. This “fairly well,” however, is not *sufficient*; Homœopathy is a difficult system of therapeutics which has to be known *thoroughly well* in order to obtain results. Our distinguished opponent, by reason of having rushed his personal inquiry too far, has merely republished the objections which have been sustained for a hundred years, since there have been homœopaths capable of healing. However, better informed than our preceding adversaries, he admits that the principle, the Law of Similars, is correct and that we are justified in using small doses. He concludes, paradoxically, “that it is not due to the application of our exact principle nor to the judicious use of our homœopathic doses that we owe our cures, but that these are brought forth by emotional shock, suggestion, or the effort of Nature.” With the latter homœopaths are in complete agreement.

M. CH. FIESSINGER knows how emotional shock acts. "The emotion," he tells us, "resounds on the small neuroglandular fibres of the sympathetic nerve system and reinstates by this mechanism the rhythm of the disturbed functions." The hypothesis is clever, but it is only a hypothesis, the invoked mechanism being more difficult to demonstrate than the action of infinitesimal doses.

Our author offers us an example of healing through such shock: "In consequence of the emotion produced by a violent marital discussion, a lady was attacked by tachycardia (rapid heart), which, after having resisted all treatments, suddenly gave way to an emotion produced by a motor-car accident." And there the intervention of the homœopath becomes mixed up with a catastrophe! In this case, I first of all see only a confirmation of the Law of Similars: an emotion heals what an emotion has caused; further, I observe that this mode of healing must be very exceptional indeed, since the author quotes this example repeatedly. It is most regrettable, because in Paris, where M. CH. FIESSINGER practises, these marvellous catastrophic therapeutics could be installed better than elsewhere, so easy would it be to graduate the intensity of the required emotion. In slight cases, it would be sufficient to make the subjects cross Montmartre Square at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., or noon (when traffic is at its height). As to patients who were seriously ill, we should take them to see a Punch-and-Judy show, an excellent beheading, the "citoyen RAPPOPORT,"<sup>1</sup> or a homœopath!

It seems, however, that we obtain such an emotional shock by more simple means and on a more general level; our eminent confrère reveals them to us. "The

<sup>1</sup> A Communist leader in Paris.

clientele of homœopaths," says he, "is in fact generally recruited amongst those subjects most susceptible to receive from that fantastic system, formulated in Latin abbreviations and cabbalistic figures, the flash of confidence which will re-establish the conditions of normal equilibrium." And elsewhere: "To swallow so many drugs in infinitesimal doses, and at strictly fixed hours, is an excellent way to train disciples. Now, discipline is a condition of the good functioning of the sympathetic nerve system."

Let us examine this a little closer, because none of these gratuitous affirmations stands up to an examination.

*Fantastic medicine:* You know, from my first chapter, of what it consists, and I appoint you judges.

*Formulated in Latin abbreviations:* I formulate as often aconite as *aconitum*, and bryony as *bryonia*, and I have never noticed that patients recover less in one case than in the other.

*Formulated in cabbalistic figures:* We use, like you, arabic figures for grammes and centigrammes and roman figures for the drops.

*Swallow so many drugs:* It is exactly the contrary which is true; we generally prescribe only one or two remedies at the time.

*Infinitesimal doses:* Not always, as you have seen, and in most instances the patient is quite incapable of knowing whether the doses are infinitesimal or not.

*At strictly fixed hours:* Herewith our *modus faciendi* (mode of action): in acute cases we prescribe one tablespoonful of our draughts or one portion of our granules every half-hour or even every quarter of an hour; in chronic cases we administer our remedies once or twice a day, and we find it advantageous to let them be taken a quarter of an hour before the meals, that is

to say, when the stomach is empty. This is exactly what you yourselves are doing.

As to *that discipline which is a condition of the good functioning of the sympathetic nerve system*, that is merely an opinion of the mind, a scholastic argument. The scientific demonstration demands more rigour.

I add, in fine, that I was not born a homœopath, that I practised allopathic therapeutics before HAHNEMANN'S, which therefore perhaps will allow me to affirm, with full knowledge, that I have not counted more emotional subjects in my second clientele than my first. I also surely know better than M. CH. FIESSINGER what is going on in a homœopathic consulting-room, of which I will reveal to you the horrible mysteries. The sentence which we hear most of the time is the following: "Doctor, I have not the slightest confidence in your remedies, but as I am tired of treating myself without results, I decided to consult you, feeling sure at least that you will not poison me" (which evidently means, because I know that you will only give me water and sugar).

A wonderful condition, is it not, to receive an emotional shock or suggestive influence! When the client, in execution of the prescription, has received from the chemist a simple tube of granules or an uncoloured draught, without odour or taste, and of very low price, you will be greatly mistaken in believing that he feels in any way under suggestion. On the contrary, this is the feeling which is usual and which many of them confessed to me: "What nonsense to believe that that will be sufficient to cure me!"

Now, I would like to ask you, whether it is by emotional shock or by suggestion that you explain our cures of children, lunatics, and animals?

"For children," M. CH. FIESSINGER replies, "your remedies are useless, for it is by them that Nature

guards and quickly casts out disease." Everyone is aware, indeed, that children never die of bronchial pneumonia, and that whooping-cough has a marvellous tendency to be decreased in two or three days. Is that not so? Well, let M. CH. FIESSINGER consult the statistics of Marc JOUSSET and of the physicians who succeeded him at the Hospital Sainte-Marguerite, when he will see how rare, extremely rare, death through bronchial pneumonia is in children. Let him then compare the results with those of allopathic hospitals and he will be edified. As to whooping-cough, mothers who do not mind theoretical discussions when the health of their beloved ones is in danger, know quite well that not one of the thousand-and-one remedies generally used for whooping-cough has the efficacy of our small granules. Thus they bring their children along to us, saying, "for everyone knows that homœopathy is sovereign in case of whooping-cough." Unfortunately many of them do not believe Homœopathy capable of curing other diseases.

Do you also believe in truth that it is by suggestion that our American confrères soothe and cure the inmates of their large homœopathic lunatic asylums, where no opium or bromides enter?<sup>1</sup>

As to our cure of animals, M. CH. FIESSINGER admits incompetency. I will inform him with pleasure and eagerness. First of all, there is more than one veterinary homœopath in France, as he believes; there are several of them in Paris and in the provinces, as well as abroad. Our yearbooks mention their names and addresses.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There are in the United States fifty-five homœopathic hospitals. The large lunatic asylum of Middletown contains one thousand two hundred patients.

<sup>2</sup> The number of homœopathic veterinary surgeons has increased parallel to that of the physicians since the publication of this book.

Our literature comprises several works on veterinary art, some of which I will quote here: The *Manuel de médecine vétérinaire homœopathique* (Handbook of Homœopathic Veterinary Medicine) by LOTZBECK; the *Nouveau manuel* (New Manual) by GUNTHER, translated from the German by MARTIN, veterinary physician; the *Dictionnaire vétérinaire homœopathique* (Homœopathic Veterinary Dictionary) by PROST-LACUZON and H. BERGER, etc. As M. CH. FIESSINGER has read our observations for several years, he, as well as myself, has been able to read in *Propagateur* (Propagator) of 1907 and 1909, and in the *Revue homœopathique française* (French Homœopathic Review) of 1908, cases of dog paralysis cured by *rhus toxicodendron* (poison ivy), of milk fever (parturient apoplexia) by *bryonia* (wild hops), of dysentery of calves by *mercurius corrosivus* (corrosive sublimate), of springs and dropsy in horses' legs by *sulphur* (sublimated sulphur) and *apis* (the honey bee), etc. In the *Petit Chasseur* (Little Huntsman) of 1908, a breeder, A. JASPAR, published the result of his homœopathic practice in poultry diseases. Would chickens, like unfortunate housewives, be sensitive to the effect of emotional shock or of suggestion? I may add that we achieved sensational cures of animals—for instance, the cure of the small bitch of MEISSONIER—and that we have known famous "vets.," such as Father CHATAIN of Autun, whom the illustrious Cardinal PERRAUD, for the lack of a homœopathic physician, did not scorn to consult. He even bequeathed his wonderful ivory crucifix "to his veterinary surgeon" as an expression of his gratitude for the good services rendered.

Now the third allopathic explanation of our cures: "It is by no means your remedies which heal; it is Nature not being thwarted by you." And M. CH. FIESSINGER happens to let fall the following sentence,

which our good FLAUBERT would not have failed to qualify as being "hénaurme," as he used to spell the word instead of "énorme" meaning "frightful": "Undoubtedly, at the time of the last 'flu' epidemic, the homœopaths have counted but few cases of death. They avoided the misdeeds of antipyretics (fever-reducing remedies) in massive doses and ill-timed blood-lettings. *The patients recovered because the physicians did not prevent their recovery.*"

Nothing crueller has been said about the allopaths, and this explains to you why throughout the world there are so many evil spirits—our clients who prefer living in a state of therapeutic heresy to dying from a "flu," religiously supplied with the medicines of the Official Medical Church!

Finally, M. CH. FIESSINGER holds us capable of eternally taking the *post hoc* for the *propter hoc*, i.e. the *result* for the *cause*.

Although homœopaths, the rules of the experimental critic are equally known to us, and I will supply proof of this and an example which you will certainly one day or other have the opportunity of reproducing.

In July 1912, I was consulted by a young lady suffering for four months from a facial neuralgia on the left side; she complained of violent pains, shootings and twinges along the sub-orbital nerve, in the cheek-bone, along the path of the superior maxillary nerve, and in the teeth. At the same time she felt a *sensation of cold in the interior part of the mouth and convulsive movements of the upper lip*. For four months this lady had been taking various sedatives without result other than a short, fugitive numbness of the pain. As a last resource three teeth, recognized, moreover, as perfectly sound, had been extracted. The symptoms being mostly characteristic of *Thuja occidentalis* (yellow cedar),

I gave her a few granules of that remedy in the 12th dilution. The recovery on the same day was so rapid that I could not prevent myself from doubting the action of the remedy and of believing it to be a possible coincidence, in spite of the evident indication of *thuja*. In September of the following year, I had the luck to see the same patient again, suffering from the same pains. The opportunity of assuring myself of the action of *thuja* by making the counter test recommended by Claude BERNARD was too tempting. In affirming to the patient that it was really the same remedy with which I had cured her before, I successively gave her granules of *saccharum lactis* (sugar of milk), *aconite* (monkshood), *rhus toxicodendron* (poison ivy), and *bryonia* (wild hops), without any result. Finally, I gave her granules of *thuja* (yellow cedar), and the recovery resulted just as rapidly as on the first occasion.

Another example, just as striking. In the allopathic magazine of DARIER, called the *Clinique ophtalmologique* (Ophthalmological Clinic), PARENTEAU published several cures of cataract by homœopathic remedies. The title of the third observation reads as follows: "Senile cataract, undertaken at a relatively advanced period, and treated with alternatives of medicinal ameliorations and aggravations due to interruptions in the treatment." You will read, in fact, that on five occasions Mrs. P. V—, a famous singer, neglectful of the recommendations made to her, either ceased too early or did not repeat in time the prescribed medicines, and that five times she had relapses. (The result was, nevertheless, favourable, as the patient died at the age of eighty years, having been able up to that age to see well enough to read and write sufficiently, and this twenty years after an allopathic oculist suggested operation.)



As a matter of fact, if you decide to practise Homœopathy, this is what you will find repeatedly in the beginning. Not yet knowing how to individualize correctly, and not comprehending your *Materia Medica* sufficiently, you will not, at the beginning, prescribe the remedy corresponding to the totality of the symptoms, that is to say, the *simillimum*; hence you will have numerous failures. However, after several unfruitful attempts, when you almost despair of the cure, you will doubtless arrive unexpectedly at it, when you will have found and prescribed that *simillimum*. When you have made this statement, like myself, ten, twenty, a hundred times, you will be forced to attribute the cure to the action of our remedies, unless you have lost all judgment, assuring yourselves that emotional shock, suggestion, or the effort of Nature only manifests itself at the psychological moment when the given remedy is the one indicated by the Law of Similars. This would be really too absurd.

## REPLIES TO SEVERAL CONFRÈRES

“O scientific rigour! We greet you on our way. You by whom it was demonstrated that the earth did not turn round, that the blood did not circulate, that the telephone was as great an impossibility as the daguerreotype, the phonograph, steamship navigation, railways, the directional flight of balloons, gas illumination, etc. . . .”

DR. MENDEL: *Études médicales* (Medical Studies), July 1920, p. 52.

From two opposite sides of France two oculists have written to me as follows: “You cite *rhus toxicodendron* amongst your homœopathic remedies, but we have for a long time been using that remedy with success in certain ulcerations of the cornea; we are, however, not homœopaths.”

Of course, in that case you certainly are homœopaths, since you use *rhus toxicodendron* in accordance with the Law of Similars.

Moreover, it was a homœopath who acquainted you with it.

I do not advance anything which I cannot prove.

Ten years ago, Dr. ABADIE, the well-known Parisian master, who has trained several hundred excellent oculists during his long career, related to me the following: “In a big hotel on the right bank of the Seine, where I was staying, I treated a rich American suffering from arthritic ulceration of the cornea, which was extremely painful. I endeavoured to relieve him, but with little success, I admit. One morning my

patient remarked to me, 'Doctor, I am accustomed in New York to be attended by homœopaths, and have always found that I received benefit. Would it inconvenience you if we sought for a consultation with one?' I of course immediately agreed, being curious to see a disciple of HAHNEMANN exercising his art. But at that time I did not know of one. My patient, however, had heard talk of Dr. CLAUDE, who was requested to call. He came, examined my American, and noted with interest the marginal seat of the ulceration, the aggravation of the pains during the night, and the arthritic origin of the affection. His prescription was as follows: Allow five granules of *rhus toxicodendron*, 6th dilution, to dissolve in a glass of water and take a dessertspoonful every hour.<sup>1</sup> The next morning I was greatly astonished to find my patient much better; he did not suffer any longer after the fourth dose of the remedy, and the ulceration already had a marked tendency to cicatrization. The amelioration progressed, and the healing was rapid and complete." "You will understand," Dr. ABADIE added, "that I did not fail to imitate CLAUDE in similar cases which I had to treat, and always obtained the same excellent results. Later I then made this remedy known in my clinical lectures, but advised my pupils, in case they feared to be considered homœopaths, to prescribe *rhus toxicodendron* as I did, in the dose of a few drops of tincture in a glass of water."

<sup>1</sup> Our *Materia Medica* furnishes the following indications:

*Rhus Toxicodendron*.—Arthritic ulcer located at the sclero-corneal branch and assuming in most cases the form of a crescent. Great photophobia. Left localization. (CHIRON.)

"The symptoms are generally worse in damp weather and at night after midnight. A rheumatic diathesis would also influence our choice" (ALLEN).

This testimony of Dr. ABADIE merits further consideration.

To read M. CH. FIESSINGER, one would gladly imagine that homœopaths live in a more or less inferior state of mind which prevents them from distinguishing truth from error and appearance from reality. Now, the foregoing is an undeniable case of healing of an ulceration of the cornea attributable to Homœopathy which has been related by an oculist of repute, in no way a homœopath, and who even fears to appear as one. It is a scientific fact, for in the presence of similar conditions identical results are constantly reproduced. Nothing more is necessary to destroy the laborious arguments of M. CH. FIESSINGER against Homœopathy. In one stroke this positive fact alone annuls all the negative results of his therapeutic efforts.

But there is something better, and M. CH. FIESSINGER will not fail to admit that we are right with regard to the dose, he who has so correctly written in the *Journal des Praticiens*: "What is of importance to determine is not the maximum but the minimum dose of the remedies." As the 6th centesimal dilution of *rhus toxicodendron* produces the same effects as a few drops of mother tincture, I shall continue to use that infinitesimal dose, were it only to deserve the unconditional approbation of our eminent Director, because one occasion does not create a custom.

I had requested Dr. ABADIE's authorization to publish what you have just read. He kindly agreed, even enlarging upon it: "Do not omit to say also that it was CLAUDE who acquainted me with your glonoin. I, in my turn, indicated it to HUCHARD, who popularized it as a vaso-dilator, under the name of trinitrin."<sup>1</sup> I would not fail to do so, all the less since, after my

<sup>1</sup> HUCHARD has loyally admitted and published it.

first article, one of my confrères sent me the following singular reproach: "As you admit (!) that *your glonoin* is nothing but our *trinitrin*, why do you not prescribe it under its true name, unless it is to make your clients believe that you use extraordinary remedies unknown to us?" That is how History is written, in the absence of accurate knowledge!

If I had to draw up an inventory of all the remedies which you have borrowed from us, you would find it rather a long one. From memory I quote the following: hydrastis (golden seal), hamamelis (witch-hazel), crataegus (hawthorn berries), cactus grandiflorus (night-blooming cereus), passiflora (passion flower), etc. A well-known firm of specialities has particularly distinguished itself in such procedure. It has specialized in cactus, damiana, guaco (climbing hemp weed), drosera (sundew), etc., with the result that one frequently meets confrères telling you in such-and-such a case the cactus of firm — has given me excellent results, whereas others deny having obtained any benefit from it in the same disease. How are these differences of action explained? Simply by the fact that the former have accidentally fallen on cases where, according to the Law of Similars, cactus was indicated, and the latter have not had that opportunity. Generalizing this observation, you will have the explanation of facts so far incomprehensible to you, that is to say, different results produced by the same remedy in affections *pathologically* similar, but of which the *symptomatology* was in reality different.

Whereas the Law of Similars was easily admitted by my readers, this has not been the case—and I anticipated this—with regard to the action of our infinitesimal doses. Two physicians and three chemists (naturally!) have made me the following objection:

“The proof that there is nothing at all in your remedies lies in the fact that we are able to swallow a whole tube of them without feeling any disturbances.” That simply proves that our homœopathic remedies are not capable of “rendering good health ill,” as MONTAIGNE used to say, and that is their great superiority over allopathic remedies.

Please observe well, I replied to my contradictors, that we do not administer our infinitesimal doses to healthy subjects, but to patients who have previously become sensitive to the disease. Moreover, those remedies possess an elective action on the weak organs of our clients, for in strong doses they have produced disturbances of these organs on the provers. For this reason, I would never advise you to swallow a whole tube of our granules, for if accidentally you should happen to present one of the symptoms they produce it may make you feel very ill. Last July, I was urgently called to see a patient suffering from Hodgson’s disease (aortic regurgitation due to dilatation of the aorta), who had taken 30 granules of *spigelia* (pinkroot) in the 6th dilution, as indicated for her by the Law of Similars. Palpitations, pains, and dyspnoea (laboured breathing) were so violent that by her bedside were her vicar and solicitor, called for at the same time as myself by the alarmed relatives.

A confrère of Dordogne has ploughed me on the same subject. “You seem to ignore,” he said to me, “the works of LAZARD, who demonstrated by calculation that there was nothing more contained in your dilutions long before the 12th dilution.”

I have read LAZARD’s works in the *Revue de Biologie appliquée* (Review of Applied Biology). Here is his argument: “Nature is not divisible infinitely. The limit of its divisibility is marked by a number exactly known

by me. In the molecule-gramme of a chemically defined substance there are

$$60 \times 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$$

indivisible particles. Well now, before your 12th centesimal dilution you have reached the ultimate division of the particular substance.”

This magnificent calculation has neither roused nor shaken me. Whilst admitting its exactitude, it cannot do anything against the examples of action of a 30th dilution which I related to you, and which you can easily verify. They are facts of a different order, that is all.

So that no doubt whatsoever shall remain behind in your minds, I am submitting to M. LAZARD the following simple observations:

First of all, the conclusion which he draws from his calculation is in formal contradiction to the experiments of NOEGELI and those of RAULIN with regard to the development of the *aspergillus niger* in silver solutions.

Secondly, the question of the constitution of matter is far from being solved: the atom having been considered for a long time as the ultimate divisible particle, is nowadays regarded as a particle which is itself further divisible.

According to J. J. THOMPSON, an electron would be two thousand times smaller than an atom of hydrogen! Well now, the special preparations of our remedies, due to succussions and successive triturations, break up mechanically the medicinal substances; they will perhaps get as far as dissociating the atoms—at least, it is not unreasonable to suppose this.

From this discussion please remember the following practical conclusion: each time that you introduce in

the unlimited complexity and constant variations of biological phenomena the fixed and rigorous methods of mathematical science you will end in nonsense. Remember the magnitude and decline of the cryoscopic point of urine (method of determination of the freezing point of urine), and hold for certain that the *constant of Ambard* (a test determining the quantity and degree of concentration of urea in the blood) will prove itself to be more and more inconstant. The appearance of an algebraic formula in a medical essay always produces on me the effect of a croaking jazz band in the middle of a symphony, and when I find one or two roots in the denominator my joy is matchless. "In biology," Paul BERT used to say, "mathematics are like the horse of ATTILA, whose hoofs destroyed all vegetation over which they passed."

In order to finish with the sempiternal question of infinitesimal doses, permit me to refer you to page 808 of the *Journal des Praticiens* of 1924. You will read there that an Austrian physician, Fritz KASPAR, adopted in the treatment of goitre the technique of the micro-doses of BAYARD by giving daily one coffeespoonful, during several weeks, of the following solution: 1 *milligramme* of iodide of potassium in 150 grammes (about 5.25 ounces) of water. He obtains as many good results as with the strong doses, and in doing so avoids the aggravation which they sometimes produce. For one hundred years homœopaths have been doing the same thing with the same results, and for the same reasons. Only they call their doses infinitesimal and not micro-doses; that is the whole difference!

The action of quinine as a febrifuge in the healthy has given rise to some astonishment. I have no desire to vainly present you with too easy an erudition; it is, however, essential to quote my authors. Dr. AUBER has



reported several cases of intermittent fever determined by quinine in healthy subjects.<sup>1</sup> ZIMMER, a manufacturer of sulphite of quinine in Frankfurt, admits that his employees are often suffering from a fever which they themselves call "quinine fever";<sup>2</sup> and a physician of Marseilles reported analogous facts to the *Académie des Sciences* in 1861.<sup>3</sup> Finally, nothing prevents you from acting as did a French military physician, GAUDORP, who, in order to reply to PIORRY, experimented on himself, and felt very clearly the fever-producing action of the "powder of the Jesuits" (pulverized Peruvian bark).

A physician of Bordeaux has pointed out to me that I did not reply to M. CH. FIESSINGER's accusation of homœopaths occasionally practising allopathy; therefore I do so now.

Why should not we do so if our patients get some benefit from it? What a fantastic picture you do make of a homœopath! Such a practitioner, do not forget it, is a physician who passed through the same studies as yourself, and who has generally commenced by practising the therapeutics taught by the Faculty. He knows what they are worth—not much—and that they possess but a few efficacious remedies (about fifteen, says M. CH. FIESSINGER). Instead of limiting himself by deploring the insufficiency, uncertainties, and dangers of such therapeutics, as you do every day, he had the courage to make a study of a new therapeutic system, HAHNEMANN's, and if he applies that almost exclusively, it is evident that the reason for it is the fact of his having obtained better results than by the first one.

<sup>1</sup> *Revue Médicale* (Medical Review), March 1840, p. 461.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted by Dr. CHEVALIER in *Annales d'Hygiène publique* (Annals of Public Health), 1852, vol. xlviii, p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> IN BRIQUET: *Du Quinquina* (On Quinine), p. 118.

But Homœopathy is not a religion, as has already been told you. Beyond the Law of Similars there exists another one, a moral law which obliges the physician to put everything to work in order to relieve and cure those who have put their trust in him. The homœopath, therefore, has the right—I may even say more, it is his duty—to use your remedies if in a certain case he judges them equally efficacious but more sure than his own. This happens to him, however, less and less frequently, in measure as he gets to know better the marvellous resources of his own therapeutics. Moreover, I have observed that in the case where he has recourse to allopathy the homœopathic physician very often acts from laziness, following the path of least resistance. Here I accuse myself. Not long ago, I did not fail to give salicylate of soda in all cases of acute rheumatism. It is ever so easy and so simple, and it is not necessary to rack your brain! In administering the salicylate according to the custom established by HUCHARD, there are the greatest chances of relieving and curing most promptly. But, since I take the trouble of individualizing my remedies carefully—which is not always an easy matter and demands some effort—I prefer prescribing according to the cases *apis mellifica* (the honey-bee), *rhus toxicodendron* (poison ivy), *bryonia* (wild hops), *aconite* (monkshood), etc., and always in infinitesimal doses. Am I not right, since my patients recover just as promptly as with salicylate, and their stomach, kidneys, and auditory nerve are better for it?

This being said, I do not apprehend any difficulty in replying to a well-known physician of Lyons, who intended to embarrass me by requesting me to reveal the remedies which I use for diphtheria and syphilis.

If the diagnosis of diphtheria does not appear doubt-

ful to me, or if the general condition is serious, I use, as you do, the serum of BEHRING-ROUX.

If the patient's condition is not of an alarming character, or if the aspect of the throat is not absolutely characteristic, I take a swab, which I send to the Institut Pasteur in Nantes.

Meanwhile, awaiting the reply, I administer infinitesimal doses of *cyanide of mercury*, because this salt has produced in toxic doses false membranes and general symptoms so similar to those of diphtheria that excellent clinicians were apt to be misled. In most of the cases the membranes had already disappeared when the report of the Laboratory arrived. If there is an abundance of long Loeffler (diphtheria-exciting) bacilli, I nevertheless give an injection of serum. Perhaps unnecessarily, but I feel more assured thereby.

For syphilis I use, like you, mercury, bismuth, or the arsenobenzols (salvarsan). It would be easy for me to demonstrate that by so doing I remain faithful to the Law of Similars,<sup>1</sup> but if you should prove to me that I am only applying the Law of Contraries, I would easily console myself, I assure you.

"Let us not do as our detractors," as J. P. TEISSIER recently expressed himself, "who refuse to follow us because we are not official, and let us not reject that which heals under the sole pretence that it is officially recognized."

However, one exception: if I make use of mercury in ponderable doses, they are generally weaker than

<sup>1</sup> Syphilis specialists, such as FOURNIER, MAURIAC, DU CASTEL, have wondered, in the face of certain lesions, whether they were of syphilitic or mercurial origin, so great the *simillimum* on occasion can be.

In the homœopathic works of 1854 the anti-syphilitic action of arsenic is formally indicated.

yours. Am I wrong? An allopath will give you the answer. It is Dr. MALHERBE of Nantes, one of the most reputable and distinguished dermatologists:

"I observed facts quite in favour of Homœopathy," he said to me about three months ago. "I shall publish them one day." He has redeemed his promise, and in the *Nantes medical* of November 15, 1924, you will find that most serious and very old syphilitic lesions which resisted mercurial doses brought up to the limit of tolerance responded very rapidly as soon as our confrère gave small and vanishing doses. MALHERBE adds: "An eminent master who had studied and utilized this therapeutic system said, 'I have found but very few syphilitic manifestations capable of resisting the method.'"<sup>1</sup> The story which I am going to relate to you next, combined with those facts, will make it appear less astonishing.

A country physician found himself at the doors of an epidemic of whooping-cough, for which he used with uniformity, without measure and therefore without result, tincture of drosera (sundew). He ordinarily prescribed the standard dose of l and c drops. At that time he accidentally received a homœopathic magazine in which the question of the treatment of whooping-cough was advanced. He then realized that drosera was in many, but not in all, cases the remedy indicated by the following symptoms: "Fits of spasmodic coughing with vomiting of food preceding vomiting of mucus; bleeding through the nose and mouth. The cough is aroused by a tickling in the larynx as by a feather. It reverberates

<sup>1</sup> BUSCHE, in the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* (German Medical Weekly Magazine) of November 11, 1932, proves that the therapeutic action of the small doses of calomel is absolutely comparable to those of more massive injections, and that they, of course, do not produce any local accident or toxic trouble.

painfully in the walls of the chest; it is suffocating, and is accompanied in some cases by *yellow, purulent, blood-streaked expectoration*. Worse after midnight."

Thereupon the physician administered to all his patients with whooping-cough one tablespoonful every hour of the following solution: 1 drop of tincture of drosera in 200 grammes (about 7 ounces) of water. The results were striking: rapid recovery of the cases which presented the characteristic symptoms of the remedy; no effect in the others. As a result our confrère studied Homœopathy with zeal, and has remained a faithful practitioner, greatly to his own satisfaction and that of his clientele. We even owe to him—*res miranda* (thing to be admired)—the conversion of the chemist of his town, who studied medicine with the object of also practising the method of HAHNEMANN!



## LAST REPLIES TO CONFRÈRES

“This doctrine, namely Homœopathy, does not appeal mainly but *entirely* to the expression of experience. ‘Imitate me,’ it loudly shouts—‘imitate me carefully and exactly,’ and (what no pharmacology, no so-called therapy hitherto did or could do) it demands the right to be judged by its results.”

SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Honour to whom honour is due. I have not convinced M. CH. FIESSINGER, and since there are not two therapeutic truths—one his and the other mine—it necessarily follows that one of us is mistaken. I would humbly believe that I am mistaken before the high authority of my contradictor were it not for facts, which do not admit of sentiment. My assurance in homœopathic cures has been daily confirmed for fifteen years by facts which count exclusively.

Besides, it is to be presumed that the arguments which I have set forth are not quite valueless, since M. CH. FIESSINGER has judged it necessary to publish a whole article in order to put our common readers on guard against what he calls “the illusions of Homœopathy.” His theory is most curious. “Most diseases,” he tells us, “are cured by themselves. Thus, Homœopathy has no hand in the matter, and as to allopathy, it could only thwart the curative effort of Nature.” Then the physician is unnecessary? Not at all, he can even be of very great service, but only by the goodness of his heart and the magic influence of

the words he utters. And there we are brought back to thaumaturgy (miracle makers), sacred origin of medicine!

That there might be a grain of truth in this theory it would be foolish to deny. It is in the end only suggestion in its state of watchfulness, such as BERNHEIM comprehended it. But do you not believe it wise, although recognizing this suggestive action of the physician, to be most careful not to exaggerate its power or to extend its domain too far? As M. CH. FIESSINGER wishes, however, to maintain this suggestive influence beyond measure, I defy you to explain and obtain by suggestion the cures which I have already related to you.

“It is the experience, and not the dispute, which makes the physician,” CELSUS said. Instead of disputing, just experiment, as I have taught you to do. When you find yourself in the presence of cases analogous to those already studied in the preceding chapters, such as facial neuralgia, cataract, inveterate sciatica, ulcer of the cornea, and whooping-cough, commence as our Director advises you to, pronounce “words full of emotion which shake the mentality of the subject.” (To the same ends, the zouave JACOB blew his own trumpet.) If your patients do not recover—there are such contrary people!—just test Homœopathy, and in all independence and freedom of mind judge and compare; you will then see which is the unrivalled therapeutic system.

On the strength of my articles, confrères too hurriedly and full of admirable ardour, have purchased indiscriminately homœopathic catalogues, formularies, and *Materia Medica*. They did not understand a word of them and reproached me accordingly. In a letter decorated with Latin quotations a Parisian wrote me:

“How could I take your doctrine seriously when I read that, in order to choose your remedies, you guide yourself by extravagances of the following kinds: ‘*the intellectual faculties increase and decrease with the sun,*’ or ‘*the teeth feel too long.*’”

I answered: “Since you belong to the good range of humanistic physicians, on which I congratulate you, for otherwise you would only be a veterinary surgeon for bipeds without feathers, please consult, in your library, volume ii of *Causeries du Lundi*. In the essay on LE SAGE, the immortal author of *Gil Blas*, you will read on page 374: “At the end of his life he had the full use of his faculties only towards the middle of the day, and it was observed that his mind rose and fell every day with the sun.” LE SAGE died in 1747; HAHNEMANN was born in 1755.

As to the symptom, “*the teeth feel too long,*” ask your dentist. You will learn that it is often found in the case of alveolar dental pyorrhoea and that it is frequently produced under various influences by obturated teeth.

Therefore, do not hasten to joke about HAHNEMANN. He was, bear in mind, a clever observer. I do not mean to say that his work is sacred ground and that it would be sacrilege to touch it; nevertheless, be careful not to lay an imprudent hand on it. The experiments made nowadays by our American confrères, with the newest technique, confirm his works and even explain very often what you call “its extravagances.” You would have avoided arriving at such a false judgment on Homœopathy, if you had chosen the right path to study it. You have bought a formulary, you tell me? It is as if to learn Latin, which you now master perfectly, you had started to open a lexicon. For our *Materia Medica* and formularies are merely that, i.e. dictionaries and



lexica. Learn first how to make the right use of them by studying the grammar, that is to say, the homœopathic method.

I have been greatly embarrassed in replying to the numerous correspondents who have asked me for a list of works to study. The French books on Homœopathy which would be fit for beginners are out of print, and those which remain, being excellent for experienced homœopaths, could only confuse the mind of neophytes and disgust them for ever with our method. Therefore, with the object of meeting an often-expressed desire, I published a *Précis d'Homœopathie théorique et pratique*, which is already in its second edition, and an aid to a great number of doctors in their study of our most efficacious but extremely difficult therapeutics.

A student of medicine has written to me: "I would gladly believe in Homœopathy if you would explain to me how your remedies act." I replied to the young fellow: "Would you mind explaining to me how salicylate of soda, mercury, opium, and three-quarters of your medicines act? You do not know anything about them, do you? Yet, that does not prevent you from using them occasionally, because experience has shown you that they act. The same applies to our homœopathic remedies. It is experience which has shown me that they cure, when administered in small doses and in accordance with the Law of Similars; that suffices me. It does not mean that I disdain the hypothesis which ingenious minds<sup>1</sup> have evolved to explain their action (*Felix qui potuit rerum . . .* 'Happy is he who can ascertain the causes of things'), but I certainly do not attach exaggerated importance to them. What first of all matters is to definitely

<sup>1</sup> NAVEAU and VILLECHAUVAIX, GALLAVARDIN, SIEFFERT, MOUEZY-EON.

establish the reality of the fact. The explanation will come afterwards, if possible. If none is to be found, or if only insufficient ones are proposed to me, my assurance will not be shaken, for I know that the truth lies in the facts, and not in my mind which attempts to explain them. I shall continue 'to hold tightly to the two ends of the chain (here the experience and its result), although I do not always see the centre, where the links are nevertheless joined.'"<sup>1</sup>

I further said to my young correspondent: "You already declare yourself disposed to believe in Homœopathy. Really, my success surpasses my hopes, and you are much easier to convince than I was. It was not after having read homœopathic articles and observations that I believed in that system, but only after having personally obtained the cures which it promised. Therefore, do the same thing. Only accept what I tell you to the extent that it gives you a 'credit balance' without taking liability for debts which exceed assets; experiment, and decide only after having obtained results. In natural science there is only one method to arrive at a conviction: it is 'by going to see,' and not by ratiocination. And if you go and see for yourself in good faith your fate is certain: you will soon be a homœopath."

Ordered by ROBBE of Dresden, to whom he was the assistant, to refute the homœopathic heresy, CONSTANTIN HERING started studying the works of HAHNEMANN and applying his method, so that he would be able to prove, as he believed, its inefficiency. To his great surprise, the results were such that HERING became one of the most firm pioneers of Homœopathy, and founded in Allentown, U.S.A., the

<sup>1</sup> BOSSUET: *Traité du libre arbitre* (Treatise on the Free Arbiter), chapter iv.

first School of Homœopathy which the world had known.<sup>1</sup>

Quite recently, the famous surgeon BIER was struck by the fact that in treating inflammation by non-specific proteins (injections of blood or albuminous substances) merely an application of the Law of Similars was carried out.

He thus was led to study Homœopathy, and in 1925 he published the results of his investigations, which read as follows:<sup>2</sup> "The homœopaths are right in saying that the sick organs present towards remedies with elective action an extreme sensitiveness which does not exist in healthy subjects; they are right in avoiding aggravation of symptoms and in using only small doses of medicines." Finally—now do not have a fit!—"they are right in believing in the action of their infinitesimal doses." BIER proves it by the cures which he himself obtained in the cutaneous staphylococcus (furunculous) diseases with homœopathic doses of sulphur. "Since those doses act, whereas the gramme of sulphur which an adult takes daily in his food remains without action, we have to admit," says he, "that the homœopaths are once more right when they explain the therapeutic properties of their infinitesimal doses as due to the modifications superimposed on the physical condition

<sup>1</sup> An analogous fact was produced two years ago. M. LOEPER, Professor of Therapeutics at the Paris Faculty of Medicine, ordered one of his best pupils, Dr. MARTINY, to get into communication with homœopaths and to see whether there was really anything good to be found in their therapeutics. Result: Dr. MARTINY is to-day one of ourselves and practises HAHNEMANN'S method with great success.

<sup>2</sup> A. BIER: *Wie sollen wir uns zu der Homœopathie stellen?* (What shall be our Attitude toward Homœopathy?) in *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift* (Medical Weekly Magazine of Munich), vol. lxxii, Nos. 18 and 19, May 1925.

of sulphur and every other medicament by the special preparations which they undergo (triturations and succussions). As a matter of fact, due to the extreme subdivision of the substance, this permits a considerable increase of surface, although using only an insignificant amount, which in itself is inactive."

Several readers have written to me: "The examples you quote are very interesting, but are not numerous enough to win our conviction. Provide us, please, with more examples. . . ."

Even if I could fill the columns of the *Journal des Praticiens* with accounts of cures, I would yet not feel myself entitled to claim your adherence to our doctrine. You will come of your own accord when you have tested it. As my observations, however, seem to interest you, I will relate to you still one more example, which will augment the small bunch of indications which you already possess and which will occasionally permit you to obtain a brilliant and easy cure.

The following was my first homœopathic cure: I had been studying HAHNEMANN'S method for four months; I was beginning to get a somewhat clearer insight, and was impatient to pass on to the practice of it. A rather interesting case was offered to me for test. A chemist, M. B—— (I cured many chemists, and all, of course, extremely incredulous), had been suffering for eight months from a disseminated eczema on the hands, arms, trunk, and scrotum, where the scales, particularly scabby, left him no peace, either by day or night. The patient—he indeed could be called by that name—had consulted without result all the specialists of the district. He had followed the most severe régimes, tried all internal medications, and undergone all external applications. They had varnished and tarred him—only ripolin was untried—but everything had been

useless, hence, the last resort was the injection of morphine twice daily. The patient slept little and his food consisted of only a little milk; he had become considerably thinner, and his general condition was, of course, very bad. Such was the situation when I advised him to try Homœopathy. That made him laugh—which he had not done for a long time. But he gave in to my entreaty with the eternal sentence of the unbelievers: "Well, after all, you will not poison me."

I consulted my *Materia Medica*, and was taken aback when I saw fifty-three remedies indicated in the treatment of eczema, out of which I had to choose the one which, in the experiments, had produced the symptoms most similar to the symptoms he presented. I gave successively, but without any result, *clematis* (virgin's bower), *cantharis* (Spanish fly), *rhus vernis* (poison elder), *sulphur*, and *mercurius* (quicksilver). You will guess the jokes with which each failure was received. I could have concluded, as certain others had done in similar circumstances, that Homœopathy was humbug, and abandoned the study of it; but I judged it wiser to accuse the insufficiency of the young homœopath and to have recourse to elder ones.

I wrote to Dr. FAVRE, whose articles in *Propagateur* had struck me, and I sent him the most explicit details of my patient. By return of post he replied to me: "Herewith you will find three packets of six globules of *croton tiglium* (croton-oil seed) in 12th dilution. That is the indicated remedy. Give one packet every three days, first thing in the morning on an empty stomach, in a little water." My patient accepted them without any opposition in making the remark that he did not even risk being purged. I frankly admit to you that from that moment I did not dare return to see him, for I did not expect that

*croton tiglium* would act any better than the other remedies; but after eight days his wife came along to tell me of her husband's recovery. And it was true! No longer any eczema at all; only a little rash on the skin and some epidermic debris on the area occupied so long by the scabby scales. It was hardly credible! I once again consulted my *Materia Medica* at the chapter on *croton tiglium*, and read on page 635 "that it is not unusual to see the appearance of secondary eruptions far from the regions where the oil had been applied, and particularly on the scrotum"; and on page 637: "It is especially in cases of eczema, and particularly the one which appears on the regenerative organs, that this medicament seems to be curative. The pruritis of the eczema is very promptly calmed by this remedy."

I then understood why *croton* had cured, whereas the other medicines had failed: the localization on the scrotum was the main characteristic, the KEYNOTE, as the Americans say, which permitted individualization of the case and the choice with certainty of the only suitable remedy amongst the fifty-three recognized as being capable of curing eczema.

All the objections which you can raise I made myself. Suggestion? I was nearly as incredulous as my chemist. Coincidence? Impossible to admit it, for a few months later a repetition was curbed by the same remedy. Besides, I have never failed since to cure pruriginous eczema of the scrotum with *croton tiglium*.

Here is my last case. About two months ago, I found myself in a train with a commercial representative who overheard me being addressed as "Doctor" by one of my acquaintances. The first moment that we were alone in the compartment he took the opportunity of tapping me for a consultation.

"I am afflicted by a very disagreeable affection," he told me. "It is an eczema of the scrotum, which irritates most horribly and forces me to scratch day and night. In all the towns I pass through I consult specialists, not one of whom has known how to relieve me. Would you be able to advise me?" At the first stopping place I wrote him the prescription, which you will guess: "*croton tiglium*, 6th dilution, one tube in granules, three of which to be taken dry on the tongue at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. every other day." I also gave him the address of a chemist in Paris, taking care, however, not to mention the fact that it was a homœopathic chemist. Twenty days later I received the following letter:

"DEAR DOCTOR,

"I have great pleasure to inform you of my recovery, and express to you my most sincere thanks. I did not take your remedy at once, because my sister and brother-in-law laughed at me when they saw that it was homœopathic; but, tired of suffering, I took the tube with me on my journeys and carried out your instructions. After a lapse of eight days I was completely healed. In future, when people come and talk to me against Homœopathy I shall know what to reply. Herewith your fees, etc.

(Signed) S—."

I am sure that in cases of scabby eczema of the scrotum, *croton tiglium* (in 3rd, 6th, or 12th dilution) will afford you the same results as with myself. Test it at the first opportunity, and you will tell me so.

A Brazilian physician who has read the article of M. CH. FIESSINGER on Homœopathy in No. 35 of the annual set 1920 of the *Journal des Praticiens* is astonished to see homœopaths use strong doses of digitalin. "How

can you reconcile this with your doctrine?" he asks me. I do not reconcile anything. It was an error on the part of one of our members. Quite simple! Towards 1905, Pierre JOUSSET, tempted and led by the high authority of HUCHARD, himself used and recommended fifty drops of digitalin in the case of asystole. This proves, by the way, that homœopaths are not such obdurate sectarians as you imagine them, since they do not hesitate to adopt your therapeutics if they judge it, in a given case, preferable to their own. But, whatever may have been the eminent position of JOUSSET in our school, he only spoke for himself, for at the same time another homœopath, SIEFFERT, said, and repeated to HUCHARD: "Your fifty drops of digitalin (the active alkaloidal principle of digitalis = foxglove) are useless and dangerous; we obtain the same results as you do, and without any accident, with our 3rd dilution." This corresponds exactly to five drops of the solution in the thousandths which nowadays are universally adopted. Well now, who is the one who in magisterial way arranged the use of those drops, that is to say, of our 3rd dilution? What a pleasant encounter—it was M. CH. FIESSINGER himself!

Therefore, concerning digitalis, that is to say the most constant, the most faithful remedy of our entire system, there exists perfect agreement between allopaths and homœopaths. HUCHARD proves that digitalis acts merely according to the Law of Similars;<sup>1</sup> FIESSINGER regulates and imposes the use of homœopathic doses. So there HIPPOCRATES and GALEN are reconciled "under the shadow of foxglove in flower"! In face of this melting and pastoral spectacle restrain your emotions, dear confrères, for the most beautiful days are not everlasting.

<sup>1</sup> See Chapter II.



I have received an unusual number of letters from all parts of France and abroad, which proves the extraordinary diffusion of the *Journal des Praticiens* as well as the interest which Homœopathy attracts nowadays. I have made it my duty (it was, moreover, a pleasure) to reply to all of them, with the exception of one only. That one is dessert, which I reserved for my readers as a reward for their courage and the meritorious patience which they have exhibited in following me thus far.

A letter which reached me one morning of last November had a postmark of the Lower Seine district. The further I progressed in reading its contents, the more was I convinced that it was written to me by Charles BOVARY himself in collaboration with M. HOMAIS (a physician and a chemist in G. FLAUBERT'S famous novel *Madame Bovary*). Only the signature, being Dr. M——, deceived me; but you will see that the confusion was inevitable. This was how the letter began:

“‘In experimental science,’ you tell me, ‘facts are answered by facts, experiments by experiments.’ You wish to have facts—well, here they are, and I guarantee you their authenticity.” The poor man quotes the recovery of a child of six months from a serious enteritis by application of a plaice on its abdomen; the cessation of crises (?) of a neuropath after having swallowed six fried leeches, prescribed by a quack; finally, the case of the young Anthine TUBŒUF (who could be supposed to have escaped from one of the stories of MAUPASSANT), saved from meningitis by the application on his forehead of a live pigeon cut in half.

I raise no objection whatsoever to accepting the authenticity of these facts, any more than my readers will in considering with me that it is profoundly dis-

troubling and even humiliating for all of us that it is possible to meet a physician who does not know how to differentiate between brutal facts which signify nothing and scientific facts which alone have to be taken into account. Let us refer him to the reading of the *Introduction à l'étude de la médecine expérimentale* (Introduction to the study of Experimental Medicine), published in 1865 by a certain Claude BERNARD, of whom he apparently has never heard.

Here he offers another gem. "Jokes," he says, "have never constituted an argument." Excuse me, excuse me! I protest! A joke is sometimes an irrefutable argument. I am amazed and am waiting for examples.

But this is still taller. "My superficially minded *homo sapiens* cannot admit infinitesimal doses," writes Dr. M——, "and it is gulling to make me swallow that."

Learned men like Claude BERNARD, PASTEUR, BERTHELOT, have humbly submitted their reasonings to the teachings of facts. I have often heard Anatole FRANCE deplore that his were weak and shaky. Our Normandian confrère has a better opinion of himself. His reasonings show the limitations of all knowledge; they are the touchstone of all truth, the canon of all certainty. Why did I not know this before? I would have submitted my articles to him before publication, and thus have avoided the disgrace of being confused, because of the infinitesimal doses, with such fools as they are: ROBIN and his colloids, D'HERELLE with his bacteriophage, RICHEL and his anaphylaxis, PASTEUR in person together with his sera!

"I shall never become a homœopath," adds my correspondent, "because from a mile away it smells Boche" (nickname for German). That, at least, is a reason—and a very good one too. In order to be consistent, our confrère should never make use of

the anti-diphtheritic serum nor of salvarsan, due to BEHRING and EHRLICH, those two Boches! He, undoubtedly, has never read GOETHE nor heard the symphonies of BEETHOVEN. May he receive herewith my sincere expression of deepest compassion.

And now to cap the story. I always quote textually, for the form is as remarkable as the contents. "Between the long-winded lucubrations issuing from the *cranium* of HAHNEMANN and his disciples, I prefer the magnificent limpidity spurting from the brain of PASTEUR."

Is this not an opportunity to teach Dr. M—— that BEHRING, who perhaps knew something about bacteriology, wrote: "In the beginning of this century (the nineteenth), HAHNEMANN would have been able to assume PASTEUR's task." I certainly do believe it. He only needed therefor the indispensable instruments and technique, for all PASTEUR's ideas are to be found in HAHNEMANN, and you will even read in the footnote to paragraph 56 of his *Organon* the clearest and most precise anticipation of bacteriology. I quote therefrom: "A third mode of employing medicines in diseases has been attempted to be created by means of ISOPATHY, as it is called—that is to say, a method of curing a given disease by the same contagious principle that produces it. But even granting this could be done, yet, after all, seeing that the virus is given to the patient highly potentized and, consequently, in an altered condition, the cure is effected only by opposing *simillimum simillimo* (like to like)."

At the end of his letter the "*homo sapiens* of superficial mind" is good enough to assure me once again that he will never be one of us. . . . Ah! yes, God's mercy is infinite!

## VII

### HOMŒOPATHY AND ALLOPATHY

“The most generally existing doctrine is the homœopathic doctrine. This is strange and painful: it is a shame to official medicine, but it is a fact.”

MARCHAL DE CALVI, Académie de Médecine, 1853.

When you are asked, “What is Homœopathy?” instead of smiling with that knowing and superior air which has served until now to mask your ignorance, you will presently be able to reply: Homœopathy is a therapeutic system which extracts its indications from the Law of Similars, and which uses its medicines generally in small or infinitesimal doses, that is to say inferior to pathogenetic doses.

For our confrères who never passed their matriculation—unfortunately there are such—I wish to explain here the expression of pathogenetic doses. It means doses necessary to produce in the healthy the very symptoms which it is proposed to eliminate in the diseased man.

Mark well the first terms of the definition proposed to you. I say that Homœopathy is *a* therapeutic system and not *the whole* of therapeutics. Nothing is more certain than that it substitutes almost completely your bewildered apothecary; that it often makes the surgeon put his lancet down is once more true; that it usually renders unnecessary the use of trocars, lancets, caustic points, and other instruments in the ordinary category called “minor surgery” is all perfectly correct. On the

other hand, I do not claim that Homœopathy always permits us, in all cases, to do without various therapeutic agents, as well as electricity, X-rays, and radium, and I dissociate myself completely from those who pretend the contrary and who, if they are not ignorant, can only be, as JOUSSET said, fanatics.

In return, I firmly believe that Homœopathy brought up to the highest point of perfection would still extend its domain to the detriment of other methods of the healing art; but I write here simply to proclaim the actual truth and not to prophesy.

What renders our method of evident superiority to yours is the fact that Homœopathy has for its base, for principle, and for rule, a law of Nature, the *Law of Similars*.

You undoubtedly will reply that you have, for your part, the *Law of Contraries*. We shall examine the latter in a moment, but let me first show you the consequences naturally proceeding from the Law of Similars, which are of importance. I shall prove to you by examples that, contrary to yours, our remedies do not vary with time or with place, nor according to the fantasy of the physician, and that the Law of Similars, even when it is impossible to establish a definite diagnosis, always enables us to find with certainty the right and helpful remedy.

When I began to exercise the homœopathic art twenty years ago, sea-water was at the zenith of its glory as a therapeutic remedy. Injected under the skin, it healed everything; nowadays it is only used in the case of infantile malnutrition, where it continues to perform miracles, and where, moreover, it acts homœopathically. Had I to make an obituary of all the remedies which, after having shone as meteors in the sky of therapeutics, have suddenly disappeared without

trace, several pages of the *Journal des Praticiens* would scarcely suffice, for in allopathy the age of miracles was never interrupted and will never be closed. It is nowadays continued with milk, of which I never get tired of admiring the sudden and prodigious rise to fortune. In virtue of the theory of colloido-classic shock (lowering of the refractive index of the blood) now in fashion, your Masters decreed that milk should be a marvellous medicine, and immediately thereafter, with a stupefying docility, milk in subcutaneous injections has become capable of healing whatever disease one wishes, amongst them several varieties of iritis, the dreadful gonorrhoeal ophthalmia, ulcer of the stomach, broncho-pneumonia, infantile gastro-enteritis, skin diseases, blennorrhagia, etc. It is, however, necessary to prescribe milk whilst it will cure, for if you wait until the return of springtime, I very much fear that those marvellous virtues will have been already relegated to the bygone moons and the prescriptions of the Treaty of Versailles.

You know the recent misadventures of sparteine (the alkaloid of broom). Sparteine as a cardiac tonic was up to quite recently an article of faith. LABORDE called it the "cardiac metronome," and LEPINE affirmed that it reinforced the cardiac contractions better than digitalis. Thus all cases of instruments for emergency use contained a phial of that most precious medicine. Now physicians who have used it since 1885 for sustaining weak hearts suddenly hear with astonishment that in reality sparteine depresses the myocardium (central heart membrane).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Since these lines were written an attempt has been made to rehabilitate sparteine, which appears to "raise the properties of the sarcoplasm, thereby exercising with regard to the (transverse) striated muscle a moderated form of veratrin poisoning

HUCHARD has insisted at great length, in his *Consultations médicales*, on the dangers of digitalis for subjects with hypertension. Now I read one day—I cannot remember in which review—that digitalis has no longer any hypertensive properties. At the same time, LAUBRY comes to toll the knell of your hypertensors: mistletoe (*viscum album*) has no action any longer; nitrite of soda is doubtful; iodide does not act any longer except as an anti-syphilitic; the organic nitrites are considered to be dangerous.<sup>1</sup>

Really, the gods are departing, leaving the allopaths in most cruel embarrassment!

You will never find anything of this nature with homœopaths, for HAHNEMANN has not determined his remedies as your authors have done, according to theories, to reactions *in vitro* (laboratory tests), or to experiments on the dog, the rabbit, or the pig, but according to tests on the healthy man, a method later very explicitly recommended by Claude BERNARD himself. Therefore, *all the remedies* which cured at the time of HAHNEMANN still have nowadays under the same conditions a healing effect. Here is an example, which you will certainly have occasion to verify.

One of the finest homœopaths I am acquainted with,

action" (similar to the veratrin poison of cevadilla seed or *cocculus indicus*). From these contradictory opinions it may be concluded, I believe, without fear of error, that the action of sparteine on the heart is little or none, and this will be a consolation to those who have formerly employed it.

<sup>1</sup> I recommend all my confrères, and in particular M. CH. FIESSINGER, to read a study by François CARTIER, former *interne* of the Paris Hospitals and a distinguished homœopath, published in the *Revue homœopathique* (Homœopathic Review) of August, October, and November 1910: *Ce que peut faire l'Homœopathie contre l'hyperet l'hypotension artérielle* (What Homœopathy can accomplish for Arterial Hyper- and Hypotension).

Dr. Henri NAVEAU of Mans, expressed in one of our reviews his doubts and anxieties at the time of his first homœopathic treatments in practice.<sup>1</sup> One morning in August of 1905, our confrère was called in great urgency to attend a lady who had been attacked during the night with a violent cholera. At seven o'clock in the morning, NAVEAU found her in a very serious condition. He estimated the loss of liquid from vomiting and stools at about 8 litres (about 2 gallons); the aspect of the face was of a deathly paleness, the nose pinched, the sunken eyes expressing agony, the face and the limbs were cold. At the least movement, and even at rest, cramps of extreme pain supervene in the thighs, the calves, and the toes, eliciting complaints and shrieks from the patient without respite. At such a sight, the Law of Similars does not permit a homœopath to hesitate one second in selecting the remedies to be prescribed. Thus NAVEAU encouraged the patient, and drew up the following prescription:

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) Veratrum album (hellebore) .. | 1st dilution v drops      |
| Boiled water .. .. .              | 150 grm. (5·25 ounces.)   |
| (2) Cuprum metallicum .. .. .     | 3rd trituration 0·50 grm. |
| Boiled water .. .. .              | 150 grm.                  |

*Directions.*—One dessertspoonful to be taken every quarter of an hour in alternation.

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<sup>1</sup> At the moment of sending this book to press, I learn that Dr. Henri NAVEAU has just been elected President of the Society of Medicine of Mans. I congratulate him most heartily and rejoice that this testimony of esteem is rendered to one of us by allopathic confrères who have known him for over twenty years.

And to say that in Paris there is a Medical Society in the district of the Grenelle from which homœopaths are still excluded from membership by its statutes! In the provinces we are less behind the times!



On arriving home, the firm assurance which our confrère had shown decreased and vanished. He asked himself with anxiety whether the homœopathic treatment was going to be effective in such a serious and rapid case (he has treated others since). In order to soothe his disturbed conscience, he consulted the masters of allopathy, DEBOVE, ACHARD, CHARCOT, BOUCHARD, BROUARDEL, and GILBERT, "determined immediately to alter the remedies if I find sufficient reasons therefor," as he said. The remedies recommended by the various authors were surely not lacking: salicylate of bismuth, salol, benzonaphthol, calomel, lactic acid, resorcin, etc. There were only too many to choose from; but what *was* lacking: the indication for making this choice. "On what am I to rely?" said NAVEAU. "Only on the preference which I may have for BOUCHARD, GILBERT, HAYEM, or MATHIEU, for on the condition of the patient and the particular symptoms which he presents there is nothing mentioned." Then he referred to his homœopathic authors, the Frenchman JOUSSET, the Germans JAHR and HARTMANN, the Americans NASH, FARRINGTON, and LILIEN-THAL, all of whom agree in providing him with the same precise indications:

*Veratrum album*: Abundant stools, watery diarrhoea evacuated with force and followed by a great prostration. Vomiting. Extreme coldness. Pale and cold tongue. Icy coldness of the nose and face. Aspect of someone ill with influenza.

*Cuprum metallicum*: Stools with weakness. Cramps in the abdomen. Pale face. Spasms. Cramps commencing in fingers and toes. Violent intermittent cramps, increased by motion and touch.

Reassured, NAVEAU did not change anything in his prescription, and his patient recovered very speedily.

An analysis had shown that the stools were teeming with *Bacilli coli*.

Now *veratrum album* and *cuprum* are at the head of the remedies indicated by HAHNEMANN to his pupils at the time of the cholera epidemics which desolated Germany during the wars of the first empire.

Here is something better. It was with *veratrum album* that HIPPOCRATES himself healed cholera. Just listen to him: "In Athens a man was smitten with cholera, vomiting and defecation taking place at the same time; he was in pain; neither the vomiting nor the stools could be arrested; the voice was hushed, the eyes dimmed and sunken. This patient drank helleborus (*veratrum album*) and escaped death."<sup>1</sup>

I wish to reply, before continuing my demonstration, to an objection which I foresee. Your NAVEAU, certain confrères will tell me, allowed himself to be misled by the appearance; his homœopathic remedies did not count for anything in the recovery of his patient, for it is the property of cholera nostras to heal suddenly after a violent crisis. Truly, as PANURGE (one of the principal characters in RABELAIS' play *Pantagruel*) would say. In 1892, DIEULAFOY attended in his service in the Necker Hospital to four cholera cases which could not be differentiated by their symptoms. The only one who died was the one who presented, like NAVEAU's patient, the pure *B. coli*. The three others who recovered were carriers only of the comma-bacillus or associated with the *B. coli*. The following year, GIRAUDEAU and RENON saw patients dying with the *symptoms and the lesions* of the real Indian cholera, whose stools contained only *B. coli*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Oeuvres complètes d'Hippocrate* (Complete Works of Hippocrates), French translation, LITTRÉ, vol. v, p. 211.

<sup>2</sup> The successes achieved by the homœopaths during the cholera

If our homœopathic remedies do not lose their properties with time, neither do they in any way with regard to space. "Three degrees of elevation at the pole" do not upset or disturb them at all, and it is certainly not a "meridian" who decides for us what the truth is. The two following observations suffice to demonstrate this.

An industrialist of Nantes, a chemical engineer, presented various troubles, amongst which digestive symptoms predominated. This man, beloved by the gods, had reached his fifty-third year without ever having needed a physician. Full of confidence, he consulted a practitioner of his district, who examined him carefully, gave him wise advice on food hygiene, and prescribed for him alkaline powders in saturated solution. The patient did not in the least benefit from it. Often having cause to travel on business, he consulted a Parisian specialist, who prescribed for him a chloro-hydro-peptic elixir. The result was nil. He saw another physician in Bordeaux, and this one made him take cachets of vegetable charcoal, with no greater success. Our chemist became rather astonished at these contradictory remedies, and his confidence in the healing art singularly decreased. On the advice of a chemist, he at last consulted a well-known professor of undisputed cleverness, who at one time had had his hour of fame with his name and portrait in the leading journals. After having questioned and examined him epidemics of Toulon, Marseilles, Avignon, and Nîmes have still witnesses, and are recorded in the official documents, and that is why Homœopathy is far more spread in the South of France than in the North. If you desire to definitely cure all cases of cholera nostras or of Indian cholera which you have to attend, provide yourself at Baillière with the little pamphlet of Dr. CHARGÉ: *Traitement du choléra épidémique* (Treatment of Epidemic Cholera). It dates from 1884, but has not become old fashioned.

for a long time, the latter gave him the following prescription :

## DRAUGHT

Tincture of quinine	..	..	..	40·0	gram.
Tincture of coca	..	..	..	40·0	gram.
Fluid extract of condurango	..	..	..	20·0	gram.
Tincture of kola	..	..	..	20·0	gram.
Fluid extract of cascara	..	..	..	20·0	gram.
Syrup of bitter orange peel	..	..	..	260·0	gram.
Bromide of calcium	..	..	..	25·0	gram.
Arseniate of sodium	..	..	..	0·1	gram.
Hydrochloric acid	..	..	..	4·0	gram.

## CACHETS

Salophene	..	..	..	..	9·0	gram.
Phenacetin	..	..	..	..	} aa. 3·0	gram.
Theobromine..	..	..	..	..		
Analgesine	..	..	..	..		
Glycerophosphate of calcium	..	..	..	..		
Valerianate of quinine	..	..	..	..		

In 30 cachets.

I certainly do not permit myself to criticize this prescription, but if one day I should have the honour to make the acquaintance of its learned author, I shall not be able to resist making the observation, very respectfully, that the first charitable duty of a physician is to avoid prescribing for others what he himself would hesitate to accept.

Whatever it may be, notwithstanding the emotional shocks which it certainly did not fail to successively produce, the great reputation of the physician, the impressionable complexity of his prescription, and the noisy approbation of the chemist (his bill amounted to francs 34·85<sup>1</sup>), the patient did not recover—far from that! It was at that time he came to consult me.

<sup>1</sup> That price dates from 1925. What would it be nowadays?

My clinical diagnosis was the following: "Simple dyspepsia, that is to say not complicated by an ulcer, by dilatation, or aerophagia, with numerous additional gastric symptoms." My medicinal diagnosis was *nux vomica* (poison nut), because of the following signs: "Acid eructations and nausea *in the morning*, when the feeling of discomfort is always *aggravated*, and particularly headache, which predominated above the *left eye*. One or two hours after a meal, sensation of uneasiness, heaviness, pyrosis (heartburn). He felt he would be better if he could vomit. An irresistible longing to sleep after dinner. *Insomnia from three to six o'clock in the morning*. Constipation. *Hypochondria*. *Permanent condition of irritability*." I did not change anything in the matter of the diet, which was excellent.

My client was very much astonished at the brevity of my prescription, and I formed the impression that he did not intend following it up. A mistake! He came back to see me about a month later, in order to ask me to confirm his recovery; but he also confessed to me that, having been rendered mistrustful by the contradictions of the allopaths, he had consulted two homœopaths in Paris and a third one in Bordeaux. Their prescriptions had been identical with mine, and had not contained any other than the one and only remedy, *nux vomica*.

Another analogous fact, under another sky. An American physician, Dr. CHAPMAN of Chicago, also attacked by gastro-intestinal troubles (different from those of my patient of Nantes), sent the particulars of his case (with two dollars enclosed) to twelve famous allopaths and twelve well-reputed homœopaths. Amongst the first, Dr. BARTHOLOW of Philadelphia, author of a highly esteemed *Traité de Thérapeutique* (Treatise on Therapeutics), declined by saying that he

could not prescribe anything without having seen the patient. Dr. Isaac N. LOVE of St. Louis did not reply. The other ten sent their prescriptions, all different each from the other. There was to be found hydrochloric acid, gentian, pepsin, bismuth, aloes, ipecacuanha, hyoscyamus (henbane), colocynth (bitter cucumber), quinine, nux vomica, castor oil, potassium citrate, podophyllum (May-apple), etc.

The twelve homœopaths, KENT in Chicago, DOWBRY in New York, WALTON in Cincinnati, and others, all indicated one and the same remedy, *lycopodium clavatum* (Club Moss).

But what is still better: even without any diagnosis we are in a position, thanks to our Law of Similars, to lay hands on our remedies with certainty, and thus heal our patients.

Before uplifting your arms to the sky to shout the abomination of desolation, would you mind telling me whether it has ever happened to you, in the first days of an illness, and even during its whole course, that you were unable to form a positive diagnosis? Sometimes, of course, is this not so? Amongst augurs, one is allowed to confess this. Well now, on those occasions I have never seen you folding your arms whilst your patient was lying in a serious condition. You certainly have never left him without attendance just for lack of a diagnosis, and you have based your therapeutics on what? On the symptoms.

That is exactly what we are doing, but with more success than you, as I shall have the honour and the pleasure of demonstrating to you.

As a consequence of the Great War, finding myself in 1918 in a large town in the South of France, I was summoned to the young son of a high magistrate who had been for five days in an alarming condition, and with regard

to whom three physicians, whom I met at his bedside, were far from being in agreement. The child, seven years of age, had presented during some days a light temperature fluctuation which rose up to  $105.8^{\circ}$  F., whereas at the same time his consciousness became obscure and the young patient fell into a semi-comatose state. When I examined him, at ten o'clock in the morning, the temperature was at  $105.4^{\circ}$  F., the pulse 138, the face red, covered with sweat, the muscular resolution complete, constipation obstinate since the beginning of the illness. The analysis of the urine and the diazo-reaction (a red or pink colour imparted to the urine by certain chemicals when abdominal typhus, tuberculosis, or inflammation of the lungs is present) had been negative. But in raising the fallen eyelids I saw that, even in half obscurity, the pupils were very much contracted, indicating an extreme myosis. After a complete examination of all the organs, which did not reveal anything further to me, I asked my honourable confrères their opinion.

The eldest one, a charming old gentleman of nearly eighty years of age, was the first to begin by saying: "I have given calomel and santonine (wormseed) without results, and I conclude that we are in the presence of what in my young days one would have called a soporous fever; acetate of ammonia appears to me rather well indicated."

The second physician, of fifty years of age, expressed his opinion as follows: "I first of all thought of malaria, and gave, without success, injections of quinine. It is evident to me that this child is developing an eruptive fever, and I therefore propose cold baths in order to favour the eruptions and to combat the fever."

The Benjamin of the group, freshly moulded from his courses at the School, served us with two diagnoses

instead of one: "It is either typhoid," he declared, "or meningitis. Let us make a blood test and a lumbar puncture."

"My dear confrères," I said in my turn, "I should like to think that one of you at least is right, but I would be much embarrassed to say which of you. As it is neither impossible that all three of you are mistaken, I believe it useless to propose a seventh diagnosis, let me say, for instance, encephalitis lethargica (European sleeping sickness), which could equally be wrong, and I prefer to admit modestly to you that I have not the slightest idea from what our patient is suffering. On the other hand, I do know, and that is far better, what has to be given to him, in order to permit him to recover with certainty."

They all looked at me with anxiety and thought I was in delirium when they heard me affirm: "It is *opium*, given in homœopathic doses."

Desirous to show to them that Homœopathy has nothing mysterious about it, I added: "If you read your MANQUAT, you will see that he recognizes as dominant symptoms due to the intoxication by opium: constipation, more and more profound sleepiness, comatose condition, extreme contraction of the pupils; in other words, the totality of the symptoms presented by our patient. In virtue of *similia similibus* (likes to likes), which is all you know of Homœopathy, I thus propose to you the administration of opium. But since in ordinary doses it could only exaggerate the condition of our patient, we shall give it in very small doses—two drops of the tincture in a glass of water—which we shall let him take by coffeespoonfuls every quarter of an hour. If after a lapse of twelve hours we have not obtained any result, I shall abandon this innocent to your good care and wash my hands of what may happen."



The Areopagus was hesitant, when the unexpected support of our Nestor was offered to me: "What our confrère proposes can be followed up without inconvenience," he said; "more so since I have personally known a homœopath, Dr. CHARGÉ, who was a remarkable physician, and whom I saw achieving the most surprising cures."

Thus *opium* was administered according to my prescription. After the sixth spoonful the pupils commenced to dilate; at the fifth hour the child had a motion; the next morning he returned to consciousness and the temperature fell to  $100 \cdot 4^{\circ}$  F. In four days his recovery was complete.

The happy parents proclaimed it a miracle, and did not know how to express their gratitude. I was quite confused, for it had not been at all difficult to work the miracle. Moreover, I had so much the less right to assume the credit for it since I knew of two cases absolutely analogous, reported one by GALLAVARDIN of Lyons, and the other by FAVRE of Toulouse.<sup>1</sup> Nothing was missing: the contraction of the pupils, the coma, the constipation . . . even the recovery by the use of infinitesimal doses of opium was evident.

I refer those who might be astonished at these cures to the *Huitième Mémoire* of CABANIS, dating from 1796 (fourteen years before the publication of the *Organon*). They will be able to read there: "It should be observed that opium, if used in weak doses, maintains for a long time a purely stimulant action. I have known an old man who used it to prevent him from lethargic drowsiness, to which he was inclined. I have made

<sup>1</sup> Case of FAVRE, in *Propagateur de l'Homœopathie* (Propagator of Homœopathy), 1909, p. 119.

Case of GALLAVARDIN, in *Propagateur de l'Homœopathie*, 1906, p. 180.

use of it with success myself, in order to achieve the same end, in the case of another old man. . . .”

Do not conclude, if you please, from the preceding observations that homœopaths are only applying symptomatic therapeutics, of which they are sometimes accused. I have not chosen *opium* on one single symptom, but on the totality of the symptoms presented by the patient, a symptom-complex which constituted, for you as well as for me, the objective picture of the illness. Besides, when we study the *Organon*, you will see that HAHNEMANN said: “The physician can believe himself in possession of the knowledge of a disease only when he has been able to penetrate the *occasional and fundamental cause* of same, and after having collected the totality of the symptoms.”<sup>1</sup>

So we now agree with regard to diagnosis. The only point which still separates us is the following: In order to choose our remedies, we go by the indications of the *Law of Similars*, whereas you pretend to follow those given by the *Law of Contraries*; and it is we who are right, since “*the therapeutics of internal diseases mainly obey the Law of Similars.*” Who has said so? A homœopath? Not at all! It is HUCHARD himself, as you already know.

At last the moment has arrived to examine your famous Law of Contraries, which you constantly oppose to us. I promise a basket of six bottles of old Muscadet, a speciality of Nantes, to the one who will be able to explain to me that law as clearly as I have explained to him the Law of SIMILARS.

For, in the end, what is the contrary of meningitis, erysipelas, or inflammation of the lungs?

“But it is a question of contrary symptoms,” someone replied to whom I had put the inquiry.

<sup>1</sup> *Organon*, paragraphs 5, 6, and 7.

I hear you say: "But then, your art consists in *opposing* those symptoms." "That is fine work," as my gardener would say. The symptoms, physical signs, and functional signs do not represent anything other than *the effort of Nature, who, in order to protect the patient, works with all its forces to evacuate the morbid substance* (SYDENHAM). Therefore, the exact thing to do is to avoid counter-acting them, and all you are allowed to do is to moderate them when, by their violence, they place the patient in danger. Now, there you find your field of exploits singularly reduced—so, what is Homœopathy doing? By its remedies with similar action to the morbid symptoms, it functions exactly in the same sense as Nature, whose humble servant it professes to be.

A tree is judged by its fruit, a doctrine by its results, a principle by its competence. Let us, therefore, examine the marvellous cures which you owe to the Law of Contraries.

When CHARGÉ obtained in Marseilles, by means of the twelve remedies which you will find worked out in the little treatise already mentioned to you, such brilliant results in the cholera epidemics during the years 1854 and 1884, this great physician was subjected to all kinds of scoffings and persecutions. The reason therefor was undoubtedly because his adversaries possessed a surer and more effective therapeutic system than his?

Judge for yourself.

Their arsenal was the *Traitement du choléra* (*Treatment of Cholera*) by Dr. FABRE, formerly chief editor of the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*. It is a volume in octavo of more than four hundred pages, in which you will find no less than 1,800 ways of treating cholera, all in opposition the one to the other. Each formula contains an average of four drugs mixed together, which numbers

six thousand to seven thousand remedies used for the same disease. (*“Medicamentorum varietas ignorantiae filia est”*—“Variety in medicines is the daughter of ignorance”—BACON has said.) But that is not all, for there are heroic treatments, such as: large vesicants on the whole stomach region! mustard plasters enveloping the patient from head to feet! beatings with nettles! leeches! moxae (cones of cotton-wool applied on the skin for cauterizing)! opening of the temporal artery! and so on. As to the result? The author frankly states that after the use of each of those means death follows nearly always, sometimes in two, sometimes in twelve, fifteen, twenty-four, or forty-eight hours.

The results of the homœopathic treatment are confined to official documents, and they were such that a pupil of CHARGÉ could write without being condemned by the allopaths on the outlook: “Of the choleraics whom I saw one or two hours after the invasion of the cholera, whatever the seriousness of the symptoms were, all were saved.” The author of this declaration was Dr. ROUX of Cette, *who is known to everyone as an honest and disinterested physician, acting merely from conviction, and not for the sake of speculation*, as was said by the *Revue thérapeutique du Midi (The Therapeutic Review of the South)*.

Let us consider another affection, angina pectoris, which M. CH. FIESSINGER knows better than anyone else. Does he believe in all conscientiousness, that an allopath has ever had the right to joke about the treatment being always the same according to the same modalities, and which the homœopaths have applied hundreds of years to that group of symptoms? The other day, in looking for a reference in the *Traité des maladies du cœur* by HUCHARD, I chanced on page 137 of volume ii, third edition, where the different treat-

ments of angina pectoris were passed in review. What a horrible enumeration! You will find there heat and cold, alcohol and blood-letting, opium and purgatives, even emetics; furthermore, guaiacum (resin of iron-wood), gentian, arnica, muscas, hemlock, poisonous lettuce, silver nitrate, asafoetida (gum of stankasand), phosphoric lemonade, water of cherry laurel, etc., without counting the most singular external treatments: hot cataplasms on the spinal vertebrae, cauterizations on the internal part of the legs, dry-cupping, electricity, metallotherapy (treatment by local application of various metals), applications of clay on the praecordial region!!!

If the Law of Contraries indicated all that to you—well, then, it really makes me think of the hat of ROBERT-HOUDIN, the juggler, from which the operator pulls out at random omelettes or hard eggs, living doves or living rabbits.

I did not choose those two affections particularly. I could also make this criticism with regard to any other disease, for instance typhoid fever, and I could always show you the same abundance of medicines and the same absence of results. It is because of that variety, of that inconstancy, of that uncertainty with regard to the action of the remedies, and, it must also be added, of their dangers, that the allopaths have manifested a therapeutic scepticism which steadily grows with years of medical practice. This is to be found in the most humble practitioners in the country as well as amongst the masters of wide reputation.

A physician of Bourgueil, Dr. CHAUVET (his Christian names are Napoléon-Magloire, like a hero of BALZAC), has had the courage to make, in a book dedicated to BRETONNEAU, the following confession: "With the hand on my conscience, I declare before God and men that

my medical practice has been more harmful than useful to humanity; to such an extent that if the numerous patients whom I have treated during a quarter of a century could have been abandoned only to the resource of Nature, and sustained by simple hygienic means, the final result would have been far better."

Perhaps you have followed the services of that eminent master who died some years before the Great War and who, after having reached the summit of university honours, declared: "At the termination of my career, I arrive at the conclusion that we cannot do anything against illness or disease."

The physicians of Nantes will long bear in mind a professor of their School who was gifted with marvellous clinical abilities. When he had made a fine diagnosis of a difficult case, this master would usually add: "As to the treatment . . . you will act as you like," or he would prescribe 3 cachets of bicarbonate of soda or 1 gramme of salol in two powders. Before occupying the chair of the Medical Clinic, he had been Professor of Therapeutics!

This state of mind, general to all times and all countries, is often expressed in a most picturesque manner. MAGENDIE did not refrain from saying in his opening speech, on February 16, 1846, at the College of France: "It is especially in the spheres where medicine is most active that mortality is most considerable"; and a professor of London began his lecture in 1908 as follows: "If we would throw all our drugs into the sea, it would be a great advantage to human beings, and a great disadvantage to the fish."

With homœopaths you do not find anything similar to this. On the contrary, their faith in their system increases with their practice, and the eldest amongst them are, if I may say so, the most infatuated with

Homœopathy. I knew one of them here who has never condescended to associate with an allopath at the bedside of a patient. He was the kind of man to refuse to enter into consultation with LANCEREUX, DIEULAFOY, Ch. FIESSINGER, or LOUIS RAMOND. "All these learned people with their poisons are only good for making the sauce sour," he used to say.

One of the facts which struck me mainly at my commencement in Homœopathy is the following: "The son of a physician of my friends was attacked by a very serious scarlet fever, with redoubtable complications. His father attended him according to the method of HAHNEMANN, which he practised, and he cured him. At the most critical instances of the malady he never once gave in to the supplications of his wife and of the grandparents of the child, who wished to call in to his bedside a very well-reputed allopath. "What is the good of it," he replied to them, "since I will never allow my son to take his drugs? . . ." Oh! how many examples could I quote you of sick homœopaths calling homœopaths to their bedside, by no means wishing to consult other confrères. Moreover, *it has never yet been found that a physician, after having studied and practised Homœopathy for a year, then abandoned it as a fruitless and deceiving science.*

Except one, M. FIMBEL of Marseilles. But the reason for this was because this excellent oculist had experimented wrongly, which he admitted with ingenious candour. "I believe I must add," he wrote, "that in each case I did not deprive a patient of the classical treatments of recognized efficacy; every optic neuritis received, according to the case, mercury or strychnine *in strong doses*, detachment of the retina, cyanide by intravenous injections. The homœopaths will object that, owing to the fact of the concomitance of both

treatments, all my experiments are marked by error. . . .”

Right you are, Augustus!

Parisian oculists, as PARENTEAU, ROUY, SUBILEAU, and others, who have experimented according to the Hahnemannian rules, and who have refrained from those homœopathico-allopathic mixtures, have arrived at conclusions absolutely opposed to the one of M. FIMBEL.



## VIII

### THE OPPONENTS OF HOMŒOPATHY

"M. TOMÈS.

That is impossible.

LISETTE.

I do not know if it be impossible, but  
I know that he is dead."

MOLIÈRE: *L'Amour médecin* (Love's  
the Best Doctor), Act II, Scene II.

"If Homœopathy is such as you express it, in its principle and in its results, how is it," you will ask, "that it is not more widespread in France?" "If it were true," a physician said to me during the Great War, "it would be known." But it is known, I replied to him, and much more than you suppose. There are homœopaths in the most outlying regions of the globe, and everywhere where the monopoly of teaching is not instituted, Homœopathy competes triumphantly with its rival. In France itself we are much more numerous than our annuals would have you believe,<sup>1</sup> for, in addition to those who are mentioned therein, there are secret homœopaths (I do not dare say shameful, although they hide themselves) and partial homœopaths.

I think of that secret homœopathic specialist of Nantes, whom I know well, often using our remedies with success, but recommending to his clients who are aware of it not to say anything about it. "For if they

<sup>1</sup> See the graph on page 135, and note that since 1932 the movement which wins physicians to Homœopathy is steadily increasing.

would know that I am practising Homœopathy," he says, "my confrères would not send me their patients any longer!"

Another secret homœopath comes to my mind, the "aquatic" who prescribed *thus toxicodendron* and *pulsatilla* for a lady coming from the Province of Mayenne to take the water cure in the spa where he practised.

As to the "partial" homœopaths, they are legion. I thus denominate the physicians who have included in their practice one or more homœopathic cures—for instance, of whooping-cough or sciatica—and which they entirely admit, but who do not try to find out whether Homœopathy could be "suitable" for other diseases. They are disinclined to curiosity and not in the least in favour of generalizing.

Last year, I saw a senator suffering from intercostal neuralgia as a result of shingles. He had consulted several physicians and surgeons. The latter had proposed to him a slight operation, very simply "the section of a few posterior roots of the spinal nerves." As he declined this amiable invitation, the surgeon said to him: "Well, then go and consult homœopaths; they have a splendid remedy for a case such as yours. One of my friends has been cured by them." Indeed, with the greatest possible ease I freed this legislator from his neuralgia by prescribing *mercury*, especially because of that symptom which should not astonish you—the pains were worse during the night.

You certainly ignore the fact that we have specialists who practise Homœopathy; the most numerous are oculists. Do you know why? Simply because the eye being accessible to the investigation of all its parts, even the deeper ones, it is possible to state *de visu* the action of our remedies as far as the retina. There is no

possibility of doubting Homœopathy, since under its influence it is seen that a speck in the eye is obliterated, a cataract dissolved, an optic nerve has regained its normal coloration.

However, it is true that obvious, secret, and partial homœopaths combined do not yet amount to a large total. I will give you the reasons for our relatively small number.

Homœopathy is not more widespread in France because it is a difficult therapeutic system and its teaching is not provided for.

In order to enable you to emulate me, I have intentionally chosen the simplest and easiest examples. Yet, if you well understand our rigorous method of individualization, you will agree that Homœopathy is more difficult to practise than allopathy, with all the difference that there exists between the delivery of a suit ready-made and one made-to-measure. After twenty years of training, it still happens that I am obliged to consult my *Materia Medica*. Oh! I do not at all mind opening it in the presence of my client. He may feel a curative shock in seeing me thus *doctus cum libro* (learned with a book)—the contrary effect is more probable. I do not know; but what I certainly do know is that I shall be able to cure him when I discover the *simillimum*, and that I shall not if I fail to find it.

These difficult therapeutics are by no means easy to study in France. The few good books of our first homœopaths, in which our doctrine is clearly explained, are out of print, and those which were published about twenty years ago are all liable to the same criticism. Their authors, very clever and most erudite, have persisted in presenting the best-established facts, the most intrepid theories, the most audacious hypotheses

on the same plane. After the addition of a few hymns to the honour of Homœopathy, the whole is bound with vituperations addressed to the official School. Now tell me what you could possibly learn from such writings!

The *Précis* which I have written for you has for its first quality perfect clearness. I will explain in a second volume all that is theory and hypothesis. Those who possess a speculative and philosophical mind will read it with interest, whilst all others who prefer to play bridge or manille while drinking distinguished beverages, such as the immortal "Boubouroche," can let it pass without inconvenience.

As to our *Materia Medica*, one would say it is a bet; the pathogenesis of the medicines therein is so well simplified that the search for the *simillimum* is as easy and attractive for a beginner as that of seeking a needle in a haystack! Is it astonishing that many curious minds, lacking a good guide, have renounced the study of Homœopathy?

Moreover, as if all those difficulties were not enough to handicap it heavily, this poor Homœopathy has to encounter and even unite against most obstinate enemies, as there are the Faculty, the butlers, the chemists, and the medical dictionaries such as *Larousse médical*—redoubtable powers with which one has to reckon!

We have endeavoured to explain the hostility of your masters by reasons of a psychological order, and you will find reproduced in all our books a passage from ROUSSEAU on the repugnance which learned people have to admit a truth not emanating from their learned societies. I prefer to say that this hostility remains to me incomprehensible. On the other hand, I should perfectly understand if the Faculty could set up in

opposition a more effective method than the one which we practise, and with which it would itself be fully satisfied. I would have too good a game in my hands to demonstrate to you that there is no question about that, if only by relating what has been said of your therapeutics by the very persons who were in charge of its teachings, such as BARTHEZ, BÉRARD, MALGAIGNE, MAGENDIE, BROUSSAIS, GERMAIN SÉE, BOUCHARDAT, etc. This, for example, was what LOUIS believed forty-five years after the reformation of HAHNEMANN, whom he did not wish to know: "I admit that for twenty years I have studied in the hospitals most of the methods of treatment, which has enabled me to observe that the greatest part of them showed *deplorable results, and I owe to them the loss of very dear people.* It is not by party spirit that I ceased making use of them, but I have taken that decision because *I saw too great a number of patients succumb.*"<sup>1</sup>

I gladly admit that your therapeutics are less murderous than those which were practised round about 1855, especially if you will listen to the good advice which M. CH. FIESSINGER does not cease to give you relative to the dangers of the strong doses, but they are not yet so satisfactory that you are excusable in retaining them imperturbably, without wishing to know others.

First of all, how many effective remedies do you possess? "About fifteen," says M. CH. FIESSINGER, who admits having been too generous in counting twenty of them. Fifteen remedies to oppose to the numberless sufferings afflicting lamentable mankind! The public are hardly aware of it (and it is a good

<sup>1</sup> Académie de Médecine (Academy of Medicine), November 24, 1855.

thing!) when entering a chemist's shop or reading your . . . magisterial prescriptions!

So your Law of Contraries permits you to always use those fifteen remedies in good earnest? With great respect I read what HUCHARD writes in his own journal: "You know the past and present therapeutics, with their *incoherences*, with their richness of medicines opposed to the poverty of their medications, with their incessant fluctuations because they do not obey any precise law and are no longer commanded nor directed by a doctrine." (Here the moment has arrived to make you observe that we possess what you lack: a precise law, the Law of Similars, and a solid doctrine *ne varietur*—which may not vary—founded thereupon.)

Insufficient and incoherent, that is bad enough; but your therapeutics seem also to be dangerous, if I am to believe HAYEM, who is sure to know, as he has been teaching them at the Faculty of Paris. "You know," he says, "that the greatest danger which a patient chronically affected runs is to see his condition complicated by a medicinal poisoning. . . . The proportion of chemical poisonings by medicines amongst the clientele in the towns amounts to 80 per cent. of all chronic diseases taken in bulk. That is monstrous! . . ." Furthermore, is it not your MANQUAT who wrote: "If all cases of death due to antipyrin were known and published, one would be terrified at their number"?

Now let us go on a short trip abroad, where you will hear the same alarm bell, but with more sombre tones. SCHARFF of Berlin, particularly, put his Prussian boots so heavily in the plate that I really cannot decide to repeat here what he actually did say of your remedies and your chemists, as I would not like to grieve the latter!

The homœopathic therapy, as now practised, is

always without risk of danger; besides, my twenty years of experience enable me to affirm that it is singularly more effective than yours, and has a far more extensive field of activity. Each time you find the *simillimum* you will without fail achieve a cure, unless the affection concerned is due to irreparable organic destruction. It is thus that I have obtained personally, have seen or followed cures of partial or complete detachment of the retina, fibroids, retractions of the palmar aponeuroses (shortening of tendons in the palm of the hand), various tumours of the breast and ovaries, diabetic and senile gangrene. These are all affections which are generally referred to the surgeon.

In cases of tuberculosis, we obtain numerous and lasting cures with our diluted tuberculins, our remedial drainage, our re-mineralization, all of which are totally and completely assimilated thanks to their extreme division.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> With regard to this subject, you yourselves have just become—and your clients even more so—victims of a misfortune which recalls that of sparteine. Since the publication of the works of FERRIER, and following his example, you have undertaken the re-mineralization of consumptive patients. In organisms which do not assimilate lime (calcium) salts contained in food and drinks, you have claimed to be able to render such salts assimilable by coarse subdivision. That was in itself an ingenuousness, and physicians gifted with good common sense, such as LEVEN, have observed that one can recover the total quantity from the digestive tract. But nothing could check your re-mineralistic passion, and it was shown how, in favour thereof, innumerable preparations (all more or less assimilable according to the prospectus) appeared on the market. In 1923, however, MANOUSSAKIS proved by experiment, in TESSIER's laboratory at Lyons, that all the calcium preparations which you had administered up to then were not only not assimilated by your consumptive patients, but, on the contrary, promoted the decalcification of the affected organs! You probably will have made as many victims with that method as with overfeeding, of sinister memory. Homœopaths have no such conscience pricks!

With regard to cancer, we have been fortunate in establishing an organization with the object of combating it, and one of the members, NEBEL, is said to have obtained most interesting results. But since I have not yet ascertained these results personally, I confine myself merely to pointing them out to you; meanwhile I look forward to a journey to Lausanne in order to study the matter.<sup>1</sup>

The opposition of orthodox medicine to Homœopathy—especially since it has nothing equal or superior to offer as a substitute—is incomprehensible. On the other hand, such hostility emanating from the door-keepers can be easily understood.

Mother PIPELET (originally a character in Eugène SUE's *Mysteries of Paris*, in figurative sense a familiar expression for doorkeeper) can only conceive of material causes of disease. That is why she attributes all diseases of children as being caused by worms, and she has accepted without question the existence of microbes, which to her are only very tiny worms. Since, according to this simplified etiology, it is only a question of killing or driving out the enemy, remedies could never be too numerous or too energetic from her viewpoint. This being the case, forward with draughts, cachets, pills, and electuaries (confections: drugs, generally dried, in syrup or honey)! As far as this point is concerned, Mother PIPELET is in perfect agreement with M. HOMAIS (chemist in G. FLAUBERT's novel *Madame Bovary*) and all the rest of them!

As a matter of fact, I should not like to accuse the

<sup>1</sup> More and more numerous cases of cancer cures are published in our journals. Read, in *l'Homœopathie moderne* of 1932, those obtained and reported by CHAVANON of Paris. I have several cases, of which three are already of five years' standing; I only await the sanction of time before publishing them.



chemists of willing and premeditated malice against Homœopathy.<sup>1</sup> No; their hostility arises from a very natural but singularly powerful cause, merely this: an opposition of interests. These honourable tradesmen, anxious to meet their own accounts, are led by the difficulties of the times to unconsciously divide physicians into two classes: the good ones who write large prescriptions and the others who prescribe but little or none at all, at the head of whom the homœopaths appear with their small tubes of cheap granules. Nevertheless, the physician whose interest it is to heal his patient must prescribe but little, if he desires to succeed, and I do not think it rash to state that his therapeutic value is in inverse proportion to the length of his prescriptions.<sup>2</sup> What physician ever prescribed fewer medicines to his patients than the eminent professor to whom is due the *Précis de Thérapeutique* in the *Collection Testut*?

Instead of being indignant at the war declared

<sup>1</sup> Chemists fight much less against homœopaths in this year of grace 1933, now that Homœopathy is developing and likely to bring about appreciable benefits. Several of them who used to be at war with me now inform me with much courtesy that they are disposed to lay in supplies of homœopathic medicines, and one of them has shown me that *Dorvault*, one of the sacred handbooks of the official "big pots," spoke in favour of Homœopathy. He therefore quotes that booklet in the first instance, admitting that "recent attainments of science in the domain of therapeutics (radiotherapy, vaccinotherapy, etc.) seem desirous of bringing striking confirmation to the two laws on which the homœopathic doctrine is based (infinitesimal doses and Law of Similars)." The day after he had read this, an old and honourable chemist of Nantes awoke with jaundice. Evidently it was a case of emotional icterus.

<sup>2</sup> One can appear to be a great physician without prescribing medicines; often the best remedy is that of prescribing none (Tissor).

against us by these chemists, I have adopted the policy of being amused by it, which is considerably wiser. Oh! the mocking smile and the pitying nod of the head of the draughtmonger whilst reading a homœopathic prescription and standing between jars of paste for jujube and ointment of Mother THECLE! Really, I do not know of a more enjoyable spectacle in the whole wide world! The last occasion I had to laugh about it was when I entered a chemist's shop, where I read on the counter-top, between the busts of HIPPOCRATES and GALEN, the following suggestive inscription engraved in the wood:

“Mille morbia, mille remedia.”

(“A thousand diseases, a thousand remedies.”)

Alas! the shop-window of the bookseller opposite gave me the cue on the cover of the excellent booklet which is known to all of you, i.e. *La thérapeutique en vingt médicaments* (*Therapeutics in Twenty Remedies*), by M. CH. FIESSINGER.

Finally, we unfortunate homœopaths have still against us the *Larousse médical*, that family treasure and palladium of health!

The firm who edits this dictionary provides us, regarding Homœopathy, with a most enjoyable example of commercial opportunism worthy of close consideration.

The *Larousse universel*, in seventeen volumes, is found hardly anywhere else but in the libraries of literary and learned men; consequently, the method of HAHNEMANN is therein very seriously exposed, in several concise columns to which any kind of homœopath would gladly append his signature.

In the *Nouveau Larousse illustré*, in eight volumes, there is already a damper put on. The prejudices of

the "average Frenchman" who purchases this publication must not be shocked, neither should he be laughed at too much. Therefore Homœopathy is no longer explicitly approved therein; nevertheless, the exactness of the Law of Similars is recognized, as well as the use of infinitesimal doses, by the official School.

As to *Larousse medical*, a cheap and popular publication for the general public, which provides for the masses good value for their money, it is obvious to me that the colleague responsible for the writing of the article on Homœopathy in this dictionary left the care of it to his manservant or chauffeur, for never would a physician, even with intention, have succeeded in accumulating so much nonsense in so few lines. Commencement: "The theory of the medicinal disease taking the place of the natural disease is erroneous; the facts which it attempts to explain do not exist." It reasons—properly, like a Dutchman. Finale: "Homœopaths have so little confidence in their methods that they themselves are attended when sick by allopaths." I demand examples, and meanwhile am willing to mention—with their authorization, of course—the names and addresses of allopaths who are attended by homœopaths. As a matter of fact, they do not come off too badly, since of them Dr. MOISSENET of Paris, treated for a long time by my friend J. P. TESSIER, died recently at the advanced age of ninety-five years.<sup>1</sup>

To become a homœopath, and to remain faithful to it against its many combined enemies, requires indeed great virtue. Ah! yes, it is necessary to possess a vivid imagination, that flash of spirit which is observed in

<sup>1</sup> Sign of the times! All the foolishness has disappeared from the last editions of *Larousse medical*, which even recognizes that the recent attainments of science serve only to confirm the homœopathic doctrine!

a few, not to become blindly attached to the opinion of our predecessors; on the contrary, desirous to understand and listen to the arguments and results of the discoveries of our century—that is to say, it is necessary to become the counterpart of Thomas DIAFOIRUS, for I have just quoted one of the most famous passages from MOLIÈRE'S *Le Malade imaginaire* (The Hypochondriac).

Furthermore, that is exactly the state of mind of the very numerous readers who have written to me, all of them except one—the one of whom I have spoken to you at the end of my sixth chapter.

I regret being unable to give satisfaction to the eighteen curious ones who would like to know my reply to Dr. M——. However, in the three pages which I received from him I have only found orthographic mistakes and coarse defiance. For decency's sake I can only quote to you the following: "I have not attacked you personally, but have limited myself to criticism of your method; indeed, without knowing anything about it, so much it appears to me to be buffoonery to say *a priori* (deductively), like you . . ."

Such foolishness: to pretend to criticize a method of which one admits no knowledge renders every controversy futile; there is no worse deafness than the deafness of one who does not wish to listen, that is, of one who is not able to understand.

Then he goes on: ". . . In order to demonstrate to you that I receive as many letters as a certain homœopath of Nantes, I hereby announce that I am at present correcting the proofs of a volume of medical stories. . . ."

Unfortunately, for I never judge *a priori*, the proof is insufficient. As an author, CALINO (a naïve character of the vaudeville theatre) can at any time put himself in print, and permit himself the expensive pleasure of

correcting his own proofs, which will always remain poems of cajolery.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Never despair of the sinner, for truth will always triumph in the end. The Normandian colleague in question sent me, in 1931, the records of a cure which he had achieved in a case of ear sickness with *cocculus* (Indian cockle), 6th dilution.

## IX

### HAHNEMANN AND HIS WORK

“HAHNEMANN anticipated in the commencement of the nineteenth century the paths which modern science would have to follow.”

Pr. GIMENO of Madrid.

The institution of lectures in physics, chemistry, and biology, and the maintenance of the defence of a thesis in the absence of a serious teaching of the history of medicine at the Faculty, have led me to surmise that the syllabi for medical studies are periodically worked out by supervising clerks and doorkeepers of the Ministry of Public Instruction, assisted by a council of office-boys.

Therefore I was not in the least astonished to learn from my readers that many amongst them had never heard of HAHNEMANN. A Parisian colleague has even asked me whether he was not a friend of HUCHARD!

The admirable life of HAHNEMANN is so intimately linked up with the history of Homœopathy that I am unable to give you an outline in this chapter. You will, however, find it in the opening chapter of my *Précis*, but meanwhile I believe it necessary to put you immediately into the position of being able to make a choice for yourselves between two contradictory judgments which have been passed in this journal.

M. CH. FIESSINGER, who has read all the old authors, has written in his *Journal des Praticiens*: “HAHNEMANN was a man of genius.” Unfortunately in the same issue of that journal,<sup>1</sup> one of its most brilliant contributors

<sup>1</sup> December 18, 1920.

describes the founder of Homœopathy as "a German charlatan." I have to point out from my heart that our Master least of all deserved the outrageous epithet with which, after the example of so many fools, a sensible and intelligent but badly informed man has dared to couple his name.

As the third of four children of a humble artisan of Meissen in Saxony, Samuel HAHNEMANN made his studies under the most difficult conditions and only by enduring the hardest privations. For several years he did not sleep more than one night in two, devoting the other to translation works. The meagre payment received was, however, insufficient to provide subsistence. The reigning Prince, touched by his courage and struck with his vivid intelligence, assisted and supported him in every possible way. It was in this way that the poor student who had left the paternal home with but twenty thalers (German coins) as his travelling money was enabled to complete his medical studies, and in addition those of mineralogy and chemistry, for which he had demonstrated great aptitude.

So much labour and so many troubles found their reward, for at the age of thirty-four years HAHNEMANN was famous. His numerous publications on various aspects of hygiene and pathology, as also his discoveries in chemistry, had attracted to him the attention of the scientific world. He became a member of several Academies, and his clientele, which constituted his sole wealth, increased daily. Married and the father of many children (he had eleven of them), the future unfolded itself smoothly and brilliantly before him, when suddenly one day, to the stupefaction of all, HAHNEMANN abandoned the practice of medicine. What had happened? A crisis of his conscience, out of which he had emerged triumphantly, in a way

undoubtedly unique in the annals of medicine.<sup>1</sup> As soon as experience had taught him the misdeeds of the therapeutics in which he had been trained, HAHNEMANN refused to practise them longer! He said: "To become the murderer of my brethren was too horrible a thought for me; hence I renounced my practice." He did not hesitate, in order to preserve the tranquillity of his conscience and the peace of his heart, to submit himself and his family to a life of poverty and misery, although they had enjoyed comfort and been close to wealth. So that he might manage to live, HAHNEMANN again adopted the humble profession of translator, and devoted himself to his works on chemistry, at the same time opposing to the incessant recriminations of his wife a serene and inexhaustible patience. In my opinion, this behaviour was not the least of his heroic deeds.

Such was the first manifestation of HAHNEMANN'S charlatanism, and here is the second: At the time when he formulated the Law of Similars, the founder of Homœopathy was attacked by a scruple. From his immense readings he knew that at all times in the past cures had been obtained by the unconscious application of that law. He therefore collected the records of these cures all together in one long chapter entitled *Examples of Accidental Homœopathic Cures* "in order to avoid," as he says, "the imputation of having suppressed these foreshadowings with the

<sup>1</sup> Other physicians, predecessors or contemporaries of HAHNEMANN, were quite aware of the dangers of their therapeutics being, according to the expression of BOERHAAVE, "more harmful than useful to humanity." Less scrupulous than our Master, they disguised their defenceless prospects by inoffensive practices which permitted them to ask the usual fee. The illustrious STAHL, for example, during the last years of his career gave nothing to his patients but a few grains of sea-salt.



view of claiming for myself the priority of the idea" (footnote 38, Introduction to *Organon*, 6th edition, p. 90).

HAHNEMANN's life is full of similar signs of scientific integrity and modesty; therefore his death testifies to the confidence which this peculiar charlatan had in the method. After suffering for two years from bronchitis, our Master one morning felt worse than usual and was unable to rise. "Give me the remedy I prepared yesterday," he said to his wife. "If it does not act, it will be the end." The next morning, on July 2, 1843, at the age of eighty-eight years,<sup>1</sup> Samuel HAHNEMANN, in full possession of his intelligence, saw death coming along with the serenity of a sage, commending his soul to God.

Those who have never read HAHNEMANN consider him as an unknown author; MALOUVIER characterizes him as a kind of abstract metaphysician, with *long-winded lucubrations*. These criticisms are absolutely superfluous and erroneous.

<sup>1</sup> One is struck by the extreme longevity attained by many homœopaths: des GUIDI, who introduced Homœopathy in France, died at the age of ninety-four; JOUSSET at ninety-four; IMBERT-GOURBEYRE at ninety-four; DE LA TREMBLAIS at ninety; ARNULPHY at ninety; CHATAIN at eighty-eight; BOYER at eighty-five; COLLET, CHARGÉ, ESPANET, BECK, HERING, TESTE, CLAUDE, CONAN, SKINNER, etc., at eighty or more. That is the reply to *Medice cura te ipsum* (Doctor, heal yourself). But it should well be admitted that the disciples of HAHNEMANN are not the only ones to benefit by their method, since powerful American life assurance companies, who do not embarrass themselves with dogmatic quarrels (business is business), concede lower premiums to clients of homœopaths, statistics proving that they are generally paid longer by them than by patients of allopaths. Do not object, please, that this fact simply proves that Homœopathy does not kill or prevent a cure, for you would oblige me to think that your method effects just the contrary.

HAHNEMANN was the true founder of experimental biology.<sup>1</sup> You will have proof of this in following with me the harmonious developments of his idea and the rigorous linking together of his discoveries.

In the circumstances already related to you, HAHNEMANN, who enjoyed perfect health, had the idea to take twice daily for several days 4 drachms of Peruvian bark. To his great astonishment, he presented all the symptoms of an intermittent fever. He repeated the experiment several times, always with the same result. He therefore concluded simply: "Peruvian bark produces in me symptoms analogous to those which it causes to disappear in the diseased man."

He performed the same experiment on his eldest son, Frederick, but, presuming that there might be a question of hereditary predisposition, he also experimented on his friends and pupils, GROSS, STAPPE, HARTMANN, WISLICENUS, etc. The constant appearance of the same phenomenon permitted him to conclude: "Peruvian bark produces in the healthy man symptoms analogous to those which it causes to disappear in the diseased man." You see how prudently HAHNEMANN advanced step by step on the path of truth.<sup>2</sup>

Of course, the idea came to him to find out whether other medicines possessed the same property. He studied one hundred and one of them, securing himself with

<sup>1</sup> This expression was first used by HAHNEMANN.

<sup>2</sup> That initial experiment had been criticized by homœopaths, who have pretended that the Master and his pupils must have been in conditions of special receptivity. That is possible. Antipyrin does not produce in all subjects nettle-rash eruptions; it is, nevertheless, in your hands, one of the best remedies for nettle-rash. Moreover, has not BRETONNEAU written: "Daily observation proves that quinine in strong doses determines in a great number of subjects a very marked febrile movement . . ." (in TROUSSEAU and PIDOUX).

all possible guarantees, varying and multiplying the experiments and observations, which have remained models of the kind. Only in the face of consistently identical results did he feel himself justified in generalizing what he had concluded in the beginning in studying Peruvian bark, and in formulating at last the *Law of Similars*.

Between HAHNEMANN's first experiment and the publication of his *Organon*, twenty years of uninterrupted research work and labour had passed away!

I showed you, in my third chapter, that it was only through experience that HAHNEMANN was led to the use of infinitesimal doses, the efficacy of which surprised him greatly, permitting him to evolve a new therapeutic law, *the law of action and reaction*, which has been admitted by all physiologists following after him, but, of course, taking good care generally speaking of not attributing its paternity to himself.

It is in vain that I rub my eyes; still I cannot see in all this either metaphysics or obscurities, but, on the contrary, examples of observations and well-conducted experiments.

Such is the essential research, which could be called the positive part of HAHNEMANN's work, for *Homœopathy is the only positivism in medicine*. Had Auguste COMTE come before our Master, doubtless the reform of the latter, instead of having been furiously opposed, would have been adopted with enthusiasm, replacing all the methods founded on theories or experiments wrongly interpreted and imprudently generalized.

Nevertheless, HAHNEMANN's work would, however, have been incomplete had he not searched for the explanation of the phenomena which he had proved, as well as of the laws he had established. Here we arrive at the theoretical part of Homœopathy, varying

with different authors and liable to endless discussion, since it is no more a question of facts but of words, *verba et voces* (words and voices).

Besides, HAHNEMANN did not impose his theories dogmatically, and he exercised great care not to attribute to them the same importance as to facts: "As this natural law of cure manifests itself in every true observation in the world, the fact is consequently established; it matters little what may be the scientific explanation of *how it takes place*, and I do not attach much importance to the attempts made to explain it."<sup>1</sup>

I will explain elsewhere HAHNEMANN'S theories, but it is important that you should know right away the most essential part of them.

In medical philosophy HAHNEMANN is a vitalist. Here, once more, I do not see anything extravagant. In these days homœopaths are not the only ones who prefer vitalism to the animism of STAHL, and especially to the diverse theories of organic reactions. Vitalism continues to be honoured in Montpellier, and my master GRASSET was certainly not the least illustrious representative.

Do you know how HAHNEMANN explains the action of infinitesimal doses? By a theory which I defy you to reject. Listen to him: "The true virtue of medicinal substances is dynamic, and consists of immaterial, spirit-like forces. . . ."

"In Nature, matter is a mere trifle, forces are almost everything. . . . MATTER IS FORCE."

But this is the theory of our modern physicians, which has been admitted in medicine by Gustave LE BON, ROBIN, and HUCHARD. Indeed, HAHNEMANN could be said to have foreseen the emanations of radium (rays

<sup>1</sup> *Organon*, paragraph 28.

or particles thrown off by radium) and the production of ions.<sup>1</sup>

So what remains of your prejudices against Homœopathy? Absolutely nothing.

*Et nunc erudimini qui medicatis terram* (Receive instruction, you that heal the earth).<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, in their secret hearts our confrères practising in our "spas" have recognized the truth of Homœopathy for a long time past. Eleven of them have admitted it to me. "I should need to be very stupid had I not observed that our waters act homœopathically," a physician of Vichy wrote me. Another one, from the same spa: "I have recognized for many years that I have practised Homœopathy for a long time without being aware of it." A third, of Bagnoles in Normandy: "Of course I am a homœopath, but it is not wise to proclaim the fact." From the letter from a physician of Luchon, who does not hide his admiration for HAHNEMANN, I quote the following sentence:

"Yes, hydropathics are homœopaths, or at least should all be so, synthetically, rationally, and philosophically."

But there is more. The most confirmed allopaths recognize and proclaim unconsciously, if you please, the homœopathic action of mineral waters. Doubtless

<sup>1</sup> THE TRANSLATOR: Production or formation of ions. By ionization: to separate or convert into ions. An ion is one or more incomplete or dissatisfied atoms, resulting from the splitting up of molecules by heat or electricity.

<sup>2</sup> Do not conclude, however, from this concise exposition that everything in HAHNEMANN'S work is to be admired. Our Master has made mistakes and permitted himself to be led into regrettable exaggerations. He was opposed on certain points even by his first pupils. Homœopathy is not a revealed religion which claims to be imposed; it is a human doctrine which is perfecting itself from day to day.

you have recently received, like myself, a circular praising the virtues of the water of the Pestrin (Ardèche), in which you will read: "The water of the Pestrin, absolutely atoxic, permits you to arrest an intestinal flow, exhausting for the patient, but without brutally suppressing an often useful reaction. We do not hide from you that the really original property of the water of the Pestrin is a clinical fact which we are reluctant, until further orders, to admit as such, for nothing in the chemical analysis of the water of the Pestrin is capable of explaining its curious anti-dysenteric virtue. . . ."

After reading this, I felt sure that the marvellous water contained in infinitesimal doses medicinal substances which in strong or toxic doses produce diarrhoea. At my request, the administration of the spring acquainted me with the composition of the water of the Pestrin. It contains chiefly *seven milligrammes of sulphate of soda* (Glauber salt) per litre, and, moreover, traces of *copper and arsenic*; therefore we have more than sufficient to explain its anti-diarrhoeic properties!

At the same time, I received two pages of "official attestations of medical and *other* notable personages." Let us, in the joy of their recovery, permit the Vicar of Brugairolles to declare that the water of the Pestrin is "the fountain of life," and the widow BOFFARD to "undertake a real apostolate amongst her unfortunate sisters," but let us stick to the notable medical authorities. HAHNEMANN'S disciples, through my humble voice, express their warm thanks to the excellent allopathic confrères who, in recognizing the anti-diarrhoeic action of the spring, have brought an unconscious and consequently an unsuspected testimony in favour of the Law of Similars and infinitesimal doses. Let us quote in honour of the subject of Homœopathy the following

physicians: PETTIT of Hôtel-Dieu; VAN MERRIS of Val-de-Grâce; NITOT of Paris; ROUX of Bordeaux; ALIX of Brest; REYNES of Vichy; BARISIEN of Sidi-Bel-Abbès; Charles OLIVIER and INFERNET, whose residence is not indicated.

It is not the first time that Homœopathy enables me to explain extraordinary cures very easily. In the course of a lively historic discussion, held at the Béchellerie (his well-known estate), Anatole FRANCE, whilst looking through the first volume of the *Mémoires de Thiébault* for an anecdote which he desired to read to us, ceased turning over the pages of the book and, fixing his eyes, full of malice, upon me, said: "This is what concerns you; it is a marvellous cure which I well defy you to attribute to Homœopathy." And he read to us the passage where THIÉBAULT reports that his sister was cured of goitre by the daily ingestion of a coffeespoonful of powder of burnt sponge. As an only reply, I drew from my pocket the *Pocket Manual* by BOERICKE—which is seldom out of my possession, for it is my breviary—and without uttering a word I showed to M. BERGERET (a nickname for Anatole FRANCE, after one of the characters in his works) that homœopaths sometimes use "*Spongia tosta*" (roasted sponge) for goitre. "Thyroid gland swollen," says the text.

"You have made me shamefaced, my friend," said the poor master, threatening with his finger—"shamefaced as the Englishman who argued by signs against PANURGE (one of the chief characters in RABELAIS' *Pantagruel*), but, fortunately, in a less drastic manner."

## YOU ALSO WILL BECOME HOMŒOPATHS

“A great therapeutic truth is coming, and nothing will prevent it.”

THE AUTHOR: *Siccle médical*, February 1, 1932.

In conclusion, it remains for me to clear the homœopaths of three reproaches, two of which are unmerited, and the third simply ridiculous.

A physician of Paris, Dr. W——, who had written three very interesting letters, nevertheless said to me in one of them: “May I just confess there is something which I dislike in Homœopathy: why not call things by their name? I saw on a prescription *metallum album* (white metal), instead of *arsenicum*. This makes the patient believe that he is given a special medicine which other physicians do not use, which seems to me to be a lack of frankness.” “Exactly,” I replied to him, “it is like you prescribing *granules of Dioscoride* (wild yam) for granules of arsenic acid, or *thebaic extract* for extract of opium!”

The first patient to whom I prescribed *arsenicum album* spread around that I had given him rat poison; and I hold from LOMBROSO himself—for the famous Italian alienist practised Homœopathy throughout his whole life—that the same prescription cost him the accusation of tentative poisoning from the aliens of the asylum of Pavia. Therefore, use without scruples such innocent euphemisms, as you have always done in allopathy.

But here is something of a more serious character.



"Why have homœopaths carefully hidden what you are revealing to-day?" several confrères have asked me. A Gascon even went so far as to add: "Unless merely to make of their method a dowry or a lease of cattle?" In 1912, already CHANTEMESSE said in his clinical lecture: "Let us no longer scoff at Homœopathy, for do not the vaccines and tuberculins act according to its principles; but let us reproach them for keeping to themselves what they know, and not inviting the medical world to participate in their knowledge."

Never has a reproach been so unjust. The truth has only to dread the "terrible persecution by silence" which was, up till to-day, so cleverly organized against us. The homœopaths have always been ready to reveal their method before the Academy, the Faculty of Medicine, and the medical world. Herewith three facts to prove it.

In his time, BOUILLAUD was the greatest adversary of Homœopathy—and of the phonograph. When this apparatus was presented to the Academy, he explained that he could not be the dupe of a clever "ventriloquist," and that, moreover, "a vile metal would never be able to replace the noble apparatus of the human phonation." With the same marvellous sense of criticism he judged and condemned Homœopathy. "Even if I were to see those cures, I would not believe in them," he dared to say. On another occasion he proclaimed that Homœopathy was "a dishonour, a mere nothing," which, nevertheless, did not prevent him from accusing it later on of being "more murderous than gun-powder."<sup>1</sup>

Finally, on December 2, 1858, BOUILLAUD defied all

<sup>1</sup> Whilst in Paris professors and academicians fell into convulsions merely at the name of Homœopathy, words full of

homœopaths to support the comparison of their method with his. Do you know what was BOUILLAUD's method? It was blood-letting to the death, to the extent of beating all his contemporaries, BROUSSAIS included, with several lengths of his lancet. "He extracted more blood in two days than BOSQUILLON in one week," observed CAPURON, who for that impious word was accused—oh! shades of Molière!—of lacking respect for *the great memory of BOSQUILLON!*

AS SOON as BOUILLAUD's defiance was made, it was accepted by several homœopaths of Paris and throughout the provinces. Although maintaining his proposition, BOUILLAUD declared (letter dated December 7, 1858) that the organization of the competent tribunal did not depend on him, and that applications should be made direct to the Academy, which was done immediately by the homœopaths. The reply has still to come.

The Faculty of Medicine itself was no less intolerant. It did not fail. On September 18, 1919, a Parisian physician asked, in a letter to the Dean, authorization to open a free course of Homœopathy at the Faculty of Medicine. Our magnificent lords, however, who sit on the Councils of the University with their cap, robe, and shoulder-knot, found themselves unanimously

common sense and wisdom came from the ancient and austere Faculty of Montpellier. The famous Dean LORDAT wrote to M. DONNE: "I neither admit nor reject Homœopathy, which I have not had time to study. I have heard such varied, such opposed judgments brought against it by serious and enlightened men that I have to remain in suspense until I shall be permitted to hold an opinion, that is to say until I have made a profound study of it; so much more since this method has the support of one of the most distinguished masters, M. D'AMADOR, professor of pathology and general therapeutics." That is what I call reasoning.

agreed in rejecting that demand, without even vouchsafing a motive for their refusal. Oh Liberty! Oh Republic! Oh Democracy!

In June 1913, ardent and zealous homœopaths founded at 9<sup>ter</sup>, Boulevard Montparnasse, a dispensary school, which unfortunately was swept away by the great tempest of the Great War. As far as I know, not a single one of the physicians who attended its courses has abandoned Homœopathy in order to return to orthodox medicine. On the contrary, I often read with pleasure the articles signed by those first pupils, who have become, in their turn, excellent homœopaths.

Thus, the homœopaths do not deserve the reproach made against them by CHANTEMESSE, and which was repeated by others.

Here now is the funny part of it. Several readers have written: "Do you know that your name of homœopath is causing you great harm? Do you not sense the ridiculous side of it?" One of them, who has read MONTESQUIEU and remembers RICA, exclaims: "How can one be ho-mœ-o-path?" At first I smiled at the idea, but when thinking it over I did not find it puerile any longer. It is a fact that this strange denunciation, which HAHNEMANN has inflicted upon us, appears to place us in a chimerical and mysterious world, between astrologers and spiritualists. We are the kind of unlucky mortals who have to carry their name as a lifelong cross, such for instance as the Hon. M. BOUFFANDEAU. I do not know this deputy. He may have been slim, elegant, and distinguished and, like M. BERGERET, given to silent orgies of meditation. This does not prevent the three full and massive syllables of his name drawing him immediately before my eyes under the appearance of an obese and apoplectic citizen, with narrow forehead and thick nape

of the neck, occupied in masticating with good appetite the turbot *à la mayonnaise*, the inevitable second course of every democratic banquet.

However, if this name of homœopath stands in your light, what prevents you from taking on that of physician-positivist? You have every right to do so, and will find therein a little current of exact, precise, and distinguished science, which will reflect on you. It will not make the public laugh, and will attract the good-looking women who would not have hurried so quickly to the lectures of M. BERGSON had the illustrious philosopher been unfortunate enough to call himself, like someone whom I knew, GRENOUILLEAU (Froggie).

When taking up literary work for the first time, as I have done here, one is exposed to a great danger. It is sufficient to receive a few letters of congratulation—too-indulgent readers did not spare them—to be quite disposed to believe that a masterpiece has been achieved. Such a ridiculous thing will be spared me, thanks to the confrères who proved to me by their questions that I did not even succeed in explaining myself clearly. Several of them, despite what has already been told them, still request me to indicate the books to be studied. To these I repeat that I have assured myself from the publishers that the useful works for beginners are completely out of print. Those who know English, might obtain the two volumes of the American NASH, *Leaders of Homœopathic Therapeutics* and *Testimony of Clinic*, and DEWEY's work, *Essentials of Homœopathic Therapeutics*, which are excellent. Unfortunately, due to the rate of exchange, their price is ruinous.

But you all possess a treatise on *Toxicology*. That can be your first book of Homœopathy.

I do not here amuse myself setting forth a paradox.

My *opium* case, in Chapter VII, has shown you to what account I have turned the characteristics of thebaic intoxication.

You can do likewise with all other remedies of which you master the symptoms.

Here is the second proof thereof. On a winter night four years ago, I was called to a lady who was, so I was told, taken with a fit of madness. As a matter of fact, it was a case of a typical access of acute mania which had already lasted for twenty hours. Disordered agitation, weepings, laughters, songs, cries of fright, excessive volubility of speech—nothing was missing from the picture. In carefully analysing her this was what I noticed: The patient had a *very red face* and *extremely dilated pupils*; she had not any exaggerated salivary secretion which would have been normal in her condition; she complained, on the contrary, of *dryness of the throat* and asked incessantly for drink. She had little illusion, but, what is rare in an access of mania, *visual hallucinations of animals*, of *fiery-red objects*, and of *fires*. I first of all assured myself that the patient had not taken any remedy, nor had made use of eye lotion containing atropin (collyre); then, in the face of that picture, which simulated feature by feature that of intoxication by belladonna, I prescribed a tablespoonful every ten minutes of a glass of water containing as medicinal agent only one drop of tincture of belladonna. Half an hour later, the patient fell into a profound sleep which lasted for fifteen hours, and from which she awoke completely cured. I add for the sake of the psychologists that this case up till now has remained unique.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A physician who is not a homœopath, Dr. BARBÈS of Thury (Yonne), after having read a homœopathic survey on belladonna,

With regard to another point of the utmost value, several physicians do not understand me. "I have cataract," wrote one of them; "facial neuralgia," another sighs; "my mother-in-law has got enteritis," laments the model son-in-law; and all in chorus: "Tell us what we have to take." My dear confrères, if it were sufficient in order to find the healing remedy to make the easy but ninety-nine times out of a hundred wrong equation: such illness equals such remedy, you would all and for ever be homœopaths. Unfortunately, it is much less simple, since we have no specifics. Any remedy of our very rich *Materia Medica* can be suitable to a given case; it is sufficient that it has produced all the symptoms in the healthy man. It is therefore necessary to know, first of all, completely and exactly, all those symptoms and their modalities, then find amongst several hundred others the remedy which has produced them most exactly. You will guess that this is not always so easy. It is often even impossible in chronic affection, where the symptoms of weakness of several organs are added and intermingled. With certain reservations, several remedies may then be used concurrently, either as *VILLECHAUVAIX* does, with variable formulas, or with fixed formulas as *MENDEL* practises. But this is the great question of complex-Homœopathy which I shall explain to you elsewhere.

There often exists a tendency to apply Homœopathy in the allopathic manner, that is to say without individualizing. Each time I have attempted to do so, however, I have invariably failed. Here is an old example which served me as a lesson and which I have never forgotten. "About ten years ago, a lady asked used it with the same success as myself in an absolutely identical case, and that on two different occasions, thus excluding every possibility of pure coincidence.

me to come and see her baby daughter suffering from whooping-cough, as also her wet-nurse. I listened to a spell of coughing of the child. *The cough was of a barking nature and the face very congested.* The mother informed me that the attacks were *worse during the night* and that the *slightest movement* seemed to provoke them. I prescribed one granule of belladonna, 6th dilution, to be taken every hour. I did not see the wet-nurse, who was away shopping, and believed myself justified in prescribing her the same remedy, in the dose of two granules every hour. Well now, from the following night onwards the child did not have more than one attack, and in two days the whooping-cough had completely given in, whereas the wet-nurse's cough had grown taller and handsomer every day. I examined her in turn, and found that her attacks were *very violent* and ended by the expectoration of a large quantity of *viscous mucus hanging at her mouth in long threads.* *Coccus cacti* (cochineal), 3rd dilution, brought about a prompt recovery."

You will, therefore, carefully individualize, whilst recalling to your mind that it was HAHNEMANN who first said: "We attend sick people and not diseases." Then, and then only, will you become homœopaths.

Besides, bear well in mind that you do not need therefore to overthrow your whole practice. The therapeutic system which you apply at the present time to your unfortunate patients only satisfies you when it is homœopathic, with sera, vaccines, mineral waters, digitalis, mercury, quinine, etc. Therefore it will suffice, in order to make you entirely one of us, to first decrease the doses of these medicines, as HUCHARD<sup>1</sup> did not cease advising you, then to replace

<sup>1</sup> I am well aware of the fact that M. CH. FIESSINGER advises the strong doses of your so-called specifics. I have shown you, as

by homœopathic remedies all those of which you yourselves proclaim the inefficiency and danger, and which constitute what I have called without protest, so much the epithet seems to be deserved, your "bewildering apothecary."

Also consider that Homœopathy has already been taught and practised for five medical generations, an unheard-of fact in the therapeutic world, where instability and change are the rule.

Finally, do not forget that all those who have studied Homœopathy seriously, devoting the necessary time to it without allowing themselves to be discouraged by the inevitable failures at the beginning, have always remained obstinately faithful to it. This applies whether they were simple provincial practitioners or practising in the large towns, gold medallist of the house-surgeonship as JOUSSET, professors of the School of Medicine as IMBERT-GOURBEYRE, of the Faculty as ANDRIEU and D'AMADOR, or physician of the Paris Hospitals as TESSIER.<sup>1</sup>

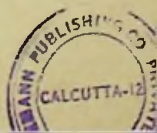
well as MALHERBE and BROCCQ, that mercury often acts better in small doses. I can say as much with regard to quinine. An old marine physician who had served in almost all the colonies before establishing himself in the Vendean marshy district, said to Dr. VIAUD of Bordeaux, who has repeated it to me: "I have never obtained such good results in paludism, of which I have great experience, than by administering quinine in doses of 1 centigramme every hour." Does not LERMOYER use 0.10 centigramme of quinine in the vertigo of MÉNIÈRE's disease, where CHARCOT gave 0.50 centigramme or more? FUSTER and BERTIN (of Algiers) have also recommended small doses of quinine in cases of malaria (see *Journal des Praticiens*, April 3, 1909).

<sup>1</sup> The faithfulness to their homœopathic convictions cost JOUSSET the hospital training and TESSIER the Fellowship; IMBERT-GOURBEYRE lost the Chair of Therapeutics at the Faculty of Montpellier, as FONSSAGRIVES, his happy competitor, admitted in a very noble letter.



If you obtain cures analogous to those which have been related to you, your gratitude will have to be directed first of all to M. CH. FIESSINGER, who has accorded me such a long-extended hospitality in the quasi-official magazine of allopathy, so widespread is it. I have, as a matter of fact, departed somewhat from it; may he hereby accept my sincere thanks, as well as those of my confrères in Homœopathy who are not accustomed to receive so much benevolence and serene impartiality from the masters of the opposite School. Some of them have been quite astonished at it; upon my word not I, so much does it seem evident to me that M. CH. FIESSINGER has been chosen for eternity by Providence to favour the propagation of the homœopathic faith amongst the Gentiles. For, the more I consider the beneficial work he pursues in his magazine, the more I observe that he has prepared the field for long and smoothed the path in a marvellous manner. First of all, he has not ceased putting you on guard against the dangers of disturbing remedies; he taught you never to brutalize the organism, on the contrary, to respect the effort of Nature, which is the first precept of Homœopathy. At the same time, you have seen him, with an impudent and vigorous hand, clear the therapeutic fields of the brushwood of errors which encumbered it. As he left it almost fallow, I have come after him, sowing the good seed of Truth. Your love for study and your professional conscience will germinate therein, and you will become homœopaths.

Homœopaths with HIPPOCRATES, with HAHNEMANN, with PASTEUR, you will be in sufficiently good company to be able to bear laughter from chemists, ignorami, and fools, and be not disturbed thereby.



QU'EST-CE QUE L'HOMŒOPATHIE?  
(WHAT IS HOMŒOPATHY?)

HAS BEEN TRANSLATED IN THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES:

SWEDISH

By Dr. W. GARDLUNG  
Social-Medicinsks Tidskrifts Förlag (Stockholm, 1926)

DUTCH

By Dr. J. T. WOUTERS  
S. Gouda Quint (Arnhem, 1929)

GERMAN

By Dr. H. BALZLI  
Verlag der Hahnemannia (Stuttgart, 1929)

SPANISH

By Dr. J. PEIRO COMES  
Manuel Marin, éditor Provenza 273 (Barcelona, 1930)

RUSSIAN

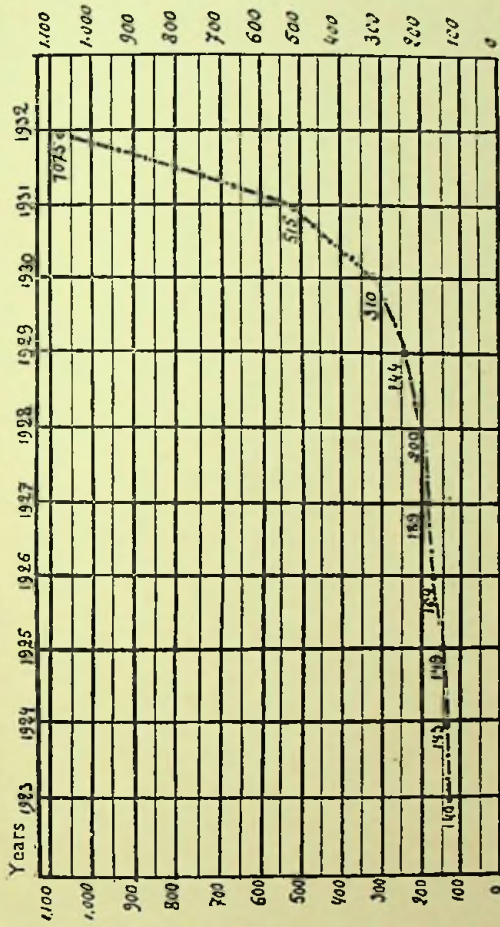
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(Friends of Homœopathy)  
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ENGLISH

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The Homœopathic Publishing Company, 12, Warwick Lane  
(London, 1934)



Increase in the number of Homoeopathic Physicians subsequent to the publication of the articles in the *Journal des Praticiens* (1924-25) and their appearance in book form in 1926





