

not weaken the force of the argument that his mode of arriving at the discovery of potentiation was experiential and experimental; on the contrary, it can only strengthen the Hahnemannian position, because it led him to the wise demonstration of the healing process by the inductive method, and in this scientific way was found that true reason of the homeopathic law according to the mathematical and philosophical postulates in comparison, that things can only be compared if of the same kind. It does not matter that we here have to deal with psychological realities which are immaterial; they are as real in their way as any material things subject to gravitation. These realities are here on one side the spirit-like action of the vital force, and on the other side the spirit-like action of the potency. They, certainly, are of the same kind in regard to the spirituality of their action, though different, inasmuch as the vital force belongs to the organism over which it exerts its control, and the potency to the substance from which it has been abstracted. The *Similia* could merely observe symptoms from disease, and these symptoms are the result of the negative change of the vital force by the positive action of potencies known and unknown.

But if Hahnemann had not discovered Homoeopathy we would not know that these symptoms are *Similia* of similar changes of the vital force, brought about by potencies developed homoeopatically from well-known substances. Now by the homoeopathic application we know that these potencies are the opposite positive *Similia*, which when brought in opposite action by the administration neutralize the opposed *Similia* of the body by substitution and the over-action of the *Excess Plus* of the potencies, and restore the negative change of the vital force to its neutral and normal condition of health.

Consequently, the position taken in this *Thesis* is in full accord with the general law pronounced by Hahnemann in sec. 26, and it follows necessarily that the law of *Similia* is a consequence of potentiation, for without potentiation there would be no *Similia*, and potentiation is a consequence of *Similia*, for without *Similia* there would be no potentiation.

Ceterum censeo, materialem esse rickendam.
BROOKLYN, April 19th, 1884.

THE GOLDEN RULE.—Do as you would be done by! pay your subscriptions promptly as you would have your patients pay you.

THIS "SIFTING OF OUR MATERIA MEDICA." A CLINICAL ILLUSTRATION.

AN. LITRE, M. D., PHILADELPHIA.

The case here referred to has been laid before the profession many years ago, but at this time, when a great effort is going to be made to destroy the usefulness of our materia medica by means of an indiscriminate sifting process, a little illustration may serve to cause some thoughtful colleagues to reflect before they progress with and go into the destruction-bringing sifting-trap.

The patient was a boy about fifteen years old, who was in the twenty-first day of typhus abdominalis. Dr. H. N. Furness had been in attendance and had treated him in his always careful manner, when the following prominently characteristic symptoms were observed: The whole alimentary canal and organs were in a state of ulceration; his mouth especially was extremely painful; could not even allow fluids to touch his mouth without complaining severely; he vomited blood-streaked mucus, and had severe diarrhea; sleepless; during the night he would shriek out violently without being able to state the cause of it. Nitric. ac., Mercury, Arum triphyllum had had no effect on him. The mental symptoms called our attention to Stramonium; but here was that last tormenting symptom, the score month, and as we were in doubt whether Stramonium could be administered under the strict law of the similars, we resolved to study up the case before prescribing. In the admirable rendition of Stramonium by the ever painstaking C. Hering we found symptom 1023: "It feels as if the inner mouth were raw and sore (Hahnemann)"—and in going as a last resort, as is our habit, to the *Materia Medica Parva* of Hahnemann himself. After further comparisons, we were satisfied that Stramonium was the similar remedy, and a few doses of it (high potencies) were administered with the hoped-for result—a speedy cure. The prover had only a sensation (feeling) as if the mouth were raw and sore; the patient had that sensation also, and additionally had really a raw and sore mouth. The result proved that our interpretation of that single apparently unimportant symptom, observed by one prover only, was correct.

A revision of the materia medica is now seriously proposed,
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and the American Institute has taken the initial steps for the "revise."

The Bureau of Materia Medica, through its Chairman, Dr. J. P. Duke, presented, at the last meeting of the American Institute, a report, and read a schema for the revision and publication of a purified materia medica, sifting out that which is worthless and arranging the whole in a condensed form.

The schema is objectionable on various grounds; for instance, rule 5 reads, "Include as a rule no drug that has not shown pathogenic (would read better SICKMAKING) power in two or more provers." What would have become of the case above referred to if violent hands were laid on "singly observed symptoms"? No. 10 was properly objected to by thinking members. It reads: 10, "Include no symptoms reported as coming from attenuations above the twelfth decimal only when in record with symptoms from attenuations below." No. 10 is objectionable. It is illogical, to begin with, if it is admitted that attenuations above the twelfth can cause symptoms. Why then reject those not in accord with those observed from attenuations up to the twelfth? Does the learned gentleman, who committed himself unwittingly to the acknowledgment that attenuations above the twelfth can have any sickmaking powers, not know that the higher potencies are more potent in every respect than the twelfth? Does it not follow that on that very account these higher attenuations (potencies?) will cause, in many instances, more characteristic symptoms than the twelfth develops? The arbitrary limitation to the twelfth attenuation is unwarranted; or does it seem needful in these days to disregard the teachings and statements of the father of our school? What will the revisers do with Theridion curassavum, which has only been proved in the thirtieth decimal potency? Will they throw it overboard and insult every healer who has reported cases cured by Theridion? Furthermore, there are now a not inconsiderable number of characteristic symptoms of acknowledged value observed only by provings with high potencies. Will the makers of the revised and purified materia medica throw them out? They will if they know them! But alas! they do not know much about the way the materia medica was obtained; we do, and if that promised *Opus* should see the light of day it may give us great pleasure to expose these purifiers, especially if they have admitted symptoms only obtained from and only cured by high potencies.

11. Omit the contributions of Hahnemann and his fellow-provers to the *Materia Medica Pura* and *Chronic Diseases*, which are already accessible to the profession, and of which we do not

possess the day books. The play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out! Why reject that immortal work of Hahnemann? Because we do not possess the day books! For the same reason, Hering's provings may be set aside as well as other provings. It is an old complaint made by Dr. Richard Hughes and his followers that we have not Hahnemann's day books. Will these everlasting fault-finders take up Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* and his *Chronic Diseases*, and for their own satisfaction write out the day books! If they desire to have the day books they are there, can be obtained easily if they observe on what day the various provers observed the symptoms. If they write them out as far as given, the day books are ready. Hahnemann gave the name of the provers, and the abbreviations of their names are given. To many a symptom is added the day on which it was observed. When Hahnemann performed the herculean work of creating a pure materia medica it was very difficult to find a publisher, and his ardent friend who was fully convinced of the great truth of Homœopathy, the bookseller Arnold, at Dresden, published these works at a very great pecuniary sacrifice, and now, some sixty years later, it is claimed that he should have published "day books" also, of fault-finders who have not the remotest idea of the magnitude of Hahnemann's and his publisher's sacrifices. In our days we find published "new remedies" without "sacrifices," and these fault-finders never mention these innovations adversely. What was the corner-stone of our school? Why, Hahnemann's works.

Once more we return to the case above related. From the facts there stated different men who have differing views of Homœopathy will make different uses, draw different deductions. The thoughtful healer will mark in his *Materia Medica* opposite the symptom related "Confirmed" (severe mouth and alimentary canal in typhus healed). The man who rides the pathological hobby-horse will draw the deduction that Stramonium will heal sore mouth and ulcerated alimentary canals in every case of typhus fever, and he will be sadly disappointed if he leaves out "the mental symptoms," as related in this case. Natrium sulfuricum has healed similar pathological conditions, so have Nier. ac., Arum tri., Aret. nitr. The true healer considers the "totality of symptoms," not a hypothetical pathological condition. He individualizes and does not generalize, guided by a pathological picture-book; he also does not reject a symptom because it was only observed by one prover; nor does he ever dream of labor-saving books, such as the condensing, purifying divisions, with the twelfth dilution as a standard.

pose to publish. If the *Opus* really comes out there will be found among the "veterans" a goodly number who will write "A Criticism." These old veterans did utilize Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* and his *Chronio Diseases*, and there were many among them who learned the German language that they might have access to this indispensable work, as many years elapsed before a translation into the English and French languages appeared, while still later it was translated into almost all languages. With Hahnemann's great unparalleled *Materia Medica Pura* in hand, the battle against the common school of medicine, with their materia medica bristling with materialism and arbitrary classifications, began, and by the aid of Hahnemann's works battles were won; Homeopathy was established because it cured. Would not men endowed with a reasonable amount of common sense leave the foundation on which was built our school intact and be content with adding to the inheritance left us. I well remember to have seen a copy of Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* and his *Chronio Diseases* at the residence of the late Dr. Bousquet, at Havana, in 1856. Thumbed as these volumes were, their soiled condition gave evidence of their frequent use, and this old Frenchman had introduced Homeopathy into Cuba; the yellow fever and the cholera were by him cured, by means of the *Materia Medica* unbridged and unrevised, and with the thirtieth potency. Later this good healer learned to use higher potencies, and Homeopathy was by him permanently established and used by an intelligent community. Many similar cases have come to my knowledge. The early practitioners in all parts of the world established and made respected our school by just these means. The English reading homeopaths will continue to use the superior translation of our *Hahnemannian Materia Medica* by Dr. Dysdale, far superior to the slovenly translation by the late J. C. Julius Hempel, who had even omitted that greatest paper of the Master, "The Genius of the Homeopathic Healing Art," which paper we take the liberty to recommend for study to men now deliberating how to "condense and purify" our own materia medica before they present to the world "a *Caricature*."

BRITISH JOURNAL OF HOMEOPATHY.—This able and old homeopathic medical journal will cease its welcome visits after this year. It is a great misfortune for Homeopathy that its journals are not better supported by subscriptions and contributions to its pages.

"BEST COLLEGES" AND DR. A. B. MCKIBBEN.

On page 252, Vol. IV, of HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN, Dr. McKibben, in her comment on my late stricture on our colleges, says:

Dr. Wells says, "And yet students but recently from the class-room, at the close of the terms of two of our best (11) colleges, have asserted me they have heard no word of the philosophy of this science [Homeopathic therapeutics] from the first to the last of the course."

Dr. McK. seems disturbed by our use of the word *best* as applied to the colleges the faulty teachings of which it was my purpose to expose. It may be the word was not felicitously chosen to express the meaning we intended. It will be remembered we censured them *all* for a common neglect of what seemed to us a paramount duty—the duty to teach the *philosophy of Homeopathy*. Where *all* were supposed to be alike at fault, it must be apparent it was not our intent, in using this word, to compare the quality of the teaching of these "*two best*" with that of others—but only to say we had this testimony as to two where were found the most numerous faculties and where were gathered the largest classes to be taught. We are glad Dr. McK. has given us the occasion for this explanation, and the more as it gives the opportunity of adding to our former evidence of the neglect complained of, one or two additional facts bearing on the case.

The history of the American Institute, for the last ten years so largely characterized by absence of that which characterizes true Homeopathy, and also largely by adverse resolutions and expressions of silly opinions not in harmony with the spirit or philosophy of that system of therapeutics this Institute was organized to promote, and which has been so largely a disgrace to itself and the system of practical medicine it has been supposed to represent, has been made almost exclusively by the graduates of these colleges. In this history they have presumably given honest expression to the principles they have presumably they have received from these institutions, which have certified to their fitness and ability to practice a system of healing a knowledge of which they have wholly failed to impart, the fundamental principles of which have never been heard in their lecture-rooms, and of which these accredited graduates before clinical problems show such utter ignorance. Before the facts of this history are we wrong if for all of disgrace and folly which the Institute has brought on our school we hold our colleges primarily responsible? Who will say that these grad-