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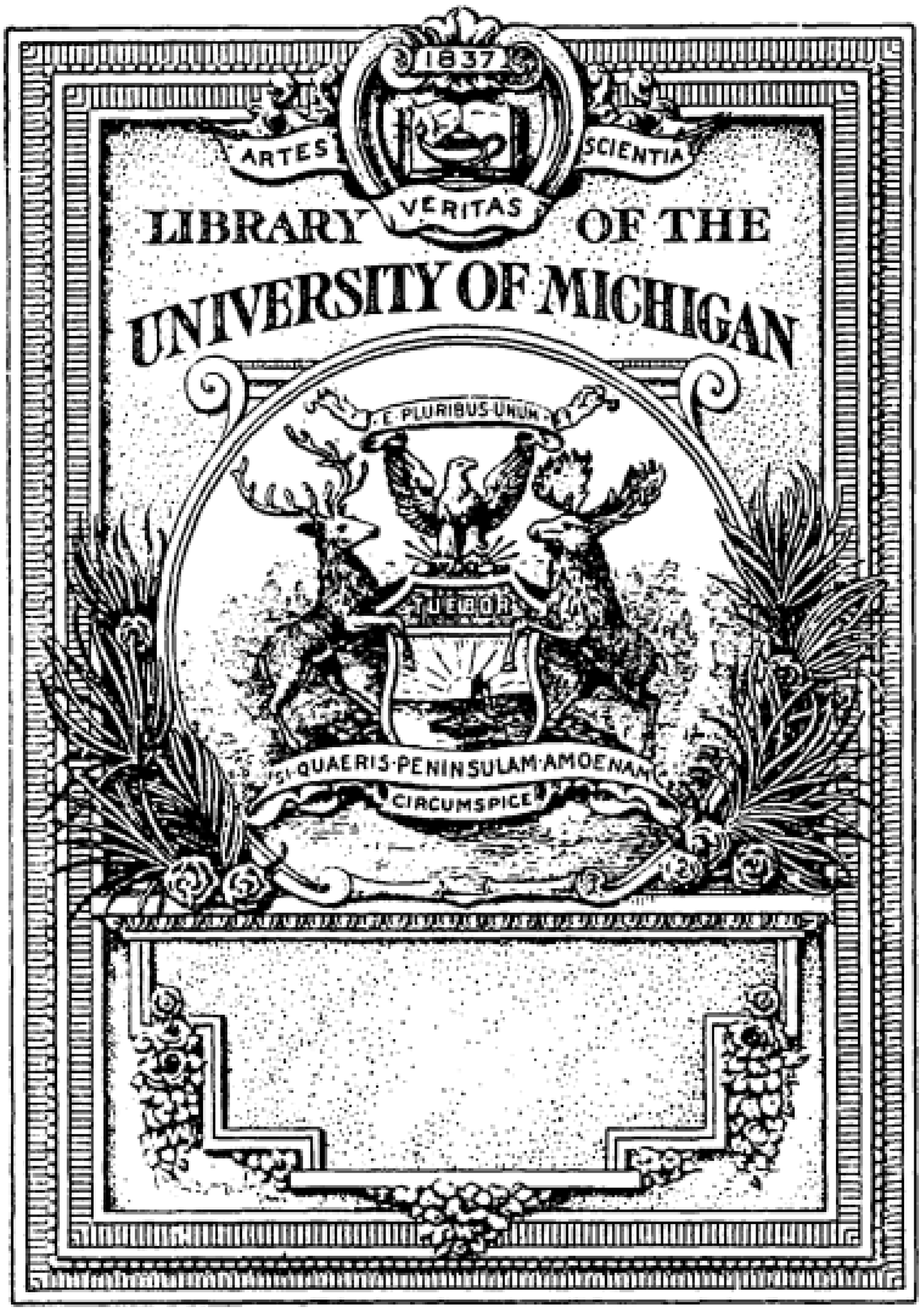

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Supplement

TO

THE DOMESTIC PRACTICE

OF

HOMŒOPATHY,

BEING A

COMPANION TO THE VARIOUS WORKS THEREON.

BY

GEORGE LENNOX MOORE,

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TO THE

THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN THIS COUNTRY,

WHO BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH,

BECAUSE

THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED THE BENEFIT, OF HOMŒOPATHY,

This Work,

WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ENLARGE THE SPHERE

AND TO INCREASE THE USEFULNESS OF ITS OPERATION,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY ADDRESSED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

In publishing this volume, the Author has several objects in view: to fill a void in the literature of Homœopathy; to supply a desideratum that has long been experienced by every practitioner and family; to render the domestic practice of the best healing art more complete and efficient than it has hitherto been; and to bring within a small compass a variety of information, collated from various sources, which every one who wishes "God-speed" to Homœopathy ought to know and to have at the finger's end.

The Author expresses his acknowledgments for many valuable hints and some information to the works of Thompson, Combe, and others which do not require separate mention. He trusts that the work will prove acceptable and useful to those for whose special behoof it has been indited.

Manchester; *May* 5, 1858.

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HOMŒOPATHY.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

THE GENERAL FEATURES OF HOMŒOPATHY.

ITS DISCOVERER—ITS LAW OF CURE—ITS DOSE—ITS SEPARATE MEDICINE—ITS FOLLOWERS—ITS SUCCESS—ITS ADVANTAGES—ITS PREFERABLENESS—ITS TESTS—ITS DIET—AND ITS REMEDIES.

I. Its Discoverer.—Samuel Hahnemann, who discovered, or, perhaps more accurately, worked out the principle of homœopathy, was born in Germany in the year 1755. After going through the usual preliminary education of a youth, he began, and indeed continued, the study of medicine under considerable difficulties. As a means of gaining subsistence, he undertook the translation of Dr. Cullen's work on Materia Medica into his native tongue. While thus engaged, his attention was attracted to the great and deserved reputation enjoyed by Cinchona or Peruvian Bark in curing agues. He resolved to ascertain the effects which this medicine produces when introduced

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into the healthy body. He discovered that bark occasioned a condition of the body similar to ague. In this he is borne out by Dr. Routh, an opponent of homœopathy, who states that "bark certainly produces symptoms, as alleged by homœopathists, very like those of ague." Hahnemann now carried his investigations further, and, assisted by a few devoted followers, experimented upon the actions of a considerable number of medicinal agents. The result was, that he laid down the principle, that like diseases are to be treated by like remedies. His researches stand forth as a proof of his unflagging industry, energy, and perseverance. He died in 1843, at Paris, in the eighty-ninth year of his age. Hahnemann was honourable, conscientious, and generous, although the great and undeserved persecutions and ridicule to which he was subjected, throughout a long, laborious, and useful life, imparted some intolerance of spirit and acerbity of disposition which were not natural features in his character. He published several works, expounding his discoveries of the actions of medicines on the healthy body, and his doctrines respecting chronic and other diseases.

II. Its Law of Cure.—Hahnemann, as we have said, was the first person who undertook systematic and complete experiments upon the consequences following the administration of medicinal substances to the healthy body. His successors are now following in the same track. Too much importance cannot be attached to the accurate and trustworthy determining of the specific action of drugs in health,

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because upon this point hinges the selection of a medicine to cure disease. It was formerly the custom to ascertain in what way the sick frame was affected by substances whose medicinal properties were little or altogether unknown. This is a fallacious method of experimentation, because it is impossible to discriminate between the results produced by the drugs, especially if several be mixed together, and the changes consequent upon the progress or the abatement of the disease. It is, moreover, an inhumane and guilty proceeding to give large doses of substances whose actions are unknown, to the already over-afflicted body. The homœopathist, on the other hand, first experiments upon his own body in health, and having carefully ascertained the changes wrought by medicines, he is enabled to oppose the disease of his patient in accordance with the great and essential characteristic of homœopathy, viz., that *those medicines which produce certain effects in health are the best curative agents for similar symptoms of disease.* Every medicine produces phenomena peculiar in some respects to itself, and the changes which its presence occasion are manifested by symptoms or sufferings. Thus, when the berries of Belladonna, or deadly nightshade, are eaten, the sufferings produced are, general fever, headache, sore throat, and scarlet rash. Now, similar symptoms very frequently accrue from the operation of natural causes, and the disease is known as scarlet fever. The medicinal and the natural diseases are not the *same* but *like*, and, following out the principle of homœopathy, Bella-

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donna is the most appropriate remedy to give, not when the child has eaten the berries, but when it has been exposed to contagion, or to some other cause of scarlet fever. According to experience, we know Belladonna to be the most successful means of restoring and of retaining health under such circumstances. The reader will now perceive the difference between Belladonna curing scarlet fever (like curing like), and Belladonna curing its own effects (same curing same). Illustrations might be adduced in abundance, in support of the relation which subsists between medicinal and natural diseases, and to show that the most reputed remedies of the old school owe their efficacy to their acting upon the homœopathic principle. The following quotation, however, will suffice; it is extracted from a work written by Dr. Routh *against* homœopathy. He states that "the experiments of Magendie have shown that tartar emetic, in doses of six to eight grains, will produce, amongst other lesions, pneumonia, if not rejected by vomiting. Every day's experience proves the efficacy of large doses of tartar emetic in curing pneumonia and other diseases of the lungs. Arsenious acid, long continued, will produce a variety of cutaneous eruptions. The advantage of arsenic in many of these diseases is, on the other hand, well recognised. Certain peculiar eruptions which occur after taking mercury have been described as produced by it, and which closely resemble those against which mercury is a specific. Here, then, are instances of the occasional" (Dr. Routh might have said *invariable*) "truth of this law" (viz., the homœopathic).

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III. Its Dose.—In the practice of homœopathy, the quantity of medicine administered in sickness is extremely small, in comparison with the considerable doses which it is the custom of the old method to introduce into the body. Hence it has been inferred, that the cures and relief which are acknowledged to occur cannot be due to the action of minute doses, but rather to the influence of diet, faith, imagination, etc. It is necessary here distinctly to state, that the dose of the medicine does not constitute homœopathy, but is merely a subordinate feature of a system which differs from all its predecessors or contemporaries in having *a law* to guide its operations. The question of the dose has excited considerable discussion. Some homœopathic practitioners are in the constant habit of prescribing not only appreciable but ponderable quantities of medicinal substances, and yet they are true to their creed, for the medicines are chosen in accordance with the sole characteristic of our system, viz., the fundamental principle of like curing like. Others, again, use the higher potencies, in which the medicines are extremely attenuated and supersensible. The superiority of the one practice over the other resolves itself into a question of personal experience, and can never be satisfactorily decided until our investigations into, and knowledge of, the actions of drugs, both in health and in disease, become more complete and accurate than they are now.

But a more important question concerns the general reader. Have small quantities of drugs—so

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small that they possess no sensible properties, no taste, smell, or colour—the power to oppose a virulent and dangerous malady, and to bring the sufferer through anxiety, pain, and danger, to health and vigour? The personal experience of every homœopathic practitioner and family answers in the affirmative. The strongest argument, then, adducible in support of this statement is the undeniable fact, that not in one isolated case only, but in hundreds of thousands, the administration of infinitesimal quantities of a medicinal substance has been followed, in the relation of cause to effect—not of mere coincidence—by a speedy and permanent restoration to health from the most fatal and painful afflictions.

IV. Its Separate Medicine.—In the "good old times," medical men used to combine and mix up immense quantities of several—in one instance as many as fifty—different substances, into one single medley of contrarieties. In our own more enlightened age, the absurdities of our forefathers are becoming more recognized, and the adherents of the old practice of physic are gradually abandoning the usage alluded to, for the more justifiable method of simplicity of prescription. The objections, however, to the admixture of even two different substances are insuperable. It is impossible to discover the pure drug action or the restorative tendencies of the body, the share each ingredient of the compound possesses in improving or in aggravating the symptoms, or the interference which they severally occasion to the full and specific action of the individual medicaments. Homœopathy,

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