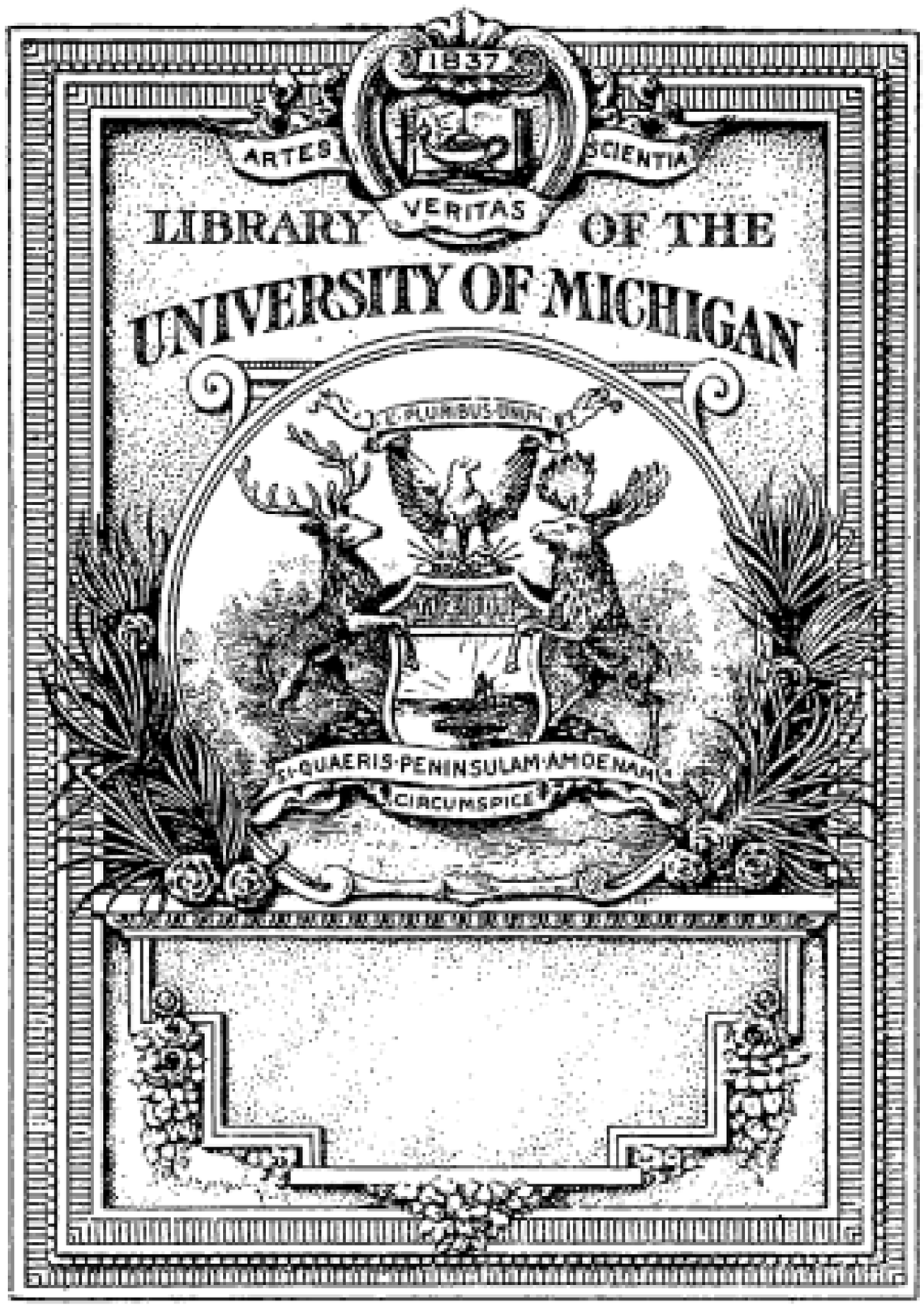
A 576262

Mech-
nor

Principles
of
Reinforced

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

A 615.5-3
T56

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

LETTER

TO THE HON. ——— ———

WITH

REASONS FOR EXAMINING AND BELIEVING

THE

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

OF

HOMŒOPATHY.

BY C. TICKNOR, M.D.

"Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri."

NEW-YORK:

HENRY LUDWIG, PRINTER.

M DCCC XL.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

LETTER

80369

TO THE HON. ——— ———

WITH

REASONS FOR EXAMINING AND BELIEVING

THE

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

OF

HOMŒOPATHY.

BY C. TICKNOR, M.D.

"Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri."

NEW-YORK:

HENRY LUDWIG, PRINTER.

M DCCC XL.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

LETTER, &c.

TO THE HON. ——— ———.

SIR,

It sometimes happens, as you know from your great experience in the affairs of this world, that we are thrown by circumstances into such a position, that an explanation to our friends, or to the public, is deemed expedient, if not absolutely necessary, to remove unjust suspicions, or to counteract more unjust insinuations, or direct charges. Professional men are, more or less, public men; and for their faults they are arraigned before that same stern public, who acts in the capacity of both accuser and judge. Before this tribunal, from which there is seldom any appeal, your humble servant finds himself now occupying the position of a prisoner at the bar; and before the verdict is pronounced, he has resolved to carry his case before your Honour, to defend his cause, and abide your judgment, well knowing that you will grant him an impartial hearing. Notwithstanding the case which I am about to present to your notice has more of a medical than legal character, yet it is one which interests you as well as myself, and every member of the community, and succeeding generations.

Various reports are coming to me, almost daily, that I am charged with entertaining heretical opinions on medical subjects—that I am the disciple and advocate of a system of medical practice which is denounced by ninety-nine in a hundred of my professional brethren, as sheer quackery and imposture—that I have, therefore, lost my reason or lack honesty, and as a consequence, the community is to be injured. I am charged with having become the disciple and advocate of the system of medicine called Homœopathy.

There is a more weighty reason yet for thus addressing my friends. In

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

the January No. of the New-York Medical Journal there is an article upon Homœopathy, denouncing the whole system as a chimera, and all those who believe in any part, or parcel, thereof as deluded or dishonest. That article was written, as the author says, in consequence of his attention having been drawn to the subject by "several spirited discussions in one of the medical societies." Those "*spirited discussions*," as they are called, arose from a paper which I had the honour to read before the society—a fact which is well known to all the profession and others who have ever heard of the "discussions." The article in the Journal annihilates Homœopathy most logically; but, unfortunately, the writer was so little acquainted with his subject, or was so eager for victory, that all his facts, as to the reputation of the new doctrine, and its adherents abroad, are *totally false*. This article has been copied into some of the popular journals of the day; and as I have been the innocent cause of this diffusion of error, and having borne whatever opprobrium there is attached to it among my brethren in the city, I felt it to be incumbent upon me to ask the Editors of the Medical Journal to permit me to reply, and correct the mis-statements. My request has not been granted—the pages of the Journal are closed against me; and "as the appeal has been made to Cæsar, to Cæsar I will go."

This is not the place to give an account of the discussions, nor to reply to the article in the Journal. I mention these circumstances as a principal reason for this exposition of my views of Homœopathy. The article says that "no man of eminence in any country has ever embraced Homœopathy." In the following pages you will be able to decide for yourself, whether any of the gentlemen named have any claim to "eminence;" and, certainly, the very respectable young gentlemen who conduct the New-York Medical and Surgical Journal, and their correspondent who furnished the article, can judge of the "eminence" of hospital surgeons, and professors in the most renowned universities in the world.

The writer of the article also impugns the motives of those who embrace Homœopathy. What sinister motive can a man have, who has already attained eminence, to embrace a doctrine which is exceedingly unpopular, and denounced as quackery? *All* his interest lies in adhering to the old practice, while, by embracing the new doctrine, he risks every thing that a professional man has to risk. I will not recriminate by accusing my brethren of being too indolent to *study*—of not having a proper sense of their responsibility—of fearing that they will cure their patients too quickly by Homœopathy—of not having moral courage enough to express their belief publicly—as reasons for not becoming acquainted with the new system, and giving to their patients all its benefits. I have too much respect

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

for the medical gentlemen of my acquaintance to attribute to them any such motives; and it is to be regretted that there should be an editor or writer of "eminence" who would descend so far below his professional dignity and self-respect, as to use such an argument to decide a grave scientific question.

I design, in the following pages, to give you my reasons for examining Homœopathy, and for believing that *part* of it which I can no longer doubt, as well as offer a few remarks upon the comparative merits of the new and old systems, and to lay before you some facts, so that you may be able to judge whether Homœopathy should be ranked under the head of quackery.

You will, doubtless, call to mind conversations that we have had at different times on the subject of the new system of medicine, when I most unhesitatingly dissented from all its dogmas, and from all, or nearly all its pretensions or claims to favour. My general convictions were all against it, and they were the result neither of whim nor prejudice. When we heard of Homœopathy in Germany, we regarded it as we did the cholera in Asia—as too distant ever to reach, or affect us. Homœopathy was considered a chimera—an emanation from the heated brain of an enthusiast, and, like other wild speculations in medicine, likely to have but an ephemeral existence, and like some other speculative theories, to be forgotten before its author should be in his grave — that Hahnemann would, in fact, be chief, if not sole mourner, at the funeral of his own darling offspring. When the German doctrine crossed the Atlantic and landed upon our shores, we regarded it with silent contempt; when it was familiarly introduced to us, and we looked upon its puny features, we treated it with ridicule. But when I saw it welcomed and embraced by some of my brethren, and others, whose capacity and integrity I could not doubt, I resolved to become intimately acquainted with it, that I might justly appreciate its merits. With this intention, and for this purpose, I read all the books which treated of the system that I could procure, and was satisfied that it was not entitled to very respectful consideration. Occasionally, however, I met with those who had been treated, and professed to have been cured, agreeably to the new system. Their honesty could not be questioned, and therefore I re-read, re-examined and investigated further, and was firmly convinced that Homœopathy was but the "baseless fabric of a vision," and that in a short time there would not be even a *wreck left behind*. The more I read and reasoned the less I believed—so difficult is it to get rid of the prejudices of education, and to believe in the reality of newly-discovered truths. Thus I continued, for several years, to have my attention called to it at different times by some circumstances, to give

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

it a re-hearing, and to be more and more strengthened in the convictions of my reason, and more confirmed in my prejudices.

In the early part of last summer I had a long conversation with a gentleman, a member of that profession to which you have so long done distinguished honour—one who is cool and philosophical on all subjects, not easily influenced by imagination or misled by feeling, and who has been for years in the habit of weighing testimony. He related to me results of Homœopathic practice in himself and family—results which he believed to be the effect of the remedies—that made more impression upon my mind than any reading or previous testimony. I obtained a considerable amount of similar testimony from others; but, sir, you must not understand me as admitting such evidence as conclusive proof of the truth or value of this or any other doctrine. It only served to draw more strongly my attention to the subject, and raised the following questions in my mind.

May there not be *some* truth in this new thing, which sensible and honest men believe? If there is any thing valuable in it, ought not all medical men to know what that is, and use it? Have I examined this system as thoroughly as it is possible for me to do? If I have not, am I honestly discharging my duty to the community, and to the system itself?

After the abuse and ridicule which I had heaped upon Homœopathy, you may well rest assured that these were hard questions for my conscience to answer. Nevertheless, I came to the conclusion that there was only one way by which I could become better acquainted with the German doctrine; and this was, to test it in my practice, for reading had only strengthened me in unbelief. To give the thing a fair trial, with the belief that I should be able to prove the whole system an absurdity, so that the results should be beyond cavil or question by the disciples of Homœopathy, I resolved to go implicitly by their instructions, and to see, and know, and be perfectly satisfied of the efficacy of the remedies from my own personal observation. You may think that the experiments, seemingly very fair, that have been made at different times, in various parts of Europe, would be satisfactory in deciding this question; but the Homœopaths would not admit the fairness of those experiments, and therefore, there was no way but to see for myself.

What is this new doctrine, which is claimed by its disciples to be an invaluable improvement, while it is denounced as quackery and imposture by others?

The word Homœopathy, as you know, defines itself, being derived from two Greek words, omoios and pathos, which mean *like feeling—similar disease*. This system of medicine owes its origin to Samuel Hahnemann,

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

who first commenced practising upon the principle of his doctrine, nearly fifty years ago. From a few facts which he observed, he inferred a principle, the truth of which forty-six years of experience, by a variety of observers, has demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of Hahnemann and all his disciples. The great fundamental truth, upon which the superstructure of Homœopathy has been reared, is this—*diseases are cured by that remedy which excites a similar morbid state, or disease, in a healthy person.* Let us take a case of disease, by way of illustrating, practically, the operation of this system. Suppose, then, that a man has nausea and vomiting, with the other prominent characteristic symptoms that tartar emetic always produces. To cure this state by the principle of Homœopathy, we would give the patient tartar emetic. Thus also do the Homœopaths treat all their diseases—giving that remedy for any disease which causes a train of symptoms, when administered to a healthy person, the most nearly resembling those they wish to remove in the patient.

An inference from this principle is made by the enemies of Homœopathy, which is as unfair in logic, as it is inconsistent with common sense. They say that if a remedy is given upon the principle of "similia similibus curantur," a remedy must be given to remove its own effects, *i. e.* if a poison has been taken which has caused disease, more of the poison must be given to cure what it has already produced. *Homœopathy teaches no such thing;* but it does teach that every poison has its antidote.

By *misrepresentation* and *distortion* also, some of us who have opposed Homœopathy make the new system say that remedies, to cure a disease, must be able to cause that *identical* disease in a healthy person; but it teaches no such thing: it does teach that remedies must be able to cause a train of symptoms *similar* to those manifested by the disease.

The disciples of the new school claim that their remedies act more promptly, administered upon this principle than upon any other—that their cures are more speedy, and without the long period of convalescence that frequently attends the old practice. That they are more agreeable, and more permanent, than those of the old school; and that the practice is not attended with any injurious effects on the constitution. Now, sir, here is a claim of superiority in every respect; and if the system really possesses this superiority, you will agree with me, that its founder is one of the greatest benefactors to his race that ever lived, and that he richly merits the everlasting gratitude of the whole human family.

But some, indeed I may say all, of us gentlemen of the old school, have hitherto denied the truth of Hahnemann's first principle, "similia similibus curantur,"—diseases are cured by remedies which cause a similar

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

disease. You have, by this time, in your mind, in connection with this principle, one of what is called Hahnemann's absurdities. I refer to the infinitesimal doses, the little doses, as they are called, and, in accordance with our previous notions, amounting to about—*nothing*. These little doses have been the only stumbling-block that has prevented the careful examination of Homœopathy by every medical man who understands and feels his responsibility; but as they have been considered one of Hahnemann's dogmas, and an integral and inseparable part of his system, they have brought condemnation upon the whole, and it has, therefore, been treated with contempt, ridicule and abuse, by ninety-nine in a hundred of the physicians of this country, and, till recently, of Europe also. I shall speak of these little doses more particularly in a subsequent page; in the mean time, let us look at the fundamental principle.

Suppose we take a patient who has nausea and vomiting. Now I am quite confident that you will not deny that this man can be made still more sick at his stomach by taking an emetic. I speak not of the size of the dose. From two to five grains of tartar emetic produce full vomiting in a healthy person, and a small share of common sense will teach a man that one, already sick at his stomach, can bear a much less dose without an aggravation of his complaint. I shall take it for granted that no one disputes or denies the fact, that tartar emetic can be given to one already sick, so as to produce some *effect*, I do not say *cure*, but the effect will be in proportion to the size of the dose. It is an axiom in medical philosophy, that whatever produces an *effect*, *may* cure disease; and therefore, tartar emetic may cure vomiting, although this article generally causes it. Hahnemann and his disciples say that it not only *may*, but absolutely *does* effect a cure, and in a dose of much less size than is requisite to excite vomiting in a healthy stomach.

Now, as long as we confine ourselves to reason, or, if you please, theory, or speculation, there is nothing inconsistent in the preceding illustration. And so in relation to all the other organs in the body. When they are diseased, the remedy to remove that state must be such as will produce in a healthy person a train of symptoms the most analagous to the disease, and if the disease changes its character, another remedy must be selected, corresponding in its effects to the newly assumed features of the malady.

Thus you will see, that this system is purely one of specifics, in the broadest sense. You will ask me, how is it known that these remedies produce the effects that are attributed to them? They are said to do so from multiform and manifold experience. In this system, as it is claimed by

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

its disciples, nothing is left to conjecture or guess; every conclusion is the result of observation and experiment. Many of the most accurate observers in Europe have made careful experiments upon healthy persons that it may possibly be made; these experiments have been repeated, minutely recorded, and are before the world in books, to be confirmed or refuted by further trials. About three hundred articles have been thus tested upon the healthy subject, and are now in constant use by Homœopathic physicians; and if the system had done no more than this for the advancement of medical science, the name of its founder ought to be immortal. Some of these articles are, of course, more valuable than others; and if some should fall into disuse from not possessing the powers claimed for them, it would be no more than has befallen other articles, from time to time, ever since the days of Chiron the Centaur.

It is charged upon Homœopathy, that those who practice by its precepts are superficial in their examinations of disease, taking into consideration the symptoms alone, and prescribing for them as for the disease itself, instead of regarding them as the results of disease, and as so many guide-boards pointing out which is the suffering organ. There is some apparent reason for this charge against Homœopathy; and, for the sake of the argument, admit that Hahnemann thus teaches. Every writer on the new system has confined himself to something besides anatomy, physiology, surgery, &c., *because* they have all been educated in the Allopathic school, and because these branches are ably taught by others, and hence it seems that these things are neglected. But granting that the founder of Homœopathy and his most distinguished disciples should discard all knowledge of anatomy and physiology, that does not prove that the principles of the system are untrue or without value. It rather proves that these men are deluded, carried away by their enthusiasm; for every medical man, and every other man who has a particle of common sense, knows full well that the derangements of an intricate machine, much more that wonderful piece of mechanism the human body, cannot be discovered or repaired without a knowledge of its structure. If, therefore, such a doctrine is taught by Homœopathy, its fallacy should be shown by those who have taken the second sober thought; the truth should not be rejected simply because the teachers of the system inculcate heresy. This charge is false. No system investigates so closely and so thoroughly as Homœopathy; and if any thing escapes detection, it is the fault of the man, and not of his doctrines. The very essence of the system is accurate and minute observation.

I recur now to the doses. Homœopathy does certainly profess to cure with much smaller doses of medicine than its antagonist system, the old

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

school, Allopathy. When Hahnemann commenced practicing upon the principle which he has developed, he used large doses, so that the effects were often too great. He then used smaller, and so on till he reduced his doses almost to infinity.

Homœopathic medicines are now prepared in two forms—one in powder, or trituration, the other in tincture. When the powder is to be prepared, Hahnemann directs that one grain of the medicine be added to ninety-nine grains of sugar of milk, and triturated for a given time; then one grain of this to be added to another hundred grains of sugar of milk and triturated; one grain of this to another hundred of sugar of milk, and so on to the thirtieth trituration.

When the tincture is to be prepared, one drop of the saturated tincture (the strong alcoholic tincture) is added to ninety-nine drops of alcohol, and the dilution continued by hundreds in the same way as the triturations. These dilutions constitute the infinitesimal doses; and you will agree with me that our *reason* teaches us that they do not possess efficacy. But the truth and value of the principle of Homœopathy does not depend upon the dose, which must be regulated, like the dose in the old practice, by the disease, the peculiarities of the patient, and other circumstances that ought always to be taken into consideration. Some patients are much more susceptible to the influence of remedies than others, and hence can bear with advantage but little medicine. The inconceivably small doses, which many believe to constitute the sum and substance of Homœopathy, bear just the same relation to the principles and value of the system, that the working of miracles, by pretended relics, bear to the essential principles and value of the Christian religion. The prescriber is not limited in his doses, but, if he chooses, can give as great a quantity by the new as by the old system.

Homœopathy professes to cure not only diseases that come within the sphere of the physician, but also many of those which go into the hands of the surgeon.

This system also claims to have discovered the cause of a great variety of chronic and fatal diseases, in an hereditary predisposition, or constitutional affection, which has been overlooked, till seen and brought to light by the genius of Hahnemann.

Homœopathy professes to have the power to cure a large proportion of those cases which are now considered incurable by Allopathy.

These, my dear sir, are some of the most prominent features and strongest claims of Homœopathy. It has other features, which may be grotesque, or even ridiculous; but if it has some of the greatest absurdities that ever had birth, even if it professed to raise the dead, let me ask you

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

if some of its claims and pretensions are not worthy of investigation? Great discoverers and improvers of science have generally been enthusiasts—and it is well for the world that they have been so—they have been generally dogmatic, and have expected more, and promised more, from their labours than others have realized. It is not strange then that Hahnemann should, in this respect, resemble his illustrious predecessors. If, then, we find a great and valuable truth held up to our view, though it be partially concealed by a veil of error, shall we turn that veil aside and examine the truth, or shall we thrust the whole from us with contempt? We might, with the same propriety, reject our gold coin, because it contains a small proportion of alloy.

If only one tenth part, nay one hundredth, even less than that, one thousandth, or one ten thousandth part, of what Homœopathy claims is true, it is well worthy the careful investigation, *practical* investigation, of every honest man. If it will cure, or even mitigate disease in only one patient in a thousand, when Allopathy fails, that patient ought to receive its benefits.

Homœopathy itself is charged with being a system of quackery. Let us see what is understood by the term quackery. We hear people talk of quackery in law, theology, medicine, politics, &c. Quackery seems to me to be a compound of about equal parts of ignorance, impudence, and dishonesty; and I believe this definition embraces the idea that people wish to convey when they speak of quackery, in general. Quackery in medicine, however, covers a larger field; for besides ignorance, impudence, and dishonesty, there is superadded no small amount of secrecy. These constituents of quackery cannot endure the light—they would soon vanish beneath its scorching rays. Hence it is, that we find all quacks in medicine, involve their pretended art and skill in mystery—their remedies are patented—they deal in nostrums only, and the whole is kept a profound secret. On the contrary, if a member of the medical profession—one who has entered it by honest means, and by a course of thorough study, keeps his remedies a secret and refuses to disclose them to his brethren for the benefit of the whole world, he is at once denounced by every liberal-minded man, deemed unworthy of professional fellowship, and the confidence of the community, and not unfrequently expelled from the society of his brethren. The exposition which follows, of the course that Homœopaths have ever pursued in Europe, and are now pursuing, what they have performed, and the increasing spread of their doctrine there, will be sufficient to satisfy you whether or not the charge of quackery can be sustained against Homœopathic medicine.

The following account of Homœopathia in Europe, is taken from "The

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Homœopathic Examiner," a monthly periodical published in this city, which made its first appearance in January. This journal is edited by Dr. A. Gerald Hull, an accomplished scholar and practical physician, who is fully competent to the task he has undertaken. Dr. Hull has spent several years in Europe, is personally acquainted, and is in correspondence, with many of the most prominent Homœopaths, including the founder of the system.

"*Reputation of Homœopaths and Homœopathia.*

"This important link in our chain of evidences, indicating the present rank of Homœopathia, and strengthened by the confirmation of authorities that are not Homœopathic, is respectfully and especially submitted to the consideration of those who either wilfully or ignorantly have circulated the silly report of 'the downfall of Homœopathia in Europe.'

"Dr. Quin, whom we have enumerated among the converted Allopathists, is distinguished as the first Homœopathic physician in England. Besides the compliment of being selected as attending physician to the king of Belgium, he commands an immensely lucrative practice among the noble and intelligent of Great Britain. In the circle of his patients, the Marquis of Anglesea represents the former, Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer the latter.

"The names and reputation of other eminent converts to the new doctrine, having just passed under review, their reputation here would be superfluous.

"Professors.—The following doctors of medicine, who hold professorships of medicine, chemistry, or philosophy, in different universities on the continent, are recognized and respected as prominent advocates of Homœopathia:

Professor	Quadri,	of the University at	Naples
"	Guaranta,	"	"
"	Arnold,	"	Heidelberg.
"	Wahlenburg,	"	Upsala.
"	Mabit,	"	Bordeaux.
"	Leupoldt,	"	Erlangen.
"	Fleischmann,	"	"
"	Roth,	"	Munich.
"	Werber,	"	Carlsruhe.
"	Succow,	"	Jena.
"	Crèpu,	"	Grenoble.
"	Martin,	"	Jena.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"COUNSELLORS.—The distinction of counsellors of state and counsellors in medicine, is conferred by the sovereigns of Europe upon such physicians alone as are distinguished for their acquisitions in general science and medicine, and is esteemed as a compliment of the highest order. Homœopathia has such adherents.

State Counsellors.

Stegeman,	St. Petersburgh.	Trinks,	Dresden.
Eglau,	Kurst	Necker,	Naples.
Ruppius,	Altenburg.	Trinius,	St. Petersburgh.
Schwartz,	Dresden.	Siegl,	Brussels.
Weber,	Lich.	Lübert,	Constantinople.
Schwartzenburg,	Mittweid.	Bönninghausen,	Munster.
Gsell,	St. Gall.	Paul Wolf,	Dresden.
Cramer,	Baden.	Zeroni,	Baden.
Rau,	Giessen.	Brutzen,	Riga.
Reubell,	Munich.	Wich,	Carlsruhe.
Sphor,	Gandersheim.	Neef,	Frankfort.
Mühlenbein,	Brunswick.		

Medical Counsellors.

Stieler,	Berlin.	Winkler,	Altenburg.
Trinks,	Dresden.	Stapf,	Raumberg.
Blau,	Icterhausen.	Kurtz,	Dessau.
Geiseler,	Dantzic.	Aegidi,	Königsberg.
Widnmann,	Munich.		

"Many physicians and surgeons in Europe, whose success in the practice of the healing art through the agency of Homœopathiá, has been undeniable, have been rewarded by places of honour, which Allopathic practitioners have always struggled to secure. From such we are enabled to record—

"Dr. Aegidi, appointed physician to Princess Frederica of Prussia.

"Dr. Mühlenbein, physician to the Duke of Brunswick.

"Dr. Kurtz, physician to the Duchess of Anhalt Dessau.

"Dr. Cramer, physician to the Grand Duke Charles of Carlsruhe.

"Dr. Romani, physician to the Queen of Naples.

"Dr. Necker, physician to the Duke of Lucques.

"Dr. Lübert, physician to the Russian Embassy at Constantinople.

"Dr. Rückert, physician to Count Holberg and Count Hohenthal Konigsbrück.

"Dr. Griesselich, surgeon to the Grand Duke of Baden.

"Dr. Altmüller, court surgeon at Cassel.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"Dr. Horatiis, president of the Academy of Medicine (Allopathic) was selected physician to Francis I. the late King of Naples.

"Dr. Stapf was called to attend the Dowager Queen of England; but the important position he holds in Germany compelled him to decline the honour.

"Buongiovanni is physician to the Hospital of Invalids, at Naples.

"Baldi is surgeon-in-chief to the Neapolitan army.

"La Raga is physician to the Military Hospital of Cotrone.

"Sannicola is chief director of the Civil and Military Hospital of the kingdom of Naples.

ARMY.—*Surgeons and Physicians.*

Apelt,	Leipsic.	Hayser,	Darmstadt.
Hartung,	Saltzburg.	Schmidt,	Glatz.
Müller,	Pesth.	Braun,	Pesth.
Kirshberg,	Gallicia.	Amman,	Darmstadt.
Marentzeller,	Vienna.	Puppke,	Muhlhausen.
Starke,	———	Laburthe, Surgeon Major, France.	
Seidel,	———		

"COLLATERAL TESTIMONY derived from sources *not* Homœopathic. We offer it as it is; it needs no comment:—

"Le Moniteur, the official organ of the French government, thus refers to the distinction conferred on Dr. Mabit, in consequence of his successful Homœopathic treatment of cholera at Bordeaux, and also for having founded a Homœopathic hospital, the results of which were sufficiently striking to command the attention of the French sovereign:—

"'Dr. MABIT has been created knight of the legion of honour; a recompense rendered to his devotion and exertions on the appearance of the Asiatic cholera, as well as to his steadfast zeal and continued researches for the interests of humanity and progress of medicine.'

"WILLIAM LEO-WOLF, M.D., an Allopathic physician, who has published a large volume, entitled 'Remarks on the Abracadabra of the Nineteenth Century; or on Dr. Samuel Hahnemann's Homœopathic Medicine;' composed in the most rabid and virulent temper, against Hahnemann and his system, admits thus much as to the condition of Homœopathia in Germany:—

"'The last accounts from thence state, that the Chamber of Deputies of Baden have resolved, almost unanimously, to have a special chair of Homœopathia in the Heidelberg University; the same, we are told, was resolved by the Bavarian government for the University of Munich.'

"And again:—

"'We are told also by men upon whose veracity we can rely, that new

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

trials of Homœopathia are contemplated in some other capitals of Germany, in consequence of the wishes expressed by many distinguished individuals in the armies and in official stations, who have said they were cured by Homœopathists, after they had been long and unsuccessfully treated by other physicians; perhaps, also, because Dr. Kopp, known as a learned and experienced practitioner, and author on legal and practical medicine, has seemingly joined the Homœopathic ranks.'

"Dr. MILLINGEN, the Allopathic surgeon already quoted, observes:—

"'It is a matter worthy of remark, that while the doctrines of Homœopathia *have fixed the attention, and become the study of many learned and experienced medical men, in various parts of Europe*, England is the only country where it has only been noticed to draw forth the most opprobrious invectives.'

"In the *Journal de Médecine Pratique de Bordeaux*, (an Allopathic Journal) the subjoined confession from an Allopathic correspondent, to its editor, is recorded:—

"'In my recent communication to you, in which I stated that the new German doctrine had made but slight progress at Bordeaux, I uttered the truth: but what a difference has been accomplished in one month! Many of our most distinguished citizens, to the astonishment of the envious, have displayed the most absolute confidence in the mild and agreeable rules of Homœopathia; and men of serious reflection—learned and illustrious—men in every respect exempt from the blind credulity of the vulgar, have not disdained to depend upon the aid of its singular therapeutics.'

"*Professorship of Homœopathia.*

"During the past year, at one of the sittings of the Diet of Hesse-Darmstadt, the subject of Homœopathia was publicly discussed. Wolff, counsellor of state, thus remarked:

"*Facts* speak louder than words, and, as my colleague, Glaubrech, has justly observed, one single fact is worth more than a ship-load of proofs a priori, hypotheses, &c. On this account I have confined myself exclusively to facts.

"'I state further as a *fact*, that about fifteen Universities and Academies allow lectures on Homœopathia; and of these professorships eight or ten of the most celebrated are recognized in Germany.'

"According to this recent communication of Counsellor Wolff, five foreign and two German professorships, whose names we have not yet obtained, have been established within the past two years, beside the following:

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"1. At Heidelberg a professorship has been created, and Dr. Arnold has been chosen professor.

"2. The Government of Hanover has decreed the formation of a professorship at the University of Göttingen.

"3. At Erlangen, Professor Leupoldt occupies the chair of Homœopathia with flattering success.

"4. At the University of Munich the professorship of Homœopathia has been conferred upon Dr. Roth.

"5. At Jena the Homœopathic professorship is held by Dr. Martin.

"6. A professorship has been created at Leipzig.

"7. Another at Freiburg.

"8. A professorship has been recently formed in the Duchy of Darmstadt, to which Dr. Rau will probably be called.

"*Homœopathic Literature.*

"The literature of Homœopathia has been as little known and has encountered as much misrepresentation, as any one of its departments. It can be scarcely credited, even among the friends of Homœopathia, except by its physicians, that about SEVEN HUNDRED volumes have been issued from the press, developing the peculiarities of the system, and many of them possessed of a scientific character that *savans* know well how to respect. Controlled by an earnest desire to confirm our statement of facts by personal observations and testimony, we have taken especial trouble to investigate this subject and thus feel personally enabled, after a direct inspection, to enumerate, as the result of our labours, the existence of SIX out of seven hundred volumes that have enriched the Russian, Danish, Italian, German, French, and English languages.

"TWENTY periodicals of the system have been established in different parts of the world, the most prominent of which are deserving of present record."

Hospitals.

"Homœopathic hospitals and infirmaries are established at Leipzig, Munich, Paris, Bordeaux, London, Hungary, Oxford, and in other places.

Austria.

1828.

"The Allopathic commission reported against Homœopathia, after the trial at Vienna, although they stated, that 'the system is not ineffi-cacious.' The Government therefore, interdicted its practice.

1839.

The interdict has been removed. Medical men of eminence have acknowledged their belief in Homœopathia. And part of the imperial household is at present under Homœopathic treatment.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Russia.

1827.

"The experiments were not sufficiently satisfactory to obtain the establishment of Homœopathic hospitals under government patronage.

1839.

"Homœopathia is now recognized by the government, and Homœopathic institutions are organized for the better regulation of the practice throghout the Empire.

France.

1834.

"Trials were made by Andral without a knowledge of the system, and he did not succeed.

1839.

"The system has widely extended throughout the kingdom, with the prospect of the school of Montpelier in its favour.

Italy.

1835.

"A public trial undertaken by order of the king of Naples, was closed before it was complete, because the Allopathic commission would not obey the instructions contained in the royal order.

1839.

"The extension of Homœopathia in Italy exceeds that in any other part of Europe, excepting Saxony. Physicians, priests and literati, have embraced its doctrines. Hospitals and infirmaries are being organized, and many that were Allopathic have been appropriated to the use of the Homœopathists.—*Statistics.*

"SUMMARY made by Dr. Peschier of the results of the Homœopathic treatment of cholera in Europe, up to 1832.

"In Russia (documents of Admiral Mordvinoff; observations of Drs. Seider and Peterson,) there were 1557 patients treated, 1394 cured and 163 died.

"In Austria, (documents of Dr. Roth; observations of Drs. Schreter, Hanusch and Quin,) there were 1406 patients treated, 1314 cured and 95 died.

"At Berlin, (observations of Drs. Stüller and Haynel,) there were 32 patients treated, 26 cured and 6 died.

"At Paris, (observations of Dr. Quin,) there were 19 patients treated and 19 cured.

Total—3017 patients treated, 2753 cured and 264 died.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"*Leipzig Hospital.*

"We have already alluded to the successful continuation of this Hospital under the patronage of the Saxon government.

"Abstract from the official and published reports of the *in-door* patients of this institution.

"During the year			1833	were	treated	118	patients,	of which	No.	4	died.
"	"	"	1834	"	"	120	"	"	"	5	"
"	"	"	1835	"	"	93	"	"	"	11	"
"	"	"	1836	"	"	110	"	"	"	5	"
"	"	"	1837	"	"	107	"	"	"	8	"
						548				33	

"Deaths at the rate of about 6 per cent.

"Abstract from the report of the *out-door* patients attended by the physicians of the Leipzig hospital.

"During the year			1833	were	treated	1086	patients,	of which	No.	17	died
"	"	"	1834	"	"	463	"	"	"	7	"
"	"	"	1835	"	"	283	"	"	"	9	"
"	"	"	1836	"	"	261	"	"	"	5	"
"	"	"	1837	"	"	332	"	"	"	10	"
						2425				48	

The name of Dr. James Johnson, Physician Extraordinary to the late king of Great Britain, and editor of the far-famed London Medico-Chirurgical Review, has an article in the Review for July 1834, headed "*Fatal blow to Homœopathism in Russia.*" In this article, Dr. Johnson states that "the Grand Duke Michael, invested M. Hermann, a Saxon physicians, with full powers to display, in a course of chemical experiments, the superiority of Homœopathy over the common practice and theory of the day. One of the wards of the Hôpital de Tuttschin, which contained a number of soldiers affected with fever and dysentery, was allotted to his special management during a space of two months."

The following table exhibits the results:

	Patients.	Cured.	Died.	Remaining.
Common method,	457	364	—	93
Homœopathic,	128	65	5	58

Dr. Johnson further states, that the Grand Duke was satisfied and withdrew his commission; but that M. Hermann was afterwards invited to St. Petersburgh, by the Russian government, had a hospital placed under his control, the wards of which were newly painted. He even had the kitchen placed under his own management, and a sentinel placed at the

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

door of the hospital to prevent the entrance of any one during his absence As to the kind of patients, Dr. J. says that M. Hermann desired the selection of all his cases, and that he would take none who were labouring under ulcers, syphilis, dropsy, phthisis, &c. Even under these circumstances the results were most unfortunate for the new practice; the proportion of deaths to recoveries was much higher than in ordinary practice, and the duration of the treatment was always protracted and tedious. This would certainly have been giving to Homœopathy all the chance that its friends could ask for it; and if the above account were true, it would, indeed, be rather a "fatal blow" to Homœopathy, not only in Russia, but wherever this experiment should be made known. When I read this account five years ago, knowing the pre-eminently high standing of Dr. Johnson, I of course believed it, although the treatment of 457 cases of disease in a period of two months, without a single death, was a perfectly novel occurrence, and not to be satisfactorily accounted for. But, sir, you are aware that there are two sides to a story. Dr. Johnson has given us his version of the affair, which the Homœopaths declare to be false in every essential particular. We have heard the plaintiff and now we will hear the defendant.

According to the Homœopaths, the above story was indited by a wandering German doctor, by the name of Seidlitz—which name Dr. J. keeps out of sight—and had its origin in a hospital trial, which took place about seven years previously. The Emperor himself, and *not* the Grand Duke, ordered Dr. Hermann in 1827 to take charge of a military hospital at Tulzyn in Podolia, *not* Tuttschin, for the space of three, not *two* months. During the first two months of the trial, five of the patients died, and the last month, which Dr. Johnson has entirely omitted, but *one died*.

	No. received.	Cured.	Remaining.	Died.
True report,	164	141	18	6
False report,	128	65	58	5
Sum of mis-statement,	36	76	40	1

Four of these persons, who died, were examined after death by gentlemen physicians of the old school, when the following facts were elicited: the first had ossifications of the bronchiæ (small divisions of the wind-pipe) of long standing. The second was a citizen in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, brought in at his urgent entreaty, and died in four days. The third was brought from the lazaretto of a regiment, where he had been long treated for ague and fever, complicated with scurvy and diarrhœa; he died soon after his admission, of gangrene of the scorbutic ulcers. The fourth was found to have his liver enlarged to three times its natural size,

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

and the spleen indurated; the heart small and wasted. These are truly "fevers and dysenteries," as Dr. J. calls them.

One very singular *fact* in regard to the report of the patients treated by the common practice, when not one out of 457 died in the space of sixty days, is, that the very next day after Seidlitz closed his report, the 61st day, the whole ninety-three remaining were found dead in the morning, "in consequence," as this same Seidlitz says, "of an altered balance between the circulation and excitability," or from morbid irritability of the gastric nerves!!!! Really, I should think that this Seidlitz was trying to hoax the learned doctor. Such a mortality bears some faint resemblance to that caused by the destroying angel when he visited the army of Sennacherib. In regard to the trial at St. Petersburgh, which was conducted under the supervision of a commission, appointed by the government *of opposing physicians*, that commission reported that the trial was "*not unfavourable to the new system.*"

This trial took place in the fall and winter of 1829—so from September 20th to February 20th, five months, of seventy-two cases of inflammation of the lungs, seventy were discharged perfectly cured—one was taken from the hospital, and one was left declared curable by Hermann and the commission. Ordinary practice cannot equal this. Of thirty-eight cases of inflammatory fever, thirty-five were discharged cured, two were convalescent, and one curable remained. Twenty-three cases of inflammation of the bronchiæ were received; twenty-one were discharged cured, one removed, and one, curable, remained.

This is a class of diseases which often terminate fatally, under the best of the old school practice; and here we have 133 cases, of all grades of inflammation, treated successfully—no death occurring—without bleeding, leeches, cupping, blisters, or salivation.

The general result of the St. Petersburgh experiment is as follows: whole number received, 395; cured, 341; recovered, 10; died, 23; convalescent, 8; remaining curable, 11; remaining incurable, 2.

Of the twenty-three deaths, five occurred of ten patients received labouring under hectic fever and consumption: four of twenty-seven cases of malignant fever; one of forty-four cases of bilious fever; and three of four cases of organic lesions of long standing. The remaining ten deaths occurred of seven various diseases, without even in the eyes of the commission attaching censure to the system.

The above account is condensed from the official report of the commission of opposing physicians appointed by the Russian Government.

Six years after this "fatal blow" was given to Homœopathy in Russia, according to Dr. Johnson, the Emperor issued an order for the establishment

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

of Homœopathic apothecaries in the various governments of that vast empire, and directed the minister of the interior to publish a monthly account of the progress of Homœopathy in the Russian dominions. This order, or ukase, was published in November, 1833.

So much for the downfall of Homœopathy in Russia according to Dr. Johnson and the disciples of Hahnemann.

And now, sir, what think you of the charge of quackery against a system which has produced its seven hundred volumes in the first forty-six years of its existence—which has its eight professorships in some of the most famous European universities—which is embraced by the most eminent scientific men in Europe—which has been invited into the courts of Kings and palaces of Emperors—which has its hospitals and dispensaries—which invites the closest scrutiny—which solicits a thorough examination? I leave it to you to decide whether such a charge has been, or can be, sustained.

Homœopathy, from its very inception, has been reared by the true Baconian process of inductive philosophy. Not a step has been taken which has not rested upon facts, and the only question to decide is, whether these facts are true or false.

Allow me to allude briefly to my own experience in Homœopathic practice. Since the commencement of my practical investigations, I have seen results which followed the administration of Homœopathic remedies in several hundred instances. I have used a variety of remedies in men, women, and children, in both chronic and acute diseases, where the patients knew upon what plan they were treated, and under such circumstances that they could not by any possibility *suspect* it, unless persons in a state of insensibility, and infants, are capable of suspecting. So neither imagination, hope, fear, nor prejudice, could have had any influence; and yet, if the evidence of my own senses is to be believed, after making due allowance for extraneous influences, that might by possibility affect the cases, the results that have followed my prescriptions must stand in the relation of cause and effect. I can be no more certain of having seen effects produced by the use of medicine, at any time, during my professional life, than I am of having seen them produced by Homœopathic medicines. I speak not now of the *quantity* given, for that has nothing to do with the principle. When I give medicine upon this plan, I do, as I ever have done, upon the old—give it till the system feels it.

You know very well, that it is a nice question to decide, exactly what, and how much, effect is produced by any given medicine in a case of disease, where such a multitude of causes are constantly in operation to affect the animal economy. But we must judge in this, as in all matters, from

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

the best evidence which the nature of the case admits, and we ought not to rest satisfied till that is obtained. To arrive at conclusive testimony of the effects of medicines, is no easy matter, and is only to be approached by a chain of evidences and circumstances, corroborating each other. There is, I may say, no effect produced by medicine which does not sometimes occur spontaneously, or independent of medication; so that it is impossible, frequently, to say with certainty, precisely what effect is due to medicine. Let us apply my ideas at once to practice, that I may illustrate what is the best possible evidence of the effect of medicine.

Suppose that an intelligent man is suffering from any given disease, and that he is clear-headed, philosophical, and not subject to be influenced by fancy or imagination. This man declares he is suffering pain of the chest which is aggravated by every respiration, or that he has a great degree of pain in the ankle-joint, caused by a sprain, which is increased by motion; need I ask you whether this man's word would be doubted under these circumstances? Suppose your Honour to be this very patient, what confidence would you have in a physician, or what respect would you have for him, or for any man, who should tell you it was all imagination, and that you felt no pain? The patient's word, however, would be taken, and a prescription made accordingly, with his knowledge of the medicine and the effect it was designed to produce. Now I ask sir, whether or not you are to be permitted to judge of your own feelings again, and whether or not you are to be believed when you say that in one, two, or more hours, the pain left you? To vary the case a little—suppose the patient did not know what medicine he took, nor the effect it was to produce—can he not then just as well judge of his own feelings? Besides experiencing relief from pain and distress, patients are often sensible of a change in their entire feelings, very soon after taking a remedy—they declare that they feel as if the medicine were doing them good, almost the moment it has been swallowed. Testimony of this kind I consider worth something, more especially when it is corroborated by other evidences.

Let us take an infant, if you please, where imagination has no influence and where we must judge of pain and distress only as it is manifested in the actions and the symptoms of disease. If this child is sick with a disease which runs a course, usually, of a few days if left to itself, and that disease is averted in as many hours after the administration of remedies, is not the inference pretty fair that the remedy had some agency in this result?

Suppose a child has passed several restless nights in succession, and that an article is given for two or three nights, and then intermitted, then resumed again, and so on for several times, and that every night the child

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

takes the medicine it sleeps soundly, and every night it does not it is restless, and that the circumstances are the same when it takes, as when it does not take the medicine, is not the inference pretty fair that the medicine produced some effect?

Suppose that a patient has a disease, for which he has undergone a variety of treatment, during several years, without amelioration, and that under the same circumstances of diet, climate, occupation and all extraneous influences, he commences a new system of practice, from which, in a short time, he rapidly recovers—may we not consider this as some evidence of the effect of remedies? There is the evidence of the friends and nurses of patients, which is not to be overlooked; they see the patient when he sleeps, when he is insensible, and frequently confirm, or contradict, his account, either of which may aid in ascertaining the truth. The testimony of the physician himself is sometimes worthy of credit, especially if he has been generally found to be a man of veracity; and, if he has added to an acquaintance with his profession some years of experience, his testimony should carry more weight with it. And if he is a man who generally investigates closely, who is free from prejudice, not an enthusiast on other subjects, but under the control of good sense, should not his testimony have some weight when confirmed by his patient, his nurse and the friends of the patient? Suppose a remedy has been given to several persons in health, and all the effects it produced were accurately recorded in a book, and these effects are found to correspond with the results of experiments made by others, is there not some probability that this testimony of the effects of medicine is true? Thus then we have the best chain of testimony in regard to the operations of medicine that human ingenuity can devise. Let experiments, made upon the healthy, be recorded, let the physician who administers to the diseased tell to one what effect he will experience, and let him withhold such disclosure from another, let the nurse, the patient's friends, the patient himself, and the disappearance of the disease, all combine to bear evidence of the same fact—the effect of the medicine—and there is proof which ought to stagger the unbelief of a skeptic. And when we have instances of this kind repeated under our own observation several hundred times, supported by such evidence, that skepticism must be firmly planted which cannot be thoroughly eradicated.

Such is the evidence, sir, which has proved to my satisfaction that the principle of Homœopathy is true. I have seen results follow my remedies, under such a variety of circumstances, where no other cause could have operated, that, in spite of my wishes and prejudice, I have been compelled to believe that these results were the effect of medicine.

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

But, there are those, both in and out of the profession, who deny that a cure was ever wrought by the new system; they attribute every good result to some other influence. Let us hear them. A man has been an invalid for years, has been attended by his "own familiar friend"—his family physician—has consulted others—has undergone a variety of treatment—has been bled, blistered, subjected to the surgeon's knife, and to the red hot iron—has made the tour of Europe, been again starved, stimulated, and well fed—and all without benefit. He returns, and in a few months, under the treatment of a Homœopathic physician, rapidly regains his health, without varying in any particular the circumstances of his living. It is said by those to whom I allude, that *imagination* cured this man of his disease. Yes, sir, do you believe it, the assertion is gravely made that imagination, or some mental excitement, restored such an individual to health. We know very well the almost marvellous effects that mental emotion produces—we know that it both causes and cures disease. We have many instances recorded of contagious convulsions that have overspread a large extent of country, which were produced solely by mental excitement and cured by the same agent. We have heard of the *royal-touch* in scrofula, and its astonishing effects, and we know of thousands of instances of the curative powers of the various emotions of the mind; and, therefore, according to the logic of some reasoners, *all* Homœopothic cures are wrought by the powers of the imagination, or something besides the medicine. Without denying almost unlimited powers to the imagination, let us examine the logic which leads to such conclusions. Let us take the case above cited, (and many parallel to it are on record,) which has been subjected to all the variety of treatment mentioned. I ask you, sir, if faith, hope, or imagination, or any other, or every other mental emotion, is not called into exercise, when the respected family physician is in attendance—when a long list of disagreeable medicine is taken—when the pleasures of the table are abstained from for months, and a rigid, meagre diet persevered in—when blisters, setons and issues are worn for weeks or months—when the surgeon's knife, or the red hot iron is applied—when friends are left behind to visit a foreign land? Are there not causes here to excite the imagination—causes ten thousand times as powerful as when this same invalid, after long persuasion, consents to place himself under the care of one whom he has honestly believed to be a quack, and a knavish impostor, whom he heartily despises, and who he believes is practising a system which is nothing but sheer imposition? My reason, and my logic, teach me that any thing else rather than the imagination works the cures in such instances. It may not be the medicine, but it certainly is not the mind, though, if it is, it is quite a pity that we Allopathic physicians do not more

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

frequently employ it, when our other resources have failed us, and not leave so potent an agent to be wielded by quacks.

But, admitting the logic of the gentlemen to be true, and that these cures are effected by the imagination, what does it prove? If it is a fact, that some of the most inveterate diseases are cured so suddenly by imagination, after the old system has failed, it proves that the less obstinate, which constitute a large majority of the cases we have to treat, could be cured so too—and hence Allopathia, the whole of medical science, from Hippocrates to the present day, has been worse than useless; worse than "imposition;" worse than "quackery;" much worse than "Homœopathy!"—a conclusion that these logicians would not be willing to admit.

But further on this point. We have accused the Homœopaths of making promises to their patients of a speedy cure. Let me ask, if we do not also give our patients just as much encouragement, and just as fair promises, as we conscientiously can? Do we not tell them what our opinion is? And do we not consider it a fixed principle in the practice of our profession to let our patients have the benefit of the stimulus of a reasonable hope, and sometimes, too, even against hope? If my brethren decline answering these questions, perhaps their patients and their patients' friends, whose hopes have been realized, and those who have been disappointed, can give a reply.

If, therefore, a patient has been under the maximum influence of imagination, without feeling any effect from it, and effects bear any proportion to their causes, it is unfair in logic to conclude that a minimum cause shall produce a maximum effect.

There is another process, of mongrel analogy, by which the pretended cures of Homœopathy are attempted to be upset. A. declares that he has cured a pleurisy by a practice which he details. B. says that he has never tried A.'s practice, but he has cured the same disease by another method, and therefore he does not believe that A. cured his patient as he claims to have done. Or, B. may have tried A.'s practice and failed, and, therefore, he concludes that A. failed too. Or he has seen A.'s practice tried, in this or that instance, when it failed, and, therefore, it must always fail.

Failures occur more frequently than we could wish, from the best practice, by the ablest physicians of both schools, and always will. But the gentlemen who thus reason do not remember that each fact proves itself, and not every other—that we should be careful, in reasoning from analogy, and that by condemning a system, or a physician, from one, or fifty failures, they are condemning themselves. For who, that has had many patients, has not lost some? and if all such are to be condemned, the

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

judge himself must be included in his own sentence. The attempt of B. to prove that A. cannot cure his patients, because B. himself cannot, is what the logic of C. would be, were he arraigned for shooting D. through the lungs, causing instant death, were he to prove, to the satisfaction of the court and jury, that E. had been shot through the lungs and recovered from the injury, and, therefore, D. was not killed by the shot, but died from a sudden fit of apoplexy, or from some unknown cause. By this logic, we can prove or disprove any fact in medical science; and I repeat, that each case, with its attendant circumstances, must be judged of by itself. Ten physicians may cure a disease in ten different ways; but that does not prove that the eleventh physician may not cure the same disease by a process different from either, or that the whole ten may not fail in their next patient, or that the eleventh may not be successful.

Another common method of disposing of the cures of Homœopaths by us gentlemen of the old school, is, *to deny the facts as they are related to us.* A Homœopath may, for instance, relate a case of disease, that he has successfully treated, to his brethren, and relate it in such a manner that, if it is once admitted the disease was as described, the cure from Homœopathic treatment must be admitted also; so they deny the existence of the disease. Now et us look at the common sense, or common honesty, if there be any, n such a course. The Homœopath who relates the case, may be older, more experienced, better informed, and quite as reputable for honesty and candour, as those who deny his facts. But he is gravely told to his face, that the disease which he saw daily, for weeks, a record of the appearance and treatment of which he kept, was not what he believed it to be!—and he is told this by one who never once saw the case!! This, you will agree with me, is rather a summary way of disposing of alleged facts, than a philosophical. A physician's statement is thus impugned—his judgment and veracity are impeached—without an examination, or even the manifestation of a desire to examine into the truth. Who can best judge of the character and appearance of a disease, the effect of remedies, &c.?—one who saw and treated it, or one who saw it not, and never saw a case treated like it? Whose judgment, in this case, is most to be depended upon? The argument is just this:—B. has never cured a case as A. declares he has, and therefore B. insists that it cannot be done.

Perhaps, sir, you will think that I am condemning myself by my own arguments, or that I am preparing the way to declare myself a believer in all that I have ever considered the dogmas and extravagances of Hahnemann. I ask from no man more than I would give—blind credulity!—

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

all that I ask is an *honest* and thorough examination, by practice, of the principle upon which Homœopathy is founded.

There is one reason why Allopathic physicians in this country are, to a very great extent, excusable for not examining, more thoroughly, this new system—and that is, they have not had the means. There have never been but eight or ten numbers of any periodical, advocating Homœopathy, published in this country; so that it has been without this powerful, and almost necessary aid, to urge its claims upon the attention of the profession.

Of all the works upon Homœopathy, not more than two or three have ever appeared in the English language, that are of any practical value to the practitioner; and the most valuable of these, Jahr's Repertory, is of so little value, that the Homœopaths declare, that if they depended on this alone, they could not practice with any success. A few works have appeared in French—perhaps there are a hundred—all the rest being in the original German. Now, as all American physicians cannot read French, and very few, German, it is quite evident that we are excusable for our ignorance, in regard to Homœopathy.

A man who reads nothing but English, cannot understandingly practice Homœopathy; but so slight an obstacle as the ignorance of the German language can be soon and easily overcome.

Excusable ignorance of the language does not excuse us for denouncing the whole system; and if our patients can be benefited by knowledge to be obtained only by our learning the German, I do not consider that sacrifice too great for us to make. Our duties are not fully discharged till we have done all that we can do.

With the knowledge of Homœopathy now accessible to a majority of American physicians, I consider it just as impossible for them to be able to judge of its merits, without seeing it in practice, as it would be for an architect to judge of the interior of a building by an external examination, or to form an opinion of the exterior, by inspecting a single brick taken from it.

One objection made against Homœopathy, is, that even if it is true, it is too laborious, and requires too much time, to practice it. In plain English it reads thus—we *must* visit thirty patients in a day, and have some leisure, as now;—if we practice Homœopathically, we can visit only twenty, and that, too, after much labour, without having any leisure left us. This is a powerful argument, and not entirely destitute of truth; for whoever begins to practice upon the new system, must, for a time, make up his mind to become a student, and to study his cases; and although he may now and then, be obliged to study a case much longer at first than he

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ever did before, his patient may, in the end, recover much sooner, if Homœopathy be true, and the physician spend much less time in the aggregate, than if he pursued Allopathic practice.

But a Homœopathic physician, after becoming well acquainted with the system, will prescribe for as many patients in a day as an Allopath.

Homoœopaths are ridiculed for making a written memorandum of all he patient's symptoms, by which they are better enabled to select their remedies. Instead of being ridiculed, this practice ought to be followed by Allopaths. These records are useful, as a matter of reference at a future time, to know the different changes and phases of a disease. The records of the symptoms are not all that is kept—a record of the treatment, and of the remedies and their effects, is also kept. And what a mass of facts may not be acquired, in a few years, by a close observer? Need I ask any man of common sense, whether or not these facts may be of any value?

I have said, in a preceding part of this letter, that experiments have been made with medicines upon the healthy, and these symptoms recorded in the Homœopathic Materia Medica. Some of my brethren deny the truth of these records. With the same propriety we might deny the truth of many other things which we never question. But disbelief does not alter their truth. An honest doubter is to be esteemed—yea! an infidel deserves respect, provided he examines, with rigid scrutiny, whatever he disbelieves. Let the doubters of these records put them to the test, either in the healthy or the sick, and, in either case, the original experiment will be confirmed or disproved.

It is asserted by Allopaths, on the authority of Hering, a prominent disciple of Hahnemann, that the experiments above alluded to, were mostly made with the "little doses,"—with the 18th and 30th dilutions. This is too great a stretch for the credulity of any man. It is denied by others of his fellow-disciples, and the assertion of Hering is not sustained by the evidence of the experimenters themselves.

Experiments were undoubtedly made with the little doses; but whatever symptoms are recorded as resulting therefrom, may undoubtedly be attributed to the influence of imagination, till further proof to the contrary is obtained by additional experiments.

Experiments were made in Paris, by Andral, to test the accuracy of those made by Hahnemann and others. He gave more or less to several students, without producing any effect, and therefore inferred, that Hahnemann produced no effect. This is a kind of testimony which you would not consider altogether conclusive in an important case. Neither do I, in this matter. If Andral had given more bark, he would probably have

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

seen *some* effect, for it is impossible that so potent an article as Peruvian Bark can be taken, in any considerable quantity, without being sensibly felt by the system; and then the experiment of Andral might have confirmed or disproved that of Hahnemann.

These experiments of Andral are quoted by the enemies of Homœopathy, as a triumphant overthrow of the whole system. But they are like a double-edged scalpel—they cut both ways. The subjects of Andral's experiments were healthy young men, and all took a certain quantity of Peruvian Bark, to ascertain whether it would produce any effects resembling Ague and Fever. Some experienced no effect at all, *as is reported*—others experienced headache, nausea, pains in the back, &c. For the sake of argument, I am willing to admit, that some of these gentlemen experienced no effect from the bark; though the truth of this report might be denied with the same propriety that the results of other experiments by Homœopaths are denied—for these gentlemen were probably not desirous of finding effects. But it is stated in the report, that those who felt the effects named, had *weak stomachs*. These subjects were selected for the experiments because they were in good health, and so far as the effects are related, they are precisely such as the Homœopaths experienced.

What is this *weak stomach?* Andral never used this term before, nor since. It is unscientific, and has no meaning. The weak stomach was the susceptibility of the system to the impression of the bark, which impression showed itself in the nausea, headache, &c.; and this experiment of Andral, which is turned against Homœopathy, is, as far as it goes, directly in favour of the new system; and if he had pursued his experiments, he might have found other "weak stomachs."

It is asserted by some of my brethren, that no one has experimented with medicines upon the healthy, but Hahnemann—and that he is known to be a liar, and not to be believed. Now the fact is, in regard to the truth of the first part of the assertion, that in Hahnemann's "Organon," American edition, will be found the names of 67 German physicians, who have made experiments after the manner prescribed by Hahnemann. Hahnemann experimented with different articles, all which are mentioned. In his Materia Medica he gives the results of all the experiments, with the name of the experimenter.

Some of my brethren, who admit that others have experimented, ask—who are they? what do we know of them? May I ask—how shall we know of them unless we read their language? Is our ignorance any proof of their want of veracity, or capability to conduct experiments? They are not all Hunters, Sir Astley Coopers, or Motts, that their names

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

should be familiar to us; and we know but little, very little, of German authors, or German doctors, through our translations, or reviews. But, "not to know them, rather argues ourselves unknown!"

There is a glaring inconsistency in Hahnemann's enemies, some of whom deny any truth in his system, while others denounce him for claiming to be the discoverer of what has been known and practiced for centuries. Now, the fact is, that the principle upon which Hahnemann has built his system has been, occasionally, applied in practice, from the time of Hippocrates to the present day. This fact Hahnemann abundantly proves in his "Organon," where he occupies 30 pages in narrating and alluding to cases, which were successfully treated, as he says, by the principle of Homœopathy, although the physicians who treated the cases, were ignorant of the principle which wrought the cures. Hahnemann quotes the author, chapter, and page, where these cases can be found. He does not lay claim to originality—all that he claims is, that no one before him developed the principle upon which he constructed his system. John Hunter taught the same doctrine, though not as fully, and did not build a system upon it. He taught that two diseases could not exist in the body at the same time—that the weaker must yield to the stronger. So Hahnemann teaches, that an impression must be made upon the system, *similar*, not *identical*, to the morbid impression, and that this artificial disease of the physician's creating, will expel the one already existing, and then itself disappear. I regard Hunter's and Hahnemann's doctrines as identical; and Hahnemann asks and deserves credit only for having developed and carried the principle into practice.

Physicians of the old school, generally, take the position, that if Homœopathy is true, Allopathy is untrue; and therefore, if a Homœopath ever treats a case in the common method, he is denounced as an impostor and renegade from principles in which he professes to believe. It seems to me that this is an erroneous view of the subject, however liberal or philosophical the deduction from it may be. Homœopathy may be true, *as far as known*, and yet not be sufficient to cure every form of disease which we encounter. Till we are acquainted with all the laws which govern the animal economy, in health and disease, and the causes and circumstances which disturb the operations of these laws—and till we are enabled to see clearly all the peculiarities of every individual case of disease—till we know the exact powers of a great variety of remedial agents, to a greater degree than we now do—and till we know many other things, of which we are now ignorant, we shall not have a perfect system of medicine.

Homœopathy is yet in its infancy; it does not claim to be perfect,

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

and perfection ought not to be demanded of it. On the other hand, we know that we have cured many patients by Allopathic treatment, although Hahnemann declares that every cure that has ever been made, has been by Homœopathy. For one, sir, I see no good reason to reject an old friend because I have found a new one; and I know no good reason why I may not again cure the same disease by Allopathy that I already have, although I may believe there is too much truth in Homœopathy to reject the whole, because it is blended with absurdity and error. To believe in Homœopathy a man need not forget what he has learned, nor lay aside his common sense; for I can assure my brethren, that if they ever practice it, they will want all they have of both. So far, then, as I have found Allopathy useful, I would no sooner abandon it than I would an old and well-tried friend; and so far as I have found, or may hereafter find, Homœopathy to be more useful, I shall adopt it as a new friend—I shall consider it an additional weapon, with which to combat disease, till we have all the pre-requisites for a more perfect system. With all our knowledge of both Homœopathy and Allopathy, we shall too often find all our efforts and skill unavailing in arresting the ravages of disease; and while we cannot guard too sedulously against enthusiasm in favour of a new doctrine, we ought to have some care that we are not too closely wedded to old ways, and too strongly prejudiced to adopt improvements.

There are many things embraced in the new system which I regard as the absurdities and extravagances of an enthusiast. And it is not surprising that there should be such; for, as a general thing, I repeat, that all discoverers, and inventors, are elated with their own productions, and expect more, and promise more from them, than are ever realized. Hahnemann, in this, only shares the destiny of others.

I will not extend my remarks to any greater length, fearing that I may have already trespassed too far upon your patience. I have endeavoured to place myself before you in my true position, and if you pronounce me guilty of aiding and abetting "imposture," or "quackery," or of believing in "false doctrines," I shall bow, with great deference, to your judgment—convicted, but not convinced, of error. And if my professional brethren, and friends, denounce me for the course I have taken, I am ready even for that sacrifice, well knowing that the consciousness of striving to discharge my duty will amply compensate for any denunciation or detraction.

I have the honour to remain
Your much obliged friend
And humble servant,
C. TICKNOR.

Chambers-st., Feb., 1840.

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

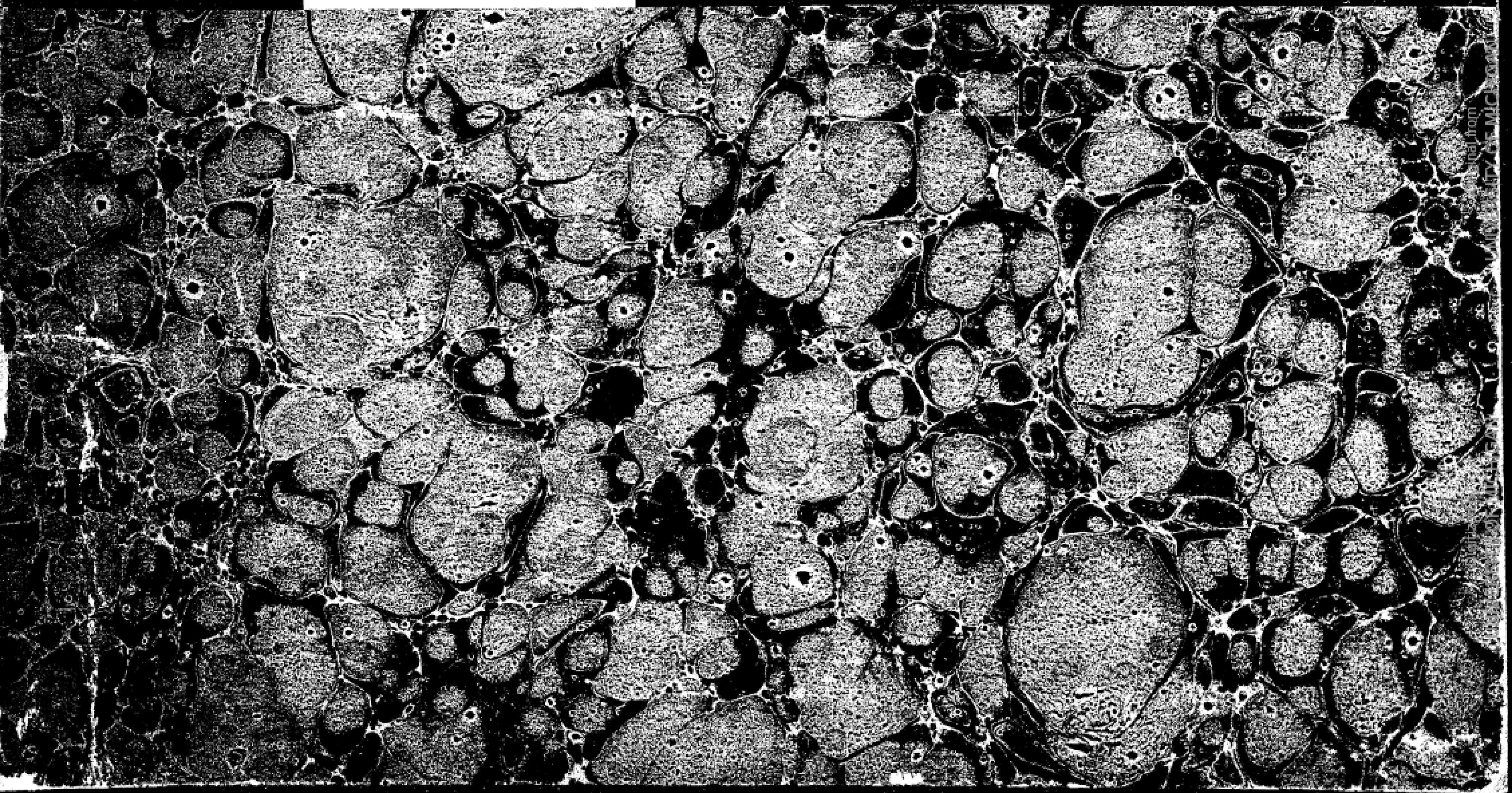
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Filmed by Preservation 1991

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
3 9015 02011 9619

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN