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HOMŒOPATHY

FAIRLY REPRESENTED.

A REPLY TO PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S

"HOMŒOPATHY" MISREPRESENTED.

BY

WILLIAM HENDERSON, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF GENERAL PATHOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

FIRST AMERICAN, FROM THE LAST EDINBURGH EDITION.

PHILADELPHIA:

LINDSAY & BLAKISTON.

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PROF. SIMPSON'S HOMŒOPATHY.

LINDSAY & BLAKISTON

HAVE JUST PUBLISHED,

HOMŒOPATHY:

ITS TENETS AND TENDENCIES,

THEORETICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTICAL.

BY

JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, ETC., ETC.

IN ONE VOLUME, OCTAVO.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

So short a time (scarcely three weeks) has elapsed between the publication of the first edition of this work, and the demand for a second, that, besides the correction of such oversights of composition as were scarcely avoidable in a treatise written somewhat hurriedly and amidst many interruptions, there is little or no difference between this new edition and its predecessor.

I have observed nothing in the public journals, which have noticed the work, that calls for any reply; nothing indeed but the personal abuse, and the party mis-statements, which my experience of the habits of some of our professional opponents, and of the blamable partiality of some newspaper editors, who are of course unacquainted with the subject in dispute, had led me to anticipate, and accustomed me to disregard. That the more important part of this work, the statistics of acute inflammations, can be successfully attacked by the allopathic party, I have taken too much pains with the facts and calculations to have the smallest misgiving. That they will attempt it is to be expected—they cannot help themselves, they must put on the appearance of disputing the results to which I have been led, but I defy them to unsettle a single conclusion which is recorded in that part of the work.

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The only event which has happened since the publication of the first edition, that calls for particular notice, is the appearance of a paper, to which the following observations refer:—

In a late number of an allopathic journal,* a passage occurs that would have demanded some notice from me, (acquainted as I am with the particulars of the case to which it refers,) even though I had no personal concern with it. And it is not in the very least degree because I am the "homœopathist" referred to in that passage, it is not even on account of the manner in which the reference is made to myself and the practice I prefer, that I think it both expedient and proper to comment upon it in this place. Personal responsibility for the way in which I discharge my professional duties, I am of course prepared to incur; and with the support of my deliberate convictions of what is true in medical science, and right in professional conduct, it is a very insignificant matter to me by whom that truth is condemned, or that conduct aspersed. It is by no personal motive regarding either myself or the author of the article to which I have referred, that I am actuated in my present purpose. The narrative I am about to quote suggests far more important reflections than are merely personal to either of us, and it is to these that I wish to direct the attention of the reader.

In considering the deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa, the author of the "Investigation," after stating that eleven such deaths had occurred in the quinquennial period, from 1845 to 1850, to which his labours were confined, observes,—

"A scrutiny of the certificates shows that five of the eleven

* An investigation of the Deaths in the Standard Assurance Company. By Robert Christison, M. D., V. P. R. S. E., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, and Ordinary Physician to the Queen in Scotland. Monthly Journal of Medical Science, August 1853.

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might be justly considered first-class lives at the time of assurance. To these may be added a sixth, as to whom the certificates supply no information, but who was familiarly known to the directors as a healthy citizen and of a long-lived family. This gentleman fell a victim to the delusions of Homœopathy, now happily on the wane in this city. He was seized with acute dysentery, for which his attendant, notwithstanding its swift and steady advances, administered with fearful pertinacity only infinitęsimal nothings. On the fourth day his family gathered courage to put an end to this mockery; the Homœopathist withdrew, and I was consulted, but only to see the patient in a state of hopeless collapse, afflicted with incessant, fluid, bloody, involuntary discharges, a fluttering pulse, a husky voice, and cold extremities; under which symptoms he expired early on the fifth day. This was the swiftest case of dysentery I have ever seen. But I never before saw a case of acute dysentery left to nature. This party very nearly attained his expectations of life." (P. 131.)

I shall not take the trouble now to describe the surprise with which I perused these sentences, but shall restrict myself to a calm narrative of facts, and to such dispassionate observations as they appear plainly to suggest. And, first, it is worthy of being noticed that, for the special and avowed purposes of the "Investigation," all that it was necessary for the author to do, in connexion with the case adverted to, was to specify the death by dysentery at a certain age, and after a certain period of insurance, or, if anything additional was to be expected, that the allopathic investigator should express, as he had every right to do, his honest opinion, however ill-founded, regarding the "delusions of Homœopathy," in connexion with the result of the case. So much the "Investigation" might demand: more than this, and especially a professed account of the early progress of the malady, of which he knew nothing, the courage of the family, the withdrawing

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homœopathist, &c., &c., was quite uncalled for,—a voluntary intrusion of irrelevant and unedifying particulars into a disquisition on life assurance. I draw attention to this matter in order to remark that, in referring to this case, the author of the Investigation obviously did not feel himself hampered by want of space, and compelled by an imperative necessity of being brief, and of excluding whatever did not bear upon the immediate and primary objects of his paper, to omit mentioning any important particulars bearing upon the issue of the case, but considered himself at liberty to say all he had a mind to say.

Secondly, The reason for the case in question being added to the list of first-class lives is very extraordinary. It is solely on the ground that a board of "directors," composed of non-professional persons, regarded the gentleman as a "healthy citizen." "The certificates supply no information:" nothing is ascertained regarding the illnesses he may have had, or the care in regard to diet, &c., he may have needed in order to preserve his healthy appearance, and no medical evidence exists as to any one point in his actual condition at the time of his being insured, or as to anything in his previous history. I am bound, however, to say, that this is the only instance throughout the investigation in which the usual evidences regarding the quality of a life are entirely dispensed with. In all the other cases the strictness necessary to entitle the Investigation to the confidence of the reader appears to be maintained with scrupulous propriety.

But, under this second head, there is much more to perplex and surprise than the particulars I have just noticed. The question occurs, What "directors" are referred to as the parties whose decision regarding the health of the gentleman is held to be so conclusive? That it cannot be the board who presided over the institution when the gentleman in question was admitted to the benefits of insurance is obvi-

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ous, for of the fifteen gentlemen who composed that body in 1828, when the insurance in question was effected, I understand that thirteen at least have been long dead, and the author of the Investigation, whose connexion with the company is of a comparatively recent date, can therefore have had no opportunity of learning their opinions on the subject. Not one of these gentlemen belonged to the board of directors in 1849, the year in which the individual whose case is the theme of this disquisition died. Nor can any of the more permanent office-bearers of the company have given information regarding the opinion of these directors,—for the manager of 1828 has been for many years in another part of the world, and the secretary has been long out of the world altogether. The only other directors who can be supposed to be the parties to whose opinion the reference is made in the Investigation, are those who were members of the board during the period embraced by the Investigation, which includes, of course, the year 1849, when the death in question took place. But it cannot have been intended by the author of the Investigation to appeal to the directors of 1849 as cognizant of the existing and habitual state of health of a citizen twenty-one years before, which they had no opportunity of personally knowing, even were they competent to judge, and of which they had avowedly no documentary evidence to enable them to form an opinion. Their testimony, therefore, can only have been reasonably appealed to in regard to the apparent health of their fellow-citizen, (who was also, by the by, their fellow director,) at the time he became affected with the acute disease which made him "a victim to the delusions of Homœopathy."

Now, what are the facts? There cannot have been a single director of 1849 who was not aware that their fellow-citizen, during the winter and part of the spring preceding his death, and down to the time at which he was seized with

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the acute disease of which he died, had been "breaking up," his health undermined by chronic cough and chronic disease of the stomach, and, for aught I know, by allopathic drugging, until, long before his last and acute illness, he had become sallow, haggard, and greatly reduced in strength and flesh! All this happening to a man in his sixty-eighth year, constituted a state of general decay which no medical man of experience, be he of what party he may, can deny to have been one of the most unfavourable conditions in which it was possible for a severe attack of acute dysentery to have occurred. His age itself was an unfavourable circumstance, but it was as nothing compared to the inroads which chronic disease had made on his whole constitution. Nearly about the same time, I witnessed quite as sudden and acute an attack of dysentery in a gentleman of seventy-six, but he was not worn with previous disease as well as old age, and he recovered in a few days.

I was first consulted by the gentleman whose case is adverted to in the Investigation on the 31st of March, 1849. The notes of his chronic illness, which I committed to writing at the time, were as follows:—

In the beginning of December last he became affected with cough and expectoration, and continues to be so to a considerable degree, though now better than formerly. No physical signs of disease of the chest.

Tongue clean in front, loaded and pasty behind. Appetite much diminished, and he soon tires of anything. His habitual sensation is that he is already full, and needs no food. After eating he experiences an uneasy turning sensation in the stomach, and nausea, producing a desire to vomit, or a wish that he had eaten nothing. Sometimes he does vomit, and experiences relief. After eating, too, he is liable to feel as if a hard lump existed in the stomach. He has always much flatulence after food, and is liable to be af-

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fected with nausea, and filling of the mouth with water, at any time. Bowels pretty regular. In the evenings after dinner he is inclined to sit cowering over the fire, is taciturn and chilly. All these symptoms date also from the beginning of winter. He had some homœopathic remedies prescribed.

5th April.—Cough and expectoration much less. No flatulence till last night, after an indigestible meal; appetite much improved. No "burden" about the stomach till yesterday, after the indigestible food referred to. No sickness, Altogether better, and feels a new activity and pleasure in business. Much less chilliness. More medicine.

16*th*.—Has been really very well. Knows a great difference in his strength. Continue medicine.

It was while thus improving in health, but before time enough had been afforded to enable the improvement to repair the ravages made by the previous months of disease, that he was seized, on the evening of the 22d of April, with dysentery, in consequence of prolonged exposure to cold; and on the following day, the first of my attendance for the acute disease, it had acquired a character of significant severity: the pulse was 100 in the minute, skin hot and dry, thirst, and the evacuations already sanguineous and slimy.

Had the history of this case prior to the last illness been even hinted at, however inadequately, in the Investigation, I should not have considered myself called upon to make any comments on the opinion of the allopathic author regarding the unsuitableness of the homœopathic treatment. It was not to be expected that, with his views and practical unacquaintance with Homœopathy, he should have entertained any other opinion, or have hesitated to express it. Those who practise homœopathically have no right to demand that their cases shall not be commented on by physicians who dissent from their principles. Homœopathists may, indeed,

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even when their cases are represented by their opponents fully and fairly, very reasonably observe that they do not pretend to cure every case of acute inflammation that may occur in their practice, and they may, with undeniable justice, retort on their too stringent critics, that Allopathy, in every city and hamlet in Christendom, in the best as well as in the worst hands, loses many a case of acute inflammation, dysentery among the rest, at every age and in every phase of general health, good and bad, that human creatures can possess. These remarks remind me of an anecdote which I have heard in connexion with the case I have been describing. At a dinner party in this city, soon after the decease of this gentlemen, two allopathic physicians commented with much emphasis on the unhappy event: "It was very melancholy,—really dreadful,—a sad, sad business," &c., &c.; and many the shake of the head, and half-sorrowful, half-indignant phrase, betokened or appeared to betoken their wounded feelings. A non-medical friend who had reason to think more favourably of the offending practice, began to shake his head too, and to groan in concert, while now and then he muttered to the gratified ears of the two, "Sad, very sad,—the most melancholy case I have known for years." "Yes," said the two; "dreadful,—you may well say so." "I was thinking," said the other, "of poor J. H.; a man in the prime of life; little above 50; a rising man; really a great loss; and so likely to have lived long." "But, but," said one of the Allopaths, "he wasn't treated homœopathically!" "True, true; but still a very melancholy case,—very melancholy,—and of dysentery too!"

Though we have no right, as I have said, to demand that our cases shall not be commented on by our opponents, we *have* a right to expect and to require that they shall not be misrepresented, or, what comes to the same thing, represented in such a way as to leave abundant room for misconstruc-

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tion. In the present instance I am far from saying or insinuating that the misrepresentation or room for misconstruction was deliberate and intentional. But I do say, that care was not taken by the author of the Investigation so to represent the case as to allow his readers to judge for themselves whether it was really such as would have made recovery a probable occurrence in any circumstances or under any treatment. And, in addition to the previous history of the patient, he should have mentioned that, on examination of the body, the mucous membrane of the stomach was found to bear traces of the chronic disease which had for so long a time made healthy and healthful digestion impossible. My informant as to this point was merely a non-medical member of the family, to whom the fact had been communicated, so that I am not prepared to say to what extent the anatomical change had gone.

In other particulars, of minor importance, the Investigation is so incorrect as to furnish the clearest proofs that the author wrote without reflection, and without notes to assist his memory. What does he know of the "swift and steady advances" of the disease? Nothing. On the second day of my attendance, I had hopes that the disease would yield, for the pulse had fallen in frequency from 100 to 78 in the minute, during the previous twenty-four hours. And though the amendment did not advance, the pulse on the last day of my attendance had not risen above 86, while it continued of good size and strength. Besides, though they always maintained the peculiar character they exhibited at my first visit, the other symptoms did not increase so swiftly and steadily as the author of the report very uninformedly asserts. At my last visit, about 5 P.M. on the fourth day of the disease, I found the pulse 86, full and soft, the *skin warm*, the evacuations scanty, though about once an hour.

The allopathic physician visited the gentleman *three* hours

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afterwards, "but only," he says, "to see the patient in a state of hopeless collapse, afflicted with incessant, fluid, bloody, involuntary discharges, a fluttering pulse, a husky voice, and cold extremities;" were all this correct, this great change in three hours' time, then it would be also correct that "he expired early in the course of the fifth day," or that immediately following the day (the fourth) on which this physician had made his first visit. But, and this is a remarkable instance of the strange peculiarity that characterizes the whole narrative, the patient did not die till the *day after*, or the *sixth* day! I don't know whether it will still be held as the "swiftest case of dysentery" the reporter ever saw. I have heard that the other case referred to in my anecdote was a swift one, but I do not assert that it was, for I do not know. At all events, the question comes now to be, why was *this* case so very swift? Had a day and a half of Allopathy nothing to do with the swiftness? I don't mean to say that the patient would have recovered but for Allopathy, for I am not at all sure that he would, but I incline to think that he would have lived longer. The author of the Investigation hints that it was the swiftest case he ever saw, because he had never before seen a case of dysentery "left to nature," which he facetiously suggests to be equivalent to being left to Homœopathy. I am obliged to contradict him again, and to assert that he *has* seen cases left *as long* to nature seriously, as he affirms of this case facetiously. In his notice of the dysentery of 1826,* he says certain effects followed his treatment "if the patient was seen within three or four days," and he mentions of a particular case which died in his hands, that he "entered the hospital on the *eighth* day of his illness." Now we have no express affirmation that these cases had had *no* treatment, prior to

* Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, 1829.

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their being "seen" by the writer of the report, or before admission into his hospital wards; but the whole tenor of his remarks justifies the conclusion that there had been no treatment previous to his own,—for he is giving an account of the alleged effects of a certain medicine on the peculiar symptoms of dysentery, and, in order to be a fair and unequivocal account, it must refer to dysentery untampered with, and not sophisticated by drugs previously administered. Besides, every hospital physician in Europe *must* have seen cases of severe and acute dysentery that had undergone no medical treatment whatever for four, five, six days, and even more, previous to their being admitted as hospital patients. The poor everywhere are well known to put off the services of the doctor as long as they can. The author of the Investigation, in addition to what he knows on this subject from his own hospital experience, will find instances in point recorded in Mr. Brown's account of the dysentery of Glasgow,* where cases are mentioned that were seven and fourteen days without medical treatment, though the disease was so severe as to prove ultimately fatal. After all this, it certainly must appear very strange that the author of the Investigation should endeavour to appal his readers by the allegation that as he had never seen a case of acute dysentery "left to nature" for four days, the rapidity of the example he comments upon must have been due to that unprecedented circumstance. Not only has he seen cases left as long to nature, as I have shown, but he knew, or ought to have known, that even when not "left to nature,"—that when enjoying or enduring the inflictions of allopathy, cases of acute dysentery have been fatal in six days, and that, therefore, the case he animadverts upon was not by any means a unique one. In Mr. Wilson's notice of the dysentery of Glasgow, in 1827,

* Glasgow Medical Journal, vol. i.

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it is remarked, "death sometimes took place so early as the sixth day," which was the date of the death selected for special remark in the Investigation. To be sure it is there made to occur on the *fifth* day, but that allegation, as has been seen, is incorrect, and in consequence of its being so renders the exultation of the author over the imaginary swiftness of the case rather awkward.

Before concluding these remarks on dysentery, I may be allowed to ask, if one of the eleven cases referred to in the Investigation "fell a victim to the delusions of Homœopathy," what delusion proved fatal to the other ten? Allopathy does not appear to be always a very successful opponent of acute dysentery, for the author of the Investigation admits that, in 1826, the allopathic mortality was "dreadful," —twenty deaths out of eighty cases, or one in four! No doubt the disease was epidemic, and epidemic dysentery often presents a considerable proportion of severe cases; but I ask any physician of candour and experience to say, if, among eighty old gentlemen, broken down by chronic disease, so many as three out of four, or even one out of four, would have escaped under the best allopathic treatment? And yet the investigation more than insinuates, pretty broadly intimates, that the case it so partially represents died for want of Allopathy!

Lastly, Homœopathy is said to be "happily on the wane in this city." The correctness of the Investigation in other particulars, will not dispose the readers of this account of it to put much faith in this crowning allegation. No doubt the wish was father to the thought, in the absence of a more legitimate parent. On this point, so momentous to Allopathists of every grade, I must content myself with referring to page 205 of this work.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

After many announcements, from time to time, of the approaching event, the Professor of Midwifery brought his tedious gestation of twelve months to a happy issue in the middle of March last. Anticipation was high among the professional kindred, the allopathic side of the family, during the interesting period; and we of the other party, who are but the step-sons of "our ancient mother," could gather from the significant looks of our half-brothers that we were expected to gird up our loins for a speedy retreat on the appearance of the young stranger. He was to be, for modern times, quite an unprecedented production; without a parallel, in fact, since the famous progeny of the cock's egg, whose breath, and even very look, was fatal. We would take no hint, notwithstanding, however kindly intended, thinking it would be time enough to pack up our chattels, if we must do so, after we had looked the awful creature in the face; for, great as our credulity is said to be, we had no faith in prodigies, and a strong suspicion that the powers of the new cockatrice, introduced with so much noise, would prove as imaginary as those of its fabulous predecessor. And now that the thing is

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fairly before us, "combed, wattled, and spurred like the dunghill cock with a serpent's tail," as the heralds have it, we hope to be pardoned for laughing at the ridiculous astonishment of our friends on the other side, at the absurd object presented to them by the parturient professor. We don't mean it offensively, and hope they will take it in good part; for we can honestly assure them that we never felt so kindly towards them in our lives, or so disinclined to injure their feelings. We are quite aware that this was looked upon as their last hope, and we are not the people to triumph over chop-fallen opponents with an ill-timed merriment—when it can possibly be restrained. But really the present is altogether an exceptional case; and if we do look a degree or two merrier than in the strictness of friendly sympathy we ought, it is in a great measure because we hope that this last and sore disappointment will disenchant them, ere we part, of their delusion, both as to their own position and ours, and be the means of a better understanding among us for the future, if not of a speedy and entire coincidence of opinion regarding the matters at present in dispute.

Dr. Simpson's tactics strongly remind me of the ingenious conduct of the Dutch in Charles the Second's time, who kindled bonfires and set their bells a-ringing whenever they had been thrashed at sea, in order to evade the acknowledgment or appearance of disaster. For, I believe, it was generally admitted, and even by not a few of his own party, that in the last engagement he was very handsomely beaten; his personal authority as to facts and doctrines shown to be quite infinitesimal; his information to be singularly defective, not only in homœopathic matters, but in the truths that are common to all medical science; his logic to have its point turned destructively towards himself and his friends; and his theological zeal to be entirely out of place. Yet, with the *face* of an old Dutchman, here he is again with as much of

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the former tattered material as he can get to hang together, and as much new canvass of the same originally bad quality as his crippled spars will carry, trying to look as if he was unconscious of defeat. But the device won't do: the former discomfiture can be forgotten only in the new calamity of a still greater. This I may venture to promise, and without laying myself open to the charge of vain confidence; for such is the mode of attack Dr. Simpson has selected, that almost any one might beat him who chose to take the trouble. Nay, the work is, for the most part, done to his hand; for the author's mind has been so confused with the undigested mass of raw material he had swallowed in his twelvemonth of hard reading, that he frequently contradicts and refutes in one page what he had affirmed on the preceding, and loads his paper with commonplace dissertations on human credulity and knavery, which tell with double effect when turned the other way.

In his preface, Dr. Simpson, alluding to me, takes occasion to observe in the Dutch style,—"It is said that in a hopeless and hollow law-suit, an English barrister had his brief on the day of trial handed to him with this note: 'No case; but take a chance of decision in our favour by personal abuse of the opposite counsel.' The homœopathic author of the principal reply to my previous pamphlet seems to have taken up the same tactics as the best or only line of defence for his system. And I have no wish to disturb him in it; more particularly as, like an unhappy lawyer pleading a bad cause, he has himself, in my opinion, evidently no faith whatever in his own irrelevant arguments and diversified mis-statements." On the first of these charges, which always falls so easily into the imagination of persons in Dr. Simpson's situation, I would observe, that I am of course aware that my former reply was at least as severe (for plain outspoken truth is sometimes very severe) as there was any occasion for, and that others, besides

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the individual who naturally felt it the most, are of opinion that the lash was laid on with more than necessary good will. I would, however, remind the objectors that, as Lord Jeffrey says, there are occasions "when severity becomes a duty"—a duty to the public, to the erring brother, and to one's self; and I would remind them, moreover, of the circumstances in which that reply was written. To the persecuted party, the occasion appeared one of life or death to their principles and themselves, a time for courage, energy, and plain speaking. The aggressors seemed powerful, merciless, and bent on mischief to the uttermost, so that we had but one choice—to crouch and be crushed like cowards, or to face the odds that were against us, as devoted men who neither gave nor looked for quarter. There was Dr. Simpson, President of the Royal College of Physicians, with all the weight of a "European reputation" in his arm, and all the strength of Colleges and Societies, and hordes of "free companions," at his back, intent on destroying us root and branch, and careless of the weapons he employed, if they seemed but fitted for his purpose. The emergency appeared critical and dangerous in no ordinary degree, and to call for prompt and decisive measures. It is all very well, after the champion—on the credit of whose supposed personal authority and character so much of the issue was made to depend—was disarmed, prostrated, and "disembowelled," as one of his own party expressed it, for mere spectators to say, that there was an unnecessary violence in the treatment he received. Skilful and experienced artillerymen can so estimate the strength of their powder as to make it do its work economically, but I had no scientific data, and no practice, to guide me as to the precise force that was needed gently to upset a President, loaded with the "European" thing and what not, and buttressed behind by so many backers. As to the more important of the latter, the Colleges, they had so long ruled the profession, and lorded it over the

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"sea of troubles" which afflict the public, that it is no wonder their power and importance, as props to the bellicose Professor of Midwifery, appeared greater than we now know them to be. We mistook them for something like the bluff and bearded Venitian Doge of the thirteenth century, who could say, and effectually too, with his war-ships at his elbow, to Pope and Pagan who would fish forsooth in the Adriatic, "Be off—that sea is ours!" It is all very well to laugh at their peremptory words, now that they are discovered rather to resemble a certain sapient bird, of which Goldsmith relates the following anecdote:—"Once upon a time, a goose fed its young by a pond side; and a goose in such circumstances is always extremely proud, and excessively punctilious. If any other animal, without the least design to offend, happened to pass that way, the goose was immediately at it. The pond, she said, was hers, and she would maintain her right to it, and support her honour, while she had a bill to hiss or a wing to flutter;" and then he goes on to say, how a mastiff, which I take to have been a type of ourselves, the strong-jawed Homœopathists, chanced to pass by, and thought it no harm if he should lap a little of the water, as he was thirsty; and how he had a mind twenty times to snap off her head,—but finally contented himself with the remark, "A pox take thee for a fool; surely those who have neither strength nor weapons to fight, at least should be civil." For my part, I wish them no such miserable punishment; but certainly think that the "Physicians," in commemoration of Dr. Simpson's presidentship, should inaugurate an effigy of the unreasonable fowl beside the philosophers of their porch, Charon, Pandora, and the other.

After the experience we have now had in controversy, there would be no excuse for me, or any one of my way of thinking, employing such deadly weapons as the seeming dangers of an earlier stage of the struggle demanded. We

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are now comparatively at ease and in safety, and have no other desire than to cultivate the arts of peace; in which I, at least, hope to excel so much, that, as it was wittily said of Cæsar, when some one sneered at his baldness, "He has covered that defect with laurels," so the courtesy and forbearance of all future productions of my pen shall gracefully conceal the roughness of their predecessors. At the same time, I cannot cancel in this work all the just severities of the former; for Dr. Simpson—while he groans under inflictions applied to himself, suppresses in his new production several of the personalities which brought down on him much of the exposure he formerly underwent, and professes an anxiety to avoid "unnecessarily mixing up any personal disputations" with the matter of his new lucubrations,—has done little else from beginning to end of the strange medley he has produced, than labour to load his opponents with charges of quackery, deception, avarice, falsehood, blasphemy, witchcraft, and almost every other conceivable wickedness and folly. He has violated the sanctity of the grave, and insulted the dead, who cannot defend themselves, as well as the living who can; though in the latter respect, in order to plead for exemption from personal retaliation, he has been more careful than formerly to avoid specifying the individual objects of his aspersions, as if he could escape from the guilt of misrepresenting any in particular by misrepresenting all without distinction.* Therefore it is that in defending myself and my friends from

* To the best of my recollection, the dead Hahnemann is the only person pointedly and by name vilified by the brave Professor of midwifery. He, alas! is not here to reply. Death is a sad obstacle to fair play, giving all the safety to one side. Truly, as the proverb says, "Better a living dog than a dead lion." Another fact of an equally valiant nature, observable in the "Tenets," is the putting of the insulting and abusive charges with which it abounds, in the form of quotations from other allopathic works against Homœopathy.

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such reckless imputations, I find it still necessary to expose the author of them to the merited censure of the reader, as it is impossible to bring to the light of public observation a tissue of extraordinary misrepresentation and abuse, without exhibiting the artificer along with his inventions. Besides, *Cumque opere in proprio soleat se pingere pictor*, "As every painter paints himself in his own works," and most authors, too,—Dr. Simpson has drawn such a likeness of himself in his various publications on Homœopathy, as makes him in a great measure harmless to the cause he so ardently aspires to injure; and, therefore, I feel bound, in fairness to that cause, to bring the lineaments a little more prominently before the reader than the mere attractions of the portrait would justify. Had he managed the execution of his purpose with more skill, —assumed a tone of dignity that could not stoop, or but with seeming reluctance, to make use of the assertions of the low and worthless writers who had preceded him,—had put on an air of candour and charity which could "scarcely believe so, and so," "hoped that things were not quite so bad as they appeared," and "feared that our friends the Homœopaths had made some mistake here," in short, "would not for the world impute bad motives without proofs clear as they are painful," and finally, had he, with real caution, but the show of forbearance, declined entering into details on various scientific questions, hinting merely that a great deal might be said if he had chosen, or had time, and so forth; by thus concealing his dispositions, purposes, and quantum of information, he might have proved, because not so easily caught and exposed, a more formidable opponent than we find him to be. But, like too keen a swordsman, he forgets half his art, which ought to consist not less in covering himself than in striving to vanquish his adversary. By abandoning himself to the passion of the hour, he has exposed himself on every page, and painted a likeness equally absurd and surprising. I can fancy how

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happy his antagonist, Dr. Mure, will be to appropriate such an object from the head of the allopathic party.* Dr. Simpson's readers will remember that he mentions an outlandish personage of that name, from somewhere in the neighbourhood of Patagonia, as a dealer in a very unmentionable kind of insect, which he recommends as a homœopathic remedy when duly comminuted. He will now have a suitable remedy for moral as well as bodily taints, for Milton tells us, in the preface to his Sampson Agonistes, that Aristotle held the exhibition of certain passions to purge the mind of the beholder of whatever he entertains that is of the like kind. "Nor is Nature," continues the poet, "wanting in her efforts to make good his assertion: for so, in physic, things of melancholic hue and quality are used against melancholy, sour against sour, salt to remove salt humours." With such high authority, then, for a homœopathic way to "minister to the mind diseased," Dr. Mure is doubly armed, and holding the mirror up to Nature, in the shape of Dr. Simpson, in the one hand, and carrying his brayed insect in the other, he may well regard himself as a match for any corporeal or spiritual *psora*.

The passage which I have quoted from Dr. Simpson's preface, besides the erroneous allegation that I had made my defence of Homœopathy to consist of a mere personal attack upon himself, contains the charge, that I indulged in "diversified mis-statements." This affirmation, of course, is intended to signify that the personalities were unfounded. As it is not my intention, in this work, to reproduce in detail several of the most serious of the charges which I formerly

*In a newspaper article,—written by whom?—Dr. Simpson was lately said to be at the "top of his profession." In a review of my first edition in the *Caledonian Mercury*, August, 1843, written by a person who has an equal contempt for truth and good taste, he is said to be a great discoverer, and to enjoy the confidence of his Sovereign—as if he were, on these accounts, even supposing them true, entitled to insult and misrepresent with impunity.

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proved against him,—and for the simple reason that, by suppressing, in his new work, the statements which had called for the exposure of which he complains, the reproduction of them in an extended form has become unnecessary.—I refer to them briefly in this place, merely for the purpose of observing, first, that they are not withheld on the ground of having been unjust or improper; and, second, that the establishing of them was of material consequence in dealing with some of the accusations Dr. Simpson and others had made against the adherents of Homœopathy. In the postscript of my Letter to the President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, the following passage occurs, which I quote in order to illustrate the second of these observations. "Those who believe Homœopathy to be a great and invaluable system of practical medicine have been, with unsparing acrimony and in the most offensive terms, stigmatized as unworthy of credit: all the courtesies that are usual among gentlemen have been denied us, and now that an occasion apart from all the perplexities that pertain to the operation of medicine, has presented itself, of testing the candour and uprightness of the contending parties, those who have been heretofore maligned have a right to appeal to the public,—in a question which the public is qualified to comprehend,—to decide between them and their opponents, as to which shall henceforth be esteèmed the most entitled to confidence. This controversy, therefore, ceases to be a merely personal one: it is rather to be regarded as a combat in which those who are engaged do battle for the honour of their respective hosts." In these sentences reference is made to a question which had arisen between Mr. Syme and Dr. Simpson on the one hand, and myself on the other, as to the truth of contradictory affirmations regarding certain matters of fact, with which we were all in circumstances to be equally and fully acquainted. No matter how trifling these matters were in themselves—(and probably no

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casus belli at Donnybrook was ever more paltry)—the two champions of the allopathic party attached great importance to them, and, doing so, thought proper to make public affirmations respecting them which were diametrically opposed to previous statements of mine. Here, then, was a fair opportunity of testing the credibility of persons who occupied prominent places on opposite sides, and of coming to some just conclusion regarding the alleged difference between the contending sections of the profession, in respect to accuracy of statement—to use the mildest expression; for I have no desire to make this necessarily a question of veracity, in the moral sense of the term. It may or may not be so: I give no opinion; but speak only to what appeared on the surface. By referring to the testimony of third parties, the allegations of the allopathic belligerents were proved, to the conviction, if not to the satisfaction of both sides, to be totally at variance with fact. It would be a miserable use of this result, and of every other imperfection that could be brought home to individual Allopaths, to make them the grounds of grave and sweeping accusations against the whole or the majority of the allopathic body. I am not so foolish as to believe, and not so wicked as to pretend to believe, that many of them would deliberately state what they know to be false, any more than they would pay their debts like Professor Webster of America, or discharge a confidential trust like Sir Everard Home, or fabricate their cases, like M. Lisfranc, or revenge themselves like Dr. Fickel.* But Dr. Simpson, when he

* Sir Everard, it will be remembered, published the MSS. of Hunter, or the researches they contained, as his own. Dr. Fickel, I formerly apprized the public, was convicted of gross deceit during his professed attachment to Homœopathy, and to revenge himself on his homœopathic castigators, he published a book, "Die Nichtigkeit der Homœopathie,"—the Nothingness of Homœopathy,—professing to be a proof, from cases, of the inutility of the practice. He was not long afterwards in jail for *swindling*. Dr. Simpson

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finds, or supposes he finds any departure from moral rectitude in one who has the misfortune to differ from him as to the proper dose of a drug, and the proper rule for prescribing it, hesitates not to hold all who entertain the same offensive opinions as liable to the same moral accusations. A great proportion of his industry during the existence of this controversy has been employed in striving to detect something reprehensible in the conduct of individuals opposed to him, and in affixing the stigma of their real or fancied blemishes on their party in general. He must not, therefore, be surprised if some of the calumniated body put the worst construction on his own conduct in the instances I have referred to, and argue from what they believe to be proved against him, that, since the very leader of their opponents, whose reputation in the profession has acquired so considerable an eminence, has stooped to such behaviour, his colleagues of a lower grade must be capable of conduct at least as bad. If he is conscious, as he may be, that he was not guilty of intentional untruth in the instances in question, he ought to feel that others may be equally unfortunate in appearing to be guilty, while really innocent; and he ought to be specially careful how he advances the loathsome accusation of deceit. Happily, the very excess of his criminality in this particular has defeated his discreditable purpose, as is proved by the following quotation from a judicious and candid review of his work, in a common organ of public opinion:—"It is, in truth, most repellent to every honest mind to read the open charges of fraud so constantly flung against Hahnemann and his disciples; as if every homœopathic doctor in Europe were an arrant knave whose only object is an unblushing system of deception, in order to enrich himself at the expense of

knew all this; yet refers to him as an authority against us. He is, doubtless, as good an authority as most of the others.

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the lives and pockets of the community. Human nature instinctively revolts at the thought,—and human nature is right."*

As to the accuracy of my statements in the other particulars contained in my reply to Dr. Simpson's former publications, I shall bring the sincerity of his general accusation to the test, by pledging myself to submit to any penalty even the College of Physicians may impose, if he will point out a single misstatement made by me; and all I ask in return, without, however, making it a stipulation, is, that he will make an honest confession for but one in every ten that I can prove to exist in his various attacks on Homœopathy. And here I am tempted to notice a little episode in the majestic march of these medical wars, which I think will prove to the satisfaction of the most incredulous, that the author of the "Tenets" has refrained from specifying any one misstatement as chargeable against me, for the very good reason that he could discover none. A work was published some short time ago, in which the demise of a gentleman was erroneously referred to as having been due to a chronic organic disease. As the individual in question had been attended by me, it appeared probable to Dr. Simpson, that I was the author of the statement as to the cause of death, and that if he could ascertain that point to his satisfaction, he would have a great triumph over a troublesome opponent, and indisputable

* Edinburgh Advertiser, April 19, 1853. As an additional warning to Dr. Simpson to refrain hereafter from reckless imputations of falsehood against his brethren, I may recall to his notice a complaint of his own of somewhat similar conduct towards himself of his friend Mr. Syme, in the course of one of their quarrels:—"He adds, indeed, that if his object were to convict me of the most gross and explicable inaccuracy he could easily multiply examples of it, but that as he merely desires to prevent the patrons from being misled by my statements, he trusts that enough has been said to attain this object." —Memorial, &c., &c., by J. Y. Simpson, M. D.—1841.

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evidence of the dishonesty of the whole homœopathic body. Well, he, being President of the Royal College of Physicians, &c., &c., condescended to call privately in person on the author of the work, to learn if Dr. Henderson was his authority for that statement, "because it was not true." But no, alas! Dr. Henderson was too knowing a man, to say the least of him, to affirm an untruth, for he had somehow learnt, what many are slow to believe, that honesty in all things is the best policy; and so had no more to do with the erroneous statement than Dr. Simpson himself. Now, do not suppose, gentle reader, that I have given this anecdote merely in order to get you to join me in a laugh at the expense of the curious Professor of Midwifery. Far from it; my chief object in entering into these pitiful matters at all, is to show that where Dr. Simpson and I are at variance regarding a matter of fact, the yea or nay as to which depends on our personal authority, *I* am entitled to be esteemed by far the more likely to be in the right. Now we are at direct issue concerning the trumpery story which Dr. Simpson has related about a box of homœopathic medicines, which had once been "his own former homœopathic box," and while it was so had the contents of its many phials mixed together, as he says, by some juvenile member of his family; but which, notwithstanding, had been the means in my hands of so convincing me of the truth of Homœopathy, that some time afterwards, I assured him, as he avers, that I "had seen some wonderful effects and cures from using the drugs contained in it;" or, as he said to himself, (in a conversation we had on several memorial topics before he published this altered version of the words put into my mouth,) were my actual expressions, "your box has converted me." To both versions I give now, as formerly, an unqualified denial, and for the simple and sufficient reason, that for me to have uttered either the one or the other would have been an untruth. In the words of

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my former refutation of the whole fable—"My first experiments on Homœopathy were made by medicines from *five* different sources, in addition to Dr. Simpson's box. The respected Secretary of the Medico-Chirurgical Society favoured me with a box, in connexion with which there was, as became his character, no trick, but all that was fair and honest. Dr. Russell supplied me with many other medicines; Headland of London did so too; the Chemist in this city, at a later period, did the same; and some I prepared with my own hands, The results were published, and drew from Dr. Forbes of London the admission, that had the cases been treated according to the rules of the ordinary school, he would have regarded the results as 'very satisfactory.' Among them were some 'wonderful effects and cures,' which I have always regarded as evidence of the power of homœopathic remedies; but that they were due to Dr. Simpson's 'own former homœopathic box,' in which the trick was, I do not believe that I could ever have averred, because I was not in the habit of noting in each case from what source the medicines I employed were taken, for I suspected no trick. Since Dr. Simpson made his trick public, I have suspected, reasonably enough, that some of the failures which I could not formerly account for but on the ground of my own want of skill, must have been due to the dishonest box."* In his new work, Dr. Simpson incautiously enters so much into a pretended history of the box and its contents, while it belonged to him, as to furnish the means of a satisfactory refutation of another and very material part of the business, which is no less than this, that the whole account of the medicines being mixed is imaginary. The box containing sixty-six phials, each labeled *on the glass and on the cork*, with the name, in Latin, of the included drug. Every phial was full,

*Letter to the President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society.

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and every cork in its right place, when the box came, unexpectedly by Dr. Simpson, into my possession. Now, are we asked to believe that a child, some three years old, in the habit, as is alleged, of uncorking the bottles of his "occasional plaything," emptying their contents into a heap, and then refilling them from the general mass, was so precocious a scion that he could replace each cork of the sixty-six in its proper place, according to its inscription? And if not, as is perfectly certain, what learned Theban was at the trouble to rejust the disordered elements of so despised a machine?

These are disagreeable topics, and such as I would never have stooped to discuss here or anywhere, if they had been brought forward by Dr. Simpson merely to injure me. I believe I could afford to let them pass unnoticed. But, through me, they are designed to bring the only rational system of practical medicine into contempt; and since I know how to dispose of them, I feel bound to waive my own feelings for what I believe to be required by the general good. And now the reader may rest assured, that I am almost done with the *personnel* of Dr. Simpson, whom, indeed, I hope scarcely to bring on the boards again, but with his company of *sauteurs* to tumble a little for our diversion. Not that I can allow his whole band to make their bow to the public on these pages, for many of them are such dull and vulgar rogues as to be unfit to give entertainment to any one, and they must therefore go their way to the tune of their own particular march, a sentence which proceeds from no anger or ill-will towards them, for Homœopathy can well afford to imitate the good-nature of my Lord Derby's "tall navvy," and, smiling on the whole generation of such small men, give them full liberty to practise their vocation, with the benevolent and senatorial reflection, "It amuses them, and don't hurt me. A selection, then, of the best performers being

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necessary, I shall introduce first a foreigner of some note in his own line.

It seems that a transatlantic gentleman, who rejoices in the classical denomination of *Mr. Horace Green*, related an instance to Dr. Simpson, in which a nervous lady had been recovered from a tedious state of fancied inability to walk, by what she supposed homœopathic globules, but which were in reality percussion pellets of fulminating silver that had been brought to her by mistake. The patronymic of our respectable contemporary is suggestive of much that is incompatible with the *curiosa felicitas* and knowledge of men that distinguished the celebrated heathen from whom he derives his baptismal appellative, and I scarcely know in what capacity to take him. Considering him simply as Mr. Green, we have one explanation of the anecdote; but regarding him as Horace, we have another totally different. Verdure is inseparably associated with ideas of simplicity and play, and allusions to the connexion abound in our finest pastorals; while so intimate is the association in the popular mind, that the moment a Mr. Green appears, he is instinctively appropriated to amusement. Viewing him, therefore, patronymically, I would incline to the opinion that, as *green*, (and, no doubt, as young too, for I find it as impossible to conceive of an old American, as De Quincy does of a young Chinese,) our innocent friend has been played upon by the knowing husband, who did not choose to own his conversion to Homœopathy by the miraculous recovery of his wife, and sought to justify his incredulity in the amazing circumstances by such cock-and-bull story as might obstruct the tender vision of his professional friend. Regarding him, again, in his more Pagan aspect, and decking him in fancy with the attributes of his harmonious name-father, who somewhere sings,—

"Sine amore et jocis
Nil est jucundum,"

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one may be disposed to conclude, that the playful Horace, discerning something greenish in the eye of his obstetric acquaintance, as they sipped their Falernian together, and mistaking its import, (for alas! there is a wide difference in the characters expressed by that optical tint,) conceived on the moment to relieve the monotony of their professional talk about moonstone and windpipes, (a weak point with our exotic brother,) the pleasantry about homœopathic globules and fulminating pellets. And it is, no doubt, though manufactured and issued under the poetical license, an apt instance of the power of imagination on the nervous hypochondriac, and as such deserves to be recorded among the thousands of a similar nature which in every age have made fame and fees the fruits of *allopathic* delusions.

The fertile Horace can, of course, diversify his narratives to meet every imaginable aspect of the great question, and, accordingly, he next assumes the tragic vein, and concentrating his fierceness on some allopathic rival, he enjoys in prophetic vision the delight of pouring a phial of homœopathic globules over his throat, medicated for the occasion with enough of imaginary strychnia to despatch him to his place. The whole story will remind the reader of Newman Noggs' pugilistic enjoyments on the image of Mr. Ralph Nickleby. Of course, no mortal was ever slain by such means as Mr. Horace pretends; but I shall stretch courtesy and imagination so far as to assume, that it actually happened that "a gentleman swallowing in sport a number of homœopathic globules" that did not belong to him, suffered on the spot the extreme penalty of the law due to such freedoms with property and poisons; and I shall slump this well-authenticated case with two others equally entitled to credit. One of them is the melancholy demise of the Duke di Cannizzaro, some twelve years ago, in Sicily, asserted by Mr. Edwin Lee (apparently a bookseller's traveller) to have been due to an

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over dose of nux vomica; the second is the alleged instance, in which Dr. Taylor of London detected in a powder, also professing itself to contain only a "homœopathic dose," one-third of a grain of morphia, quite an allopathic quantity. Now, these examples, supposing them true, may be regarded in one or other of two lights. First, they may be said to prove that three medical men, out of the many hundreds, if not thousands in the world, who now *avow* themselves homœopathists, were guilty of deceiving their patients, and were actually treating them with *allopathic* quantities, (as doses are termed when they reach or approach the poisoning potency,) while they professed to be giving only the *homœopathic*, (as doses are termed without the risk of killing.) No doubt such deception was extremely wrong—highly dishonourable and immoral; but it tells nothing against the multitude of homœopathic practitioners who do not practise any such deception. If we apply to the allopathic body in general, the discredit of similar deceptions (*mutatis mutandis*) practised by some among them, Dr. Simpson will perhaps see that the principle he attempts to apply so injuriously to us tells with a hundred-fold greater severity against himself and his friends. For it is an undoubted fact that a proportion of professedly allopathic practitioners employ, for particular diseases, the remedies which were discovered and announced by Hahnemann, as due to his homœopathic law for the selection of remedies; while with extraordinary meanness they ignore the discoverer, and treat his more honest followers with an affected disdain. Far different was the conduct of the late Mr. Liston, of whom Edinburgh has reason to be proud, as the greatest surgeon she has produced. He had the manliness, the *honesty*, to avow in public, that he derived his knowledge of the remarkable powers of aconite in subduing inflammatory fever, and of belladonna in curing erysipelas, from homœopathy, and to declare besides, that he had given the medicines "in much smaller doses than

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have hitherto been prescribed."* Others of the allopathic body go still farther in their secret use of homœopathic remedies, for I have been informed by a homœopathic chemist in London, that his shop is chiefly supported by practitioners who procure from him homœopathic remedies which they distribute to their patients *disguised as allopathic mixtures.*

So much for the first aspect in which these tales may be viewed. According to the second light in which they may be regarded, it may be maintained, as was no doubt intended by Dr. Simpson, if he had any distinct idea on the subject, that the detection of such large doses of strychnia and morphia in the hands of three homœopathic practitioners proves, or makes it likely, that the whole body of Homœopathists use doses of the like magnitude, while they profess to employ only the "infinitesimal" quantities. Now, granting the reasonableness of this generous allegation, it may be replied, first, that Homœopathists must be very verdant gentlemen indeed, if they attempt to impose on the public, by falsely professing rules, as to doses, which make Homœopathy absurd in the ignorant eyes of the very persons intended to be entrapped; for it is undeniable that the only obstacle to the progress of Homœopathy in the world is the incredulity which meets it on the ground of the unprecedented minuteness of its doses. The truth is, so little relish have many Homœopathists for the ridicule bestowed on the doctrine of minute doses, that there is a far greater risk of some of them being guilty, like so many of their professedly allopathic brethren, of pretending to give large doses, while they actually give the small. Small doses they know from experience to be the safest and best, and they are, with an exception or two, determined at all hazards to adhere to them; but it may

* See Lancet, 1836; where the reader will find, *in extenso*, the Clinical Lectures by Mr. Liston, containing a distinct recommendation of homœopathy to his pupils.

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sometimes be difficult for them to do so, and keep their foolish patient at the same time, who may have a preference, even in physic, for things he can taste and smell, like the majority of silly mankind. Again, if Homœopathists are really believed by Dr. Simpson and his friends only to *pretend* that they give small doses, while they are *known*, as is alleged, to give doses as large as do the gentlemen of the other school, what is the use of calling in the aid of mighty mathematicians to prove that there can be nothing in the pretended homœopathic attenuations? The whole of this charge against them assumes that such attenuations are never actually made, or never employed, and if the accusers really believed this, as they profess to do, the calculations might be left, for any necessity they are of to the success of the charge, to the wisdom of Toby the learned quadruped. But the bare fact that such calculations have been regarded as of immense importance to the opponents of Homœopathy, proves that they have themselves no confidence in the statement that Homœopathists do in reality practise the deceit of which they are so shamefully accused. If they felt secure in the evidence and credibility of that statement, where was the necessity of bothering respectable elderly gentlemen, who happen to have a calculating faculty, with sentimental journeys to the sun, moon, and stars, in search of an argument which Mr. Horace Green had found without going a yard from his own door? And, lastly, if Homœopathists are believed by their opponents to use no other doses than are used by ordinary physicians, to what end are the elaborate endeavours to prove that the success of Homœopathists in treating diseases is inferior to that of their rivals, while the whole object of the assertion now under review is to prove that the practice of the two bodies is the same? This is surely a robbing of Peter to pay Paul, and a very stupid and foolish consummation of the whole argument.

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There is yet another aspect in which these asserted instances of homœopathic deception can be viewed, and a far more rational one it is than either of the others, namely, that let Mr. Horace Green, Mr. Lee, Dr. Taylor, and Dr. Simpson, assert what they may, the deceptions that are alleged were and are *impossible*. The charge is, not simply that large doses were used in the cases referred to—that would be a minor matter, as a man is at liberty to employ what dose he prefers—but that the said doses were pretended to be *minute*. Now, reader, I hope you will be in a humour to apply the knout to the inventors of foul charges against their honester brethren, when I tell you, that such a dose of strychnia, nux vomica, or morphia, as these persons specify, could not possibly be taken by any man, in possession of his senses, without being detected by the *intense bitterness of their taste!* Had the accusers remembered this difficulty in the way of their instances being credible, they would not have ventured to prefer the charges they have made, in connexion with such substances at least; for they must have bethought them that, as "homœopathic doses" are well known to have no taste, no Homœopathist could dream of deceiving his patients by drugs so furiously bitter as these. To give the unmedical reader some idea of the obstacle to the alleged deception, presented by the bitterness of strychnia, I may observe that, according to Sir Robert Kane, one part "requires 7000 parts of cold water for solution, and yet, if *one* part of this be diluted with 100 parts more of water, this liquor tastes strongly bitter."* Or, what is the same thing, one grain of strychnia, dissolved in seven hundred thousand grains of water, or above eleven gallons, may still be detected by its strongly bitter taste. If, then, the 700,000th part of a grain of strychnia is strongly bitter, what must be the bit-

* Elements of Chemistry. 842.

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terness of the 16th of a grain, the ordinary dose, diffused in a spoonful of water, which Homœopathists are accused of giving to their patients as "infinitesimal," and therefore tasteless! The bitterness of morphia is well known, but I may mention that Pereira says of it that, "notwithstanding that it is *insoluble*, or nearly so, in cold water," the water, which can hardly be said, therefore, to dissolve an appreciable quantity of it, "has a distinctly bitter taste." Yet Dr. Simpson wishes us to believe that a Homœopathist expected to elude the senses of his patient by so large a dose as a third, or half of a grain! Now I hope these gentlemen have tumbled to some purpose, and that the spectators will express their sense of the performance with their usual judgment.

Dr. Simpson's work abounds in charges as demonstrably untrue as those I have just disposed of, but, as I have no ambition to write a work so tiresome and unreadable as almost every body declares his to be, I shall pick out for notice in this place only the one remaining example which has an appearance of resting on respectable authority, and which may possibly be believed by very credulous and unreflecting people. Dr. Glover of Newcastle asserts that the *agent* of a London wholesale firm for the manufacture of homœopathic drugs, which prepares "60 lbs. weight of them every fortnight," (*i. e.* 1560 lbs. weight per annum,) stated to a company of *allopathic* druggists in Newcastle, that his firm, aware that the homœopathic method of preparing drugs was a "farce," gave up the troublesome proceeding, and put *nothing* into the powders and pilules which they sold as *medicated*. I do not know that Dr. Glover makes the assertion on his own authority; if he does not, of course he will not be implicated in the unavoidable inference suggested by the following considerations. The story is *incredible*, first, because it would be at variance with the known principles which regulate human intercourse, that the agent of a mercantile firm

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should reveal, (supposing the fraud to be actually practised,) to the most implacable enemies of his house, what must destroy his trade if generally believed; it is incredible, secondly, because it is infinitely more likely that the allopathic druggists would *invent* a story that would be to their own advantage, than that the other would disclose a fraud, the public knowledge of which must be to his own ruin; it is incredible, thirdly, because no London homœopathic wholesale druggist exists who prepares 60 lbs. weight of drugs, or pretended drugs, in a fortnight, for most of the homœopathic chemists in London, and throughout the country, prepare all, or nearly all, their own drugs, and there is no market for such a wholesale business; it is incredible, fourthly, because Dr. Glover, having been repeatedly called upon to give the name of the fraudulent firm, has declined to do so, which it is plain he never would if he were certain of his ground, and did not fear that compliance with the demand would explode the whole story. But, even supposing that some swindling company of homœopathic druggists actually do dispense unmedicated powders, and pilules, and tinctures, how does that tell against Homœopathy? Those who are unfortunate enough to deal with the swindlers will be unsuccessful in their practice, and be instrumental in making a few skeptics as to the power of homœopathic drugs. This is the whole result, and is quite on a par, and no more, with the following allopathic anecdote, which has the advantage of being credible:

"MAKING AND TAKING PILLS.—We remember (says the *Englishman*) an occurrence which took place in the practice of a country apothecary in England. He had only one apprentice upon whom the entire duty of pill-making fell. A patient of rather inquisitive and nervous temperament called one morning with a pill-box in his hand, to show the apothecary that by cutting the pills in halves he had discovered something extraordinary in the manufacture. The apprentice was

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sent for, who confessed, that being naturally of a gay disposition, he preferred spending his evening with friends to wasting his time in weighing, and adjusting, and rolling into pills, the various drugs which his master had prescribed in the course of the day. After much consideration, he had found no method so quick as that of wetting a quantity of juniper berries in gum water, and next shaking them up in powdered chalk, and then most impartially filling all the boxes. He stated that he had continued this practice for a year and a half without a single complaint, except from the gentleman who had just called; and he insisted that the cases under treatment had all done exceedingly well."

I shall conclude these prefatory samples of the credibility of the representations Dr. Simpson has made, partly from the fruits of his own inventive genius, partly from the equally reliable stores of his friends, of the practice of homœopathic physicians, by two very characteristic specimens of his scrupulous honesty as a controversial writer. To one of them I drew the notice of the public in my former reply, but, as he repeats the same offence in his new work, after he had been told that it had led to false conclusions in the minds of some of his readers, and had been apprized, if he did not know the fact right well before, that his authority was notoriously fictitious, I am induced to advert to it again. A single sentence will dispose of the deception, and I presume of the last remaining fragment of confidence which the most partial of his readers may have retained in his candour. He quotes in a note a passage from the "Confessions of a Homœopathist," in which the author pretends to confess that homœopathic physicians employ "powerful doses" of "morphia, strychnia, arsenic, corrosive sublimate, and such like," in the form of "globules," and without allowing the patient to know that he is getting any thing but some hundred-thousandth part of a grain, Dr. Simpson quotes this pretended confession as au-

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thentic evidence against us, without informing his readers that the work from which he quotes is a *work of fiction*, as he well knew it to be when he selected his extract!

The other specimen is still worse, if worse can be. He begins by asserting that there are homœopathic physicians "who doctored people according as people themselves wished, either with drachms of drugs, or billions of a grain of the same;" a charge which he sustains by the authority of the veriest zany in the profession, and then proceeds to quote the following passage, as if it was a passage which confirmed his accusation, from his "colleague, Professor Henderson," who observes in one of his publications, "I rejoice to say that I know many physicians, who, while they adhere to the homœopathic law as the great regulator of their practice, consider themselves entitled, in the free exercise of their profession as independent men, to prescribe any quantity of medicine they think necessary for their patients, and where the homœopathic principle cannot be of service to them, whether from its present or necessary limitations, or their insufficient acquaintance with it, consider themselves not only entitled, but bound in duty, to employ any other expedients for the benefit of their employers that may be within their knowledge." And then, still further to persuade his readers that his colleague is an advocate for treating people "according as people themselves wished," he subjoins a quotation from my excellent friend, Dr. Black, as affording a view of "the due estimation of such a combination of principles and practices" entertained by homœopathists themselves; the quotation being as follows: "There is a class of practitioners who merit the indignation of every right-minded man,—a class who, viewing medicine only as a trade, a mere barter for pounds, shillings, and pence, act obsequiously *as the patient wishes; at his desire* their practice is either homœopathic or allopathic." Now, Dr. Simpson's

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work has been termed *clever* by one or two of his admirers, and I grant the justice of their assertion if it be clever to misrepresent, to suppress the truth, to give that as a true version of an opponent's doctrine which is the very reverse of it; and I add, may I and my friends be patterns of stupidity in all time coming, if this is to be *clever!* Why, immediately before the sentence he has extracted in order to show that I approve of physicians "doctoring people according as people themselves wished," I had actually said as follows—"That Dr. Simpson knows of any such persons I do not believe. I know a great deal more of those whom he delights to calumniate than he does, and I solemnly aver, that I neither know, nor ever have known, a single instance of the conduct he has ventured to lay to their charge." My information on the subject of such practices might be defective, and even incorrect, but my disapproval of the practice of allowing patients to choose how they were to be treated, and my refutation of it personally, are abundantly manifest in the two sentences I have just given, and yet Dr. Simpson makes me appear an advocate for the very practice which I plainly condemn! A concern for the "laurels" I hinted at on a previous page, restrains me from uttering a single word in the way of commentary.*

Having touched on the question of the need there may be for Homœopathists sometimes employing an allopathic expedient, I shall finish the subject in this place; and the more willingly that it admits of a very summary treatment. The amount of allopathic medicine which I would retain for occasional, though unfrequent employment in CURABLE diseases, is an aperient, chiefly a *teaspoonful of castor oil.* For *incu-*

*The truth is, that instead of Homœopaths being chargeable with treating their patients *either way*, it is *allopaths* to whom the remarks of Dr. Black apply, who, finding Homœopathy "go down" with some of their patients, give their services on the homœopathic principle when required.

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rable diseases that have nearly reached their final stage, and are the occasions of sleepless nights and weary days, of pain and misery to decaying nature, I would give whatever promises to smooth the way a little to the not distant grave. For this end, there may be some two or three drugs, each suitable to his own class of cases;—too often, alas! there are none. As to ancient appliances that are not properly medicinal,—do not consist of medicines in the proper sense, I would reserve my right to employ heat and cold as I think best, and, speaking for myself personally, I would also regard myself at liberty, and without forfeiting my title to the honour of being a homœopathic physician, to facilitate the action of my homœopathic remedies by local abstraction of blood in some acute diseases,—a practice which I have followed some ten times in about as many years. These are the true "Confessions of a homœopathist;" and they are complete. Give me the little I have mentioned, and the rest of your physic to the dogs. In these views and conclusions all the homœopathic physicians of my acquaintance, with the exception, I think, of two, substantially agree. Among the exceptional dissentients is my respected friend, Dr. Scott of Glasgow. He is of opinion, that, when an allopathic expedient is required, an allopathic physician should be called upon to administer the same. I am not sure that our friends of the opposite party would altogether relish this proposal: it would make occasional demands on their exertions not quite up to the mark of professional dignity. But I have no objection to the proposal; provided always, that the gentlemen of the other side will bind themselves scrupulously and honestly to use *none of our remedies*, and to leave to us all the diseases that we can treat more successfully than they. It seems to me that a much better contract would be this: that both we and they should employ the very few allopathic drugs that are of any service as palliatives,

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and that they should honourably acknowledge the many instances in which they make use of homœopathic remedies. We claim no exclusive right to the latter; we merely expect and ask that they shall not be used without acknowledgment.

Dr. Simpson, at least, cannot object to the small modicum of Allopathy I would retain; for he not only, like his brethren universally, employs many drugs whose operation is homœopathic, as we shall by and by see, when they are accidentally of any benefit to his patients, but, notwithstanding his pretended unbelief in the homœopathic law of Therapeutics, has actually, in his place as a Professor in the University, commended a remedy in circumstances where its action is confessedly homœopathic, after having employed it himself, moreover, by the advice of a homœopathic friend of his own. Behold the evidence: "Ipecacuanha causes vomiting; and the celebrated Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh, as he stated in my hearing, failed to cure a case of chronic vomiting from pregnancy, until he took the advice of Dr. Arnt, a Homœopathist, and gave half a grain of ipecacuanha, and so cured his patient." (Homœopathy: by George Wyld, M. D. Page 25.*)

*Dr. Stewart, in his controversy with Dr. Christison, gives substantially the same version of this passage in the Lectures of Dr. Simpson. Both he and Dr. Wyld were pupils of Dr. Simpson at the time it was delivered. The lecturer, however, denies one part of their statement, and says that the ipecacuan did no good, but the reverse; and he refers to the alleged testimony of a person whose patient the lady in question is said to have been, in corroboration of his assertion. This, however, must relate to another case, and seems to show that Dr. Simpson employed ipecacuan for vomiting more than once—successfully when the proper occasion for it was pointed out by a Homœopath, unsuccessfully when he used his own discretion. Both of his former pupils aver that he gave credit to the ipecacuan in the instance they heard him speak of; and two witnesses are better than one, especially when that one has a personal interest in representing the subject of dispute in his own way. Internal evidence, too, is strongly against Dr. Simpson in this

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In this instance we have the admission by the Coryphæus of Allopathy, that he did employ a homœopathic remedy, and with success, too, when all his other remedies (?) had failed. Will he have the goodness to reconsider the following sentences he has composed against the Homœopath who would dare to use an allopathic palliative, and tell us, in his next publication on medical ethics, if he continues to regard the opinions expressed in them as candid and honourable: "Some men pretended they could honestly and honourably mix up the two practices. Most physicians naturally doubted whether any man could in honour and honesty combine such incompatible incongruities. Neither any true Homœopath, nor any true Allopath, would give this spurious set credit for their integrity of purpose and principle." P. 21.

There are many more of this "hybrid and equivocal class of practitioners," as he terms them, in the ranks of Allopathy, besides Dr. Simpson. Belladonna, as a preservative against scarlet fever, and as a remedy for the disease in some of its aspects and stages, was first proposed by Hahnemann; and it has been employed, in the former character especially, very generally throughout the civilized world by allopathic physicians, from Dr. Locock down to the obscurest Sangrado of the sect. Dr. Simpson cannot deny this fact, although he attempts to show that belladonna has not the protective power ascribed to it. The latter question will be discussed in its

matter. For what end did he allude to the ipecacuan in his class, in the presence of the friend who recommended it, if not for the purpose, partly, of paying a compliment to the latter, a stranger from a far country, who honoured the lecture by his presence? Surely not to point at him by name, in so public a place, as having advised a remedy which did harm instead of good! This is incredible. Dr. Simpson is surely too hospitable a man to be rude to a foreigner, and he a friend too. Dr. Simpson tries to get out of this scrape by another plea. He didn't know, forsooth, that Dr. Arnt was homœopathic! Well, what of that? He knew that *ipecacuan* was so to vomiting, and no one accuses him of having prescribed Dr. Arnt.

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proper place, and the medical knowledge of the objector put "through its paces." Meanwhile, the adoption of the homœopathic preventive — (whether truly so or no)—by allopathic practitioners, stands condemned by Dr. Simpson as at variance with "honour and honesty;" and thus is included in the same category of crimes with his own employment of ipecacuan in the instance mentioned above.

I had almost forgotten the Magnetoscope! This is an instrument invented by Mr. Rutter, Manager of the Gas-Works at Brighton; and was supposed by the inventor to be so sensitive a machine that its pendulum would make certain motions under the influence of impressions not discoverable by ordinary means. My able friend, Dr. Henry Madden, was the first medical man who saw the instrument, and probably, for that reason, was the first physician who was deceived by it. Had it come first in the way of the Allopaths, they would have had the priority in being duped; but as the thing happened, the deception fell to one of us in the first instance, and, *of coúrse*, Homœopathists must bear the undivided reproach of gullibility. I wonder, now, if a Homœopathist, with the best intentions in the world, were to get his neck broken, whether we should not all be accused of being "shaky" in the cervical region, or if he should chance to swallow a plum-stone, whether he would not be charged with doing it "o' purpose," and because we all had gizzards. Well, Dr. Madden was the first to be taken in by the magnetoscope, but he is entitled to the credit of having been the first also who discovered and exposed its worthlessness; and, to conclude this eventful history, while the two or three homœopathists, who of all the body were imposed upon by the deceitful machine, have long seen their mistake, it remains the appropriate *protégé* of a knot of their allopathic brethren, who certainly need something more than human to discover the

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curative value of their drugs, when administered on their distinctive principle.

Having now gone over a long list of most contemptible "arguments" against homœopathy, the reader may be inclined to ask how it is to be explained, that Dr. Simpson, commonly reputed to be among the advocates of progress in scientific matters, should be found so bitter and unscrupulous an opponent of the new practice. It cannot be from an intelligent conviction of its unsoundness, for he is practically but little acquainted with it, and the little he knows is, as we have seen, rather in favour of its claims than otherwise. But Dr. Simpson's medical glory, such as it is, is pinned to the old standard, and his medical existence is all but ignored by the followers of the new. The discerning student of such affairs will have no difficulty, then, in finding a parallel to, and an explanation of, the conduct of the Professor of Midwifery in the instructive history of Haman, the once prosperous son of Hammedatha the Agagite.

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HOMŒOPATHY FAIRLY REPRESENTED.

CHAPTER I.

Comparative View of Homœopathy and Allopathy, as adapted to acute diseases: in which the latter is proved to be a fatal delusion—Homœopathic Statistics proved to be accurate—Alleged success of Laennec and army surgeons in inflammation of the lungs shown to be incredible—Allopathic cases, when *selected*, proved to present a much greater mortality than the Homœopathic unselected—Allopathic treatment of pneumonia destroys human life—Acute inflammation of the lungs better left to nature than to Allopathy—Dietl's experiments—Allopathic fatality in pleurisy, peritonitis, &c.—Pretended Allopathic cures of consumption more extravagant than those of the most ignorant Homœopaths.

A CONSIDERABLE portion of Dr. Simpson's work is occupied with the usual diatribe on human credulity, and the usual illustrations of human folly, from Mesmerism, amulets, charms, Mormonism, &c. The reader who peruses this chapter to the end will probably be of opinion that the author ought to have added Allopathy to the list, which, like its twin sister Calamity, is "of so long life," merely because of the fears which lead men rather to "keep those ills they have, than fly to others that they know not of," though the latter, as in the case of Homœopathy, may be only imaginary. At all events, the parallel between these delusions and Homœopathy foolishly takes for granted the very point at issue, and

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