

CHAPTER VIII

HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETIES.

By Thomas Lindsley Bradford, M. D.

The homœopathic medical profession believes firmly in organization as the most efficient means of advancing the welfare of the homœopathic school. In the early history of homœopathy in America the few practitioners who dared—dared is right, and that right was challenged—lay aside the arbitrary dogmas which governed the practice of the self-styled regulars and to think and act according to the rational methods of cure propounded by Hahnemann, and improved upon and elaborated by those who followed him, were not infrequently socially ostracised, held up to public ridicule and scorn, and occasionally subjected to open indignity and insult; but notwithstanding this there is no long record of desertion by converts to the new school, and the abuse heaped on the proselytes of Hahnemann and the immediate followers of Gram only served to strengthen their determination to persevere in their endeavors in upholding the new principle and advancing its standing and efficacy in the world of medicine. The full accomplishment of this object naturally called for organization, both as a means of defense against avowed and at times unscrupulous enemies and the more thorough dissemination of the gospel of the new doctrine.

As the story is told in a preceding chapter, homœopathy was first planted in America by Gram in 1825. Although a convert himself, a man, too, of education and refined tastes, Gram was not possessed of an aggressive character to the degree necessary to successfully defend himself and his medical principles against the assaults of adversaries. He was a splendid exemplar of the then new means of cure, a faithful friend of those whom he brought within its influence, but the conflict with foes was compelled to be carried to successful issue under other and stronger generalship. This, however, was not done in open battle in the public prints, or by arguments put forth in public assemblages, but by quiet, effective endeavor and honest, rational methods of treatment of cases as they arose one after another until the truths of homœopathy became rooted in the minds of a reasoning public and in due season found lodgment in the hearts of that element of the old school which was honestly open to conviction. Then, when the ranks of homœopathy had gained sufficient numerical strength to successfully combat the prejudices of the common enemy, a union of forces by the little handful of followers of Hahnemann and Gram was effected, and the New York Homœopathic Medical Society was organized in the city of that name in September, 1834, just nine years after Gram brought from Europe the medical principles he had espoused and ever afterward advocated. Its membership included both physicians and laymen, but some years later another society succeeded and replaced the pioneer organization and enrolled as members only professional men—physicians, and almost every one a convert from the older school of practice.

This was almost the beginning of homœopathic society life in America, which, like the school itself in the country, was planted in the city of New York—a city to-day, as it was three score years ago, the chief center of homœopathy on this side of the Atlantic. However, in the classification of subjects treated in the present chapter it is deemed prudent to give precedence to societies of a general character and follow with those whose operations are confined to narrower limits.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

For more than sixty years the American Institute of Homœopathy has exerted a powerful influence as conservator of the policy of the homœopathic medical profession, whether in the limitless field of practice, the school of medical instruction, or the individual welfare and conduct of its members in the usual walks of life. Somewhat at variance with the fair interpretation of the first preamble in the declaration of purposes and principles which served as the original foundation of the association, the primary object of the organization was not to defend the followers of Hahnemann and Gram against the shafts of the enemy, nor to retaliate in kind upon those who during the second quarter of the last century waged wordy warfare against the exemplars of homœopathy—they neither needed nor asked united effort in their defense; but the chief purpose of organization at that time was the protection of the profession and its materia medica against the misrepresentations of quacks, charletans and medical pirates, who without the warrant of medical training sought to prey upon the credulous public at the expense of the new school and thus to bring its legitimate practitioners into the disrepute which was so exceedingly gratifying to its natural enemies. Side by side the homœopath and the "regular" practiced half a century and more ago, and in the comparison of achieved results the former was not put to shame, while the latter frequently was made to see a new light, and to investigate, and thereby learned that which before he conceived not of; and being convinced of rational truth allied himself with the new forces and defended his principles with his work as a shield and buckler. In this way the homœopathic ranks were almost wholly recruited during the twenty years following Gram's advent into the medical life of New York and America.

Previous to 1843 several local homœopathic societies had been formed in various cities, and while each in its own way accomplished much good work there arose a demand for a general union of all the homœopathic forces in a national organization for the more ample protection of legitimate homœopathy and the better promulgation of its doctrines. To this end the New York Homœopathic Physicians' Society at its meeting in July, 1843, appointed a committee to invite the homœopathic physicians of the United States to meet in convention in the city of New York on the next anniversary of Hahnemann's birth—April 10, 1844—and effect a permanent organization. The response was general; the convention was held at the appointed time and place, and after a temporary organization, and a declaration of principles, the first session of the American Institute of Homœopathy was held. The temporary officers were Dr. Constantine Hering, president; Dr. Josiah F. Flagg of Boston and Dr. William Channing of New York, vice-presidents, and Dr. Henry G. Dannel of New York, secretary.

The declaration of purposes of the institute was set forth in the following preamble and resolutions adopted at that time:

Whereas, a majority of the allopathic physicians continue to deride and oppose the contributions to the materia medica that have been made by the homœopathic school, and, whereas the state of the materia medica in both schools is such as to imperatively demand a more satisfactory arrangement and greater purity of observation, which can only be obtained by associate action on the part of those who seek diligently for the truth alone; and inasmuch as the state of the public information respecting the principles and practice of homœopathy is so defective as to make it easy for mere pretenders to this very difficult branch of the healing art, to acquire credit as proficient in the same; therefore

Resolved, That it is deemed expedient to establish a society, entitled the "American Institute of Homœopathy," and the following are declared to be the essential purposes of said society:

First. The reformation and augmentation of the materia medica.

Second. The restraining of physicians from pretending to be competent to practice homœopathy, who have not studied it in a careful and skillful manner.

Dr. John F. Gray was elected general secretary, and Dr. Stephen R. Kirby, treasurer. The first session of the institute was held after the adjournment of the convention on the evening of April 10, at the call of the general secretary elect. Dr. Flagg was chosen chairman.

At this meeting six boards of censors were also elected whose duty was to examine applicants for membership. The gentlemen constituting these boards were:

First Board.—Drs. Albus Rea, Eliphalet Clark, John Merrill, all of Portland, Maine.

Second Board.—Drs. Josiah F. Flagg, Charles Wild, Luther Clark, F. Clark, Wm. Wesselhoeft, all of Boston, Mass.

Third Board.—Drs. John F. Gray, Wm. Channing, Alonzo S. Ball, Abram D. Wilson, Henry G. Dunnell, all of New York city.

Fourth Board.—For Western New York, Drs. John Taylor, of Rochester; H. Hull Cator, of Syracuse; Williams, of Geneva; Horatio Robinson, of Auburn; and Erastus Humphreys, of Utica.

Fifth Board.—Drs. Constantine Hering, James Kitchen, Charles Neidhard, Jacob Jeanes and Jonas Green, of Philadelphia.

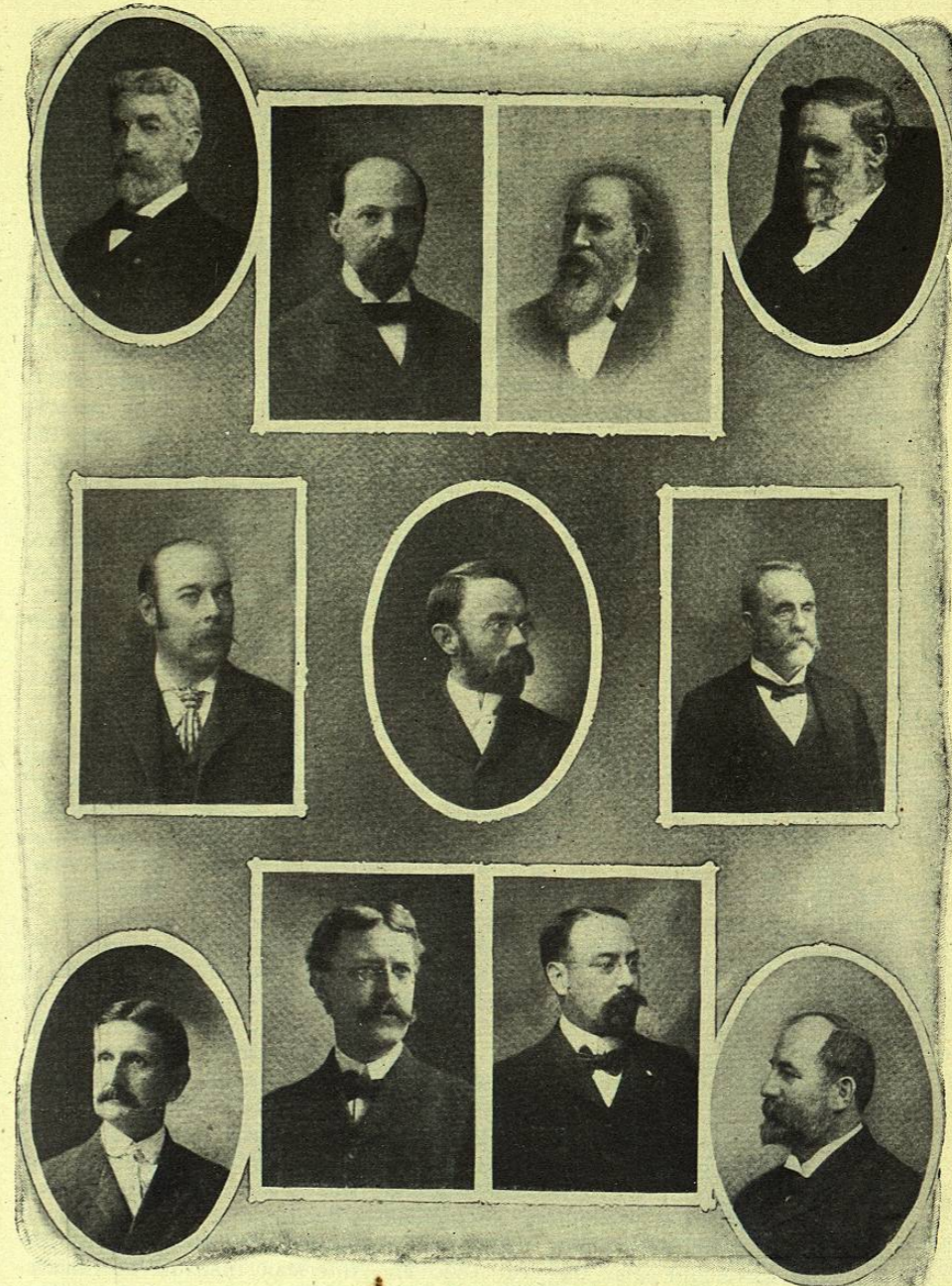
Sixth Board.—Drs. A. F. Haynel, of New York; F. R. McManus, of Baltimore; and Dr. J. R. Piper, of Washington, D. C.

Dr. A. G. Hull was elected provisional secretary.

The second session was held at New York, May 14, 1845. Officers elected: Dr. Jacob Jeanes of Philadelphia, president; Dr. Edward Bayard of New York, general secretary; Dr. R. A. Snow of New York, provisional secretary; Dr. Stephen R. Kirby of New York, treasurer. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution.

At the third session, held in Philadelphia, May 13-14, 1846, a constitution and by-laws were adopted. There were 144 members on the rolls. A seal was presented and accepted. A bureau of materia medica, or "central bureau," previously appointed, made a report of certain provings of medicines under its direction, which report was promulgated in 1846 under the title, "Transactions of the American Institute of Homœopathy." Eight pages were devoted to the minutes of the sessions of 1844 and 1845, and the remainder to valuable provings. This book was re-issued in 1853 under the title, "Materia Medica of American Provings," with a repertory by W. P. Esrey. It was decided to form certain local societies on the basis of the institute, each society to appoint a bureau of materia medica and to report to the institute. Several such were formed—the Philadelphia, Albany (New York), New Jersey and Cincinnati branches, and the Massachusetts

A FEW OF OUR SANITARIUM AND HOSPITAL MEN.



F. W. SEWARD, M. D., GOSHEN, N. Y.

B. F. BAILEY, M. D., LINCOLN, NEB.

A. J. GIVENS, M. D., STAMFORD, CONN.

C. E. SAWYER, M. D., MARION, OHIO.

GEORGE F. SHEARS, M. D., CHICAGO, ILL.

J. A. LENFESTEV, M. D., MT. CLEMENS, MICH.

J. S. BARNARD, M. D., BALTIMORE, MD.

ROBERT WALTER, M. D., WALTER'S PARK, PA.

A. B. SPINNEY, M. D., REED CITY, MICH.

JOHN T. GREENLEAF, M. D., OWEGO, N. Y.

O. S. RUNNELS, M. D., INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

fraternity and branch. Some of these local bodies published their own proceedings, with the constitution of the institute.

The fourth session was held in Boston, June 9, 1847. The membership at this time represented thirteen states. The proceedings of the year 1847 were published in a pamphlet of sixteen pages. The membership and influence of the society continued to increase yearly. Meetings were subsequently held as follows: 1st and 2nd sessions, New York; 3rd, Philadelphia; 4th, Boston; 5th, New York; 6th, Philadelphia; 7th, Albany; 8th, New Haven; 9th, Baltimore; 10th, Cleveland; 11th, Albany; 12th, Buffalo; 13th, Washington; 14th, Chicago; 15th, Brooklyn; 16th, Boston; 17th, Philadelphia, held in June, 1860.

The next session, the eighteenth, was appointed to be held in Cincinnati in June, 1861, but owing to the unsettled state of the country it was deferred for four years, and was finally assembled in that city, June, 1865. A notable action at this session was the establishment of bureaus of materia medica, pharmacy, clinical medicine, zymoses, surgery, and of homœopathic organization, registration and statistics, each bureau being composed of five members appointed by the president. These bureaus have been continued, and are of great value, especially that of registration and statistics. Through this medium there has been furnished tabulated reports from the homœopathic societies, hospitals, homes, dispensaries, journals, etc., of the United States. The reports form a very creditable history of homœopathic institutions. A bureau of obstetrics was added at the next meeting, and still later bureaus of physiology, anatomy, hygiene, psychological medicine, ophthalmology and otology, microscopy, gynaecology, paedology, sanitary science and climatology.

At the meeting of 1872 in Washington it was resolved that members of 1848 and previous be considered seniors and "that their ranks be augmented annually by all those who have maintained twenty-five successive years of membership; and that they be earnestly requested to attend all meetings of the institute and deliberate in their conferences any advisory measures for its continued success." The senate of the seniors has filled an important part in the proceedings of the institute. It has been its court of appeal in all doubtful questions of ethics, and its members are exempted from dues.

As early as 1847 the subject of medical education claimed the interest of the institute. At that time a committee of five was appointed to inquire if an improvement could be made in the method of medical education. In 1869 a joint committee consisting of one member from each homœopathic college was appointed to devise more thorough plans for medical education. An intercollegiate committee was appointed in 1874, and reported in 1875, giving a schedule of a college course, studies, text-books, etc. At the meeting in 1877 this committee reported in favor of a three years' graded course, which should be regarded as the minimum time for even the rudiments of a medical education, and that practical teaching should receive more earnest attention. In 1888 the committee on medical education, after emphasizing the need of a good preliminary education, presented the following: "Resolved, That from and after the year 1890 the American Institute of Homœopathy will not recognize the diploma of any college requiring less than four years of study, and attendance upon three annual courses of lectures of at least six months each." This was endorsed by the intercollegiate committee. It was finally decided to make the three years' course obligatory

after 1891. In 1894 the collegiate committee reported that all the nineteen homœopathic colleges had adopted the four years' course of study with three full six months' courses of lectures, and then presented a resolution to the effect that beginning with the session of 1895-96 all colleges recognized by this collegiate committee require attendance upon four courses of lectures of not less than six months each, in separate years. This resolution was adopted by and became a recognized regulation of the institute.

An important bureau is that of organization, registration and statistics. At the meeting of 1865, when certain bureaus were established and the institute was reorganized, this bureau of statistics was determined upon "to keep a record of the names of all homœopaths in the United States, together with lists of medical colleges, societies, hospitals," etc. This has since been done and the series of annual reports form a very good statistical history of the growth of the institutions of homœopathy. Since 1882 the names of the graduates of each college have been published yearly. Since 1875 the institute has given attention to securing proper legislative enactments in the different states to secure the homœopathic school protection in practice.

In the centennial year, 1876, a meeting was held in Philadelphia called the "World's Convention of Homœopathic Physicians." It was a gathering of physicians from all over the world, who held sessions under the auspices of the American institute for several days. Historical reports were made from different countries and papers were offered. The records of this convention were published in two large volumes, one containing the medical papers, the other containing a history of the progress of homœopathy, both in foreign countries and in the different states of the Union. These international meetings have since been held at intervals of five years in different countries, two having been held in America. Since 1865 meetings have been held yearly in different cities, each meeting place being decided upon at the previous session. They continue for several days and consist of medical sessions, while social functions, banquets and other entertainments to the members are provided by the physicians of the city in which the institute may at the time be assembled.

In June, 1900, a magnificent monument to the memory of Hahnemann was unveiled with formal ceremony in the city of Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the American Institute of Homœopathy. As early as 1892 a committee was appointed to take measures for raising the requisite funds for this purpose, and eight years later, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the institute in the capital city of America, the unveiling and dedicatory ceremony took place. The homœopathic profession was fully represented on this memorable occasion, and the acceptance of its splendid gift by the appointed representatives of the government was regarded not only a deserved recognition of the worth of the founder of the homœopathic school, but also a recognition of the wide influence and usefulness of the homœopathic profession in the world of medicine.

One of the most commendable actions of the institute in the interest of its members and the profession at large is that which had its beginning in 1868, and the object of which has been to secure an authorized and approved pharmacopœia of established standard medical strength and uniformity in homœopathic medicines. To the accomplishment of this end a committee of the institute began its difficult labors in 1888, and in 1897 there was published in Boston the "Homœopathic Pharmacopœia of the American Insti-

Officers of the American Institute of Homœopathy, 1902.



CHARLES GATCHELL, M. D., *Sec.*

E. B. HOOKER, M. D., *First Vice Pres.*
H. C. ALDRICH, M. D., *Registrar.*

JAMES C. WOOD, M. D., *Pres.*

THOS. FRANKLIN SMITH, M. D., *Treas.*

E. Z. COLE, M. D., *Second Vice Pres.*
A. C. COWPERTHWAITTE, M. D., *Censor.*

tute of Homœopathy." The importance of the work is not easily estimated, and its usefulness is equally appreciated by the entire profession, young and old, as well as by all pharmacists and compounders. The "Provers' College," established in 1904, is an important auxiliary to the greater work of the institute and of much value to the profession in general. A fund is maintained for its purposes in proving the action of substances on healthy organism. Transactions have been published annually since 1846. From a small pamphlet of a few pages the annual report of the proceedings has increased until it requires a large volume of one thousand or more pages. In the earlier years of the institute all its medical reports were presented in general session, but in later years they have been presented in special session, according to the subject, and the bureaus have in great measure become sub-societies although under the supervision of the general body.

This society meets annually in June. Membership in 1903, 2100. It may be mentioned that this is the oldest national medical society in the United States. In 1900-02 Dr. Bushrod W. James published a history of the institute, which was in part printed in the "Homœopathic Recorder," and later in book form.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY OFFICIARY.

Sessions of the American Institute of Homœopathy have been held as follows:

1844	April 10, New York.	1877	June 26, Lake Chautauqua.
1845	May 14, New York.	1878	June 18, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.
1846	May 13, Philadelphia.	1879	June 17, Lake George.
1847	June 9, Boston.	1880	June 18, Milwaukee.
1848	June 14, New York.	1881	June 14, Brighton Beach.
1849	June 13, Philadelphia.	1882	June 13, Indianapolis.
1850	June 12, Albany.	1883	June 19, Niagara Falls.
1851	June 11, New Haven.	1884	June 17, Deer Park, Md.
1852	May 19, Baltimore.	1885	June 2, St. Louis.
1853	June 8, Cleveland.	1886	June 28, Saratoga Springs.
1854	June 7, Albany.	1887	June 27, Saratoga Springs.
1855	June 6, Buffalo.	1888	June 29, Niagara Falls.
1856	June 4, Washington.	1889	June 24, Minnetonka Beach.
1857	June 3, Chicago.	1890	June 16, Waukesha.
1858	June 4, Brooklyn.	1891	June 16, Atlantic City.
1859	June 1, Boston.	1892	June 12, Washington.
1860	June 2, Philadelphia.	1893	May 29, Chicago.
1865	June 7, Cincinnati.	1894	June 14, Denver.
1866	June 6, Pittsburgh.	1895	June 20, Newport.
1867	June 4, New York.	1896	June 17, Detroit.
1868	June 2, St. Louis.	1897	June 24, Buffalo.
1869	June 8, Boston.	1898	June 23, Omaha.
1870	June 7, Chicago.	1899	June 20, Atlantic City.
1871	June 6, Philadelphia.	1900	June 19, Washington.
1872	June 21, Washington.	1901	June 18, Richfield Springs.
1873	June 3, Cleveland.	1902	June 17, Cleveland.
1874	June 9, Niagara Falls.	1903	June 22, Boston.
1875	June 16, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.	1904	June 20, Niagara Falls.
1876	June 26, Philadelphia.		

Chairmen.—Josiah Foster Flagg, Boston, 1844; Jacob Jeanes, Philadelphia, 1845; Stephen Reynolds Kirby, New York, 1846; Felix R. McManus, Baltimore, 1847; Walter Williamson, Philadelphia, 1848-1849; Edward Bayard, New York, 1850; William E. Payne, Bath, Me., 1851; Elial