

that thereby we can compromise with Nature and stop her protests.

In conclusion, I must be allowed to warn physicians against being misled by patients saying to them, as they have often said to me: "Why, Doctor, when I have the headache nothing gives me so much relief as a good *strong* cup of tea." This is the best evidence that it injures them. It is only the temporary relief afforded by a more powerful re-stimulation, while the next paroxysm must come so much the sooner, or in greater severity as a result of the renewed attack upon the nervous forces. In fact, though not so disreputable, it is only the old cry of the inebriate in his cravings: "Give me my drinks, they are all that relieve me."

A CRITICISM.

The following letter from a highly esteemed correspondent, and one who is second to none in his knowledge of our *Materia Medica*, we give place to, for two reasons, namely: First because of the amount of valuable information condensed into so small a space; and secondly, because it is a fair and honorable criticism—the right to which should be conceded to every man who will candidly offer suggestions or present his objections—and allows of what we hope may be regarded as an equally honorable reply. It is only by such criticisms and proper responses thereto, that the *whole* truth in

our, as yet, greatly complicated system of therapeutics can be brought to light.

"MY DEAR DOCTOR: Your letter and No. 1 of Vol. II. of your *Quarterly* were duly received. As you asked me for a review of your paper, I do not hesitate to give you my own ideas after carefully reading it; and please do not understand me as discouraging you in your very laborious task, but merely call your attention to some points. Your plan will much facilitate to learn by ocular demonstration two sides of a given symptom, viz: the locality and kind of pain; and in many cases these two sides may give the key to the case, but the conditions and concomitant symptoms may in other cases be of much more value than the locality and kind of pain. I shall try to illustrate this. Stitches in the chest relieved by laying on the painful side. Now in this case I should contend that *Bryonia* is the remedy, no matter about the locality. Or stitches in the chest, very much worse from the *least motion*. In that case I should give *Spigelia*, no matter about the locality. Again, if in a case of typhoid pneumonia the locality or the kind of pains cannot be described by the patient, other symptoms than those of locality or kind will guide us in the selection of the remedy. If, for instance, the eyes should become exceedingly brilliant, the delirium be accompanied by great loquacity, the cheeks be red (circumscribed), etc., then *Lachnanthes Tinctoria* would be the curative medicine, neither the locality or kind of pain would guide in this case the true Homœopathician. In *some* cases the locality is the guiding symptom, and I have long been guided by *some* characteristic localities of remedies often verified by practice. In the chest I have found Borax, right upper lung; Kali C., right lower lung; Sulphur left upper; Phosphorus left lower lung, *provided* the other symptoms are also Homœopathic, *i. e.*, similar to the remedy. Stitches through from the right shoulder blade, *Mercurius*; the same on the left side, Sulphur, etc., but always remembering that we have to deal with the totality of the symptoms. You have one more difficulty to contend with, and that is the state of our *Materia Medica*, and the bad translations into the English language. I enclose a few symptoms of Kali Carb. translated from the original. If

you will carry out your plan, these ocular demonstrations will much facilitate the teaching, study and practical application of our *Materia Medica*, or at least of one half of it, and we can never know too much of it; and should the beginning of an acquirement of the knowledge thereof be made by first charging the memory with the local action of drugs, it will become a comparatively easy task to add afterward the conditions and concomitant symptoms."

KALI CARB.

(Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases.)

Symptom 626. "Stitches under the last true rib (*right side*) when taking a long breath." 627. "Stitches under the *last right* rib, independent of breathing—lasting four days." 628. "Stitches between the middle ribs of the *right side*, while sitting." 629. "Dull stitch in the *right side* below the ribs." 630. "Dull stitch in the region of the liver and *right groin*." 631. "Sharp stitches in the region of the liver." 632. "Dull stitch, frequent, in a small spot in the region of the liver, with sensation of soreness to the touch." 633. "A squeezing stitching in the region of the liver." 634. "Stinging beating on a rib on the *right side* in the line from the pit of the stomach." This induced me to give Kali C. in formations of an abscess in the *right lower lobe* of lung. 1026. "A pricking pressure in the *right side* of the chest, etc."

"Kali C. has in its provings five symptoms of stitches, etc., on the *right side* to about one on the *left side*. The characteristic symptoms of the Kali C. chest symptoms are the stitches extending into the liver, or through to the back, and in pneumonia (*right side*), the inflammation extending *downward*, I found Kali C. the specific remedy."

Response.

We take up the points in this in the order they are presented. In regard to what is said of Bryonia we have not had sufficient experience with it, since prescribing more especially by the locality and direction of symptoms, to speak with that positiveness we would like. Of Spigelia, however, we can talk more decidedly. A case will be found under the head of "Confirma-

tions," upon another page of this number, which establishes the location of some of the stitches of this drug in the left chest, and clearly defines that much of its action, as will be seen. Spigelia also has other acute pains in the chest, which are definitely located in the pathogenesis, as will be seen by the following: "Sudden, drawing, stinging pain along the sternum from above downward"; also, "Momentary, violent sticking pain in the left chest toward the clavicle"; and, "Dull, sticking, pinching pain below the right nipple, in the thoracic cavity, from within outward." Whether these are worse from motion is not mentioned in the *Materia Medica*, aside from the fact that they are aggravated by respiration. Now the question arises, are we to entirely ignore these facts as to the localities in which this drug is thus *proved* to act, and prescribe it when there are acute pains at points in the chest where we have no evidence that it does act, simply because of the fact that such pains are "much worse from the least motion"? Is this following the similitum, or prescribing according to the totality of the symptoms, as we all claim should be done? Or is it a *fact*, that the conditions of the aggravations must sometimes govern, without reference to the location of the suffering? If so, it certainly ought to be known to all. Our correspondent is authority that we should hesitate to dispute, in such matters, without feeling very confident of our position. The same reasoning, it would seem, must apply to all other remedies, if it does to the two named.

There are yet other facts also bearing upon this same point. We never saw greater aggravation, from the slightest motion, than was the case with both the Belladonna and the Phosphorus patients, reported in the first number of this volume. Yet these were relieved, yes *cured*, respectively, with these drugs, and as quickly as we ever saw any cases of equal severity. And nothing can be more extreme than the sufferings from motion, in some cases of pleurisy, where one of a dozen or more drugs, according to the totality of the symptoms, may be indicated.

Give us the truth, that is all we care for, and if this shows us in the wrong, in these or other matters, no one will be more pleased than we, provided that the whole truth is made clear to all by the discussion. The illustration of symptoms was started on purpose to elucidate all these intricate points,

and it cannot be possible but that it will accomplish very much in this direction. The more experience we have under it the more certain are we of this, and of its value with all kinds of pains. Recently we obtained a remarkable curative action from Sepia 6^m, one dose, upon the symptom: "Pressure in the upper part of the left side of the chest, toward the axilla, most violent during a strong inspiration; when touching the part it is painful, as if bruised." The patient, a lady, suffered an *entire loss of voice eleven weeks*, had repeated attacks of expectorating blood and pus, like the breaking of abscesses, and had other very serious symptoms, yet her voice was restored, the pain relieved, and she was otherwise much improved, after the entire failure of several other remedies which seemed better indicated, in all else save the pain, than did Sepia.

In what our correspondent says under Lachnanthes, he seems not to have fully understood us. We do not claim that our plan can be made available in cases where the pains cannot be defined or located; nor can it be of use, in a direct way, in the treatment of young children, or older patients laboring under delirium or unconsciousness, as a complication in their cases, unless the disease, or some portion of it, appears upon the surface; then it might be. Indirectly it must, in time, become of some use, even in cases where it is the most difficult to get the location of symptoms, because of its great aid in familiarizing the mind with the entire range of action, and through this with the *tout-ensemble*, of every drug.

In regard to what he says of the action of the four remedies, Borax upon the upper right, Kali Carb. lower right, Sulphur upper left, and Phosphorus lower left lung, we cordially endorse to the following extent. In our next number will be given a highly interesting case treated by Dr. Kenyon of this city, showing the action of Borax in the upper right lung, as illustrated in our last by an arrow extending from before backward in that region. We could not give it in this number, as we intended, the progress of the case making it desirable to know more of it by the lapse of time. Of Kali Carb. we cannot speak from experience upon what this correspondent says of its action upon the lower right lung. From Sulphur we obtained, a year ago, a most remarkable curative action upon a very acute pain in the left lung, posterior to the third and fourth ribs. The patient was a girl of thirteen years, who had

coxalgia in the left hip a year and a half before, from which the limb was drawn up and useless for some three months; had this suppressed under Allopathic treatment by external applications, etc. Soon after, severe pains appeared in the head, principally in the occiput and vertex, causing great suffering at times; from here it settled in the upper portion of the right lung, causing a very acute pain there, also a very annoying and almost always an incessant dry cough evenings, with an entire loss of voice; and, finally, after two or three months' action there, it settled in the left lung at the point named, with a continuance of the cough and aphonia. Well, Sulphur 6^m cured the whole condition, driving the disease back in the order in which it came, to the head and then the hip, with an exact repetition of all the symptoms, and a final drawing up of the limb, though all of much shorter duration than in the first instance, and an entire cure in some three or four months, but all with two doses of this drug in the potency named.

Phosphorus we have prescribed for years in cases where there was pain, more particularly acute pain, in the lower portion of the left lung, *aggravated by lying upon the left side*; and it is no exaggeration to say we must have relieved as many as two hundred to three hundred cases of the kind with it. But this must not be taken as a recommendation to *always* prescribe this drug for such patients, without reference to the other attending symptoms, for Pulsatilla has, so far, the identical conditions of Phos., that is, acute pain in lower left lung, aggravated by lying upon the left side. We must, therefore, go beyond this for the facts to govern in the choice. Among these are, for Phos., generally, black hair and bright black eyes, a thin, delicate and pale, or a dark skin, circumscribed redness of the cheeks, sometimes a brighter redness than natural of the borders of the lips, chronic sore throat or a tendency to it, subject to hoarseness or loss of voice, especially toward evening; flatulency of the stomach, and empty eructations after eating, and a liability to chronic diarrhœa, with the passages occurring generally in the morning or during the forenoon. Pulsatilla, on the contrary, is more prominently called for, in the cases named, where there is light or not very dark hair, blue and dull eyes, thin and light skin, more or less disposed to freckles, and especially *aggravations from eating greasy food*. We remember two cases particularly, of pains in the lower part of

left lung, worse by lying upon the left side, which we cured with Puls., prescribing it especially upon the fact of the patients being unable to eat any fatty food. One of these was a lady upon whom the symptoms had come, under great grief, and with the rest there was almost entire sleeplessness nights, for some weeks. We first gave Ignatia with no effect, then Puls. 1^m, one dose, which brought quiet sleep the night following, and speedily put an end to all other suffering. The other was a case of tuberculous action in the lower left lung, of one year's standing, attended by much purulent expectoration, great emaciation, night sweats, and other equally serious symptoms, yet the whole was arrested by one dose of Puls. 1^m, while the second dose fully restored her, and she is well to this day, now four years since.

To those who will be warned by what we say, we must insist in regard to Phosphorus, that they *must not give it in repeated doses*, in any potency, upon the foregoing indications, or they will surely drive many of these patients into Phthisis, who have not already reached that condition, and will greatly hasten on the disease in those who have, while they may cure all the former, and some of the latter, by due caution in the administration of medicine. Two doses, at intervals of several weeks, will do all that can be done by this drug in such cases, for several months, while a great risk will be run by giving more, as we well know by sad experience.

A CURIOUS FACT.

The great craving of consumptives for *vinegar* is a very common, we might, indeed, say it is almost a universal fact, and yet it is a very curious one, when we come to consider the reasons for it. The fact itself we became familiar with when a boy, from cases of consumption in the neighborhood, and used to hear it commented upon with wonder, that these patients always had such a strong desire for what was regarded as so injurious to them. And after our entrance upon the practice of medicine we, ourselves, used to wonder why it should be, until we found the *cause* for it, which is very simple, and as follows: The blood-corpuscles, as we have already shown in these pages, are always in excess in the blood of consumptives, in consequence of the loss of albumen in their expectoration

and other mucous discharges, and are decolorized and changed into tuberculous corpuscles, if they are not wholly broken down and dissolved. Well, there is scarcely any other article known, in the whole range of chemical agents, which exerts so powerful an effect in dissolving and utterly destroying the blood-corpuscles, as *acetic acid*; and it will do this when in a very dilute form. Here, then, is the whole explanation of this point. Through Nature's dictation these patients crave this article to enable them to destroy in part what is more or less rapidly destroying them. And how much wiser Nature is than men have hitherto been in regard to the appetites, especially the persistent cravings, of the sick.

Because of this fact, and since we learned it, we have allowed all our consumptive patients to gratify this appetite in a *moderate* degree. But this must not be taken as a license for the indiscriminate use of vinegar, for the following reason: If used too freely it will increase the cause of all the trouble. Why? Because when undiluted it will destroy the epithelial cells it comes in contact with, almost as rapidly as the more diluted will the blood-corpuscles, thus irritating and abrading the mucous membrane of the throat, œsophagus and stomach, and thereby give rise to a further loss of albumen, which is already the prime cause of the whole difficulty.

The same reasoning holds for other diseases, more especially the chronic, where there is a loss of albumen, and a craving for vinegar. And it becomes an interesting question now, to settle by a sufficient number of cases, as to whether patients suffering from Bright's disease—in whom the blood is so watery, for reasons already given in these pages, that the blood-corpuscles left in excess are all thereby so much more readily dissolved and prevented from becoming tuberculous corpuscles—have as strong appetites for vinegar as consumptives. We think it will be found they do not, still have not a sufficient number of facts in the matter to speak with any assurance.

To cure such craving, the mucous membranes must be *healed* through internal *specific* medication, and thereby stop the loss of albumen, which, as already stated, is the primary cause of the consumptive action and all that follows in the case; while the necessity which exists for the destruction of the excess of blood-corpuscles is the special cause of this appetite.

REVIEW.

An examination of the Hypothesis of Central Heat in the Earth, and of the assumed connection of Volcanoes and Earthquakes therewith.*
By R. W. HASKINS, A. M. Buffalo, N. Y., Printing House of Matthews & Warren, 1869.

Such is the title of a pamphlet of twenty-five pages, a copy of which the author kindly furnished us. In appearance it is a model of typographical neatness, and its matter cannot certainly be less attractive to scientific minds.

If anything more were required, after the writings and mathematical calculations of Poisson, Lyell and others, to annihilate the absurd doctrine of Central Heat in the Earth, and the assumed connection of Volcanoes and Earthquakes therewith, from the minds of intelligent men—and it appears to be needed, for great numbers of intelligent men still believe in the absurdity—it would seem that this pamphlet must do the work most effectually. Though this is not a medical subject, and we have little space to spare for such matters, we will give our readers the advantage of two or three points in the argument, for their general scientific interest.

I. The author calls attention to the eruption of the volcano under the sea, which took place off Sicily in 1831, and the earthquake which destroyed Lisbon, opening the earth under the Atlantic and driving *flame* and vapor up through the waters above the surface of the ocean, but with the sea almost immediately settling quietly in each instance *over* and *into* the craters or fissures thus formed. Then he cites the acknowledged fact in metallurgy, that "a single drop of water falling into a furnace of melted copper would destroy an entire building"; and asks, if such are the facts, what would be the result of an entire ocean pouring its contents vertically downward through the craters or openings caused by these volcanoes, upon a globe of incandescent matter over 7,700 miles in

*When attending our first course of medical lectures, we were indoctrinated into a belief in the theory of "Central Heat," by the professor of Geology, and found it some labor to unlearn what we were then told was a well established fact, hence give place to this review here in the hope of aiding others out of the error. It was written nearly a year since but we could not before make room for it.

diameter? To understand this point in all its magnitude the reader must bear in mind that this assumed molten mass in the center of our globe, is, at the lowest estimate, over *one hundred times hotter* than melted copper. Well may our author exclaim, that if it was a *fact* that these warring elements were brought together in the enormous quantities which a literal interpretation of the theory calls for, "such explosions would be produced as to utterly destroy the theoretical 'crust of the earth,' leaving no fragments, even, upon which man could longer dwell."

II. Another equally strong point the author makes is the existence of the two volcanoes Maunna Loa and Kilauea upon the *same* mountain, in Hawaii, Sandwich Islands, only a few miles from each other, with the mouth of the crater Maunna Loa standing *eleven thousand feet*, over two miles, *above* the bottom of the crater Kilauea; yet during the eruption of the former in January, 1859, when "the mass of lava and stones were projected *one thousand feet* into the air, above the mouth of the crater," and in such great volume that the seething torrent flowed forty miles and into the sea, the lava at the *bottom* of Kilauea was "*steadily* but constantly boiling," as it had done for years, without giving "the least sign of disturbance," and as though nothing was transpiring in its vicinity. And this, too, notwithstanding it had an open vent of *more than three miles in diameter*, and lay, as will be seen, twelve thousand feet *below* the point to which lava was forced up in such quantity at so short a distance from it. Can anything be more absurd than to suppose that these two volcanoes are connected with the same melted mass only one hundred miles,* or less, distant beneath the surface of our globe, and the higher one of the two be so active, while the lower remained so entirely quiet?

III. A third point which the author makes and *proves* by the best authorities is, that the deep seas are almost universally *colder* at the *bottom* than on the surface, and that this difference is often very marked.

If more were needed upon this subject,—but it does not

*The author takes the average of several different calculations upon the thickness of the "earth's crust."

seem there can be,—we would ourselves ask the advocates of assumed Central Heat as a cause of volcanic action, how it could have happened that the eruption of Jorullo, in Mexico, in the year 1759, could have driven through the hundred miles of the asserted crust of the earth, and forced up what was previously a quiet cultivated plain to the height of sixteen hundred feet in one place, and formed six volcanic cones, when there were the open volcanoes Colima to the west, and Popocatepetl to the east, and each within less than twice the distance from Jorullo, of the thickness of *solid rock*, which the latter must have had to burst its way through, to get vent, if the old theory is true? The same holds good of the eruption under the sea off Sicily, already referred to, with both Vesuvius and Etna, as open volcanoes, almost in the immediate neighborhood. What law of fluid matter is there that would cause it to act so strangely? As well might we assume, that the steam in a steam engine would burst through the sides (crust) of the strongest boiler or steam chest, when all the escape valves were open, as to assume that molten matter in our earth would act thus in violation of all the laws and facts governing the movements of fluids.

The truth is, when volcanoes are attributed to their more probable cause, namely, the bringing together of the warring elements of chemistry, in vast quantities, by underground streams, of which many are known, science will not suffer, and mankind may be instructed.

ERRATA.

On page 94, in our last, or April number, seventeenth line from the top, for "which" read whom. A few other errors which were self-evident, so did not effect the sense of the text, and which in the multiplicity of our duties we could not spare the time to correct, have also occasionally crept into these pages, but this one so annoyed us, that we went back to our manuscript to see if the fault was ours, and found it there plainly written whom; though it was overlooked in the hurry of reading proof. Still the publishers have taken very great pains to avoid all mistakes, and we feel under many obligations to them for their uniform courtesy, and the care they have shown to make their part of the work unexceptionable.

THE DELAY in this number has been unavoidable, and in consequence of it there must be a corresponding delay in the next number.

THE

Homœopathic Quarterly.

VOL. II.

BUFFALO, OCTOBER, 1870.

No. 4.

AN ILLUSTRATED REPERTORY.

We complete upon the next page the illustrations of the darting pains in the chest, by giving a view of those in the back, but as no proper division can be made in these, with reference to the chest alone, the whole length of the back is given, and the corresponding pains for all parts thereof.

It will be seen that there are three new characters upon this plate not before used. Their explanation is as follows: The figure of a miniature *spade* signifies a *digging* pain; or, when placed upon an arrow, as in this instance, to illustrate a symptom of Aconite, extending down the left side of the spine, it is to represent a digging in connection with the "sticking" pain. The figure of the *cork-screw* is to illustrate a *boring* pain; with the arrow, a boring stitch. And the *ring*, with a short bar through it, upon either scapula, to illustrate a symptom of Rhus Tox, stands for a sensation of *tension*, or a "tensive stitch," as it is there used.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year of our Lord 1870, by ROLLIN E. GREGG, M. D., in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of New York.