

symptoms, placed in their proper relations, gives a fair idea of the prover's condition but when the symptoms are placed in a schema, they could be found only by searching under no less than four of its divisions, *i. e.*, Generalities, Mind, Limbs and Face, and there would be no means of knowing that these symptoms occurred simultaneously, or bore any relation to one another. Therefore, while it is convenient for many reasons to have the *Materia Medica* arranged in schema form, yet it is not the ideal way, and in order that a correct knowledge of the true action of a drug may be obtained—especially the general sphere of action, and the sequence of symptoms, so far as the latter is practicable—the daily record of each prover must be studied.

Again, not only is it necessary to work with the prover's record for the above reasons; but, also, that something may be known about the prover himself, his physical condition previous to the proving and during its continuance, whether he faithfully carried out his work, whether he used alcohol or narcotics, any variations in the doses taken, and the preparations of the drug used. All of these are points necessary to be known to those who would revise our *Materia Medica*. Such, then, is the value of the original provings, and such their necessity in this work. Where are they to be obtained?

Carefully printed copies of the provings of many substances may be found scattered throughout the literature of our school, but, fortunately for the student of *Materia Medica*, the work of collecting these into compact form has been performed by Drs. Dake and Hughes, and in the *Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesis* we possess a great mass of material in excellent form for this work of revision, and to this everyone may have access.

"The *Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesis*, without doubt the first and prime essential of a complete *materia medica*, is the mine out of which must be dug the materials of all future *materia medica*s; and, unless this has been taken as the foundation, no treatise on *Materia Medica* should in future be considered worthy of acceptance."—(Dr. Hayward, "The *Materia Medica* of the Future," *N. A. Journal of Homœopathy*, September, 1889.)

As an illustration of the value of the original record in the revision of the *materia medica*, turn to the article on Chromium in the *Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesis*. Here are given in full the effects of the drug upon twelve workers in bichromate of potash, while in other works of reference the effects upon all these persons are commingled and given under one head, inseparable. When it is considered that the *number* of persons who prove a drug is a very important element in revision work, the significance of having complete records is clearly seen.

PRINCIPLE II. *No proving shall be made use of when the preparation of the drug has been diluted above the 12th decimal.*

In adopting this rule it is not intended to assert that higher dilutions do not produce symptoms—the question of potency is not entered upon, but left to the test of experience and scientific research. It is evident, however, that there must be a fixed point of drug dilution beyond which no provings will be made use of, if only for practical reasons, leaving theoretical matters out of the question. It is an impossible task, if it were a wise one, to revise the *Materia Medica* on the present lines, if all provings be accepted. It has been deemed necessary, then, to fix such a point at the 12th decimal dilution, and, while this action may be deemed arbitrary, it is yet reasonable, for, while it takes in all the lower preparations, it also reaches well up towards the higher.*

Remember that the limit was decided upon by a vote of the American Institute of Homœopathy, in the discussion preceding the publication of the *Cyclopædia*, and has been carried out by the editors. Those, therefore, who are now working in the line of *Materia Medica* revision in accordance with the above principle are only carrying out the rule adopted by the representatives of a majority of the physicians of our school.

"Well," says Dr. Richard Hughes, "I do not disclaim any proving above the 12th (dec.), but my feeling is that a line of separation here would be best received by the profession in England, and I was assured that it is the same in this country. Those who believe in the efficacy of high potencies can still receive and study the effects of drugs in more tangible form, which are acceptable to the vast majority of our school, and I think that more harm would be done by offending these than by disappointing those."†

The present method of revision claims to be a scientific one; as said above, scientific work must have that which is certain for a foundation; all are agreed that positive symptoms may be obtained from preparations of a drug as far as the 12th decimal; many claim that above this point drugs cannot be relied upon to produce symptoms in the healthy; therefore it follows, logically, that a proving made with an attenuation above the 12th decimal, not being acknowledged truth, cannot properly be used as a basis for a scientific revision of the *Materia Medica*.

It has been claimed by some, that inasmuch as no symptom is

*The adoption of the rule was absolutely necessary for the preparation of such a work as the *Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesis*.

†Transactions American Institute of Homœopathy, 1884.

retained in the completed work unless a certain proportion of the provers experienced it, therefore any false symptom, not having been noted by the proportion of provers agreed upon, would be dropped.

This claim, while specious, is misleading, for the reason that every drug prover records a variable number of symptoms not due to the drug, which, in the absence of a preliminary health record, cannot be separated from those caused by the drug, and will often reach the proportion necessary to be placed in the final synthesis. While there are a few persons with such delicate organism as to be affected by the higher attenuations (above the 12th dec.), yet it is very probable that provings made with these preparations, without regard to such susceptibilities, will consist chiefly of false symptoms.

The result of using such provings, then, will be the retention of a vast mass of false symptoms in the completed Materia Medica. By adhering to the limit set, however, while some valuable symptoms may possibly be omitted for the present, or rather await verification, yet what is retained is true and reliable.

This is the important point in Materia Medica revision; that every symptom finally recorded shall have been put to such tests that no reasonable doubt shall exist as to its value and genuineness. It therefore seems wise that revision work shall be governed by the rule adopted by the American Institute, and followed by Drs. Dake and Hughes in their *Cyclopædia*, fixing the limit at the twelfth decimal preparation.

PRINCIPLE III. *Every symptom is retained which occurs in the provings of two or more persons.*

PRINCIPLE IV. *Every symptom shall have appended a figure or "exponent," showing in the provings of how many persons this symptom appeared.*

The principle reveals the central thought of Materia Medica reform, *i. e.*, comparison of provings and the retention of those symptoms only wherein the provers agree.

It is hoped and believed that, by the adoption of this plan, a large number of unreliable symptoms will be dropped, and the genuine retained, since the true drug symptoms, or at least some of them, will appear in every good proving. The idea is to compare all the provings of a drug, and note how many of them contain the same symptoms. Thus by a simple but scientific method a symptomatology of a drug is built up, not containing a vast array of symptoms, but those actually produced by the drug selected.

It is an important question which at this point arises for

decision—what proportion of the provers of a drug must have produced a given symptom, that such symptom may be retained in the Materia Medica?

In answer to this, various suggestions have been offered. Twenty-five per cent. of all the provers, twenty-five per cent. of the observer's recording effects on the anatomical groups, and eight per cent. have advocates; but it is difficult for various workers to settle upon any one proportion, when the rule is not only an arbitrary one, but not found to work well in practice.

It would astonish one who has not studied this subject, to know how many symptoms now recorded in our various works on Materia Medica occur in the records of but one prover. Were these to be thrown out, the volume of the present Materia Medica would be reduced more than one-half, and if all symptoms which were experienced by only two provers be rejected, nothing will be left of the symptomatology of most substances except the barest skeleton. Take, for instance, *Argentum Nitricum* (see *Hahnemann Monthly*, December, 1889). As this pathogenesis stands, there are one hundred and forty-six symptoms recorded. Now if all those experienced by two provers only be omitted, there remain but eighty, and this drug had sixteen provers. If twenty-five per cent. of the provers—in this case four—must experience a symptom in order that it be retained, only twenty-six symptoms would remain, and those not the most characteristic.

It is evident, then, that to fix upon any particular percentage is very difficult, and therefore, it seems best to admit all symptoms experienced by two or more provers.

By this plan, many valuable symptoms are retained that would otherwise be put aside among those awaiting verification, *i. e.*, those experienced by but one prover.

The method does away also, with the necessity of deciding upon a percentage, since the figure affixed to each symptom (the exponent) enables the student—the number of provers being given—to perceive the percentage for himself. He is then at liberty to cast aside all symptoms that do not occur in a sufficient number of provings to reach his standard.

The figure attached to each symptom gives it an added value, gives it a character of its own, as compared with the usual custom, enabling one to see at a glance the chief effects of the remedy, and which of its symptoms are those most characteristic.

It is not supposed that no objection will be found to this plan of revision, but it seems clear that a Materia Medica built on this foundation will be of great value as far as it goes, forming

a basis for future work. Even at present it will be welcomed by earnest students of all schools of medicine, as showing the real effects of medicinal substances on the human body.

PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS.

A proving of *Parthenium Hysterophorus* by Dr. B. H. B. Sleight, of Newark, N. J., was published in the May number of THE RECORDER of the year 1886. It excited but little attention at the time, and to-day, probably, nine out of ten physicians know nothing of the remedy, for it is not mentioned in any of the text-books. It has one very marked symptom that should commend it to every practitioner and rescue it from oblivion, for the simple reason that no other remedy has the same symptoms so prominent, if at all. The marked symptom is "teeth on edge." We cannot reprint the entire proving, but the following is a sketch of it: Five drops of the tincture produced at once a full feeling in the head, pressing from within. Ringing in the ears followed; then, "upper teeth feel 'on edge.'" "Upper incisors tender at socket when biting." "Sudden pain in upper teeth." "Pain in frontal eminence has returned and continued. Teeth 'on edge' and tenderness in sockets. Upper incisors ache as after filling. Teeth feel too long." On the following day; "Same tenderness at sockets of upper incisors when biting." "Upper teeth all ache and feel too long." "Aching in lower left molars." "Teeth 'on edge.'" Again, after three days, on taking two and half drachms: "Upper incisors commence to ache. Aching and bursting pain in nose remains; nose feels swollen." "Teeth 'on edge.'" There were, of course, other symptoms, but the one noted stands out with peculiar prominence. *Parthenium Hysterophorus* is a Cuban plant.

AVENA SATIVA.

A New York physician who used *Avena Sativa* in large quantities was asked to write up his experience for the RECORDER, but "hadn't time." He gave, however, a verbal report of his experience with the remedy, and here it is.

The tincture of oats, *Avena Sativa*, has as its characteristic action a decided tonic effect upon the entire nervous system,

possessing likewise the properties of an opiate without any disastrous effects. It has been found to be most beneficial in cases of nervous prostration, general debility and nocturnal emissions. Given in doses of from 10 to 20 drops of the mother tincture, three or four times daily, it rarely fails to give immediate relief and frequently makes a complete cure if persevered in. In cases of prostration, resulting from sexual excess, causing weakness and sleeplessness, its use is especially recommended. In the case of a patient, who had become addicted to the excessive use of morphine, the tincture of *Avena* was given in small doses, which were gradually increased as the quantity of morphine consumed was correspondingly diminished, until the use of the morphine was entirely discarded and the patient kept on *Avena* for some weeks without experiencing any of the bad results the abrupt discontinuation of the drug would have caused. *Avena* was then stopped and the patient discharged cured. The use of *Avena* tincture can at any time be abruptly suspended without any evil consequences, even though the patient consumes as much as 120 drops a day; at the same time it possesses the quieting properties of morphine and similar drugs without the danger of contracting a "habit," necessitating its continued use.

The only aggravating symptom resulting from an overdose, that has been noted, is a dull, heavy pain in the back of the head, which disappears upon reducing or discontinuing the medicine. This symptom, however, is very rare.

Avena must be given in appreciable doses, rarely less than five drops of the mother tincture, the average dose being from 10 to 20 drops, which should be given in a little water. Hot water is to be preferred, as it seems to increase the activity of the remedy.

SOLANUM CAROLINENSE.

THE RECORDER for July, 1890 (p. 181), contained an interesting account of the popular use of the *Solanum Carolinense*, popularly known as the "horse-nettle," in the treatment of chronic epilepsy, and also of its use in practice by Dr. Napier, of Blenheim, S. C. He gave the tincture to a woman who had been epileptic all her life, especially during the menstrual flow, and no further trouble was experienced, save a threatened convulsion on the third day. Another case, that of a dwarfed, ill-formed child who had been epileptic all its life, and after an

attack of typhoid fever went into a decline, the epileptic convulsions becoming harder and frequenter, was put on the tincture of horse-nettle berries, after which there were no further convulsions. Nothing further was heard of the newcomer until Dr. W. Grebe, of Richmond, Va., wrote an account of a case treated by him to *Notes on New Remedies* (January, 1891). He writes:

"Two years ago last Christmas the first attacks appeared in patient [a boy of fourteen], at which time he was under my treatment for about six weeks; then the father was advised to engage a Homœopathic physician, who promised a cure in a short time, but gave up the case after eleven months; an Allopathic physician was then engaged, who treated the case several months and also unsuccessfully. The father brought the boy to me again, just at the time I read about the horse-nettle berries, and after getting a supply I commenced using them. Of the tincture the boy took 40 drops three times daily, and he has not only had no attacks in over nine weeks, but he is also generally improved in health; I have the greatest hope that he will be entirely cured of this terrible disease."

When it is remembered that remedies like *Hydrastis* and *Hamamelis* were long in popular use before being taken up by the medical profession it will be an argument for a proving and investigation of the popular negro remedy, *Solanum Carolinense*.

ALOES.

Dr. Jekyll, in our esteemed contemporary the *Journal of Homœopathics*, finds in *Aloes* a remedy of great use and scope: "For a long time I have considered that *Aloes* is the most valuable remedy in the whole *Materia Medica* with which to begin the treatment of most of the chronic diseases that come into our hands, and especially those that come from the hands of the 'regulars,' where a wholesale drugging has taken place and the symptoms are so obscured that it is impossible to separate the disease symptoms from those of the drugs that have been administered; or in those cases where the disease has been suppressed by improper doses, or by the profuse use of external applications." He illustrates the use of the remedy with three clinical cases. One was a very ill young man, who at the age of six had been "cured" of the itch by sulphur and sulphur ointment; (how about Hahnemann's "mistake" concerning the itch?) seven doses of *Aloes* brought out a fine case of itch, from head

to foot, which was then cured by *Sulphur* in high potency. The second case was one of suppressed measles, *Aloes* brought out an eruption and *Pulsatilla* cured. The third case was one of Allopathically cured chancroid; *Aloes* brought it out again, and *Nitric Acid* permanently cured. The Doctor concludes: "I think that these cases are sufficient to establish the value of *Aloes*; if not, I can give any number of a like character." The potency administered was the one-thousandth in each instance—seven doses in seven days, then sac-lac until the eruption appeared, which was generally within a week.

A DISCOVERY.

It was a beautiful spring day. Overhead spread a blue sky adorned with fleecy white clouds, the air was vernal, the trees and flowers full of youth's vigor, and the sunshine seemed to be the golden life of everything, bountifully flung down to all creatures alike, and all were happy, even the moss-grown rocks appeared so; all but the farmer, the observant crow thought. The farmer was dropping corn into the ground and covering it up, and the crow with an honest belief that all things of the earth were for the benefit of earth's creatures, had been helping himself freely. The crow's philosophy put into practice angered the farmer exceedingly, and he threw stones, and shouted at the crow. The latter did not mind this much, but when the farmer got out a gun he departed, the more willingly as his crop was full, and that was all he asked. He was a shrewd bird with keen eyes and a faculty of close observation. Sailing luxuriously through the air of blue and gold, observing the world beneath him, he detected a horse lying in a neglected spot. Wishing to observe a little closer, he circled around lower and lower, and finally alighted. A closer view showed him that the horse was dead. So he hopped up on the carcass and studied it. Then he made a famous discovery, and his heart swelled with pride. While in this condition a sparrow, which was taking a summer outing and bullying everything high and low, happened along, and said, "Hullo! what are you doing there, you black crow, you?"

The crow observed who spoke, and, full of the exaltation of a discoverer, replied, "I think I have made a most important discovery."

"Have you?" replied the sparrow, forgetting his bad manners in his curiosity, "What is it?"

"Do you observe those white objects crawling about on the carcass of this horse? See, there are myriads of them." Thus spake the crow when the sparrow joined him.

"Of course; them's nothing but maggots."

"Nay, my friend, they are microbes."

"Rats!" shouted the feathered hoodlum; having thus asserted his independence, he asked, "What's microbes?"

"Microbes, my dear sir, are the origin or the cause of sickness, and consequently of death. At first glance it may appear as though these microbes were the result of decay or death, but this is an unscientific error, and, in the light of my 'researches,' unworthy of credence."

"Is that so?" replied the now thoroughly subdued sparrow.

"There can, scientifically speaking, be no doubt of it," replied the crow. I have frequently noticed, and so have other observers, on the shoulders of horses 'sore spots,' as they are vulgarly called, and in these spots the same microbes, though fewer in numbers, that we observe here. Now, the deduction is obvious and conclusive. These microbe infected spots on the still living animal were to all intents the same as we see the entire animal to be at present. Now, the whole gist of the matter is this: These microbes are the cause of the disease, and if we can discover a means of destroying them we have conquered disease."

"Well, I'm blown!" exclaimed the sparrow, lapsing into the language of his English progenitors. Then he hastened back to town and spread the discovery from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. * * *

RHUS TOXICODENDRON.

This remedy is not a "new discovery" after all, for here is Dr. John A. Henning, in the *Medical Summary*, who has known and prescribed it for fifteen years! His indication for it is as follows: "The first leading and important indication is when the tongue is tremulous or quivering, with rose-colored bubbles of the papillæ at the tip and edges, and is nearly always elongated, with a dirty-white fur in the centre. This tongue is seen in many forms of acute diseases, either in fevers or inflammations. It is also observed in some chronic diseases." Among the ailments for which he prescribes it are the following:

"My observation leads me to conclude that Rhus is the best

brain and nerve stimulant and tonic in the *Materia Medica*. I have made some brilliant cures in congestion of the brain with this remedy when others failed. Mr. W., aged 50 years, was down with active congestion of the brain. The attending physician gave him up to die. I saw him in consultation. The tongue was tremulous, with prominent papillæ on the tip and edges. Rhus was the leading remedy. He completely recovered in a reasonable time.

"Then it is also a splendid remedy in paralysis when indicated, being a nerve stimulant. Why should it not be? It matters not what form of paralysis we have, just so it is indicated. About a year ago Mr. B., aged 40, had paraplegia, both lower limbs being useless. Rhus was indicated as the leading remedy. It effected a cure. W., aged 46, last June was suddenly paralyzed on the left side, caused by active congestion of the upper lobe of right brain, which came from being overheated. Rhus was indicated and was the leading remedy.

"Business men, brain workers, come into my office and say, 'I am played out, brain-fagged.' Here the rhus and nux will soon restore him. Ladies tell me 'I am so weak the least exertion I give out.' Insomnia, tongue tremulous, look pale, despondent. Rhus and cactus will give immediate relief. Children when teething are nervous, irritable stomach, pointed tongue, restless at night. Rhus is the remedy. It is a grand remedy. Remember, give small doses frequently repeated, and continue it until it brings the desired results. It will never disappoint you. This is my experience at the bedside."

Our Allopathic friends are to be congratulated on the progress they are making. But there are vast Homœopathic preserves as yet untouched by their gunners.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A DEFENCE OF HYPNOTISM.

EDITOR OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER.

Your January number is just to hand—bright and fresh as ever. You give all sides fair play, from those who would improve our *Materia Medica* to the bulk of a pocket receipt book to those who wish it to be still further enlarged. But there is one passage in the review of Dr. Holcombe's novel,

which does not seem to be in keeping with a progressive scientific periodical at the present day. I refer to the sentence in which I think your reviewer must have written without due consideration—speaking of hypnotism. “Our opinion (perhaps out of place in a book notice), is, that the power must be an evil one at all times—the utter loss of free-will and rationality, and the substitution of another’s will is, while it lasts, far worse than bodily slavery.” If the writer had given any thought to the matter he would have seen that the mental slavery, which seems to make him shudder, is just what exists at the present time to a great degree, and always has existed. Under an autocratic government is not an entire nation swayed by the will of one man? Is not an army controlled by the will of the commander? It is only a small proportion of mankind that has the privilege of thinking for themselves, and to a limited degree, exercising their own will. Most of us are very considerably controlled by the force of “Public opinion.” Our education is based on the effect of hypnotic “suggestion” or assertion by our teachers. As school children, or students, we believe, the assertions of our instructors, and continue to believe them until, in many cases, experience or further scientific discovery convinces us that we have been believing, all these years, that which is not true. In religion it is the same; from infancy up we are taught to implicitly believe the original snake and fish stories, and to attribute to a merciful and loving Creator such horrible doctrines as Divine *wrath*, *everlasting* punishment and *infant* damnation. Many pass through life without gaining freedom in this respect. What freedom has a devout Roman Catholic in religious matters?

Again, who are the successful men, in a commercial sense? Men of strong will, who can control others to their own advantage; frequently men of very limited education and possessing few ideas; but all their faculties and will power are concentrated on one object—making money, and they generally succeed.

Then, as to hypnotism being “evil,” because it may be put to a bad use; is not this too weak? Ether, chloroform, alcohol and all the poisons might be dubbed evil for the same reason, for they are frequently used for evil purposes; but they are all blessings when properly used, and where would Homœopathy be if there were no poisons? If hypnotism is a psychological fact, as is now generally admitted, it must be a gift of the Great Architect of the Universe, and must, therefore, be a blessing, and not a curse. The true way to prevent its possible abuse is to properly educate the people; to teach them to *think* for them-

selves, and not to merely imperfectly repeat, like so many parrots, the thoughts of others. Then they would be able to maintain such a positive state of mind as would enable them to withstand the assaults of any hypnotist who might happen to be worse than themselves. Hypnotism, as a perfect anæsthetic and reliever of suffering, has a glorious future before it. Trusting to your known sense of fairness, I hope you will publish these few lines in defence of a struggling and much-abused truth, I beg to subscribe myself.

R. BEWLEY, M. D.

Philadelphia, January 28, 1891.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY AND THE INTERNATIONAL HOMŒO- PATHIC CONGRESS.

Secretary's Notice.

EDITOR OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER:

The American Institute of Homœopathy will hold its forty-fourth annual session and celebrates its forty-eighth anniversary, in conjunction with the fourth quinquennial International Homœopathic Congress, at Atlantic City, New Jersey, beginning on Tuesday morning, June 16th, 1891. In accordance with action taken at its last session, the Institute will transact, as far as possible, its necessary routine business on that day, and the International Congress will assemble on the following morning. The sessions of the latter will occupy the morning and afternoon of each day (Sunday excepted) until Tuesday, June 23d. This arrangement of the business of the Institute makes it necessary that all the standing and special committees should have their reports in readiness before the opening of the session. But it should be noticed that all *scientific* reports of committees and bureaus appointed last year will be deferred until the session of 1892, thus giving place to the scientific work of the Congress.

All members of Homœopathic medical societies will have equal rights as members of the Congress and equal privileges in the transaction of its business and in its discussions, under such rules as may be adopted for the government thereof. The transactions will be published by the American Institute of Homœopathy, and furnished to physicians on such terms as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

It is expected that the proceedings of the Congress will be of the most interesting and important character. While General Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and the Specialties will have their place in the discussions, the interests of Homœopathy will fur-

nish the main topics for consideration. It is proposed that one entire day—"Materia Medica Day"—shall be devoted to the subject of the Homœopathic Materia Medica, and the consideration of the questions pertaining to its present status and its further improvement. Homœopathic Therapeutics will also claim a large share of attention, while some of the subjects upon which the Homœopathic school is known to hold a distinctive position will be presented and considered. The essays and addresses on all of these subjects will be presented by physicians carefully chosen by the committee having the matter in charge, and the discussions will be participated in by some of the physicians most distinguished in each department. Arrangements are in progress to secure reports of condition and advancement of Homœopathy in all the countries of the civilized world.

A word as to the place of meeting. Atlantic City, as is well known, extends for a distance of two or three miles along the seacoast of New Jersey, sixty miles southeast of Philadelphia, with which it communicates by three lines of railway and scores of trains daily, most of which make the distance in ninety minutes. New York and Baltimore are within four or five hours' ride, while within a radius of four hundred miles there are nearly four thousand Homœopathic physicians. Atlantic City has, during "the season," a larger patronage than any other of our seacoast resorts, her visitors coming from all quarters of the country, but chiefly from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the West and South. She has ample hotel accommodations for twenty-five thousand guests. The United States Hotel, which will be the headquarters of the Congress and the place of its meetings, is a new structure, located one square from the beach and within full view of the ocean. It has accommodations for eight hundred guests, and the "pavilion," in which the Congress will assemble, is a large room on the first floor, with a seating capacity for eight hundred persons. The meeting of Congress will occur during "the season," but the United States Hotel will be practically at our exclusive disposal. The scientific and social features of the meeting, and the attractions of Atlantic City as a health and pleasure resort, render it probable that this Congress will be, by far, the largest gathering of Homœopathic physicians ever convened. It is especially suggested that the occasion will furnish an unusual opportunity for our physicians to combine the profit of a scientific convention with the pleasures and benefits of a vacation, both for themselves and their families.

PEMBERTON DUDLEY, M.D.,

General Secretary, A. I. H.

S. W. Cor. 15th and Master Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

A DELAYED BUT INTERESTING LETTER.

EDITOR HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER:

It would be of interest, perhaps, to our Eastern brethren to know something of the condition of Homœopathy in the new State of Washington.

The "Far West" is considered by many Eastern people to be but the abode of lawless men and untutored savages—a boundless waste of unknown country where wild beasts roam at will amid the illimitable forests, and the red man holds undivided control of his native fastnesses. But the march of irresistible progress, as the "Star of Empire," has swept over the "boundless West" and reared many magnificent monuments as marks of intelligence and indomitable energy of its people. From the East have come men of brain and brawn, and leveled forests, planted cities and laid the foundation and reared the beginning of a superstructure of a mighty commonwealth.

Along with the tide came Homœopathy, and with characteristic strides marched in the van. From one the practitioners increased, until to-day we have about fifty Homœopathic physicians in the State. To meet the demands of the times, State and local societies have sprung up, which are to-day well organized and in excellent, harmonious working order.

The annual meeting of the State society, at Tacoma, was well attended and a number of excellent papers read and discussed, as well as various questions of local interest. In the evening a banquet was tendered the visitors by the resident physicians. The next meeting of the society will be held at Spokane Falls, the first Tuesday in May, 1891.

During the legislative convention of the Senate and House at the State Capital, we struggled hard against the bitterest opposition and underhand machinations (of our friends the enemy) to get separate boards of medical examiners, but succeeded in all but that. The appointments were made by the Governor giving the different schools (Homœopathy, Allopathy and Eclectic) equal representation on the Board—three each. The president, however, is a Homœopath—Dr. C. Munson, of Tacoma.

While everything appears bright and prosperous, we are not satisfied with the single board system, but will renew the attempt to gain separate examining boards in the fullness of time.

F. W. SOUTHWORTH, M.D.,

Secretary State Homœopathic Society.

Rooms 4 and 5 Gross Block, Tacoma, Wash.