

giving the last medicine having then expired. The pocket-case which I carried in traveling did not contain *Cina*, so I was compelled to take *Cina* from a medicine chest belonging to the family, which contained pellets prepared by *Starke*, of Silberberg, and had been purchased twelve years before, but used only rarely. The bottle containing *Cina* was still filled to the top. The patient was directed to take three pellets in six spoonfuls of water, taking a spoonful morning and evening. If an aggravation set in, she should intermit in taking the medicine, and should wait and report, but if her customary ailments continued, or an improvement appeared and continued, she should continue the use of the medicine and report later.

Now, if I had heard through the report received three weeks later, that also this remedy had been ineffectual, from mistrust of the preparation used, I would have prescribed and sent *Cina* from my more reliable supply of medicines, rather than to have then made a new selection. Luckily, this was not needed. I was informed that even in the first days on which *Cina* was given, there were signs of a cheering improvement, especially in the state of the patient's mind. The tormenting pains in the head, chest and back were much alleviated, and since in the last days menstruation had set in, and the use of the medicine had been interrupted, I was asked what should be done next.

First of all it seemed to be indicated that no medicine should at present be used, and I accordingly sent the necessary instructions and *Sacch. lactis*, requesting information in three weeks, unless the patient's state of health should make an earlier consultation necessary. In three weeks I was informed that the improvement had not been checked, but the patient desired a repetition of the *Cina*, as it seemed to her that this was more efficacious than the powders sent. This request was then granted, and I found no reason for changing from the preparation before used. After six more weeks, new symptoms presented themselves, indicating a new remedy, and *Plumbum met.* and lastly *Alumin.* were used; both remedies had been ineffectually prescribed before, but now after *Cina* had given a favorable impulse they completed the cure. To-day, after three years, this lady is happily married and the mother of a vigorous boy, and she enjoys the best of health.—*Allg. H. Z.*, vol. 60.

ONE FOR THE SURGEONS.

A bungling prescriber does more mischief than his bungling surgical yokemate, but he does it so quietly and so unobtrusively that he escapes much of the odium that attaches to those who wield the knife. A bungling prescriber is not necessarily a practitioner who gives *Aconite* when *Chamomilla* is indicated, or who prescribes mechanically for a supposed pathological condition, but one who does not know the difference between a case for surgery and a case of therapeutics or hygiene.

As this paper will be brief, I shall proceed at once to illustrations.

"Twelve hours after the injury it was found that the patient could not pass water."

This patient had fallen astride a wooden beam and injured the perineum and adjacent tissues. It might have been taken for granted that the urethra was injured, and a careful exploration should have been made, not twelve hours after the injury, but the moment the medical man arrived at the bedside, the urine had burrowed into the tissues, and, although an operation was quickly done twenty hours after the injury, the patient came near dying from subsequent complications, which resulted solely from bungling prescribing.

"My faith in Homœopathy is getting to be pretty low. This rheumatism has bothered me for a week or more. I am now taking *Aconite*, *Rhus* and *Bryonia* did no good. Would *Lithia* water do me any service, do you think?"

Thus spoke a patient who came to consult me from another place. Examination revealed a dislocation of the shoulder-joint. Reduction under an anæsthetic gave prompt and lasting relief. If Hahnemann taught one thing above another, it was that every patient must be carefully and conscientiously examined before a prescription could be honestly made. Here was a case under energetic medical treatment for a whole week, and yet the patient protested that an examination was necessary on account of the certainty of the diagnosis.

One more illustration, and I shall detain you no longer.

A boy of eight had a swelling of the scrotum. The doctor, who attended the family of which the boy was a member, assured all concerned that the trouble was "a gathering of water," which *Apis* would speedily relieve. The trouble grew worse

from month to month. It was, in fact, a congenital rupture complicated by hydrocele of the cord. An operation cured the boy.

Our own school is not alone guilty of these blunders. Perhaps a careful report of old school failures would be quite as discreditable.—Howard Crutcher, M. D., in *St. Louis Journal of Homœopathy*.

BOOK NOTICES AND GOSSIP.

Nynaism. 124 pages. Leatherette. Nyna Publishing Co., Philadelphia, 1896.

Neither *The Century* nor *Dunglison's* dictionaries contain the word "Nynaism," but a key is found to it in the motto of the book which is "Neglect of Hygiene is Negative Suicide." The unknown writer of the book asks the world to be "enrolled" and thus become a "Nynaite," an exponent of Nynaism, pay one dollar for the book and receive your "mark." Nothing hurtful is advocated in the book, and the rules of health, if observed, and the exercises, if carried out, would be very good mild physical training. The object of enrollment is to be an incentive to follow out the rules and keep a record of such physical changes as may be observed to result from them.

"I HAVE said that in the *Cyclopædia Drug Pathogenesy* doubtful provings were expunged, and thus the pretty reliable material is reduced to a comparatively small bulk. But it is a question whether in this weeding-out process some valuable symptoms have not been omitted, symptoms that have been often clinically verified. Such is the opinion of many men who are qualified to judge; and while this feeling exists, the *Cyclopædia Drug Pathogenesy* and its coming Index cannot supersede Allen's *Encyclopædia*, but the latter will be largely employed by practice. One may carry the weeding-out policy too far, and making a more theoretically perfect work, entail the loss of really valuable working material. Many of these expunged symptoms are said to be obtained, not pathogenetically, but from clinical observation. These, strictly speaking, have no place in a pure materia medica, but they are very valuable in themselves; and though discovered by the clinical method, they are found to be true

guides in practice, and are sometimes extremely characteristic of the drug, and of the nature of "key-notes." While, therefore, they have no place in a pure materia medica, they ought not therefore to be set aside. The true way is not to mingle the two sets of symptoms, but to place them together, the clinical ones in footnotes, as in Allen's *Handbook of Materia Medica* or to place these symptoms in a separate paragraph, printed alongside of the pure symptoms of pathogenesy, or in a paragraph immediately following it. The recognition of what are known as primary and secondary symptoms is also important, as one may wish to use one or other according to certain circumstances, and it is probable that in so doing the dose would have to be different. With the *Cyclopædia of Drug Pathogenesy*, and its schematic index, and with Allen's *Encyclopædia* and *Handbook*, we shall have as perfect a presentation of the materia medica as can be looked for, at all events for a long time to come—Dr. D. Dyce Brown, at *International Homœopathic Congress, London, 1896*.

The Materia Medica Journal is the name of the latest born (at present writing) in the family of homœopathic journals. It is edited by Drs. H. C. Allen and W. J. Hawkes. The business end is attended to by Dr. W. W. Stafford, and his address is 100 State St., Chicago, Ill. The first number is an excellent one and confines itself almost exclusively to its text "materia medica," as it should. Its book reviews are well written, and altogether the new journal, if kept up to the standard of the first number, will be a valuable one for all who believe in Homœopathy.

MESSRS. BOERICKE & TAFEL have in press a book by Dr. T. L. Bradford, author of *The Life and Letters of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann*, that will be of unusual historical interest. Dr. Bradford for years has been engaged in collecting all that is known of the pioneer homœopaths in all parts of the world, and the volume in question will contain the results of his labor. It will be a book especially for the scholarly men who take a broad interest in Homœopathy and its history. This work once done will constitute a biographical reference book for future generations. The publishers do not expect it to be a popular book, but like the *Homœopathic Bibliography*, it is a work that is needed by the homœopathic world, and the question of profit has not entered into the question of its publication. No man living can do such

work as well as Dr. Bradford the historian and bibliographer of Homœopathy, and it is a fortunate thing for posterity that he is willing to devote so much of his time to it with no reward save that of working for the good of the great cause. The volume will be out some time towards the end of the year.

"MEDICAL literature has little to offer in the way of books or treatises on chronic diseases, but Homœopathy here, as elsewhere, has set a good example to medicine at large. It may not be known to the younger generation of homœopaths that Hahnemann devoted years of close analytical study to classifying and determining the causes of chronic diseases, and to improving his methods of dealing with them; and that he left, as a monument of his devotion to his art, a work as strikingly original and as characteristic of his genius as anything that he gave the profession. It was the work of his riper years and embodied the results of his vast experience and mature thought. It gives evidence of his comprehensive powers of accurate observation made possible by his unusually long and thorough training; of his wide acquaintance with the writings of his cotemporaries and predecessors; of his thirst for absolute knowledge concerning diseases and their cure; of his earnest desire to benefit suffering humanity; of his ability to patiently analyze, methodically classify and critically investigate obscure phenomena, and of his absolute devotion to his art. His theory concerning the cause of the vast majority of chronic diseases cannot be accepted as satisfactory to-day, but much that he said remains true and useful. If physicians of to-day would follow his example in patiently and earnestly studying the causes of chronic invalidism which seek their advice, the progress of medical art would be more rapid and marked. This work of Hahnemann's, carefully read in the light of the knowledge of to-day, however, will show that very decided progress in the recognition of the ætiological factors concerned in the production of chronic diseased conditions, as well as in the effective treatment of such conditions, has been made since he wrote the work referred to. His famous psora theory, which was never very widely accepted and which has given rise to much controversy, was but a pioneer step in the right direction.—From *Editorial in August, 1896, New England Medical Gazette.*

MEDICAL works that mark eras of progress deserve universal attention; and when they appear in that field which characterizes Homœopathy as a distinct school of medicine, every earnest physician will hasten to test their claims.

The attention of the profession is directed to a new materia medica (*A Regional and Comparative Materia Medica. By John Gilmore Malcolm, M. D., and Oscar Burnham Moss*), which embraces and designates the *characteristics or key-notes*, and the most prominent *special symptoms* by new principles and methods of arrangement. This work gives full and immediate control of the entire homœopathic materia medica without abridging the usual form of the symptomatology. It thus offers quick means for finding the indicated remedy.

The "new idea" consists in grouping in successive chapters all that pertains to the several "regions" or functions of the body as found under the *rubrics* of works on this subject in popular use. Hering's guiding symptoms has *forty-two distinct rubrics* in each chapter; hence the author of this work made *forty-two chapters* and arranged the remedies of each chapter alphabetically, indicating the "characteristics" or "key-notes" by a (*), and the most prominent "special symptoms" by a degree (°); but instead of giving in a single chapter the *action of one drug upon all the regions of the body*, each chapter contains *all the drugs that act upon a single region*.

Doctors usually study their cases by "regions" or "rubrics," hence nothing could be more logical than the above arrangement. One has before his eye at a glance several remedies bearing upon the same subject, while in one short chapter is found the entire symptomatology of any given region, with the remedies arranged alphabetically.

The size and completeness of this work are commendable features, embracing 919 pages and including 260 drugs. Another commendable feature is the *list of remedies*, giving the abbreviated form, the full name, and the pronunciation according to the most recent authorities.

No work of this nature can be above criticism at all points, yet it would seem like an aspersion to attack the fidelity and completeness of this book. We have seen enough to convince us that in this work the homœopathic materia medica reaches the summit of practical usefulness.

W. E. BLOYER, M. D., of Cincinnati, publisher and editor of *The Medical Gleaner*, writes Messrs. Boericke & Tafel, *apropos* of the *Chronic Diseases*, "You deserve much esteem from homœopaths particularly, and the profession generally, for placing so many *good* books at their command."

THE following scattered comments are taken from a paper by Dr. M. Neil, San Francisco, in August *Hahnemann Advocate*. No one is better fitted to write about "books that have helped me," than homœopathic physicians. "The foundation on which all homœopathic therapeutics rests is the *Organon*. Study it frequently and thoroughly."

"For the study of this indispensable (Materia Medica) Farrington's *Clinical Materia Medica* is invaluable, as it renders the subject more attractive and easily remembered. I have no sympathy with the views of those who maintain that you do not need any materia medica in your head. Get all you can there. True, you can only get a small part of it, but that, if well selected, will enable you to save lives when even with your repertories at hand, you would not have time to find the remedy."

"I need not demonstrate to you that you cannot remember all the materia medica, and it is therefore obvious that repertories are indispensable in all difficult cases and more particularly in chronic ones. In fact it is a good rule to always use at least one in every chronic case. The repertory, which is the most indispensable of the thorough study of a difficult case, still remains Bœnninghausen's *Pocket Book*.

"Bell's *Diarrhœa and Dysentery* need no commendations. No man worthy of the name of homœopathic physician is without it."

"EGGERT'S *Uterine and Vaginal Discharges* is an indispensable work to the careful prescriber. Its plan renders it easy to use."

"There is a meritorious repertory on rheumatism that has not received the appreciation it deserves in its field, although therein it is without a competitor, viz: Perkins' *Rheumatism*. I would not be without in a difficult case of that disease."

"Let me say to every homœopath, that when called to the bedside of a parturient woman, you may forget your forceps and you may forget your chloroform bottle, but do not forget Yingling's *Accoucheurs' Emergency Manual*. That is a long name for a little book, but its name is too short for its merits and usefulness. It contains all the knowledge necessary to meet the dangers and delays of dystocia, convulsions, retained placenta, hæmorrhages, after pains, and the primary dangers threatening the infant. Of course I am speaking of the medical treatment, but you will find the better you are prepared for this, the less need there will be for mechanical and surgical measures. It is a marvel of the bookmaker's art, such as only Boericke & Tafel can produce, and it fits the hip pocket beautifully."

"I make no apology for commending to those who do not possess it, the *Homœopathic Therapeutics of Hæmorrhoids*, by Jefferson Guernsey. Those who have it need hear no praise of it. All who use this little book will be under no necessity of practicing that monstrosity, nasty surgery which is no more worthy of countenance than fortune telling."

The Chronic Diseases: Their Peculiar Nature and their Homœopathic Cure. By Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.

Here is a magnificent volume. At first glance there may appear to be the objection that has been offered to the new Homœo-

pathic Text-Book of Surgery, that it is too large. But this objection is fanciful. No book which contains that which the profession needs is too large, if it be handleable at all, and this volume is. It contains sixteen hundred pages, and is of the dimensions of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. No one has allowed that the latter is a large book to disconcert him, and no one should allow the fact that this new edition of *Chronic Diseases*, by Hahnemann, is a large book to disconcert him and prevent him from purchasing it. Hail the day when we are provided with books of value, no matter what their size.

The present volume is a critical translation of the enlarged German edition of Hahnemann's *Chronic Diseases*, issued in 1835. Competent critics proclaim that the translator has done his work well. The book has been edited by Dr. Pemberton Dudley. Those who know him appreciate what this means. The annotations by Hughes add a value to the work, and thus we have an unusually acceptable volume. It was by means of this book that Hahnemann taught his early followers how to build Homœopathy's substantial foundation. He might have preached *similia similibus curantur* till doomsday and not have builded upon it a separate and distinct medical system which to-day occupies an established and honorable place among medical systems did he not exemplify the truth of his law and demonstrate the ability of remedies administered according to it to cure diseases. His largest successes were along the line of chronic ailments, those which had resisted all known treatments. These cures were accomplished by fitting the remedy to the case in every instance. Accuracy of selection was demanded. It was exemplified. Cures resulted. Homœopathy became an established fact. His *Chronic Diseases* tell how these cures were effected. It is really a large symptomatology. He gives the nature of the remedy, its medicinal virtues, its preparation, its mode of action and symptomatology. He describes chronic diseases and tells of his various theories of their origin, particularly of his psora theory. Here we have it in Hahnemann's own words. We may not agree with him, but no one has offered explanation of many of the manifestations of chronic ailments which have served a better purpose than his explanations, and certainly no one has offered anything like half as good a method of treatment for all chronic disease as the potent and subtle influences of the homœopathic remedy applied according to the symptomatology of each particular case and each particular remedy selected.

We are grateful to the translator, the editor and the publishers for this book. It is a second homœopathic bible. It will require painstaking care to apply the remedy according to the principles laid down, but the physician so doing will be rewarded for his labor. Unhesitatingly we assert that this book should be among the most acceptable volumes recently issuing from our publishing houses and should find a warm welcome in the library of every homœopathic physician and student. It is the work of a master mind.—*Medical Century*.