

matter, and which is able to visit and agitate all forms of matter, and leave them again with their essential properties unchanged and unimpaired, acting, as is supposed, most probably in some mechanical manner. The elementary powers, on the other hand, are non-transferable and non-convertible; they are the inalienable possession of the special kinds of matter, and hence are termed properties. Magnetism belongs to the fugacious forces, while the medicinal properties of *Arsen.* and *Bellad.* are inherent. That this is the case we have only to reflect for a moment.

If we take any substance that will bear the test without destroying its constitution, say *Iron*, or *Phosphor.*, or *Iodine*, we find that after submitting it to the test-tube, the blowpipe, the retort, and chemical solvents, after combining and re-separating it *ad infinitum*, it presents itself in its pristine integrity. The properties that belong to it have accompanied it through all its transformations, and could no more be destroyed than the substance itself. This shows that properties are inseparable from the matter, and therefore incommunicable to other matter. If it were not so, if contact were a means of communication of properties, identity would be lost, elementary distinction would in an instant cease to exist, and the universe of things would become fluent and rush into a homogeneous mass.

But as our drugs possess active chemical and other affinities, it may be asked what are these powers doing? The substances are submitted to trituration and dilution. Do they not effect chemical changes in the alcohol and sugar of milk? The answer is that in so far as they tend to do so they lose their special qualities, for combination is attended with change of medicinal powers, and we purposely select an inert vehicle to preserve the original drug in as free and uncombined a state as possible. It is this very liability that renders it impossible to dilute some medicines, such as mineral acids, with alcohol.

The catalytic power of some bodies is well known, and the thought may occur, if a drug may not impart its own properties to any other body, what is to prevent its setting up some catalytic change of an assimilative kind in the vehicle? This is answered in a word. Spongy platinum causes oxygen and hydrogen to combine, indeed, but they form *water*, not additional atoms of platinum. There is, however, one form of matter in combination that does possess the power of conferring a similar constitution upon other matter not so endowed, *i. e.*, living beings. The comparison

between vitality and dynamization cannot, however, be entertained for a moment, as there is not the shadow of a presumption in its favor.

If it were possible that this theory of dynamization could be true, some of the logical results would be perplexing. We are to suppose that the properties, *i. e.*, the "spirit," of a grain of *Bellad.* might be "liberated" by trituration or succussion, which would, according to the laws of physical force, leave the drug depotentized. The drug, whilst retaining its physical properties, would have lost its medicinal ones, and the vehicle, whilst retaining its former physical properties, would have taken up the medicinal ones of *Bellad.* This is none other than the doctrine of transubstantiation, with its dialectical explanation of a change of substance with a retention of the accidents, and we did not expect to see it reappearing in this century in a scientific dress. It does not, however, appear to be settled by the high dilutionists whether, in communicating its "spirit" to an inert substance, the drug becomes exhausted thereby, or whether there is a perpetual regeneration of it going on to balance the loss. In the former case the higher the dilution the weaker would the drug become by loss of medicinal power, until it were as completely depotentized as a burnt-out cinder in regard to heat. In the latter case, that a body should impart its forces to other matter without suffering loss would contradict the great law of dynamics—no work done without an equivalent expenditure of force. Again, the analogy between magnetism and dynamization is not assumed to hold good in the transmission of the force through space. Contact is thought to be necessary in the latter case, else we might potentize a phial of pills as easily from the outside as the inside. Therefore, whilst desiring only the emancipated spirit of a drug, our clumsy method of preparation continues to be adopted, which allows a certain quantity of the substance to be included, and thus renders the spiritual voice equivocal when it tells of its achievements. Instead of being able to say "*I removed a congestion of the brain,*" it must say "*we,*" viz.: "*Myself, assisted by a few insignificant particles of Bellad., having no spirit to speak of.*"

Looked at from all sides, and doing the fullest justice to the analogies adduced in favor of the theory of dynamization as here held, we must pronounce the verdict of physical science to be against it. But we have metaphysical speculations also brought in to assist the mind in realizing the theory in some comprehen-

sible manner. When experimental demonstration fails the imagination is called into play. We may glance at the opinions of Hartlaub and Guernsey on this matter. The former writes thus: "In homœopathy it is not with small doses that we have to do, but with immaterial doses. These are the peculiarity of homœopathy." And again, "the homœopathic preparation of medicines has for its object, not the dilution nor the decomposition of the matter, but the removal of it altogether." And again, "to constitute true homœopathy we reckon not only the *simile* strictly according to provings in the healthy, as well as single medicines without any foreign admixture, but also the immaterial dose which is that without which the total mass has neither spirit nor life." (Allgem. Hom. Zeitg., Aug., 1872.)

Guernsey writes—"The doctrine of individual specifics is therefore truly scientific, since it harmonizes the results of practical experience with well-established principles, and even with those profounder explorations of our being in which matter is seen to fade into spirit and physiology to be replaced by psychology." (Obstetrics, p. 395.)

Here we are assured, on the one hand, the matter can be made to fade into spirit, and, on the other, that it is necessary to use medicines which have thus been made to fade. Spirit is thus regarded as matter highly rarified by dilution; the particles, when reduced to an atomic fineness, cease to exist as material atoms, and become disembodied force, with the property, we suppose, of being able to be recondensed into palpable substance. This is but a materialistic kind of spirit akin to that born of the chemist's retort, and in no manner expresses the scientific conception of force, which is quite distinct from the conception of matter, and in no wise to be confounded with it. The distinction must be maintained or physical science will become a mass of confusion. By the *spirit* of a drug we understand its medicinal properties, and how the substance of a drug can fade into its properties is a more difficult conception than that of Peter Schlemil's losing his shadow; for the idea is exactly reversed—we lose the substance, but retain the shadow, the property of the substance. If we have the assurance of anything, it is that matter cannot be made to fade into anything else; but that at the close of the longest cycle of transformations it remains indestructibly the same.

To use terms with new significance and to call in the aid of unfounded hypothesis to account for phenomena is a sure means of

arresting the advance of knowledge. This process has also the disadvantage of repelling scientific minds of the profession at large from the study of homœopathy, for by mixing up the proved facts with baseless theories it leads to the rejection of both. If hypotheses must be constructed to satisfy our cravings for explanations let us at least take care that they are consistent with the body of scientific truth, and are used to explain undeniable facts, and not to justify those which are already doubtful. We cannot but regard the present hypothetical basis of the high dilutions as quite untenable, and therefore dangerous, as leading us to place a false confidence in the efficacy of these preparations. It is a significant fact that homœopathy gains its adherents by its facts, whilst the opposition to it is largely owing to its theories. We can hope to progress only so long as we follow the sound system of induction from indisputable facts that was employed by Hahnemann in his masterly introduction to the *Organon*. (Proctor, B. J. H., 1873, p. 445.)

There is one feature in relation to the action of drugs which renders it a little uncertain whether we are really homœopaths or allopathists, or a combination of both. I refer to the primary and secondary effects of our drugs which they all seem to possess and which are directly opposite to each other. We are told by some of our teachers that cures are wrought by means of the primary effect when they are similar to the characteristic symptoms of the disease. But how do they know it was not by means of the secondary and opposite effects? Others tell us that some diseases at least are cured through the secondary effects when these are similar. But how do they know this? If any one can give a reasonable answer to this let him do it.

It is true that most diseases are endowed with the opposite symptoms, and thus correspond with the remedies which cure them. But this does not inform us whether the work is done by similars or their opposites. But if you cannot show that it is done by means of similars, I cannot show that it is not, and hence I am willing to call myself a homœopathist.

The law of similars is at least an apparent truth, and is a good rule to follow in practice, for whether the work is done by the primary or secondary operation is not perhaps of much importance. (L. Barnes, M. A., p. 301.)

Theories and Therapeutic Aphorisms. (Leveret Bishop, H. M., June, 1873, p. 544.)

Medical Problems. Cases in practice supposed. (B. W. James, H. M., April, 1873, p. 433.)

Homœopathy Misapplied and Molecular Motion. An answer to papers concerning the original paper. (P. Dudley, H. M., Jan., 1873, p. 249.)

Introductory Lecture, of Dr. X. Ypsilon, on entering the chair of homœopathy in the University, Strassburg, in the year * * * * (C. Hering, J. Pr., 1873, p. 292.)

Grauvogl and his Would-be Judges. (N. E. M. G., May, 1873, p. 201; and letter from Hering, Aug., 1873, p. 373.)

A Layman's Opinion of Grauvogl. (N. E. M. G., Aug., 1872, p. 273.)

A Layman's Reply to Dr. Hering. (N. E. M. G., July, 1873, p. 297.)

Posology.

Persons of a *sensible* temperament, who are especially subject to hysteria, hypochondria, melancholy, spinal irritation, genuine neuralgia, require as a rule *low dilutions* or even *tinctures*. Some kinds of headache, stomachache, dizziness, etc., which do not yield to high potencies, are speedily cured by the mother tincture of *Nuxvom.*, *Ruta*, *Mezer.*, *Ignat.* and others, in water, more or less often repeated. Intermitting neuralgias are cured only when after a well selected remedy *Chin. sulph.*, 1st trit., every two or three hours is administered.

Irritable, nervous people, in whom we frequently meet rheumatic spinal affections, especially of the upper part of the spine. Epilepsy and chorea are best suited by high potencies.

The *arterial* or *muscular* (the so-called choleric) temperament requires middle potencies, from 6th to 9th, or 12th to 15th trit., in not frequent repetition. To this class belong sthenic inflammation, the first inflammatory stage of typhus, the bilious fevers. The nervous stage of typhus requires repeated doses of low attenuations.

Chronic diseases of the muscles and fibrous tissues, as rheumatism and gout, also hemorrhoids, gravel, yield but to the 12th potency.

The *phlegmatic temperament* with its corresponding diseases which may be formed vegetative, such as cysts of all kinds, obesity, hydrups, hypertrophies and the like, requires the continued use of

low potencies until a favorable change takes place, when they must be allowed a long time to unfold their actions.

Parasitic skin diseases require beside the internal use of low dilutions sometimes also their external applications. (Goullon, Sr., J. Pr., 1873, p. 20.)

The Dose. If the *right remedy* be given either in large or in smaller, or even in infinitesimal doses, a cure will result in many cases. But the *wrong remedy* given in any or in every possible dose, will cure in no case. Every actual cure is made by the potential homœopathic remedy. The law of similars gives the physician a plain and practical rule for selecting the right medicine for every case. Cures are not made by reckoning up all the symptoms, but by ascertaining the most characteristic and important in each case, *in order that the remedy possessing these symptoms in equal prominence may be selected.* This requires judgment, we must determine the dose by the *dynamic condition* and *susceptibility* of the patient. "*The first attenuations generally answer the best for maladies whose progress is rapid* (acute disorders), *while the last accord with those whose progress is tedious.*" Use the *third* of vegetable remedies, the *fourth* and *sixth* of mineral and animal poisons, for recent affections; the 12th, 30th, 2^o or higher for chronic cases. Use low attenuations or crude drugs for poisoning cases. Sometimes the poison operation is chemically neutralized, or the antidote destroys the poison even in the circulation; or antidotes act physiologically stimulating the system to expel the poison or bear it effect. Or the antidote acts homœopathically as in case of *Camphor* vs. *Strychnine*; *Bellad.* vs. *Opium*; *Chloral* vs. *Strychnine*; electricity vs. prussic acid. There must be some proportion between the quantity of the antidote and that of the poison, the antidote lessening in quantity as the patient is further and further removed from the immediate poisonous action both in poisoning from disease and from other agents. In exanthema use the lower preparations at first, but for the after-psoric results use higher potencies. The more malignant cases of scarlatina and diphtheria are analogous to cases of accidental poisoning, and should be treated by substantial doses (3d or 4th attenuations), unless occurring in very delicate constitutions. Self-limiting disorders run a definite course and naturally end, with good care, in health, but in the other diseases mentioned, the natural course is different; miasmatic, diphtheritic, or syphilitic poison continues for a long time in the system. In glanders and cattle plague, diseases maintained by living germs of special virus,