

and successful physicians studied the system under his instruction, most of whom enjoy lucrative incomes from their practice in adjoining counties."

In 1881 he founded the Homœopathic Medical Council, an association of physicians who meet to discuss the cases they are treating, and to secure advice as to the further treatment of them. He was a delegate to the World's Homœopathic Congress in London in 1881.

The Homœopathic Physician published in November, 1895, the following interesting and appreciative tribute to Dr. Preston :—

"In the death of Dr. Preston, Homœopathy has lost one of its staunchest friends and closest followers. True to Homœopathy under all its conditions, his sole idea in life was to follow out its strictest principles, and demonstrate its incontestable truth by its careful, patient, and faithful application to the alleviation and cure of the sick. Throughout his life he was a student. With strong scientific instincts, his attention at the beginning of his career was especially directed to the study of botany, which later he made subservient to his one great object, the curing of the sick. Perseverance until the final accomplishment of his object was his distinguishing characteristic. This is well shown in an incident related of him by his brother when at the age of fourteen years. He had resolved to build a working model of a steam engine, though he had scarcely any tools and no materials. He collected together all manner of odds and ends of brass and iron that he happened to meet with, and then out of these unpromising scraps he proceeded to build his engine. Failure after failure attended his attempts. The most desperate efforts of his boyish strength failed to conquer the stubborn metal, yet he never abandoned his project. Month after month he toiled on with varying progress, but with great expenditure of nervous energy and muscular strength, and often with the

exhibition of tears. His parents' advice to give up his design went unheeded and he persisted, until at last success crowned his persevering labor, and when the steam was turned on the wheel revolved and his work was done.

The perseverance here exemplified inspired him later in life to the accomplishment of his great purpose to master the homœopathic therapeutics. An examination of his library shows the presence there of every book issued in any way bearing upon homœopathic *materia medica*. A closer inspection of the books themselves discovers them loaded with notes, cross references and various distinguishing pencil marks, all in his own handwriting, and all designed to make more easy and certain the selection of the simillimum."

"He had a very large practice, and was widely known for his cures of difficult cases. His devotion to his practice was absolute. He would neither drink nor smoke because he feared such habits would incapacitate him for his work. He constantly took regular exercise in his own gymnasium, and long walks, the better to keep up his strength.

His health was never good, and he had to exercise constant care and effort to keep himself in condition to do his work. His last illness extended over a period of nearly a year, during which his sufferings were borne with fortitude, patience and gentleness."

The report of the Necrologist was accepted.

First Day—Afternoon Session.

REPORTS OF DELEGATES.

Dr. Pease—I would like to speak as a delegate from Dunham Medical college, if that is in order. The college and faculty have but lately finished a year of hard work well done. In the senior class there were six members. We graduated four of them and had to turn down two for not fulfilling the requirements or passing the necessary examinations.

The prospects for the college are certainly very encouraging for its second year. The building, as perhaps you all know, is one of the best for the purpose in the country, and is thoroughly and completely equipped in its laboratories, chemical, histological, and anatomical, with necessary instruments, etc. There are sixteen of the latest improved microscopes, with all the necessary or attendant adjuncts. The chemical laboratory is very extensively equipped, and one element in particular is its very complete outfit of re-agents that have been prepared by the professor of chemistry in the college, Dr. P. J. Latz, who is a graduate from the German schools, and is eminently well qualified to fill that position.

In regard to the policy of the college, I wish to assure the association that the constitution and by-laws of Dunham medical college requires the directors to forever keep the faculty and teaching quality of the college up to the standard, and to teach nothing but Hahnemannian homœopathy. On the 29th instant I hope to be able to announce to my friends through the country that Dunham college will receive the recognition of the State Board of Health of Illinois. The announcements will be issued early in July.

Dr. Baylies—I have the honor to report for the Brooklyn Homœopathic Union, established some half dozen months ago. We have had our monthly meetings, which have been highly interesting. At each meeting to some member has been assigned a topic on which to compose a paper for reading and discussion at the following meeting. Our transactions, have been, we think, interesting and instructive.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Dr. Baylies—I move, according to Dr. Crutcher's proposal to introduce a motion at this meeting for the purpose, that the title, "associate member" be substituted for

that of "junior member" now in use ; and so incorporated in the minutes and by-laws.

The amendment was adopted.

The resignations of two members, Drs. Clarence C. Howard of New York City and James U. Woods of New Haven, Conn., were read and accepted.

RESOLUTION REGARDING A NEW JOURNAL.

It cannot be denied that this association, standing as it does for the propagation of pure homœopathy, does not occupy the position before the world which its importance demands.

Indeed, outside of its membership, but few know of its existence.

The times demand that it should no longer "hide its light under a bushel."

We should do that which is necessary to keep it and its objects before not only its members but also before the public, in order that pure homœopathy may be understood of all men.

To accomplish this there can be no better way than by publishing a journal—a journal in which there may be found nothing in the way of advertisements or other matter that will conflict with, or antagonize the principles we hold so dear.

In order that the subject receive the consideration it deserves I offer the following :

Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of considering the question of establishing "The Journal of the International Hahnemannian Association."

And that the committee be requested to report before the close of this meeting.

GEO. H. CLARK.

Dr. Wesselhoeft—I think a matter of that kind requires more deliberation than we can give at this session, and I

propose that a committee be appointed to report at the next meeting. Carried.

REPORT OF BOARD OF CENSORS.

On motion of the chairman of the Board of Censors the new members recommended by the board were elected by ballot, as follows:—

ACTIVE MEMBER.

LOUISE A. GRIFFIN, M. D., . . . Middletown, Conn.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

T. G. ATKINSON, M. D., . . . Republica, Ohio.

W. K. CHAMBERLIN, M. D., . . . Tiffin, Ohio.

J. F. TAPLEY, M. D., . . . Marysville, Cal.

MARCO F. UNDERWOOD, M. D. . . San Francisco, Cal.

BUREAU OF HOMŒOPATHIC PHILOSOPHY.

GEORGE H. CLARK, M. D., CHAIRMAN.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE APPRECIATION OF HIGH POTENCIES.

DR. C. VON BÖNNINGHAUSEN IN MUNSTER.

Translated by B. Fincke, M. D.

From the records of the meeting of the homœopathic physicians of Rheinland and Westphalia, at Dortmund, July 26, 1860, Allgem. hom. Zeitung Vol. 61, p. 62, translated by B. Fincke, M. D., Brooklyn.

The second supplement contains a contribution to the appreciation of high potencies based upon an extract of a communication of Dr. B. Fincke, in Brooklyn, N. Y., to the American Homœopathic Review and accompanied by some glosses of the Ref. (Dr. v Bönninghausen). * Since the matter concerns facts and it is necessary to have certainty about the reliability of the author, Dr. Graf gur

Lippe was asked about it and he did not hesitate to give the following testimony, the original of which is preserved in our archives.

DORTMUND, July 26, 1860.

Doctor Fincke in Brooklyn, is known to me as a trustworthy man of honor who has acquired the confidence of a large public by his successful treatment.

(Sig.) AD. GRAF GUR LIPPE, M. D.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contribution to the Appreciation of High Potencies.

In the monthly Journal, "The American Homœopathic Review," March and April numbers of this year, (p. 282-288; 327-336), there is just as rich as remarkable a communication of cures which Dr. B. Fincke in Brooklyn, N. Y. has obtained with high potencies and throughout with one single dose.

This contribution is of great significance in the still pending controversy about dosology, since it places the most striking and convincing facts before the eyes, the truth of which can not well be doubted because they are published in this Journal which is edited by acknowledged men of honor. It would be especially instructive for us to submit the conclusions, which the author attaches to them, to a closer consideration. For this reason have we rendered the single sentences as they have been proposed in a true translation and add some short glosses as it appears to us proper.

Previously, however, it must be quoted what the author mentions in the beginning of his communication which bears the momentous motto: "One almost can not give them too small." (Chr. K. 2. ed. I p. 149.)

The potencies applied have been prepared by himself, according to the centesimal scale within a period of ten years, some from triturations, some from tincturæ fortis,

some with a strong steel-spring and some with a single jerk of the hand. Herewith all the probably unintentional mystery disappears which with exaggerated skepsis has been used to render the high potencies of Jenichen suspected.

The prescriptions are quantitatively denoted by a fraction, the numerator being the number of globules (about the size of a mustard seed) and the denominator giving the exact number of the successive centigrade dilutions including the triturations. Therefore, also, here every doubt has been provided against.

The nosological designations of the cases are intended merely for a convenience of registration.

A complete rendering of all the given thirty-two cases of the most various complaints would here be out of place. But, they, all of them, are indeed so remarkable, that we do not hesitate to draw your attention to the article in the mentioned Journal which otherwise contains numerous extremely important originals.

1. "The action and efficiency of homœopathic remedies are not limited to the lower preparations, nor to the thirtieth or two-hundreth potency, but their healing properties are preserved, propagated and exalted through a series of still higher potencies, being evident even in the twenty-thousandth centigrade dilution of Sulphur."

Glosse. The conclusive sentence depends upon four cases cured with Sulphur 20m and reported in the foregoing communication viz., in No. 7 of an Angina faucium, in No. 9 of an Ophthalmia rheumatica, in No. 10 of a Corneitis and in No. 21 of a Tussis stomachica—four cases all of which have been cured with single doses of the named high potency, with two globules in Nos. 7 and 9 and with even only one globule in Nos. 10 and 21 and that so completely that no other medicine was required.

2. "The question, where the terminus of the medical action and efficacy of the homœopathic remedies is to be found at all by potentiation, is still open."

Glosse. As Dr. Fincke has carried up the potencies to such a high degree, it entitles him perfectly to this expression on account of the astonishing efficacy of his preparations. For we find in the reported cases the following numbers: Aconite 11c, Arnica m. 11c, Belladonna 14c and 6m, Bryonia a. 9m, Cantharis 1630, Carbo anim. 1m, Chamom. v. 1730, China 8m, Hepar sulph. calc. 1750, Mercurius viv. 3m, Nux vom. 5m, Phosphor. 5m, Pulsat. 5m and 7m, Rhus toxic. 10m, Sulphur 20m, and Verat. a. 24c. —We ourselves possess of Jenichen's preparations Arsenic. a. 40m and Phosph. 19m, and of both we have seen in repeated cases the most distinct curative actions as well in men as in animals. It appears, therefore, that the proper medicinal force transplants itself *in infinitum*, if the manipulations are correctly executed, perhaps in a similar manner as the magnetic force of a magnetic bar is imparted to an unlimited number of other steel bars without losing any of its strength.

3. "High potencies prove efficacious and curative in single doses."

Glosse. Already since the beginning of the use of high potencies, nearly all attentive observers have made the experience that, as a rule, they do not bear an immediate repetition very well, but they do, if the dose is divided in a solution of water, provided it is shaken up before taking each time. Perhaps a tolerably satisfactory explanation of this might be found in the circumstance, which we shall mention in the *glosse* to No. 7, in regard to the progressive development of the proper medicinal force.

4. "High potencies sometimes present the phenomenon of homœopathic aggravation."

Glosse. Owing to our experience of eighteen years with similar, though a little lower potencies, we can not only confirm this perfectly, but also prove it by numerous facts from our Journals. Most convincing are the not rare cases

where, either intentionally an antidote had to be given by us, or where the patients by confessed errors in diet had suspended the medicinal action. In events of this kind a self-deception is not well to be thought of.

5. "High potencies prepared by dilution with a single jerk of the hand prove efficacious and curative."

Glosse. We ourselves have no experience about this, because we have potentiated our own preparations with at least ten such shaking strokes. But there is not the least reason why the assurance of the Honorable Dr. Fincke should be doubted; on the contrary we should thank him candidly for an observation which can find useful application in a technical respect. This experience moreover does not contradict that of Hahnemann and of many of his disciples, that continued trituration or succussion makes the attenuations still more potent, and that it is necessary to be moderate in that respect. We also have found repeatedly that on arming the globules it is advisable previously to shake the vial with the fluid potency thoroughly, a few times, especially when it has been standing quiet for a long time. So likewise on application of the solutions in water, a method which we owe to Dr. Aegidi, a previous shaking up before taking is useful, a point which Hahnemann attributes to a change of the degree of dynamization, but which we at least at the same time ascribe to an expansion of the medicinal sphere of action. Besides, the advantage of this procedure—may the reason be what it pleases—has proved its correctness frequently by experience.

6. "High potencies, prepared by dilution with a strong succussion, sometimes do not present any homœopathic aggravation."

Glosse. Also this experience we have frequently made; but not in those cases where this powerful shaking was continued for a long time. Then as a rule, and often very violently, the phenomenon of No. 4 takes place. Only then

it may be different when the selection of the remedy was inappropriate.

7. "Higher potentiation seems to be the means of rendering the remedy assimilable and thus homœopathically active."

Glosse. Here the author seems to have missed a perfectly fitting word for expressing his actual thought. Without doubt he, like several of us, has made the experience, that the higher dynamizations, even with imperfect similitude, yet frequently produce very good action where the low attenuations of the same medicine completely fail. (? Ed.) By the conclusion it becomes evident that the author wanted to reiterate this observation and that he has selected an expression for it, which at the same time reminds us of our Law of Similitude. We, and some of our old friends, have experienced the same already for many years in cases where an exactly homœopathically fitting remedy was not to be found, and we at the time noticed that this valuable peculiarity of high potencies most probably depends upon the circumstance, that at each higher dynamization now hitherto, as it were, latent forces are unlocked, and thus the sphere of action of the medicine is, in fact, more and more widened. This gradual increase of symptoms by potentiation has on further accurate observation removed all our doubts in such a manner, that we recognize in it a new, formerly not known natural law which is as wonderful as advantageous for practice. An indication of this law is already the medicinal efficacy of the homœopathic preparations of such substances, which without it are entirely or nearly indifferent, as several earths and vegulinic metals, which do not become useful as medicines, until they are brought up to a certain potency and thereby acquire an extremely powerful and extensive healing force. We acknowledge in this with gratitude the providential kindness of the creator of nature, who attributed medicinal

power to almost every substance, but closed in and locked up like the fire, so that without intentional resuscitation it could not produce any damage to the system, if it was taken daily with our food. The increase of this medicinal power in proportion to the dynamizations raised higher and higher, however, is so striking that it must intrude itself spontaneously upon every attentive observer. Most frequently and distinctly it appears in such symptoms as have not yet been observed in the provings, but have some analogy with what is already known in regard to the location and the sensations. Hereupon rests essentially the arrangement of our "Therapeutic Pocket-book" (Repertory), the use of which during fourteen years has fully confirmed the observations just mentioned. Only in relation to the aggravation and amelioration according to time, position and circumstances the higher and lower potencies are everywhere equal, and this constant uniformity should, therefore, induce every homœopathician to ascertain the peculiarity of these moments with special diligence, and to consider them carefully in the selection of the remedy. We are sorry to be obliged to break off here the discussion of this extremely important subject in order to communicate our experiences about it at a more convenient occasion, but we take leave already here to direct the attention of our friends and colleagues to it.

Of the numerous incidental facts the following cases of latest date may serve as examples.

A few weeks ago a cattle-disease appeared in the surroundings of Darup, which was characterized by sudden and complete paralysis of all the limbs. Of nine or ten affected cows only two remained living, which, however, till to day are stiff in all the limbs and can hardly walk. Two weeks ago a cow on our farm in Darup was also affected and all efforts to put her on her legs proved without avail. A messenger was therefore sent here in order to get help

from us. This messenger, who did not know of any other symptoms than those mentioned, took two powders along, viz.: No. 1 Pulsatilla 2c. and No. 2 Nux vomica 2c., with the order to give No. 2 only after 12 hours (as always dissolved in water) if No. 1 should not have any effect up to that time. The messenger, who returned the same night, arrived only the next morning about 4:30 o'clock in Darup, and at 5:00 o'clock the cow which was lying in the same condition, received the powder No. 1 according to order. At 10:00 o'clock of the same forenoon, therefore, five hours later, the servant-maid to her great surprise, found the cow standing upright in the stable and eating her food with relish. On leading her out, not the least sign of paralysis or stiffness was to be noticed, and the cure was and remained perfect. Pulsatilla, therefore, had been the right remedy in this case. A few days later the cow of a neighboring farmer was taken with the same disease. Since the rapid cure of our cow had excited a great sensation in the neighborhood, this man asked for the unused powder No. 2 (Nux vom.) which in the same manner as above, was given to this cow and it cured her, though not as rapidly as the first one, but still after twelve hours completely. Since the disease in both cases was the same, and no single spontaneous recovery is extant, and both though in themselves so different yet nearly related remedies had such a striking success, the conclusion at least lies very near, that only in virtue of the high dynamization the curativeness of both had attained such an extension, that both had been homœopathically appropriate, and both could equally accomplish a perfect and permanent cure, if not in the same yet in a comparatively short time. Another valid explanation of this fact, which is by no means isolated, might hardly be found. (Accordingly the high potencies would detract from the strict individualization? This would certainly be highly deplorable.—ED.)

8. "The curative action and effect of homœopathic remedies, as already foreseen by Hahnemann (*Organon* 5, ed. p. 275), is in every individual case conditioned and governed by the dose as well as by the homœopathicity of the drug."

Glosse. The reference to the quoted section of the *Organon* gives the proper explanation to this proposition. Hahnemann, namely, warns in this place not against all too small, but against all too (large) strong doses, words which besides are made conspicuous by italics. A more special elucidation is in the following § 276 where he expressly calls the larger doses of higher potencies the most noxious ones. The remark attached to the last section should be taken to heart by many a young homœopath of our time, which says: "The praise accorded in later times by some few homœopaths to the larger doses depends on this, either that they selected lower potencies of the remedy to be given as I myself did twenty years ago, not knowing any better, or that the remedies had not been selected strictly homœopathically." We want to mention, by the way, that this was written in 1833, and, therefore, the twenty years backward point to 1813, to the first youth of Homœopathy. Hahnemann, however, gradually rose to the smaller doses and higher potencies; of this the different editions of his *Materia Medica Pura* bear witness. What progress he had made in later years until his death (1843), still ten years later, is only known to his nearer friends, among whom we have the fortune to belong; and hence we are justified in the assurance, that all that people have been bold enough to assert about his regress in this relation, is perfectly untrue and invented.

9. "The curative action and effect of high potencies being established as a fact, *any* potency and consequently *any high* potency may be *the* dose in any given case."

10. "From this arises a necessity to individualize the dose as well as the remedy."

11. "The chances of individualizing the dose increase in the ratio in which by experience a greater variety of potencies is placed under our command."

12. "In this view the posological problem grows in importance, and, as it can only be conquered by 'pure experiments, careful observation and correct experience' (*Organon* p. 278), it is of the greatest moment to multiply the experiments with higher potencies."

13. "Such experiments should be made with the experimenters' own preparations and on the human organism, which so far, and especially in its diseased condition, appears to be the only reagent or test delicate enough for substances as fine as such medicines."

Glosse. In relation to the foregoing five propositions, which follow from each other and mutually complete and explain themselves, there is only that principally to be pointed out, which under No. 12 has been quoted from the *Organon* on experiments and experience. Just as we dare not accept anything upon mere assurance or even conjecture, just so we firmly trust to constant and doubtless experiences, even then when the results are of such a kind that we can not comprehend them. For this reason we hold ourselves perfectly justified to doubt every dogma in our healing science, till the proof of it is given in full. Among these strongly doubted dogmas we reckon the too oft-repeated assertion, that the higher potencies are only appropriate to chronic complaints, but that acute disease must be treated with low attenuations. All those who have maintained this dogma so far, and would like to have it raised to an axiom, have ever remained in debt for the proof of it. And again: All those who have made comparative experiments in this matter have been convinced of the contrary. It, indeed, needs only a few