dullness and stupidity, hence in their secondary action, or if they act curatively on those otherwise made dull, they make one wide awake, cunning, sly.

As an herb, it was generally diffused and liked. Indeed it is said, in *Schrœder's Arzneischatz*, page 921, that it was so common in cakes that no cook conld easily dispense with it, though there are people who can neither eat nor smell it. It made the perspiration, the milk, the air expelled upward or downward somewhat offensive; if cows ate it, their milk and butter tasted thereof, a flavor which even most zealous onion-eaters did not relish. Yet we find it added to the chief victuals to improve their smell, hence comes garlic with mutton, onion with beef. And it is, indeed, an improvement if cooks would only observe moderation. We find, further, when we look at the dishes, when they have been prepared by real experts, that it is flatulent food to which it is added, for example, rice, potatoes. But if onions themselves are cooked as a dish, then is the carminative caraway added to it as a corrective. These do not unite, and hence do not interfere with each other's peculiar action, whilst if two substance unite chemically, that which is alike and similar in their action becomes more prominently developed in the compounds according to a law propounded by me.

The onion, like other plants, was improved by cultivation in the field and garden. Loudon enumerates eighteen varieties; among which is the white onion, very sweet, nearly destitute of acridity, which is cultivated in Spain especially. The newer the soil the more alkaloids, acids and acrid oils do the plants contain. The more they find alkalies and excess of organic nourishment in the soil, the more mealy, sweeter, pleasant and aromatic do they become. So the wheat-flour which comes from virgin soil contains a horribly offensive fusel oil which one does not find in Sicilian flour; while the latter has more alkali, the former less. This have I discovered while seeking out the causes of the diseases prevalent here in America.

Preparation.—For medicinal use we use the red, longish,

in general the most acrid onions, and from experience those which do not come from soil cultivated for a century.

Dioscorides, Plinius, Œribasius, Ætius and Paulus Ægineta declare the long onions more acrid than the round, the red than the white, the dry than the fresh, the raw than the cooked or salted (*Strumpf*, 2, p. 23, Amm.

Serapion also says that the red are stronger than the white. Others have observed that the farther North they grow the more acrid they become. Shrœder considers the long onions the most acrid. The roots must be cut off (for the onion is not a root as the learned Strumpf said), also the placenta furnishes very little juice and the dry outer husks none at all. The juice must be expressed from the inner soft parts; strong alcohol is then to be added and after a few days decanted. Or, the onion may be crushed, treated with alcohol and then expressed. Still better would be the distilate, although it is weaker, whereof we will speak in Hamamelis.

Chemical.—The volatile oil should contain Sulphur. Braconnot found pectic acid in it. Foucroy (*Ann. de chim.*, 1808, 65, 161) and Vauquelin (*Receueil period.*, 1, 416) give analysis. According to them, onions contain Phosphoric, Acetic and Citric acids and Phosphate of lime.

Whether, what we have been accustomed to call alkali in plants has any influence in its action, comparisons hitherto have afforded no conclusion. But it is possible that these substances exist in such combinations with organic matter that their action, i. e., their influence on the functions is greatly restricted. Since we know that there are combinations of Arsenic, which are even less active than kitchen salt, we must presuppose that this may be the case with many other substances. And according to observations hitherto made, many articles of food and taste act far differently by means of their volatile substances, volatile oils and the like, than by their alkalies. So also the alkalies vary far more than do the effects; that is, the variations in the definite symptoms from the same animal or vegetable substance from different localities, is far less than the variation in the quantity and quality of the alkalies.

Signature and Law of Distribution of Medicines.—As far as we still are from reliable conclusions from the chemical composition of vegetable or animal substance (we have as yet not even the first triangle as a basis for our mensuration), just so far are we removed from a clear understanding of the significance which the aspect, form, and numerous other appearances possess. Yet it is exceedingly probable, from knowledge hitherto of effects, that an analogy exists between form and effect. This is signature. I consider every one a coward in science, who is afraid of such a word, when it embodies truth. Flocks alone are cowards, and if a *bell-wether* believes that he owes it to the dignity of science to make a side jump, inasmuch as a wolf skin hangs over the fence, so the whole flock becomes terrified and jumps about. This I know, but yet assert it. Hahnemann rejected in toto the doctrine of signature, at which we also do not wonder. A pair of miserable numbskulls supposed Homœopathy to be the revived signature, that also was not to be wondered at. Helbig had courage enough to show by example that there was something in it. Thereupon the common adverse critics replied with scurrilous words, as was expected. But it manifests itself in the farther and farther advancing investigations, it shows itself in that, to a certain extent, there is a chemical homogeneousness in the families of plants. Just so does the accordance in the action of the various plants of the same family present it, which explains itself as soon as there was chemistry. But now are the plants grouped into families according to their form. But if the botanist found essential similarity of form whereby one plant is placed by an other, if the chemists found in such similarly formed plants similar substances, if a similarity of action shows itself between them, and they must show it, because all action is chemically conditioned, so must there be an accordance between form and action. Granted, that this similarity between members of the same family be only superficial, which, however, do not wholly concede, yet is this next proposition to be considered, whether also the differences in form between individual members exhibit a

corresponding difference in their action. For example, whether the distinction in form accord with the difference in action in Nux vomica and Ignatia, in Aconite and Helleborus, in Bellaadonna and Capsicum. The law of action of members of a family, which I intend to discuss in the preface, may be represented in general, as follows:

a	a	a	a	a
b^5	b^4	b^3	b^2	b^1
c^1	c^2	c^3	c^4	c^5

That is a part of the action marked "*a*," is the same in all the members of the same family; another, "*b*," preponderates at one end of the series, decreases and is almost wanting at the other end. A third, "*c*," deports itself reversed. The Solanaceæ furnish an example, which are considered on the one hand narcotic, and on the other acrid. The last predominates, for example, in Capsicum, the first in Tobacco. In the Ranunculaceæ, which as a family exhibit great diversity of action, the same law shows itself in the distribution of medicinal property; and those known can be arranged in a series, more properly in a half circle; at this end Ranunculus would be placed; at the other Helleborus or Pæonia. The Malvaceæ have at one end the Oxalic acid, sour Sabdariffa rubra; at the other the strong offensive smelling Sida graveolens, etc. What have been considered exceptions prove to be end-unfoldings.

The chief thing to be done is to prove particular plants on a number of persons. Then only can we take the next step, compare those nearly related. Any thing beyond may be conjectured in order that we may have a goal before us, but it brings us no nearer to it until we have a sufficient number of such pairs. One of the most important side relationships exists between Allium cepa, the onion, and Allium sativum, the garlic. Many of us are already experimenting on the latter.

It is very natural to think that garlic and onion act alike, only the former more powerfully. Doubtless then is it very convenient to trifle still further, but we must investigate the

action of garlic, without which the similarity in structure, composition or smell, might possibly trouble us; just as Hahnemann investigated Nux vomica and Ignatia without concerning himself about having relatives before him, indeed without knowing, that in each were contained Strychnia and Brucia. We know that the two are not interchangable, that their action is essentially different; that, also, every thing depends on being acquainted with their difference.

This we know of the onion and garlic, perhaps now we shall be able to understand what it signifies, that Allium cepa gathers no young brood about the onion-placenta, as do the other spieces, especially the garlic; hence it was called unio, from which oignon and onion are derived. Something similar induced historians to designate the king Frederick "den Einzigen." The common onion bears its brood above in the crown. There is, however, a variety known as the potatoe-onion, which will fill the whole bed in the garden yet bear no seeds.

Possibly our bed will soon become quite full, provings and clinical experiences accumulate, so also will the crown above fill with young onions, which will continue to grow.

Should we obtain a history of the onion from the ancients, and a copy of the several provings be desired, I can for the most part furnish them. Till then the customary pathogenesis, which I have made as complete as possible, will suffice.

The Names of the Provers.—C. Hering took the tincture of the onion on the 15th of September, 1847, and the following days; on the 13th of November, five drops of the tincture after twelve o'clock, and five drops about one o'clock, from which appeared most of the symptoms. Many single symptoms are from other persons and designated by the letters, *ab*, *gg*., etc.

Dr. Jeanes proved Cepa on himself, and has used it very extensively to the present time.

Drs. Williamson, Neidhard and Lingen have enriched the present collection by very important observations.

Dr. W. Wesselhœft, Boston, took two drops of the tincture

in two spoonfuls of water for four or five days in succession, in the morning.

Dr. Geist took one drop of the third potency on the evening of the 16th of December, 1847; two drops on the 19th, at eleven, a.m.

An especially good proving is that of Dr. J. N. Eckel. He took, on the morning of the 17th of December, 1847, (fasting) two drops of the tincture on sugar of milk; on the 19th, four drops of the tincture in water; and in May, 1848, and experienced therefrom, with slight variation, the same symptoms.

Dr. Zumbrock took ten drops of the tincture frequently repeated, and thongh he had great aversion against onions in food, he experienced only a few symptoms.

Dr. Alleborn obtained several male provers, sedentary manual labors, tailors and weavers, who had lived quite homœopathically, for many years, without coffee, tobacco, beer, brandy and spices. They took the strongest tincture, even as much as fifty drops, repeated for many days; designated *G. W. P. L.*

All these provings could be printed in day-book form; at present we can only spare room for the symptomen register and divers matter from ancient and modern works. The reports and opinions of the Greek and other ancient as well modern physicians, are noted with the name or *Gr. P.—A. P.—M. P.*

W. Wirsung Arzneibuch, 1597.

T., Tabernæmontani Kraeterbuch.

Sch. Sch., denotes Scheibler Schaltjahr, reprint from various old writers. *O. V.*, Osiander Volksmittel.

Hong., Honigberger Fruechte Maus dem orgenlander.

Tahfet, according to the preceeding, from the Materia Medica of the Eastern physicians.

REGISTER OF SYMPTOMS.

Mind and Disposition:

1. To Mandragora we may join the excessive use of garlic, onions and leeks, because all physicians consider them

very injurious, as occasioning deeply corrupted, malignant humidity; which inflame the blood, injure the eyes, the head, the brain and stomach; predisposing to lethergy, sopor, somnolency, vertigo, epilepsy and indeed insanity. *Wm. Ramsey, Treatise de Venenis*, 1661, p. 68.

. Onions go to the head with their acridity and injure the brain, and if one eats too much of them they can indeed cause insanity and madness. *Col. Oec.*, 53.

. If many are eaten raw, they make a person foolish by reason of their aromas, which mount into the head. *Sch. Sch.*

. If too many are eaten, the onion juice takes away the senses, by reason of its great heat and acridity, and greatly injures the stomach. *Spigel, Isag. in rem herb.*, 1, 2, c. 16. *Koschwitz.*

5. I find something injurious in the onion and consider the opinion of Spigelius well founded, that a too free and continueduse of it as food causes disturbances of the brain. *Haller.*

. The pains, 34 and others were endurable, but yet of the character that he could scarcely help fearing they might become worse and unendurable. *Lingen.*

. Inexpressible anxiety, turning himself hither and thither full of despair, with severe colic; 328. * Pains with sore fingers, make him frantic. 549.

. Very melancholy, with catarrh. 508.

. In the afternoon, after wine and coffee, he was completely confused and absent minded by much business, forget and twisted every thing in the utmost confusion; the fourth day. *C. Hg.*

10. He makes mistakes in spelling a foreign language. *L., C. Hg.*

. Apathetic, mornings. 611.

. Working people take in the morning onions with bread and salt for the bad air, as they do treacle, but idlers are made foolish, melancholy and sleepy by its use. *Kæsslin Krauterbuch*, 1550.

. Cardanus affirms that even the offspring of those who eat onions freely are disposed to insanity. *Wm. Ramsey*, 1661.

Confusion of the Head and Vertigo:

. Vertigo, etc. 1, * on rising up. 589.

15. Dull feeling in the head which after a while becomes a headache, which draws from the forehead into the vertex. *L. Alleborn.*

. The sensation in the head as if the space was too small and every thing would press out of the forehead. *P. Alleborn.*

. Pressive pain in the occiput, with a benumbed sensation in the left elbow joint; forenoon of the second day. *Geist.*

. Pain in both sides of the occiput and a dull confusion from the crown backward and downward in the regions "conscientiousness" and love of approbation; continued the whole forenoon; went away in the evening after drinking beer. *C. Hg.*

. Confusion in the occiput, first on both sides and towards the upper part, pressing down sideways, then behind the ears around the whole occiput; after one hour. *C. Hg.*

20. Pressure and confusion in the upper part of the occiput in the regions "conscientiousness, "love of approbation" and "caution," the whole evening, better in the open air, worse on returning to the warm room; first day. *C. Hg.*

. Headache on both sides of the occiput, afterward in only two large round places in the upper posterior part of the head, in the region "love of approbation;" still later a general and humming sensation of the part being asleep. *C. Hg.*

. The pressure in the upper part of the occiput in the evening became about eleven a sensation of being asleep; on touching it he first noticed that it was not in the scalp, but as if in the bone. *C. Hg.*

. Confusion of the head, 270; * with coryza. 170.

. Dullness in the head with some coryza and lacrymations, in the evening on cutting onions. *Th., C. Hg.*

25. Dullness in the forehead and whole head as after inhaling chloroform. *E., C. Hg.*

Heaviness, Pressure in the Head:

. The head is full and heavy. *Gn., C. Hg.*
. Heaviness in the head. *Jeanes.*
. Heat and heaviness of the head, lasting from the forenoon till near evening; after cutting onions. *C. Hg.*
. Fullness and heaviness in the head as if it were bound up, with flickering of the eyes. 77.
30. Dull oppressive pain in the head. *G. Alleborn.*.
. Oppressive headache over the eyes; frequently going through the head like an electric shock; the first day. *Eckel.*

Pains in the Head:

. Aching of the head. *Jeanes.*
. Tingling pain behind the left mastoid process. *Williamson.*
. Stitches over the whole left forehead, externally, they draw into the ear, the upper jaw and the teeth of the same side; immediately after inspiration; evenings. *Lingen.*
35. Stitches as of needles in the forehead. 660.
. Pains deep in the head, sticking to the ear. 136, 137.
. Like electric shocks through the head. 31.

Local:

. Pains deep in the head over the left brow; after one hour. *C. Hg.*
. Headache the next morning, especially in both temples. *C. Hg.*
40. Pains in both temples, most severe in the right, aggravated by winking, afterward the pain extends over the forehead, worse on the left side. *Williamson.*
. Headache from both sides of the head, downward and inward toward the middle; after ten minutes. *C. Hg.*
. Pain, left of the crown; after seventy minutes. *C. Hg.*
. As if swollen and heavy on the crown. 77.
. Headache in the region of the organ of concentration. *Jeanes.*

45. Headache first in the occiput, then in the forepart on the right side over the eye. *Z., C. Hg.*

***Headache,** according to Conditions and Concomitants:*

. Headache, better in the open air. *Eckel.*, 50, 163.
. Worse on return to the warm room. 20, etc.
. In the room, evenings, with coryza. 163.
. Headache with coryza. 162, 163.
50. Headache and coryza, worse evenings; the fourth day. *Eckel.*
. * Severe headache with slight coryza. 171.
. Pain in the forehead with catarrh. 508.
. Headache and gastric troubles. 291.
. Head confused, especially in the forehead, after renewed eructations. 348.
55. Confusion of the head, after it had risen up from the stomach into the throat. 270.
. Headache and yawning. 594.

Undefined:

. Headache. *Gr. P.*
. But those, in whom they produce headache, should avoid them. *Dioscorides.*
. Make a decoction of leeks in water and bathe the head in it, for headache. *Galen.*
60. Raw, they are very injurious to the head and to the eyes. *Rhases.*
. They frequently excite headache in inflammatory constitutions. *Elbasai.*
. They afflict the head and eyes, hence they should be avoided by those who study and have a humid weak head, sight and hearing. *Tabernæmont.*
. If they are eaten too much, they cause headache. *Koschwitz.*

External Head:

. With pressive headache is the sensation as if the whole head externally were wrapped up in warm water. *X. Eckel.*
65. The whole head became hot. 77.

. Heat of the head. 28.
. Needle stitches upon the head, in the forehead. 660.

Hair:

. For alopecia, Hippocrates directed the spots to be rubbed with onions. *De Morb. Mul. II*, 667.
. * The hair is made to grow by anointing the bald spots with onions.
70. * It promotes the growth of hair in baldness better than Alcyonium. *Gr.*, *P*,
. * It may be used externally for making the hair grow, anointing the shaven head with it. The juice also makes the hair grow. *Zacut.* and *Simon Pauli* 2 *B.*
. * If the head be rubbed with onion juice, the hair is caused to grow. *Bronzet.*
. * To rub bald spots with onion juice. *O. V.*
. * For promoting the growth of the hair; the head is washed at evening with French brandy which has stood over freshly cut onions. *Fechner, Hauslexicon.*
75. * Bald spots are to be rubbed with a cut onion till they are red, to make the hair grow. *Caspari.* Compare nails and hoofs.

Sight:

. On becoming sleepy while reading, the letters appear to him very small; soon after the second dose. *C. Hg.*
. Flickering and blinding before the eyes, every thing dances hither and thither, therewith fullness and heaviness in the head, as if bound up, the whole head becomes hot, and feels swollen and heavy on the vertex; together with so much general weakness that she must lie down. After cutting onions. *C. Hg.*
. A bright dazzling in the distance and dimness near by *G.*, *Alleborn.*
. The eyes are sensitive to the light, particularly to the left. *Eckel.*
80. Cloudy sight by candle-light. *Jeanes.*
. Injurious to the eyes. *Rhases.*
. They affect the eyes, as to be avoided by the weak eyed. *Tabernœmont.*

. They weaken the sight. *Koshwitz.*
. Onions sharpen the sight. *Hippocrates.*
85. * They make the sight clear, and remove the commencement of cataract. *Dioscorides.*
. * For weak eyes. *Gr.*, *P.*
. It makes dim eyes clear. *Platearius.*

Eyes:

. It causes biting in the eyes, irritates to tears. An undoubted action of onion.
. At evening on cutting up onions, there was a continual dropping from the eyes, then they became painful. *O.*, *C. Hg.*
90. Pungent smell, biting and weeping of the eyes, and sneezing, after taking it. *Jeanes.*
. "And if the boy have not a woman's gift
To rain a shower of commanded tears,
An onion will do well for such a shift,
Which in a napkin close conveyed
Shall in despite enforce a watery eye."
—*Taming of the Shrew* (Introduction).
. It acts on the eyes, causing lacrymation. *Pereira Mat. Med.*
. * The juice represses the excessive lacrymatiou. *Elbasai.*
. The eyes water, after a few hours; the first day. *Eckel.*
95. The left eye pains the next morning; fine stitches in it; after cutting the onions in the evening. *E.*, *C. Hg.*
. The lachrymation of the left eye with coryza was much greater, the eye was much redder and more sensitive to the light than the right; the first day. *Eckel.*
. Excessive lachrymation of the left eye with redness of the eyeball, after frequent sneezing; the third day. *Eckel.*
. * The eyes are no longer watery and dim; the sixth day. they have their natural lustre; the seventh day. *Eckel.*
. The lacrymation is for the most part in the evening, in the warm room; the left eye weeps more and also is more sensitive to the light. *Eckel.*
100. Watering of the eyes and nose. 158.
. Lachrymation with coryza. 162, 164.

. * Lachrymation, 508, mild (not excoriating) with coryza. 170.
. * Blear-eyed. *Hong.*
. Burning on the outside of the right upper lid; after three minutes. *C. Hg.*
105. Burning in the lids. *L. Alleborn.*
. As if there were smoke in the eyes under the upper lids, mostly in the right; the first day. *C. Hg.*
. * Redness of the lids with catarrh. 507.
. After drinking coffee, an irritation on the left upper lid, which necessitates frequent rubbing; worse in the warm room, disappearing in the open air; the first day and and morning of the second. *Eckel.*
. Irritation of the left upper lid reappears very strikingly after the thirtieth. *Eckel.*
110. Itching in the supra orbital region, more on the left side; after one hour. *C. Hg.*
. Burning itching in the brows, the supra-orbital region and the upper lids; evening of the first day. *C. Hg.*
. Heat in the left eyebrow. *Williamson.*
. Needle stitches in the brows. 660.
. Pressive pain over the right eye; after twenty minutes. *C. Hg.*
115. Feeling of heaviness over both eyes and in the forehead; after a few minutes, lasting two hours. *Neidhard.*
. Pains in the eyes as if they would be torn out, as if the loose eye hung, posteriorly, on a string and would be bored into with the fingers and torn out. *O., C Hg.*
. Drawing pains in the left cheek, going into the interior of the left eye; better in the cold air; the second day. *Eckel.*
. Pain over the right eye to the root of the nose. 178.
. Pain from the cheeks into the left eye. 179.
120. * Onion juice either alone or with white wine, is an excellent eye salve, which wonderfully removes the heat of the eyes. *Joh. Prævot.*
. * Commencing ecchymoses in the eyes. *Gr. P.*

. * Ulcers, spots in the eyes. *Gr. P.*
. * Irritant affections of the eyes, used with ashes. *Gr. P.*
. * A sty is to be rubbed with a piece of raw onion. *O. V.*
125. Swelling of the lids and around the eye; with coryza. 170.

Hearing:

. Ringing in the ears now and then; also soft, in both ears as from sounds far distant (mostly in the right ear, from which he hears); the fourth to the seventh day. *C. Hg.*
. Humming in the ears on lying down. *gg., C. Hg.*
. Roaring in the left ear, as heretofore only after a severe cold; afternoon of the first day. *Eckel.*
. * Whizzing and ringing in the ears. *A. de Villanuova.*
130. * Hardness of hearing. *Apollonius.*
. * Onion juice for impaired hearing. *Wirsung.*
. * It removes deafness and strengthens the hearing, *Phil. Muller;* but it must be done with discretion. *Koschwitz.*
. For some kinds of deafness, the juice is to be dropped into the ear. *Hahnemann.*
. To be avoided by those who have weakness of hearing. *Tabernæmont.*

Ears:

135. Pecking behind the right ear; after one minute. *C. Hg.*
. Pains moving from deep within the head to the ears, like thick threads, about a finger in length, remaining in particular spots, from a pea to a hazel-nut in size; after fifty minutes. *C. Hg.*
. Pain behind the ears deep within the head, from backward and inward to the ears; a sensation entirely new and peculiar to him; after one hour. *C. Hg.*
. Stitches drawing from the left forehead into the ear. 34.
. Under the left ear a hard swelling the size of a hazel-nut, extending from over the angle of the lower jaw to the ear, from which pains go into the ear, especially on pressure. *O., C. Hg.*
140. A painful sensation from the throat to the ears; after five minutes. *C. Hg.*