remarked that the child seemed to be free from dyspnæa when sleeping soundly, but at no other time. On waking in the morning he had always a hard fit of coughing, during which he sometimes raised a little tenacious mucus. His appetite was good, though somewhat capricious. He was considerably emaciated; his spirits were good, and he often attempted to join in the sports of other children, but was obliged soon to desist, because of the dyspnæa and cough which every physical exertion caused and which greatly fatigued him. On percussion and auscultation the lungs were found resonant; the respiratory murmur was, of course, masked by the loud wheezing.

The child had been taken, in September, to Prof. A. Clark, of New York, who, after careful and repeated examinations, had given a written diagnosis—"Chronic Laryngismus."—He gave a very unfavorable prognosis and the advice to avoid all medication, save only a dose of some antispasmodic during the violent attacks of dyspnæa. This advice had not been followed. The child had been, throughout his illness, under what I regard as very skilful homæopathic treatment. I had once seen him in consultation, but had not been able to suggest anything that proved of service to him.

When now placed under my sole care, I well knew that the child had already taken, without benefit, every remedy which has symptoms at all resembling Millar's asthma or any spasmodic affection of the respiratory organs. And it was also evident, on even a cursory examination, that no one of these remedies was *clearly* indicated by the symptoms of the case.

I therefore resolved to follow, as implicitly as I could, the advice given by Hahnemann for the examination of the patient and the selection of the remedy. Dismissing from my mind, then, every notion concerning the seat and probable pathological nature of the disease, I examined the patient and made the following record of the symptoms which he presented.

1. Child emaciated, flesh soft, skin inclined to be yellow (naturally fair—a blond) and dry.

2. Appetite very good; always calls for food as soon as a

coughing fit begins in the morning or forenoon.

3. The right hypochondrium hard, distended, tender to the touch, painful on exertion and when he coughs. The right shoulder is elevated and the spinal column laterally curved; dullness on percussion on the right side, extending three fingers' breadth below the margin of the ribs.

4. Distension of the epigastrium which is tympanitic on

percussion, and tender to the touch.

5. Much rumbling of flatus in the abdomen.

6. Frequent ineffectual desire for stool; stool scanty and

dry, occurring once daily or once in two days.

7. Cough dry; sometimes in the morning a very little tenacious sputa; always a coughing fit in the morning on waking; he has to sit up to cough; cough excited by eating and drinking, by rapid motion, by exertion, by crying or talking. The cough hurts his right side.

8. Constant wheezing and dyspnæa aggravated by exer-

tion and by lying down, relieved during sleep.

The tender age of the patient rendered it impossible to obtain many subjective symptoms, such as usually facilitate the individualization of cases, and the determination of the

appropriate remedy.

Before proceeding further in the narration of the case, I desire to say a word upon its pathology. The symptoms are before us: what shall our diagnosis be? Is the case one of spasmodic laryngeal disease, complicated by certain gastroenteric and hepatic affections? Or, is it a chronic hepatitis, complicated by laryngismus? Which affection is primary, and which secondary? What relation do the groups of symptoms bear to each other? Prof. Clarke seems to have adopted the former view, regarding the gastro-hepatic troubles as secondary, if indeed he paid any attention whatever to this complication. The homeopathic physicians who, preceded me probably adopted the same view and based their treat-

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ment upon it. Now if in so doing they had happened to take a correct pathological view, the result might have been favorable; or if they had adopted and acted upon the second hypothesis, and this had chanced to be the correct view, the result might have been favorable.

But is it not obvious to every candid mind, that, in either case, success in the treatment based upon a pathological consideration of the case must depend on the correctness of the pathological hypothesis—a matter in which certainty can never be attained.

On the other hand, if we throw aside, as irrelevant, the entire series of questions as to which is the primary disease and which the secondary-which the original malady and which the complication-if we say to ourselves. "Here is a sick child; let us examine and record those points in which he differs from a healthy child," we get the series of symptoms above recited, which are facts, indisputable, unmistakable, the result of pure observation. If now, without hypothesis or speculation, we seek to find and do find a remedy which presents a series of symptoms corresponding closely to those of the patient, experience justifies us in believing that we shall have reached the utmost possible certainty of correctly selecting the remedy.

Comparing the symptoms with the Materia Medica, we perceive at once that the remedies whose names are usually associated with Millar's Asthma, Laryngismus, etc., viz.: Sambucus, Spongia, Cina, Lachesis, Hepar, Stann, Chlorine, etc., etc., do not cover the case, having but little correspondence with groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Nux Vomica, on the other hand, covers these groups very well, as will be seen by comparing Materia Medica. In addition, it has violent paroxysms of cough in the morning very early (676 and 677), excited by motion and exertion 670, 671, 672), producing pain in the epigastric zone (689), and accompanied by a desire to eat (my own observation). It has also a well-marked dyspnœa,

The correspondence was so close that I had no hesitation in giving Nux vomica.

Dec. 9, four powders of the 200th were given, one to be taken every night, and the patient to report in ten days.

Dec. 21, the report was brought to me, that the child had no more wheezing nor dyspnæa; had been free from cough for five days, can play long and vigorously without inconvenience, is regular in his bowels, complains no longer of pain or tenderness in the hypochondrium—in fact seems to be perfectly well.

He deranged the digestion by eating candy at Christmas, and had a slight return of pain in the hypochondrium, which a dose of Sulphur relieved. He has ever since been entirely free from dyspnæa and laryngeal spasm, and is in the enjoyment of robust and perfect health.

If such a mode of practice as this be, as is charged, unscientific—if it ignore the sciences of pathology and diagnosis as bases of treatment—thus much at least may be said in its favor, that it far surpasses every other method in the facilities it affords for the fulfilment of one not unimportant object of the physician—the cure of the patient.

NEW TERMS IN HOMEOPATHY.

In Dr. Fincke's article on Hydrocele, published in the last volume of the Review, some words in the manuscript were changed to accord with the usual form of expression, such as Homeopathists being substituted for Homeopathicians, Allopathists for Alloopathicians. In a letter to Dr. Boyce, Secretary of the Cayuga County Homeopathic Medical Society, before which the paper was read, Dr. Fincke objects to the alteration. We give an extract from his letter, as introductory to an article on the same subject, which we shall publish in a future number. He says:

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"I prefer the word 'potentiate' to the formation 'potentize.' The latter is a crudity, and not in keeping with the genius of the English language, and it is etymologically incorrect. The former comes from the noun 'potency' (potentia—potentiate).

"The formation 'Homœopathist' is another of the words in use, which, if used by ourselves, would imply a want of self-respect, and a misconception of what we mean. If Homœopathy were a mere ism (Homœopathism), then the man who professes it would be correctly called a Homœopathist. It is well enough for traducers and cavillers to call us so; but our art and science is Homœopathic (Homœopathy—Homœopathics). Hence the physician who professes and exercises it, is more than a Homœopathist; he is a Homœopathician. The formation of this latter word is as correct and English as the formation—physician, mathematician, obstetrician, logician and a host of others.

"Let us all agree on this: our science is new, and like every new science, occasionally requires new words. And we must be careful, but not afraid to supply the want of new expressions; only in doing so, we must closely adhere to the genius of the language. The Germans never called a homeopathic physician a 'Homeopathist;' that would have involved derision. They always called him a 'Homeopath.' Generally speaking, the first translators into English, of the German originals on Homeopathy, were not sufficiently versed in the two languages to do justice to the matter; and if they were, they, in many instances, have not been careful and exact enough to render the true sense. Thus the young profession in this country, as well as in England, was often misled, even dangerously so, and mostly so in the Materia Medica."

PROVING OF RHUS VERNIX.*

BY LYMAN CLARY, M. D., SYRACUSE, N. Y.

As by a rule of the society it is made the duty of every member to make some communication at each regular meeting, I shall comply by giving a proving of the Rhus vernix or Poison Sumach. This is a beautiful shrub growing in low swampy places to the height of from ten to thirty feet, and is indigenous to the northern and middle states. Rhus vernix produces much more powerful and poisonous effects than Rhus toxicodendron or Rhus radicans.

Though we have but few provings, I am satisfied, when they are more extended, we shall perhaps find it more valuable as a remedial agent than the other varieties. My experience in its proving was involuntary, precluding me from claiming martyrdom in the cause of medical science. It was brought about in the following manner:

On the 22d of November, 1863, a stick of Rhus vernix, as large as my wrist and two feet long, was brought into my office by my friend Dr. Hawley, that I might make a tincture, he having taken the bark from one half, for the same purpose.

I held it by the part which retained its cuticle for half a minute, handing it back, saying I was very susceptible to Rhus tox. Dr. H. shaved off a small spot of cuticle, from which exuded a globule of juice as large as a pinhead, which I touched with the tip of my tongue, remembering the teaching of the books, that it would protect against the poisonous effects induced by contact with the skin. These teachings, like many others from the same source, proved false, as I found to my sorrow. The stick was put away, and the occurrence passed from my mind.

On the 30th of November, eight days after the experiment, while at dinner, my tongue felt as if scalded, and during the

^{*} Read before the Hom. Med. Society of the State of N. Y., May 10, 1864.

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afternoon this feeling extended to the entire mouth and fauces, producing great dryness in the mouth, and stinging pains, which increased rapidly till I retired at night. At two o'clock next morning severe pains in the stomach and bowels came on, but being in a half-waking and half-sleeping state, I remained in bed about two hours, when I was suddenly forced from my bed, and had a large watery stool, passed with great force and attended with violent colicky pains. During the next two hours had three more profuse stools of the same character, and from that time the pain and stools ceased. In the morning I rose, feeling weak and as though I had taken a drastic cathartic—appetite gone and chills over the whole body.

During the day, December 1st, I often scratched my neck under my shirt collar, and on getting warm in bed I felt stinging and itching about my chest and back, as though some insect was biting me.

On the morning of the second, inspecting my face, I found the forehead swollen and red; during the day this extended to the whole head and face. The upper lip was terribly swelled and the itching greatly increased, especially in the septum narium; had burning pains and swelling in the eye. During this day hæmorrhoids came on, and four small tumors appeared, which remained out for several weeks, with extreme itching and burning. I had had nothing of the kind for more than two years. No movement of the bowels this day, but the itching extended to the whole body, though no eruption appeared. At night the itching was so great that I could hardly endure it, but up to this time, and until the next morning, the third of December, I had no suspicion of the cause. I had entirely forgotten the Rhus. I passed a sleepless night, and in the morning discovered the vesicular eruption characteristic of Rhus, showing itself on the forehead. Then for the first time occurred the idea that I had been poisoned. It may be thought that I was very stupid not to have sooner recognized the cause, and I must acknowledge it now appears so to me.

During this day, fourth of December, the eruption spread over the body and extremities, with a desire to scratch that was irresistible.

The scrotum, prepuce and glans penis, became covered with vesicles; transient, shooting pains in the sternum and chest, added to those of the preceding days, which continued in an aggravated form. Now lameness and soreness of the muscles came on, and I could hardly walk. The hæmorrhoids continued—nausea and loathing of food, with entire loss of taste and smell. The pharynx and œsophagus became so irritable that it was painful and difficult to swallow; food, in passing, caused pain and seemed to stop midway to the stomach; even cold water produced the same feeling that very hot tea would, and the same aching pain that is often felt after drinking very cold ice water, though the thirst was great.

December 5th dryness and pain in the larynx came on. with hoarseness and a harsh, dry cough, attended by stricture in the chest, and for more than two weeks there was pain over the sternum. I may also say that for the same time the itching, cough, lameness and hæmorrhoids all continued, and

I was tormented night and day.

Now, gentlemen, if anything can be made out of this medley of symptoms, which shall add to the pathogenesis of the Rhus vernix, I shall rejoice, though sure am I that I shall not soon be induced to try the same experiment. I think I was not free from perceptible effects of this poisonous drug for six or eight weeks. Is it not remarkable that eight days should have intervened after the application of the virus to the delicate mucous membrane of the tongue, before the least symptom of its violent effects should have made itself manifest, and then that the tongue to which it was applied should have been the organ first to suffer? Where was this subtle poison all this time, which we will call the latent period? Was it coursing through the vascular system to the extreme capillaries, ready to bite and sting when that unruly organ, the tongue, should fire up and direct it?

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I leave this for wiser heads than mine to solve, and would direct the question to our allopathic friends who have ascertained that touching the tongue to poison will prevent injurious effects upon the system.

TELLURIUM.

BY C. HERING, M. D., PHILADELPHIA.

History.—1782. As Aurum paradoxicum, Metallum problematicum, sent by Muller of Reichenstein, to Klaproth; it may be similar to Bismuth or Antimony, yet characteristically different.

1789. Determined and fixed by the latter.

1804. C. G. Gmelin's experiments on animals.

18... Its position and relations investigated by Berzelius.

1850. Tellurium obtained pure for the first time by Dr. Genth, of Philadelphia.

1850. The 26th of October, C. Hering's experiments with a low trituration. 1

1851. January 18th, Dr. Raue took the third trituration. 2 At the same time Oscar Pietze took the same. 3

Mrs. M. L. Cooms. through C. Hering. 4

In April, Dr. Kitchen. 5.

Dr. Gardiner. 6.

Dr. Whitey, the 3d. 7.

27th May, Dr. Gosewisch, the 12th, prepared from Tellurium precipitated in the form of a powder. 8.

June 6. By the above N. N. 9.

" " Mrs. F. 6th. 10.

Aug. 14. Dr. Metcalf, third trituration prepared from the precipitate. 11.

1852, March 26. Cure by Dr. Metcalf, published in the N. A. Journal of Homeopathy; thence in Homeopathic Times, 1853, No. 186; thence in the Zeit. fuer Hom. Klinik,

1853, No. 16; thence in *Hirschel's Archives*, I855, p. 126. 12. 1852. Dr. Dunham's proving with the third trituration (prepared from the precipitate). 13.

Dr. Dunham's cures with the 30th. 14.

Dr. Wells' cures. 15,

1853, May. Liebig & Woehler's Annalen der Chemie, 86, p. 208 to 215. K. Hauser's experiments with telluriate of potash; thence in Fechner's Central. Blatt, No. 37, page 723; thence in Zeit. fuer Hom. Klinik, 1853; thence in Hirschel's Archives, 1855, p. 245, No. 22, p. 189,

K. Hauser, 16
Roeder, 17
Woehler, 18

Introduction (1854).—We, provers of drugs, occupy a singular position, such as has never yet been held by investigators of nature. A prodigious majority of physicians pay no regard to us; this indeed were nothing new; the like has often happened before, but has never lasted so long a time.

All investigation works first in a narrow circle; then in a wider, and finally wider and wider. Ours, however, is like the wave in a well, made by a frog that has jumped into it.

More than nine tenths, perhaps ninety-nine hundreths, of the physicians, set themselves, like slippery, algae-covered stones, against all drug.provings. Every little minority which accepts these requires that great masses be swallowed after a violent fashion, and fixes its investigating eye upon the excrement, as the non plus ultra. Sweat, urine, intestinal and pulmonary excrement, have high seats of honor in their temple. They are masters, not upon the professional chair but in the stool.

If we come now to the school of Hahnemann, things are not much better. Nine tenths or ninety-nine hundreths of this minority are swayed by the fashions, being also adorers of fence-rail doses; the frog which jumps into the well must be at least a bull-frog.

The very worst resistance, however, comes from those among us who—as the deer, according to Bechstein, nibbles

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by preference at every new kind of tree and destroys italso only desire the old-accustomed forest; it appears to them as a hankering for strange novelties or oddities, if one wants to go farther than in the old wood. One finds himself, therefore, in the awkward position of being compelled to ask a thousand pardons for proving something new, and spending one's life and body for the common welfare! While all naturalists, in every other department, receive every contribution, be it ever so trifling, with thankful acknowledgments-on the other hand, a prover of drugs is considered as a sort of a fool, even by those who recognize generally the importance of such provings upon the healthy, as soon as he proves something which they are scarcely able to remember, as having been a great rarity at the time when they were at college. I will now, therefore, discuss the reason why the proving of Tellurium was made and why it will become one of the most important provings. There were four principal reasons for it:

First. Because, in general, everything ought to be proved and must be proved; and, inasmuch as Tellurium also belongs in the category of "everything," there is already a sufficient reason for it a priori.

Second. Because everybody for whose silly brain this is too much, need only to jump over it with both his eyes—a very little trouble this.

Third. I have proved Tellurium because I had been longing to do so, ever since my provings of Selenium; why, will be explained farther on.

Fourth. I proved Tellurium on the same day, in the morning of which, for the first time in my life, I saw Tellurium and took it into my hands. Now, everything of that kind must, with me, pass as soon as possible over the mucous membrane of the tongue, mouth and pharynx; and I then listen with a more attentive spiritual ear than if a symphony of Beethoven were being performed. I listen eagerly to hear what kind of an answer may be forthcoming from the unknown depths of the human body and life.

All of these four reasons, however, will hardly satisfy a sprawling criticaster, because he has other ears which have no such longing. The following, therefore, may serve as a justification in the meantime.

Tellurium is such a rare metal, that the majority of chemists have never seen it. Although discovered since 1782, its ores are still rarities in the collections of minerals, and its artificial chemical preparations and combinations are still greater curiosities in the laboratories.

If, now, somebody should prove Tellurium for the sole reason that it is a rarity, there would indeed be something droll about him; but it will probably be conceded that he who does *not* want it to be proved because it is so very *rare*, must be taken to be much droller still!

Tellurium, judging by the sources from which it is obtained, is one of the neighbors of Gold. Gold is found only in elevated mountains, and moreover only near the surface, disappearing again in the depths. On the surface it has been laid bare here and there, and its surroundings have been destroyed by the influence of air and water. Gold is noble, i. e. durable; soft as love, and heavy as Earnestness; it has maintained itself through destructive centuries, and during the crushing storms of ages, it has remained just what it was; it only sank in the loose masses of stone and earth, and is now mostly found in the beds of rivers and in layers of sand, in the form of grains, scales and nuggets. There man, the greedy wader, washes it free from the mud and the sand, and collects it in little bags. Where man detects gold in its rocky veins, he takes upon himself the office of those centuries, and he throws the ore under the stamping mill, where, with all its associate ores and gangues, it is crushed in a shorter time, and where mud and rubble are separated from

Here we see the reason why the Tellurium which exists associated with the rare Gold, is still more rarely to be precured. The mills pound it and the washings carry it away; but the same has been done by the great washings of the

Though I am by no means worthy to direct the attention of the provers of drugs to those muddy deposits of the sea, still I must here interpolate something, and remember my most esteemed friend, the Magus near the Elbe, who, on the occasion of my proving of Selenium, the near neighbor of Sulphur, thought of it, that the chemists had discovered Selenium in the mud of the factories of Sulphuric acid. I answered this in my own way, that is, by adopting his way. Is not mud similar to mud? And if diseases come from the one mud, and also out of the factories, why not fetch remedies out of similar mud and similar factories?

I have however, in truth, neither in the case of the Selenium nor in that of the Tellurium, once thought of the mud. But, speaking of mud, the most sublime contemplations suggest themselves. As Hamlet says: "To die; to sleep; to sleep! perchance to dream; ay, there's the rub; for in that sleep of death, what dreams may come, when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, must give us pause." But what kind of life may spring from this mud, that is the rub!

Mud is something universal. As the dust in the air, so the mud passes through the fluid, and with the fluid, everywhere and from everywhere, is deposited. Without mud no vegetable, no animal life. And what the chemists, up to the end of the first half of our century, have proved to be essential or accidental constituent elements of living bodies, is certainly far from being all, yea, those small quantities which at the present day "are comprised under the errors of observation," will become, every year, less and less, and many a thing may still reasonably be expected to be discovered in this region (compare Kirchhoff, 1864). Enough, the mud particles containing Tellurium have passed through the streams containing gold in $\frac{1}{100}$, $\frac{1}{1000}$, $\frac{1}{10000}$, $\frac{1}{10000}$, $\frac{1}{1}$, $\frac{1}{11}$; have also passed through many which once contained gold; therefore, through nearly all of them; they have passed and pass into the ocean.

From this, however, among other things, come oysters and codfish, herrings and sardines, yea, codliver oil and foam of the sea waves which diffuse themselves all over hungry and bathing, healthy and sick mankind. Thus those small quantities reach, in a large and mighty circuit, the life of men.

Of all those who shudder at such millionth part contemplations as these, we may, as was done to the pharisees in the Scripture, "stop the mouths" by referring to the existence, the diffusion, the indispensableness of fluoric acid. The teeth, as is known, contain it on their surfaces, in the enamel; the whole existence of the teeth is evidently conditioned by it. The teeth inevitably hasten to their ruin if the fluoric acid be wanting; everybody knows the consequences hereof. But besides this, fluoric acid is also in all and every bone, and it must be there; all the firmness also of the bones must mainly be conditioned by it; there must be found Fluoride of Calcium in every bone; none can exist without it. Already twenty-nine (now thirty) years ago, I wrote to Stapf: Men have found at last Fluoride of Calcium in the bones of oxen; shall we wait till oxen find them in the bones of men?

Liebig finally found them in human bones, at least in those from Pompeii. But inasmuch as Fluoric acid must be found in all bones except it be wanting through the influence of disease—as sometimes, in an analogous way, iron is wanting in the blood (Manganese would be more analogous yet)from what other source then, than from the plants, do the animals derive it? It therefore must be present in hay and grain, probably most abundantly in beans, peas and lentils. If now it is found in all these plants, it would be folly to assume that the plants only contain it accidentally, nay, even simply in order that it might be deposited in animals and men. Fluorine must also have a function in vegetable life; if then Fluorine has such a function, it would be equally silly to assume that, with animals and men, it has no other business but to make the enamel of the teeth harder; and as I may now, supported by the provings, maintain, also all the bones, surely Fluorine has still many other functions. All this is

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taught by the provings upon the healthy, and by innumerable cures of the sick. Both the provings and cures of course are made only by potencies; for Fluorine likewise is always present in the body only in the state of diffusion, extension, tension, potentiation, and, like only acts upon like; this is an old axiom.

And if the physiological significance of one single ¹/₁ is secured, no more reasonable objection can be made to the possibility of a significance also of others; and it would be nonsense if, after this is once secured, one should say: thus far and no farther the decimals of such like fractions in life shall have their value, and shall be allowed to act! It is a matter of course that it must go on, still much farther on, and it, in, iv, will soon have to be acknowledged, in healthy life, to be indispensable and physiologically necessary constituent elements.

A substance which has existence is also necessary; what was necessary was conditioned, and it, in turn, conditions again. That which conditions has a function, a purpose, and, if you please, a use, a destination. This destination must be found out; but this is only possible by presupposing it in general. That which is presupposed in general, however, can again, in special, only be found by investigation. Every stubborn resistance to progress, therefore, earns for itself the very same treatment which is the portion of the mules on Alpine roads; that is, incessant whippings from behind, till they move forward again.

The basis of all investigation into the significance and function of substances, is their influence upon man. Provings upon the healthy give us a portrait and knowledge of the corporeal and spiritual function of each. This we must, first of all, know before we can take a step further.

Therefore inasmuch as Tellurium exists, Tellurium must be proved. Tellurium may exist everywhere in millionths and billionths. Tellurium ought to be proved in 1 and 1, etc., even if it were never to become a healing medium. The doctrine of medicines must be conceived and built up as a

science, and as such it has nothing whatever to do with the art of healing. Its object is action of the substances, it being a matter of indifference whether a substance cause something to appear, to show itself, or whether it causes something to appear no more, to cease to show itself. And inasmuch as both of the causations are action, they both will be an object for science; whether such things be pleasing to the single individuals or not is a matter of indifference to science. But Tellurium promises to become a very important medicine, for it is one of the neighbors of Gold.

In my preliminaries to the "Pharmacology considered as a Natural Science" (not yet printed), I have pointed out the probability of a most important proposition which I discovered when treating lepra, in that all those earths which are associated as neighbors, also correspond with pathologically similar diseases or groups of symptoms; therefore, much as they may vary otherwise in their effects, still in this respect again they stand near each other, just as they had formerly been together in the rocks and gangues of the ore. Experience will soon show whether this be the case with Tellurium,

The very same is true of the plants which thrive chiefly on certain kinds of mountains. It is not by a mere accident, but in accordance with law, that Belladonna, which grows upon limestone mountains and cannot live without lime, is not only a good sequent of Calcarea (showing always a relationship), but also is so often useful in the same diseases in which Calcarea is indicated, that every practitioner, knowingly or not, gives these remedies to the sick, in succession. This therefore, already at the outset, gives a greater importance to Tellurium.

(To be continued.)