

## ALOES.

(Translated from *Hering's Amerikanische Arzneipruefungen*.)

BY T. F. ALLEN, M. D., NEW YORK.

(Continued from Vol. IV, page, 576.)

**Abdomen :**

- . Crawlings in the abdomen. 418.
- 480. Pleasant crawlings in the bowels and diarrhœic stools. 879.
- . Pricking in the intestines before stool. 669.
- . It produces local plethora in the hypogastric region. *Hahnemann Apoth. Lex.*
- . From long continued use : troubles, the result of the so-called plethora abdominalis. *Vogt. Pharmakodyn.*
- . Its whole action is apparently the result of congestion of the abdominal organs. *Pereira.*
- 485. Congestion of the abdomen. *St.*
  - . Sense of fulness in the bowels. *B.*, in the abdomen, the second and fourth days. *t, Henke, a.*
  - . It causes ebullition of the blood in the organs of the abdomen. *Gesenius Mat. Med.*, 124.
  - . Anxious feeling in the abdomen. *Richter 2*, 342.
  - . Enteritis from its long continued use. *Greenhow.*
- 490. Inflammation and ulceration of the intestinal mucous membrane. *N. T.*
  - . Inflammation of the lower portion of the intestinal canal. 589.
  - . Increased heat in the abdomen. *B.*
  - . Unpleasant warmth in the abdomen, as well as also a throbbing. *W.* (With *N. T.* there was too pleasant warmth.)
  - . Sense of fulness, distension, heat in the whole abdomen. *R.*
- 495. Burning throughout the whole abdomen.  $\Delta$  *C. Hg.*
  - . (Slight throbbing, like palpitation, in the abdomen, during rest, especially nights, lying down, sometimes also in the occiput,) after four weeks. *Helbig.*
  - . Throbbing, boring, sticking in the umbilical region. *R.*

- . Griping of the bowels, with diarrhœa, after midnight. *t, Raue.*
- . In the morning on rising, severe raking in a small circle about the navel, just as if he had received a blow from a fist upon the abdomen. But he felt the pain plainly in the intestinal canal, and a pressure upon the umbilical region increased it very much. Therewith yellowish pappy, diarrhœa, and occasionally some nausea, the third day. *Helbig.*
- 500. Painfulness in the whole abdomen, especially in the sides and in front down along both sides of the navel, which parts also can not endure being touched ; on making a false step on stone pavement it hurts very much in the pit of the stomach ; many days. *Helbig.*
- . The abdomen is somewhat distended and tense, very sensitive to contact, even painful. *F. R. L.\**
- . The abdomen is painful to pressure ; the first day. *Preu. d.*
  - \* Attacks. After a chill, distension over the hips to the loins ; there out come shocks, it aches and throbs like a felon, or like ebullition of the blood. The attacks always commence in the evening, are dissipated by walking, reproduced during rest. During the pain everything is repugnant to him ; speaking impedes his respiration. In the night he wakes from sleep and starts up, so that he rises upright in bed. *Helbig.*
  - . Its long continued use gives rise to dryness of the intestines, and paralytic rigidity of the muscular structure, especially of the colon and rectum, in consequence of which obstinate constipation is wont to ensue.—*Vogt pharm.*, 2, 341 (fabricated from Richter's dryness of the intestines).
- 505. Swelling of the mesenteric glands, atrophy, and rachitis of small children, suffering from excess of intestinal mucus and worms. *Schreger.*
  - \* Indurations and obstructions of the intestines *Hong.*
  - \* Swelling of the mesenteric glands, atrophy. *Schneider, Adversarie.*
  - \* Consumption of the bowels. *Ceste.*
  - . Dropsy. *Greek Physicians.*
- 510. It is good in the commencement of dropsy, *T.* : especially in the beginning. *Schreger.*
  - . Heaviness in the hypogastrium. 870 ; in the rectum. 871.
  - . On lying on the abdomen, feeling of a stone in the abdomen ; on lying on the side, in the side. 580.

(To be continued.)

\* F. R. L. has been heretofore given E. R. L., owing to the occurrence of the mistake in the original : it means Fickel's Real Lexicon.—Translator.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

MEETING OF HOMŒOPATHIC PHYSICIANS AT PHILADELPHIA.—Prior to the commencement of Vol. III. of the AMERICAN HOMŒOPATHIC REVIEW (the first volume under the present Editors), a meeting of the friends of the REVIEW was held in New York, for the purpose of discussing and agreeing upon the principles upon which the REVIEW should be conducted.

In June, 1863, the friends of the REVIEW were again assembled in council at Philadelphia. At this meeting, after the affairs of the REVIEW had been satisfactorily disposed of, other matters of general interest to the profession were brought forward.

Some interesting clinical effects of the *Caruba di Giudæa* in Asthma having been related, it was resolved by gentlemen present to institute provings of that substance during the ensuing year.

The great need of trustworthy standard works on Homœopathy—as for example, a complete *Materia Medica*, a full and correct Repertory, a work on Characteristics, &c.,—was freely expressed and appreciated. The difficulties of various sorts which have hitherto stood in the way of the publication of such works of the above character as are now ready for the press, or nearly so, were explained and discussed; and it was finally resolved to appoint a committee to report at the next meeting on the subject of the establishment of a Publishing Society for the publication of standard homœopathic works, and to devise a plan for the organization of such society, if such a step seem desirable.

On the 31st day of May, 1864, the friends of the REVIEW again met by invitation at the house of Dr. C. Hering, in Philadelphia. There was a large attendance, and much interest was manifested in the topics presented for discussion.

Stated business was postponed to the meeting of the next day, in order to give the members present an opportunity of listening to a statement of the recent changes in the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, and the present condition of that institution. The Faculty has been completely reorganized; the professors without exception are strict and thorough Homœopaths, and really believe and practice what they profess to teach. They are moreover men eminent in their various departments.

It is a matter of sincere congratulation to members of our school everywhere, that the oldest Homœopathic college in the world, which started with such brilliant prospects of usefulness, but which, falling into unworthy hands, had sunk so low as to utterly lose the confidence and support of every Homœopathian, has been raised again to a condition in which it will certainly more than fulfil the brightest promises of the past.

With Drs. Hering, Raue, Lippe, Guernsey and Starkey, occupying the chairs respectively of the Institutes of Medicines, Diagnostics, *Materia Medica*, Obstetrics and Surgery, we have the completest guarantee of such a course as will qualify students to enter on their practical career with a thorough and

accurate knowledge of the science and art of homœopathic medicine and surgery.

The next day, June 1, 1864, the meeting reassembled and the stated business was called up.

Reports from those who had undertaken to prove the *Caruba di Giudæa* made it seem probable that that substance will not fill an important place in our *Materia Medica*.

The committee appointed in 1863 to consider the subject of a Publishing Society, and report a plan for the organization of such a society, submitted a full report, together with a plan. This plan, after being modified by the Society, was adopted. It was as follows:—

*Plan for the organization of a Homœopathic Publication Society, adopted at a meeting of Homœopathic Physicians held at the residence of Dr. Lippe, in Philadelphia, June 1, 1864.*

The undersigned unite in organizing a Society, to be styled the “Homœopathic Publication Society.”

1. The object of this Society shall be to facilitate and secure the publication of standard homœopathic works.

2. Homœopathic physicians, members of the American Institute of Homœopathy, of the Western Institute of Homœopathy, or of any State or County Homœopathic Medical Society, may become members of this Society on payment of the sum of One Dollar.

3. The officers of the Society shall be two Secretaries, one for the East and one for the West, a Treasurer and an Executive Council of five members, the chairman of which shall preside at the annual meeting of the society.

These officers shall be elected every three years, by ballot and by proxy and shall hold office until their successors are elected.

4. The fund resulting from the payment of fees by members shall be held by the treasurer to defray expenses of correspondence, &c., subject to the order of the executive council. The treasurer shall report to the yearly meeting.

5. Works prepared for publication may be submitted by the authors to the Executive Council, which shall report upon the works by circular to the members of the society. Works not accepted by the Executive Council may be presented to the society at its yearly meeting, and be by it referred to a special committee, which shall act, with regard to this work, in the capacity of the Executive Council.

6. When the Executive Council, or a special committee, as above provided, shall have accepted a work presented to them, they shall issue and circulate among the profession by means of the journals, or through the mails, or both, a prospectus of the work thus endorsed and accepted, stating its plan and scope and inviting subscriptions.

7. With this endorsement of the work, and with the subscriptions obtained in response to these invitations, the work shall be returned to the author that arrangements may be made by him for its publication.

The gentlemen present then signed the aforesaid document and became members of the Publication Society.

The election of officers being now in order, it was agreed that, inasmuch as the number of members present was very small in comparison with the number who might be expected to join as soon as the plan should be made public, the election should be for provisional officers, to hold office only until a general meeting should be convened after due public notice.

An election was then held for provisional officers, with the following results:—

*Executive Council*,—Drs. C. Hering, A. Lippe, P. P. Wells, H. N. Guernsey, C. W. Boyce. *Secretaries*,—For the East, Dr. Carroll Dunham; for the West, Dr. E. M. Hale. *Treasurer*,—Dr. Henry M. Smith.

The society then adjourned subject to the call of the provisional executive council. It is understood that the opening of the course of lectures in the Philadelphia Homœopathic College will be celebrated with ceremonies of unusual interest, and that Homœopaths throughout the country will be invited to attend: that this opportunity will be taken by the provisional executive council of the Publication Society to call a meeting of the members for the election of permanent officers and the commencement of business. Meanwhile, in order to bring the matter before the profession, and to invite the participation of homœopathic physicians throughout the country, the Executive Council issue the following

*Circular.*

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of Homœopathic physicians held in the city of Philadelphia, June 1, 1864, it was

Resolved, That the want of good and reliable English literature on the subject of Homœopathy is generally felt; and that, to meet this want and to further the progress of our school, it is desirable to establish, at once, a Publication Society.

The physicians present formed a temporary organization, and elected a provisional board of officers, whose duty it is to call upon you, as one of the profession, and invite you to become a member of this Publication Society.

Members of the American Institute of Homœopathy, or of the Western Institute, or of any State or County Medical Society, may become members of the Publication Society by sending their names to the Secretary for the East, Dr. Carroll Dunham, 68 East 12th St., New York, or to the Secretary for the West, Dr. E. M. Hale, Chicago, Ill., and by remitting to the Treasurer, Dr. Henry M. Smith, 484 Broadway, New York, the sum of One Dollar.

As soon as a sufficient number of members shall have joined to guarantee the success of a permanent organization, each member will be notified by invitation to participate in the permanent organization of the society and in the election of permanent officers. At these elections members vote by ballot. If unable to attend the meeting in person, a member may vote by proxy. The officers will be elected for the term of three years, and will consist of one treasurer, two secretaries, one for the East and one for the West, and an executive council of five members.

The executive council will examine such manuscript as may be offered for publication, and will accept and endorse it, or reject it.

If a work be accepted, it will at once be announced to the members of the society, and this announcement will be accompanied by a request for a subscription for the work at a stated price. When a sufficiently large subscription list shall have been obtained, the manuscript with the endorsement of the executive council and the subscription list will be returned to the author, who can then make his own terms with the publisher.

If the manuscript should be rejected it will be returned to the author. But should the author be a member of the society, he shall have the right to present his manuscript again at the next annual meeting and to have it referred to a special committee.

Among other works which it is contemplated soon to publish is a complete and correctly translated *Materia Medica*.

(Signed,)

CONSTANTINE HERING,	} <i>Prov. Ex. Council.</i>
A. D. LIPPE,	
P. P. WELLS,	
C. W. BOYCE,	
H. N. GUERNSEY,	
E. M. HALE, <i>Prov. Sec'y. for West,</i>	
CARROLL DUNHAM, <i>Prov. Sec'y. for East,</i>	
HENRY M. SMITH, <i>Prov. Treasurer.</i>	

Philadelphia, June 25, 1864.

It is most earnestly hoped that this effort may result in the publication of works of solid merit and correct execution—works on which the practitioners may rest in confidence that their statements are correct, and that they comprise all that is known on the subject. To this end it is necessary that physicians throughout the country give their hearty support to the enterprise. The only payment required is the initiation fee of One Dollar to defray the expenses of correspondence, circulars, etc. When a work is ready for publication and accepted, members will be called upon to subscribe for it at a stated price. No such call will be made unless the work is actually ready for the press. Those who are familiar with the studies in *Materia Medica*, which Dr. Hering has been making for thirty years past, who know the extent which he has gathered and collated all that is known of our remedies, adding to what has been already published in books and journals, vast quantities of observations never yet made public—who know, too, that in no other way save through the medium of a publishing society is this treasury of knowledge likely ever to be opened to us—will most gladly take part in the permanent organization of this Publication Society.

It may not be improper to state that the first part of Dr. Hering's work is now prepared for the press, and will be laid before the executive council as soon as permanent officers shall have been elected. How soon this will be must depend on the alacrity with which homœopathic physicians respond to the invitation to become members of the Society. C. DANHAM, M.D., *Sec.*

ILLINOIS HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The tenth annual meeting of this society was held at Chicago, May 18th and 19th. The following members were present, besides several gentlemen not members of the society:

Drs. W. C. Anthony, Princeton; G. D. Beebe, Chicago; L. C. Belding, Milledgeville; J. C. Burbank, Polo; D. A. Cheever, Pekin; D. A. Colton, Chicago; H. L. Foster, Joliet; R. Ludlam, Chicago; E. M. P. Ludlam, Chicago; E. McAfee, Mt. Carroll; A. Miller, Chicago; J. Moore, New Rutland; L. Pratt, Rock Creek; E. Ransom, Chicago; J. Schofield, Viola; A. E. Small, Chicago; D. S. Smith, Chicago; F. H. Van Liew, Aurora; J. T. Temple, St. Louis; C. A. Jaeger, Elgin; A. W. Burnside, Belvidere; W. H. White, Chicago; E. H. Kennedy, Argo; E. R. Paine, Burlington, Iowa; W. W. Munn, Peru, Illinois; W. W. Wolf, Dayton, Ohio; J. N. Boshier, Dayton, Ohio; W. Webster, Dayton, Ohio; G. R. Sweeting, Berlin, Wisconsin; T. Waldher, Gayotte, Iowa; L. E. Ober, La Crosse, Wis.; C. A. Wilber, Chicago; C. R. Swanway, Chicago; — Messic, Marengo, Ill.; R. Welch, Chicago.

The association was called to order by the president, D. S. Smith, M.D., of Chicago. The president congratulated the association on the evidences of prosperity exhibited in the large number of members present at the opening of the tenth annual session of an institution so well calculated to foster the interests of true medical science. He congratulated them on the fact that no death had occurred among their members during the year past, and that while the members of the old school of medicine are so vindictive and abusive in their assault on the homœopathic profession and practice, members of the homœopathic school were always calm, dignified and self-possessed, and fully able to acquit themselves in the defense of their claims in the public journals and as skilled witnesses in the courts of justice.

The board of censors reported on examination of the claims of the following gentlemen, and recommended that they be admitted as members; the report was adopted and the candidates admitted.—E. J. Franzer, Chicago; N. C. Banker, Waukegan; L. D. Hemingway, Sandwich; C. F. Reed, Kenosha, Wis.; J. Antis, Morris; L. H. Holbrook, Chicago; T. Putnam, Chicago; L. Kendall, Chicago; L. E. Ober, La Crosse, Wis.; E. R. Paine, Burlington, Iowa; N. C. Burnham, Chicago.

On motion of Dr. Ludlam, it was resolved that the physicians present, not members of the society, be admitted to seats in the convention and entitled to take full participation in the proceedings.

Miscellaneous business and general discussions were then in order, and filled up the balance of the time allotted to the morning session.

Reports of committees on scientific subjects were then made the special order of the day for the afternoon, and an adjournment was taken to half past two o'clock.

*Afternoon Session.*—The convention came to order at three o'clock. The chairman called for reports of committees, in concurrence with the order of the morning.

Dr. A. E. SMALL, reported on catarrhal affections during the past year. He premised that the mucous membranes were the seat of these diseases, and were abnormally excited by changes of temperature. The French physiologists spoke of catarrh as including affections of the mucous membrane in any part of the body, but in this country the term was limited to affections of the superneural air passages. Nasal catarrh (coryza) was caused by excitement of

the pituitary passages; in itself it was of little consequence, but often led to inflammation of the eyes and ears. It should therefore be looked to. Catarrhs implicating the trachea, larynx and bronchial tubes are more complex in their character, and have been prevalent during the past year. It was epidemic in this city about the time of the Northwestern Sanitary Fair; hundreds were suddenly affected with it, owing doubtless to unusual exposure to variable conditions of the atmosphere. It was marked by a feverish dryness of all the pituitary passages, accompanied by tickling. The succeeding stage was in many cases marked by feverish inflammation, and in some there was marked congestion. Aconite in the invading or dry stage was generally successful. But as aid was not often called in this stage, Aconite from the first to the sixth attenuation, followed by Belladonna, was found to be effectual in the second stage. Phosphorus and other remedies were administered in divers cases: homœopathic treatment was almost uniformly successful. Another form of catarrh at the same time was marked by irritation of the eyes, ears, nose and all the respiratory passages, with dyspnoea. Had it occurred early in the season it might have been mistaken for summer bronchitis, a disease with which many are afflicted in the month of August. The committee had no doubt that it was caused by the inspiration of decomposing flowers. Silicia had been found very effectual in preventing recurrence of the malady; it should be used from the thirtieth to the two-hundredth attenuation. Any form of catarrh, by negligence or bad treatment, may become chronic. The report spoke lightly of Lycopodium in cases of deep-seated catarrhal affections and their sequelæ.

The report was received and referred to the publishing committee, on motion of Dr. G. D. Beebe, who referred to a remarkable case of coryza during pregnancy; in which the mucous emissions were very persistent and rapid. The case seemed to resist Silicea, Arsenicum, Pulsatilla and other usual remedies. *Alium sepa* was finally prescribed, and was followed by almost instantaneous relief; the remedy was comparatively a new one; it had been used by him with great success in other cases of bronchial affection.

Dr. I. S. P. LORD spoke of the causes of catarrh: he saw no reason why one form of the disease should be referred to general causes and another to a specific cause; neither did he see how it was that general causes should produce specific results.

Dr. L. C. BELDING reported a case of catarrhal affection of the eyes which had yielded to homœopathic treatment when other means had failed; Arsenic was used; in some cases the *Mercuris solub.* had been of great efficacy, especially where the burning of the lips was present.

The secretary called attention to the necessity of appointing a committee on surgery. The history of surgery was one of struggle against heroic medication; until very lately it had not been placed on a proper basis, but it had recently received due attention. He wished to present an improvement in the method of reducing fracture of the shaft of the femur in young children. When called to any case of fracture in the femur, he would seek to give a fixed location to the tibia and spinal column, which would necessarily give the settled direction of the intervening thigh bone. A splint made of tin is placed on the outside of the limb, (can be made in about

half an hour). The fracture in children is usually transverse, hence extension and counter extension are not so necessary as with the adult. The limb should be flexed, as that is the natural position of the limb in children. He had treated three cases during the past twelve months on this plan, each of them very successfully. One of them was a very singular case of spontaneous fracture, while the child was in good health. The predisposing cause of the fracture was scarcely rhagades ostium, as the connecting links were rapidly supplied. He thought that the cause was rather to be found in the variable preponderance of earthy over the cartilagenous matter as exhibited not only at different ages, but in different individuals at the same age. Symphytum seemed to be very favorable to the formation of the connecting cartilage in cases of fracture.

Dr. G. D. BEEBE then exhibited a model of his appliance, fitted with a ratchet for use in case of oblique fractures as are usual with adults, where extension and counter extension are needed to be applied with greater force to prevent shortening by over-lapping. The principle idea of the method seemed to be the *flexure* of the limb making the pelvis and the lower limb fulcra of extension as well as points of support.

*Evening Session.*—In the evening the chair was taken by Dr. E. M. P. Ludlam, the third vice-president.

Dr. R. LUDLAM proposed that a discussion take place regarding that catarrhal or bronchial affection which has been so prevalent during the winter, being almost an epidemic, and which has frequently been mistaken for actual pneumonia. The cases commenced generally with remittent fever, with good deal of respiratory oppression and slight vomiting, though generally almost an entire suppression of the mucous discharges of the chest. This condition often would last for twenty-four or thirty-six hours. It would not be marked by hepatization, all discharges being connected solely with the bronchial tubes, after that time there would be an excessive mucous discharge. But there would be no hepatization in the second changes, which are characteristic of pneumonia. Phosphorus, Aconite or Belladonna he considered to be the proper remedies to break up the complaint. In very stubborn cases he found Gelesmium efficacious. In the case of adults some very sudden deaths had occurred from a real overflowing of mucus on the lungs.

Dr. L. C. BELDING, Milledgeville, thought the cases quoted very similar to some that had occurred with him. In advanced stages he frequently used Tartar emetic, or some similar drug, to stay the mucous discharge: he called the disease a bilious intermittent fever.

Dr. L. PRATT, of Rock Creek, also had several examples of a like nature, and had great faith in Tartar emetic. When an Allopathist, he noticed the extraordinary effects of this remedy in bronchial catarrh, but did not then fully appreciate its properties. He used a few grains dissolved in half a tumbler of water, and a teaspoonful or so every three or four hours.

Dr. M. D. COX mentioned a case of chest affection, somewhat analogous to those noticed, where, in connection with the lung affection, there was a severe dropsical effusion. He used Apis, Arsenicum and other similar drugs. Among the symptoms was a severe hacking cough, when she expectorated a quantity of

*serum*, and also a large discharge of *pus*. At the cessation of this discharge hæmorrhage set in, and death immediately ensued.

Dr. G. D. BEEBE, of Chicago, gave some of the *post mortem* symptoms of this bronchial catarrh. A short time ago, a man in this city was taken suddenly ill late one evening, and died within ten minutes in severe pain. At a *post mortem*, the whole of the nobler organs, except the lungs were in an abnormal condition. The lungs were thoroughly saturated with an excessive effusion of mucus.

Dr. R. B. CLARKE, of Racine, had found that whenever Tartar emetic or crude antimony failed, Ipecac answered well, and, indeed, worked like a charm.

Dr. D. A. CHEEVER, of Pekin, treated the majority of his cases with either Aconite, Phosphorus or Tartar emetic. When these remedies failed, he found Bryonia and Ipecac to be excellent remedies.

Dr. R. LUDLAM said that often pneumonia was considered to be secondary with measles. It was called lobular pneumonia, but he did not believe that it was pneumonia at all.

Dr. TEMPLE considered that the affections in children frequently called pneumonia was ever confined to the bronchial tubes, and that Tartar emetic was about the only safe remedy.

Some discussion next ensued as to the manner of applying remedies. Dr. R. Ludlam considered it safer to keep to one remedy as much as possible, so that its action may be fully known.

Dr. C. F. REED, of Kenosha, had tried several interesting experiments regarding the proving of combined remedies, which he thought more often produced effects when single remedies failed to bring about the required results.

Dr. SCOFIELD found that generally one remedy is the best, though often when these failed combined ones were needed.

Dr. L. C. BELDING did not believe in combined remedies either administered simultaneously or in succession when the physician could see his patient frequently.

Dr. C. A. JAEGER also considered one remedy to be best. He had seen a case where physicians caused a young child to take seven remedies in less than fifteen hours. He did sometimes give an alternation of two remedies; but then he ordered one remedy to be given for ten or twelve hours, and then before he gave the second ordered a perfect cessation for about the same time. Dr. Temple thought that when the symptoms of a case were rightly got, one remedy only was required. The patient need not be seen every few hours, for if the case is rightly understood, the effect is anticipated. Combined remedies were not the result of the truths of Homœopathy.

Much discussion of a like nature followed, most of the gentlemen present giving their various experiences. Cases also somewhat foreign to the subject were mentioned illustrative of the beneficial effects of simple or united remedies by their respective supporters.

*Second Day—Morning Session.*—Dr. D. S. SMITH, the president of the association, took the chair and called the convention to order.

Dr. J. C. BURBANK reported two cases of *phthisis pulmonalis*, which he had cured by the continuous use of loaf sugar. In the one case the patient came from a family predisposed to consumption, and in her own person exhibited all the ordinary incipient symptoms of that disease. At one of the meetings of the association he had heard some physician recommend the use of sugar, and had resolved to try its efficacy. He prescribed it in doses of two ounces, taken morning and evening, and also for the first few days of the treatment gave Phosphorus of the third attenuation. The patient improved rapidly, her dangerous symptoms disappeared, and she is now apparently entirely recovered.

The other case was similar in its general outlines, and he pursued the same treatment with so far very similar results. This patient is still under his care, with every prospect of ultimate recovery. Dr. Burbank was not prepared to say whether the sugar or the Phosphorus effected the cure.

Dr. D. S. SMITH, said that he had cured a woman of the same disease by administering a single dose of Phosphorus. The patient in that case was the daughter of a homœopathic physician, and there were no allopathic prejudices to overcome, which might account for the rapidity of the cure.

Dr. LORD said that accounts of cases and statements of cure reported from memory were extremely unsatisfactory. He had found this in his own experience.

Dr. TEMPLE asked if sugar was a medicine, and if not a medicine, how it could cure disease.

Dr. BEEBE said that carbonaceous preparations had been used for the cure of pulmonary diseases from time immemorial. Cod liver oil had been and is still used to a considerable extent, as well as Bourbon whisky and other alcoholic preparations. He thought these remedies acted as palliatives. They were taken into the stomach, and carbonic acid gas evolved, which acted in some sense as an anæsthetic. The question to be considered was, whether some carbonaceous preparation could not be used, which would produce desirable results, without the objectionable effects of Cod liver oil and whisky, and whether sugar were not that preparation.

Dr. LORD thought there was no such thing as chemical action in the living man. Action of remedial agents was purely mechanical.

Dr. LUDLAM read an interesting paper on Physiological Infidelity, which we synopsise as follows :

"Physiological infidelity implies a lack of knowledge, and of faith in the laws which govern the animate creation. As it concerns human physiology, this unfortunate scepticism is manifested in a variety of ways. Objectors to its practical value file off into three lines : those who will not accept the teaching of physiology because their professional predecessors deemed them unworthy of trust : those who object that its tenets are constantly changing, and who are too indolent to keep pace with its development as a science ; and those who refuse to adopt or to endorse it because such a course would of necessity, modify those views of the treatment of disease to which they are so closely wedded."

After insisting that a practical want of familiarity with the laws and pro-

cesses of life was a frequent fault of both schools of physicians, Dr. L. offered and defended the following proposition :

"The more thorough the physician's familiarity with the functional processes and susceptibility of the human organism, the milder and more cautious will be his treatment in case of disease. This affords the reason why young physicians, recent graduates, give comparatively more medicine than their elders in experience. And this is why the best physiologists and pathologists of the day are not the strongest advocates of the old style heroic treatment. Dr. Hammond, the talented author of the 'Physiological Memoirs,' was too well acquainted with the delicate organic susceptibilities of the species to sanction the mercurialization of our brave soldiery. He must show his heart if he lost his head! The witty Wendell Holmes has a textural and ingrain aversion to drugs, which is in exact ratio with his knowledge of anatomy and physiology. Bennett is acute and honest enough to realize, and honest enough to teach that bleeding in pneumonia only subtracts from the chances for recovery, and really makes his words felt in opposition to the exploded idea that of late years the type of disease has changed, and consequently a modified treatment is requisite. Flint insists that a sound special pathology can only be based upon a detailed history of cases in which none of the symptoms presented could possibly have originated from drugs that have been taken.

"Having insisted that an excellent test of a physician's physiological knowledge is found in his treatment of zymotic diseases, or those which result from blood-poisoning, there follows a plea for the superiority of the homœopathic method of treatment, based upon the ground of the few and trivial sequelæ which are apt to follow. Who ever saw a case of deformity after articular rheumatism which had not been treated other than homœopathically? Or who an example of chronic diarrhœa supervening upon typhoid fever; or of lobular pneumonia, falsely so called, after measles; or of considerable and chronic effusion after acute inflammation of the pleura, the peritoneum, or even the pericardium, where the treatment had been as above? Compare the frequency of deafness, of dropsy, of incurable heart disease, of a dreaded discrasia, after scarlatina, under the same beneficent management, and under the ancient method of medical practice!"

Concerning the prevalence and treatment of puerperal fever, as illustrating his general theme, the committee remarks :

"In the city of Chicago there are at present thirty homœopathic physicians who are engaged in the practice of medicine. Nearly all of these practitioners are fully persuaded the puerperal fever has not been epidemic in Chicago during the past year. Only two sporadic cases have occurred in their united experience. The question is pertinent. How does it happen that physicians in the same city, with patients perhaps next door, should have such varied experience? Our allopathic brethren have declared this disease epidemic, or at least more than usually prevalent among us. Can it be possible that patients of one faith in medicine suffer in every case, while others escape; or that Drs. D. or M. should have treated every example of this disease, while none of my thirty brethren had any such experience?"

"The chief cause of the alarming and fatal cases which have and do so

frequently occur, is believed by the essayist to be the habit of prescribing cathartics for women in child-bed. This practice, which 'has nothing but tradition to recommend it, no sanction but usage, and no history but that of harmful and evil consequences,' is severely and yet justly criticised."

The paper closed with a strong appeal for the necessity of a thorough familiarity with, and development of the sciences collateral to medicine.

Dr. LORD reported the recent death of a lady in the West Division in child-bed from the use of Lobelia and other "regular" remedies. She was killed, in his opinion, *secundem artem*.

Dr. LUDLAM reported a case of erysipelatous affection of the rectum, which he thought was induced by the use of cathartics in child-birth.

Dr. BEDDING related his experience in the use of cathartics as an Allopathist and as a Homœopathician; his experience was vastly in favor of the latter mode of treatment.

Dr. PRATT had lost a patient afflicted with puerperal fever, because the nurse had, unknown to him, administered a cathartic.

Dr. OBER had generally discarded the use of cathartics in cases of child-birth. He had endeavored to assure his patient that an immediate movement of the bowels was unnecessary. In some instances his patients had taken mild cathartics without disastrous results.

Dr. PRATT reported a case where movement of the bowels did not take place for two weeks after delivery, and yet the patient recovered.

Dr. ANTHONY thought that if patients would take cathartics they should do so upon their own responsibility.

Dr. REED said that physiological infidelity in obstetric practice was not confined to the treatment of mothers. The innocent child often came in for a large share of the evil resulting from the allopathic mode of treatment. Dr. Temple, in his remarks upon the subject, said that the mortality reports showed that at least one half of all deaths reported were among children under five years of age, and charged that this was the result of criminal allopathic practice. It was an abominable system, in his judgment.

The convention continued the discussion in this same strain till the hour of adjournment.

*Afternoon Session.*—The convention met in the Lecture-room of the Hahnemann College, at two p.m., according to the terms of adjournment. In the absence of Dr. D. S. Smith, the president, Dr. W. C. Anthony, second vice-president, was called to the chair.

Dr. E. M. HALE read a strictly professional paper of some length, upon the history, cause, symptom, and diagnosis of retroversion of the uterus. He gave the latest teachings concerning the pathology of this painful and often intractable disease, and entered into a general resume of the best methods of treatment adopted by the homœopathic and allopathic schools. The treatment, according to Dr. Hale, consists of proper mechanical appliances to restore the uterus to its proper position, and to maintain that organ in its normal place in the pelvic cavity. The medicinal treatment, sanctioned by the experience of the homœopathic school, together with some original suggestions, was given in general terms. It was claimed that this method was very suc-

cessful in the treatment of this disease and its various sympathetic symptoms. The report of Dr. Hale was received and referred to the committee on printing.

Dr. COLTON then read a paper on external remedies and mechanical appliances in the treatment of diseases. He said that under certain conditions—heat and cold are powerful therapeutic agents. The human organism is sensibly affected by changes in the atmosphere, acting primarily upon the skin as well as through the passages. The respiratory influence of heat is observed in the relaxation of the respiratory processes, while cold produces the reverse condition. Water as an adjunct is equally necessary and useful. Blisters, setons, issues, etc., have been in use a long time, and their abuses are no less palpable than the poisons poured down the throats of the innocent victims to unscientific professional treatment. He did not say that vesication is never useful, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, better measures are at hand. To think of a seven by nine plaster of Spanish flies over the chest, accompanied with a pill of blue mass internally, every two hours, for simple pleurodynia, made him shudder, though it was years ago that they were administered to him. Homœopathicians had found a better remedy in Nux or Arnica, which effectually removes the difficulty in a few hours.

The doctor then gave an elaborate anatomical description of the skin, and argued the question of cutaneous absorption, at some length, and arrived at the conclusion that agents may affect the system through the skin in three different ways: 1st, by simple contact with the sound skin; 2d, by forcing the substance through the cuticle by means of friction; 3d, by bringing the matter to be absorbed in contact with the deeper portion of the skin after the superficial layer or epidermis is removed. The application of external remedies the speaker showed to have been recommended by the ancients by Hippocrates down.

Although Hahnemann finally proscribed the use of all external remedies, except it might be an extremely limited number, many of his followers, without the least disrespect to him or his memory, have seen fit to adopt them. The doctor then narrated the different external remedies used by the profession, and briefly recounted their operation. The report was received and ordered printed.

The secretary announced the presence of C. W. BOYCE, M.D., of Auburn, New York, who was duly accredited as delegate from the New York State Homœopathic Society. Dr. Boyce, was admitted as a member of the convention.

The following officers were elected:

*President*—W. C. Anthony; *Vice-Presidents*—R. Ludlam, J. C. Burbank, E. McAfee; *Recording Secretary*—G. D. Beebe; *Corresponding Secretary*—D. A. Colton; *Treasurer*, L. Pratt; *Board of Censors*—Drs. Ober, Small, Foster and VanLiew; *Delegate to N. Y. State Medical Society*—G. D. Beebe.

*Evening Session*—The convention was called to order by Dr. Anthony. The special order of the hour was the report of Dr. E. M. P. Ludlam upon Remittent Fever. Dr. L. reported two cases, and the treatment in each.

Dr. BURT, of Lyons, Iowa, reported a case of tracheotomy for diphtheria

and presented a section of trachea, showing the incision of the windpipe and the exudation of the false membrane, resulting disastrously. He also presented a tape-worm forty feet long, expelled from the stomach of a boy four years old. The remedy used in this instance was pumpkin seed tea.

Dr. BEEBE also related an interesting case of tracheotomy, resulting in full recovery.

Dr. ROGERS presented a foetus, supposed to be five months old, without brain or spine; and also a foetus of full age, to the back of which was attached a sack filled with gelatinous substance. Both specimens were presented to the museum of the college.

A discussion followed upon the use of Lachesis, in which Drs. Beebe, Hale and Boyce participated.

Dr. BURT asked if in croup the false membrane extended to the cavities of the heart.

Dr. LUDLAM said he had never observed anything of the kind.

Dr. BELDING said he had a knowledge of spotted fever fifty-one years ago. He had seen many a person apparently well and hearty in the morning, a corpse before evening. He once had the fever himself. Out of one hundred and forty cases forty died. The usual condition was cold and chilliness, pain and distress, and mind wandering. After a few hours they would be covered with red spots, which became purple before death. The epidemic lasted about six weeks. Every day was cloudy, and every night clear and brilliant. When the weather changed, and the sun came out, the disease abated. Since that time, and until this last winter he had seen no instance of this disease. He related several cases which had recently come under his observation. The remedies he used were Aconite, Belladonna, Bichromate of Potash and Eupatorium.

The discussion was further continued by Drs. Ober, Small, Frazer, Hale, Beebe, Ludlam, Cheever and others.

The chairman announced the following gentlemen to act as chiefs of but reaus:

Surgery, Dr. Beebe; Theory and Practice, Dr. Cooke; Obstetrics, Dr. R. Ludlam; Materia Medica, Dr. Hale; Anatomy, Dr. Colton; Chemistry, Dr. Welch; Physiology and Pathology, Dr. Reed.

After a vote of thanks to the president, the convention adjourned without date.

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## SCABIES.\*

BY A. R. MORGAN, M. D., SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Most modern authors attribute this disease solely to the ravages of an insect called the *Acarus scabii*, while other observers, equally sagacious and profound, in many instances have utterly failed in detecting the parasite, after the most critical inspection, and regard its presence rather as a morbid product than a cause.

On the part of the former it is remarkable that (with the single exception of Dr. Adams' testimony, which we will consider farther on) they have so signally failed, after cautiously transplanting the insect, in producing any results except the development of a few transient vesicles accompanied by cuniculi, all traces of which spontaneously disappeared at the end of a few days.

Erasmus Wilson, in his valuable work on Diseases of the Skin, page 246, relates five experiments reported by Albin Gras, a pupil at Saint Louis Hospital, where the acari were placed in favorable positions upon the skin, and carefully protected there. In none of these experiments did they succeed in establishing but slight local irritation; in every

\* From the manuscript of an unpublished work on Skin Diseases by Dr. Morgan.