

but since the laws of medicinal action have become better understood, there is no longer hesitation in alternating medicines whenever symptoms appear to require it."

Again on the subject of the dose, many who formerly used the lower alternations exclusively, are now using with increasing satisfaction, the high potencies, and it is hardly just to quote, as present opinions, views that were entertained when the old editions, above referred to, were published. From page 147 of the new, and page 118 of the old edition we quote the following. The italics are our own.

"Dr. E. F. Ruckert, of Germany, also writes as follows: 'I am satisfied that the system (Homœopathy) is still progressive, and has by no means attained perfection. In respect to doses, most generally, I make use of the first dilutions, and never exceed the twelfth, giving them in increased volume, and repeating them frequently. I have been more successful in this course of treatment than formerly in the use of smaller doses.' Similar views have recently been promulgated upon this subject by G. Schmidt, Trinks, Griesse-lich, Watzke, Madden, Bigel, Drysdale, Russell, and indeed by a majority of our school both in Europe and America."

Much of the new matter bears evidence of Dr. Hunt's labor and research. In addition to Dr. Marcy's previous work, there are copious extracts from the various medical journals of the day, particularly the homœopathic. Much, that was severely and justly criticised in the old editions, remains in the present work, and is as fairly open to criticism now as then.

It has not been our intention to review this work, but merely announce its publication. A more extended notice of it will appear in a future number, prepared by one of our regular contributors, to whom a copy of the work was presented by the publisher for this purpose.

PERSONAL.—The Homœopathic College of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine on D. Wilson Esq., M. R. C. S. E. of London, July 26th, 1864.

OBITUARY.

WURMB.—Died at Vienna, Oct. 9th, 1864, Franz Wurmb, M. D., of pulmonary tuberculosis, after an illness of nearly two years duration. With great sorrow and a sore sense of personal bereavement we announce the death of our highly-honored friend, colleague and teacher. Dr. Wurmb was the President and the acknowledged leader of the Vienna Society of Homœopathic Physicians who have labored perseveringly and with such self sacrifice, to perfect our science. He was the founder and director of the Leopoldstadt Homœopathic Hospital of the Sisters of Mercy at Vienna, which has been in successful operation under his care for sixteen years. Since the death of Von Böninghausen, Wurmb was the most profound master of our *Materia Medica* in Europe. So industrious and honorable a life requires more than a mere passing notice. In a future number, we shall speak at greater length of the character and labors of our departed colleague.

D.

THE

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No. 7.

SCARLET FEVER.

BY P. P. WELLS, M. D., BROOKLYN, N. Y.

In the numbers for January, February and March, of Vol. iv. of the REVIEW, were given some observations on the treatment of this fever, with the object, if possible, to develop a better method than the habitual or empirical employment of certain remedies, supposed to stand in specific relation to it, irrespective of the resemblance of the characteristic symptoms of the case under treatment to those of the supposed specific drug, which the law of cure requires. A protest was then entered against this practice of habit, which so signally disregards the demands of the law, the truth and importance of which is freely admitted by those, even, who thus in their practical duties disregard its claims. Instead of this practice, one founded on a strict individualization of the case, after which only can a specific remedy be found, was urged, and then the subject was farther considered, especially in the variety so rapidly fatal, characterized in all its elements by extreme torpor, destroying life by a speedy paralysis of all its forces, and generally so little amenable to remedies. New remedies for this variety were suggested; and then the consideration of the variety more particularly characterized by violent inflammatory action, especially of the brain, was entered on.

This was continued so far as the examination of Aconite and Bryonia, with a view to develop their exact relation to this variety, when the discussion was suspended by other duties, though the intention to examine other remedies, in relation to this and other varieties of this disease, was not abandoned. It is now proposed to resume the subject, and as far as possible, to endeavor to give signs by which these relationships may be recognized. In entering on the subject anew, we shall, in the first place, according to our purpose already declared, examine, so far as related to our subject, the elements of that drug, more often misused, and from which, notwithstanding many failures, more is still expected, than from the use of any other. Of course we refer to

Belladonna.—In the numbers of the REVIEW above mentioned, while protesting against the indiscriminate use of this drug, we have endeavored to call attention to a class of cases in which it can, seldom if ever be found otherwise than hurtful, and to show that this must ever be true from the nature of the case, the class being characterized by torpor, or depressed action of the vital forces, while the effect of this drug, on these forces, is to produce the exact opposite, viz. : an exaltation of their action. Consequently the relation of the remedy to this class is never homœopathic, but always antipathic, and hence the result of its use must be, by the law of drug relationship, in its secondary, or reactive effects, to intensify the morbid state which was to have been moderated and controlled by its use. But in that variety characterized by excessive action of these forces, especially as affecting the brain, the case is different. In this variety the drug under consideration is often of the greatest value, it may be even indispensable. For some of the symptoms of a representative case of this class the reader is referred to page 387 in vol. iv. of this REVIEW, and he is requested to compare these with the following symptoms of Belladonna, and also these last with those of cases which he may be called to treat practically, and, where similarity of these groups do not obtain, to avoid carefully the use of this drug, if he is

desirous of making a homœopathic prescription and cure. The following is a translation of the symptoms which are likely to meet their counterpart in cases of the fever under consideration. That many of them are strikingly like those often met in practice is obvious. That they sustain the assertion of the active, demonstrative character of the action of this drug, as found in the records of its effects on the healthy, which we have here and elsewhere insisted on as characteristic, cannot admit of a doubt.

Convulsions—with outcries and loss of consciousness—with delirium—with distortion of the eyes—especially affecting the flexor muscles—with jerkings, especially of the hands and feet, loss of the sense of touch, and loose rattling of mucus in the bronchi. Rigidity with bending of the body and head backwards, or to the left side. Attacks of rigidity or immobility of all, or of a single limb, sometimes with loss of sensation, distended superficial veins, red and turgid face, full, quick pulse and copious sweating.

Trembling of the limbs, also with convulsive shakings; with weariness; in the heart, forenoons.

Restlessness.—Great restlessness of the limbs, especially of the hands and feet, and also of the head, compelling a constant moving and change of their position.

Skin.—Scarlet spots and scarlet redness, especially on the face, throat, chest, abdomen and hands, with acute swelling of the parts; sometimes with rapid small pulse, tightness of the chest, violent cough, delirium, increased activity of the memory, rubbing of the nose, and distended pupils. Erysipelatous inflammations, also with swelling, or even with gangrene of the parts. Redness, inflammation and swelling of the entire skin of the body.

Glands.—Swelling of the glands, painful or suppurating.

Sleep.—Coma. Stupefying coma, like lethargy, with deep sleep and moaning respiration, lying motionless, occasionally opening the eyes with wild look, or jerking of the tendons; pale, cold face, cold hands, and hard small pulse, wakes with a start and fright especially on going to sleep, sometimes

with sweat on the forehead and epigastrium, and fear as if something under the bed made a noise. Restlessness and tossing.

During Sleep.—Outcries. Sighings. Jerkings, which wake the child up, also on falling asleep. Singing and loud talking. Suffocating snoring during inspiration. In the evening when falling asleep, he feels as if swimming in the bed. On closing the eyes to sleep, immediately there are frightful visions and jerkings. Anxious and frightful dreams. Dreams of falling.

Fever.—Dry burning heat. Internal or external heat, or both at the same time.

During the Heat.—Delirium and redness of the face. Throbbing of the carotid and temporal arteries. Redness and swelling of the face. Pulse strong and rapid, or small and quick.

Disposition.—Unwillingness to speak. Indifference. Apathy on which nothing makes an impression. Answers only with anger and outcries. Increased susceptibility of all the senses; all impressions on these are too strong. Howling and outcries for the merest trifles, increased by being spoken to.

Intelligence.—Insensibility, with convulsions, especially of the arms. Loss of consciousness. Stupidity. Insensibility, as if in a dream, also in the evening in bed. He neither sees nor hears. He recognizes no one, even his relations, especially by the sense of hearing. He does not know whether he sleeps or wakes. Illusions of the senses, and imagination. Delirium, especially at night, with a staring look. Murmuring delirium. Vertigo with trembling of the hands; with dullness of the senses; with nausea.

Head.—*Heaviness* of the head. In the forehead, especially over the eyes, with pain in them when touched, and difficulty of opening them especially in the morning, on waking. *Pressing heaviness* in the occiput, or towards the temples, with diminished hearing. Heaviness in the head like drunkenness, with vertigo. *Outward pressure* in the

head, with sensation of bursting, especially in the forehead, as if all would come out forwards. *Tearing* in the head, especially in the forehead over the eyes, in the vertex (Scheitel). *Shootings* to the temples outwards, or in the temples. Pressing shootings in the temples, or to all sides of the brain. Cutting shootings, as if with knives, especially evenings, in the whole head, or only in the occiput. Shootings from one temple to the other. *Throbbing* in the whole head, after pressing cutting. Pressing throbbing in the occiput. Strong pulsation of the arteries of the head, especially of the forehead and temples, or with sensation in the bones of the forehead as if they were raised up; or in the morning after walking, with pulsations in the whole body. *Heat* in the head. Painful sensibility of the hairy scalp to the slightest touch, even of the hair. Convulsive shaking and bending backwards of the head.

Eyes.—Red, injected conjunctiva, also with shootings and tears. Spasms of the eyelids. Eyes opened wide. Eyes prominent. Immovable. Sparkling, brilliant, distorted, or in convulsive motion. Glassy. Red. Great sensibility to light, with spasmodic turning of the eyes from the light.

Ears. Deafness, as if a membrane (Felle) were drawn over the ears. Increased sensibility and repugnance to sounds.

Face.—Burning heat and redness, especially of the cheeks, as if after drinking wine, with congestion of blood to the head, or with violent headache and ice cold extremities. Red, scarlet spots on the face, also with strong pulse. Convulsions of the lips. Distortion of the mouth. Lips dark red and dry.

Mouth.—Great dryness of the mouth, extending to the throat; the larynx as if constricted, hindering swallowing, also with or without thirst. Bloody froth at the mouth, with grinding of the teeth and shaking of the head. Mouths of the salivary ducts excoriated, as if corroded. Sticky slime in the mouth for the most part with sensation of dryness. Foul smell from the mouth, as if from disordered stomach.

Tongue cracked, red, hot and dry. Papillæ bright red, inflamed and swollen. Trembling of the tongue. Heaviness of the tongue. Paralytic weakness of the organs of the voice. Difficult and stammering speech, also like that of drunkenness, with full consciousness and dilated pupils. Nasal speech. Loss of speech.

Throat.—As if raw and excoriated, especially when swallowing, touched with the tongue, or chewing. Burning in the tongue and fauces, especially when swallowing food or drink. Shootings and pain as if swollen, only when swallowing, turning the neck or feeling of the throat. Inflammation, swelling and redness of the throat and fauces, palate, uvula and tonsils. Swallowing painful, difficult, or entirely prevented, even of fluids, which often return through the nose. Impossibility of swallowing, with aversion to all liquids, even to madness. Dryness of the throat and mouth prevents swallowing.

The above are literal translations of symptoms of *Belladonna*, as found in the first volume of Jahr's Codex. The translation has been made from this, rather than from the *Materia Medica Pura*, or other volumes of provings, because of its character, being a compilation from the various provings in existence when it was prepared, as presenting a wider range of symptoms than is found in other works. For this reason this has been selected, though the writer was fully aware of the rather frequent witch-work this compiler is in the habit of making with symptoms of original provers, by reducing two or more of them to one, or dividing one into two or more, or of omitting parts of symptoms, altogether, to bring the whole into a state and dimensions better suited to his notions of what symptoms *ought to be*. For the purposes of the present paper, notwithstanding this unpardonable defect of the work, the wider range of the Codex presented advantages which have been availed of to gather in one view the symptoms which are scattered through other works, and by which the drug is related to the disease under consideration. There may be other symptoms under other

rubrics in the pathogenesis of the drug, which may find their counterpart in cases of the fever, but the object was to present those which are oftenest repeated in cases affecting severely the brain and throat, through one or other of which attacks are oftener fatal than through destructive processes in other parts of the body. And first let us examine those indicative of brain affection, and see if their character sustains the judgment expressed, that the action of this drug on the brain is characterized by excess of action as opposed to torpor.

In the first rubric, *convulsions*, every fact sustains this view, if we except the paralysis of sensation and mucous rattle, which are not incompatible with it, being both often met in the last stage of what has been unquestioned inflammatory condition of the brain, though both symptoms are also met in cases of torpor or paralysis of this organ.

In the second the relation may be to the first stage of the inflammatory state or the torpid; the symptom being of that general character which may be found in a great variety of affections, and hence as indicative of specific character of either drug or disease is not of the first importance.

In the third there is certainly less of specific likeness to the peculiar eruption of the fever than might have been expected from the almost universal use of the drug, based largely on the scarlet quality of the eruptions it has produced. There is none whatever to the eruption of the fever, as oftenest met at the present day, in its severest manifestations, except in the one item of color. There are here three forms of scarlet eruption, all of them attended by swelling, which the eruption of the fever is not; one of them by gangrene, which the scarlet rash is not likely to be, though a peculiar affection of the throat, to be noticed by-and-bye, may be thought by some to negative this. The first is certainly attended by many phenomena often met in the fever which characterize it as well as the drug, and which it is likely have much to do with the curative relation of the drug to the disease, notwithstanding the swelling, which the fever rarely

shows, except of the glands and the cellular tissue about the throat. After a careful attention to the skin affections of Belladonna, these three are all by which it can be said to be related to the fever by the law of similars, it can hardly be supposed that these alone were the reasons for elevating this drug to the dignity of a supposed general specific for scarlatina. There must have been other and stronger resemblances in other elements of drug and diseased action.

Of the *sleep* there is nothing very peculiar. The coma is not so characterized as to declare it more like that of scarlatina than of any one of the numerous affections of which it may be found a symptom. So of waking. These symptoms are met in scarlet fever as well as in other affections, and are indicative of active rather than torpid state of the vital forces of the brain, though coma belongs to both. The same observation it will be noticed is equally applicable to the symptoms during sleep, and to those of the fever, and disposition, if, in relation to this last, it be remarked, that *apathy* may belong to the early stage of either torpor or inflammation.

The developments of the effects of the drug in the modifications it produces of intellect, are of the highest interest and are without exception similar to those which often result from inflammation, though insensibility and loss of consciousness may be met in states of torpor.

Of the symptoms of the head, all belong to the inflammatory condition, while only vertigo and heaviness are common to this and torpor; while those of the eyes, ears and face are all strictly inflammatory in their character, those of the mouth are mixed. All may be attendant on some stage of inflammation, while some of them are often met in states of torpor. The symptoms of the throat, it will be observed, are all subjective, except the redness and swelling, and all such as characterize common phlegmonous inflammation of the parts, of an acute character. The absence of those symptoms which characterize the class of cases so often fatal through destruction of the tissues about the throat, internal

or external, is note-worthy. There is nothing of the foul smell, and tenacious, offensive, and often, excoriating secretions which are constant concomitants of the internal sloughings of the throat, or of the hard and immense swelling of the exterior cellular tissue which so soon sloughs and discharges externally, if its progress be not checked; after which, how generally fatal these attacks are, we all know too well. The pathogenesis of Belladonna will be searched in vain for good and sufficient reasons for its use in these sad cases. There are no such reasons, and yet it has been given again and again, and though it has often failed of giving the least aid to a cure, it has still been the one great resort, as though, the case being scarlet fever, it must somehow benefit. Such prescriptions must have resulted from some such reason (or unreason) as this, for in the pathogenesis of the drug, the only true foundation for specific prescribing, it has no support. Its administration in such cases, where it must almost always be out of place, is not merely attended by a loss of time, where the loss can be so ill afforded, and where there is always so little to lose, but the drug, by its antipathic relation, must often inflict great and positive mischief on the poor patient, which he has little power to resist. We have protested against this course of prescribing, and again, with this protest, we declare that it cannot be too carefully avoided. In any case where the practitioner is tempted to give this drug, let him look carefully to its pathogenesis, and if in this he finds the resemblance to the characteristics of his case which the law of cure requires, the result will not disappoint him. But if this resemblance be wanting let him avoid its use as he would a certain evil. If he can do no better than this, by all means let him leave his patient to his God and the powers of recuperation He has given, for, in these circumstances, this is his highest duty, humiliating as the declaration may be.

There is another condition in which Belladonna has often been given without the benefit following which was expected, and which a hasty examination of its pathogenesis might de-

clare was reasonably anticipated. We refer to the stupid, comatose state which is sometimes developed even early in the history of the case, at other times only later. Belladonna seldom relieves this, though we have both coma and stupidity in its pathogenesis. And so clear and positive is the expression, that the seeming is still, after frequent disappointments, that it must relieve, at least this next case, notwithstanding the previous failures. The explanation of these disappointments is not difficult. It is found in the fact, already sufficiently insisted on, in this and the paper on Typhoid Fever, that Belladonna is not homœopathic to a condition of torpor. And the coma and stupid dullness which belong to scarlatina, to which we here refer, are of this condition. Its action, if it act at all in cases of this description, must be antipathic, and therefore not curative. If given in larger doses, there may possibly follow a palliation which can only be of brief continuance. Opium or Stramonium will more likely be in place in cases of this kind, the preference being for Opium in those where these symptoms are simple and strongly expressed, and for Stramonium where there is mixed, so to say, somewhat of activity with the torpor:

(To be continued.)

HAHNEMANN'S THREE PRECAUTIONS.

BY DR. C. VON BENNINGHAUSEN, MUNSTER.

(Concluded from page 262.)

The first case concerned myself. At the end of February, 1833, I began to feel indisposed. I had undergone excessive mental exertion; had sat up many a long winter night on account of my official labors, which were then yet incumbent upon me, and which left me scarcely any time, except the hours of night, to pursue my favorite studies of Homœopathy and botany. My appetite was gone, I lost my flesh, the stools were very sluggish, etc., and yet I was not sick, prop-

erly speaking. The symptoms being so little marked, I took no medicine, and simply changed my mode of life, in the supposition that my ailments had been brought on by my irregularity. My expectations, however, were not realized: my pain increased from day to day, and was made worse by the supervention of a spasmodically constrictive, violent pain in the right side of the abdomen, accompanied by violent distention and constipation. I smelled of Nux³⁰, without obtaining the slightest success, the symptoms even became worse. My sufferings increased from day to day. I had not had any passage for eleven days past; the horrid pains in the side of the abdomen, and other symptoms, distinctly showed that I suffered with a sort of *Ileus*, intussusception of the intestines. This condition was the more despairing, since the list of symptoms which I had continued to note down as they appeared in the course of the disease—and which I have lost, unfortunately—did not correspond to any of the remedies which I had hitherto successfully used against that disease. At this period, when my sufferings had reached their climax, I was visited by two older physicians, of whom I had made converts, and by two distant befriended homœopathic practitioners; all advised me to use Nux in large doses, this being the remedy which had done the greatest good in the affection with which I was suffering. I followed their unanimous advice against my own conviction, and on the evening of the eleventh day, I took a whole drop of the 12th potency of Nux, but not only without obtaining any success, but causing a positive aggravation of my sufferings by the appearance of new symptoms which were evidently medicinal, and showed the injudiciousness and impropriety of my proceeding. My friends returned the next day, and seeing the mistake which they had made, advised a drop of the sixth potency of *Cocculus*. This drug, which did not correspond to my symptoms, had no more effect than Nux, and when my friends returned again in the afternoon and advised me to try other drugs, I declared emphatically that I should take no more medicine unless I was in the first place convinced of the

perfect homœopathicity of the drug. This was the state of things on the evening of the twelfth day. Having almost no hope of preservation, I made an almost superhuman effort, in spite of my increasing and excessive sufferings, to find out a remedy which would correspond to the symptoms of my case, and I was determined to persevere in my endeavors unto death. At midnight I at last discovered the remedy which was homœopathic to my symptoms, it was Thuya. I had my medicine chest handed to me, containing pellets which had been medicated years ago, and smelled of Thuya once with each nostril. After the lapse of five minutes my sufferings in the right side of the abdomen decreased, and after the lapse of ten minutes, I had a copious evacuation after a constipation of thirteen days. Shortly after I fell into a sound and refreshing sleep, of which I had been deprived so long. My improvement continued without taking any more medicine, and in a few days I was able to inform my friend Hahnemann of the danger to which I had been exposed, and from which I had been so happily delivered.

Before concluding my communication, I shall take this opportunity of furnishing to the followers of Hahnemann a new proof of his rare insight into the nature of disease and its relation to remedial agents. The letter which I sent to Hahnemann reached him in Cœthen, at a time when he was suffering with a severe illness, so that he was not able to send me an answer till the 28th of April, which I received in the first days of the month of May. He uses the following language in reference to his and my own disease:

"However much I was on my guard against the consequences of the anger I felt on account of——,* nevertheless it may have been one of the exciting causes of a suffocative catarrh, which attacked me seven days before the 10th of April.† A fortnight after the tenth I was at-

* I do not feel authorized to mention names.—Bœnninghausen.

† Hahnemann's birth-day.

tacked with fits of intolerable itching in the larynx, which threatened to bring on spasmodic cough, but merely resulted in arresting the breathing which was restored by retching brought on by inserting the finger into the throat. There were other bad symptoms, such as difficult respiration (without asthma,) total want of appetite and thirst, aversion to tobacco, sensation of faintness in all the limbs, and as if they were bruised, constant sopor, inability to perform the least work, apprehension of death, etc. The people of the neighborhood showed much attention to me by constant inquiries into my health. It is now four days since I have felt out of danger, owing to my smelling twice of *Coffea cruda**, afterwards of Calc.; Ambra has likewise done some good. The Guardian of truth and goodness will grant to me, as much life as he may deem proper in his wisdom."

"I have felt heartily sorry that you should have been so sick, and * * *† If you will permit me to give you my advice respecting the restoration of the activity of your intestines, I shall call your attention to Conium and Lycopodium; I also recommend frequent walks in the open air. I am glad that you should have done justice to the eminently useful Thuya by your example."

A few days after the sending of my letter, in which I neither asked for advice nor said a word about the after-treatment which might be necessary in my case, I had taken Lycopodium, which was homœopathically indicated; I had likewise taken Conium, eight days previous to the reception of Hahnemann's letter, taking one smallest dose of the highest potency (30) of those drugs. This is all that I ever took for my affection, except one other dose of Lycopodium about the same period in the year following. What extensive observation, what richness of experience, and what a rare divinatorial power are required, to enable one, by simply knowing the outlines of a disease, and the first good effects which a remedy had produced, to name in advance

† Modesty forbids my communicating the remainder of this sentence. Bœnninghausen.

for the completion of a cure, two remedies which were so decidedly homœopathic, that none of the other remedies bearing upon this disease were required, and that those two remedies had already achieved the cure before I received Hahnemann's letter.

The second case concerns my oldest son, born on the 15th of September, 1814.

A few months after his birth, a sort of *crusta lactea* broke out in his face, which increased very speedily, and soon covered the face with a thick crust; it was a case of *crusta lactea* of the worst kind. At the same time the mother was affected with suppuration of the *mammæ*, which it took a long period to cure; still the cure was an imperfect one.

At that time the homœopathic treatment of such diseases was not yet known. Knowing however several instances where the removal of such an eruption by external applications had done vast injury, I resisted their use in the case of my child with all my might. Nevertheless, in spite of my warnings, and very often against my knowledge, several honest and clever physicians recommended all sorts of remedies, decoctions of herbs "for the purpose of cleansing the blood," "innocent" ointments of oil and cream, cathartics "for the purpose of killing the worms," baths "strengthening the skin," etc. etc., and these preparations were often employed by way of experiment. The eruption, however obstinate it might be, finally yielded to such a host of opponents, to the great joy of his excellent mother. But this joy did not last long. A few months after the suppression of the *crusta*, and when the red spots which the *crusta* had left upon the skin began to assume a natural flesh color, the child was attacked with oppression of the chest, the attacks being at first slight, then more violent, and increasing in violence to such an extent, at the end of six months, that the death of the child was constantly expected when an attack came on, which generally lasted from eight to fourteen days.

Both celebrated and non-celebrated physicians were re-

quested to relieve this affection, but in vain. The attacks returned with the same violence every fortnight, and although they only occurred once every four weeks in later years, they now lasted six, eight, and more days, during which time the sufferer was only able to breathe in a sitting posture, and with the greatest exertion, the face being covered with the sweat of anguish. He was then not able either to speak, or to move in the least without aggravating the spasmodic asthma, as the physicians called it, and had to sit upon his chair during the whole period of the attack, with his body inclined forwards, and without almost any sleep.

Whilst I was borne down by the wretched condition of my then only son, who, even if he should survive his misery, seemed nevertheless doomed to live through a future full of woe, his sufferings bidding defiance to art, I was overwhelmed by a second misfortune; a cancer was forming in the breast of my wife. All the physicians whom I consulted on the subject, decided that the exsection of the cancer should be performed as speedily as possible, "in order to prevent the bad humors, (generated by the cancer?) from spreading, and making the evil incurable." I knew indeed that it was impossible to heal a scirrhus of the *mammæ* by extirpating it with a knife, but being unable to point out a better remedy (I was ignorant of the homœopathic practice at that time) I suffered that which was unavoidable to be done. The result was as usual; after the lapse of eighteen months, I was a widower, and the father of a boy whose death I apprehended every three or four weeks.

I pass over a period of several years, during which I had again married, had become the father of several children, and had been placed in circumstances which brought me in contact with many allopathic physicians whom I consulted about my son, whose asthmatic condition had remained the same; all was fruitless.

At last, in the year 1828, I was fortunate enough, not only to hear of the advantages and cures of Homœopathy, but to