considerable factor. The mucous membrane was red, swollen, and at one point a most malignant-looking fungating mass of granulations protruded. A gumboil was supposed to have originated the mischief. Finding that all the pus came from one point, I passed in a fine grooved probe, and succeeded in striking a hard mass at the distance of about an inch from the opening.

Next day, Dr Hardie put her under chloroform, and by slitting up Steno’s duct to the distance of nearly an inch, I was able to dislodge and remove a pear-shaped salivary calculus about the size of a hazel-nut.

A very rapid recovery from all the symptoms ensued, and no deformity remains, as it was done from the inside of the mouth.

I have on several occasions seen and removed large calculi from the duct of the submaxillary glands, but believe that Steno’s duct is a much less common situation for their formation.

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Part Second.

REVIEWS.

The Science of Homœopathy, etc. By C. J. Hempel, M.D. New York: Boericke and Tafel: 1874. Pp. 177.

The Influence of Homœopathy on General Medicine since the Death of Hahnemann. By R. E. Dudgeon, M.D. London: Henry Turner and Co.: 1874. Pp. 39.

Tekel and not Ichabod is the word to inscribe over Hahnemann’s tomb: not Ichabod, because no glory was ever connected with his name or theory; Tekel, because he and his theory have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Of this Hempel affords most convincing proof when he says, “One of the most characteristic distinctions which separate the literal followers of Hahnemann from the progressive cultivators of the science of homœopathy, is the theory concerning doses. The former generally hold to the doctrine that anything more material than an infinitesimal dose of medicine is a violation of what they are pleased to term ‘pure homœopathy.’ The latter, among whom are to be found the most enlightened and liberal-minded homeopathists in this country, as well as in Europe, hold that any dose, large or small, is legitimate and scientifically correct which will effect a cure in the most thorough, safe, and expeditious manner.”—(P. xv.) In casting away infinitesimals, however, homeopathists turn their backs upon history, and wilfully ignore the fact that it was the signal failure of the selections of the drug upon the principle alone, to cure tuto, cito, et jucunde, that led Hahnemann to develop his wondrous
theories of medicinal exacerbation and the potentialization of drugs.

The supposed law involved in the dogma, "Similia similibus curantur," has been indeed more or less distinctly recognised in all ages, not only by the public, but also by poets, philosophers, and physicians. We shall quote only Homer, Plato, and Hippocrates, trusting to our readers to supply—each for themselves—the many similar passages which prove the existence of similar views in older as well as in more recent times. Homer says, "Nω μεν ὅ μαλα τάχυ κάκος κακόν ἡχηλαξε' ὡς αἰεὶ τον ὀμοίων ἂγει θέος τον ὀμίοιον." Plato, "Ὄκουν καὶ τοὺς τῶν σοφωτάτων συγγραμμασίν ἐντυχύκιας, ταύτα αὐτὰ ἄλεγουσιν, διὶ τω ὀμοίω ἀναγκα ἂεί φιλον εἶναι; εἰσὶ δέ που οὕτωι οἱ περὶ φύσεως τε καὶ τοῦ ὄλου διαλεγόμενου καὶ γραφοντες." While Hippocrates, apart from many similar statements in his "Aphorisms" and in his other writings, says expressly in his book "De Morbo Sacro," "ἀκεστὰ τὲ τὰ πλεῖστα ἐστὶν αὐτοῖς αὖ τῶν καὶ γίνεται. ἔτερον γάρ ἐτέρῳ τροφῆ ἐστὶ, τῶδε κακωσίς." But it was left for Hahnemann to elevate this dogma to the dignity of an exclusive principle all-sufficient for the selection of a remedy in all and every disease. As his own writings sufficiently explain, he very soon found this so-called principle insufficient for what he desired. With the most carefully selected remedy, diseases many a time were not cured, but got worse. To explain this he propounded the apparently reasonable doctrine, that if a drug which naturally produced any given disease—and therefore, from his point of view, ought to cure it—nevertheless caused an exacerbation, the explanation was to be found in the fact, that to the original disease there was superadded a medicinal disease produced by an overdose. As a remedy for this he propounded the doctrine of the potentialization of remedies—that is, the development of their truly curative effects by so diluting the drugs that all their material properties were done away with, and only the curative essence or spirit remained. And here he introduced his ridiculous theory that effectually to potentialize any given drug, only a certain number of rubbings and shakings for each dilution could be permitted, for fear of developing too powerful an action—as if a curative action could be too powerful. His followers pushed this doctrine of potentialization to such an extreme, that, in their dread of producing a medicinal exacerbation, some of them only employed the 800th or 900th dilution, and found it quite sufficient to let their patients smell the globules impregnated with these solutions once in four weeks or so. Hahnemann, however, speedily found that, however useful in acute diseases, all these specious theories failed him in the treatment of chronic disease, and he then developed

1 Odyss. p. 217, 218. Opp. ex recensione Samuelis Clarkii curavit, J. A. Erneatus, Glasguse, 1814. Tom. iv. p. 151.
2 Lysis. Opp. edit. bipont. Biponti, 1787. Vol. v. p. 233.
3 Sect. iii. p. 310.
quite a new doctrine—his psora theory—in which, ignoring the all-sufficiency of the so-called law, “similia similibus curantur,” he propounded the dogma that remedies for chronic disease were not to be selected according to that principle alone, but were to be taken from a class which were supposed capable of producing psora, or itch—scabies—to the presence of which latent in the system all chronic diseases not syphilitic or sycosic in character were supposed to be due. We need scarcely say, that the discovery of the itch insect, and the rapid cure of scabies by poisoning this mite, gave the coup de grace to the psora theory; and bit by bit, since Hahnemann’s death, the whole fabric which he built up has gradually come tumbling down, till now, as Hempel says, “pure homœopathy,” or Hahnemannism, is almost unknown. The dogma, “similia similibus curantur,” known and recognised in all ages as possessing a certain limited value, has most signally failed when propounded as an exclusive principle for the selection of remedies, even in the hands of that great “double-head of erudition and philosophy,” as Jean Paul Richter termed him, who spent his life in extending, and to the best of his ability perfecting, this theory. Those who still call themselves homeœopathists do so for the sake of the notoriety which is attached to the name; but as Hempel shows (and his work is worth reading in this respect), they are gradually casting from them all that distinguishes them from their medical brethren; the psora theory, medicinal aggravation, and infinitesimal doses, have all been thrown overboard, and they are busy working back to the old tracks, guided by Kopp and Rademacher, on the devious and uncertain path of specific medicine. Legitimate medicine, on the other hand, which had long been wandering on treacherous ground, led astray by the erratic glare of erethism and phlogosis, is now beginning to tread firmly on the sure basis provided by physiology and pathology. The “Young Physic” of John Forbes has his locks now streaked with gray, yet, led by the kindly hand of science, he may look back with thankfulness on the dangers he has escaped in the past, and forward with no fears for the future. The destined victory foreseen by Forbes is already won—Hahnemannism is no more.

Hempel is a well-known, and in some respects a representative man, and his work is well worth reading as affording an authoritative record of the present standpoint of homœopathy, but as yet there is no common ground on which we can meet. Wide as he has strayed from Hahnemann, his views and opinions are still too devoid of substantial basis to permit of any profitable controversy, they must either be accepted or rejected. How can we argue with a man who calls himself a homœopathist, and yet treats chlorosis with very material doses indeed (p. 21) both of iron and digitalis—remedies which we all acknowledge to be well calculated to do good in such a disease, but which in no man’s hands have ever produced the disease they so readily cure; which are therefore no more
homoeopathic to chlorosis than colocynth is to constipation. And it would be even still more absurd to attempt to argue with one who supposes himself to be a reasonable being, and who yet believes that he has cured a disease with one globule of the 200th dilution of ignatia, upon which one drop of the strong tincture of the same drug had no effect whatever (p. 92). The 30th dilution is equal to one drop of the mother tincture diluted in an ocean of fourteen septillion cubic miles of fluid; that is, in a quantity sufficient to make one hundred and forty billion spherical oceans extending from limit to limit of Neptune's orbit, or as much as would make many hundred spheres, each with a semi-diameter or radius in length equal to the earth's distance from the nearest fixed star. What the 200th dilution may amount to we know not; our readers who have leisure may calculate it, or those with strong imaginations may endeavour to conceive it, but we feel sure that no sane man could for one instant believe that a globule of the 200th dilution of anything could have any effect whatever—least of all in a case where the administration of one drop of a drug so immeasurably more powerful as the mother tincture was wholly resultless.

Many years ago, a highly respected citizen left the cold shades of Presbyterianism for the more congenial quarters of the Romish Church. His clergyman, who had a great respect for him, asked him what had induced him to take such a step; the reply to this was, "Reading the lives of the saints," and to the rejoinder, "Will you lend me them?" "Certainly." A short time after, the clergyman returned, and opening the portly tome at certain parts descriptive of sundry apparitions of the Virgin Mary, and of certain remarkable miracles, he demanded of his friend, "Do you believe all these statements?" "Most assuredly." "Aweel, aweel, ye may be a Roman if ye like, but my faith is no sufficient." What other reply is possible to Hempel? whose statements and pretended arguments are so baseless and irrational as to repel every inquirer with even the slenderest claims to mental sanity.

As for Dudgeon's pamphlet, the most satisfactory part of it is that in which he says, "We cannot now look for any increase of the numbers of avowed followers of Hahnemann;" and if we believe what he adds, that "the boundary line between homoeopathic and orthodox practice is daily becoming less distinct," it is certainly not for the same reasons as he does. Not because legitimate medicine has in any respect adopted the views of Hahnemann, but because the present followers of homoeopathy have rejected all Hahnemann's peculiar views, as Hempel testifies. The history of medicine is amply recorded, and it is only ignorance of that history which would prompt the inditing such a pamphlet,—an ignorance which could only be paralleled by the astounding ratiocination of the appendix, in which he argues—to take one item—that because the deaths from apoplexy numbered under homoeopathic treatment in Philadelphia only 28, while under what he terms allopathy they were
The number of allopathic physicians being four times that of the practitioners of homoeopathy, therefore homoeopathists are more successful than allopathists in the treatment of that disease in the ratio of 28:40; leaving entirely out of view the very probable contingency, that the homeopaths killed all they got. We all remember the Eastern tale of the spirit-seer seeking a doctor through the streets of Bagdad: Passing the doors of those medical men whose steps were crowded with ghosts, he stepped with alacrity into the consulting-room of him at whose entrance stood one solitary spirit, certain that his faculty had enabled him to select the most successful practitioner in the city. And we also remember the welcome he received as the second patient who, during twenty years, had sought the illustrious medico, as well as the horror with which spirit-seer himself hurriedly retreated.

On Functional Derangements of the Liver. By CHARLES MURCHISON, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., etc. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.: 1874. Pp. 182.

The lectures which compose this little book were the Croonian lectures delivered before the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in March 1874; they were subsequently published in the Lancet and British Medical Journal, and are now republished with alterations and additions. They are well printed and agreeably composed, but most sketchy in character; and though they afford further proof of what we all already know full well, that Dr Murchison is a well-read man and an agreeable writer, they will not add to his reputation as a scientific physician. We are glad to see that, notwithstanding the adverse report of Dr Bennett and his mercury committee, Dr Murchison still believes that the proofs of the efficacy of mercury in certain derangements of the liver are overwhelming. In this we think most physicians will agree with him. We can recommend the book so far as it goes; but an organ so important as the liver deserves to have its functional derangements more thoroughly treated than they have yet been.

The Pharmacopœial Companion to the "Visiting List": A Posological Table of all the Medicines of the British Pharmacopœia, arranged according to their Action. By ROBERT T. H. BARTLEY, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox: 1875.

The title of this "Companion" sufficiently indicates its nature. The medicines of the Pharmacopœia are arranged in 21 groups;
and when a medicine has more actions than one, it is mentioned in different groups. On the whole, the medicines are well arranged, and the doses correctly given; and the "Companion" is admirably adapted for being inserted into the "Visiting List." In some cases, however, the doses are not correctly given; for example, the dose of the perchloride of mercury is put down at gr. $\frac{1}{8}$ to gr. $\frac{1}{4}$; instead of gr. $\frac{1}{8}$ to gr. $\frac{1}{3}$, as given in the British Pharmacopoeia; on the other hand, the dose of the subchloride of mercury is given as gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ to gr. 1., instead of gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ to gr. 5. Again, we would consider one drachm too large a dose of the nitrate of potash. With regard to the grouping of the medicines, we find some inaccuracies. The first medicine mentioned under Diaphoretics is carbolic acid, with a dose of gr. i. to gr. 3. Few practitioners would ever think of prescribing this medicine in such doses as a diaphoretic. Under Purgatives we find nux vomica and its active principle strychnia. Surely these are not purgative in any true sense of that term. One only other remark is, that it is defective, inasmuch as it omits those important drugs contained in the Addendum to the British Pharmacopoeia of 1874, one of the most important of which is the hydrate of chloral. We hope to see these defects remedied in the "Companion" for 1876.

A Treatise on Pharmacy. By Edward Parrish, late Professor of the Theory and Practice of Pharmacy in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, etc. Fourth Edition. By Thos. G. Wieland. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea: 1874. London: Trübner and Co.

We are glad to find that this great work of Professor Parrish has reached a fourth edition. The author died whilst this edition was being prepared, and, after his death, it was completed by T. G. Wieland of Philadelphia.

The merits of this work are too well known to require commendation from us. This Treatise will long remain a standard work on Pharmacy. This edition has been much enlarged, and thoroughly revised by the editor. It is specially meant to illustrate the United States Pharmacopoeia, but will also be found to be a most valuable work of reference to all in this country who are interested in pharmacy. The work is worthy alike of its author and of the important subject of which it treats—a subject far too little studied by many members of the medical profession.

Persecution for Opinion in Medicine. London: Henry Turner and Co.: 1874.

This is a reprint, with additions, from the British Journal of Homœopathy for October 1874. The first part of this pamphlet is occu-
plied with an account of a controversy between the Editor of the Medical Press and Circular and Dr Dudgeon, President of the British Homeopathic Congress of 1874, regarding the exclusion of homeopathists from consultation with members of the medical profession. The latter half of the pamphlet is a vindication of homeopathic principles. It is no part of our present intention to discuss at length the theory and practice of homœopathy; we would simply assert that the whole tone of this paper will tend to widen the breach that exists between homœopathy and the medical profession. It is pure presumption to assert that allopathists "add to their materia medica by unscientific empirical trials of new drugs on the sick, or or by pilfering from the stores of homœopathy." The author of this pamphlet assumes, without any proof, that homeopathists alone practise on a scientific basis, and are free from empiricism; but we must believe the very opposite until homeopathists shall demonstrate by experiment that medicines diluted to billionths are capable of producing any effect on the animal economy, far less those marvellous effects ascribed to them by "extravagant dilutionists." It is all very well to speak of their own pet theories as scientific; but we would remind them that there is such a thing as "science falsely so called."

**Dr Pereira's Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.** Edited by Robert Bentley, M.R.C.S., Professor of Botany in King's College, London, etc., and Theophilus Redwood, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. With an Appendix, containing the New Medicines included in the additions to the British Pharmacopoeia of 1867, published by the Medical Council in 1874, and Commentaries thereon by the Editors. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.: 1874.

This work is an abridgment of the great work of Dr Pereira on Materia Medica, than which no book in the English language contains more information concerning the natural history, the chemistry, and the actions and uses of drugs, at the time it was written.

It is now more than a quarter of a century since Dr Pereira died; and although his great work is still full of the most valuable information, it became necessary to adapt it to the British Pharmacopoeia; and accordingly we have the volume before us. This work is by no means limited to the officinal preparations of the British Pharmacopoeia, but includes most medicines which are held in high esteem by medical men wisely or unwisely. It also contains an "Appendix" in which is given an account of those medicines which are contained in the "Addendum" to the British Pharmacopoeia published in 1874.
Professors Bentley and Redwood have performed their task well; and we have in these "Elements" an amount of information on Materia Medica and Therapeutics unsurpassed in any book in our language. The book is well written, and contains many illustrations, which are beautifully executed. It will form an invaluable acquisition to the library of any member of the medical profession.

The publishers have done their duty well, except the fact that they have published the work in one volume. As the volume extends considerably over one thousand pages, it is a pity that it was not published in two volumes. It would have formed two fine volumes, which would be a great advantage over the present one volume edition. We hope that a new edition will soon be necessary, and that we shall then have it in two volumes.

An Investigation into the Action of Veratrum Viride upon the Circulation. By H. C. Wood, jun., M.D., assisted by Jos. Berens, M.D. Reprinted from the Philadelphia Medical Times.

This is a very valuable paper, giving an accurate account of many experiments upon animals with the two alkaloids of veratum viride. Veratria, the active principle of this plant, is now known to be a complex body, and contains two alkaloids, sabadillia and jervia. It is with these two alkaloids that Dr Wood performed his experiments. He calls the alkaloids veratroidia and viridia, the latter of which he has proved to be identical with the jervia of some authors. Dr Wood's veratroidia must be regarded as the sabadillia of others. With each of these alkaloids Dr Wood investigated the action on the circulation, on the heart and its nerves, and on the vaso-motor system.

Regarding the action of veratroidia, Dr Wood thus concludes:—

"The action of this alkaloid upon the circulation is altogether subordinate to its influence on the respiration. In minute doses it stimulates the cardiac inhibitory nerves or nerve-centres, but when given in sufficiently large doses it finally paralyzes the peripheral inhibitory cardiac nerves. Upon the vaso-motor system, veratroidia acts as a depressant, but its influence is feeble, much less intense than its action upon the pneumogastrics. When artificial respiration is maintained it can be given in such doses as to paralyze the vaso-motor centres."

Regarding viridia he thus sums up:—"Viridia, in its action upon the circulation, as compared with its influence upon the respiration, is very much more powerful than veratroidia. The slowing of the pulse and the lowering of the arterial pressure, caused by viridia, are due to a direct action upon the cardiac muscles and upon the vaso-motor centres, upon both of which the alkaloid acts as a powerful depressant; upon the inhibitory and accelerator
nerves of the heart, viridia acts not at all, or so slightly that its influence is not perceptible. Veratroidia lowers the pulse rate by its action upon the inhibitory centres; viridia lowers the pulse-rate, as it were, by numbing the muscle."

We highly commend this elaborate and valuable paper.

Chemistry in its Relations to Therapeutics. By W. Handsel Griffiths, Ph.D., L.R.C.S.E., etc. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox: 1874.

This is a reprint from the Medical Press and Circular of a paper by Dr Griffiths, in which he states that his "object is to direct attention to certain recent chemico-therapeutical researches which are of no little importance as serving in some degree to raise therapeutics from the grade of irrational empiricism to the dignity of an exact science."

There is not much in this paper to accomplish the noble object of the author. Some of the experiments referred to are anything but recent, whilst others in no way contribute to this end. The author has promised on some future occasion to give some researches in which he is at present engaged; and we expect that in them he will help to raise therapeutics to the dignity of an exact science. And we would humbly suggest to Dr Griffiths that the less frequent use of the first personal pronoun would add elegance to his writings. Surely the occurrence of "I" five times, in addition to "my own" in the last nine lines of page 5, is too much of a good thing.

Ueber Zufälle nach Operationen an der Harn- und Geschlechtsorganen.
Von Dr Jos. Englisch, Dozent für Chirurgie an der Wiener Universität. Separat Abdruck aus der "Wiener Mediz Presse" 1873.

The author of this pamphlet relates with great minuteness the history of fifteen out of eighty cases, observed by him, of stricture of the urethra, with the view of determining the nature of the febrile symptoms which frequently follow the introduction of the catheter. He comes to the conclusion that, in the great majority of cases, they are not due to the mere dilatation or tearing of the stricture, nor, as maintained by some, to the absorption of the urine in its passage over the torn urethra, but to the excitation of the kidneys, propagated from the stricture along the bladder and ureters to these organs, and resulting in nephritis. He points out that urethral fever has its intensity and fatality determined, not by the condition of the stricture of the urethra, but by the state of the kidneys. When the
kidneys are healthy, a catheter may be passed into the bladder through a tight stricture with considerable violence without febrile symptoms necessarily ensuing. If, however, the kidneys be in a diseased condition, the passage of the catheter through a comparatively slight stricture may give rise to a violent febrile attack which may end fatally. It follows from these observations, that when the kidneys, as may be ascertained by an examination of the urine, are in an irritable or diseased condition, it is the duty of the surgeon to abstain from catheterization, unless obliged to relieve urgent symptoms of retention. We commend this publication to the favourable notice of surgeons as dealing with a subject to which perhaps less attention has been paid than its importance deserves.

**Part Third.**

**MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.**

**MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.**

**SESSION LIV.—MEETING IV.**

*Wednesday, 3d Feb.—Dr D. Rutherford Haldane, President, in the Chair.*

The following Patients were shown:—

I. *Dr P. H. Watson* showed first a case in which, in the month of August 1874, he had excised the entire carpus and base of the metacarpus by his own method, which he had formerly, upon more than one occasion, described to the Society. His reason for showing this result was that Dr Gillespie, in a note to a paper presented to the Society, seemed to hint that although Dr Watson had shown several specimens of this mode of operation, as he had not showed any case illustrative of a successful result, his claim to originality might be regarded as doubtful. He presented this case only because he had chanced to see her to-day at hospital, and had thus an opportunity of arranging that she should come here to-night.

II. *Dr Finlay* showed—(1.) A boy, who, for sixteen months, had suffered from suppurating inguinal glands. The cause was ultimately discovered in an ingrowing toe-nail, after the removal of which the patient did well. (2.) A YOUNG WOMAN with a forked uvula.

Exhibition of Pathological Specimens:—

III. *Dr P. H. Watson* showed—(1.) A MODIFICATION OF THE URETHROTOME which he had exhibited on a recent occasion to the Society. The movement by which protrusion of the blade was effected consists of a screw acting upon a conducting rod, on the