

THE EVENING NEWS.
A DAILY NEWSPAPER.
PUBLISHED DAILY, SATURDAYS EXCEPTED, AT
FOUR O'CLOCK.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
BRAHMIN YOUNG,
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

Thursday April 4, 1878.

NOTICE.

The Forty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Large Tabernacle in this City, at 10 o'clock a.m., April 6th, 1878.

JOHN TAYLOR,
President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

SIMILIA SIMILIBUS CURANTUR.

THERE has been great rejoicing among the old school doctors of the east over the split in the camp of the homoeopathists. It is reported that the leading minds among the disciples of Hahnemann have abandoned the essential principles of their system and thrown to the winds—or the dogs, the doctrines of similia similibus curantur and the potency of infinitesimals.

But when did ever speak the exact truth? Or when did popular journals ever tell things as they exist in reference to an unorthodox system or people?

The truth is that at a meeting of the Homeopathic Medical Society in New York, a number of members procured the passage of a resolution, to the effect that all should be at liberty to make practical use of any established principle in medical science, or of any therapeutic fact founded on experiment and verified by experience. They announced their firm adherence to the general principles of homoeopathy, but in their practice mechanical and chemical conditions frequently arose, requiring mechanical and chemical treatment or local or palliative applications, which they felt compelled to adopt for the relief of the suffering or the saving of life, without reference to the regular rules or stringent doctrine of the homoeopathic system.

This will strike most people as a very sensible conclusion. But some set minds which always move in grooves—they may be found in every society and community—considered it revolutionary and subversive of the system which they were organized to sustain, and at a subsequent meeting when they had drummed up a number of supporters, succeeded in rescinding the resolution giving liberty of action to the members of the society.

That this matter may be clearly understood some explanation of homoeopathy is necessary. A great deal of nonsense has been uttered in relation to it. Its main principle has been ridiculed by opponents as giving a dose, to cure a disease, of the same thing that caused it, or punching a man in the nose, to make it bleed and punching it again to stop the hemorrhage. And its infinitesimal quantities have been virtually called nothing put up in sugar of milk, or a shadow of some substance cast upon a barrel of water, a drop of which, after being thoroughly reduced by mixture with clear aqueous fluid, is administered in small doses to the sick.

Homoeopathy was discovered and reduced to a science by Dr. Samuel C. F. Hahnemann, a native of Meissen, in Saxony, born April 10th, 1785. He was a learned linguist, physician and chemist, who studied medicine in various parts of Germany, receiving his title and diploma at Eisenberg. But after eight years of steady, careful practice, he came to the conclusion that the whole system of medicine was a system of uncertainties, and was tempted to abandon it entirely. But in reflecting upon the subject he saw that there must be some general principle governing cures, and conceived the idea, or as he viewed it received a divine impression, to observe the manner in which medicines act upon the human body when in a condition of health. He commenced with himself and took quinine, a remedy for fever, and quinine, the symptoms induced thereby, which he found to be the three regular stages of fever. He tried other substances used as specifics for certain disorders, and found that they produced conditions similar to those that they cured. The same results accrued from repeated experiments on different individuals, and hence his adoption of the theory of similia similibus curantur, or, "like cures like."

It will be perceived that Homoeopathy does not consist of small doses. It is simply curing by means of similars. Allopathy, the old system, is curing by opposites. And it must be understood that similarity is not identity. A certain substance is proven by experiment to produce certain symptoms in a healthy subject. Homoeopathy gives the same substance in smaller quantities to cure a disease with similar symptoms. For instance, belladonna administered by Hahnemann to persons in health produces symptoms similar to those of scatology; he gave a smaller dose to those afflicted with scatology and effected remarkable cures during an epidemic of that disease in the year 1800.

The volume of the dose is but a matter of experience. Hahnemann proved that by the reduction of the quantity of medicinal substances he could obtain the desired results without the physical disturbances consequent upon the ponderous doses. The little globules and the infinitesimal dilutions, so much ridiculed, are the results of practical experiments. It is easy to laugh at them but not so easy to prove that they have no effect. How far division of matter may be carried without its destruction has never been determined. Gold may be divided mechanically into particles four hundred mil-

lions of a square inch in size and retain all its characteristics. A grain of musk will diffuse its odor for twenty years without apparent loss of weight. A single drop of human blood contains one million microscopic red globules. If the stuporousness of the homoeopathists cure, they are certainly preferable to the masses of repulsive stuff that the old school doctors pour into their patients by the pound.

A little pellet of sugar of milk, being unmedicinal and portable, is adopted as the vehicle to carry the medicine; it is frequently mistaken for the physic itself, and thus the homoeopathists only use one kind of remedy. They employ substances from each of the three kingdoms in nature, and have given to the other schools of the medical fraternity several remedies now in general use by all.

We have treated this fully on the matter, not to advocate Homoeopathy, but simply to explain it and correct some popular errors in relation to it, and now have only touched the outer rim of the subject. Whatever may be thought of the system, there is no doubt that it has materially assisted in exposing the abuses of the old heroic method of treatment, with its bleedings and blisterings, cutting, burning and purging, and its array of instruments, poultices, and potions.

But the human system is a wonderful mystery, notwithstanding the progress of pathological and therapeutic science and the knowledge of anatomy and physiology, and what is efficacious in one is often powerless in another. Any remedy, therefore, which has been proven to be generally beneficial, and to be a palliative of paroxysms of disease, should be adopted by every sensible physician, irrespective of schools, systems, contraria contraria curantur, or in opposite, the shibboleth of Homoeopathy, similia similibus curantur.

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DIED.

At West Jordan, April 9th, 1878, of pneumonia of the lungs, PERCIVAL WILDERSON, son of Bishop A. and Anna L. Wilder, aged 1 year, 2 months and 21 days.

At Tooele City, March 25, 1878, THOMAS DREW, of general debility.

Decceased was born at East Gaston, Berkshire, England, Dec. 11th, 1851; was baptised December, 1852; emigrated to America in the spring of 1864; left there as one of a body guard, was retained in Young, in February, 1865, emigrated to Salt Lake, in the spring of 1865, and settled in Tooele in the fall of the same year. He was an honest upright man and respected by all who knew him.—CONTRIBUTED.

Millefiori Star, photo copy.

At this city, April 2d, Mrs. ANN ELIZABETH BONDRELL, wife of John M. Bondrell, born Feb. 10th, 1811.

Decceased was native of Shropshire, England; was an affectionate wife and mother, and a faithful Latter-day Saint.—CONTRIBUTED.

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