

EDITORIALS.

SIMILIA SIMILIBUS
CURANTUR.

THERE has been great rejoicing among the old school doctors of the east over the split in the camp of the homeopaths. 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 report 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 therapeutical fact founded on experiment and verified by experience. They announced their firm adherence to the general principles of homeopathy, 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 homeopathic 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 homeopathy 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.

Homeopathy was discovered and reduced to a science by Dr. Samuel C. F. Hahnemann, a native of Meissen, in Saxony, born April 10th, 1755. He was a learned linguist, physician and chemist, who studied medicine in various parts of Germany, receiving his title and diploma at Erlangen. 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 curatives, 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 quinquina, a remedy for fever, watching 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 Homeopathy does not consist of small doses. It is simply curing by means of similars, while Allopathy, the old system, is curing by opposites. And it must be understood that similarity is not identity. A certain substance is proven by experi-

ment to produce certain symptoms in a healthy subject. Homeopathy gives the same substance in smaller quantities to cure a disease with similar symptoms. For instance, belladonna administered by Hahnemann to persons in health, produced symptoms similar to those of scarlatina; he gave a smaller dose to those afflicted with scarlatina 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 millionths of a square inch in size and yet retain all its characteristics. A grain of musk will diffuse its odor for twenty years without apparently losing its weight. A single drop of human blood contains one million perceptible red globules. If the imponderable doses of the homeopaths cure, they are certainly preferable to the masses of repulsive stuff that the old school doctors poured into their patients by the pound.

The 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 idea wrongly prevails that the homeopaths 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 thus fully on this matter, not to advocate Homeopathy, 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 modifying the abuses of the old heroic method of treatment, with its bleedings and blisterings, cutting, burning and purging, and its frightful 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 pain or a curative of disease, should be adopted by every sensible physician, irrespective of schools, systems, *contraria contrariis curantur*, or its opposite, the shibboleth of Homeopathy, *similia similibus curantur*.

GREATLY MISTAKEN.

THE San Francisco *Chronicle* of the 30th ult. has something to say about Governor Emery and the "Mormons," and urges the removal of the former in order to discourage polygamy among the latter. This is very ridiculous, but it is as wise as most of the newspaper comments on "Mormon" affairs. Editors outside of this Territory say more and know less on these matters than on any other subject for their pencils. Governor Emery's removal or continuance will have just about as much effect on "Mormon" polygamy as the *Chronicle's* sensations have upon the tides in the Golden Gate.

The *Chronicle* says, "The fact that the Mormons endorse him and that the Gentiles denounce him unanimously, should be sufficient to convince President Hayes of the desirability of his early removal."

But Mr. *Chronicle* these are not facts. The "Mormons" do not endorse him. They have no reason whatever for any violent affection or admiration for him. They are under no special obligations to him. He is simply less obnoxious than some of his predecessors, because he does not stump the Territory like

Woods to arouse hostility against them, vilify their leaders, and ridicule their religion, or like Harding and some others make it his chief business to denounce polygamy on the streets, and practice licentiousness in secret.

A great portion—the most respectable—of the Gentiles have nothing against Governor Emery. They do not denounce him. The denunciation comes from a small clique which denounces everything that it cannot dominate, and abuses everybody that will not fall into its line and cower beneath its whip.

The *Chronicle's* reasons for his removal are therefore untenable, and we are of the opinion that President Hayes will be very cautious in making any movement merely on the suggestion of that sensational paper, or of the remnant of the ring now howling against an officer of the government because he cannot be used as they desire.

EMERY IS GRITTY.

WE clip the subjoined from the Washington *Star*. Gov. Emery is able to give good reasons for signing the election law and appears competent to hold his own against the unprincipled conspirators who have tried to politically assassinate him with the poison of misrepresentation. Emery has more grit than he was credited with:

Gov. G. W. Emery, of Utah, claims that the new registration and election law of Utah, signed by him, does not prescribe any new qualifications for voters. On the contrary, every voter who could vote under the old law can vote under the one just passed. It is true that the officers whose duty it is to register voters, are in the most of instances Mormons; but this could not very well be avoided, as they are in the majority in all but one or two of the counties. Any wilful neglect on their part, however, to register properly qualified voters will be deemed a felony, and the penalty is a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or two years imprisonment in the penitentiary. The courts, all of whom are appointed by the President, will undoubtedly see the law properly enforced. The new law abolishes the marked ballot which the Mormons have clung to with great pertinacity, and substitutes the secret ballot in its stead. It was that feature in the old law that was so objectionable to the Gentiles and dissenting Mormons; for they claimed that, with the marked ballot, but few of the Mormons could be induced to vote any other ticket than that favored by the church. In the passage of the new law, therefore, while it may not be faultless in every respect, the conservative Gentiles feel that a great point has been gained. The outcry against this legislation has been raised without just grounds. The apparent pre-determination of the radicals, was to find fault with this law and that on revenue, and before the provisions of either of them were known they were denounced. They afterwards had to acknowledge that the revenue law was a good one; but they have kept up captious objections to the election and registration law, hoping still to induce Congress to enact the legislation for which they have been pressing; and to heap odium upon Governor Emery, for his action seems to be part of the programme.

A LIST OF HONOR.

WE publish in this issue of the NEWS, a list of the names of persons who have recently paid the amounts which they were owing to the Perpetual Emigration Fund. We hope this will stimulate others to remember their obligations, and proclaim in persuasive tones, "go thou and do likewise."

In view of the unfortunate temporal condition of many of the Latter-day Saints in the old countries, and of the troublesome times which appear to be ahead, all who can aid in the work of the gathering should certainly do so at this juncture. If the means now owing to the Fund could be obtained, a great many of the Saints who are anxious to be delivered from present poverty and the evils to come, could be brought here during the summer, and placed in a posi-

tion to prove themselves and carve out a position of self-sustenance.

Those who have responded to the urgent invitation of the President of the Fund and his assistants, and have settled their liabilities, must feel much better than if these debts were still hanging over them, and every dollar thus placed where it lawfully belongs will be used judiciously for the redemption of the poor.

We shall be pleased to publish another list, or to hear of many more debtors squaring their obligations to the Perpetual Emigration Fund. Those who have paid up have only done their duty, but the list to be found in another column is, nevertheless, a list of honor.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The land laws, as they are now in force, are just published in a neat pamphlet, and can now be obtained at the DESERET NEWS Office counter. Everybody wants it.

Quite a number of poisonings have occurred in different parts of the States from eating the wrong kind of mushrooms, and one or two fatal cases are reported. Mushroom eaters, be sure you get the right kind before partaking.

The French commission appointed to inquire into the effect of trees on the rainfall report that the best trees to draw and precipitate moisture from the clouds are the fir and the yew, with their pinnacle tops and electrical condition.

There has been a reduction made in the fees to be lawfully charged at the Land Office. Full information in regard to this matter and in relation to land affairs generally, so far as they apply to this Territory, can be found in the new pamphlet just issued from the DESERET NEWS Office.

A bright girl of thirteen years died in New York a few days ago from the effects of poison received into her system while making artificial flowers. The Paris green on the leaves she handled contained the arsenic which destroyed her life. It is a dangerous coloring and the poor little victim suffered great agony.

Keeley, the "moter" man is reviving. Capitalists have set him on his feet again and believe he will succeed yet in astonishing the world with his new agent of force. But a mechanical expert has investigated his machine and declares the motive power to be nothing but compressed air, and Keeley's pretensions a fraud. How people do differ in opinion! Time will tell the facts.

"Lullaby" composed by J. K. Emmet and sung by him in "Fritz," has just been published by F. W. Helmick of Cincinnati, with a fine portrait of the author. Emmet does not seem to appreciate this however, and threatens to sue Helmick for 20,000 damages, claiming the proprietorship of the song. It is arranged for the organ and piano; price forty cents.

Miss Sallie P. Wood, of South Carolina, who shot and killed Samuel Henry last November while he was trying to make her, by violence, the victim of his lust, and who was arrested for murder, has been tried and a verdict of "not guilty" was returned. Quite right, so far as it goes, the girl ought to have a gold medal for her brave defence of virtue, which is dearer than life to every right minded maiden.

Talmage, the pulpit buffoon of Brooklyn, who maligned the ladies of Utah, and wanted to convert the "Mormons" with gunpowder and bayonets, is in trouble with the trustees of his church through defending the organist, who is denounced as a drunkard. Yesterday Talmage spoke against operatic music in churches, when the new organist responded by performing a selection from *Il Trovatore*. Christian unity is lovely to behold.

The short walking dress is coming rapidly into use at Washington, so we learn from the *Star*. Good news. The ladies care nothing for the uncleanness of dragging skirts nor the inconvenience to say nothing of the vulgarity of holding them up in the streets, but they will care for the potent voice of fashion. When that speaks see how they will bow in submission. Bring in the short skirt. Dame Fashion, and gentlemen will rejoice as much as those ladies will who have small and pretty feet!

It is said that a filthy man, with filthy hands, milking a filthy cow, in a filthy corral, into a filthy pail, and setting the milk in one corner of a hot, filthy kitchen, is the perfection of filth in butter-making, and that the product will be anything but "glit edged." We hope this has no application in Utah, though there is a great deal of mighty poor butter produced here.

New Granada, South America, brags of a citizen one hundred and eighty years of age. He brags of his temperate habits as the cause of his longevity. He was never drunk in his life and only eats one meal a day. He still works on his farm. His name is Michael Salis, which suggests that the fact may be considered only to be taken *cum grano salis*, but his age is vouched for by Dr. Luiz Hernandez of Bogota, who has collected irrefutable proof of it. Salis must be the most venerable old salt in the world.

Christianity has introduced a bill giving exclusive jurisdiction of divorce matters in the Territories to the District Courts. The object claimed is to prevent the obtaining of divorces by non-residents, and reference is made to Utah in this connection. The Senator is behind the times. The new divorce law of this Territory meets the end designed here, and the Territories are able to regulate all those matters without any help or interference from Mr. Christianity. Let the Territorial assemblies do their own legislating in regard to Territorial matters; that's what they are for.

Messieurs Andre and Angot, the French astronomers appointed by the Minister of Public Instruction to proceed to the United States and take observations of the transit of Mercury, May 6th, 1878, have been advised by the United States authorities to make Ogden, Utah, their point of observation. The pure atmosphere of this region is highly favorable for their work, and the Government Observatory, at Ogden, from which telegraphic communication with the National Observatory can be kept up, renders the Junction City admirably adapted to their purpose. Those gentlemen left New York for Ogden on the 24th ult.

The Gold Hill *News* is chuckling over the disfranchisement of the women of Utah, to be accomplished by the Luttrell bill. Don't laugh too loud, Mr. *News*; the bill isn't passed yet, and should Congress unconstitutionally take away the vested rights of our lady citizens, there are enough "Mormon" male voters to continue our large majority, so that it is not probable just yet that the prediction of the Gold Hill *News* will be fulfilled, that "The Gentiles will take possession of the government, and the killing off of Mormonism and polygamy will only be a question of time." The killing off of "Mormonism" hasn't panned out very well for its would-be assassins hitherto. Hold your chuckles, *News*.

The New York *Herald*, arguing in favor of a bill to disfranchise polygamists, sees no difficulty in the way of proving whether a man is a polygamist or not. "If a man has children by more than one living woman the law should class him as a polygamist," says the wise man of the *Herald*. But he doesn't suggest the means by which this little matter can be proven. An old adage says, "It's a wise child that knows its own father." It would be a wiser man who could prove the parentage of his neighbor's family olive bran hes. The editor says, "other simple tests might be devised." These things are simple to talk about—very simple in this case, but not so simple when brought down to actual practice.

Edison's talking machine, generally known as the phonograph, is still a puzzle to many persons, while others speak of it with a smile of skepticism. An excellent article on the subject, with explanatory illustrations is given in the *Popular Science Monthly* for April, which also contains a number of admirable papers on various subjects. The notices of books are exceedingly interesting and give readers who have not time to study the great works of the best thinkers of the age, an opportunity of learning the chief features of current solid literature. A supplement is issued with the April number which, if anything is a little more interesting than the regular monthly. Prof. Tyndall has "A Last Word" on spontaneous generation; "Hell and