ing, and the yielding harvest is always at hand in good and proper seasons. Whilst all this has been doing, an industrious "*enemy*," in different places, has been sowing and scattering *tares* of every kind among the wheat, *i. e.* to obstruct and blight the growth of homœopathy; and many are all impatient and hoping it may be high time to *pluck* up homœopathy, and prevent its growing and spreading. But *we* say, *not yet*, "lest, while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest"—for *truth* will prevail and will finally exterminate the *tares*, however obnoxious they may be. With sentiments of esteem and respect, may I ever remain your sincere friend,
Boston, May 22, 1843. ROBERT CAPEN, M.M.S.S.

RHEUMATISM, CHOREA AND CARDIAC DISEASE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ON February 21st, 1843, visited Miss I. B., aged 15, with Dr. Dean, who had been called the day previous. She had been ill two weeks with rheumatic fever, and still had some tenderness and pain in the joints. She was found breathing with difficulty, in the sitting posture, with slight cough and bronchitis; pulse 120 to 130; palpitation of the heart; pain and tenderness in the cardiac region; the motion of the heart attended with a strong grating (friction) sound. No enlargement discoverable, nor other thoracic disease. There was some tenderness of the epigastrium, and a bilious tinge of the skin. Dr. D. had applied a blister to the epigastric region. Another was laid over the heart. Calomel and opium were administered, and subsequently merc. ointment was applied, until it was deemed advisable to discontinue the mercury, as with the exception of slight soreness of the mouth, the constitutional effect seemed altogether disproportionate to the quantity taken. The anodyne proved serviceable in quieting the heart, and diminishing the labor of breathing. The pulse became a little less frequent, and the "grating" was subdued into the milder "friction" sound. On the 8th of March, chorea, of a most violent character, supervened. On the 9th, she commenced taking tinct. of *actæa racemosa* (prepared with four ounces of the roots and 1 pint of alcohol), in drachm doses every four hours. By this treatment the spasms were moderated, and at length controlled; they did not cease entirely until the 11th or 12th. Miss B. died on the 25th of March. No examination was permitted.

Two other cases of chorea in children, connected with disease of the heart, have fallen under my notice, and it is not improbable that a latent affection of this organ may have been, not unfrequently, the unsuspected cause or coincident of this singular and imperfectly-understood disorder. In the April No. of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, 1843, is an article referring to this subject, which concludes with the "practical lesson" to examine carefully the state of the heart in cases of sudden and severe spasmodic affection.

W. W. ELY.

Rochester, N. Y., May 28, 1843.