curring in the operation of that system, which you profess to deprecate and to have surpassed. Some of these were errors of misfortune, which can never be separable from the existence of human infirmity—errors of diagnosis, errors of judgment, in medicinal adaptation, errors even of inattention. Others have been errors of presumption, of ignorance, of extravagance, and of pretence. But these are exceptions and incidental items, from which you are no more exempt, while the grand point of distinction between homœopathy and its opposite is really the same as that between abstinence and action—a distinction vital and absolute. This pre-supposes the futility of that rhetoric with which you assume to dignify your insubstantial fabric to the rank of science.

Homœopathy is an unredeemable vagary, which must speedily find extinction. It is an erratic ebullition, which the sweetest sophistry cannot prolong. The sooner it is abandoned the better, unless it is denuded of infinitudes, and openly promulgated as the doctrine of non-interference with the resistance of vitality to dissolution. Let it array itself under this representation, and it approaches far more nearly to respectability. If it be not ridiculous to dignify your atomist in medicine as a Hercules, or feed an intense inflammation with “*similia similibus*” firebrands, even in the transient currency of sparks, then, by some approximation to analogy, it is laudable to abandon the abundance of the year, under the impulse of hunger, for vegetable molecule, and combat a metropolitan conflagration with torches. There is but one hopeful resort for the homœopathic fraternity, who are ambitious as the propagandists of a microscopic modernism, and this is unconditional abjuration, or the sacrifice of even a pardonable hypocrisy to the persuasion of common sense.

Sardinia, N. Y., Oct. 17, 1850.

INFLUENCE OF SULPHURIC ETHER ON THE CATAMENIA.

[Communicated for the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.]

A FEW days since, two young married ladies called on me while I was in the act of administering ether by inhalation, previously to extracting a tooth, and requested me to administer some of the same to them. I did so, but not to the full extent of narcotism. A few days subsequently one of them informed me that they both had a flow of the catamenia next day, anticipating the usual period more than a week. Another female remarked that the same thing had occurred to her. If this anæsthetic agent has such a powerful influence upon the uterus, which, however, is to be confirmed by observation and repeated experiment, it will prove a valuable remedy in many cases of obstruction of that salutary discharge. I am not aware that this subject has ever engaged the attention of the profession, and I am induced to communicate this for publication in your valuable *Journal*, if you shall deem it worthy of such notice, more for the purpose of eliciting something from them upon the subject, than from any desire to herald a fancied discovery in therapeutics.

Westport, Oct. 19th, 1850.

B. B. Sisson.