

amount of opium, stramonium, belladonna, or any other narcotic poison, would produce a cure, and hence this bugbear was abandoned. The infinitesimal dose was so transparent a fallacy that the masses saw through it at once, and they were obliged to relinquish that stupidity early in their practice.

But does all this prove that the homœopaths are qualified to be members of the Massachusetts or any other respectable Medical Society? No one of this belief, or who makes pretensions to it, can gain admission to the American Medical Association. It proves them dishonest, and if that qualifies for membership, let them in, and retain those already there. But, on the other hand, if quackery, conjoined with knavery, disqualifies, then shut the doors against any further admission of such members, expel those already admitted, and keep the Society, as it should be, free from quacks and quackery.

DUHRING'S "STUDY OF DERMATOLOGY."

An Abstract, by EDWARD WIGGLESWORTH, M.D.,
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MEDICINE, once a heterogeneous mass, theoretical, empirical and traditional, has at length crystallized into specialties which accept only proved, scientific facts. One of these crystals, Dermatology, has been so polished during the last twenty years by Professor Hebra, of Vienna, that it sheds a new light to the farthest parts of the civilized world. By the kind permission of a pupil of Hebra's, Dr. Duhring, we extract from a recent paper of his some views with regard to dermatology, in which we heartily coincide, and which may prove of value to those meditating foreign study.

Dr. Duhring says:—Of late the science of dermatology has taken such rapid strides forward, that if we examine the doctrines taught and regarded as true some thirty years ago, we shall find them widely different from those entertained by modern pathologists and investigators. The numerous experiments and observations made within the last twenty years have done much towards clearing away the mystery that for so long a time surrounded these troublesome and often obstinate affections. For years past so firmly and securely have false theories and notions regarding the nature of skin diseases been fixed in the minds of men, that time, patience, and the greatest amount of exertion have been necessary to induce people to give up faulty theories

and to credit facts rather than tradition. Even to-day, each country claims its own nomenclature for diseases of the skin, which it defends pertinaciously, caring apparently more for technicalities and words than for some recognized common form, which the whole civilized world can use and comprehend. Nowhere in the study of medicine is the necessity for a master, a thorough teacher, more seriously felt than in the investigation of this class of affections. The next point of importance is access to a clinic or hospital, where cases may be seen and examined; for no other method will give the student such a clue to these diseases and their numerous phases as constant contact with patients. The power of making a correct diagnosis is the key to all success in the treatment of skin diseases; without this faculty, the physician can never be a thorough dermatologist, and therapeutics at once cease to hold their proper position and become empirical.

Without referring to the subject as found in other localities, we would state that at the present day the teachings of Vienna, Paris and London, represent the dermatology of Europe, for we see the other countries adopting, with more or less variation, one or the other of these schools as their standard. The views of these three centres differ very much, not only in regard to the theories they hold concerning pathology, but also in reference to the treatment of these diseases. Great Britain is represented by Wilson, Startin, Fox, Anderson, Hutchinson, Fagge, Milton, Purdon, Sims, Squire and Gee. The advantage that London presents to the dermatologist is the opportunity of seeing an almost endless number of cases, and thus becoming acquainted with some of the rarer forms of disease. London possesses many institutions for the treatment of cutaneous affections, the majority of them being dispensaries, though they often bear the name of hospitals. The want here of a large hospital, with a number of beds, has always been an impediment to research and investigation, and especially unfortunate has this want proved for those who would study these diseases in all their aspects and changes. Dispensary service is eminently valuable for the opportunity it offers for seeing cases and making diagnoses, but the results obtained in the treatment must, as a rule, be received with caution. A service of this kind, where cases come and go at will, often very irregularly, using and abusing remedies, as the case may be, can never present the same definite results and statis-

tics obtainable in hospital practice. Nowhere in London does there appear to be regular and systematic clinical teaching, and this need perhaps constitutes the great drawback to the study of dermatology in this city. Neither does the investigation of these diseases in these institutions receive the time or attention requisite for their full comprehension. Superficial examinations doubtless in most cases arise from the fact that too little time is appropriated for the number of patients seen, but at the same time this neglect does not betoken the earnestness necessary to a thorough understanding of the subject. London lacks a system of study which would comprise a thorough course of lectures, accompanied by clinical teaching, and a hospital where students might study under experienced masters and follow up the science in its numerous details. Until such a change is brought about, it can never take an equal rank, as a school of dermatology, with other countries.

In Paris, this department is centered under one roof, in the great "Hôpital St. Louis," a venerable institution that has assisted the studies and investigations of such men as Alibert, Biett, Schedel, Gibert, and other eminent dermatologists. The St. Louis contains about six hundred beds devoted to diseases of the skin, under the direction of six attending physicians, who appropriate two or three hours daily to their wards, assisted by their "internes." In connection with the hospital, there is an immense dispensary service every morning, numbering, upon an average, one hundred and fifty new cases. This is the largest hospital for skin diseases extant, and by far the largest dispensary service in Europe, yet the want of clinical instruction is here, too, as in London, seriously experienced. The student is thrown upon his own resources, and can obtain knowledge of the subject by close attention and observation alone. Connected with the St. Louis, we find MM. Bazin, Hardy, Lailler, Vidal, Hillairet and Guibout, while the names of Devergie, Cazenave, Ricord, Fournier, Rochard, Diday, Dron, Rollet and Doyon, are all identified with this specialty in France. Provided the student has already acquired a knowledge of the subject, and is capable of pursuing his studies alone, the St. Louis is a grand field.

In Vienna, all the medical sciences are much more divided and subdivided than elsewhere. Here the various specialties, grounded upon a true and solid foundation, are worked and investigated to the finest

degree, and here it is that specialties assume their proper shape, and add science and renown to the profession. Among the many branches of medicine, dermatology holds a conspicuous and prominent place, and is studied with a zeal and earnestness such as is rarely seen elsewhere. The "Allgemeines Krankenhaus" has been the seat of dermatology for many years past, and more especially has it assumed such an important position since the researches of Hebra have been made public. With the discoveries of this thorough dermatologist, the study took a new life and stand in Germany, steadily developing, until it has reached the position it now holds—one of the most definite of the specialties of medicine. The department for skin diseases at this hospital contains a number of wards with accommodation for about two hundred patients, the whole being under the immediate supervision of Prof. Hebra. For the student who wishes to pursue dermatology, a plan of study is arranged; and, beginning with the anatomy of the skin and the elementary details, he gradually works his way up, with the assistance of able teachers, to a position that will enable him to proceed alone. Systematic lectures and clinics, both for the beginner and the more advanced student, are continually being given, and pains taken to meet the desires of all. Courses of instruction are even provided for those who may wish to study specially the diagnosis, treatment or pathology of these affections, affording an opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with all the minutiae of the subject. The advantages offered in Vienna for the study of these diseases are unsurpassed, and the student who would thoroughly grasp the subject can find no better school and place to begin his work. Here he will find himself able to procure a foundation upon which to build when thrown upon his own resources, and without which enthusiasm would be fruitless and time wasted. The lively interest shown in dermatology throughout Germany is patent enough to us all, and the well-directed and earnest labors of such dermatologists as Hebra, Auspitz, Pick, Köbner, Neumann, Kohn, Veiel, Biesiadecki, Zeissl, Sigmund, Lindwurm, Rindfleisch, and many others, must make us mindful that the science here is steadily assuming greater proportions, and well deserves the reputation it has earned.

The German school, with Hebra at its head, deals more with facts than theories, and relies more upon experience in reference to treatment than upon speculation.

It argues that as yet the cause of most of the diseases of the skin is too obscure to admit of a rational internal treatment, with a view to a positive result; and, consequently, with very few exceptions, medicines acting as specifics are entirely ignored, dependence being placed upon other and more sure methods of cure. It maintains that the direct and exciting cause of a disease should at once be sought for, and if found, receive the treatment adapted to its needs. But in addition to an internal treatment that may be adopted, it insists upon a vigorous and systematic plan of external treatment as well. In cases where the cause of a disease is unknown, the whole attention is devoted to external therapeutics, and certain changes are brought about which tend to ameliorate, if a cure be impossible. In many cases it looks upon these affections as simple disorders of the integumentary system—i. e., not as constitutional or diathetic diseases—and as such gives them a purely local and external handling. The plan pursued for the cure of cutaneous disorders by the Vienna school is undoubtedly more simple and rational than that of any other, and the benefits derived therefrom speak for themselves.

The French school ignores totally the methods practised by other nations, and upholds its own doctrines with great pertinacity. It claims that the majority of these disorders are the results of a diathesis, by which is meant some peculiarity of the economy which predisposes to certain eruptions, and that the therapeutics should be directed against the disease internally; it, however, also advises external treatment, but of such a feeble character that scarcely any effect is produced upon the skin. Again, great results are anticipated from baths, both simple and medicated, while emollient dressings, poultices and bland ointments, constitute a feature in the list of remedies employed.

The English school still adheres closely to the doctrines expounded by Willan in the latter part of the last century. The truths that were announced at that time in reference to many of these diseases are unquestionably as correct and valuable now as then; at the same time it must not be forgotten that science has, in the intervening years, taken many strides forward. The views of some of the English writers of the present day are by no means in accord with recent study and research as pursued in other countries, and many adopt their own ideas and theories with a complacency somewhat startling to progressive

and generous minds. External treatment is considered almost useless and often unnecessary. Internal medicines and remedies are relied upon to an unlimited extent, and upon these it depends mainly for the cure of such diseases. To be just, we would wish it understood that the above remarks apply to the London school, as unmodified by association with Continental ideas.

Concerning the study of dermatology in our own country, a wide field at once opens for discussion, from which we would withhold for the present, remarking, however, that, though in the past very little interest has been shown in the subject, of late the establishment in our cities of separate institutions and departments connected with our hospitals, tends to show that the proper spirit has been awakened. Let us anxiously await the period when our nation shall claim a school of its own, a true and honest eclectic school, including the good points and sound theories selected from our European friends, together with the results of our own investigations and labors.

Reports of Medical Societies.

BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT.
F. B. GREENOUGH, M.D., SECRETARY.

FEB. 27th.—*Two Cases of Glioma.*—Dr. BORLAND reported the cases and showed the specimens.

The two patients whose cases I here report died while under my care, in the City Hospital, one of them on the 9th and the other on the 15th of this month.

The first, Julia B., was 44 years old, and was admitted on Feb. 6th. She had been a widow for fourteen years, and was a servant in one of the hotels of the city. She had had two children, both of whom died in infancy. No abortions. Ten years ago, she had a cough which lasted two years, and was accompanied by a thick, white expectoration, and several slight attacks of hæmoptysis. From this she entirely recovered, and had no return of cough until three weeks before entrance, since when she said she had a cough, and thick white expectoration, as before. She stated that two years ago, without known cause, she had sore throat, with ulceration about the palate, accompanied by much pain and a purulent discharge, and followed in two weeks by discharge of a piece of bone half as long as