

THE TRUTH ABOUT HOMOEOPATHY

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The truth about homoeopathy by Wm. H. Holcombe

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WM. H. HOLCOMBE

**THE TRUTH ABOUT
HOMOEOPATHY**

THE
Truth About Homœopathy.

BY

DR. WM. H. HOLCOMBE.

A POSTHUMOUS MANUSCRIPT.

ALSO

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF DR. HOLCOMBE.

PHILADELPHIA.
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1894.

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PUBLISHERS' PREFACE.

This, *The Truth About Homœopathy*, is the last literary work done by the late Dr. Holcombe. After his death the manuscript, apparently just completed, was found among the doctor's papers, neatly written and ready for the press. It is written in Dr. Holcombe's inimitable style, and while the text, the "Browning pamphlet," is a most ephemeral one, the real question is a vital one, and Dr. Holcombe's work will possess an interest to all lovers of the truth long after the pamphlet to which it is a reply would have been utterly forgotten but for this little book replying to it.

THE PUBLISHERS.



THE TRUTH ABOUT HOMŒOPATHY.

Dr. Geo. M. Gould, of Philadelphia, presumably some respectable Allopathic physician of that city, offered a prize of one hundred dollars for the best essay against the Homœopathic theory and practice of medicine. He wanted something clear, strong and practical; which would expose the falsehood and folly of Homœopathic claims; an essay which Allopathic physicians could distribute among their patrons; ostensibly, "to disseminate more enlightened views upon the subject," but really in the trade interest, to bind them more closely to themselves and prevent them from investigating the merits of the new system.

The prize was awarded to Dr. W. W. Browning, of Brooklyn, N. Y. This gentleman sports three distinguished titles on the cover of his pamphlet, A. B. and LL. B., and M. D.—Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Doctor of Medicine. It may be fairly supposed that all his attainments in Literature, Law, and Science have been brought to bear upon this one point, the demolition of Homœopathy.

The essay is entitled, "Modern Homœopathy; Its Absurdities and Inconsistencies." I have analyzed this little piece of supposed dynamite and find it to be harmless, except to those who are unfortunately deceived and misled by the statements. I am prepared to show my candid reader that the title of this prize is a misnomer, and that it should have been called: "The Fallacies and

Misrepresentations of Dr. W. W. Browning in relation to Homœopathy and Homœopathic physicians."

The devil's advocate is a queer old legal phrase for a man who detects and exposes the minutest flaw or failing of his opponent, ignores or conceals every good point he may find in him, misrepresents his conduct, misinterprets his motives, and misconstrues everything capable of misconstruction. Partisan editors, lawyers, doctors and theologians frequently play the role of "devil's advocate." Dr. Browning is a brilliant specimen of the species.

From his estimate of Hahnemann, the founder of Homœopathy, one can safely foretell what kind of an exposition an Allopathic writer is going to give him of the Homœopathic system, whether prejudiced and false, or enlightened and liberal. Dr. Browning says little or nothing of Hahnemann but that he was an unsuccessful physician, extravagant in his statements, absorbed in his theories, nomadic in his habits, who died at an advanced age, universally condemned and ridiculed, having acquired neither fame nor fortune. He would leave his reader under the impression that Hahnemann was an obscure, unscientific pretender, destitute of character and ability.

Now let us see who and what Hahnemann really was.

Jean Paul Richter, the illustrious poet and novelist, was his intimate friend, and used to call him "that double-headed prodigy of genius and learning."

Dr. Valentine Mott, the great New York Allopathic surgeon, during his stay in Europe, visited Hahnemann, and held personal intercourse with him. Knowing him better than Dr. Browning, he gave this opinion of him:

"Hahnemann is one of the most accomplished and scientific physicians of the present age."

Dr. John Forbes, a great name in the annals of British Allopathic literature, had a loftier opinion of Hahnemann and his labors than our Brooklyn doctor.

"No careful observer of his actions," says Dr. Forbes, "or candid reader of his writings can hesitate for a moment to admit that he was a very extraordinary man, one whose name will descend to posterity as the exclusive excogitator and founder of an original system of medicine as ingenious as many that preceded it, and probably destined to be the remote, if not the immediate, cause of more important fundamental changes in the healing art than have resulted from any promulgated since the days of Galen himself."

This prophecy of Dr. Forbes, ridiculed by the Allopaths of fifty years ago, is being realized every day. Homœopathy has rendered distinguished services to medical science in general and especially to the Allopathic branch of it. Prof. Bristow, another classic name in Allopathic annals, boldly gives Hahnemann the proper credit of exposing and denouncing the miserable Allopathic theories and practices of that day.

"That he had learning," says the Professor, in an address before the British Medical Association, "and ability and great reasoning power is abundantly clear. He saw through the prevalent therapeutic absurdities and impostures of the day. He laughed to scorn the complicated and loathsome nostrums which even at that time disgraced the pharmacopœias, and he exposed with no like skill and success the emptiness and worthlessness of most of the therapeutical systems which then prevailed.

I commend these true estimates of Hahnemann by Dr.