

# **SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE IN ITS RELATION TO HOMOEOPATHY**

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Scientific Medicine in Its Relation to Homoeopathy by Theodor Bakody

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**THEODOR BAKODY**

**SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE  
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HOMOEOPATHY**



# SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE

IN ITS

## RELATION TO HOMCEOPATHY.

BY

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OF THE

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*TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN*

BY

RUDOLPH F. BAUER, M.D.

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THIS essay, written by Prof. Theodor Bakody, of Budapesth, for the *Pester Lloyd*, was originally intended for the laity. The interest awakened throughout the world by Koch's great discovery was experienced in a lively degree by all classes of men, and information concerning the new remedy was eagerly sought after by layman as well as physician.

Prof. Bakody, designing to write for the former, unconsciously wrote for the latter, and in answering the questions put to him concerning Koch's remedy touched upon such important points in therapeutics that every physician, even if not sympathizing with his views, will still give them serious consideration.

RUDOLPH F. BAUER, M.D.





# SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE

IN TWO

## RELATION TO HOMŒOPATHY.

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I RESPOND with pleasure to your invitation, asking me to express from my especial standpoint, my opinions concerning the widely differing views entertained regarding the value of Koch's method of treatment, and also the assertions frequently made concerning the similarity of the same to the Hahnemannian methods. You must, however, allow me to discuss the subject thoroughly; otherwise your object of explaining to the educated laity a serious scientific question will be futile. A certain preliminary knowledge, generally wanting even in the best educated of the laity, is necessary to properly understand medical and scientific questions. I must, therefore, endeavor to overcome this lack of knowledge by putting my explanations into a form which will be familiar and easily understood.

Before Rokitansky's time, the school of medicine busied itself almost exclusively with problematic hy-

potheses and theoretical pathological speculations, particularly in the branches of pathology and diagnosis. In the eighth lustrum of the present century, Rokitansky surprised the medical world with a work which attracted universal attention, entitled, *Manual of Pathological Anatomy*. I quote from this work the following remarkable passage, so that it will become clear to you what this great thinker strove to do, and what new paths his pathological school opened :

“Pathological anatomy has for its subject the deviations of the organism and the disturbances of the organs and tissues, as demonstrated by anatomical research. Its importance becomes clear to us when we place it in that relation to pathology which anatomy holds to physiology ; it becomes the principal basis for a physiology of disease. Anatomy is the basis of pathology, because the manifestations of disease are subject to the same laws, and because the disease remains still a physiological condition, although a morbid one.”

In the first edition of his work, Rokitansky not only declared his systematically ordered doctrine the very foundation of medical knowledge, but also promulgated therein and established for all time the thesis that a knowledge of the morbid disturbances and changes in the organs and tissues must become the basis of medicinal treatment ; also that pathological anatomy was undoubtedly to be regarded as the foundation upon which a physiological pathology

rested, and was the elementary principle in natural researches pertaining to medicine. "It offers," the text continues, "a reliable, solid basis to semiology and diagnosis, and establishes a rational therapeutics based upon a thorough knowledge of morbid and curative processes." The learning and justice of this eminent scholar induced him to add, with a modesty worthy of imitation, the conditional observation, "that what he himself designated as fundamental, only pointed out for the present the possible tendency and extension of future development."

His prognostication proved true. From the macroscopic pathological anatomy developed the microscopic pathological anatomy of Virchow. The organic tissue-changes, demonstrated mainly by the naked eye by Rokitansky and his followers, were investigated still more closely by the microscopic work of Virchow and his school; the improvement in optical instruments aided these efforts. The knowledge gained by Virchow in his researches of cell-life revealed the finer elementary changes and the morbid processes going on in diseased cells, approached 600 times nearer the human eye.

Thereafter, investigators, with one accord, directed their labors to the attainment of a thorough knowledge of the cellular nature of the functions of life; and the results, collected with ant-like industry in the archives of Virchow, revealed the fact, more and more, that the delicate, jelly-like, microscopic structure, provided with a nucleus and nucleolus—the or-