

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE

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The Scientific Basis of Medicine by I. W. Heysinger

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I. W. HEYSINGER

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Scientific Basis of Medicine.

BY

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Throughout the Universe," "The Battle Against
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ERRATA.

Page 18, line 11: read *practiced*.
Page 67, line 18: read *heterogeneous*.
Page 77, line 4: read *menstruum*.
Page 105, line 9: read *health*.

07 Jan 17 S.S.

PREFACE.

The purpose of this book is to briefly point out, both for the laity and the profession, in an interesting manner, the historical and scientific principles of modern physic, which were first demonstrated, systematized, and presented in a complete but ever-expanding form by Hahnemann, and which are, in brief, to match the proved activities of drugs against the corresponding activities of disease, and so extinguish or annul morbid processes and restore the normal rhythm of health again.

This principle of extinguishment by interference is now universally conceded to be as broad as all physics, and not limited to living organisms alone; but when Hahnemann first announced it the unscientific medical censors of that day received it, and rose in mass against it, as great reforms have always been received when first presented.

But the revolt from ignorance, which is called the heresy of one age, becomes the reform of the next, and the established order of the third; and so it has been with this great reform in medicine, and will continue to be.

Another object is to point out that, while it is a very simple matter to prescribe, for example, Digitalis for a weak heart, or a bromide for an abnormally excited nervous system, such "crash prescriptions" are apt to be as dangerous in the long run as Colonel Hay's "nigger squat on the safety valve;" it is far more difficult, but also much better, to adjust the valves, stop the foaming in the boiler and the knocking in the cylinders, and so restore the normal swing of the machinery to its highest efficiency.

There are so many vaunted nostrums coming to the front, many of which are endorsed by well-known names, that there is always a temptation, and especially among the younger members of the profession, to accept the practice of medicine as ready-made, to fall in with the current and substitute rough guess-work for carefully studied individualization.

It has been said that Chinese prescriptions used to vary from simple pulverized toad bones for the impecunious, up to seven hundred and sixty-five different ingredients, including two sorts of "devils' eyes;" but, indeed, such prescriptions, laughable as they may now seem, were not very much out of the common run of ordinary medical practice before the days of Hahnemann.

But when he announced his great discoveries he gave to mankind a rational system, and revolutionized

the whole practice of medicine. The benefits to mankind were splendid, but they entailed hard and conscientious study upon the physician. To emphasize the necessity of such study, and to guard against the dangers of following the broad and easy road of empiricism is what it has been here sought to accomplish.

In these days of scientific precision, we have, in our medical practice, substituted for the old blunderbuss, with its ounce of powder and handful of slugs (which seldom exactly struck the object aimed at, but tore into pieces everything around it), the modern, small-bore rifle, with its magazine of steel-clad pointed projectiles, which is a weapon much more difficult to accurately aim, but magnificent in its results when handled by a skilled marksman.

May every homœopathic student earnestly endeavor to "qualify" in this contest; for he has a splendid and thoroughly proved weapon at his hand, his ammunition has been weighed and tested grain by grain, the distances have been carefully measured and the sights accurately adjusted; and in full view, right before him, stand our mortal enemies, Disease, Suffering and impending Death!

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