

**MEDICAL ERA, VOL.
XII, JULY, 1986,
NO. 7, PP. 223-246**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649194742

Medical era, Vol. XII, July, 1986, No. 7, pp. 223-246 by Ch. Gatchell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CH. GATCHELL

**MEDICAL ERA, VOL.
XII, JULY, 1986,
NO. 7, PP. 223-246**

MEDICAL ERA

CH. GATCHELL, M. D., EDITOR.

VOL. XII.

CHICAGO, JULY, 1896.

NO. 7

THE MATERIA MEDICA CONFERENCE.

Agitation is a desirable thing. It always precedes reform.

If the Detroit Conference accomplished nothing else, it agitated very thoroughly the subject of the revision of our materia medica.

As a result of the discussion three several things were made apparent:

1. That a revision of our materia medica is desirable, if not demanded;
2. That the members of our school, without exception, are, in their own minds, convinced of the truth of *similia*;
3. That *evidence* of its truth exists in abundance; *proof* is what is wanting.

Too many people in this world mistake evidence for proof.

For a century we have been accumulating *evidence* more than sufficient to convince *ourselves*; what now is demanded is the *proof* that shall convince *others*.

* * *

How shall this work be accomplished?

First, our materia medica must be revised "in accordance with the requirements of modern scientific research," divested of all sentiment.

In order to accomplish this but one thing is wanting—*money*! With money it can be done; without money it is useless to consider its doing.

Ex nihilo, nihil fit. This, being interpreted, means—"Without money nothing can be done."

After the monument is paid for, the profession must set about accumulating a fund to endow an institution devoted to the proving of drugs. This institution should be the property of, as it would be endowed by, the entire homeopathic profession. It should be under the supervision of our representative body, the American Institute. It should be controlled by a board of directors, to be chosen by the Institute. The directors should be such men as DR. CONRAD WESSELHOFT, T. F. ALLEN, EUGENE H. PORTER, and there should be added, as corresponding member, DR. RICHARD HUGHES, of England.

The actual workers in this institution should be a corps of young men who should obtain the positions by competitive examination, open to the graduates of all our colleges. They should receive ample salary for their services, and serve for a term of three years, when their places should be taken by others.

The proposed institution should be permanently endowed. In the course of time it would contribute to the world's fund of knowledge material of greater value than comes from any other laboratory in this country or Europe.

If the desired knowledge be not thus obtained, it will not come at all; or, at least, it will be too long delayed, and the deferred hope will make the heart sick.

For the carrying out of the plan here outlined nothing is wanting but *money*.*

* There is no sentiment about money.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED.

Hahnemann's memory is worthy of the most magnificent monument that the imagination can conceive or that human skill can devise.—*Dr. Pemberton Dudley.*

Homœopathy is not the only unsettled question in the world.—*Dr. J. S. Mitchell.*

It is absurd to try to settle this question. It is un settleable. The law is a thing *sui generis*. It was never upset by law, philosophy or religion.—*Dr. T. P. Wilson.*

It is rather late in the day to demand unequivocal demonstration.—*Dr. A. C. Cowperthwaite.*

I do not think we are after an unequivocal demonstration.—*Dr. Pemberton Dudley.*

Similia should be proved unequivocally so that others besides homœopaths can understand.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

The united and uniform experience of thousands of physicians, made daily and hourly, I consider as an unequivocal demonstration of the law.—*Dr. W. N. Vandenburg.*

I wish every physician were as thoroughly convinced of the truth of *similia* as I am myself.—*Dr. J. S. Mitchell.*

I find myself unable to get away from the truth of the law of similars.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

Several drugs may be sufficiently similar to bring about a reaction.—*Dr. T. Y. Kinne.*

We have not yet demonstrated the capabilities of the law of similars.—*Dr. C. H. Evans.*

Many times the similitum is in our minds instead of in the patient.—*Dr. H. W. Pierson.*

If the old school in their laboratories prove *similia* without intending it, how much more should we prove it, intending so to do.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

Before we can find the similitum we must seek and find the exciting cause.—*Dr. H. W. Pierson.*

The totality reduces all to the dead level of equal value.—*Dr. E. R. Snader.*

Nothing remains for us but the Hahnemannian totality.—*Dr. T. Y. Kinne.*

The keynote unlocks the way to the totality of the symptoms.—*Dr. W. J. Hawkes.*

The proposition that the totality of the symptoms *must* be our only guide, must be abandoned.—*Dr. E. R. Snader.*

Hahnemann's totality is not a mere examination of the symptoms, but their orderly and systematic arrangement.—*Dr. T. Y. Kinne.*

It seems to me the proposition is axiomatic—prescribe on the totality of the symptoms.—*Dr. A. L. Monroe.*

The "totality" of today must be greater than it was in Hahnemann's day because of the greater sources of knowledge.—*Dr. T. Y. Kinne.*

I do not believe we can properly interpret the value of symptoms without a knowledge of the pathology of the disease.—*Dr. A. L. Monroe.*

If it be so important that our knowledge of pathology be perfect, it is equally as important that our knowledge of drugs be perfect.—*Dr. Pemberton Dudley.*

Foremost as a means of distinguishing between the value of symptoms is a knowledge of pathology.—*Dr. T. Y. Kinne.*

By depending upon symptoms alone, conditions may be overlooked.—*Dr. E. R. Snader.*

Because we have not the written record, it is no proof of failure of the law. Clinical verifications are valuable so far as they go, but we require other demonstrations. The ophthalmoscope furnishes this. This instrument shows that drugs specifically affect the circulation of the eye.—*Dr. A. B. Norton.*

A law adapted to clinical use may be judged by a century's experience.—*Dr. Martin Deschere.*

We have no right to continue to make provings under rules laid down a hundred years ago.—*Dr. A. C. Cowperthwaite.*

It is unjust to try to hold ourselves down to the knowledge that was available to Hahnemann a hundred years ago.—*Dr. Pemberton Dudley.*

I believe that every drug should be proved in accordance with the light that the profession has at the present day.—*Dr. Lamson Allen.*

There is not a discovery in science that does not illuminate and illustrate and confirm the theory of Hahnemann.—*Dr. J. D. Buck.*

Hahnemann was conscientious in his methods, but he was not rigid.—*Dr. Ch. Gatchell.*

Hahnemann has left us a work so vast that not one of his followers has ever equalled it in magnitude.—*Dr. Martin Deschere.*

To our hospitals and laboratories we must look for aid. Private practice will not furnish it.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

I believe in the great value of carefully prepared hospital statistics; I have more faith in them than isolated reports taken from private practice.—*Dr. J. S. Mitchell.*

Physicians should keep a faithful record of what they do, noting everything, both objective and subjective.—*Dr. C. F. Menninger.*

Comparative statistics have demonstrated that we do cure more than the dominant school. I consider that matter definitely settled.—*Dr. E. M. Kellogg.*

You cannot bind men together by wisps of straw. Ten thousand men in this country with *similia* as their guide are working to a common purpose. And in one hundred years how many facts have our opponents piled up against us?—*Dr. Pemberton Dudley.*

We are justified in prescribing in accordance with the experience of careful practitioners.—*Dr. J. B. G. Cusitis.*

Diagnosis alone tells the only kind of treatment that will cure.—*Dr. E. R. Snader.*

The negations of our opponents must be met.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

In the matter of our materia medica, standing still is going backward.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

An experimenter in the proving of drugs must, in his methods, be a Pasteur, or a Koch; he should also be independent in means.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

The art of experimentation has not been sufficiently cultivated.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

If Hahnemann were living he would be at the head of a great experimental laboratory for the study of pharmacodynamics.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

It requires more courage not to dose than it does to give medicine.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

Before you attempt to establish a materia medica, you must formulate a law.—*Dr. Robert Walters.*

To give medicine is a habit three or four thousand years old.—*Dr. Conrad Wesselhaft.*

The curative power of drugs should be demonstrated as truly as the pathogenetic power is.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

We have enough to do in the next century to develop the law of similars, without being diverted by every fad of the day.—*Dr. R. N. Foster.*

Our appeal is for a revised materia medica, every one of whose symptoms shall belong to it, and not one that does not belong to it.—*Dr. Pemberton Dudley.*

The human organism is the most difficult and uncertain subject with which to experiment.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

THE DOCTOR TALKS.

"Yes," said the Doctor, "I was there. I enjoyed everything connected with the Institute, even the result of the election for v. p. number one. That election came out just as I intended it should. If that office fell to anyone I was determined it should fall either to the one who got it or to me. I went into center field and placed him on short-stop, and he caught the ball. If he had muffed it I would have taken it in, and our side would have been safe. That's all I wanted. The office belonged to an F. P. C. We were both F. P. C.'s, and one of us got it—the other one.

* * *

"But I am not the only person who was at Detroit. There were several others, and I will tell you who they were.

"The man who likes to hear himself talk, was there. He enjoys the sound of his own voice; it is music to his ear and a solace to his soul. He talks early and often, and on all sides of every question. He talks right up to the time limit, and into the next fellow's time without limit. He goes in for a good [long] time, and he gets it. He talks against time, over-time, full-time, and altogether has a high old time.

"He was there.

* * *

"The man who thinks he owns the earth* was there. He thinks that the affairs of Lincoln, Neb., Louisville, Ky., Oshkosh, Wis., Kalamazoo, Mich., and Greater N. Y., are all in his special care. He plants his finger in every pie-plant pie, and tries the temperature. He would be oftener burnt, but for his chronic condition of hypertrophiedermadigitatum, and the elephantiasis of his column of Goll. He tries to regulate the affairs of all parts of the country at once, regard-

* But he doesn't, by a large majority. He only owns a hole in the ground, and the hole has neither bottom nor sides.

less of the preferences and predilections of the aboriginal inhabitants. He spreads his wings, throws the earth in shadow, and sasses the sun.

"He was there.

* * *

"The man who puts too much sentiment into his remarks on materia medica, was there. He had to be called down and held up by the chairman, as an awful example of what such things may lead to.

"He was there.

* * *

"The man who thinks with his lungs was there. This man does not really think, he only thinks that he thinks, and Dr. R. L. says that to become highly accomplished in this exercise requires a great deal of practice. He expresses himself in words—words—words. But he doesn't put the words together in their proper order. If he would only furnish the long list of words, and hire an able-bodied mechanic to transpose them, so that they might convey less confusion and more sense, he would acquire enduring fame.

"He was there.

* * *

"The man who pronounces it *Institoot* was there. He was there in large quantities, from the chairman of the Materia Medica Conference to the man who moved final adjournment. The only exception that I noted was in the case of the man from Boston, who, in the midst of his rich Scotch brogue, put the right twist on the penult of the substantive element of the name of our National organization. Good for Boston! The *program* man was there, also. He seemed to take pride in getting it off as often as possible, regardless of consequences. His next effort will be to tell us that one-eighth of an ounce is called a *drum*; hence eight *drums* — one ounce. This rule is *absooot*. Our friend hails from Chicago — at present.

"He was there.

"The man who 'moves to extend the time,' was there. This man, no matter who is speaking or on what subject, no matter whether a majority of the people present wish to hear him any longer, is the one who invariably rises to his feet—when the chairman calls the time limit—and 'Moves that the doctor's time be extended.' In nine cases out of ten the 'mover' is the only one who cares to hear any more from the long-winded talker; but, for reasons of delicacy, no one is inclined to object, and the dose is repeated, *secundum artem*. This mover is a public nuisance. He assumes too much. But it is impossible to suppress him, and so he continues to disturb the meeting.

"He is always there."

* * *

"But, Doctor," I asked, "is there no remedy for these things?"

"Remedy!" exclaimed the Doctor. "Of course there is a remedy. There is a remedy for everything. Dudley says so. I have a remedy that will reach it. I would place the whole matter in the hands of the presiding officer. He alone should be the one to decide when a speaker's time should be extended. I would arrange it in this manner: I would have a contrivance (it would really be a machine, but I shall call it a *contrivance*) to take the place of the 'man who was there.' This contrivance I would make to resemble, in outward appearance, a man. I would give it arms and legs, a body and a head, and I would dress it up in broadcloth. But internally I would have it a marvel of mechanical construction. It should contain springs, and levers, and cams and rams and jamps; there should be joints in the legs, an electric motor in the chest, springs in the arms, and wheels in the head. This contrivance should occupy a front seat, and a wire would run from the chairman's desk to its spinal column.

"Now, the thing would work just

about in this way: When a speaker had consumed his allotted time, if, in the opinion of the presiding officer, a large majority of the members would be more than glad to have his time extended, the p. o. would push a button and my Contrivance would do the rest. It would slowly rise to its feet, open its mouth, and mechanically give utterance to these stereotyped words: 'Mr. Chairman, I move that the speaker be allowed to continue.' That would settle it. The presiding officer would, by this method, command the situation.

"But there is one contingency that I have not provided for. My Contrivance, by strangers, might be mistaken for a real, live doctor, having a heart and lungs and lights and liver and brains. Therefore, in order to prevent the possibility of such error, I would make my Contrivance into a thermometer-doctor, and cover it with degrees. I would call it—

"PROF. TERTIUS CONTRIVANCE, A. M., M.D., B.A., C.K., Ph.D., Sc.D., Ph.U.L., F.R.S., LL.D., A.B.C., X. Y.Z., D.F."

"With this precaution no one would ever mistake the concern for a man."

All of which is truthfully reported by
SELAH.

While Hahnemann discovered a great law he never formulated it.—*Dr. Robert Walters.*

The law does not pretend to say how medicines act.—*Dr. T. P. Wilson.*

It should be determined whether it is possible to cure artificial disease by means of drugs.—*Dr. T. F. Allen.*

The true similitum is the goal to be striven for, but rarely reached.—*Dr. T. Y. Kinne.*

It requires but a moment's reflection to convince one that the number of good, all-around physicians is rapidly growing smaller, and that the tendency is toward specialism.—*Dr. Onslow A. Gordon.*

AFTER-THOUGHTS.

Owed
to
Detroit.

O, Detroit, thy fair fame shall long be enshrined in our memory! We owe thee much, O, Detroit! We owe thee a deep debt of gratitude, and dollars, and shekels, and laurels and roses, without number.

O, Detroit, we shall long remember thy hospitality, thy generosity, and thy liberality. Among other things we shall remember thy Harmonie Hall, thy committee rooms, thy Meissen parlor, thy exhibit hall, thy auditorium, thy *Daily Counselor*, thy badges, thy signs, and thy attendants.

We shall also remember thy boat-ride, thy Rushmere, thy reception, thy Euterpe quartette, thy flowers, thy banners, thy cloak-room and thy malt-nutrine.

We shall remember thy *Free-Press*, thy Cadillac, thy Pingree, thy potatoes, thy Comptroller, thy Grace Hospital, thy trolley-cars, thy scoops, thy 3-cent fares, thy carriages, thy coupés, thy base-ball, thy pavements, thy cleanliness, thy boulevards, thy parks, thy Belle Isle, thy rapid river, thy meandering streets, thy roof-garden, thy cafés, thy tower-lights, thy depots, thy weather, thy climate, thy sunshine and thy showers.

We shall remember thy Miller, thy Lodges, thy Olin, thy Rudy, thy Le-Seure, thy MacLachlan, thy Orleman, thy Smith, thy Klein, thy Bailey, thy Sterling, thy Caron, thy Ellis, thy Gue, thy Richards, thy Spranger, thy Knight, thy Wilson, thy Stevens, thy Lawson, thy Mera, thy Morley, thy Sage, and all others* that are within thy gates.

O, Detroit, we are under a thousand obligations to thee for thy generous, thy handsome, thy magnificent hospitality, in our history unsurpassed. We admire thee, Detroit; we trust thee, we like thee, we love thee, we lay flowers at thy feet, O, Détroit, Détroit, *Day-triva!*

* Save one.

The
Place
of next
Meeting.

The Institute has chosen well. Buffalo is easy of access from all directions. The East, the West, the South and Canada, will all be accommodated. Buffalo has many attractions. It has Niagara; it has the new electric generator that sent a message around the world; it has good water, fine fishing, good hotels, convenient bodegas, a fine climate, beautiful surroundings, and it has F. PARK LEWIS.*

Never before has the Institute come so near choosing at one meeting its next two places of meeting. While choosing Buffalo for '97, it threw an anchor to windward that caught its fluke in Omaha, for '98. This was well done. Omaha will be in line in '98. It will have a trans-Mississippi Fair that will eclipse everything save Chicago's monster. Omaha will be a central point for the vast territory east of the Alleghanies. Omaha has push, and it has pull; it has a fine site, a rapid river, a rich country, a bright past, a brilliant present and an enticing future, and it has W. H. HAN-CHETT.*

P. S.

It is a most enticing plan being exploited by Dr. B. F. Bailey, of Lincoln, Neb., the holding of the next meeting of the Institute on board a steamship on the Great Lakes. It has much to recommend it.

Meet at Buffalo, and hold the first session on land. There let all the Eastern members meet, and board the boat. Stop at Erie and Cleveland, and pick up all of Ohio. Stop at Detroit, and pick up Michigan. Go around the Peninsula to Chicago; pick up that City, all of Illinois, Missouri, and the entire Southwest. Stop at Milwaukee and pick up Wisconsin. Thence into Lake Superior, and to Duluth. Hold one session on land, pick up the Northwest, and carry the

* M. D.

entire crowd back to Buffalo, holding the last session on land.

Why not? It can be done. It would become the most delightful and the most famous meeting the Institute ever held. The journeyings of the boat would be heralded by the press from day to day, and it would become the best advertised meeting ever known. Frequent access to the land would permit the sending of full reports of proceedings to the press of the country. The local press at each large city would give full reports.

There would be freedom from dust and heat and noise, and an assurance of the attendance of all members at every session, or know the reason why. The plan has much in its favor.

Let's do it.

Present Status of Pediatrics

This valuable little book, issued by Drs. B. F. Bailey and Allison Clokey, deserves special mention. We congratulate the accomplished authors most heartily on their enterprise and care. It is a new departure, and a very welcome one. Here we have a work on the subject given containing recent contributions from the pens of Drs. B. F. Bailey, Howard Roy Chislett, Allison Clokey, Joseph Pettee Cobb, C. D. Crank, Martin Deschere, Mark Edgerton, L. C. Grosvenor, A. P. Hanchett, Wm. E. Leonard, A. M. Linn, Geo. B. Peck, Eugene F. Storke, and C. A. Weirick, all members of the section of Pediatrics of the American Institute. The profession should thank the bright spirit that suggested this work to our Nebraska and Kentucky friends.

Copies of the book were generously distributed at Detroit, and were eagerly sought for. We think other Institute sections might with profit imitate the very original work of the Chairman and the Secretary of the Section on Pediatrics of the Detroit meeting.

Mitchell's Appendicitis Paper.

Last month the ERA announced a paper on "The Medical Treatment of Appendicitis," to be published in the present issue. For peculiar reasons we are compelled to disappoint our readers. The residence of the editor of the ERA is but a few steps from that of Dr. J. S. Mitchell, the author of the paper. Whenever a paper is written so near to our own abiding place as this, and we find it out, we are in the habit of claiming it by right of discovery. But this time we counted without our host, for, after having made the announcement of a month ago we were informed that the paper had already been promised to our great and good friend, Dr. Eugene H. Porter, senior editor of that great and good periodical, the *North American Journal of Homeopathy*,* whose pages it will grace, and where every reader of the ERA who knows a good thing when he sees it is advised to look for it, and there and then determine to become a regular reader of the best journal published either in New York or Chicago, to say nothing of the rest of the world.

* Published monthly. Address 1673 E'dw'y, N. Y. Send draft, P. O. note, express order, or money—until after election either silver or gold will be accepted.

The Newly Elected Officers.

For President we elected Dr. J. B. G. Custis, of Washington. There was no other candidate, and, to the satisfaction of all, the office was simply tendered to Dr. Custis as a token of the Institute's confidence and esteem.

C. A. Walton, M. D., F. P. C., of Cincinnati, was made first Vice-President, a position that he well deserves and will worthily fill. He has our best wishes.

Dr. C. C. Miller, of Detroit, the city that entertained us so handsomely, is second vice.

Dr. Eugene H. Porter, of Greater N. Y.—well, the Institute is under greater obligations to him than it can ever discharge.

All the other officers were re-elected, including, of course, our long-time Treasurer, Dr. E. M. Kellogg.