

**PRACTICAL HOMOEOPATHY FOR THE
PEOPLE: ADAPTED TO THE COMPREHENSION
OF THE NON-PROFESSIONAL,
AND FOR REFERENCE BY THE YOUNG
PRACTITIONER, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF
MOST VALUABLE NEW REMEDIES**

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Practical Homoeopathy for the People: Adapted to the Comprehension of the Non-Professional, and for Reference by the Young Practitioner, Including a Number of Most Valuable New Remedies by J. S Douglas

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EIGHTH EDITION.

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PREFACE.

IN furnishing the public with Homœopathic remedies, with directions for their use, it is proper to state the motives for so doing. These are—

FIRST.—A knowledge of the vast superiority of Homœopathic treatment over the old system.

SECOND.—A large portion of the population, of the West especially, are not within reach of a Homœopathic physician, and if they employ the remedies, are obliged to depend upon such knowledge of them as they can acquire from books designed for domestic use.

THIRD.—The reputation of Homœopathic remedies has become so general, and the demand for them so great, that the country is becoming flooded with Homœopathic quackery, under the name of "Specific Homœopathic Remedies," no one knowing what they are but him who prepares them. When a bottle or box is exhausted, the owner has no resource but to send to the getter-up of these nostrums, or some of his agents, to get it replen-

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ished. The unfortunate example of this mode of quackery has been set by a medical man at the East, who has thereby forfeited his standing in the profession, and been, very properly, expelled from the American Medical Society. His example is being followed by others who have a higher regard for their own pockets than for their professional reputation, or the interest of the public.

All reasoning persons will prefer to know what the medicines are which they use, and when one is exhausted, be able to replenish it at any place where Homœopathic medicines are kept, and at the same time enjoy the practical benefits of knowing what the remedies are which effect cures of different diseases.

Besides these considerations, any reasoning person, by a moment's reflection, will be convinced how totally inadequate these "Specifics" are to cure all the diseases for which they are advertised, and how unsafe it must be to trust them. We have no hesitation in saying to the public, that it is totally unsafe to trust to these "Specific Remedies" for the treatment of the various diseases for which they are prescribed, as much so as to trust the thousand other mixtures advertised to cure everything.

I do not aim to make accomplished physicians of the public, nor expect that *every* case of disease can be safely treated domestically. But I do know, from numerous examples of domestic practice, that

a long catalogue of acute and serious diseases, as well as lighter disorders, will be treated much more safely and successfully by families, by following the directions here given, than they are treated by the best drugging physicians.

Nor is it my design to treat of every disease to which humanity is subject, nor to prescribe every remedy of the *Materia Medica*. But I shall give brief and unmistakable directions for *curing* the great mass of diseases of the country, constituting nine-tenths of all the cases for which the physician is usually consulted, with remedies enough to meet these cases, *among which is a considerable number of most valuable and even indispensable remedies, which have been recently introduced.*

It is greatly to be regretted that so many Allopathic physicians are dabbling with Homœopathic remedies, and pretending that they can practice Homœopathy where it is appropriate, as well as we, without any of the study or knowledge necessary to use them with any success or credit to the system. When, by their bungling misapplication of these beautiful remedies, they fail of success, or, by giving them in Allopathic doses, do serious mischief, they pronounce Homœopathy not adapted to such cases. As well might a bungler, after spoiling a board and mangling his hand, by attempting to use a saw, pronounce a saw not adapted for use.

In short, my one great object in this issue of

medicines, with appropriate directions, is to make known and extend the blessings of Homœopathic remedies properly applied, by bringing the community to a practical acquaintance with them, and inducing them to witness their beneficent effects under their own administration and experience. We hope that very many who have never used Homœopathic remedies will be induced to make the trial.

It will not be deemed egotistic by those who know him, or know of him, to say that this work is written by one who has devoted over forty years to the *study* as well as the *practice* of medicine, and who, in his intercourse with the best and most progressive physicians of the day, and in the performance of his duties as a teacher of medicine, the reading of the latest practical works, and the habitual proving of new remedies on himself and others, has anxiously labored to collect practical information, and apply it to the treatment of disease.

INTRODUCTION.

Most persons who have not given special attention to Homœopathy, have very mistaken notions of it. It is very commonly thought to consist in giving very small doses. If an Allopathic physician gives very small doses, it is thought that he is almost Homœopathic. This is a great mistake. One may give just as small doses as we do, and yet make no approach to being Homœopathic. Homœopathy consists in treating disease according to a certain fixed law of cure. This law is expressed by the phrase—“LIKE CURES LIKE.” The meaning of this phrase is, that a medicine in small doses will cure a disease, the like of which the same medicine will produce on a healthy person, if given in large doses. The first inquiry which we make, when called to treat a disease, is, “What medicine will produce a disease like it, in a healthy person, if given in large doses?” When we find such a remedy, we give it with entire confidence of success, if the disease is curable. The correctness of this law, anyone can prove on himself. For