ache, want of appetite, indigestion, dyspepsia, backache, coxalgia, hæmorrhoidal sufferings, urinary disorders, pains in the limbs (called according to fancy *gouty* or *rheumatic*), *skin diseases, spasms, convulsions,* etc. With such superficial expressions, the innumerable varieties of sufferings of patients were disposed of in the so-called observations, so that—with the exception of some one or other severe striking symptom in this or that case of disease—almost every disease pretended to be described is as like another as the spots on a die, or as the various pictures of the dauber resemble one another in flatness and want of character.

The most important of all human vocations, I mean *the observation of the sick, and of the infinite varieties of their disordered state of health,* can only be pursued in such a superficial and careless manner *by those who despise mænkind,* for in this way there is no question either of distinguishing the peculiarities of the morbid states or of selecting the only appropriate remedy for the special circumstances of the case.

The conscientious physician who earnestly endeavors to apprehend in its peculiarity the disease to be cured, in order to be able to oppose to it the appropriate remedy, will go much more carefully to work in his endeavor to distinguish what there is to be observed; language will scarcely suffice to enable him to express by appropriate words the innumerable varieties of the symptoms in the morbid state; no sensation, be it ever so peculiar, will escape him, which was occasioned in his feelings by the medicine he tested on himself; he will endeavor to convey an idea of it in language by the most appropriate expression, in order to be able in his practice to match the accurate delineation of the morbid picture with the similarly acting medicine, whereby alone, as he knows, can a cure be effected.

So true it is that the careful observer alone can become a true healer of diseases.

RUTA GRAVEOLENS.

Ad. Lippe, M. D., Philadelphia.

It is a well-confirmed observation that Ruta cures dimness of sight caused by overexertion of the eyes. First among the observations of the "provers" was "Symp. 38 (*Hahnemann's Mat. Med. Pura*): It is before the eyes, as when the sight is fatigued by reading too long." The intelligent healer who is not what malicious men

call a symptom coverer, but who knows how to utilize our materia medica, has also cured many different affections of the eyes caused by overfatiguing the eye, from reading too much, from using them to excess in fine needlework, etc. We find Dr. Hughes, in the *British Journal of Homœopathy* for July, 1883, wind up his clinical lectures on Ruta by saying: "*Asthenopia is the morbid ocular condition here indicated as the sphere of Ruta!*" Bravo! here we have a generous contribution to the proposed Pathological Picture Book. Asthenopia sounds awfully "*scientific*," to be sure, but when the Greek roots are sifted it means only "*weakness of sight.*" The unfortunate man who, so misled, gives to every patient suffering from asthenopia Ruta will become disgusted with such a caricature of the Homœopathic Healing Art as must result from using this Pathological Picture Book to guide him in applying the Law of the Similars. The true healer who knows how to use the materia medica will continue to cure *all* kinds of diseases of the eyes *caused by overexertion*, from the simple asthenopia all the way up to the fully developed cataract. He, the true healer, has a logical mind, and as a homœopathican he "individualizes;" he does not desire to be led into superannuated generalizations; he despises the Pathological Picture Book.

Ruta was known to the ancients. In the Code of Health of the School of Salerno—ninth century—we find the following under Ruta:

> Nobilis est Ruta quia lumina reddit acuta,
> Auxilio Rutæ, vir lippe videbis acute.
> Ruta viris minuit Venerem, mulieribus addit.
> Ruta facit castum, dat lumen et ingerit astum,
> Cocta jacit ruta de pulicibus loca tuta.*

Why then is it that scientific specialists, that the ever-increasing number of oculists, have forgotten the praises Hippocrates, the School of Salerno, Plinius, Dioscorides, Pythagoras, Boerhave, and

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* Of use to sight, a noble plant is Rue:
O bleareyed man! 'twill sharpen sight for you!
In man, it curbs love's strongest appetite;
In women, it tends to amplify its might.
Yet rue to chastity inclines mankind,
Gives power to see and sharpens, too, the mind;
And instantly, when in decoction, frees
Your house forever from tormenting fleas.

others bestowed on the curative effects of Ruta in cases of weakness of vision? Why? because the indications for its use consisted in generalizations. What Hahnemann and his true followers have done by proving drugs on the healthy was that they were soon enabled to state with absolute certainty "*under what conditions* each separate drug would cure the sick." And now we must see professed homœopaths boldly demand the adoption of generalizations; demand a progress backward two thousand years! And just as two thousand years ago Ruta was highly praised as a great remedy to strengthen the sight, so comes out at present the great perverter of our school and tells his hearers, "*Asthenopia is the morbid ocular condition here indicated as the sphere of Ruta.*" Let him and his aider and abettor in the United States publish their Pathological Picture Book, let it be dedicated to "The School of Salerno," or, still better, to Hippocrates. Let them repudiate Hahnemann and his methods, seek recognition by the ancients, and form a new school on that basis.

CLINICAL BUREAU.

KALI IODATUM, ETC., IN PHTHISIS.

E. W. Berridge, M. D.

December 18th, 1872, Miss D., æt. 22, consulted me. Her father and brother both died of phthisis. She had pneumonia the last two winters. Her present symptoms are as follows: Left chest dull on percussion, with bronchial breathing there; sneezing; running from nose; loss of taste and smell; soreness of chest; no appetite; weakness; nose feels sore; cough with thick expectoration, the cough causing pain in left side as if something were lifted up and down; for a week cough has been worse when lying on left side; for the last fourteen days, at times, has had *shooting pains from centre of chest to front of left shoulder* when coughing; had the same two years ago. The italicized symptom was evidently the most characteristic, the most peculiar, and the one which most individualized the case from others of the same disease. At p. 11 of vol. 2 of *Gregg's Homœopathic Quarterly* (the Illustrated Report, a portion of which has been subsequently republished, and is an indispensable work to the