

THE ORGANON.

A QUARTERLY ANGLO-AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMEO-
PATHIC MEDICINE AND PROGRESSIVE
COLLATERAL SCIENCE.

*Salutem, aut preservationem of human life, negligence in learning is a
crime.*—HABEMANN.

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LETTER FROM BERNHARDT FINCKE, M.D., TO
THE EDITOR.

Brooklyn, October 22nd, 1879.

DEAR COLLEAGUE,—The October number of "THE ORGANON"
has just been received.

Surely, I should be contented, if there is no other fault to be
found with my high potencies but that the process by which they
are made has been patented, as you say, p. 394—and so I am.

But you add, that this has been, "to say the least, a most
unprofessional act." To this I demur. If this patent-matter is
to go down to posterity as a blemish to my character, the reason
of which I fail to see, may it also go upon record, that this patent
was a necessity under the circumstances, the necessity not relating
to my own profit, and that it was taken with a view to secure the
invention, not only for me, but also for the profession. For, here-
after, it preserves to everybody the right of preparing his own
potencies, which is the necessary complement to the right of self-
dispensation. May it also be known that this patent has been
infringed without my going to law about it; that it has not
been sold whole or in part, when offer was made for it; and that
there had been no intention to sell it or renew it.

Your comparison with Simpson's discovery is not to the point, because the application of high potencies is not patented, and it is particularly aggravating to me, because Simpson was an arch-enemy to Homeopathy, which, to say the least, I am not.

It is a fact, that physicians, even of high standing, have grafted my high potencies, and sold these graftings as my high potencies for their own profit. Physicians have sold graftings of my high potencies, whatever they may be, to apothecaries who have put them up for sale publicly under my name, up to the present time. Apothecaries out West sell "Fincke's high potencies" without ever having received any from me or from my former agent (Luythies). To all this I did say nothing, especially after I found how my remonstrance was misunderstood by professional brethren. For instance, when *The Investigator* published such an advertisement of spurious high potencies under my name (Manson), and I had written to the editor with a view to guard the profession against being deceived by such unscrupulous proceedings, this worthy doctor (Duncan) offered me to print my letter, if I would pay for it as an advertisement. After that, there was no other way for me but to leave the responsibility with that noble representative of the Homeopathic press. Really, nothing could be more efficient to silence me than the perception that whatever I might write would be construed by the profession, or by those who assume to represent the same, into a desire to advertise my high potencies in a covert way. How crest-fallen was I, when, after the appearance of your pamphlet—for the presentation of which I herewith, though late, give you my best thanks—which was reprinted here by Hering, I received the offer from his son, the printer, to take seven hundred copies, because "father says that as you are mentioned in the book seven times, you might order seven hundred copies. As an inducement to order a large number, I would say that I am enabled, if you prefer it so, to take out the whole amount in your medicines." I refused, and my name did not appear in Hering's garbled reprint. Verily, they did not heed my prayer before the Institute in 1867, when I asked them to construe what I had to say rather in my favour than against me.

It is very much to be regretted that the beneficial institution of the patent office, which has done more than any other institution to raise the standard of the American mind, should be degraded by Homeopathic physicians, when they cast a slur upon that patent of mine. It should be the pride of the profession to possess members who have brains enough to make inventions. Just as the copyright secures to the writer the property of his mental labour, so the patent-right secures the same to the inventor. I can see how the abhorrence of patents obtains in the Allopathic Code of Ethics, because nostrums are at home in the Allopathic practice; but why should the Homeopathic profession, being not afflicted with such market-wares, follow in the wake of their old enemies, in denying the right of property to the product of honest labour which is secured by law to every citizen? This prejudice in our profession is simply d—able.

My high potencies are not what Allen calls patent medicines, nor are they, as Lippe said, nostrums, nor did or do I make them for profit, nor are they secret remedies.

Now, Dunham published his letter to Lippe on the preparation of his 200 not earlier than in April, 1868—no doubt driven to it by the then current fallacy of secrecy of my high potencies—seven years after he had made them, three and a-half years after the first announcement, in the *American Homeopathic Review*, of my new centesimal high potencies prepared by dilution on a new plan, and nearly one year after my declaration before the Institute. With a copy of this letter, the pharmacy of H. N. Smith printed a price-list, and offered Dunham's high potencies for sale. Though Dunham had stock in that pharmacy, nobody accused him of profiting by his remedies, nor did they call him to account for secrecy. I myself did not know anything of these high potencies when, in 1860, I presented to the Institute an article on Homeopathic Notation, in which I had collected all the then known methods of making high potencies, Jenichen's included. I would have been very glad indeed to add Dunham's method, had I known it, for at that time the cause of high potencies had been well-nigh ground to the dust, and I took the method of showing what already had been done, to revive this matter in the profession.

The Code of Medical Ethics, adopted by the Institute, says distinctly (part ii., art. 1, sec. 4): "It is equally derogatory to professional character for a physician to hold a patent for any nostrum or any surgical instrument or appliance, or to keep secret the nature and composition of any medicine used by him." There is nothing in this section that can be construed to apply to me, and the desire of some to expel me on the ground of holding a patent for the Fincke Potentiating Process, and on the ground of secrecy alone, could not be gratified. There was no law that could foresee this potentiation by fluxion, because it was entirely new, and fluxion itself has, in fact, nothing to do with Homoeopathics, except its application for potentiation, inasmuch as it is a physical process long known in natural philosophy and common life as the continuous flow caused by the siphon, or by running liquids. It is of importance in physical science that a substance can be submitted to a refining process by means of *fluxion*, and as such it is to be accepted as a new physical process depending on the law of hydrodynamics. The gentlemen blaming me so bitterly and persistently should not have given their condemning verdict before they had heard me, and before considering the nature of this patent, which cannot be compared with the common patents taken out for Yankee notions or patent medicines.

"*Nostrums*," says Webster, "are medicines, the ingredients of which are kept secret for the purpose of restricting the profits of sale to the inventor or proprietor; a quack or patent medicine." "Ingredients" of high potencies there are none; high potencies are not "composed," but are of the same well-known simple substances which are used by all Homoeopathic and many Allopathic physicians, and, therefore, their nature is not secret. Moreover, their preparation has not been kept secret on my part. If you please to look at the fifth series of my essay on High Potencies (*American Homoeopathic Review*, vol. 7., p. 181), you will find that "the cases here reported were treated with high dilution potencies of my own preparation, carried up by further dilution on a new plan. The notation is on the centesimal scale." And in the seventh series (*High Potencies and Homoeopathics*, p. 86) it is said: "In this final series we report some cases where high

potencies, carried up further and as far as the 71,000th, centesimal, were administered, and proved successful. These high potencies, being of the same kind as mentioned in the fifth series, are prepared on a new plan, which in proper time will be communicated to the profession. For the present, in order to distinguish them from others, we propose to call them *Fluxion Potencies*, taking the notion from Newton's infinitesimal calculus, which assigns to the fluxion, though of infinitesimal magnitude, a finite value."

Here in the first two announcements it was distinctly published that the scale of my high potencies, on a new plan, was the *Fahnemannian centesimal*, and the mode of preparation—*dilution*. Later, when I was asked by resolutions of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMOEOPATHY in 1867, I declared before the profession again, this time assembled in that august body, what my high potencies were, viz., *centesimal dilutions*, and that I cheerfully would give all the particulars when I had time to do so, as I had promised before in the seventh series mentioned above. Still more, I afterwards took out letters patent for the process—not for the medicines,—wherein the same is minutely described, and these same letters patent have been published by the patent office, and also by a homoeopathic journal. The profit of the sale was naturally restricted to the inventor or proprietor, because it was nobody else's invention or property; and has not everybody a right to their own property? But the profits of the sale were not the purpose of the patent. Should I be bound to furnish to the profession and to the members the fruits of my labour for nothing? Have I not done so, nevertheless, in many instances? But I never did it for the sake of recommending myself or my high potencies, least of all for the sale of them.

To give away what I had, for nothing, was Hering's later view, though he was the one who (in January, 1865) urged me to give my high potencies for sale. When I remonstrated, "I have not made them for sale, no more than FAHNEMANN did; I have made them for my patients," he said, "They ought to be had (man muss sie haben koennen), and they must be cheap." When asked about the price, he and Lippe gave their opinions readily. Hering

said, "They will not pay more than 50 cents," and Lippe thought \$2 would be the highest. But I thought differently. If I had entertained the idea to make a fortune, I would have followed Hering's opinion. But I knew that things, by the many, are estimated only by what they cost, and the good opinion of the few I had already for me. So I told Tafel, who wanted the sale of my high potencies badly, that at such and such terms I would give him the sale of fifty remedies which I had tried myself as to their efficacy. He should be sole agent, and have one-half of the money, all paid in advance, I to moisten the pellets and to send them off to the customers. If he did not want to take the terms, I did not care, and, indeed, I did not care in the least; for I had been hampered enough here and in Germany, that I had no reason for gratitude or sacrifice; and, therefore, I said to Hering, "If you, Lippe, and I have my high potencies, that is sufficient." I told Tafel at that time (January, 1865), "Hering and Lippe have the merit of upholding the cause of high potencies from the beginning; and both they shall have a complete set as a token of gratitude from me." Tafel did not like it, as, in his opinion, it would injure the sale, but I did not care. He accepted all my terms, and after a little while wanted more medicines. Besides, he offered to collect my articles, printed from time to time in the *American Homoeopathic Review*, under the title "Clinical Cases and Observations on High Potencies," and asked me to add to it what I thought best, in order to make a book of it, which would serve to him as a good advertisement. At the time that the M.S. was in print, there existed no cases cured with my high potencies than my own, and Lippe was in error when he complained that I had not added his very valuable cases. How could I have added something that was not yet in existence? At that time the powers-that-be in Philadelphia had no fault to find with Tafel's arrangement.

After the book was published, Radde, the apothecary, came into my office, and requested me to expunge that part on the first page of the article, "The Homoeopathic dose is infinitesimal," p. 99, which denounced the translation of the *Organon* by Stratton, which he had published, as untrue. After that, Radde said

"Nobody would buy any more of his book. He would have to fall back upon the gentlemen of the Allentown Academy who had given him (he said) the translation as a revised copy of the translation of Stratton," which assuredly it was not. I denied his request, and he put Tafel in the alternative either to discontinue the sale of my high potencies, or to be aware that he could no more trade with him. Tafel threw the agency at my feet, and my brother took the sale at the present average prices. After many deliberations, I concluded to take out a patent for the process, because there was a secret machination going on to find out the particulars of the same by offering bribes to my servant, and by espionage of various kinds. Besides, there were powerful efforts on the part of the apothecaries to get the exclusive right of preparing medicines in their hands. Thus resolutions, tending that way, brought in the Legislature of the State of New York, have been gnashed by the vigilance of some friends, and similar tendencies in the Homoeopathic field have been met by the satire of "Father Grain," of which I enclose a copy for you. I perceived with apprehension that if an apothecary would get out a patent for my process of potentating, I would have been stopped from making my own high potencies, and the same would be the case with every other physician. So it came that the patent was obtained (1868-1869), after it had been refused twice, "for want of utility," and it was assigned to my brother, because the idea of business was disgusting to me. When my brother retired from his profession (law), and went into the country, nothing remained for me but to keep my high potencies well in my own hands, so that everybody can have them genuine whenever required.

Some prepare their high potencies with enormous speed. Mine require much time and care, and I have spent it upon them. Nay, not to speak of the eighteen years' previous incessant labour, I have retired from out-door practice altogether, and spent seven years for the sole purpose of preparing high potencies on the new plan, which is not patented, nor ever will be. Will I be accused of secrecy and nostrum-mongering again, not by the enemies of Homoeopathy, but by its best friends, who protest also to be my best friends, and yet have so efficiently gagged me?

You see now how it could be that such a powerful and good man as Jenichen blew his brains out. It was very much the fault of the Homeopathic profession; or rather of those who pretended to represent it.. They not only tried to deprive him of the honour of his invention, and of the merit of his enormous labour, but they also made him appear as their mere potentising machine, and concealed from the world that he was a man of education, an acknowledged veterinary physician, a profound thinker, and a Homeopath possessing an extensive knowledge of *Materia Medica Purra*. From his letters it appears that one who carried a high hand in Homeopathy has not only taken his preparations without paying for them, but also appropriated the money from others due to Jenichen for high potencies received. I have made extracts of Jenichen's letters to Hering, and found them very touching. They ought to be published entire. Since then Jenichen has been a warning example to me. And now, you see, they do not let him rest even after death, while others are canonised for having lowered the Hahnemannian standard of Homeopathy. A certain Potter revives the slanderous story of Dudgeon—a sad punster—that Jenichen was a stable-boy or horse jockey, and cannot forbear to sneer at high potencies, the origin of which he makes it appear to have been in a stable. So impassioned are these unscrupulous men that they forget that our Saviour was born in a stable, and that the new light spread from that poor stable all over the world. Besides, Jenichen was not only Master of the Horse to the Grand Duke of Gotha, but long before, and seven years before he became a Homeopath, examining veterinary physician, appointed by his Government. So he wrote to Hering in those letters.

But, "revengeous à nos montans."

How, then, could Lippe, Hering, Paine, Jeanes, and a host of others, accuse me of secrecy of my medicines, if they had not been blinded by their desire to know something to which they evidently had no right to know sooner than it was my own free will to tell them? But my will was subject to the necessity of extensive labours and studies of which they knew nothing. Why did they not also accuse me of the secrecy of these studies? It would have

been just as reasonable as to accuse me of hiding from them what I all the time strove with might and main to put before them in such a light that no cavil could be found with it. Besides, I had to attend to my practice. Threatening, ridiculing, scoffing, had the effect of strengthening the resistance. Till then, nobody ever had asked me decently to speak out, when, to my surprise, Foote, in the meeting of the Institute in 1867, showed me some resolutions which he wanted to lay before the Institute. I had no objection, and after they had been passed, I gave my answer as strictly to the truth as I could, and there was no evasion about it. That my view is correct, appears from a letter of Dunham, dated September 14th, 1868, when he says: "Dr. Fincke has stated how the potencies used in series one to five were prepared, some after HAHNEMANN'S method, some after Jeanes, etc., and he has elsewhere stated that his potencies are all just what they purport to be, according to the centesimal scale. This can be admitted only if we concede that in HAHNEMANN'S potencies *quantity* alone is of consequence, mode of preparation of no consequence; that the only question is the mathematical, 'how much?' not likewise the technical, 'by what process?'" Again, "Although Dr. Fincke has stated, regarding the potencies used in his series one to five, how they were prepared, yet in his list of potencies offered for sale, he gives us no intimation how the potencies were made, which according to HAHNEMANN, which by Jeanes, etc. It can hardly be said, therefore, that the whole matter has been already told. "But, as I have said, this is Dr. Fincke's business. His potencies act, I know, and in some cases better, and in some differently from other potencies. I have no sympathy with any efforts to 'hound him' with any publications inconsistent with his own plans and purposes, in the recitade of which I have every confidence."

Thus, all these learned doctors who have bothered me, and to whom I nevertheless look with admiration for what they have accomplished, have in this case not proved successful homeopaths, because, instead of applying the simple, simplex, and minimum of Homeopathies, they have fallen back upon the old Allopathic method, *Contraia contrariis*, and applied too large

mixed doses in frequent repetition. For this reason the patient, instead of getting well, has been growing worse, and eventually will die. May the Lord finally enlighten them!

C. Carleton Smith's judgment, I fear, is premature. On looking at my books I find that he bought from me, since July, 1875, the following high potencies; of *Elys* 50 M; of *Arnica*, *Belladonna*, *Pulsatilla*, *Rhus-tox.* = 1 M; of *Mercur.-Proto-*
datas, *Bijodatus*, *Sublimatus*, *Solubilis-Hahnemannii*, *Causticum*, *Kali-bichrom.*, *Phytolacca-d.*, *Psoricum*, *Arsenic*, *Phos.-ac.*, *China*, *Iris-vers.*, *Phosph.*, *Spigelia*, *Secale-corn.*, *Veratrum* = 6 M; that is all. He had no C M from me direct. If he bought or used any grafted C M from Frost, who never got a single vial from me, except a vial of *Nur-wom*. 50 M gratuitously for Foote, which cured him of his supposed cancer of the stomach, I do not wonder that they were good for nothing, for I was apprised of that by another friend who had bought "Fincke's high potencies" from Frost (the former editor of the *Hahnemannian Monthly*), and found them utterly useless.

This "honest" Deschere reviled me and my fluxion-process, and yet makes it the base of his (valueless) invention of a "potentizer." The other day I received a handbill from that same man, where he recommends himself for *The Compound Oxygen Treatment*. "These be your gods, O Israel!"

I thought these remarks due to you, as you so nobly have espoused the cause of Homœopaths and High Potencies. You are a new Paulus, a Paulus of Homœopathy, whose eyes have been opened in order to propound and propagate the New Dispensation.—Believe me, ever yours sincerely,

B. FINCKE.

[NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—We publish this letter of Dr. Fincke because he thinks that we have wronged him in pronouncing THE ACT OF TAKING OUT A PATENT FOR A PROCESS FOR MORE RAPIDLY AND CERTAINLY ATTENUATING MEDICINES FOR HOMŒOPATHIC PURPOSES, AS "AN UNPROFESSIONAL ACT." It is with deep regret that we publish it—(1) our account of the value of the invention to the profession and to mankind, and (2) because Dr. Fincke does not see,

as others see on both sides of the Atlantic, that taking out a patent for anything connected with medicine or surgery or midwifery, or for anything connected with "a liberal profession," is derogatory, chiefly to his own dignity and self-respect, and secondly, to the sentiments and generally accepted opinion of professional men.

We do not deny "the right" of one professional man to act unprofessionally, that is, against the faculty as a body, by taking out a patent for his inventions or discoveries, and thereby recompensing himself for the exercise of his brain. We cannot prevent him exercising this very natural right, but he has no just right to "denour," or to feel surprised or aggrieved at the consequences, namely, that he is "sent to Coventry;" that his patent is purchased and made ducks and drakes of, and that he has to endure a thousand untold miseries. And why? because whatever he may think of *state*, or say to the contrary, he joined a profession which denours everything, and possesses everything, in common; a profession to which he is indebted to the labours of all those who have gone before for almost all that he knows or values. Yet he now wishes to retain the profits of his discovery or invention in his own hands by trade advertisement and PATENTING. We regret that the voice of the profession denounces such conduct as unprofessional, unmanly, and undignified; and however great the discovery, however much the profession may now think of the discovery, it would have sooner thought more of it, and have placed its author in a niche of the Temple of Fame, there to remain for all time, if not for all eternity, if Dr. Fincke had not patented it. Dr. Fincke is not the first man who has sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Having made his own bed—not a bed of roses—he will now have to lie upon it, whether hard or soft.

Had Dr. Fincke done as all men ought to do in such matters, his first duty to the profession was to make no mystery of his discovery, but, as HAHNEMANN did, give it to the world for what it was worth. No man could ever rob him of the discovery! whatever they might do of the £ s. d. ! and all professional men ought to have a soul above filthy lucre. As a natural consequence, pro-

essional men desirous of possessing Fincke's Fluxion Potencies, or of being supplied with them, would prefer them direct from Dr. Fincke, or from his authorised agent. If Dr. Fincke had done so at the first, the above singularly lame letter would never have been penned, and, instead of the second-hand position which his discovery must now take, nothing short of a World's Homoeopathic Banquet, with every demonstration of approval and honour, would at this time have greeted him, and filled his heart and soul with joy and gladness to overflowing; a joy never to be forgotten, but which alas can never be his.]

“THE SECRET REVEALED.”

In an article with the above title in our contemporary, *The British Journal of Homoeopathy*, there are a few statements which call for the following remarks.

The writer is evidently a satirist of no mean order, if that is anything to be proud of; of all the weapons which an editor may wield, satire is the most dangerous and unbecoming. Unfortunately, the writer is nothing unless he is satirical, “and pity ‘tis ‘tis true.” To have no other weapon of offence or of defence is a misfortune, so he must needs do his utmost to bring the whole doctrine of dynamization into ridicule and disrepute, as he spares not a single dynamizer, from his friend the late Dr. Carroll Dunham downwards, as if they were so many fools and mount-banks, and he the only sensible man among them. What the readers and subscribers to *The British Journal of Homoeopathy* can expect to learn of the doctrine of the dynamization of drugs from such teachers is beyond our comprehension. As the writer is not over-scrupulous regarding the ways and means of using his satire, we shall examine a very few of his facts.

He alludes to “Skinner with his ten millionth.” Where he got this fact (?) we know not, because we know that Dr. Skinner has not a single attenuation of his own or of any other maker higher than the millionth cent. Only in the first number of this

Journal can he find a potency quoted by Dr. S. above the M M; and the present number proves them to have been egregiously wrongly notated. If the writer means to insinuate that the ten millionth is Dr. Skinner's hobby, he is mistaken, as we know that he has no pet-attenuation, never had, and never will have, because he believes that every attenuation has its special sphere of use, from the mother tincture upwards. It is all very well for “a Hendersonian Homoeopath” to think and say so, but it is quite another thing for a follower of the Founder of Homoeopathy to agree with him. If the writer says he insinuates no such thing, what does he mean by “Rather hard this on Dr. Skinner, who has his own special potencies, and his own ingenious machinery for potentizing.” So special are Dr. Skinner's potencies and machinery, that he is ready to adopt any better mode of attaining them in preference to his own. So much for the writer's facts! It will be time enough for him to write against high-potencies when he knows more about them and their use, which at present amounts to something akin to nothing. Let us examine a few more of his facts! At page 77, the writer states that “HAHNEMANN never added to the Materia Medica any substance of a distinctly non-medicinal character.” What of *Silica*, common flint? one of the most remarkable medicines we possess. What of *Lycopodium*? the third best poly-chrest in our Materia Medica. What of *Alumina*, common clay? another poly-chrest of no mean power. Not one of these medicines were known to have any medicinal action whatever until HAHNEMANN dynamized or attenuated them, proved the attenuated substances on healthy persons, and tried them on the sick, the results being unexpected, and therefore wonderful. What of *Calarea-carb.*, the home or shell of a bivalve? the second best poly-chrest known to us. What of *Carbo.-veg.*, which yielded no pathogenesis until the 6th cent. was arrived at? What of *Graphites*, common plumbago? What medicinal properties was it known to possess before it was attenuated by HAHNEMANN? What of *Plumbum*, and all the metals and many of their oxides? What of *Scapa*—the ink of the cuttle-fish—the “burnt sienna” of the painter? one of the most remarkable medicines in our Materia Medica, and totally