

often very crude. We cannot wonder if many honest, serious, thinking men then turned away in dissatisfaction from medicine, or if they from principle embraced an extreme empiricism."¹ "But the right kind of work brought forth its fruits much sooner than many had hoped. The introduction of mechanical notions into the theories of circulation and respiration, a better insight into the phenomena of heat, the more minutely elaborated physiology of the nerves, speedily produced practical results of the greatest importance; the microscopical examination of parasitic tissues, the stupendous development of pathological anatomy, led irresistibly from nebulous theories to real facts." And again²: "Whilst in the investigation of inorganic nature the different nations of Europe progressed pretty evenly, the recent development of physiology and medicine belongs pre-eminently to Germany. The questions regarding the principle of life

¹ Cf. Helmholtz, *ibid.*, vol. ii. p. 178, in his discourse "Ueber das Denken in der Medicin": "At that time there were many among the younger doctors who, in despair about their science, gave up all therapeutics, and took to empiricism, such as was then taught by Rademacher. This on principle regarded as vain all hope of scientific insight." Not only the extreme empiricism of Rademacher (1772-1850), but still more the wild theories of Hahnemann (1755-1843) found during this age of general unsettlement many followers. See on the origin, the principles, and the spread of homœopathy, Häser, 'Geschichte der Medicin,' vol. ii. p. 793, &c. Häser gives the year 1816 as the date at which Hahnemann's doctrines began to be accepted in wider circles. "It must not be

forgotten that the heyday of homœopathy fell in that age when medicine, especially in Germany, was in a very deficient state, so that the accusations raised by Hahnemann and his adherents did not appear quite unfounded. It is even to be admitted that homœopathy has contributed to the reaction through which in our times the regeneration of the art of healing has been brought about, though this would have taken place without Hahnemann" (p. 803). Homœopathy has no scientific representative at any of the German universities, and yet it is admitted that it "still enjoys a great reputation in some influential circles among the general public" (Hirsch, 'Gesch. d. medicinischen Wissenschaften,' p. 570).

² Helmholtz, *loc. cit.*, vol. i. p. 362.