

HOMŒO PATENT MEDICINES, SPECIFICS AND INJECTIONS*

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Today homœopathic system of treatment is faced with danger from within, viz from Homœopathic Pharmacists and its practitioners. There has grown a tendency among the homœopaths towards "Polypharmacy" i.e. preparation of combination of drugs, specifics, patent medicines and so on.

This is a very pressing problem and requires serious consideration from the homœopaths. It is a dangerous trend which may shake the very foundation of the science and the healing art. They are totally negative to teachings of the master who founded it. A few temporary successes if any derived from such practice cannot falsify the teachings of the master, which are the fruits of his life-long experiments. Those who advocate such use of polypharmacy, do so often in the name of research and advancing the science to the modern requirements. But no research is carried on in any science by digging the very foundation upon which it is built or following a method negative to its basic and defined principles. Researches and developments are indeed encouraging, if they are carried on in the lines of defined principles. In paragraph 272-74 of the 'Organon' Hahnemann has taught that in no case is it requisite to administer more than one single, simple medicinal substance at one time. A simple medicine when administered singly and uncombined and selected homœopathically can extinguish the disease force permanently. It is clearly said that it is wrong to employ complex means when simple means suffice. This is more clearly and emphatically repeated in the 6th edition of 'Organon' where Hahnemann says". In no case under treatment is it necessary and therefore not permissible to administer to a patient more than one simple, single medicinal substance at one time. . . . It is absolutely not allowed in homœopathy, the

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one true, simple and natural art of healing, to give to the patient *at one time two different medicinal substances*".

PATENT AND SPECIFIC MEDICINES

The market is flooded today with patent medicines as 'Liver cure', 'Spleen cure', 'Filaria cure', 'Laxative' and what not, bearing homœopathic labels only because they are manufactured by homœopathic Pharmacists. They are not in the least based on defined principles of homœopathy—viz. totality of symptoms in each case and treatment of patient as a whole. Again the so-called patent medicines are also combinations of more than one drug which are often antidotal to one another. As they are not based on the defined principles of homœopathy, it is not only wrong but unfair to associate the name of homœopathy or Hahnemann with them.

INJECTIONS

The introduction of Parenteral method of drug administration (injection) is also against the defined principles of homœopathy. Painful method of treatment is beyond its range. The method of treatment must be gentle. Remember the teaching that highest ideal of cure is rapid, gentle, and permanent restoration of health (Section 2 of Organon).

CAUSES

It is regretted that renowned and respected manufacturers of homœopathic medicines who have done a lot for spread of homœopathic system of treatment are manufacturing such patents and specifics under different labels. Demands are gradually growing for such patents and specifics. What is objectionable and unfair that they associate the name of homœopathy with such preparations. The real reason behind it is monetary and commercial rather than scientific. The other reason is the fancy to copy the method of old school.

SATISFACTORY TREND

However it is satisfactory to note that the profession has started to feel the danger from such trend and the necessity of

saving homœopathy from being polluted, both in the foreign and in our own country.

Recently some renowned homœopaths in U.S.A. are trying to restore the original place of homœopathy of the days of Hering and Kent which has suffered a set-back due to wrong application of homœopathic system of treatment. They have established an Association named "The Congress of American Medical Organisation" for this purpose and have started work on preserving homœopathy. At the All India Homœopathic Congress held at Ahmedabad in November 1964 there was a strong opinion against the use of so-called Homœo. Patent medicines and Specifics. Our Health Minister Dr. Sushila Nayar in her address to the Congress clearly told that a number of representations from individuals as well as from associations had been received regarding the use of homœopathic medicines in injection form, but she was advised against any relaxation in this respect in the amendment of the drug rules for the control, manufacture and sale of homœopathic drugs in this country. She appealed that all homœopathic physicians should stick to the use of homœopathic medicines orally and ensure only genuine homœopathic medicines. She deserves congratulation for taking a bold, and right stand.

In West Bengal State Homœopathic Practitioners Conference held at Berhampore (Murshidabad) in December 1964, a resolution was passed urging upon the Homœopaths all over India not to vulgarise homœopathy by using the so-called Homœopathic Specifics Injection and combination of drugs and requesting them to practise homœopathy by upholding the fundamental tenets of the organon.

In Bihar State Homœopathic Conference held in January 1965 at Jamshedpur, Dr. J. N. Kanjilal, M.B., D.M.S., Calcutta made an inspiring speech not to vulgarise homœopathy by use of Homœopathic patents, combination of drugs and injections.

The matter requires serious consideration of the public and the profession about the use of un-homœopathic medicines in the name of Homœopathy.
