

A GLIMPSE AT NEUROLEPTIC DRUGS

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The neuroleptic drugs or Tranquilizers are being administered to act on the emotional state of over-active and severely disturbed patients, approaching them with the sedative measures and making them amenable to further treatment and rehabilitation.

To-day we see that Tranquilizers are being widely advertised and greatly hailed as a revolutionary development for the mentally ill. If we turn our eyes to the dim ages of the past, the single word "ASYLUM" is more than enough to describe the pitiable situations suffered by our brethren undergoing indescribable tortures in the name of treatment. We can certainly say that we have advanced so much, but yet...!

Among the drugs in use today are:—

Chlorpromazine, Reserpine, Chlordiazepoxide, Meprobamate, Prochlorperazine, Thiopropazine, Triphenazine, Hydroxyzine Benzaquinamide, Azacyclonal, Phenothiazine etc., etc.

According to Dr. Anthony Hordern "in recent years chlorpromazine the ancestor of the numerous phenothiazine compounds in use to-day has been partially *outdated* by newer compounds developed from it. Nevertheless in the mind of many physicians chlorpromazine remains the mainstay of drug treatment for acute Psychotic, both in the hospital and in the community".

But actually we learn that, the unwanted side-effects, viz., jaundice, parkinson's disease, nausea, rashes and in some surprising instances severe mental depressions with suicidal tendencies, etc., etc., produced by these drugs lead even the U.S. Public Health Services to warn against their indiscriminate use. Severe depression with suicidal tendency, according to the U.S. Public Health Service occurs particularly in patients who were under heavy reserpin dosage. By this, one should never think high of the remaining other drugs of this variety, but weigh them cautiously and carefully; and it would be a folly if one goes to other pathies when we have homœopathy which possesses a great number of excellent harmless tranquilizers, which have been applauded by people like the famous pharmacologists Sergi Vischkov and Michael Makshokosky of USSR thus "Homœopathic doctors give importance to mental symptoms. This system is being conducted mainly because it is considered to be *Effective for Mental Disorders*". And many other mighty pens have also declared this truth.

To those who consider Homœopathic remedies as impotent as compared with any of the remedies of other pathies, the following sayings of great men, will remove their ignorance and sweep off their false belief in other pathies. Lt. Col. O. B. Hill I.M.S. says that "Unfortunately there are no medicines

for mental ill health (in allopathy) and very probably there never will be. Complete sympathy and a thorough understanding of the sufferer's troubles are the only instruments in the Doctors' hands". But, "homœopathy can boast of several instances of mental derangements ranging from neurasthenia to mania or schizophrenia successfully treated in the most gentle, harmless, rapid and permanent manner" (Dr. M. O. Alexandar).

William A. Hawke et al declares unequivocally that "during the past decade those drugs *rather loosely termed tranquilizers* have been used widely for a variety of conditions in both adults and children. It might be thought that such a period of time would suffice to provide good evidence of their efficacy in any particular problem but unfortunately such is not the case. The number of these drugs is large, probably 40, and most have the same effectiveness. One has followed another in rapid succession, each accompanied by *lavish claims* of enhanced applicability. Their plethora suggests that the clinical indications for any one are *poorly understood*. A large number of published clinical reports do not fulfil even minimum critical standards. This situation is being remedied slowly, but reports continue to appear which are *scientifically unacceptable*.

Clinical impressions in these conditions are notoriously fallacious."

Adding to these, the statements of Dr. A. Hordern awakens us to the fact that "the results obtained with them have been far from consistent, and many authorities seriously doubt the most enthusiastic claims to their effectiveness and for many persons suffering with stress disorders, and alcoholics, they seem *no more effective* than conventional treatment."

Summary and Conclusion

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Synthetic vitamin may not do as much harm to the enthusiastic vitamin-taker as to the dietary faddist, but it is certainly expensive and at times fraught with danger" said Dr. Garth W. Boerick in 1947 and the recent reports on synthetic vitamins confirmed his statements still further.

When such is the case with the vitamins considered harmless by the old-school physicians what else to speak about the high sounding words like corticosteroids and neuroleptic drugs which are being loosely loved and tried secretly by the half-learned desperates under the noble skin of Similipathy.