

## PERSONALITY OF DRUGS

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The success of homœopathic practitioner depends basically on his grasp on *Materia Medica*. Grasp on *Materia Medica* again depends upon deep acquaintance with the intrinsic nature or character of the separate drugs.

As one cannot depend upon any of his acquaintances for any serious work with only a superficial knowledge about the capabilities of the latter, so a homœopath can not expect to achieve any success in the field of practice, with only some shallow knowledge of the symptoms of some drugs. For any success he must have more or less thorough knowledge of the nature of the individual drugs, with respect to their depth, range and perseverance (i.e. period of maintenance) of action, the peculiar knacks and traits depicted by their respective activities, or in other words the personality and genius of the separate drugs. Thus a homœopath must deal with each and every drug in the *Materia Medica* as so many persons and constantly strive to increase his acquaintance with them to know the real nature and capabilities of each, with their respective fields of proficiency.

This deep acquaintance with our friends in the *Materia medica* is a really hard task, requiring prolonged and sustained effort, with much introspection, circumspection and critical observation. Instead of trying only to commit to memory the symptoms of a particular drug, as given in the *Materia Medica*, we should try to gather all the informations about it, then to make out the inter-relation of these data as depicting the whole individuality of the drug, to ponder out and realise the inner significance of them depicting its genius, to critically compare them with the data of other drugs, in order to understand the distinguishing peculiarities of it, and then to carefully apply it in practical field, according to definitely established principles, and critically observe its activities to verify or modify the informations already gathered about it. It is only by following this laborious path that we can

acquire deeper and deeper acquaintance with personality of greater and greater number of individual drugs.

Of the various types of informations required to elicit the personality of a drug the following are more important—(1) *Its source*—heredity exerts a great influence on the character of the offspring, (2) *Its associates and relations*—companionship plays a similar role; (3) *Mental bents and peculiar traits* as depicted in its various activities and relations with environment, that is symptoms and modalities, (4) *The persistence and depth* of its action—depicting the weight of its integrity.

In order to illustrate the point, let us make a short review of the genius of sulphur—one of the deepest acting polychrest remedies, and compare it with those of its nearest analogues.

#### SULPHUR

1. *Source* : It is an *element*; and this element is not a new discovery, but well-known from the beginning of history. In pre-lavoisierian days, when the universe was thought to be composed of only 5 elements—earth, water, fire, air and ether, sulphur was thought to be the principle of Fire.

In mythology sulphur is considered as the fuel of Hell-fire or the Lake of Fire. Its old name is Brimstone or burning stone (M. E. Bermen—burn).

Its source and natural abode is the bowel of the Mother Earth herself and it enters into the composition of the highest form of earthly matter viz. protoplasm.

2. *Its Associates* : Everywhere its fiery properties are held in control and often directed for salutary purposes by its associates such as—Lead (in the form *galena*—PbS); Zinc (in the form of *zinc blende*—ZnS); Mercury (cinnaber—HgS); Antimony (stibnite—Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>); Copper (copper pyrites—Cu<sub>2</sub>S, Fe<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>); Iron (iron pyrites—FeS<sub>2</sub>); Arsenic (mispickel or arsenical pyrites—FeAsS); Barium (*heavy spar*—BaSO<sub>4</sub>); Calcium (Gypsum or Selenite—CaSO<sub>4</sub>, 2H<sub>2</sub>O) etc. In living body, activities of Sulphur are controlled and utilised by other elements of the protoplasm (Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and various others), under the guidance of the healthy vital force. So long as these various elements remain in balanced salutary relation with

Sulphur in its natural abodes in the bowels of the Earth or in the bodies of organisms there is peaceful, calm and co-ordinated activity and progress. Whenever this balanced relation is anyhow disturbed there occur outbursts of volcanic eruptions from the bowels of the Earth and various sorts of skin eruptions in the case of organisms.

Most of these elements, in addition to some scores of various other drugs, come into some relation or other (complementary, antidotal, inimical, concordant etc.) with Sulphur in the therapeutic field of activity. There is hardly any scope or necessity to refer to all of them in an article like this; but one of them deserves some mention and that is Arsenic. Arsenic (belonging to the Phosphorus group, is one of the nearest neighbours of Sulphur in the Mendeleeff's table), co-exists with Sulphur, not only at the ore stage, but even in its various compounds (e.g. Sulphuric Acid) as one of the impurities, and we find it as one of the nearest analogues in the field of therapeutics.

3. *The mode of action depicting peculiar mental bent and personal traits*: As already mentioned sulphur is one of the essential constituents of the protoplasmic molecule. Any disturbance in sulphur metabolism is likely to produce deepest possible changes in the whole organism.

Metabolism consists of two parts—Katabolism and Anabolism. In Katabolism there occurs break down of the different constituents of the protoplasmic molecules, mainly and primarily by oxidation, and in Anabolism there occur reconstitution and growth.

In the process of Katabolism, the protoplasmic molecules of the organism by dint of oxidation of sulphur produce  $\text{SO}_2$ , which mixed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  produce  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_3$ —an intensely acrid burning acid and blood poison. In the normal state of health, these katabolic products are disposed of by the organism without any disturbance. In a disordered state of health, i.e. diseased condition, this basic vital process—viz. metabolism—is deranged, and the katabolic products vitiate the whole system.

Thus any disturbance of the vital process is most likely to disturb the metabolism of sulphur, which being present in every protoplasmic molecule, exists in every cell, tissue or system of

the organism—leading to accumulation of irritating and burning acids like  $H_2SO_3$ , etc.

That is why we find in the pathogenesis of sulphur, each and every system, organ, tissue, and as a matter of fact every cell or fluid, or nay every protoplasmic molecule of the organism affected, producing thousands of symptoms; and correspondingly we find sulphur indicated in one or other stage of any case of disease. But the key feature of all these phenomena is as if the *Fire of Hell* is burning inside, producing congestion, burning and redness. Sulphur can never be indicated without the manifestation—in the first degree or grade—of *Congestion, Burning and Redness*.

As the internal turmoil of a volcano—the mother sources of sulphur—is first manifested by violent eruptions, so the first external manifestation of vitiated activity of sulphur inside the organism is violent eruption of all forms of skin lesions—beginning from erythema, ordinary itch, crops of boils, hives, herpes etc. to the most intractable form of Eczema, or even Leprosy.

What happens if these natural outbursts are anyhow suppressed? The internal turmoil—the internal destructive processes and burnings—are enhanced. There is an attempt on the part of the organism to throw the unpleasant burning sensation to the distal parts like palms, soles and vertex. But there is none the less burning in the stomach as a first grade characteristic. And due to excessive katabolism the stomach feels empty (with burning) at all times, but especially between meals and characteristically in the forenoon, about 10 or 11 A.M. There is a constant and inordinate hunger, and there is no limit to eating. But Alas! little is assimilated and mostly thrown out as *morning acrid diarrhæa*. The voracious eater emaciates all the time, with lack of general tone, and with stooped shoulders and spine. The child sulphur looks like a little old man with hanging skin (Marasmus) and swollen lymph glands (Scrofula), susceptible to all diseases (Tubercular diatheses).

This is about the vegetative aspects of sulphur. What do we find on its sensorial aspect? Here also we find some highly interesting unique features. He perpetually suffers from all the various tortures of Hell, and he is moreover extraordinarily hypersensitive to all sorts of hellish things—heat (in any form),

odours, filths etc. etc. but at the same time, he has got a peculiar Stoic philosophical attitude to all these tortures and filths. Not merely a "don's care" attitude, but rather a loving attraction to these hellish things. Hypersensitive to odours—but an inordinate craving to smell or even lick offensive sweat, faces, discharges from various orifices, or even wounds. Awfully dirty habit, obnoxious odour emanating from body and clothes—but violently refusing to be washed. Always busy after collecting scraps, filthy little things and refuses, and storing them as valuable gems. On the whole, it appears that Sulphur is not only a domicile of Hell but actually a lover of hellish life.

Thus, if we are allowed to use mythological words in science (and we find no objection against any form of word if it can lucidly express an objective reality), Sulphur may be called the *Philosopher of Hell*. This small phrase clearly depicts the genius of sulphur in all its aspects. In order to definitely understand its genius, we may compare it with its nearest analogues—Arsenic, *the Rebel of Hell* and Phosphorus, the *Romantic Lover of Hell*.

*Arsenic* has all the hellish sufferings and tortures, all burning, acidity and filthiness of Sulphur, rather in some cases more of them, but never submits to them, never agrees to put up with them. What to speak of taking any of them philosophically he revolts against everything. He is hypersensitive to everything—light, noise, filth, even slightest disorder in his surroundings. His desires are always greater than what he actually needs or deserves, and he can never be satisfied. So he is in a constant state of worry, anxiety and morbid restlessness—mental as well as physical. All the while in his fruitless struggle, there is an ever-increasing shattering and wasting of mental and physical energy, leading to exhaustion, lassitude and sheer prostration. The more he realises that he cannot get rid of his hellish sufferings—mental and physical—the more he becomes sure about his fatal termination, or on the other hand becomes determined to end his rebellion against his fate by committing suicide.

*Phosphorus*: The Romantic lover of Hell—has all the burning, hypersensitiveness etc. of her analogues—Sulphur and Arsenic—but her inordinate passion for loving and being loved.

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