

FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

DR. H. V. MURTHY, DAVANGERE

The decision of the Central Health Council to recommend to the Government to aid research in Ayurveda, Unani and Homœopathy is not only a happy and encouraging news to the practitioners of these systems but also is of invaluable service to the sick. The dark age of mockery of these systems appears to have come to an end with the realization of the utility of these systems by our statesmen and we see early signs of dawn leading to progress. It is worthwhile for the nation to tap all the systems to find a solution to the country's problem of health. Untiring research in all the systems for finding ways and means to mitigate the sufferings of humanity in the simplest, surest, earliest and in the most harmless way is desirable. This labour will never go without due reward of perfect health to the nation if taken up with right spirit and earnestness.

Like problems of leprosy, cancer etc., the problem of tuberculosis is facing the country with all its horrors. The nation is fighting tooth and nail to free human race from the clutches of this monstrous disease—a curse to humanity. Huge sums of money are spent by the Government for preventive measures, since this dreadful disease is quite rampant in our country. The curative treatment so far available is not only unsatisfactory, but also costlier enough for the poor and common classes. The early treatment with the present antibiotics has been reported to have prolonged life by checking the progress of the disease, but the fear of developing resistant bacilli has also been expressed by experts. In such a case the problem becomes more and more acute.

Homœopathy has been well-known for its cheap and effective treatment. There is no room for the fear of developing resistant bacilli if treated according to Homœopathy, since Homœopathy aims at strengthening the vital force of the patient. The vital force so strengthened fights the inimical disease-force

in its turn and restores health in the most natural way. But has Homœopathy anything to offer in combating this formidable disease of the human race—tuberculosis? Has it any claims for research? Has it any basis for hoping to evolve a solution by any such research?

By a careful study of the Homœopathic materia medica we find that it is rich with a host of what are termed constitutional and tubercular remedies like Sulphur, Calcarea, Lycopodium; nosodes like Tuberculinum, Bacillinum, Aviare and remedies like Spongia for tubercular diathesis. Many Homœopathic physicians have found from long years of experience that these remedies are very effective in the treatment of various non-tubercular, tubercular and pre-tubercular manifestations. The susceptibility to T.B. can be eradicated by a right constitutional treatment according to Homœopathy.

An eminent authority, Dr. E. B. Nash, M.D., says in his learned work, "LEADERS IN HOMŒOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS" as follows:—

"A certain physician in Albany, N. Y. was called in consultation on a so-called case of phthisis pulmonalis. The case was in allopathic hands. After carefully examining the case, he was asked, 'What is your diagnosis, doctor?' 'Stannum' said the doctor. 'What!' 'Stannum' replied the doctor. Stannum was the diagnosis of the remedy, not the disease. It was given and cured the patient." (Page 26).

"I have already spoken of this remedy somewhat while writing of its stitching pains as indication for its use in diseases of the chest, but I did not there do it full justice. It is not only a great remedy for pneumonia, pleurisy and heart troubles, as there spoken of, but goes much further and becomes very useful in incipient and even with advanced cases of phthisis pulmonalis. I have seen a case pronounced incurable by several old experienced and skilful physicians, Dr. T. L. Brown among them, get well under a dose once in eight days of Kali carb. The disease was located mainly in the lower right lung, with profuse expectoration of matter of pus-like appearance, pulse 120, greatly emaciated, no appetite, and quite a large cavity in the lung. This man is still alive (twenty-five years later), hale

and hearty. Such service from any remedy makes a man fall in love with it". (Pages 129-130).

"..... It makes no difference whether it is phthisis pulmonalis, mesenteric, or general, that this symptom well developed rules out everything but Iodine in almost every case and it has made many remarkable cures." (Page 356).

"A case of lung trouble brought to me over a year from Seneca Falls, N. Y. had been under allopathic treatment for four years and had been every summer up in the Adirondacks at Saranac, at a Sanitarium established by Dr. Loomis, of New York, lung specialist. She continued to grow worse until I took her case in hand. Under the action of two doses of Sulphur cm. followed by Tuberc. cm. she is so improved that I think it would be hard to convince any one that she ever suffered from such conditions."

"The trouble located in the upper left lung, where there was a distinct cavity, which as far as I can discover, is now healed though there is a little dullness of respiratory murmur remaining." (Pages 427-428).

"In conclusion, I have seen apparent benefit follow the exhibition of this remedy (Tuberculinum) in both incipient as well as advanced cases of phthisis, always giving the high preparation in the latter and letting it act a long time without repetition....." (Page 429).

The following extracts from the valuable contributions on the subject by the eminent author Dr. Rollin R. Grigg, M.D., in "CONSUMPTION—ITS CAUSE AND CURE" is worth mentioning here.

"ITS CURABILITY"

"I shall not throw a distrust upon what I feel to be the great truths embodied in the preceding pages, by coupling with them in indiscriminate claim that consumption in any and all its forms and stages can be cured. Nevertheless, I am able, as I candidly and conscientiously believe, to furnish a rational ground for hope in the cure of this terrible scourge, in the earlier stages, of a large majority of cases; and a hope too, that has never before, even casually considered by the profession." (Page 169).

"In these indisputable physiological facts, we have the proof upon which to found a rational and even scientific hope that consumption, in the first stage of a majority, and possibly a large majority of those directly and certainly threatened with it, may be cured..... Hence it is my sincere belief that very many can be cured after the commencement of the deposit of tuberculosis, if not in large masses, and before such inflammation is excreted in the tissues around them as must necessarily end in suppuration and considerable destruction of lung substance." (Page 171).

"After the production and deposit of tubercle, there are two most important purposes to be accomplished before the patient can be cured, namely : the mucous membranes must not only be healed, but the tubercle or tubercles, must be absorbed before health can be restored....." (Page 172).

"But here again philosophy comes to our rescue and furnishes reliable grounds for hope in the cure of many of this class of cases, which we cannot find in any other direction." (Page 173).

"Many cases of consumption, when symptoms were unmistakable and of great severity, both in the first and second stages, might be given as permanently cured under the principles laid down in the preceding pages ; but it cannot be necessary to take time and space for their rehearsal, to enforce the argument presented, so fully has this been already sustained by proof from the best authorities, or from reliable observations that are familiar to all."

"It is thought that facts and principles like those given, that apply equally to the treatment of all cases, and which afford such reliable grounds for hope that nearly all can be cured if taken in time, will be of much more interest and importance to all sufferers, than any detail of symptoms which might or might not correspond with these cases. What the world needs to know more than all else in this connection is, the cause of consumption, so as to avoid the disease where possible ; and whether it can be cured, or what reason there is to hope for this in any of its stages, when it is actually upon one. And it

would seem that both of these questions had now been pretty fully and satisfactorily answered." (Pages 174-175).

The above quotations clearly show that Homœopathy offers rational treatment for sufficiently large number of cases of tuberculosis and the claims for research in Homœopathy is unquestionably reasonable. But any such research to conform to the science of Homœopathy must necessarily be conducted in the way peculiar to Homœopathy. It is worth mentioning here that Homœopathy differs from all other systems in as much as it holds the view that a drug which causes certain symptoms in the healthy individuals cures similar disease symptoms in the sick. To ascertain what symptoms a particular drug is able to cause, from the days of Dr. Hahnemann, the method of proving of drugs on the healthy individuals has been adopted. So proving new remedies and re-proving the old ones for assessing their value in the tubercular and pre-tubercular conditions would no doubt be an useful research. In view of the fact that the remedies cannot be pushed until pathological manifestations akin to tuberculosis set in, at least proving up to developing precise mentals and modalities could be tried. We can even overlook pathological symptoms in preference to correct mentals.

Another method of research to fall in line with modern methods and to present our science in the form acceptable by the scientific minds is to test the remedies mentioned in the materia medica against symptoms of tuberculosis. This suggestion is made not with any doubt about the efficacy of the minute dose but, as I have told before, to prove that the minute dose of Homœopathy works even in grave tubercular and pre-tubercular conditions. Here again we must see that no routinism should be adopted in conducting the research. The similimum should be the basis for the selection of the remedy to be tested. To make this clear by an example : Bryonia to be tested against Bryonia type of tuberculosis or call it Bryonia Tuberculosis and Stannum against Stannum Tuberculosis. By trying these remedies on a number of cases in this way we can hope to furnish statistics assessing the value of our remedies.

Any attempt at research with a few tubercular remedies

selected at random and administered to all cases of tuberculosis for assessing the efficacy of the remedy in a routine manner, would be met with utter failure.

So an unprejudiced research into all the remedies might only help us in evolving a group of "most-often-indicated" remedies which bear proved clinical value. This might help us in finding a solution for effective, preventive and curative treatment for tuberculosis.

May we hope to see a day early, when the Government forms a team of experienced homœopaths of the country to conduct research on these lines and start a homœopathic campaign against this much dreaded disease ?

HIGH SPOTS

DR. ANTHONY SHUPIS, M.D., CONNECTICUT

There is nothing as keenly refreshing in pure Hahnemannian practice as figuring out the remedy and knowing that it is *the* one. But, due to either the inability of the patient to express himself or the prescriber's shortcomings in eliciting a history or perhaps a meager, inadequate knowledge of the *Materia Medica* or perhaps some other reason this thrill is not as common as desired.

Case I—Mrs. H. P., a rather stoutish 72-year-old lady, not fat but more fluidy, complained of hoarseness and arthritic pains, hands puffy, fingers deformed, numbness. Lots of twinges throw her. Aching through right knee and "headache over eyes." *She volunteered* the fact that all these symptoms were better in damp weather. *Causticum* 1M did the trick. This was on Feb. 6, 1952, again on Dec. 14, '53 and again on May 12, '54. Not seen in between these dates nor after the last. I assume I hit it again.