

## HOMŒOPATHY AND HER LIMITATIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES \*

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"Last as the first  
The Question rings  
Of the Will's  
Long travailings  
Why the All mover  
And why the All approver  
Urges on and measures out  
The droning tune of things."

—*Thomas Hardy*

Yes! We are here to listen to the droning tune of things.  
Man is born to suffer as the poet observes :—

"Lo! As the wind is so is the mortal life  
A sigh, a sob, a groan, a storm, a strife."

No doubt life has its limitations, so have a man's efforts, endeavours, understandings and attainments. Limitations are found in every walk of life. In fact wise are those who know their limitations. Let us be wise physicians to investigate the limitations of Homœopathy. Hence a study of Homœopathy is necessary to point out its limitations.

2. Homœopathy is a system of medicine discovered by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann of Germany, a revolutionary physician who lived from 1755 to 1843. He discovered the law of cure known as "Similia Similibus Curentur" i.e. like diseases are cured by like remedies. He also proved the effects of remedies on healthy human beings, investigated the medicinal power hidden in the infinitesimal dose and laid down the principles, rules and regulations of Homœopathy.

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\* Editors are not responsible for the opinions expressed in the article—Ed.

3. The aim of treatment he conceived was to cure the sick person, instead of treating the specific disease, because he realised that disease is due to the altered state of vitality of the sick individual. This realisation was based on the observation that different permutation and combination of symptoms are found in a specific disease like epidemic Influenza. Hence for him sickness was a personal event.

4. There is no doubt that a disease is modified by the state of vitality of the individual. A cut wound heals without going to suppuration if vitality is good. Severe epidemic infections prove to be mild in persons whose vitality provides immunity to the morbid influences and agents. Fatal diseases are eliminated through skin and mucous membranes in the form of eruptions and discharges in persons whose vitality is powerful enough to drive out the products of disease.

5. He discovered the fundamental cause of Chronic Diseases. He noticed that diseases become chronic if they remain in the organism uncured and suppressed. Just as a foreign body irritates the surrounding tissues, in like manner the uncured suppressed disease irritates and alters the state of vitality in the chronic sick individual. He called such uncured and suppressed causes miasms. He discovered Psora, the chronic non-contagious miasm due to suppressed and uncured itchy eruptions and Syphilis and Sycosis due to suppressed chancre of Syphilis and suppressed contagion of Sycosis respectively.

6. Many other chronic miasms were discovered e.g. Dr. Burnet discovered the hereditary miasms of consumptiveness and alcoholism & Vaccinosis on account of ill-effects of Small pox Vaccine in certain persons. Now we are in a position to classify the miasms. Miasms may be classified as :

- I The Hereditary miasms e.g. consumptiveness, Syphilis, Sycosis.
- II The acquired miasms e.g. Vaccinosis, Drug miasms, Ill-effects of burns, cautery by silver nitrate, operated ovaries etc.
- III The Uncured Miasms e.g. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Malaria, Gonorrhœa, Measles Etc.

IV The Suppressed Miasms e.g Ill-effects from Suppressed Leucorrhœa, Coryza, Ulcers, Boils and other Chronic diseases of Skin and Mucous Membranes by strong Lotions, cauterly and other external applications.

V Mixed Miasms are due to a combination of two or more miasms.

7. So long as Miasms exist the person can not be cured. Hence it is the first duty of a physician to cure active and obstructive Miasms. Dr. J. T. Kent has said clearly in his Lesser Writings that so long a pessary is inside you cannot get the real and constitutional symptoms of a women to prescribe on. Miasms inhibit the Characteristic and Individualising symptoms hence unless the Miasms are cured no success can be achieved. Dr. Grimmer used to say that in most of the cases we have to correct wrong done by the Allopaths.

8. In order to cure the patient we must know what sickness is and how it differs from disease. Sickness pertains to the personal morbid nature of the patient, whereas disease pertains to the cause and location of disease. Allopaths consider disease as an entity. Each disease has a definite form having the specific cause, common symptoms and common pathological changes. They attach more importance to the disease and forget all about the Patient.

9. But we consider this view as gross, materialistic, and untenable. We attach more importance to the vital nature of the sick person. Hence we observe the altered state of Vitality as manifested by the patient in the form of altered sensations and functions. The Allopathic study of disease is good for the diagnosis of a disease, but from the point of view of treatment, it is not at all logical and scientific. It is only emperical, hence it is subject to variation.

10. Let us now consider the vital state of a sick person. The vitality of the person is responsible for the dynamic phenomena of Life both in health and disease. All orderly and disorderly processes during the life of an organism depend upon the state of Vitality. Inherent Dispositions, Susceptibilities and Reactivities constitute the dynamic nature of the Vitality of a

person. These forces display their activities in the form of automatic and autonomic processes. Life depends upon the existence of Vital Force.

11. Inherent Disposition is the basic property of the Vital Force. It is spontaneous and automatic in nature. Conception, formation, development, growth, mutation, evolution, functions, order, disorder, disease, decay and death depend upon this property of the Vital Force. This Property forms the vegetative sphere of Life. Heredity and environments modify this force to a large extent. The Biogenetic law, the Mendelian law, the law of Atrophy from disuse and the law of adaptation to environment apply to this sphere of Vital Force. It sustains the physical and mental states of the organism.

12. The second property of the Vital Force is Susceptibility. Dr. Hahnemann has called it the conceptual nature of the Dynamis (Vital Force). It is on account of this property that hereditary (?) and environmental influences act upon the Organism. The morbid influence of Diseases and the beneficial influence of medication depend upon this susceptibility too. It is a specific dynamic property like Gravity and Affinity found in the physical and chemical spheres in Nature. It is specific because it is confined to a particular influence, or disease. Just like a magnet which can draw iron filings and not the copper filings, a person may be susceptible to Tuberculosis or not. It is Dynamic because Susceptibility displays spontaneous activity. The person who is susceptible will catch the disease as soon as a chance occurs. Immune persons escape even in the events of epidemics and also when tubercular or their germs infect their bodies. This property is autonomic in nature (and not mechanical) as observed by Dr. Hahnemann. The causation and cure of diseases belong to this sphere in which susceptibility and immunity rule the Vital Force.

13. The third property of the Vital Force is Reactivity. It is on account of this property that an organism shows response to a stimulus. This property is biological in nature, because it pertains to the individual organism. In fact it is the response to a specific stimulus that characterises a person and differentiates him from the others. For example four persons

suffering from Typhoid should have the same symptoms, signs and course of the disease, but in our experience this does not occur ; what happens is that one patient becomes delirious, the 2nd becomes comatose, the 3rd is having diarrhœa and the 4th becomes constipated. If you study and observe carefully you will surely come to the conclusion that each case differ from others even if they are having the same cause of disease. Reactivity depends upon the peculiar constitution an Individual possesses. Reactivity is Spiritual in nature because it characterises the person as a whole. It is not material, because all human beings are made up of the same material known as protoplasm, still one person differs from others.

14. The Phenomena of Sickness depends upon the Vital State of the Sick. Susceptibility is the basis of causation of sickness. Reactivity is the basis of symptomatic totality of sickness. Disposition is the basis of Formative and Developmental Diseases. Sickness is classified as 1. Acute Type and 2. Chronic Type. Acute Type of Sickness kills or is cured in a short time. It is due to external causes which are suited to the susceptibility of the patient. They respond to Homœopathic remedies spontaneously if the reactivity is good, but if the reactivity is lacking healing is delayed and response to remedies is hardly any. In such cases Remedies which act on the plane of reactivity are selected to heal the sickness.

Chronic Type of sickness is of two kinds 1. Miasmatic and 2. Dispositional. Miasmatic Sickness is due to an uncured or suppressed sickness.

Dispositional Diseases are incurable because they are derived from ones inherent nature. They form the bulk of Hereditary, Congenital and Developmental diseases. These diseases originate in the Systems, Organs and Tissues of the Organism and are irriversible in character. They produce local organic changes, recurrent progressive developments and general incurable states, e.g. Hypersensivity, Adynamicity, Thrombosis etc.

15. The phenomena of cure therefore depends upon the nature of disease, stage of disease and the state of Vitality of the sick. Causation and Constitution are the two tyres on

which the vehicle of cure moves. Reactivity points to the constitution and Susceptibility points to the causation of Sickness. The Curable Sickness has characteristic Symptoms belonging to these two factors of our vital Nature. But if the disease is of Inherent Dispositional Nature, it may be palliated and never cured. Diseases like deformities, Developmental defects (Mangolism, Idiocy, Infantilisms etc.) and Hereditary Disease (Insanities, Asthma, Diabetes etc.) belong to this category.

16. The nature of Sickness is therefore revealed in the form of Symptoms (Altered sensations and Functions) and Responses to External Stimuli (Causes). We may classify the Symptoms as :

- A. Common Symptoms or Typical Symptoms belonging to a specific cause or disease.
- B. Peculiar symptoms or Atypical Symptoms belonging to the peculiar nature of the sick person. The peculiar nature of the sick person depends upon his vital state of Reactivity. There are four kinds of Reactivities found in nature. They are—
  - 1. Allergic or Hypersensitive Types
  - 2. Adynamic or Hyposensitive Types
  - 3. Suppressed Types
  - 4. Characteristic Types.

17. The Law of Cure discovered by Dr. Hahnemann is known as "Similia Similibus Curentur" or Like remedies cure like diseases. Dr. Hahnemann verified the application of this Law upon his own person and others before he propounded it. The Law has been testified by millions of Physicians throughout the World for the last 150 years and found to be sound universally. Dr. Hahnemann proved Remedies in minute doses upon himself and his followers. He noted down systematically the symptoms produced by each Remedy and published the new Homœopathic Materia Medica, which was called *Materia Medica Pura*. Since then new remedies were proved and old remedies were reproved by numerous Homœopaths. Each remedy has a number of symptoms which are similar to

symptoms found in a case of disease. The remedy which matches with the nature of sickness on the basis of characteristic symptoms and brings about the cure of Sickness is called The Simillimum.

18. The aim of Homœopathic treatment is to find the simillimum which must mobilise the vital force to repel the morbid influences so that recovery to the healthy state may be achieved. Similimum is the remedy that is vitally similar to the disease of the sick individual. Vital similarity is also called Totality-of-symptoms Similarity. Totality-of-Symptoms Similarity consists of the following types of similarities :—

- I. Pathological Similarity.
- II. Aetiological Similarity.
- III. Miasmatic Similarity.
- IV. Total characteristic-Symptoms-Similarity (Bœnninghausen).
- V. Individualizing-Symptoms-Similarity (Kent).

19. From Homœopathic point of view each case is unique. A very exacting history, symptom taking interrogation, observation of mental and physical states and investigation of pathological changes is needed for chalking out the line of treatment. The history of the case may point to the layers of suppressed and uncured miasms. The sequence of events regarding production of symptoms are very important, as the cure takes place from last developed symptoms to first, and we have to give priority to the last developed symptoms. From interrogation one finds out the complaints and their nature, whether they are due to local conditions, some cause or relate to the general condition. Interrogation is a highly technical matter which not only helps in finding out all relevant symptoms but also their individualising importance. Observation of altered physical and mental states of the sick is of highest importance to a homœopath. And lastly the investigation of pathological changes are essential to judge improvement in the patient.

20. Once we are able to select the simillimum half the battle is won, if it does the trick (stimulates the recovery process); but if the simillimum fails, the trouble starts and the test of real knowledge of Homœopathy challenges the physi-

cian. The issue raises the following points for reconsideration :—

- I. Has he failed to take some important point in taking the history ?
  - II. Has he failed to make note any important symptom in taking the symptoms ?
  - III. Is there a miasmatic condition to be cured first ?
  - IV. Has the symptom matching been done correctly ?
  - V. Was the right potency of the remedy given ? (There has been cases in which a high or the highest potency evoked the response, when low potencies failed and vice versa).
  - VI. Was that a genuine medicine ?
21. Yet, there are cases which will puzzle you in the selection of similimum. They are of the following Types.
- I. Where common symptoms belonging to pathology or specific disease are only given. We frequently meet such cases in diseases like Renal colic, Worms in children, enuresis, Malarial Fever, Infantile liver, Marasmus, Cancer, Leucoderma, Leprosy, Epilepsy etc.
  - II. Where multiple causes are producing a disease and the guiding symptoms are not available. For example Diarrhoea in children in teething period is complicated with worms and Typhoid fever. Or a Cardiac dyspnea complicated with chronic constipation and diabetes.
  - III. Where local diseases of chronic nature or hereditary type is present. e.g. I was called upon to treat a case of Piles in a woman of 65 years, who had this disease for the last 40 years. Her symptoms were mostly local but I found out that she had a long history of Rheumatic heart and broken down condition. She was reluctant to give her mental and general symptoms and was non-cooperative. I could give her little help. It is very difficult to cure such cases who do not give their symptoms because they think that the mental and general



symptoms have nothing to do with the local diseases.

- IV. Where the disease is quite advanced with histopathic and organopathic changes of irreversible type. e.g. Tuberculosis with cavities, cold abscess due to spinal T.B., Cancer of Lungs, Pulmonary fibrosis, Coronary thrombosis, Hernia, Filaria etc. In such case the Vital force is inhibited to produce individualising and characteristic symptoms. Such cases are very puzzling to homœopaths. They can be palliated only but we do not palliate.

22. Dr. Hahnemann and Dr. Kent has acknowledged that only curable cases can be treated successfully. The curable cases present symptoms, signs and reactions as are found characteristic of Homœopathic remedies in their provings. The curable cases give a favourable response to the similimum, by which we know that the case is curable. On the other hand incurable cases, show unfavourable responses. The effect of remedies is of short duration or is superficial, from which one can judge that the case is incurable.

23. Since Homœopathy has set for itself the highest aim of cure, it has become the most difficult science of therapeutics. A Homœopathic physician has to read a vast literature to acquire adequate knowledge, must have a huge library of his own for references, must have vast experience to handle cases with confidence and a store of genuine medicines of different potencies. Then there are no short cuts or immediate palliatives, no long and expensive treatment for convalescent conditions which fills the pockets of the Doctors of the opposite camp. It is on account of these draw-backs that Homœopathy is losing grounds in countries where it was very popular some time back. It is also not appealing to modern physicians who want to live decently. The Homœopaths shall always remain in minority and poverty like the men of character and true followers of religion.

24. Limitations of Homœopathic treatment are therefore due to the following cases :—

- I. Failings of Homœopathy (all work and no pay).

- II. Failings of the physician (lack of interest, stamina, tact, literature, knowledge and experience).
- III. Lack of remedies (non availability of the desired potency of the remedy).
- IV. Incurable cases.
- V. Non-cooperative, non-communicative, unreliable and idiotic patients.

25. Out of these, Failings of the Physicians is the most important as the popularity of Homœopathy depends upon the name and fame of top-ranking physicians. Numerous Physicians have been the torch bearers of Homœopathy in their countries. They cured such difficult and obscure cases which were declared incurable by other systems of medicine. The name of Dr. Younan is known to every Homœopath in India. He was no doubt a master man in Materia Medica. Dr. Kent and Herring were the most renowned Homœopathic physicians of U.S.A. They were the pillars of Homœopathy and had done colossal works to raise its status. The subject or repertorization was perfected by Dr. Bœnninghausen, Kent and Field. It is now easy to find out the similimum in a difficult and intricate case by using the punch card repertories.

26. The fundamental research work in the field of Affinity of remedies for the sick person has been done by Dr. G. B. Stearns, W. E. Boyd and Dr. Grimmer who discovered various kinds of response mechanisms (Autonomic and emanometric) which help us in finding the similimum in obscure cases. Many cases of cancer, Kidney, Heart and other diseases were cured with the help of autonomic and emanometric responses. Hence the limit of curability is expanding with the help of the new weapons at the command of Modern Homœopaths.

27. The Faith and experience of a Homœopath counts a great deal. A lot is to be done after the selection of the similimum. Watching of the reactions of the remedy and their interpretation count a lot for the ultimate success or failure. He has to patiently and courageously pilot the sick to recovery. He has to gain the confidence of the patient by explaining to him what type of reactions may follow, so that the patient may not be scared away by aggravations or lack of response to the

medicine. Many patients leave Homœopathic treatment on account of lack of confidence of the physician in chronic diseases. The choice of the 2nd. prescription, too, requires discrimination of the physician. It depends upon the correct interpretation of the reactions of the sick person, as he has to decide :—

1. Whether the 1st. prescription is to be continued or not.
2. Whether to antidote the 1st. prescription.
3. Whether to repeat the same potency.
4. Whether to give a higher potency.
5. Whether to reconsider the case and give a new remedy.
6. Whether to give a complimentary remedy.

28. Hence a great deal of responsibility lies on the shoulders of the physician. Personal experience counts a lot, but experience from other physicians is needed most. A regular college and hospital is therefore very essential for the training of a homœopath. Self-coached physicians can seldom be of outstanding calibre.

29. Some one has said that it is the Homœopath who fails and not Homœopathy. I do not agree with this statement. It all depends upon the Vitality of the sick person and the stage of the disease (?) when the patient or his relatives consult the physician. Lucky are those physicians who get easy cases, but master Homœopaths are those who turn the droning tune of things into instructive and interesting stories.

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