

HAHNEMANN THE FOUNDER OF SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE

DR. C. V. S. COREA

The two most far reaching discoveries in medicine are first that of Hippocrates who, in brief, divorced medicine from superstition and the second most far reaching discovery was made by Hahnemann.

As Dr. J. Krause says "both friends and foes alike have for a hundred and fifty years mistaken the real achievement of Hahnemann. Friends hail him as the founder of the Homœopathic method, law, or principle. Foes oppose him for pathological vagaries and the small dose. Both friends and foes take the unessentials and forget or overlook Hahnemann's essential contribution to medicine. As Hippocrates brought disease action within the category of observable phenomena, so Hahnemann brought drug action within the category of observable phenomena. He discovered that drugs produced in the healthy body series of subjective and objective symptoms corresponding to entire disease pictures. This discovery was secondary *only in Time* to the discovery of Hippocrates. The two discoveries are of equal import to the practice of medicine. In "Hufeland's" *Journal de praktischen Arzneykunde und Wundarzneykunst* of 1796, Volume 11 parts 3 and 4 Hahnemann published his *Essay on a New Principle for Discovering The Curative Powers of Drugs*. In this essay he says distinctly that every powerful medicinal substance produces in the human body a peculiar kind of disease and the more powerful the medicine the more peculiar, marked and violent the disease. The effect of bringing drugs for the first time in the history of medicine, within the category of observable perturbations of the physiological life similar to the perturbations of the physiological life recognized in disease was as far reaching as was the effect of the Hippocratic discovery that diseases are of a natural origin.

When on one side, we have, the incontrovertible facts of disease the subjective and objective symptoms of the diseased

organism and on the other side, we have the incontrovertible facts of drug-remedies, the subjective and objective symptoms they produced on the healthy organism, we have the incontrovertible premises for a scientific therapeutic conclusion and precise application.

The discovery that Peruvian bark known to cure ague caused in a sensitive healthy person a disease indistinguishable from ague led to experimental provings of drugs on man, which proved conclusively, that drug proving is the only true basis of drug using; this leads us to a rational understanding of pathology and therapeutics, to the scientific understanding that gross anatomic lesions are not all there is to pathology, to the further understanding that medicines are not to be given in sickness in order to find out what they will do, but are to be given because of what is known that they can do; this leads to the *precise*, discriminating, scientific practise of Homœopathy, a science and art of comparisons, to the knowledge that drugs have a direct affinity for diseased parts, that monopharmacy is more scientific and more effective than polypharmacy, that the small dose is more justified than the large dose. It is the duty of the Homœopathic physician to practise in accordance with the law of Similars by substituting the curative affinity of drug energy for the injuries activity of disease energy. There is no superiority in the methods of Allopathic experimental research except in the minds of these who do not understand the methods of research. Both observation and experiment are needed for correct and comprehensive work.

With the epoch making discovery of Hahnemann, we can bring diseases and remedies within the category of observable phenomena, so that Homœopathy is undoubtedly and unquestionably, the greatest and most Scientific system of healing the world has ever seen.
