

To build up statistics, we have decided to collect facts regarding vaccination & small pox, which our generous readers and physicians, if in their knowledge, may please assort in the following form and send to the Editor, Hahnemannian Gleanings, who will gratefully receive them.

FORM

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| 1. Name of Patient..... | 5. Date of appearance of
Small pox..... |
| 2. Address..... | 6. Treatment..... |
| 3. Date of vaccination
Effective or not..... | 7. Date of recovery or
death..... |
| 4. Date of temperature
(eruptive)..... | 8. Signature of physician
..... |

SUCCESS OR FAILURE

(Extracted from the Editorial of Homœopathy, Nov. 1956)

It is sometimes said in somewhat cynical vein that the physician (or surgeon) makes much of his successes and says little about his failures.

It is natural that this should be so, both for the physician's own comfort and cheer and also "pour encourager les autres".

That there should be failures with homœopathy, or with any other method of therapy, is not surprising, for curative medicine has to cope with individual human minds and bodies. Each one of these individuals is unique in its possibilities and in its unpredictabilities. Human beings are not robots with mechanical brains turned out in standardised types by machinery. They are delicately constructed finely balanced marvels of creation, each one possessing capabilities for joy or pain, for achievement or failure, that transcend thought and imagination.

He is indeed a brave and venturesome virtuoso who would dare to play on such an instrument; and many a would-be healer finds to his dismay that treating the sick is not the textbook routine affair that it may have appeared to be in student days.

Crude and forceful medicine, the compulsion of bodily effects by chemical violence which interferes with normal physiological processes, is rather like playing the violin with a hacksaw. A much more subtle and delicate touch is needed if the curative forces inherent in living tissues are to be stimulated and drawn forth. For this surely is the art of medicine—to enable the body to cure itself.

Fallibility the Norm

Physicians are not infallible in their diagnosing and prescribing: patients are not infallible in their responses to treatment. The only infallible thing about the human species is its fallibility.

Success can be looked for when painstaking care and skill in prescribing is matched with adequate response on the part of the sick person. But these two conditions cannot always be guaranteed.

There are, therefore, two factors concerned in this matter of success or failure in curative medicine.

One is the experience, the knowledge, the capacity for industry of the physician; the other is what may be spoken of as the responsibility of the patient.

In this connection the term responsibility may be taken to mean ability to respond. The medicine prescribed may be apt and suited to the symptomatic picture presented by the patient, but the ability of the tissues to react curatively may be lacking. This may be on account of the destructive processes of disease or the result of degenerative changes in the body. The lack of response may be difficult to account for but it will make successful cure impossible.

Fortunately a curative vital response to medicines homœopathically employed can usually be counted on from infancy to old age, provided the medicine be sufficiently "similar" to call forth that response. Failure, however, may be due to lack of

reactive power and thus cause disappointment to doctor and patient alike.

Sometimes it is not lack of reactive power that defeats the physician's best efforts but over-reactivity on the part of the patient. It may happen that an individual is so sensitive to medicinal action that almost any remedy in almost any potency will produce a response that is not at all what is wanted or expected. In such case success in treatment is difficult of attainment.

Further Responsibility

Both physician and patient must perform their duties in a responsible way. The most painstaking doctor cannot succeed without entire and intelligent co-operation on the part of his patient.

This is especially true in relation to causal factors. The patient's illness may be traceable to some fact or factor in his life which can be dealt with, and which must be dealt with, if success is to be hoped for.

A sore sole may be due to a nail in the shoe : the nail must be removed if the foot is to get well.

Illness of the mind, with all its concomitant physical distresses, may be due to a root of bitterness in the spirit ; a radical alteration in outlook must be achieved if the sick mind is to recover poise and peace.

Any wrong, unwise, unhealthful habit of living or of thinking which is responsible for the illness, must be corrected if success in cure is to be hoped for. It is unreasonable to expect medicines which operate in accord with natural physiological laws to succeed when those laws are being deliberately or inadvertently flouted.

Success in homœopathic treatment may be rapid, even spectacular. More often, time, patience and much perseverance will be called for on the part of both physician and patient, each of whom must do his responsible part in seeking for possible hindrances to the cure.