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TRIO IN POLIO : LACHESIS—LATHYRUS— LYCOPIDIUM

DR. S. M. BHATTACHERJEE, M.A., P.R.S.M., BERHAMPORE

How do you think of the remedies in Polio? Most likely, your conception is that the leaders are :

Aconite, Alumina, Baryta, Belladonna, Bungarus, Calcareo, Causticum, Curare, Gelsemium, Kali Phos., Lachesis, Lathyrus, Lycopodium, Medorrhinum, Nux Vom., Phosphorus, Physostigma, Plumbum, Rhus Tox., Stannum, Sulphur, Syphilinum, Tuberculinum, Zincum.

Causation, characteristic, concomitant, constitution and heredity determine the choice of the specific leader in a specific case. Even, they may call for a remedy outside of the related group. All grouping is tentative, has some tendency to lapse and merge its units into one another. For this, Anacardium, Ignatia, Hepar Sulph, Mercurius, Psorinum, Silicea, Thuja & many other out-of-the-way remedies may have their use in Polio. Homœopathy confirms the doctrine of Associateship in society, of Combination in games, Selective execution in painting and of Circumstantial Proof in Law.

But, while individuality and variability are established facts in life, and prove not only the existence of species within the genus but the reality of species within species, the genus has not any the less tendency to assert itself within the frame-work of the species. Man is shown individual-wise. But within each man is the human factor. The genus, Animal, exhibits itself in the species, Man; and Man, the human caste, shows its known

qualities and propensities in the sub-species, Individual. The individual dies, but the genus, species or caste lives.

Similarly, despite the individual characteristic features of each case of sickness, or of each out-break of disease, there are some underlying common phenomena in cases of sickness or out-breaks of disease, tolerably determined by a common name. They claim our recognition. So, did Hahnemann develop and validate the conception of the specific medicine in a specific disease, e.g., the genus epidemicus in epidemics, a related group of medicines as Camphor—Cuprum—Veratrum in Cholera, a single remedy as Cinchona in Paludal fever, the broad causative drugs as Sulphur and Hepar Sulphur in Psora, Thuja in Sycosis, and Mercurius in Syphilis.

Time, on the other hand, exhibits itself qualitatively more than numerically. Time is numerically estimated only for the convenience of man, and at his own caprice. Time is activity qualitatively measured.

During a certain period of Time, measured qualitatively in a certain space of existence, events show a particular tendency and seem to follow a beaten path, especially in a certain phase of one's life. A certain phase of time shows a certain quality and the generic takes the upperhand of the specific. At least, such has been my experience in life.

So, notwithstanding the probable utility of all the remedies in our *Materia Medica*, in given cases of Anterior Polio Myelitis, I found three remedies to cure nine out of ten of my Polio cases. They are Lachesis, Lathyrus & Lycopodium. As stated above, causation, characteristic, concomitant, constitution and heredity determine their choice. They are polychrests and their indications are clearly and skilfully detailed in Hering, Kent & Clarke. The question of side, however, needs further clarification. While Lachesis is predominantly left or left to right, Lycopodium right or right to left, Lathyrus has been found in my practice to be predominantly neutral as to sides. Yet, when other features most decidedly influence our choice of a remedy, the question of side, if contra-indicating, does not stand in the way. The Trio, given in 200 to CM and at proper intervals, many times work miracles. Temperature remits early,

any further progress of the disease is arrested quickly, and a lame baby begins to utilize its hands and legs as normally as ever in 3—7 days' time. None the less, confirmed cases of longstanding, extensive spinal lesion, given up by children's hospitals as incurable, regain the powers of their limbs, if treatment is carried on steadily for 1—3 years.

Lathyrus has found great favour with the American School of Homœopathy. Our British colleagues like Sir John Weir and Dr. T. D. Ross could not support our American colleagues. The Britishers recommend Gelsemium and Physostigma. While Gelsemium has been found to influence the course of the disease favourably in some cases, we have had upto now no experience with Physostigma. It has been kept in reserve for future trial. But however genuine the points of controversy on both sides, Lathyrus in Bœricke & Tafel's potencies has served me brilliantly on many occasions, and I have learnt to regard it as safe, constant and reliable.

THE WORLD'S PRESENT-DAY NEED OF HOMŒOPATHY

DR. ALVA BENJAMIN, M.B., Ch.M., F.F.HOM.

I recently had cause to compare the teaching and practice of medicine during my student days—1908-1913—with those of today, and I could not help being struck by the tremendous changes that have taken place during those 40-50 years.

You will notice I use the word changes and not advances, because I am not sure that one can justifiably use the latter term without considerable qualification. For instance, in my student days one often heard used the expression "Vis medicatrix naturæ"—the healing power of nature—as being the means by which patients recovered from their illnesses, helped no