

THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

with which is incorporated
THE INDIAN HOMŒOPATHIC REPORTER

Vol. XX

JULY, 1953

No. 7

EDITORIAL

THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE STUDY OF HUMAN BIOLOGY

In comparison with the rapid growth of physical sciences why the biological science—especially the human biological science with which we, as physicians are primarily concerned—still remains at the descriptive level? Some of the reasons can be summarised thus :

1. The science of Man necessitates the use of all other sciences, viz., physics, chemistry, physiology, psychology etc.—as man cannot be separated into parts. Even an apparently simple vital phenomenon requires the concepts and methods of several particular sciences for its explanation and even then a completely adequate explanation is not forthcoming. This is one of the chief reasons for its slow progress.
2. Because of the vastness of human knowledge specialisation is imperative but it has its limitations. But limitations can be overcome to a great extent by developing simultaneously a synthetic outlook. The new Science of Man must progress by a conjoint effort of analysis and synthesis, towards a conception of the human individual. Without specialists science could not progress. But the

scattered data of analysis, must be integrated in an intelligible synthesis before the results of their researches are applied to man.

3. Human beings are not good subjects for scientific investigation. Each individual is unique. Generalisation which is indispensable for any branch of science is here impossible.
4. Isolation of relatively simple systems and determinations of their exact conditions are possible in researches dealing with physics and chemistry—but such a limitation of subject in studies of human beings is impossible.
5. Limitations of animal experimentation.

The lower animals have very remote analogies with the man. It is often dangerous and sometimes quite misleading to apply the conclusions of researches made on these animals to man. The mental changes accompanying anatomical and physiological changes under the influence of food, mode of life, specific drugs can not be ascertained on such lower types of animals.

6. It often happens that undue importance is given to some part at the expense of the others. Fragmentary aspects are considered as representing the whole. And these aspects are taken at random, following the fashion of the moment, which, in turn, gives more importance to the individual or to the society, to physiological, chemical or physical aspects of man etc. Man appears before us with many different aspects. We arbitrarily choose among them the one that pleases us and seems to us of the fundamental reality and appear to forget or ignore others.
7. There is a tendency to suppress a part of reality from our list of observations:
 - (a) We prefer to study systems that can be easily isolated and approached by simple methods.
 - (b) We generally neglect the more complex systems.

- (c) Our mind has a partiality for precision and mathematical exactitude. We study and make progress in those subjects (*e.g.*, physics, chemistry etc.) which yield to mathematical laws resulting in intellectual security.
 - (d) We have an almost irresistible tendency to select the subjects of our investigations for their technical facility and clearness rather than for their importance. As for example, modern physiologists principally concern themselves with physico-chemical phenomena occurring in living persons and animals and pay less attention to physiological and functional processes. The same thing happens with the specialists.
 - (e) On account of technical difficulties certain matters are excluded from the field of scientific research and refused the right of making themselves known. As for instance, we seem to ignore the discovery of the laws of life and give preference to the minute study of physico-chemical phenomena which are nothing but secondary phenomena manifesting themselves in course of diseases.
8. Complete ignoring of important facts :
- (a) Our mind has a natural tendency to reject the things that do not fit into the frame of the scientific or philosophical beliefs of our times.
 - (b) After all scientists are only men. They are saturated with the prejudices of their environment and of their epoch. They willingly believe that facts that cannot be explained by current theories do not exist. *E.g.* Hippocrates, Paracelsus, Descarte, Sydenham—all were brilliant investigators but each one of them could not help confusing facts with fancies of their times.
 - (c) Even now materialistic ideas (*i.e.*, the notion of matter being the basic reality) being foremost in

the minds of scientists and medical men more importance is attached to structural (chemico-physical) changes in the body than the associated perceptible alteration in sensations and functions. Even at the present time, scientists still look upon the phenomena of telepathy and other psychical phenomena as illusions. So evident facts which can neither be explained nor utilised are apt to be ignored and suppressed. E.g. The 'modalities' factor of symptoms in case-taking (which are so essential to homœopathic physicians) are ignored altogether by allopathic physicians.

These are some of the reasons for which biology is difficult to be raised to the same scientific level with other physical sciences. That is why Homœopathy gives up the scientific study of human biology and uses it as a descriptive science for the help it gives to practise the art of medicine.*

B.K.S.

NEW REMEDIES AND NEW ASPECTS OF OLD REMEDIES

A. H. GRIMMER, M.D.

The homœopathic Materia Medica is so rich in therapeutic worth that one wonders what need there is for new remedies.

But as we use the Materia Medica and study its vast store-house of knowledge, we discover new and valuable aspects to our well-proven polycrests and many of our

* With ample apologies to Alexis Carell.