

qualifying symptoms. Adapt what is curative in medicines to what is curable in patients, and do it in the most orderly fashion.

In a homœopathic manner of speaking, aggravation describes the condition found when a latent disease becomes active and new symptoms appear, or there may be a return of old symptoms. In paragraph 153 of *The Organon*, Hahnemann says that in comparing the collective symptoms of the natural disease with drug symptoms for the purpose of finding the specific curative remedy, "the more striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar ones, in the list of symptoms of the selected medicine, must correspond to [those of the natural disease], in order to constitute it the most suitable for effecting the cure."

These directions have withstood the test of time. Hahnemann was compelled to formulate his directions amidst accepted theories and opinions. In the latest light of current research the greater part of these theories and opinions have vanished, leaving Hahnemann's directions as true and workable as when he gave them.

With any approach to the cure of the sick we might add Pearl Buck's thought from her book, *The Touch of Life*, that the sick person needs the superior knowledge of the perfected skill of doctors and nurses, who have the touch of life, this life-giving force which is the fruit of rich emotional understanding.

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HOMŒOPATHY IN SURGERY

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This subject introduces the age-old question of the relationship between medicine and surgery. Is it possible for one to practice solely medicine or surgery? The answer in my opinion is No, if one wishes to practice either good medicine or good surgery.

With your permission this dissertation will be somewhat autobiographical. The twentieth century had scarcely shed its swaddling clothes when the writer matriculated in the Denver Homœopathic College in the year 1901. Here the surgeons, Doctors Harris and Butcher Brown, emphasized the use of Homœopathy in the preparation of the patient for surgery and then again in the postoperative period. Later, at Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, Doctors Shears and Chislett taught and used Homœopathy in their surgery. In the clinics a careful history was taken, a meticulous examination made, the prescription chosen and the final diagnosis determined. The patient was then booked for surgery but not without receiving some indicated homœopathic remedy.

During an internship in the Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital in 1906, there was a very close association between the Internist and the Surgeon. This was the day of the senior Wesselhoefts, who taught and practiced good Homœopathy. Both doctors conferred at the bedside and the preoperative medical treatment was determined as well as the post-operative following the surgery.

In the Melbourne Homœopathic Hospital, the homœopathic remedy was given in preparation for surgery and then following the operation. These men, converted to Homœopathy and not graduated from homœopathic schools, had learned by experience that the surgical patient may be assisted in his recovery by remedial treatment. These men, following the leadership of great converts, e.g. Kent, Hering, Wheeler and others of like caliber, were made more successful surgeons by their devotion to Homœopathy.

In San Francisco, California the writer had the great good fortune to form an association with the astute clinician, materia medicist and surgeon, James W. Ward, who was the very embodiment of the true physician and surgeon. No case went to surgery without preparatory treatment, none passed through his postoperative period without the assistance of the homœopathic prescription. His

phenomenal success he attributed to the homœopathic medication.

This autobiographical sketch demonstrated the universality of the use of Homœopathy in surgery in various parts of the world.

What, then, is the application of Homœopathy in surgery? First, permit me to mention one pitfall that is a very real one. It has been demonstrated in practice that the accurately prescribed remedy will relieve symptoms without influencing the underlying pathologic process. For example, in an attack of appendicitis *Belladonna*, *Bryonia* or *Rhus tox.* may alleviate the pain, improve the general condition of the patient, while the involvement of the appendix will continue until it finally terminates in rupture. This has been witnessed a number of times. This relief of symptoms without the reversibility of the pathologic condition is a very real pitfall. Do not discredit Homœopathy by attempting to cure or relieve a condition that is past the medical stage. Sir James MacKenzie, in his research at the St. Andrews Clinic, emphasized the pre-pathologic stage as the great field for the exercise of medical treatment.

What does Homœopathy need? "One of the most important decisions a homœopathic physician must make is to recognize what is curable and what is not curable. It is the first duty of every physician to be a good physician and treat his patients according to the best of his knowledge and ability. The homœopathic physician has the advantage of a large number of remedies which are wonderful adjuncts to his therapeutic armamentarium. Fortified with a good knowledge of how to prescribe the indicated remedy, he has a distinct advantage in the curing of the sick. On the other hand, if he violates his better judgment and procrastinates before attempting other acceptable methods of treatment, he is open to criticism by his colleagues and may jeopardize the life of the patient as well." Homœo-

pathy in the prevention of surgery will find its greatest role and one might term it preventative surgery.

Do not be misled by the promises that beguile one to use the so-called "Wonder Drugs." *The Reader's Digest* stated that the chief "wonder" was "What will it do to me?" However, they are the acceptable treatment in certain conditions, e.g. some types of pneumonia, peritonitis, certain urological infections, and various coccal infections. At times they are life savers and so is the homœopathic remedy.

Let us consider the difficulty that confronts the surgeon endeavoring to solve the problem of the intermittent and rather long standing abdominal pain in the youngster, usually male, in the four to fourteen age group. Is it intermittent appendiceal irritation or mesenteric lymphadenitis? One usually resorts to an appendectomy and the findings are lymphadenitis at the base of the appendix and the mesentery is studded with numerous glands of varying sizes. Now the well chosen remedy, e.g. *Arsenicum iodatum*, *Baryta muriaticum*, the *Calcareae*, *Cistus*, *Graphites*, *Hepar*, *Silica* will complete the excellent recoveries these youngsters make.

In the field of bone surgery, fractures, removal of bone cysts, involving the removal of large areas of the cortex, *Symphytum* (Comfrey or Knitbone), will aid very materially in the growth of new bone. The same is true of the improved recovery following eye injuries or eye surgery.

Following operations: *Arnica* after general surgery; *Staphysagria* for severe pain following an abdominal procedure; *Chamomilla* for extreme sensitiveness to pain; *Hypericum* for nerve injury; *Crocus sativa* for oozing dark blood and *Ipecac* for oozing of red blood with nausea; *Ledum* for punctured wounds; *Aconite* or *Apis* for post-operative retention of urine coupled with getting the patient out of bed to void; *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, *Mercurius* for post-operative rise of temperature; *Carbo vegetabilis* or

Veratrum album for shock. There are many others that are prominent in the armamentarium of the homœopathic surgeon.

Since our present day clientele has passed through two world wars, a sense of increasing anxiety has complicated not only the field of surgical diagnosis but also the preparatory period before the surgery. Flanders Dunbar said, in dealing with a disease, we can only ask how much is on a physical basis and how much is on a psychic basis or, as Guttentag has stated, one must not fail to differentiate between reversible processes and irreversible ones. Our remedies with their wealth of mental symptoms will assist very materially in dispelling this cloud. Who has not seen the individual suffering from a marked anxiety neurosis with one or more abdominal scars, the result of futile surgery? Do not blame the surgeon because a neurosis may mimic any abdominal condition. At this juncture the homœopathic remedy (*Ignatia*, *Kali phosphoricum*, *Lachesis*, *Phosphorus*, *Platina*, *Sepia*, *Zinc* and others) may dissipate the anxiety and relieve the abdominal symptoms.

The female breast is a fertile ground for the application of the well-chosen remedy. *Bellis*, *Conium*, *Phytolacca*, *Sanguinaria*, *Scrofularia*, etc., will often act most favorably in cases of mastitis. However, they will not affect either cystic disease or cancer as proved by biopsy. The breast is another pitfall that must be carefully guarded against.

Homœopathy in ear, nose and throat surgery is of very great benefit. When a tonsillectomy is done for infected tonsils such remedies as the *Barytas*, *Arsenicum iodatum*, *Cistus canadensis* and others, will assist in clearing up enlarged cervical glands. Tubercular cervical glands are not operated now, a general regimen plus the remedy will cure practically all cases. In the field of sinus infection our remedies are of great service. Here surgery is of really minor importance, but coupled with the indicated remedy,

the results of surgery are very much improved. This is also true of ear surgery, e.g. drainage of the middle ear infection. *Hepar*, *Silica*, *Sulphur* are especially useful. The assistance of the homœopathic remedy in the relief of mastoid infections, e.g. *Belladonna*, *Ferrum phosphoricum*, *Capsicum*; and following an operation, the chronic remedies, e.g. *Hepar*, *Silica*, *Psorinum*, *Sulphur* will stimulate healing. It must be noted that with the use of the antibiotics, surgery for acute mastoiditis is a rarity on operating room schedules.

In the field of chest surgery, *Mercurius sulphuricum* is a most useful remedy in the absorption of pleural effusions. However, do not abuse Homœopathy by expecting the remedy to absorb the pleural effusion accompanying a malignancy of the lung or the hydrothorax of a Meig's Syndrome. The remedy deserves the consideration of a correct diagnosis.

Some of our remedies are extremely useful in palliation following surgery. *Kali cyanatum* is particularly serviceable in metastases following prostatic surgery. One case of multiple bony metastases was palliated and kept practically free from pain with *Kali cyanatum* 6x. Extreme sensitiveness to pain may be relieved by *Chamomilla*, *Silica*, *Arnica* or *Ruta*. *Arnica* 200x will assuage the pain following dental extractions. The writer has observed this action many times.

In conclusion, the homœopathic remedy has manifold uses in the field of surgery. However, the criteria for its successful use are:

1. Accurate study of the indications for the use of a remedy.
2. Careful diagnosis of the condition, whether curable or incurable and is the remedy to be used for cure of the condition present or solely for palliation.

—J. A. I. H., May, 1955