

HAS THE ORGANON OF MEDICINE BECOME ARCHAIC?

DR. T. N. BANERJEE, B.SC., M.D. (Cal), Hooghly

Many people think that the teachings of the *Organon of Medicine*, in view of the recent magical discoveries in the domain of modern medicine, have become stale and sterile, and as such devoid of practical utility. It may be one of the reasons for which scant attention is being given in the teaching of the *Organon* in the homoeopathic medical institutions now-a-days. But we cannot forget the fact that on the sound rock of the teachings of the *Organon* stands the whole structure of Homocopathy, and if this solid foundation becomes weak and shaky its whole structure will tumble down.

The tenets of the *Organon* were not born of the vague, fantastic and speculative ideas rampant in the age of Hahnemann, but were the outcome of the farsighted clear vision, deep thinking and close, minute observations of Hahnemann, who was besides being a qualified medical graduate, endowed with those rare qualities, requisite for scientific investigations. The teachings formulated therein, were meticulously collected from the immense storehouse of mysterious nature on the basis of the sound logical reasonings. Those observations of Hahnemann, recorded in his book, received corroborations from the statements made by other eminent truth-seeking physicians at different times, and those are mentioned in his book.

In the preface of the 2nd edition of the *Organon* dated Leipzig, end of the year 1818, Dr. Hahnemann has said, "The true healing art is in its nature of a pure science of experience, and can and must rest on clear facts and on the sensible phenomena pertaining to their sphere of action for all the subjects it has to deal with are clearly and satisfactorily cognisable by the senses through experiences. Knowledge of the disease to be treated, knowledge of the effects of the medicines, and how the ascertained effects of the medicines are to be employed for the removal of diseases all this experience alone teaches adequately. Its subjects can only be derived from pure experience and observations, and it dares not take a single step out of the sphere of pure well-observed experience and experiment, if it would avoid becoming a nullity, a farce."

It needs no saying that the conclusions emerging out of his experience have been proved to be correct as they have been tested successfully for more than 150 years in the practical field. Now, if we disregard those well-established concepts in the lure of the fleeting glare of the modern medicines, we would take the risk of banishing truth and shall then evoke the fateful destruction of Homoeopathy.

In the 4th edition of the *Organon* Dr. Hahnemann has introduced a new topic, viz. vital force, the utility of which in the living body has received

almost no recognition from the physiologists so far. But the believers in Homoeopathy regard its conception as the key to the temple of Homoeopathy. Hahnemann by way of explaining the acceptance of the concept has said in the preface of the 4th edition of the *Organon*: "... nature, whose self-help was alleged by the traditional school of medicine to be the incomparable healing art and the only thing worth imitating, is merely the individual nature of the organic man, is nothing but the instinctive, irrational, unreasoning vital force subject to the organic laws of our body, which is ordained by the Creator to maintain the functions and the sensations of the organism in marvellously perfect condition so long as the man continues in good health, but was not intended nor adopted for the restoration in the best manner of deranged or lost health. For should our vital force have its integrity impaired by injurious influences from without, then this force strives instinctively and automatically to free itself from the adventitious derangement (disease) by revolutionary processes; but these very efforts are themselves disease; they are a second different malady substituted for the original one. The vital force, I say, produces in the accordance with the laws of the constitution of the organism to which it is subject, a disease of a different sort, intended to expel the disease by which it was attacked, which it strives to accomplish by pain, metastases and so forth, but mainly by evacuations and the sacrifice of much of the fluid and solid constituents of the body, with difficult, often dubious, injurious, frequently even disastrous results."

The late Sir Alexander Fleming of penicillin fame recognised Dr. Hahnemann's proposition of vital force saying: "I realised that every living thing, must in all its parts, have an effective defence mechanism, otherwise no living organism could continue to exist. The bacteria would invade and destroy it."—Manrois Andse: *Sir Alexander Fleming*, London (1969).

From what has been stated above it is evident that although the vital force was designed to maintain the health of the body in perfect order, it develops a reactionary measure when it is attacked by an inimical force, and this reaction has been designated in the *Organon* as the *secondary reaction of the vital force*, and according to the principles of immunology—the formation of *antibody*. This reaction of the vital force manifests itself in developing some unpleasant symptoms through the mind and body, the sum total effect of which is called *disease*. Force, an abstract thing, ever remains unseen and unknowable to us, unless its presence is revealed by external manifestations. It is evident here that the principles of immunology relating to the formation of *antibody* in the system was anticipated long ago by Dr. Hahnemann, and was clearly stated in the *Organon* depicting the *primary action of the drug or disease* and the *secondary reaction of the vital force* in response to such attack.

Sir Alexander Fleming also referred the disease to tissue reactions, and this field is being extensively investigated by the immunologists. It was the

credit of Dr. Hahnemann to discover that the manifestations of the vital force caused by the drug, when they are similar to those due to the disease-force, will annihilate totally the latter, if the dose is not too big (from this the theory of potentisation arose). Here, the drug-force, superior in strength, completely engulfs the disease-force acting on the same cells in the same body. As a result of that the secondary reaction of the vital force is aggravated more (*homoeopathic aggravation* as stated in the *Organon*). Naturally, the action of the drug-force does not last long, immediately vanishes in a short period of time and cure takes place.

The modern physiology has not been able to explain so far this paradoxical or the apparent contradiction of a harmful stimulus producing a beneficial result; nevertheless, it is a fact. The homoeopathic therapy has shown the way how the harmful poisonous drugs can be utilised in complete safety to eradicate diseases.

It is not possible to explain all the facts occurring in the dynamic plane by mathematical statistics; nevertheless they are verified to be as true and precise as scientific laws. However the teaching of the *Organon* should be conducted in a scientific spirit and on a logical basis as far as possible, so that conviction may be inculcated in the minds of the learners. Let us not forget that the high-minded, eminent physicians, such as Drs. Hering, Kent, Mahendralal Sircar and others were converted to Homoeopathy perusing the subject matter embodied in the *Organon*. Its text suffered no alteration since then, but what is found to be lacking is in the eagerness for learning, and patience and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge.