

## OLD PROVERBS MADE NEW

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There are some proverbs prevalent among the homoeopathic physicians and these are meant to keep up the purest spirit of Homoeopathy among them. These have originated mainly from the teachings imparted by our much respected stalwarts from time to time. But unfortunately these sayings create some confusion among the lay people sometimes to such an extent as to make Homoeopathy appear unscientific, unsound and ridiculous. Public opinion counts much. Once it goes against, Homoeopathy cannot live. In this connection we must not forget the episode of Homoeopathy in America. So it is high time that we proceed now to modify these proverbs to suit the level of consciousness of the ordinary public and thereby keep up the image of Homoeopathy in their eyes brighter and ever brighter.

*Homoeopathy is not routinism.* So goes an old proverb. The purpose of this proverb is to stress upon the individualisation of each case of a particular disease. Supposing a case of pneumonia comes to a homoeopath and he prescribes Lycopodium for it; when the next case of pneumonia comes he may not prescribe the same medicine as a routine. Apparently one may conclude that Homoeopathy has no rule, and so it is not a science. The disease is the same but the medicine is not. The same cause must produce the same effect, which is science. This causal relationship is not obeyed by Homoeopathy. But it is not so. A homoeopath always prescribes the same medicine for the same disease. When a patient comes, a homoeopath sincerely and diligently collects all the symptoms of his ailment, marked and minute, sieves them cautiously for the useful ones and fits them with the features of a drug as laid down in his materia medica and then, and then only he takes out his pen to prescribe that drug. If another patient with the same symptoms comes, he never falters to apply the same medicine. Thus he is the strictest routinist and so *Homoeopathy is the strictest routinism.*

There is another proverb in Homoeopathy: *Treat the patient and not the disease.* Specially note the last portion "not the disease". Is it true that we do not treat the disease? What is the difference between a patient and his disease? As homoeopaths we know that a vital force attacked with a disease force represents a patient. If we apply the drug force of the similimum, the disease force is annulled. So a homoeopath always treats the disease force implanted upon the vital force. Sometimes he treats the disease force alone, as when he applies the genus epidemicus, of course with some risk. So the proverb should read *treat the patient and not the disease alone.*

Once a friend of mine, a popular practitioner of the old school placed me in a tight corner by saying that Homoeopathy was not a system of medicine and the patients we cured were actually cured by taking nothing

and all these he said in presence of my clients. This is not all. In support of his argument he cited from a book on Homoeopathy (Oh! he had it at the right moment.) that 'the placebo is the second best medicine.' We, the homoeopaths, do very well know that placebo is no medicine. After giving some medicine, when we ought to watch its effects for long till we decide to prescribe for the second time, some patients may lose their patience for going without medicine during this long period of watch. We prescribe placebo for them and also in some such cases with fleeting symptoms, not as a medicine but for earning their confidence. So the proverb should stand as *placebo is the second best help to the patients.*

In passing it should be mentioned that there are some who may not approve of the above modifications. They may suggest otherwise, but they must feel that the modifications are due.

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### A NEW LOOK TO CHRONIC MIASMS

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logical response can be triggered. Whereas in chronic diseases, the remedies should be deep acting mutagenic in nature so that a reverse-mutation system, manifested through coming of older symptoms in reverse order, can be effected.

A *reverse mutation* from a mutant to a wild type allele is, however, already known to occur.

—*Souvenir 1983, 4th All India Homoeopathic Congress, Bombay*

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### A NEW LOOK AT CHRONIC DISEASES

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Since then she never had the trouble and on her next visit to Delhi (after about a year) she was again examined and declared free from the brain tumour. So I did get the support in my prescription of pathological findings or otherwise I might have made a mistake.

All modern aids and equipments belong to the medical science and they are just like tools which are to be used by any system of medicine, may be Allopathy, Ayurveda or Homoeopathy or any other system of medicine.

—*Souvenir 1983, 4th All India Homoeopathic Congress, Bombay*

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