

## OBSTACLES TO CURE

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Master Hahnemann stated in aphorisms 3 and 4 of his *Organon of Medicine* that a true physician should know the obstacles to cure as well as the factors that derange health and how to remove them. Unless, obviously, this condition is fulfilled, the administration of the simillimum will be inoperative. Unfortunately, we are, in the present age, confronted more and more, day by day, with these obstacles with the advancement of the so-called modern life, the scientific amenities distracting us from natural environment. So we should be sufficiently cautious about these, while taking up a case, selecting a remedy and prescribing diet and regimen. We are all aware of these but many are found to lose sight of them in actual practice.

There are very many obstacles. Let us here enumerate the main items as below:

(1) The air and water specially in urban areas have become highly polluted. The factory wastes, exhaust gas, chemical fumes, congested localities, destruction of trees etc. are the prominent contributors. The famous scientist, Dr. B. D. Nag Chaudhury, in a speech in the seminar in December, 1975 held under the auspices of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Calcutta, stated that the air of Calcutta has become poisonous and the President of the Chamber Mr. Mudaliar disclosing the result of sample survey said that the one hundred and fifty miles long water channel flowing from Asansol to Calcutta along the industrial belt is as dangerous as venom. Dr. Nag Choudhury also pointed that the constituents of nitrogen manure may cause cancer.

(2) The various pesticides, artificial manures, hormone treatment of plants for bumper crops are prone to contaminate the human race to a dangerous level. In a sample survey in the U.S.A. sixty per cent children were found to contain D.D.T. poison in their blood.

(3) The various colouring materials used on some vegetables, condiments, sweetmeats, curd, and spices (especially the pulverised varieties) are highly deteriorative to health. Rampant use of cyclamate as a cheap sweetener in sweetmeats and beverages is dangerously detrimental to health.

(4) The hormone injections to milch cattle have been widely adopted by businessmen. These hormones are conveyed through the milk to the people, especially to the children who drink it as an important item of food. This is most likely to cause health hazards both physical and mental.

(5) Prohibitible items are also often found in the contents of cosmetics.

(6) Garments and shoes of synthetic materials have also proved to be harmful.

(7) Suppressive treatment and indiscriminate use of antibiotics, steroids,

analgesics, sedatives, invigorators, vitamins, tonics, iron and calcium compounds, ointments etc. give rise to serious complications.

(8) Repeated vaccinations, inoculations and so-called prophylaxis have become customs and fashions; but every homoeopath has the experience as to the adverse effects of all these.

(9) Popular use of oral hormone contraceptives specially in urban areas is giving rise to constitutional complex and tough obstacles to homoeopathic treatment.

(10) The airconditioned offices and residences also have adverse effects and hamper treatment of many a case. City supply of water with its defective storage and carrying system, its treatment with high chlorine and other chemicals apart from its source of collection render ruinous effects.

(11) The uncontrolled storage of foodstuff in refrigerators and cold storages not only destroys food value but also renders them harmful to human health.

(12) The use of carbide vapour on unripe fruit to colour them like ripe fruits is not only deceptive but unbridled in our country.

Apart from all these the dangerous consequences of widespread adulteration in foodstuff such as wood dust or leather pieces in tea, synthetic products in edible oil and ghee etc. cannot be too stressed.

The physician according to Hahnemann should not only be a therapeutician but also a preserver of health. So we must be adequately conscious and alert about these factors. It is, of course, not possible to remove all these by our individual efforts but many of them can be remedied if we are alert and can convince the public and the patients; for other factors which are not within our control effective pressure should be created on the government for promulgation of preventive laws and strict enforcement. This task should be taken up by homoeopathic organisations specially the Homoeopathic Medical Association of India and the State and Central Council of Homoeopathy. It is high time now that we should organise public opinion from homoeopathic view point with regard to community medicine and introduce training courses for our students.

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