

MEDICAL AUTOMATION

A.B.G.

A good step in the right direction is the spectrophotometric analysis of blood reported under "Medicine" in *Time*, March 31, 1958. According to the report, Biochemist Winston H. Price of John Hopkins University is in accord with many others in expecting to find in the substances of the blood indications of health and ill health. Most of the recent work on that expectation, says *Time*, centers on enzymes. Dr. Price chooses mucoproteins. Mucoproteins are chemically complex. They combine a sugar-like substance with a protein. It is already known that the composition of mucoproteins changes when tissues are damaged. Dr. Price puts a small sample of blood serum through a machine that separates it into its "fractions". The result is a row of test tubes, each containing one of the fractions. These he tests under a spectrophotometer.

If the samples of blood serum are from persons enjoying good health, Dr. Price obtains patterns from the spectrophotometer that are nearly the same. If a sample comes from someone with rheumatic fever, there is a different pattern. Still a different pattern where the sample comes from a person with tuberculosis. Distinct patterns emerge from cases covering many forms of physical and mental "diseases". Cancer and the many forms of heart disease are not exceptions. *Time* captions this, "Pushbutton Diagnosis". *Time* says that Dr. Price considers it hopeful, but thinks it will take five years to test its truth and reliability.

As Dr. Price is reported intentionally deliberate and thorough, the bearing of Homœopathy on his project might be in keeping with his purpose. The more that is learned about the person who is ill, the better able is the physician to treat him. Manifestly, it is in Dr. Price's mind to bring more facts under observation and to make observations more precise. In the case of persons in good health, the report does not indicate that Dr. Price's observed patterns are quite identical. The

report uses the qualifying word "virtually". By the same token, the chances are strong that in cases of tuberculosis, though his patterns may be typical, there is not a rigid uniformity. The chances are strong that in the end there will be found good use for the word "virtually" in the case for any one of the named "diseases". If Dr. Price is aiming to refine the art of diagnosing, he will look at his test tubes by the aid of his spectrophotometer for the resemblances within the types of pattern, and can well find strong resemblances. But he will also be able to find deviations from type.

Taking one of the patterns to indicate one of the "diseases", as the report has it, he may be able to name the "disease" with more precision than ever, and who is there to say that this will not contribute a sharper tool to the hand of the doctor or that there is no gain in naming the "disease" early? Now, after that is said and done, what about cure?

Having named the "disease" it is orthodox to assume that this by itself identifies the remedy. For it is the orthodox who suppose that the remedy must be for the "disease". What the orthodox assume is that the "disease" is the thing that is to be cured—or perhaps it is more accurate to say destroyed. But whatever the means of case examination, there remains always the peculiar circumstance that this particular person should have come down with this particular ailment at this particular time. Unless that comes into account there is no way to understand why all persons are not down with the same ailment at the same time—or, for that matter, why anyone is ever able to be well. Obviously, there is something quite individual and peculiar about that one sick person. Get down to that, and the chances are that we have the key to his restoration.

Homœopathy would therefore have this suggestion for Dr. Price: Look for the individual differences within types or patterns. On these, and not on the pattern, must the remedy be based. Homœopaths in their case-taking seek the totality of what is "strange, rare and peculiar" about the individual. If Dr. Price's spectrophotometer helps to bring that more thoroughly and more sharply into focus, it becomes a new necessity. If

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Genitalia, bearing-down, standing < : sep.

" " " walking < : sep.

Prolapsus, uterus: sep.

" " Vagina: sep.

Rectum, Stitching pain, during stool: sep.

Hypogastium, pain, lying on sides with legs drawn up > : sep.

Lumbar pain, extending down the legs: sep.

From the above repertorization it was clear that sepia was the remedy fitting the patient from within out; and cancerous affection being the result of disease was not considered. The patient gave her old symptoms as well as the present, containing the hold-over symptoms, in spite of cancerous affection. On 5th January, 1961, *sep 200* was given, followed by 4 doses to be taken at infrequent intervals. There were reactions in the reverse order and there was slight improvement of the patient. On 2nd February, 1961, *sep. 1m* was given, there were few reactions in the reverse order with slight reduction of the cancerous affection inside the mouth. 14th February, 1961 and 14th March, 1961, placebo was given. There were severe reactions, and old malarial fever also came back with much vigour, followed by much reduction of the swelling. Placebo was continued till 4th May, 1961, on which date *sep 10m* was given. The patient became much better. The cancerous affection very much reduced. Placebo was given. The growth passed away. The patient became healthy and active and is attending to her normal duties. It is the patient and the patient alone that was considered, and not that pathological symptoms.

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Dr. Price finds in his continued labors how to look for the individual differences within his types or patterns, and is able to refine his method in that regard, he will bring help and exactitude beyond the present to the art of therapeutics, and Homœopathy will wish him luck.

—*The Layman Speaks, May, 1958.*