

THE PATIENT

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According to the English Dictionary the word "Patient" means, one capable of bearing pain and suffering, without fretfulness ; not easily provoked ; indulgent ; persevering ; diligent ; also, one who suffers ; a person under medical treatment.

The first half of this definition certainly applies to those who want to study and practice Homœopathy, whereas, the latter half applies to their victim.

To all budding masters of the Homœopathic art "The Patient" has been and still is an enigma. The instruction "Treat the patient and not the disease" is a dark saying, a riddle, inexplicable.

The purpose of this article, is to endeavour to throw a little light on one who has remained so long in the shadows.

First of all, we are instructed by Hahnemann, that any disease in itself, is unknowable, and that all we can know about disease is by the signs and symptoms expressed by the patient ; and, that the most important of all these signs and symptoms are those of the mind. The most important of all being those of his loves, hates, cravings, aversions. Let us see what the great Dr. Kent has to say.

"The centre of man is his loves. When the loves go wrong he is sick in his will, the very centre. Morbid changes of the mind are the basis of the prescription. The second point of consideration in the study of the patient is the intellectual functions, the reasoning faculties (the understanding)."

Next group. "The first of these to be considered is the patient's relation (as a whole and not some part) to heat and cold. Then his desire for motion and rest."

He goes on to say : "Take first the things that are first ; *the patient is first before his parts.*"

"Then if the patient is a woman, her menstruation must be considered. Then the bodily conditions, such as weakness, pallor, and frequently the colour of the discharges, when the

colour is due to a condition, which represents the loves. As the blood is, so is the love."

Hahnemann's emphasis is upon the symptoms strange, rare, peculiar. These coupled with his loves are the most important. Dr. Kent states finally : "*As the affections are, so is the man, extending from the centre to the circumference. When you know his affections, you know what trend is taken.*"

When the case has been taken and studied in the above order, you are working from the centre to the circumference. Strange to relate, that when you have found the remedy, that covers the above state of his loves, understanding, reactions to heat and cold, rest and motion, menstruation (women), the bodily conditions and discharges, it is quite on the cards that the pains, aches, discomforts, etc., etc., for which the patient consulted you, are not mentioned in the chosen remedy. Dr. Kent states : "By beginning the investigation in relation to the patient, you may find none of the particulars (pains, aches, etc.) in the remedy selected ; *but, the remedy cures the patient, and then the particulars disappear.*"

The word "Love" is used very loosely by all of us, and we little realize that "Love" is the very life of man. We all consider that it is simply something that flows in from sight, hearing, touch, and social intercourse, and thus affecting us all. "*Love*" is our very life ; for do not thought, speech, and action grow cold in proportion as the affection belonging to love grows cold ; and do they not grow warm in proportion as the affection belonging to love grows warm ?

It is vital or spiritual heat.

As an example, some idea of love, as being the life of man, may be obtained from the heat of the sun in this world. It is well known that this heat is a kind of common life to all the vegetation of the earth. When the heat arises, as is the case in spring time, plants of every kind spring from the soil ; they deck themselves with leaves, afterwards with blossoms, and at last with fruits, and thus live in a certain sense. But when the heat retires, as is the case in the time of autumn and winter, the plants are stripped of these signs of their life, and they wither. The case of love with man is like this ; *for heat*

and love mutually correspond to each other; wherefore also love is warm.

I must make it quite clear, that the origin of man's love is not from the physical sun, which incidentally, is a perfect analogy, The source of his vital heat or love is from THE LORD GOD.

In the ultimate sense, *love corresponds to the heart*, the most vital organ in the body, which never ceases working, day or night.

Its mentor is called the "Understanding" the seat of all the intellectual faculties. Once again in the ultimate sense *the understanding corresponds to the Lungs*.

Everyone can check-up in himself, both from his thought, and from his speech, that the understanding corresponds to the lungs.

FROM THOUGHT

It is not possible for anyone to think unless the pulmonary breathing concurs and concords; and therefore when a man thinks tacitly he breathes tacitly; if he thinks deeply, he breathes deeply; he draws up and lets go, compresses and elevates the lungs, according to the thought, slowly, quickly, eagerly, gently, intently. And if he hold the breath altogether, he cannot think.

FROM SPEECH

For not the least part of a word flows forth out of the mouth without the helping hand of the lungs; the sound which is articulated into words all exists from the lungs, through the trachea and epiglottis; so that according to the inflation of the lungs, and the opening of the passage, speech is raised into shouting, and according to their contraction dies into whispers. And if the passage be closed speech ceases and thought with it.

We hope that what has been stated will throw a little light on this vexed question of "Treating the patient and not the disease" and the paramount necessity of obtaining those most important of all symptoms—those of the mind in terms of loves and intellect (understanding).

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