

RATIONALE OF HOMŒOPATHY*

DR. K. G. SAXENA, NEW DELHI

Homœopathy is the most modern system of medicine in the world. It was founded by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann of Germany about 150 years ago. Homœopathy is based on nature's law of *similia similibus curentur* or 'let likes be treated by likes'. This is opposite to the Allopathic principle of '*contraria contrariis*' i.e. giving medicines producing opposite effects to disease.

The doctrine of *similia* is not a new invention. The Ayurvedic principle of *Vishasya Vishamaushadham* i.e. 'poison is to be treated by poison', reveals its parallelism with that of Homœopathy. It was also known to Hippocrates, the father of Allopathy, and several others like Stahl, Hoffman, Haller, Cullen etc. But it was only Hahnemann who after long experience of more than 30 years elaborated the law and placed it on sound, practical and logical basis. Homœopathy is a new approach to the study of disease and treatment, with a view to obtain a permanent, gentle and rapid cure. It cures patients by the reaction of the vital force against the disease. Discarding the theory of curing diseases, by massive and repeated doses of drugs. Homœopathy cures by minute and infrequent doses of drugs on the principle of *similia*. Homœopathy treats the patients by the administration of drugs that produce effects similar to disease. Thus diarrhœa is treated with *Podophyllum* which itself causes diarrhœa when given to a healthy person. The quantity of the drug is very minute so as to stimulate the vital force against the disease. The medicines do not cause any toxic or ill effects on the human organism. The effects of drugs are found out by experiments on healthy persons instead of an animals and are recorded carefully in the *materia medica*. Potentisation or dynamisation is a special feature in Homœo-

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pathy whereby the drug power is enhanced in a gradual manner and even the most insoluble and inert substances are subjected to this process. The high potencies of silica, gold charcoal, lycopodium and many other minerals, metals and solid substances are being used for more than 150 years with remarkable effects on various diseases.

It is now realised that large and small doses of a drug have opposite effects. This is supported by Arndt Schulz Law also. A poisonous substance may prove fatal in large doses, whereas its smaller or minimal doses actually stimulate the vital activities of the same cells. Schulz has scientifically explained, that the symptoms of disease often are an expression of the healing reaction of the body and the remedy having similar reactive properties will merely augment the natural healing process. That is all Homœopathy.

The minute dose causes an initial aggravation of the disease symptoms and is a favourable sign in the healing process, generally followed by amelioration of the disease. Again the medicine is given infrequently. So long as the reaction of the medicine continues there is no need of repetition of the dose and thereby cause interference with the healing reaction of the vital force.

There has been unjust and unfounded criticism of the Homœopathic principle of giving small dose. Modern science has demonstrated that by minutest subdivision energy is liberated from inert mass or bulk weight. Similarly by potentisation a homœopathic drug becomes powerful and affects the diseased cell of the human being remarkably. Thus the small doses of Homœopathy should not present any misconception to modern Biology. Radium, Vitamins, Ferments Ions, Colloids, mineral salts and sulphur drugs are all now being used in minute doses.

The principles of Homœopathy are applicable to all diseases whether acute or chronic, epidemic or endemic, infectious or contagious, mental or nervous. It tackles diseases of all ages whether in males or females, children or old men. It has not to discover any germ or bacteria as the causative factor for a particular disease but will treat it on the basis of its immutable law and other principles.

Homœopathy is about hundred years ahead of the dominant system of medicines. The doctrines of the vital force, single remedy and minimum dose, adopted by Homœopathy are now being followed by the modern therapy in the preparation and utilisation of drugs. Homœopathy treats the patient as a whole, and not a certain group of symptoms pointing to particular diseases, or so called diagnosis, The treatment requires the selection of a single drug for the case in hand on the basis of individualisation or characterisation of those special features, which distinguish the patient from other cases of a similar nature.

There is a general notion, that Homœopathy is opposed to the study of basic medical science like Anatomy, Physiology, Practice of medicine etc. According to Hahnemann and the tenets of Homœopathy, a homœopath must have knowledge in all basic sciences of medicine along with Homœopathic materia medica, Organon and Philosophy. Similarly surgery is also taught to all regular homœopathic students, Surgery is applied restrictedly by the homœopaths as most of the so-called surgical disease like carbuncle, gangrene, septicaemia, Fistula and ulcers are wonderfully cured by internal homœopathic medicine. Of course in advanced cases of tumors or stones in kidney or bladder, where the danger to life is imminent, patients are advised to undergo operations. Surgical and other means are also applied in cases of accidents, fractures, burns, scalds and other injuries. Here with surgical means external and internal homœopathic medicines wonderfully work together.

Homœopathy began to spread in our country since Dr. Honigberger was invited to treat Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839. Bands of missionaries, civilians and other enthusiasts made their individual efforts for the propagation of Homœopathy. There are more than 3 lakhs of homœopaths serving the country now a days.

The dawn of Independence has brought about considerable progress to Homœopathy. It is now recognised by 11 State Governments in India. There are eight under-graduate homœopathic colleges, imparting homœopathic training in different states of our country. There are 9 indoor Homœopathic Hospitals and thousands of Homœopathic dispensaries run by indivi-

duals, charitable trusts, district boards, municipalities or State Governments.

The Planning Commission incorporated five proposals for the welfare of Homœopathy in the First Five-Year Plan. In the Second Plan, 36 lakhs were kept apart for Research and for the opening or upgrading of Homœopathic institutions. Out of this 12 lakhs have already been spent on various schemes. The Central Government have appointed an Advisory Committee in 1956 to advise the Government on Homœopathy. The Planning Commission have recently nominated two homœopaths on the health panel for the 3rd plan period.

THE WORLD'S PRESENT-DAY NEED FOR HOMŒOPATHY

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medicinal illness resembling the natural one, cannot produce reactions opposed to the end we wish to get."

The allopaths ignore these principles, because they are genuine homœopathic ones; but sometimes its truth is recognized, as in the Mexican review.

I believe that all that I have said proves the legitimacy of this assertion : *the world needs Homœopathy not only at present, but also in the future*, in spite of recent discoveries, all of which proves the truth of Homœopathy, and at the same time gives honour to the fourth dimension man, as the writer Roger Larnaudie calls Hahnemann in his book *Hahnemann, Super-Human Life*.

CONCLUSION

Because of the need and utility of Homœopathy the author believes the publication of an international review is very necessary, in order to propagate our therapeutic system, its principles and advantages, etc. I think it can be supported by the homœopathic institutions and societies of the world.

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