

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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## EXPERIENCE

DR. J. N. KANJILAL, M.B., D.M.S., CALCUTTA

We often hear some professionals boasting of 20 years', or 30 years' or 40 years' experience. But in reality, in most of these cases, this term *experience* means nothing more than mere blind practice—that is, practice without learning anything therefrom; and worse still, often means simple tinkering—that is working quite indifferently. Thus, we often see many a homœopath tinkering with homœopathic medicine for decades and administering plenty of homœopathic drugs to their patients without caring a fig for the symptoms of the latter; but vaunting of their success all the same as a large number of their acute cases are somehow sure to end in recovery of their own natural course, some of the troublesome symptoms in course of their chronic cases are bound to subside atleast temporarily—not due to, but often *in spite of* their treatment. Then again, there are some homœopaths, who practice homœopathy for decades after decades, but with partial or superficial understanding and application of the principles. They may take some symptoms, or may even take pages of symptoms, but hardly ever analyse or evaluate them; often lacking in power of observation, and missing the vital, individualizing features of the case, thus basing their prescription on some partial aspect of the case, or on some unimportant common general symptom, or some particular local symptom which may happen to be most troublesome. They treat the symptoms, the patient as an individual always remaining outside their view and grasp.

They do not know how to follow up a case, or what to expect from their previous prescription, or how long to wait upon a dose of medicine. They do not know, or care to bother about what is the optimum time for the second prescription and of what medicine; hardly knowing that the second and subsequent prescriptions are far and far more difficult than the first one, and at the same time far more important, being pregnant with great good as well as harm; any mistake here may jeopardise all prospects of cure. They care very little to discriminate about the most suitable and appropriate potency and dose for a particular case in hand at a particular stage and far less to critically observe and assess the results of the particular potency and dose employed. So they learn and assimilate very little from their success or failure in individual cases in their practice. This sort of practice is *blind and sterile*, and has nothing to do with experience.

As a matter of fact, the terms *theory, practice* and *experience* are closely *interlinked* and are mutually complementary. A **theory**, if it is to be substantial (as against a speculation or hypothesis which are at liberty to originate from pure thought or intuition), must originate from practice, by the process of induction. A substantial theory usually evolves from the generalisation of a particular fact observed in all cases of a particular branch of practice when it assumes the prestige of a Law of Nature. Moreover, a theory for its permanent validity or mere survival must always and in every case be corroborated by true practice in the corresponding line. Thus, a real theory originates from, and is sustained by true practice.

**Practice**, again, if it is to be lively and fruitful, must be scrupulously scientific that is, must be animated and guided by theory through the process of deduction. Such a conscious and conscientious practice will gradually carry us to the deeper and deeper significance of the theory and widen and widen the scope of the same. In the process, the theory itself will gradually become more and more intensive and extensive and flawless richer and richer, wider and wider; new corollaries will evolve out, (as, the gradation of symptoms, movement of

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ingly that he wanted to return to business on GAERTNER, but the disease had too big a grip for that I do believe that cases under pure homœopathy will have a minimum of suffering.

I know of an old doctor who had an inoperable cancer of the stomach. He began to live practically on fruit and fruit juice and improved amazingly. He used to sit in the park in good weather and tell everyone his story, how he had been a living lie for more than 40 years by not being able to tell patients what to eat. In those days nobody bothered much about diets. I do not know how long he lived but he evidently experienced a great and wonderful increase in health.

Cases which are the result of poor surgery are not so easy to treat. I have had some to handle. One is now completely free from pain on BRYONIA. I remember one operator whose surgery was a joy to witness, so skilful were his hands, but some of his cases of the short circuit operation were anything but successful. However, these cases can be improved with time and patience.

—*Homœopathy, Aug., '59.*

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symptoms in the process of cure, methods of prognostication by observing the action of the similimum discovered and formulated by the talented disciples of our Master); or even new theories may come out in extension of the older one (as, Einstein's Theory of Relativity in culmination of Newton's Laws of Motion).

Now, **experience** really means a synthesis of these two theory and practice. Dictionary meaning of the terms experience is "knowledge resulting from actual observation of facts and events", "wisdom derived from trials". If each trial in every case of our practice fails to add something to our store of knowledge and wisdom, if it does not enrich or improve our grasp on theory and principles, so that we are enabled to utilize them better in our subsequent trials we are far from gaining and experience, however long we may practice.