

## HOMŒOPATHY'S AXIOMS CONFIRMED BY MODERN THERAPEUTIC ADVANCES

DR. A. C. GORDON ROSS

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have to thank your Committee for the honour they have done me in asking me to address this Congress. I confess I am a little nervous when I appear in this horribly prominent place so early in the morning, when, no doubt, the other guests of this hotel are sitting up in bed having their morning tea or Alka Seltzers.

Originally I was billed as the post-prandial placebo after a good midday meal, but I have been changed to the curtain-raiser, as is the tradition with all doubtful turns in the music halls.

I said I was a little nervous for I have never been at a Congress of any kind before. That nervousness was not lessened when I asked one of my prominent business patients what was the purpose of such a party, and he replied that it was a good way of getting rid of a surplus profit. As I am only a very minor prophet I hope that my dispatch will be sudden and painless.

Some thirty years ago, shortly after this hotel was completed, I came here to dance with a young lady. The atmosphere was such that I perpetrated a sonnet. I have long since forgotten the lady, but I have preserved the sonnet:

"They built a palace perfect of its kind  
And furnished it with all the arts complete,  
Hopeful of profit, certain some would find  
Rest 'mid the hills, far from cities' heat.  
Here in the glory of a winter's day  
We danced to violin and to saxophone,  
Till presently the music died away  
And we were left within the lounge alone.  
We watched the blue dusk deepen on the snow,  
When suddenly you turned and softly said:  
'This place was peaceful once not long ago.  
And peace may come again—when we are dead.  
While in this lovely room where now we rest  
Among the ruins, birds may build their nest.'"

Now you may think that the thought process that inspired this sonnet has nothing to do with the rather ponderous title of my paper, but, Ladies and Gentlemen, you would be wrong! Time brings its own revenges and while, at the moment, Homœopathy seems outmoded by the impressive

advances in modern therapeutics, it is my conviction that, if we keep clear heads and have courage to till our chosen field of medicine, we may yet live to see the old axioms of Hahnemann confirmed. Then we will return to a less artificial and more natural state of affairs in the treatment of our patients. Plain food and country air with hard work are better tranquillizers than any synthetic product of any drug house or gin palace yet devised by man. Why do we talk of the simple truth if it is not because the truth is simple and uncomplicated? Homœopathy is safe, much safer than modern allopathic medicine, for it believes in the single dose of the single drug and it never repeats if there is any sign of improvement.

Now let us have a look at our well-known axiom that disease is disease. Homœopathy teaches that there are no diseases but only sick people to be cured. In the light of this reasoning let us look for a moment at a common condition like diabetes, where the discovery of insulin by the dominant school has saved many millions of lives.

Lately, however, the Germans have put on the market Rastinon, a sulphonamide with a methyl group in place of the paramino group, and this substance can be given to diabetics by mouth in place of insulin by injection. Now orthodox medicine has always believed that diabetes was caused by a deficiency in the cells of the Islets of Langerhans—a failure to secrete insulin, but the giving of Rastinon does not increase the flow of insulin, but merely adjusts the hormone balance.

Professor Ferdinand Hoff of the University of Frankfurt, wrote a paper in 1938 where he postulated that diabetes represented a disturbance in the balance between two antagonistic systems. He postulated a balance between an insulin system, insulin and the para-sympathetic, and a contra-insulin system which took in the pituitary, the adrenals, the thyroid and sympathetic.

As far as I can discover, all that has happened since then is that glucagon, the hyperglycæmic glycogenolytic factor present in the cells of the pancreas, has been added to the contra-insulin system. The dozens of steroids discovered since then from the cortex of the adrenals merely complicates the picture and, in my opinion, the mechanism of the action of the oral anti-diabetic drugs can never be properly understood by our profession until we accept the homœopathic axiom that disease is disharmony and not a label to attach to an illness.

Lord Cohen of Birkenhead came near to the matter when he wrote in the *Sunday Times* of July 14th, 1957: "The two dominant and inter-related trends in the medicine of the 19th and 20th centuries have been increasing specialization and the application of the instruments of the basic sciences, physics, chemistry and biology to the investigation of disease. This has led over a wide field to an impersonalization of medicine in which there has been the risk of the disease being regarded as more important than the patient."

No homœopath will ever fall into the error of putting the disease be-

fore the patient for one of the principal axioms of Homœopathy is that we have to treat the individual and not the disease.

Homœopaths do not think of humans as one thinks of hens, to be fed with handfuls of anything that happens to be handy, as is the present habit in modern medicine.

Another of our axioms is the well-known homœopathic belief that what can cause can cure. In this connection I would like you to note two instances where acute pancreatitis was reported as helped by cortisone and the reverse picture, cortisone is reported as causing pancreatitis.

In the *B.M.J.*, December 29th, 1956, Drs. Brockis and Jones reported that two cases of acute hæmorrhagic pancreatitis treated with cortisone who recovered after being gravely ill.

Against this, in the *B.M.J.*, February 8th, 1958, there is an annotation on Steroids and Pancreatitis where it is stated that H. S. Baar and O. H. Wolff have recently described two children in whom acute pancreatitis was almost certainly associated with steroid therapy. (*Lancet*, 1957, 1, 812).

The *B.M.J.* editors remark: "It is possible that steroids produce an intermittent obstruction, due to a change in viscosity of the pancreatic secretions, though infection as a causative factor has not been certainly excluded. The similarity between the lesions produced by cortisone and those of acute pancreatitis suggests a fruitful line of approach to the clinical problem."

My next example of the vindication is not so clear cut, but in my opinion it is worth consideration when we remember that what can cause can cure. In the urgent and vexed question of coronary thrombosis the allopathic school believes in rest, anticoagulants and, but recently, noradrenaline, to raise the blood pressure. Noradrenaline is the most powerful vasoconstrictor known, but it may not act entirely in this way.

To follow my argument here you must assume that it is not only the blood clot which causes the pain and severe distress and that the severe shock associated with a coronary attack may be due, in part, to the chemical explosion caused by adrenaline and noradrenaline pumped into the body by the adrenal glands.

Professor Hans Selye of Montreal has postulated such a state of affairs in an article in the *B.M.J.*, March 15th 1958, which he called "The Humoral Production of Cardiac Infarcts". My contention is that adrenaline or noradrenaline administered by the orthodox school to raise the blood pressure may act not so much as a vasoconstrictor but on the old homœopathic axiom that what can cause can cure. Radium can cause cancer and can cure it, too.

Another axiom of the homœopath is that a disease is better out than in.

There is far too much suppression in medicine today, and the good homœopath scorns coal-tar ointments, deodorants and antipyretics. Here and there more enlightened members of the orthodox school are abandoning their

greasy ointments and bringing forward theories that the skin is an excretory organ like the bowel or kidney. They should not be allowed to think, however, that this is an original conception. It has been known to homœopaths for nearly two hundred years. It is because of this suppression that we find more and more patients requiring arsenic, sulphur and the calciums, all sheet anchors in these suppressions.

And what a pleasure it is when we can point out to the patient that the first symptom he had will reappear and will be the last to disappear when he is cured. The credit for this axiom however belongs to Hering and not to Hahnemann.

And now we come to viruses.

Your committee was very insistent that I included viruses in my paper, as I understand this is the main theme of the Congress.

Those of us who suspected that the lethal weapons of modern therapeutics would upset the balance of nature are not surprised at the rise in the incidence of the so-called virus diseases. There is no doubt that today polio, mumps, measles and shingles are on the increase and perhaps that is because the streps. and the cocci have been killed off so efficiently that the smaller viruses can flourish like the proverbial green bay tree.

I do not know if the virologists are yet certain what a virus really is or if they have discovered all the secrets of immunity. They say it depends on the number of antibodies in the blood.

I know of course, that Pasteur in Paris found it was possible to free a liquid from bacteria by filtering it through unglazed porcelain and that a gentleman in Holland showed it possible to transmit the mosaic disease of the tobacco plant by expressing the juice from the leaves of infected plants, diluting the same with water, passing the liquid through a porcelain filter, and infecting healthy young tobacco plants with the clear filtrate. In 1935 this virus was prepared in the form of a large protein molecule, and it certainly was not a living organism. This makes me think of a remark by McDonagh in the *Sunday Times*, April 19th, 1953, where he said that, in his opinion, if virologists would only study the subject of coagulation objectively the problem of influenza would no longer appear perplexing.

In this short paper I can but speak of only a few axioms, but you can all add to the list. Take our old Latin tag, *Similia Similibus Curentur*, and consider it with relationship to a perplexing disease like Sarcoidosis. Now look up the symptoms of *Beryllium* poisoning, and of the homœopathic provings of *Beryllium* and you will be surprised at the similarity between the symptoms of Sarcoidosis and *Beryllium* poisoning. And yet how many of you have ever used *Beryllium* as a remedy?

I think this Congress would achieve something worth while if we formed a committee whose object was to produce a new text book of our drugs, for there is no doubt that our text books are old-fashioned. This thought was brought home to me last night when I sat in the corridor of this

hotel pondering on what I should say to you today. My attention was drawn to a young couple looking at the fascinating things in the hotel shop windows and the young lady was more interested in them than her escort. The thought crossed my mind that if old Dr. Kent was with me he would have said: "She wants something but she knows not what." That would have made him think of *Bryonia*, *Creosote* or *Chamomilla*. But if I had a psychologist with me he would have said that she wanted to test her power over the male, and if I had the girl's father with me he would have said she wanted a spanking but he had never got around to it. So you see it all depends on the point of view. In the old days when homœopaths met together they played guessing games to test out their knowledge of their drugs. Such questions as—What remedy exhibits the symptom, She feels she is walking on air? *Lac. caninum* has this symptom. Another question might be—Which homœopathic remedy got its name from a notorious place in any large hotel? *Rumex* is the answer to that one.

But to return to my proposed text book. In such a book I would arrange our drugs in four sections. First, the purely herbal remedies which we would compare in friendly fashion with the well authenticated herbal lore which goes back nearly a thousand years. Secondly, I would group the inorganic substances together. In this section I would arrange them according to Mendelejeff's Periodic System, and we would be surprised how the members of the same family have the same mental symptoms. For instance, in the second table, we have the family *Lithium*, *Sodium*, *Potassium*, *Rubidium*, *Caesium* and *Aurum*. The mentals are all depressed with similiar characteristics and yet the old homœopathic provers never even heard of the periodic system. Thirdly, I would list the commoner organic substances which have been fully proved. Fourthly, I would list our nosodes with provings. Such a text book would be modern and it would avoid the repetitions and inaccuracies which make our literature unacceptable to the pundits.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not think we need be afraid that Hahnemann is outmoded by modern therapeutic advances, rather in my opinion are most of his ideas confirmed.

I have the honour to be librarian to the Scottish Faculty and as such it is my duty to read all the new Homœopathic literature available. I am sorry to tell you that the literature has become dogmatic, defeatist, despondent and very thin. The only two countries in the world where Homœopathy is holding its own are Russia and France, and the reports from these countries have never been found accurate.

Here and there, however, there is a sign of hope, such as the recent improvement in the BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC JOURNAL for April of this year. This number has a nice cosmopolitan air and I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating our President, Dr. Stewart, and our own Dr. Connor, on their excellent articles. We need many more of this type of

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from repeating. This is the work that marks the difference between the artist and the bungler. (*I.H.A. Trans.*, 1902)."

These two great physicians belonged to a race that is gradually passing from the face of the earth. At this day we have many sincere and skillful physicians in our midst, but none quite the equal of Allen and Lippe. Let us emulate them, study their writings, the accounts of their successes and learn how it was that Lippe (and Allen, and Boger, and Hayes) "did it." Hahnemann, throughout his entire career, was searching for a rational and scientific method for curing the sick. For he said: "God is too merciful to permit his creatures to suffer without providing the remedy." When his long search was crowned with success, he made this dramatic statement: "*Then dawned to me the first ray of that method of curing which was to soon brighten into the most splendid-day!*"

—*The Homœopathic Recorder*, Nov., '53

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article if we are to make an impression on the profession: We must all have some interesting cases to record and I do know the difficulty is that few of us have any spare time. Let us make a resolution to see ourselves in the cold finality of print. A good time to write an article is the early morning. If we did a little each morning we might produce what could be called a new type of breakfast serial.

Now Ladies and Gentlemen, when we go from here tomorrow each to our appointed place, do not let us—in Coleridge's phrase—recentre our minds in the deep Sabbath of meek self-content. Let us rather remember that aphorism of William Blake, who said that the road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom. Who knows but this palace might not be Homeopathy, free from the excess foisted on us by powerful drug houses anxious to make a profit.

—*The Layman Speaks*, Oct., '60