

Hahnemann's instructions in every-day practice but added to them. Whether or not they believed that "psora" resulted from suppression of the itch, they found it a good working hypothesis in the treatment of deep-seated chronic ailments. Lastly, in deference to Hahnemann, let us say with Garth Boericke : "It would be a bold thing to do to condemn Hahnemann's method of treating chronic disease, when we know so little of life's processes."

—*The Layman Speaks, Aug., 1956*

OUR DEBT TO HAHNEMANN

DISCOVERER OF HOMŒOPATHY

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April 10 is a red letter day in the history of Homœopathy, being the birthday of its discoverer, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann of Germany, a great thinker, philosopher and medical scientist. Great is the contribution of Hahnemann to medical science and great indeed is the debt which humanity owes to this great man, for giving it a system of treatment which besides being very simple and cheap is highly efficacious, rational, scientific and easy to understand and apply. Without any expense or botheration to the patient of having his blood, urine and stool etc. tested, Homœopathy carries speedy relief to a large majority of patients on symptomatic indications, often saving them from avoidable surgical operations.

Let us make a brief survey of the Hahnemannian view regarding disease and its true cure, to see how admirably it fits in with reality.

The human body is an automatically functioning machine. The Vital Energy, which is a non-material dynamic force, automatically and without any outside help or interference maintains the body, its endocrine glands and its every cell and part in a state of health, "so that our indwelling, reason-gifted

mind can freely employ this living healthy instrument for the higher purposes of existence". The healthy state is characterised by a feeling of comfort and ease and is free from the feeling of any painful or morbid sensations, or even a consciousness of our various organs.

As soon as man begins to feel the least inconvenience or morbid sensation, it is an indication that disease (dis-ease) has stepped into his life, or in other words, that an interference has taken place in the normal health maintaining function of the Vital Energy. If this perversion in the normal function of the Vital Energy is not removed early enough, only then in course of time the functions of the organs, glands and other parts of the body are deranged, pathological and tissue changes are produced and the germs and worms are discovered in the blood, urine, stool etc. These latter, therefore, are only the results of a previously existing disorder and cannot be looked upon as causes of that disorder.

The cause of disease is not a material or visible entity which can be seen, touched or handled by the test-tube, the microscope or other scientific instruments which are capable of examining only the results of disease as shown above. It is as subtle, non-material and invisible as the Vital Energy itself and belongs to the realm of dynamic energy. It expresses itself only through signs and symptoms and in no other way.

All naturally excited sickness affects the Vital Energy and the mind first, and the body and organs afterwards. Physical ailments have often been traceable directly to mental and emotional causes like anger, grief, worry, excitement etc. It is only very recently that the old school of medicine has started recognizing the role of the mind as a causative factor in physical ailments, whereas Hahnemann had declared this to the medical world over 150 years ago. In homœopathy, the highest importance is attached to the mental and moral symptoms.

NATURE'S LAW OF HEALING

The most precious gift of Hahnemann to medical science is his discovery of Nature's Law of Healing, the Law of Similars as it is called, according to which a drug can cure in the sick such symptoms as it has the power to produce in the healthy

persons, provided it is administered in sufficiently small, potentized and in-frequent doses. This is a law of nature as true, universal and immutable as the law of gravity and it has stood the test for over a hundred and fifty years. This is the solid rock on which homœopathy stands, firm and secure, and unshaken by millions of medical tempests and blasts which have blown away theories after theories and hypotheses after hypotheses. Besides this main law, there are certain other natural laws of cure to guide the physician in interpreting the effects of remedies etc. The patient is no longer left solely at the mercy of lawless empiricism, but is treated according to definite, precise and well-tested principles.

Another valuable gift of Hahnemann to the science of medicine is the method of graduated potentization of drugs, *i.e.*, the method of releasing the dynamic forces residing in drugs according to a graduated scale of decimal or centesimal measurement.

We are indebted to Hahnemann for his discovery of the factors which give rise to and maintain the progress of the chronic diseases and which at times render the well-chosen Homœopathic remedies ineffective in restoring health. He described these factors as *Psora*, *Syphilis* and *Sycosis*, and also showed us how to eliminate them.

He was the first to emphasize that we should treat the patient and not a disease or diseases. The cure of the patient means a restoration of his Vital Energy to normal functioning, by the homœopathic action of a remedy, which alone can ensure the eradication of sickness in its entirety, gently, safely, permanently, in the shortest possible time and on easily comprehensible principles.

Hahnemann reduced the dosage of remedies to a minimum, so as to deprive them of all harmful reactions and to retain the maximum curative properties in the gentlest yet most potent form.

By placing the art of healing on the basis of unerring law of nature, Hahnemann gave the medical science not only precision but also a provision by which a physician can approach with full confidence even a new type of illness, which

he may never have seen before. Before seeing a single case of Asiatic cholera, Hahnemann could lay down the treatment to be adopted, with a precision and accuracy which excited the admiration of the whole world.

In the end, I pray God, that the truth which Hahnemann discovered for the good and long life of the suffering humanity may prevail and flourish and break new ground every day so that his soul may rest in peace and the World may enjoy its benefits for ever and for ever.

ANTIBIOTICS AT THE BAR

The heyday of these powerful drugs seems to be on the wane. Reports of their dangers and drawbacks are frequently being made public and warnings against their unwise use have been uttered by leading members of the medical profession.

Recently a well known drug house has put on the market a new drug which, it is claimed, "*Supersedes antibiotics*". This in itself is significant, as is also the parallel instance of new sedatives being produced, "*without barbiturates*".

The antibiotics are of undoubted value in certain grave forms of infection, but their value lies in their destructive force and therein lies also their potential risk. Sure enough, they kill the bugs, but what of their effect on the body, with its vulnerable cells and tissues and its finely balanced functions?

Moreover their effectiveness as antibacterial agents may fail either because certain bacteria are resistant to them or may become so. Not only so, but the disturbance of the bacterial balance in the body may have serious results in allowing bacteria normally quite harmless to multiply uninhibitedly and become pathogenic, or disease-producing. Yet another drawback to their use is the likelihood of "interference with the natural immunity processes of the body".

It is, therefore, of great interest and significance that the January, 1956, number of "The Practitioner" is largely given