

THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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No. 2

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

AS THE YEARS PASS BY *

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Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen :

I have been called upon to tell you something about my clinical experiences. But I doubt if it had been expedient for you to call one from a distance of 136 miles, to tell you something which, most likely, you all have known and experienced and deem not worthwhile to be presented before such an august gathering of Pundits of a metropolis that leads the homœopathy of the subcontinent of India, nay, of Asia.

Experiences vary and tend to vary from person to person, place to place, circumstances to circumstances. It is not expected that a very same thing will be experienced by all, in the same way and in the same degree. So, what I can ask of you is to accept what are said here, agreeable to you or not, as the tangible experiences of one who has had the opportunity of verifying them through years of applications in a considerably large number of cases.

A COMPLICATED SYSTEM

Our Materia Medica is vast, Repertory tremendous, and Philosophy subtle as well as markedly distinct and deviated from the ordinary ways of thinking. Our students in the degree course learn what is possible for them during the short period of 4 years. But once they come out of the cloister of their

* Read before the Indian Homœopathic Medical Association on 8.12.57.

Alma Mater, they find themselves stranded, all of a sudden, as if on the beach of an ocean that stares them in the face. They are at a non-plus and shaky before the cases they have to encounter. For almost every diseased phenomenon, in our art, may call for remedial agents what are alphabetically arranged from under A to Z, in a complete Materia Medica. Every practitioner has to master at least 304 remedies as mentioned in Dr. H. C. Allen's Keynotes & Characteristics,—that should form his minimum qualification, and all these remedies may be required either for the normal pathogenetic symptoms or for unusual concomitants, in any given case of any particular type of derangement. You can not say that such and such a remedy can never be required in such and such a case of disease. There is no place for ipse dixit in Homœopathy. You may find in your life-time, if you look out for it, that a case of Typhoid will require Belladonna, a case of recurring Urticaria Aconite, a case of Cholera Ignatia, a case of Infantile Liver Gelsemium, a case of Bacillary Dysentery Bryonia and so forth. At any rate, such has been my experience.

LABOURS SHORTENED

But as the years pass by and you have a commendable mastery of your Materia Medica and Repertory, you find your work considerably shortened, your labours diminished and time saved, but reputation promoted for your promptness of decision and quickness of action. You may have to encounter a mentally backward patient, who only extends his hand towards you to feel his pulse, but can not give you even the too common symptoms, not to speak of the peculiar characteristic or the subtle mental or the striking concomitant symptoms, or the personal or family history of his case; you may have to prescribe for a suckling, whose only language is a cry or a groan, a smile or a gesture; you may have to send some pillules for one who can at best address you, from miles away, a few insignificant lines asking for a remedy; or you may have to catechise a bashful woman reluctant to respond. But that matters little. For, with the passage of years, attended by

the mastery of your Science & Art, and with your improved and ready powers of evaluation, selection and overall grasp, enhanced by the repeated application of the homœopathic principles and technique to the given cause, e.g., management of the sick organism, you have developed a peculiar sagacity and a skill to heal your cases. You can by now predict which remedy or remedies cure a particular type of illness, in which length of time and in which way. You can tell which remedy or remedies cure nine out of ten cases of a particular type or character, and that in the shortest possible time. Thus could Hahnemann tell us of the paramount value of Camphor, Cuprum & Veratrum in Asiatic Cholera, of Drosera in Whooping Cough, Nux Vomica in Siberian Influenza, Cinchona in Paludal Malaria, Mercurius in Syphilis, Cannabis or Thuja in non-sycotic or sycotic Gonorrhœa, Sulphur & Hepar Sulphur in Itches & Scabies.

NINE OUT OF TEN CASES

You have discovered by now that :

9 out of 10 cases of :

Common Cold are cured by ...	Aconite, Belladonna, Bryonia, Gelsemium, Sulphur & Tuberc.
Common Diarrhœa ... " " " " ...	Ac. Phos., China, Nux V., Puls. & Sulphur.
Cholera ... " " " " ...	Camp., Cuprum, Ricinus, Verat, Sec. Cor.
Dysentery ... " " " " ...	Acon., Ars. A., Bapt., Colchi., Ipecac, Mercurius, Sulphur.
Eczema ... " " " " ...	Ars. A., Mercurius, Mezer, Ac. Nit, Sulphur, Psor, Tuberc.
Carbuncle, Pyaemia, Gangrene, Sepsis, Cellulitis.	} Anthrax, Echin, Lachesis, Pyrogen, Tarantula.
Influenza ... " " " " ...		Ars. A., Bapt, Belladonna, Bryo, Caustic, Gels, Rhus T, Sulph, Tub. Bov, Tub. Av.

Insanity	... are cured by ...	Hyosci, Lachesis, Stram, Taren, Verat, Tuberc.
Malaria	... " " " ...	Ars. A, Ars. Sul. Fl, Bryo, China, Chin, Sul, Nat. Mur. Puls, Sulph. Thuja, Tuberc.
Meningitis	... " " " ...	Apis, Bell, Cal, Cup, Helleb, Stram, Opium, Tuberc, Zinc.
Polio Myelitis	" " " ...	Caust, Lachesis, Lathyrus, Lycopod.
Rheumatism	... " " " ...	Bryo, Medorrhin, Mercurius, Phytolacca, Rhus T, Sulph, Syphilin, Thuja.
Vomiting of Pregnancy	... " " " ...	Ipecac, Sepia, Sulph, Symph R.
Summer Boils	" " " ...	Anthraxin, Arct L, Sulph, Iod.
Typhoid	... " " " ...	Arnica, Bapt, Bryo, Gels, Hyosc, Lachesis, Pyrogen, Rhus Tox, Stram, Sulph, Tuberc.
Nephritis	... " " " ...	Ars. A, Kali C, Mercu, Tuberc.
Prostatitis	... " " " ...	Caust, Mercurius, Sulphur.
Tumours	... " " " ...	Calcarea's, Conium, Sulph, Thuja.
Osteo Myelitis	" " " ...	Ac. Fl, Silicea, Medorrhin, Syphilin.
Small Pox	... " " " ...	Bapt, Variol, Thuja in success- sion.
Labor, shortened by		Cauro, Cimicif, Nux. V., Puls.

and so forth.

DERNIER RESSORT

Similarly, on occasions when you do not know what to give, because of a paucity of symptoms, especially characteristic ones, you have to evolve a shortened specific therapy which serves you, and that often brilliantly, as a dernier ressort.

When you do not know what to give in : Give :

Amœbic Dysentery	... ..	Colchicum.
Bacillary Dysentery	... ..	Arsenic A.
Typhoid	... ..	Bapt, Lachesis.
Biliary Colic	... ..	China.
Malaria	... ..	Ars. Sul. Fl.

Influenza	...	...	...	Influenzin.
B. Coli	...	...	...	Sulphur.
Cholera	...	...	...	Secale Cor.
Meningitis	...	...	...	Hellebor.
Polio	...	...	...	Lathyrus.
Carbuncles & Boils	...	...	...	Anthraxin.
Itches	...	...	...	Sulphur.
Scabies	...	...	...	Mercurius.
Rheumatism	...	...	...	Medorrhin.
(Sycotic)	...	...	...
Rheumatism	...	...	...	Syphilinum.
(Syphilitic)	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	Thuja.
Syphilis	...	...	...	Mercurius.
Gangrene	...	...	...	Lachesis.
Cellulitis	...	...	...	Lachesis.
Septicæmia	...	...	...	Pyrogen.
Gastritis	...	...	...	Nux V.
Diabetes	...	...	...	Uranium Nit 3X (Tri)
Hysteria	...	...	...	Medorrhin.
Epilepsy	...	...	...	Caust.
Toothache	...	...	...	Mezer.
Constipation	...	...	...	Nux Vom.
Nephritis	...	...	...	Merc. Cor.
Vomiting of Pregnancy	...	...	...	Sulphur.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	Iodium 30.
Hepaticization	...	...	...	Kali Iod.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Drosera. Pertussin.
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	Ant. Sulph.
Bronchitis	...	...	...	Ant. Sulph.
Non-bursting abscess	...	...	...	Lachesis in repeated doses.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Merc. Cy, Diphtherin.
Tetanus	...	...	...	Hyperic.
Insanity	...	...	...	Hyosc. N., Lachesis.
Collapse & Cyanosis	...	...	...	Carbo veg.
Labor	...	...	...	Caulo T.
Nervous Diseases	...	...	...	Ambr., Valeriana.
Heart cases	...	...	...	Lauros., Meddorrhin.
Non-reactive flabbiness	...	...	...	Capsc.
Radiation	...	...	...	Phos., X-Ray.
(from Radium, Deep X-Ray, Radioactive dust etc.)	...	...	...
Aluminium Poisoning	...	...	...	Cadm. Sulph.
Vaccinosis	...	...	...	Thuja.

Small Pox	...	...	...	Bapt., Variol.
Psoriasis	...	...	...	Sulph., Ars., Iod.
Icthiosis	...	...	...	Petrol.
Leprosy	...	...	...	Hydroco. A.
Suppurating Eczema	...	...	...	Mercurius.
Dry Eczema	...	...	...	Psorinum.
Allergic Dermatitis	...	...	...	Mezer.
Angino-neurotic-Edema	...	...	...	Agaricus.

And so forth.

Even if, as sometimes may happen, the remedies mentioned above do not help out the cases curatively, being basically similar to the conditions mentioned against them, they take a deep hold of the cases and either prevent further deterioration of them or alter the conditions to manifest the pictures for the best indicated drugs. They serve as reactives, here.

ALWAYS ON THE ALERT

As the years pass by, experiences accumulate this way. But you can not remain too complacent, can not sleep over the question of strict individualization for long. The remaining one out of ten cases i.e., 10% of your cases will indicate, for various persons, various remedies, in various hands and in various places. You have to remain evervigilant, always on the alert, as indicated above, so that you do not miss the proper remedy. Else, your reputation will be in jeopardy, and homœopathy will be to blame. Many times, in your life-time you will find that some little-known, uncommon, striking, single symptoms, either of the nature of particulars, or generals, or concomitants, characterize your case, and they are the only leaders you must follow to reach the goal of your patient's recovery as well as of your success. A patient with blue eyes, golden hair and fair complexion came to me, after baffling many homœopaths, for his extremely painful hæmorrhoids. The remedy struck me at once, and I asked him to moisten his hæmorrhoids with his own saliva, whereupon the relief was almost instantaneous. Bromium 1M was prescribed and he was cured almost by the single dose. Similarly, you will find hæmorrhoids aggravated by thinking of them, to need a dose or two

of Causticum; pain in hæmorrhoids ameliorated by lying on back, to need a few doses of Ammon Carb; chill beginning in the thighs only, Thuja; catching at the penis as soon as the child coughs, Zincum; asthma preceded by cutting pains in the tongue and accompanied with alternate laughing and crying, Bovista; asthma ameliorated by eating, Graphites; must sit by the window in asthma, Chelidonium, Can. Ind; asthma preceded by pricking pains all over, Lobelia; ascending labor accompanied with the necessity for constant motion, Lycopod; dyspnœa with each labor pain, which is so neutralized, Lobelia; vomiting with profuse salivation and keen appetite, Lobelia; pains in extremities ameliorated by eating, Nat. Carb.; panaritium pain ameliorated out of doors, Nat. Sulph.; diarrhœa ameliorated by hot milk, Chelidonium; fistulæ lachrymalis accompanied by long standing eruptions about the face, Lachesis; migraine accompanied with joyousness and singing; Theridion; laughing induced by pains, Hura; and so forth, An anæmic chilly lady came to me, who would have a persistent hiccough whenever she conceived. Cyclamen 1M, 10M, cured her radically. A flabby, hot, gentleman suffered for years from an obstinate constipation. He had to strain hard to pass a solid stool as large as an arm. Mezerium in 1M, 10M, cured him. A gentle lady, with copious sweat on head and excessive craving for salt, passed square stools. Sanicula 1M cured her. A child with whooping cough would run around the room, Bromium cured him. Another child with whooping cough would spring up and cling to those around in terror. Ant. Tart. cured him. A confirmed invalid with rheumatoid arthritis would have nausea, gagging and cold sweat on forehead, with each paroxysm of pain. Ant. Tart. 1M, 10M, cured him. It is profitable to study such small, little-known striking symptoms. Many times, it pays one immensely.

(To be continued)

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(Continued from page no. 55)

THE CLASSIC APPROACH

The classic approach of homœopathy to the problems of disease need no clarification. It is the matching of the generals and the particulars of a case to those of a remedy. The more complete the analogy, the more prominent the prospect of neutralization, i.e., of cure. The particulars are described by the "locations, sensations & modalities"; the generals of Kent are nothing but the concomitants of Bœnninghausen, that comprise the mentals and other associated phenomena, which by their very interrelationship with the particulars, characterize them strikingly as they characterize the patient as a whole. The value of generals to the particulars can not be overemphasized. But cases arise when the particulars of a remedy do not seem to agree with its generals. There the problem emerges : which of the phenomena, the generals or the particulars, are to be obeyed ? Normally, in acute cases the particulars carry more weight ; in chronic ones, the generals ; in the most favourable cases, acute or chronic, where the particulars are in complete accord with the generals to indicate a single remedy, there is a hundred per cent chance of permanent amelioration. In complicated, long-drawn, chronic cases, on the other hand, where the total organism suffers and tends to react, the entire weight

* Read before the Indian Homœopathic Medical Association on 8.12.57.

may safely be placed on the generals, in complete neglect and disregard of the particulars that seem to disagree. A beautiful young lady, good-natured, highly cultured and with a fine taste, lost her husband. After the husband's death, she had mild attacks of hysteric fits, was sad, despondent and was suffering from some ailment or other all the time. In more than two months, she had an attack of Diarrhoic Cholera. She had purging and vomiting, with rice water stools, cold extremities, sinking pulse and retention of urine. But, tears would roll down her eyes now and then and she would sigh heavily. In complete disregard of the particular symptoms, Ignatia 200, in three doses two hours apart, was given, which removed all the untoward symptoms. A few doses of Acid Phos 30 were needed later to complete the cure. A 50-year-old gentleman, tall, slender, had fracture of the skull due to the fall of a branch of a large banyan tree upon his head, one year back. The case was diagnosed skiagrammatically in the Calcutta Medical College Hospitals, where he was treated for a considerably long time. But, after the first symptoms of concussion passed off, the fracture remained to some extent, and he would experience a great deep-in pain in the head, which lasted day & night for a whole year. He could not eat and sleep well, and was much emaciated. He was susceptible to cold and catarrh, had two attacks of pneumonia previously, was chilly, liked warm food but cold milk and was moving from doctor to doctor in hope of relief. Tuberculinum in 1M, though it has no reference to trauma and fracture, took a deep hold of the case, the pains and all other symptoms disappeared in three months, and he is quite hale and hearty for the last three years.

ROMANCE

Apart from the classical ones, you meet in your life with cases that have some distinctive features of their own. They represent non-descript, atypical phenomena, that can hardly be classified under one head and are rarely covered by one single remedy. Not only the generals and the particulars are few and far between, but they are in conflict with each other. Under-

neath the apparent design and obvious surface, you suspect a deep-in lay-out, a new pattern of intricate weavings, which elude the common eye, but allure those that are quick to observe and ready to perceive, with a firm grasp of human life and a stubborn will to delve deep into the innermost recesses of the human mind. It is for this group of cases, Hahnemann developed and classified his antipsoric, antimiasmatic remedies. It is for this group of cases, Freud laboured hard to find out a new therapy. They belong to the Psycho-somatic branch of medicine, which Hahnemann inaugurated 130 years ago. A fine young lady, unmarried, apparently in good health was having a severe abdominal pain. She would bend double, and apply hard pressure on her abdomen for relief, would lie on occasions in knee-elbow position. She was constipated, had no appetite, and the pain, griping clutching in nature, would aggravate after the least food & drink. Nux Vomica, Nux Mosch, Colocynth, Mag. Phos, Lyco., and Thuja were given by other Physicians, but with no effect. Her very face captivated my imagination and helped to indicate the remedy. The apparent symptom of knee-elbow position led me far and was found to interlace with the expression of her face a new pattern of manifestation, which may best be described as the revenge of subdued sex-instinct. Conium 200 took a firm grasp of the case, and she recovered within the quickest possible time. Again, I was called in to see a six-day-old baby, covered all over with a crusty eruption (definitely Allergic Dermatitis) and extremely restless and crying pitiably for the itching and irritation. The rubbed parts would ooze a thin serum, offensive to the smell. The skin condition developed on the second day of its birth. You know, in Kent's Repertory, there are 95 entries under the rubric '*crusty eruptions*', 109 under "Itching", 83 under "Moist", and you can imagine how difficult it was to prescribe for a baby that could give you no mentals or other concomitants. But I decided to approach the case some other way. How did it come to develop such a phenomenon? No reason could be ascertained for any infection; nor could it have the requisite time to contract and mature an infection. Enquiry elicited, on the other hand, that after six successive living daughters the baby

was the only male child in the family. "How was the mother's temperament during the pregnancy"? I asked the husband.

"Oh! She was extremely irritable and would always curse me", said he.

The whole story came to light, and it was as clear as broad day-light. Imagine the prolonged vexations and indignation of a Hindu Lady, who after the delivery of six daughters in succession, was going to give birth to one more, most likely of the same sex. Her heart bled and wept all through the months of her conception, and the child, inheriting its mother's taints, developed a skin which would only fret and chafe and weep and endeavour to subdue the tears (moisture) by the formation of crusts. Staphisag. was my diagnosis, which in 1M and 10M potencies cured the baby, though a few doses of Merc. Sol. 1M and 10M were needed later to combat other phenomena. So much for the romance of Homœopathy, the out-of-the-way approach to the problem of human sickness, that is gratifying not only to the prescriber but to those that look around. One would rather be off his balance on such occasions and sing to homœopathy what the English Poet Keats sang to Autumn:

"Where are the songs of Spring? Aye, where are they?
Think not of them,—thou hast thy music too."

DIAGNOSIS & PROGNOSIS

Hahnemann wants you to observe or perceive your cases by the senses of hearing, sight, smell, touch, intellect and mind (Organon: Sec. 84). As you advance in years, your senses of observation and faculty of perception assume unbelievable magnitudes. You can see, hear, smell and perceive a case even from a distance. Not only that your ears can differentiate, from a distance, a diphtheric respiration from an asthmatic, a throat cough from a pulmonary, not only that your eyes can differentiate, from a distance, an eczema from a dermatitis, an ozena from a nasal polypus, and your smell a typhoid case from a case of measles, a septicæmic case from one of small-pox, but you can clinch a constitutional type and an inherited taint, from a distance of several yards. Moreover, you can detect for the glance a docile face, an irritable, arrogant, haughty, domineer-

ing, sanguine, despondent, gloomy, gluttonous, epicurean, miserly, benevolent, pious, quarrelsome, capricious, naughty, cruel or a murderous face from a distance, as you are a master of human characters. Your powers of diagnosis, therefore, prove superp. On the side of prognosis, besides knowing all that your brother of the opposite school knows, you have developed a special ability that astonishes many. You can discern by now the glow of life or the shadow of death in your patient's face. Many times, with the knowledge of the times of aggravation and amelioration of your remedies, you can proclaim the times of aggravation or amelioration and cure or death for your cases. But, what is most lamentable is that you can not prognose life or death with a hundred per cent accuracy as you should. Your doctrine is that of the Vital Principle, which is the preserver of the living organism, being the steward of the Life Principle itself. Your organism lives or falls with the Vital Principle. An accurate knowledge of the said Vital Principle would enable one to prognose the times of aggravation and amelioration, as well as the point of time of cure or of death. But, unfortunately, despite the much-respected rule of the **SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE SIMILIMUM**, which at best is tentative and so problematic, the doctrinaire has developed nothing tangible to determine, assess, and measure the Vital Principle in general or a vital state in particular. We are left in the dark, and are apt to err, miss and surmise, when the problem of the most accurate prognosis arises.

POTENCIES

With the passage of years, I have noticed that I have been relying more upon the potencies from the 200th to the 10000th. 80% of the potencies used are from this group. Of the remaining 20%, 10% are from potencies above the 10000th. The remaining 10% are from mothertinctures and the potencies up to the 30th. I use the mothertincture of *Cratægus Ox.* in advanced cases of dilatation of the heart, *Uranium Nit. 3X* and *Syzygium Jamb. ϕ* in Diabetes, with gratifying results. *Acid Phos. 6X* in common Diarrhœa and *Pyrogen 6* in lingering Typhoid serve me, on occasions, brilliantly. I know no use of any other lowest potency or

mothertincture in any other ailments, for I never had to use them. The use of the lowest potencies or of the mothertincture may be advocated only when there is gross pathology, and dangerous reactions from the medium as well as the high are feared, because of the extremely low vitality of the patients. A repetition of the same potency, in about twelve hours, normally gives a better impression of the drug. A gradual ascending of the potency-scale serves me brilliantly, which I have learned to advocate. A second stroke i.e., a repetition, after some considerable lapse of time, of the same potency that has been found useful, normally yields further results before ascending to the higher. The smaller the dose, the less the fears of medicinal aggravation, though still there remain some. After-all, our potencies are powers, energies, introduced into the living organism which in its dynamic role invites all actions and follows them with its own reactions.

THE ONLY SUPPORT

The more one advances in years, the more does he feel the necessity to abide by the maxims and practical rules Hahnemann enunciated in the *Organon* (5th edition). The *Organon* and the masterly work on the Chronic Diseases are my sole guides. Whatever new explanations might have been given for the homœopathic Law of Similarity,—may be with the theory of Activity of the Law of Contraria Contraris, as advocated by Dr. Escalante Plancarte, or with the Arndt-Schulz Law, as cited by Dr. Sir John Weir, and whatever may be their worth, the salient feature remains that the practical maxims laid down in the *Organon* are inviolable and they are the sheet-anchors of a thriving and busy practitioner. Still, in the context of the emendations and innovations as we find incorporated in the 6th Ed. of the *Organon*, one feels that a fair trial be given to the maxims of the 6th, which loom large and appear ominous.

THE TRAGEDY

But do you know what you have been? You have a principle, a law to guide your activities; you are a Philosopher. You have strict rules to govern your every step: you are a

grammarians. You evaluate facts and place them in their proper relation of cause & effect ; you are a logician. Your rules admit of precise application, and produce accurate, uniform results ; you are a mathematician. You carve out stories from facts ; you are a realistic novelist. You draw attractive pen-pictures ; you are essentially a painter. You work by imagination, analogy and symbols, that are a source of pleasure to all ; you are a sculptor as well as a poet. You dive deep into the inner-most recesses of the human mind ; you are a psychologist. You write down the past histories of your people ; you are a historian. Over and above the anatomical, physiological aspects of your work, your chief concern is with the Bios or Life ; you are a medical biologist. Your potencies are electro-magnetic energies for the living organism ; you are a bio-physicist. Your work is not in knowledge alone, but in the handicraft of the restoration of the sick organism to its normal pedestal ; you are an artist of life. In the clinical plane, you are so many beings in your single self. Yet, the greatest of tragedies is that you are not aware of what you have been.

May Hahnemann bless you !

SOME THOUGHTS AND THEORIES ON HEALTH, IMMUNITY AND REMEDY ACTION

DR. E. C. LIVINGSTON

In homœopathy one is faced with many fascinating problems, but none so intriguing as the probable mode of action of a remedy. In trying to arrive at some overall satisfactory theory to account for this remedy action, one must first examine and try to reach some conclusions on health and its maintenance in the normal human.