

**EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL
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RESEARCH

You have all heard of the Coxsackie virus; it's such a nice name, you cannot forget it. Named after a town, Coxsackie, in New York, where the rascal was first detected, you will appreciate how difficult it was to find him when you realize that his diameter is less than a millionth of an inch (20 millimicrons). His notoriety is due to his identity being mistaken for that of the poliomyelitis virus, because he produced similar symptoms (very rarely an aseptic meningitis), although he never managed to produce paralysis.

Research has shown us that there are three families (types) of influenza, A, B and C. Surprisingly enough, B is not the bad type! Each of these families although they have the same surname sometimes produce very different kinds of children (strains), who take a particular delight in disguising themselves (changing their antigenic structure by mutation) and dodging the natural defences (antibodies) of their victim. For example, Virus A junior, not yet able to read, pays no attention to the notice to his parent saying "Keep out, Mr. A", and so he trespasses quite happily on the property of the human body, doing quite a bit of damage until he is detected and the bodily defences take the necessary action (form new antibodies) to eliminate him.

Research has shown us that there are some dozen known viruses affecting the respiratory tract and about 9 have been isolated which affect the lymph glands. Research has also shown that most viruses are not responsive to chemotherapy and so allopathic interest is shifting towards homœopathic methods, that is immunization and vaccination, as methods of controlling virus disease. This method, apparently depending on the formation of antibodies in the blood, is liable to be in-

effective when the organism does not pass through the blood, that is in surface infections such as warts and local infections like the common cold and influenza.

As homœopaths we can benefit greatly from orthodox research and let us hope that when the new department of virology has classified the signs and symptoms of each virus infection, we will be able to work out an almost specific homœopathic remedy for each of these acute diseases, just as Hahnemann did for cholera without having even seen a case. The soundness of his deductions being proved dramatically by his followers who treated the disease. We have utilized many allopathic discoveries by potentizing and proving some of their new remedies and using them for treatment of patients having symptoms similar to the toxic "side effects" of these allopathic drugs, for instance, in material doses Alloxan causes diabetes rabbits, whereas in homœopathic potency (1x, 12c and 30c) to human provers it caused a fall in fasting blood sugar in 88 per cent of cases.

In the orthodox treatment of high blood pressure *Rauwolfia serpentina* has been used, but found to produce sluggish mentality, tiredness and depression. These self-same symptoms were produced by proving its homœopathic potencies (3x, 6x, 12c and 30c) in healthy volunteers.

Cortisone was introduced with a flourish of trumpets by the lay press as a cure for rheumatoid arthritis, but after extensive trial was found by the Medical Research Council to be no more effective than aspirin, but producing many unpleasant side effects, most of which were reproduced by proving Cortisone prepared as a homœopathic potency.

From what I have said so far it might appear that all research is carried out by allopathic workers and Homœopathy relies much more on old remedies used exactly as they were used 150 years ago. Some of our orthodox friends certainly think this, but I would like to suggest that, considering the scarcity of homœopathic doctors, it would appear that a high percentage of them are doing research of some kind. The majority carry on their investigations in their spare time without financial aid although a few are helped by the Homœopathic

Research and Educational Trust, which is supported entirely by voluntary donations.

I would like to mention a few of these original thinkers who are working along different lines. I will start by referring to Dr. James Connor, in general practice in Glasgow, who has given us a most interesting paper on a possible relationship between the presence of fungi on damp straw and the incidence of measles and influenza. His ideas originated from reading publications of 100 years ago and his research on the subject involved much reading in various libraries and the correlation of statistics obtained from numerous different sources, including the Agricultural College, Department of Health Ministry of Pensions. Meteorological Department, Commonwealth Mycological Department, Bincard Allergy Service, his conclusion being that a damp autumn might be related to an increase of influenza and measles.

Dr. James Runcie, in general practice in Dunfermline, has been experimenting with Autotherapy, making homœopathic potencies with one of the patient's own secretions or excretions, and helping some problem cases, apparently incurable by other methods, for instance, a breast tumour, acrid perspiration and many others.

Dr. Noel Pratt, in general practice in Norwich, realizing that many good homœopaths retire leaving no written evidence of their exceptional results, has been attempting to obtain detailed records of such cases for publication and I understand he now has some which are available to those interested.

He recently arranged with Campbell of Cambridge for a controlled trial of Homœopathic Influenza Vaccine, but unfortunately all his work was wasted because the expected second wave of influenza fizzled out. I can sympathize with him with fellow feeling, because for a few years I have been an "influenza spotter" for the Medical Research Council investigation and fortunately in one way but unfortunately from the research point of view, there has been very little influenza in my area.

Dr. Pratt now proposes to encourage other doctors to record the results of using *Aristolochia Clématis*, one of

the oldest medicinal herbs known, used for snake bites by the ancient Egyptians and American aborigines, its toxic effects causing massive hæmorrhage internally and externally, and so found useful as a homœopathic remedy for complications of labour injuries and even for gas gangrene.

Dr. W. L. Templeton has superintended research in proving a number of remedies during the last decade. I am sorry to say that he is unwell just now, but hope he soon will be able to bring back his active mind to the furtherance of Homœopathy.

Dr. John Raeside, in general practice in London, is now director of proving and is using a new method, where, until the end of the proving, the director himself does not know what remedy is being proved, what potency is being used, which provers are having the medicine and which are having a dummy.

The late Dr. John Paterson did much research in changes of the bowel bacteria in relation to disease or administration of homœopathic remedies. His wife carries on his good work and helps many other doctors by doing the stool cultures for them and advising in difficult cases.

Dr. C. O. Kennedy in London is carrying on research in the same field, studying the variations in bowel bacteria in relation to:

1. The sluggish state associated with varicose veins compared with the excessively nervous state of thyroid over activity.
2. Malignant diseases.
3. Proving of homœopathic remedies.

Dr. E. K. Lederman completed research in the homœopathic treatment of surgical tuberculosis two years ago.

Dr. D. Foubister and Dr. A. E. Stringer in London are keeping careful records of the homœopathic treatment of children with pneumonia and bronchitis with a view to publishing statistics.

Dr. L. R. Twentyman, the present Editor of the BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC JOURNAL, has done much investigation of the treatment of cancer, particularly the use of Iscador in its treatment, but he is also doing research in attempting to find a method of diagnosing the pre-cancerous state.

Dr. Hamish Boyd, whose efficient service has been responsible for the organization of this Congress, has been continuing the highly technical research in the Boyd Medical Research Laboratories established by the scientific genius of his father. The late Dr. W. E. Boyd proved the existence of a new force in physics and produced biological evidence of the activity of homœopathic high potencies.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

During the last half century all branches of science have made tremendous advances, and in the last decade medicine has become almost mathematically metaphysical in its intensely scientific study and minute measurement of every reasonable factor of every individual part of the human body. The poor medical student has had to cram masses of disconnected and indigestible facts from every science associated with the art of medicine, so that when he passes the last hurdle of his final exams he is left stale, exhausted and having great difficulty in reasoning about imponderable factors not measurable by any scientific instrument.

Fortunately, it has at last been appreciated that the medical curriculum has become too congested and the General Medical Council has recommended that "The memorizing and reproduction of factual data should not be allowed to interfere with the primary need of fostering the critical study of principles and development of independent thought." As homœopaths, we are pleased to note these recommendations and we hope that the result will be that newly qualified doctors will not have closed minds and a few may be prepared to critically study the principles of Homœopathy and at least consider whether or not its practice appeals to their temperament.

The General Medical Council notes on the instruction in medicine states that the student should "learn something of the work of the general practitioner", "the principles of preventive medicine and the influence of heredity and environment and psychological factors" as well as the "importance of interrelating physical, psychological and social aspects of

disease". These remarks might almost be taken from a book on Homœopathic philosophy and they suggest that the pendulum of medical fashion is beginning to swing back from the highly scientific analyses of every measurable bodily function to a more natural but also more philosophical consideration of the patient as a whole, which is in keeping with the ideas of homœopathic philosophy.

—*The British Homœo. Journal, Jan. 1959*

PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE

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However, when we try to integrate this with the physiology and pathology of today an inner discordance becomes apparent. There is no reason why we should not gradually construct an organic science of man which would be to our present physiology and pathology what our homœopathic materia medica should be to the orthodox materia medica.

—*Editorial, The British Homœo. Journal, Oct. '59.*