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## HOMŒOPATHIC FIRST AID IN WAR SITUATION

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Owing to various historical and geographical reasons, and particularly being basically a peace-loving nation we Indians have little experience in actual war conditions. We suffered only the secondary effects of the First Great War, and some little more direct effects, but mainly the effects of the preparatory activities for defence, in the Second Great War. The suffering, the dismay, the calamity of the people in that preparatory condition is still vivid in us—language fails to describe them. From these horrible secondary effects we can easily surmise what happens to people directly affected by war. We have of course heard the stories of the plight of the war devastated people in Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Western Europe.

In such a situation administrative and social securities go to skies. Everybody has to take care of himself, running from place to place in search of more secure dwellings, victims of war missiles, panic, inanition, epidemics etc., etc.

If Chinese aggression has done any good to us, it is in the fact that it has broken our complacency and smugness, and awakened us to the value of National independence, reminded us that no Nation has right to survive unless each of its people while keeping his head up can face any danger or calamity with courage and equanimity and intelligence. Instead of looking to the Government administration which is bound to collapse during war devastations, each citizen must develop the spirit

and habit of self-help and helping his neighbours or companions. This especially applies to First-Aid measures, as first-aid applied in proper time and proper way, may save many people from death, or life-long suffering and cripplement.

On this score Homœopaths can play a very indispensable role. There is hardly any body who does not know a bit of First-Aid based on Folk Medicine (e.g. various drugs from the vegetable, animal and mineral kingdom, various methods of massage and other mechanical means, or even various forms of cult medicine); or on Allopathic Medicine (e.g. various antiseptics, analgesics and narcotics etc). But Alas! these methods are often useless, sometimes harmful. Whereas Homœopathy has unchallengeable proficiency in very many types of cases in connection with war devastations. In the short space of this article I can refer only to a few examples in support of my assertion.

In fatal dynamic conditions like *Shock* and *Collapse* Allopathy has nothing in hand other than some mechanical and physiological measures—which are common to all systems of Medicine. Whereas dynamic medicines like potentised Aconite, Arnica, Gels., China, Carbo Veg., Camphor, Strontium Carb. etc., if Homœopathically applied can save the victim from the very jaws of death.

In *psychological conditions* like panic, fear-complexes, various forms of neurosis, Allopathy has nothing other than so-called tranquillizers—all more or less depressants of the nervous system. Whereas 1 or 2 doses of any of the potentised medicines like—Aconite, Ars., Ignatia, Gels., Opium, etc. Homœopathically applied work miracles.

For *Injuries* of various types (including bruises, laceration, splinter wounds, punctured wounds, cut wounds, strains, sprains etc. etc.) Homœopathy has completely dependable remedies like—Arnica, Calendula, Hypericum, Ledum, Staph., Rhus Tox, Ruta etc.

For *Hæmorrhages*—Arnica, Calendula, Phos., Ferrum Phos., Ipecac, China, Hama., Lachesis, Croc. hor., etc. etc. Any of these medicines when applied Homœopathically acts far more quickly and effectively than any of the best hæmostatics of the Orthodox Medicine.

For *Burns*—Cantharis, Hyperi., Urtica Urens, Causti. etc. will obviate much suffering and complications.

For *Septic Conditions*—Arnica, Calendula, Pyrogen, Ars., Hep. S., Merc., Sili., etc. etc.—will work far better than any of the ultra-modern broad spectrum antibiotics etc.

For *Cellulitis*—Apis, Rhus T., Ars., Tarentula, Sili., Merc. etc.

For *Erysipelas*—Bell., Apis, Rhus T., Euphor., Merc., Lach., Graph. etc.

For *Gangrene*—Ars., Carbo Veg., Secale Cor., Lach., Crot. Casc., Hippoz., Anthra, etc. Any of these medicines applied on the principle of symptom-similarity will surely save a victim not only from the clutches of death, but often from Surgeon's knife.

Ofcourse, I mention all these not for use as a guide in actual practice, but in order to draw the attention of all concerned to the fact that there are numerous types of cases in war situation where Homœopathy can establish its almost exclusive proficiency and that at practically no cost. For more detailed informations in this valuable or rather indispensable line—I would refer the reader to the numerous books in the market—viz. "Homœopathy for the First Aider" by Dr. Dorothy Shepherd, "A Treatise on Homœopathic Surgery" by Drs. R. P. Patel & P. Elias; "External Homœopathic Medicine and First Aid" (M. Bhattacharyya & Co., Calcutta); "হোমিওপ্যাথিতে প্রাথমিক প্রতিবিধান by Dr. B. K. Bose; "বাহু প্রয়োগের ঔষধাবলী" by Dr. P. Chakravarty; "আকস্মিক দুর্ঘটনা ও প্রাথমিক চিকিৎসা" (A chapter in the Domestic Medicine— "পারিবারিক চিকিৎসা" Published by M. Bhattacharyya & Co.).

I would request Homœopathic Publishers to publish much smaller pamphlets at lowest possible price and in all vernacular languages on Elementary First Aid giving simple directions for different types of cases, and appended with a simple and short repertory in the line—so that any lay house-wife can use them with benefit. These simple directives may not cover cent per cent cases, but if they can help in relieving 60% or 70% cases

—which they will surely do—that is not negligible, in view of its mass utility.

I would request each and every Homœopath to get themselves thoroughly equipped with the knowledge and materials (including Homœopathic medicines—external & internal) required for First-Aid, use them with confidence and preach them amongst his neighbours and acquaintances. It goes without saying that they must learn the mechanical aspects of First-Aid from the books like—“First Aid to the Injured” (in various vernaculars), published by St. John Ambulance Association, etc. Every Homœopath should join the First-Aid Centres organised by the Government with great benefit for themselves as well as for the people.

I would request every Homœopathic Association to organise First-Aid training centres not only at its office but also in the remotest villages in its region—so that all people of the locality may get acquainted with and educated in Homœopathic First-Aid (including the mechanical aspects).

We know that, there is hardly any village in India where there is not one or more than one Homœopathic practitioner. If Homœopaths in general take up this matter seriously they can do Yeomen's service in emergency condition that our Mother Land may fall in.

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