

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

*with which is incorporated*

THE INDIAN HOMŒOPATHIC REPORTER

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## EDITORIAL

### THE MODERN CONCEPTION OF PSYCHO- SOMATIC MEDICINE

Our human organism is an indivisible whole, no part of which can be ill without the rest also being affected. Illness has been described as "a living event taking place in a living organism which is itself alive only by virtue of the fact that in it, psychic and somatic are united in a unity." In other words, illness is the result of biological as well as of psychological events. Our body-mind complex is the basis of our physical life which superficially, seems to comprise a daily round of instinctive phenomena, emotions and physiological reflexes of nervous origin both of unconditioned and conditioned character. Ordinarily every psychological event is associated with physico-chemical events and vice versa—as a consequence of which there are both physical and psychological components to be treated in the great majority of illnesses. To our superficial view body seems to control the mind but on a deeper study it seems that it is the mind that controls the body. It may be difficult therefore in any given illness to decide whether the psychological or the biological component is the cause. The experts in psychosomatic medicine are however striving to correlate the changes in the patient's body with the changes that

are occurring in his mind, in other words, to trace the links between biological and psychological events. So long specialisation was tending to divide medicine up into an ever-increasing number of departments so that no one doctor is in a position to treat his patient as an indivisible whole. The wheel seems to be turning now. What Hahnemann strove to impose upon the medical men of his time is being indirectly accepted by the orthodox medical school under the garb of 'psycho-somatic medicine'. The importance of taking the mental symptoms in the study of a patient is being slowly but surely recognised by the so-called scientific modern medicine. The votaries of the said school are just learning to look for the psychological as well as for the biological events that cause illness. But our old Master Hahnemann is still ahead of them. He showed a therapeutic way to utilise the psychological components of the diseased conditions, which the modern medicine has yet failed to grasp.

B. K. S.

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#### THE NEW YEAR

We offer through this journal, which has just stepped in its twentieth year of publication, our New Years warmest greetings and best wishes to our numerous patrons, friends, readers, contributors and subscribers and fervently pray to God for their health, wealth and prosperity.

We are glad to note that Homœopathy is gaining appreciation from the experts of the orthodox school of medicine. We present the readers with the comments of one such Allopathic stalwart Dr. Kenneth Walker, O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Genito-Urinary Department, Royal Northern Hospital, and to St. Paul's Hospital, London :

"The Homœopathic School of Medicine founded by Hahnemann, has also interested itself in the question of