

THE CASE FOR HOMŒOPATHY

BY G. D. PETTIT, D.O., M.D. (E.H.)

Homœopathy differs from every other system of medical practice—excepting Psychology—in that it is applied to the person with the disease rather than the disease itself. This is difficult to understand by the orthodox minded, who have had “disease” and “diagnosis” saturation, but “causation” starvation for so many centuries. All other systems take more account of the pathology of the person according to the Dictionary of Medicine, thus constituting themselves clinical and palliative systems.

Homœopathy can, nevertheless, be used with perfect confidence clinically as in the *Domestic Medical Dictionary* by Dr. J. H. Clark and *The Prescriber* by the same author. But its brilliant results, often miraculous, are to be seen by prescribing for the person and according to the person's own modalities and personality. Really there is no comparison between the system of Homœopathy and the “no-system” of Allopathy. There is “reason” and progression in the one; but chaotic fragments in the other.

But after so many years of thinking in terms of disease, we shall find it hard to keep the “person” before us in treatment—it is the “person” who is the specific “CASE” for Homœopathy and not “HIS DISEASE”. People come to us about their complaints: thus we are very apt to be more occupied with the story they have to tell and try to prescribe for the sciatica, neuralgia or other named complaint. Some personalities seem to overwhelm you and carry you off to their side of the consultation—but be sure of this, if we do prescribe for the “disease” we find ourselves limited in our scope of service; we must keep the person before us in homœopathic treatment.

Many long-standing complaints will yield to the personal touch in medical treatment; the person with the disease is more to us than the disease of the person. The

former is uncommon, but the latter is common to us all. It is what the flesh is heir to, but the person is uncommon; so uncommon that you very seldom find two alike, though one may remind you of another, yet on investigation we find them as wide apart as the poles, so we take care to regard our remedies as persons and our patients as remedies in *Materia Medica*, then we see deeper than the "bad skin, the disordered stomach and the pain in the leg". We can often spot the cause by the indicated remedy, because we know what each remedy stands for, whether for vital drains, excesses or trauma, and we also know that our remedies stand for persons and for all their mental and physical sufferings as well.

When *Arnica* is indicated in a patient who has no history of accidents, I inquire if an instrumental birth was incidental to the case. Instrumental births will produce a state of chronic traumatic debility in the child and also its mother which will last until it becomes "The Case for Homœopathy", then a dose or two of *Arnica* 200 or higher, will bring the disorderly case into order. I've a case on hand now, a baby girl, 18 months old, and not at all satisfactory in health. I inquired regarding its birth and found out that it was a bad birth, baby was lodged by its head for four hours. So I gave a dose of *Arnica* 200 and the report was: "Baby seems different and is having better nights."

Thuja is also a remedy which often suggests itself, i.e. a patient came to me suffering from chronic muscular debility—a very mysterious case, which defied all other methods of treatment. As soon as I saw the body of the patient, which was covered with naevi, moles and warts of all kinds—simply plastered with them—I said, "It is enough." Then the mentality of *Thuja* and also the feeling of woodenness in legs and the characteristic croaking and disorderly movements in abdomen, came to light: Vaccinosis was the cause and upkeep of the condition.

All this is known by the homœopath. Think what this means to a person who has suffered long and much from a disease and at the hands of many physicians, to come to one who is able to see right through the case history—physical, mental and pathological. This is not only a possibility but a certainty. We find out about that long-forgotten accident, that bad time when vaccinated, that bad time at childbirth, that hæmorrhage, that fright and shock long forgotten: the results of all these and many other incidents in the life we live often form the barrier between the patient and successful treatment. They must be obliterated by the “like remedy”.

Every person holds the secret of his or her own ill-health; it is a 90 per cent psychological matter and the homœopathic physician can uncover and discover this secret to both patient and himself far better than the most precise instruments. X-ray cannot discover the past in a man, at its best it can only discover what is present, and sometimes not even that. It is not by differentiating the symptoms of one disease from another that we discover the truth, but by precise comparison of the homœopathic remedy with the disease.

Miss J. came to me suffering from fibrositis in the right shoulder and neck. She had been X-rayed and given all manner of electrical and manipulative treatment at hospital, but the complaint would not yield. I observed *Arnica* symptoms as I examined the locality and inquired about frequent discolorations as of bruises in other parts of her body. The answer to which was, “Yes, I often notice them and wonder how I got them.” So I gave her a does of *Arnica* 200 and some *Arnica* 6x t.i.d. for the present pain. Miss J. recalled an accident which occurred eight years before: “I was cycling downhill and lost control and crashed into a wall. I was knocked unconscious and was badly bruised; my head, neck and shoulder got the blow.” Miss J. reported all pain gone a week later. She was a “Case for Homœopathy”, wasn’t she?

Now I'll tell you about an extraordinary "Case for Homœopathy". Mrs. L. was brought to me by her brother, Mr. H. of London, who came specially to do this service for his suffering sister. Together they told me the story about Mrs. L.'s fall from a window and had been taken to hospital with a damaged spine, and for twenty years she had been an in-patient and out-patient at the orthopaedic hospital, undergoing all manner of treatments; plaster, electrical and ray apparatus had been used on her without any relief from the pain she suffered—she simply would not and could not be cured. Why? She also had a nervous heart, weak lungs, weak bladder, prolapse of the womb—in fact she seemed internally all wrong. Then there was her mind. You will be able to imagine that, when I tell you Mrs. L. could not lie down at night without pain, could not sit down or stand either without pain. Her only relief was to walk about, and often she could be seen walking about with her dogs in the early hours of the morning so that she would not disturb her family by her ceaseless walking about the house; thus she was a very despondent and disappointed woman, and no wonder. I examined her spine and found vertebral rotations and a depressed coccyx, which were replaced, and I gave her *Arnica* 200, *Tuberc.* 200 (the latter because I spotted it to be urgently required by the case before me), and some *Kali phos.* 6 for the first week's treatment.

The next time I saw Mrs. L. and her brother they were on the verge of tears of joy because Mrs. L. had relief from the pain during rest in any position and only felt them on first movement which soon passed off afterwards. So I made the necessary adjustments and prescribed *Rhus tox.* 6x and *Silica* 6 for the damaged coccyx, and by the end of the first month's treatment all the spinal pains had gone, and I was invited to tackle the heart, lungs and abdominal symptoms. This I did and was successful in removing all discomforts and strengthening Mrs. L. in general, so much so that at the end of three months' treatment

Mrs. L. came to see me and said, "Mr. P., I've nothing to report or complain of now, so I can go on my way rejoicing."

Another "Case for Homœopathy" is Mrs. R. of osteoarthritis fame. Yes, she was quite a subject for students at the hospital. Many times the instructor made the remark, "You see, Mrs. R. has osteo-arthritis of her left hip joint, which has powdered—granulated, I expect he meant—there is, of course, no cure for her. It is a very painful complaint for which nothing more can be done." Well, a friend of Mrs. R. became a patient of mine for general debility and Mrs. R., seeing the great improvement in her friend's health, sent for me to investigate her case.

I took down the case history which was as follows: "A fall from a loft, a motor accident and several bad falls and spinal damage." Thus traumatic arthritis was possible, but then, she was very cosmopolitan, always on the go, from one place to another, "must go somewhere" or "do something different" and her left hip-joint was the main seat of the trouble; her lumbar vertebra was rotated and the right innominate was upward on the sacrum, making the right leg shorter than the left, causing her to bend over to the right when walking and causing a drag on left and damaged hip-joint. She could only move about with difficulty and could not go out of doors without help. She also complained of a very sore bruised feeling all over, especially at night in bed. She had been in this state twenty-eight years, becoming more and more immobile. I gave her a dose of *Arnica* 200, and *Arnica* 6 to be taken during the day. I also gave manipulative treatment and secured a measure of easy mobility in the parts that had been tied up for so many years.

I saw the case a fortnight later and she said, "I feel distinctly relieved of something." She could not say what, but she thought she could move about better and the sore bruised feeling was better at night. I then gave her more manipulation and a dose of *Tuberc.* 200, and a dose of

Arnica 200 to be taken in three days' time, and continued *Arnica* 6 as before.

When I saw her again she said, "Please give me another tablet, I felt so much better after the one you gave me last week," so I gave her another tablet of *Tuberc.* 200. She had been moving about much better, the soreness was less and she could straighten up and stoop without pain.

After this, every week she improved until I was greeted with, "Mr. P., I've been out in the car this week. I got in and out without any assistance and I've been out in the garden alone and used only one stick to steady myself. I hope to be able to do some gardening soon." A month later we walked around the garden together and Mrs. R. had been out visiting friends, and for nearly a year now she has been living a painless and contented life; the great urge to go somewhere has been subdued.

Now for a case of thrombo angetis obliterans. Mr. D., aged 59, a grocer, was sent to me by a patient of mine who was a customer of his. He presented a very sorry state of physical and mental torture and turmoil; he could express himself but feebly with sobbing and sighing. The pain he endured was bad during the day but worse at night in bed, causing sleepless nights. He had been to hospital for local treatment but got no relief from pain, so an operation was proposed, but Mr. D. could not face up to it. He was at the end of his tether, desiring to dodge the undertaker, so he was persuaded to try elsewhere and came to me on October 8th, 1951.

I examined his legs, which were bulky and lardy from the malleoli upwards, and the usual rash was present, like vesicles of blood, and at the base of the toes a nasty ulcerating patch of veins; also at tip of one toe a very painful ulcer was present and signs of more appearing on the joints of the others. The burning, stinging and pricking pain was worse from heat in any form; fanning the legs was a comfort, so I gave him *Lachesis* 6, night, morning and noon.

Mr. D.'s case worked out at psorinum constitutionally. He had been a very heavy smoker, an athlete, and history of overstrain plus standing all day at business, produced his bad heart, circulation and lymphatic derangement. Well, homœopathic treatment, month by month, produced results which surprised him. Mr. D. did not have the operation and was discharged cured, but warned about the chronic effects of indulging in tobacco smoking and burning the candle at both ends by overwork in business and late nights in pleasure, which had contributed to his recent bad condition.

Our next and last "Case for Homœopathy" is a triumph indeed. It is a case which puts the Dictionary of Medicine and all that it stands for out of court. I could write on and on for weeks about the gruelling time I've had, trying to subdue the demons of hereditary taint and the consequences of incidents of many kinds, accidents, vexations, violations and over-strain in study, etc.

It was away back in 1943 that I first treated Mr. G. W. for gastric symptoms, plus noises in ear, deafness and vertigo. Typical Ménière's disease, you say. Well, yes, there's no mistaking those symptoms, but even Ménière's disease has a "cause", so, having found out the reason "why" of the case at that time, I went to work to remove the nuisance from our friend Mr. G. W.

Acting on the information received about a previous severe blow to the right side of the head, and also the mishap during a sham fight, when a pointed hedge stick was thrust into the eye socket, narrowly missing the eyeball itself, I ignored the Ménière's disease remedies and went all out for the traumatic side of the case, plus the hereditary miasm which was staring me in the face. This was tubercular, because nothing pleased Mr. G. W. better than a walk in a strong cold wind and vigorous exercise, which would sometimes relieve him of his bad head and stomach distress.

I gave him *Tuberc.* 200, also to be taken later a dose of *Nat. sul.* 200 and *Nat. sul.* 6x for the present bad turn for which I was consulted. Mr. G. W. responded well to this treatment, the attack soon subsided and he was able to return to office, better tempered and feeling better in every way.

But a month later he came to see me again. A boil was coming up on the left side in line with the previous one, so I gave him more *Sil.* 6 and the boil was soon suppurating. After this, no further trouble was experienced until 1948, when, for some reason or other, the deafness, noises and vertigo returned. I found out that the patient had been over-studying and learning to play the violin; Mr. G. W. was a very studious and philosophical person and is very intense in everything he does. I was called in again and retook the case and prescribed for the cause at that time. His giddiness was so bad that he could not walk or stand alone; at its height he could not bear to move, to speak or have a light in the room. He had no gastric symptoms this time but very bad catarrh, which was always present from autumn to spring, wet conditions always provoked its return. I prescribed time after time, but only temporary results could be obtained, so an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist was called in. The Specialist gave the usual local treatments, which did no good, so he advised Mr. G. W. to go to a London specialist for Ménière's cases. This advice was carried out, but the Specialist could only advise an operation which was uncertain in its results, so Mr. G. W. refused to lend himself to uncertainty and phoned to me. I advised him to get in touch with Dr. F. of Walthamstow before returning home, which he did and was greatly encouraged by Dr. F. and accepted treatment from him. The case seemed to be yielding to treatment at last and progressed favourably for a few months then relapsed again consequent upon a very upsetting business incident which caused the patient much anxiety and depression. He could not face up to business,

he could not go out of doors, he could not walk across the room, and was sleepless and he lost confidence in himself and everyone else. Oh, he was a wreck of a man. I've had many a sleepless night on his account and many a troubled day.

As soon as Mr. G. W. realized that Dr. F. could not do any more for him, he called in the Ear Specialist again—at that time the nicotinic acid and histamine injections were being used for Ménière's cases. These were tried but did no good, so the Specialist advised Mr. G. W. to see a psychiatrist. Mr. G. W. agreed and went to see the doctor advised. They went into the case thoroughly, exposing "bogey" after "bogey", as is usual, but Mr. G. W. did not respond but steadily got worse. Then Mrs. G. W. asked me to try again, so I had another go and, reviewing all the accumulated medical history of the case, I was led to view it from the standpoint of "inco-ordination" instead of giddiness, etc.—I might mention that while under treatment from Dr. F., a blood test was made and radionic apparatus revealed an encephalon, which was located above the right ear in the brain tissue. This knowledge was of very great value to me and led me to prescribe the application of an ointment to the cranium for the breaking down of the patch of atrophied tissue. The idea of "inco-ordination" was strong upon me because several symptoms corresponded to the alumina drug picture, so I gave *Alumina* 30, morning and noon.

The result was, within a month, Mr. G. W. was out of doors, working and moving about with confidence again. During his lapse in health, his business had suffered, income reduced to bare living, loss of confidence in himself and inability to move about, reduced him to an abject state of inferiority and incapability for further business life and an old-established business on the "rocks". So I then tackled the psychological side of the case with homœopathic remedies and psychological training and advice, to rekindle his interest in life and work. In this I also succeeded and

now our friend Mr. G. W. is at the head of the firm of building contractors and is making headway in recovering the lost prestige of the firm and restoration of its much-respected name.

- You will say, "What a case." Well, what I've written is only a part of the story. Much of my own gruelling experiences have been left out. The doctor's side of the case is rarely quoted, but we do experience a lot of deep anxiety and disappointments which seem to tear us to pieces, but then, we get our joy and reward for hard work and patient continuance in well doing. The reward for us is "the triumph for Homœopathy" over all other therapies in curing the "Case for Homœopathy" where others have failed.

—*Heal Thyself, June, 1952*

VITAL FORCE

BY DR. S. C. ANAND, M.B., B.S., EX-I.M.S.

There are two schools of biologists, Mechanistic and Vitalistic. The former regard all the phenomena of life as due to the laws of physics and chemistry, and look forward to the day when the extension of our knowledge will enable us to explain them all in terms of these sciences. We are ignorant of the details of the processes in which they occur. We are as ever ignorant how the purposive direction of the life processes is brought about in the structure of the living machine of our body. According to this theory all physical phenomena are variances in the structure or configuration of material systems, thus reducing all vital and physiological processes to the elements of Mass and Motion. Wundt says that according to this causal conception long prevalent in the kindred departments of natural sciences, which regard nature as a single chain of causes and effects, the ultimate laws of causal actions are the