

criber the drug picture represents the picture of the constitution, especially if this drug picture includes mental and general signs and symptoms. I have given a summary of several drug pictures, stressing the pathology of liver and gall-bladder with the typical modalities and the outstanding mental characteristics. The list of these remedies is far from complete, as is the account I have given of each one. I shall be very interested to hear your comments and very grateful to receive information from you, which will fill the many gaps which I have left.

(To be continued)

DR. HAHNEMANN AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS*

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Homœopathy holds a special position among various systems of medicines in the world. It is now practised in most of the countries of the universe, but in certain places it holds a unique position. People are very fond of this medicine because of its great efficacy, although it is used in minute doses. Homœopathic medicines are most palatable to children and they relish its pills because of sweetness and minuteness. The world is celebrating today the bicentennial birth of Dr. Hahnemann, the discoverer of this wonderful system of medicine.

Homœopathy was discovered in the latter part of the 18th century. In Europe, there was chaos and confusion in every sphere of life. Allopathy was in its infant state and had not developed properly. The Art of medicine was in the hands of lay and untrained practitioners and there were no basic principles of medical therapy in those days.

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It was time when charlatans flourished. The result was that thousands used to die without medical aid. Brutal methods were used for treating the insane and blood letting, boiling, burning, beating etc., were in vogue in those days. Dr. Hahnemann was highly shocked by this pathetic condition of the people. His heart bled and he took a vow to release suffering humanity from this menace. He mustered all his forces to this end, and humanity is getting the fruits of his labours today.

Two hundred years ago. Samuel Hahnemann was born in Germany on the 10th April 1755. Who could dream this very Hahnemann would be the discoverer of Homœopathy and would be a great benefactor of humanity. The genius and talent of Hahnemann could be observed from his childhood. He had become a master of French, English, German, Latin, Greek, Arabic, and Hebrew. He had a special aptitude for the Art of Medicine. In spite of his bad pecuniary conditions, Hahnemann got the diploma of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Vienna. To keep up his body and soul together, he used to translate books at night. On account of his extra-ordinary ability and strong common sense, Hahnemann became one of the most distinguished physicians of Germany. In view of the chaotic conditions of medicine in those days, Hahnemann determined to discover a therapy based on scientific principles. He was a great believer in the omnipotence of God. He was convinced that the creator of the universe must have ordained certain fundamental principles of therapy and they were only to be discovered.

In this pursuit after truth, he was greatly helped by the action of Cinchona. Once he was translating a book where he read that cinchona bark was used for eradicating malarial fever. He also read that if cinchona is given to a healthy person in large quantities, he gets cold, fever, sweat etc., which are the symptoms of Malaria as well. Thus he got a clue to the principle that if a drug produces certain symptoms on a healthy human being, the same

drug cures all those symptoms found on a patient. He carried on his experiments with this principle for a number of years. He had to give up his practice and had to undergo many hardships and encountered stiff oppositions from all over the country. Yet he carried on his experiments under all odds, and ultimately proclaimed the principle of 'Similia Similibus Curentur' to the world. He called this new system of therapy as Homœopathy. This principle of Similia was not a new principle to the world. Ayurveda had already referred to this principle in the maxim 'Poison Kills Poison'.

The proclamation of this new principle of cure raised a lot of hue and cry among the physicians of the world. They unanimously voiced a protest against Hahnemann and his new therapy. Yet they could not silence Hahnemann, who had sacrificed his medical practice and all his earthly possessions for the propagation of those principles. He had to pass through the greatest privations and vicissitudes of life and had to migrate from one city to the other and had ultimately to settle in Paris. Here he got the sympathy of the Government and the elite of the town. He continued to practice Homœopathy here and propagated it with all his vigour. He wrote numerous articles and delivered numberless speeches in support of Homœopathy. These writings and speeches had a great impression on the learned doctors of the day and many of them became votaries of his new doctrine. They also experimented with these new principles and when convinced of the truth they vouched for them to the world. After great deal of trials and tribulations this therapy got a foothold in the hearts of the people of Europe and America. Homœopathy propounded many other new principles in the therapeutic world. Polypharmacy was in vogue in those days, but Hahnemann discarded this and announced the use single remedy at a time. The second important principle is that the minimum quantity of the medicine gives the maximum benefit. The third principle which

this new system propagated was that the power of medicine could be raised by potentisation.

The apothecaries also opposed the new therapy of Hahnemann. According to the law in force in those days, every doctor had to purchase medicines from registered apothecaries only. Dr. Hahnemann and his associates protested against this law. Many suits were filed against him but he carried on his march towards his goal and after many years of continuous fight achieved his mission.

Dr. Hahnemann's first book, *Organon*, helped greatly in propagating his principles of new therapy. After that he published his *Materia Medica* which contains the symptoms of a number of medicines, particularly those which he had experimented on himself and on his disciples. Last of all he published "The Chronic Diseases" which created a great effect on his opponents also and they had to submit to the greatness of Homœopathy.

By this therapy, not only ordinary cases of illness were undertaken but cases of chronic, infectious and epidemic diseases were also treated and cured. The miraculous cures in cholera epidemic created a furor in Europe and America. Homœopathy has been highly successful in mental and nervous ailments. Homœopathy also propounded a new principle that the Vital Force keeps the human system in healthy equilibrium. The slackness or failure of the vital force causes all mental and physical ailments and mental symptoms play a vital role in the treatment of the sick. Thus Homœopathy is the first system which considered more the mental side of man than the physical one. It has been proved that minute homœopathic medicines play a wonderful part in the treatment of mental ailments e.g., Insanity, Hysteria etc.

Dr. Hahnemann continued to strive for the advancement of Homœopathy throughout his life. Although he breathed his last on 2nd July 1843 at the ripe age of 88, yet he has become immortal because of his legacy of Homœopathy to the needy world. He was a saint. We are all

reaping the fruits of his Tapasya. Millions of people are getting enamoured of Homœopathy whose future is extremely bright. Let us pay our grateful homage to this greatest benefactor of mankind and let us pledge ourselves today that we shall keep his candle burning for ever.

HOMŒOPATHY AND CHRONIC DISEASES

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Homœopathy is a system of medicine founded by Samuel Hahnemann about 150 years ago and is based on the law of cure Similia Similibus Curentur or like cures like.

This system of medicine brought about a revolution in the medical world because it discovered a new law of cure and devised a new method of preparation of remedies. Prior to the discovery of homœopathy, the cure of chronic diseases was in the realm of uncertainty. Blood letting was rampant and suppression of acute diseases by allopathic drugs was the order of the day. Chronic diseases which increased with the suppression of acute ones, were borne with resignation as they were thought to be incurable.

With the advent of Homœopathy, the situation began to improve, but slowly, as many antagonistic forces were pitted against it, which Hahnemann had to contend with singlehanded. But he kept aloft the banner of truth under which gathered many of his eminent disciples who carried the light of homœopathy far and wide to other countries.

Hahnemann had to work assiduously for full twelve years to complete the homœopathic mode of cure of chronic diseases. He found out that the miasm of Psora alone or in combination with that of Syphilis or sycosis had been the cause of all chronic diseases under which humanity groaned. He, therefore, proved remedies which