

part of the 6th (?) trituration (one millionth part) of the original substance. Each succeeding potency is made in the ratio of 1 ; 50,000 in place of the old ratio of 1 : 100. Such potencies he has recommended for frequent repetition in deviated form.

Much can be said theoretically, but I think I have taken much of your time and I close my paper here with the belief that my senior-most colleagues will further elucidate the facts confirmed by their practical study.*

HOMŒOPATHY AND DIAGNOSIS

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Much stress has been laid upon diagnosis in the treatment of diseases by our brethren of the other schools of medicine and the public are also impressed with their plausible arguments that without diagnosis no rational treatment of disease is possible. This common belief is strengthened by the fact that the other systems of medicine and the public think that disease is of the body and unless a physician makes a diagnosis he has no basis to prescribe on.

These arguments are advanced to look down upon homœopathy which is supposed to be a child's play having no scientific basis at all because it attaches no importance to diagnosis in the matter of selection of remedies. The fallacy of these arguments will be apparent from the fact that allopaths think disease is something hidden in the interior and can only be known by physical and other examinations ; whereas in fact the disease is nothing but a derangement of the vital force discernible only by means of signs and symptoms.

* Read on 7th Nov., 53, in a general meeting of the District Homœo. Association, Dehra Dun.

The sum total of these signs and symptoms is the same as the disease, and what others call disease is nothing but the result of disease.

To think of prescribing medicine on the results of disease (i.e. structural changes in organs) is confusion, but to prescribe it on the totality of strange and peculiar symptoms of the diseased man is orderly and is the true scientific prescribing.

MAN PRIOR TO HIS ORGANS

Man is prior to his organ ; to prescribe for the diseased organs, and leave out the diseased man is trying only to cure a part, not the whole, which is not cure but suppression. This may relieve the diseased organ, but the life-force which remains as ill as before must transfer the disease to some other organ which is more vital or revive the disease in the same organ as before.

Symptoms, mental as well as physical, represent the diseased man and should form the basis of a scientific prescription. Diagnosis is nothing but the knowledge of the structural change in organs and as such it should play no part in the selection of a remedy, as structural changes appear long after the disease comes into the system, sometimes say after 10 or 20 years in chronic diseases. Diagnosis, as it is at present understood, leaves out the man and directs our attention to the part which homœopathy does not take into consideration except in relation to the whole.

VOICE OF NATURE

Homœopathy does not minimise the importance of diagnosis, as it is essential in its own sphere, but surely the former is reluctant to offer the latter any place in the selection of remedies. On the contrary, a homœopathic rule is that the more a symptom is important from the point of view of diagnosis, the less is it important from the point of view of prescribing. The duty of the physician is to note down the morbid signs and symptoms in the patient and to find out in the *Materia Medica* the particular remedy

which has produced similar symptoms in the 'provings' on the healthy human body and to give the remedy to the patient in proper potency and dose in order that cure may take place. In other words, his business is to compare the two sets of natural phenomena—on the one hand, the signs and symptoms produced by the disease in the human organism and, on the other, the signs and symptoms brought out by remedies in the provings on healthy human body, and to adjust one to the other on the basis of similarity in such a manner that recovery may ensue. It is not his function to disregard the voice of nature and try to establish his own diagnosis which may not at all be possible at that stage or if possible may be wrong, and even if right cannot indicate a remedy as no results of disease can properly do.

Homœopathy studies the disease in all its three stages its beginnings, its later developments and its ultimates—in order to have a fuller idea of the whole extent of the disease.

The beginnings of disease may be studied in childhood, development in youth and old age and ultimates at death.

Homœopathically the remedy can be fitted to the patient even when no diagnosis can be established and the patient may be cured without much ado, but those systems of treatment which base their prescription or diagnosis must wait for the disease to ultimate in structural changes when diseases become obstinate and sometimes incurable, before they can think themselves competent to prescribe any remedy for the disease. Is it not the excellence of homœopathy that it can cure its patient long before the diagnosis can be settled upon and thus save him from much further trouble? And it does this all because it does not take the help of diagnosis in the matter of prescription.

DIAGNOSIS A HINDERANCE

From this it would appear that instead of being a help, diagnosis is often an actual hinderance as far as the selec-

tion of remedies goes. Even in structural changes when diagnosis can be established, homœopathy holds out hopes of complete cure in a shorter space of time, provided the patients are in a curable condition.

Physical diagnosis is very important in its own place and homœopathy never throws any cloud upon it.

By means of physical diagnosis the physician may find out the changes in the organs, decide how far the disease has progressed and determine if the case is incurable or not. Diagnosis will decide whether palliative or curative treatment should be given to the patient.

Diagnosis also gives information as to the course and duration of the disease. It will be of great help to the physician in the matter of prescribing diet for the patient. Diagnosis is something that the physician cannot be foolish about. He cannot afford to be a blunderer, he cannot afford to go around calling pleurisy influenza and influenza pleurisy.

But the study of pathology (diagnosis) is a separate and distinct thing from the study of materia medica (selection of remedies). Diagnosis for the purpose of selecting a remedy is an anomaly and is resorted to by those systems of medicine which study disease only in its ultimates.

RESCUED FROM THE SURGEON'S KNIFE

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Mr. D. C. S., aged about 26 years, an aircraft Engineer, on 14th June 1954, jumped from the main door (about 5 ft. high) of an aircraft after which he started feeling a little uneasiness in the abdomen. During the next two days the pain was felt more and more and there was a feeling of heaviness in the abdomen as if due to constipa-