

perly qualified students, at least such graduates of modern medicine as are interested in Homœopathy, to take post-graduate education and training in the subject at educational and research centres in England and U.S.A., and assure them of absorption in the State Services on return to India, considering the post-graduate diploma in homœopathy at par as regards value with the other allopathic post-graduate diplomas.

Mere condemnation of homœopathy and the denial even of step-motherly treatment towards it is not enough. Some concrete steps must be taken to assure the homœopathy-minded public that the Government is keen enough to encourage the science.

SOMETHING CONCERNING CHOLERA

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Cholera is endemic with more or less virulence in our country and under the pressure of emergency, the subject of its prevention and cure deserves our attention. In the beginning of an epidemic of cholera we find that nothing favours the spread of it more than the fear of it. The first duty, therefore, that must be effected by sanitary and police regulations is to remove everything which might cause fear and anxiety. Cholera is a disease which appears, as a rule, very suddenly and brings the patient down quickly. Dr. Clarke says, "it is better to treat patients at their own homes if at all possible, as the very fact of moving a patient into a hospital may make the difference between death and recovery." At the approach of an epidemic of cholera, we would, therefore, earnestly advise people to avoid everything which might tend to develop fear, terror and anxiety. The other causes are erroneous diet and mode of living, bad hygienic surroundings, intemperence, derangement of

stomach, and excesses in eating and drinking of every kind. We should especially avoid the following articles of diet, such as, cold fish, meat and drink, all sour and unripe fruits, coffee, tea, brandy, fatty foods, all sorts of spices and the recommended bitters and elixirs against cholera. The best diet is the simple food free from all substances containing medicinal powers and a few glasses of cold water quiet free from acids. Many physicians are of opinion, that a high degree of continuous heat, with the subsequent cooling of the air, and the colds thus caused are a frequent cause of the outbreak of cholera. It is advisable to arrange the clothing accordingly and to resort to proper precautions when exposed to such colds. Finally, it is found that, during the prevalence of cholera, many are seized with a diarrhoea, neglected or mismanaged, which often develops into real cholera, nay, into an advanced stage of it, where a cure is already more difficult and uncertain.

The approach of an epidemic of cholera may be checked, as we possess prophylactics which have the power of preventing the outbreak of cholera. They comprise such remedies that are able to cure the disease after it has broken out. Prophylactics should be selected not only according to the requirements of the genus epidemicus but also according to the requirements of the individual. These afford an absolute protection and thousands of people by the use of Homœopathic prophylactics have escaped cholera. Now, come to the point; the therapeutic law of Homœopathy states that, "A weaker dynamic affection is permanently extinguished in the living organism by a stronger one, if the latter (whilst differing in kind) is very similar to the former in its manifestations." In plain words, it means that a disease can be cured radically only by the administration of a drug which can produce on the healthy body a similar complex of symptoms. The Homœopathic law of cure "Similia Similibus Curentur" (like cures like?) has revolutionized the medical world. The simple fact, abundantly proven, that the remedy having the symptoms

corresponding to the symptoms of the patient, cures him, where a cure is at all possible, is one of the greatest discoveries of medical investigation. Sickness can be learned by the study of the provings of drugs upon the healthy economy. In medicines we have the exact counterpart for the diseases of man. This subject leads into the study of protection as well. Dr. Kent says "Man is protected from sickness in two ways,—by Homœopathy and by use. The other and greater prophylactic is the Homœopathic remedy." It is the law of the universe. "It is law that governs the world and we base our propositions on law". The cure and prevention of disease depends entirely upon a fixed law—the law of similars. Hahnemann had not seen a case of cholera, but he predicted that Camphor, Cuprum, and Veratrum, will become remedies in the cure of cholera, prevalent in Europe at that time, as he saw in their nature the ability to cure. In cholera we will naturally hunt for such remedies which produce cholera-like discharges, more or less spasmodic condition, the great blueness, coldness, sinking, and collapse. The general aspect of cholera is like the general aspect of Cuprum,, Camphor, Veratrum, Arsenic, Phosphorus, Ipecac, Secale Cor etc., we can enter an epidemic of cholera safely with a working knowledge of our Materia Medica in our mind. Any one who knows how to pick up and select the correct remedy can easily carry on the treatment of cholera with success. Camphor, Cuprum, Veratrum etc., still hold together for Asiatic Cholera. A complete picture of cholera is visible in these remedies put together. We should correctly and rapidly individualize the remedy, and grasp something that is peculiar, uncommon or sufficiently characteristic in the confirmed pathogenesis of a polychrest remedy.

It is not, indeed, our intention to offer anything new to the experienced physician but to the beginner, with the hope that it may be of some benefit to him. Cholera has paved the way for Homœopathy all over the world, as the most unmistakable triumphs of Homœopathy have been

made in the treatment of this fell disease. The immortal Hahnemann gave his first suggestions for the treatment of Cholera in the year 1831. We find that the type changes incessantly, not only with each outbreak but also with each patient. In the first stage, a safe and quick cure is possible and it requires a most rapid aid. If it is not attended to, it passes into another stage when the cure is more difficult and uncertain. In such a case we should first have to send for a doctor. There are, however, cases of cholera where we can see little of the first stage and the disease appears in its second stage. It will be our task to pay the utmost attention to all bowel disorders at a time when cholera is prevalent. A diarrhoea during a cholera season accompanied by difficult micturition should be looked upon as incipient cholera. The passing of urine on the part of a cholera patient is to be taken as a sign that the cholera process is at an end. But unfortunately some die immediately after passing the urine. The removal of the irritation of the digestive organs will engage our first attention and thereafter the restoration of the function of blood. The treatment of the stage of cholera collapse is a difficult and complicated one. The feeding of cholera patients must be carried on gradually and carefully. Food in the form of sago, barley or arrowroot boiled and salted is to be preferred. Abstinence for diet beyond a moderate measure is often injurious and only delays full recovery. Give him no drink but cold water; small pieces of ice may be given in moderate quantities to allay vomiting. At the beginning of attack, confine the patient to bed immediately and have him use a bed-pan to avoid getting up. If he inclines to coldness, apply artificial heat, surround him with bottles of hot water and cover him with blankets. The room he is to occupy should be large, airy and well-lighted. All kinds of movement is to be avoided and keep the patient quiet. Disinfect all discharges and soiled clothing. Friction with a dry hand is the best method to remove spasm, restore body heat and normal circulation.

During convalescence the diet is of the greatest importance and great care must be taken in this regard. No solid food should be taken while there is any looseness of bowels. Liquid food should be given until the patient is fully recovered. All excesses must be avoided, but he should not be allowed to suffer from hunger. All water used for drinking should be boiled. Prognosis must be guarded.

In short, the pathology of cholera is that, the fluids run out of the body, the blood becomes dark and thick, the fluids are drawn from muscles, the viscera and in fact from most of the tissues and all tissues become dry and reduced in volume. Finally, the circulation of blood becomes impaired through the minute capillaries of the organism and it is deprived of its purifier, oxygen. We must never lose sight of the serious condition of the blood, upon which after-all sustenance of the organs themselves depends. The anguish for less of breath and hunger for air depend on the same condition. With the serous dejection, a considerable quantity of saline matter passes out of the body.

Concerning the treatment of cholera, the main point is the selection of the most suitable remedy and if this rule is violated the patient runs the risk, in spite of large doses, of succumbing to the malady. If a remedy is properly indicated, the smallest dose accomplishes everything, and the smallest possible dose has the advantage that, if the remedy does not bring about a response, another remedy can be chosen with safety in its place. Medicines given in massive doses may interfere with the curative process, and low attenuations prescribed in drop doses lead to the most tumultuous aggravations, that finally kill the patient. The violence of symptoms renders the necessity of repeated doses, and if the former dose had effected an improvement, it may, however, be repeated by dissolving one or two pellets in a few spoonfuls of water, a teaspoonful in a dose being administered as frequently as the case requires. It is impractical to repeat the same unchanged dose of a

remedy, as the vital principle does not tolerate such unchanged doses without resistance. If the succeeding dose is changed slightly, everytime potentized somewhat higher, the cure may be brought nearer. It is absolutely not allowed in Homœopathy to give the patient at one time two different medicinal substances conjointly or in alteration. By the administration of a suitable medicine in the smallest dose, the patient will gradually regain warmth, strength, consciousness, and sleep and thus be saved.

(To be continued)

DR. LARNED AND MR. VICAR

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Characters : Mr. Vicar, a prospective student for the degree of M. D.

Dr. Larned, a stalwart practitioner of the healing art.

Scene : A physician's office near a large city, close to a well-known medical college.

Mr. Vicar : (Entering) May I come in ?

Dr. Larned : Oh, so you are the Mr. Vicar I have been expecting ?

Mr. Vicar : Yes, Doctor.

Dr. Larned : And what can I do for you, Mr. Vicar ?

Mr. V. : Well, you see, Doctor, I am hoping to enter the study of medicine, and naturally I have eagerly sought the opportunity, which you have generously granted, of talking it over briefly with you.

Dr. L. : Yes. Well, I congratulate you — on your choice of profession, that is. It is a grand and noble calling, not, I regret to say, always held in that same high esteem by some in our present day as in the not too far distant past. Still, its ideals remain, or should, for all time.