

HOMOEOPATHY IN THE MODERN SET-UP

DR. LAKSHMI CHARAN VARMA, ARRAH.

Homoeopathy is a system of medicine founded by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann of Germany. It offers a life of service to the physician and the only method of healing that surely sets the sick man on the permanent road to recovery.

We are living to-day in an Atomic Age. The discovery of atomic energy is one of the biggest achievements of the modern times and it is a well known fact that the atomic energy first made its impress upon the minds of people in general through its destructive role, through tremendous havoc it created upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The biggest problem that confronts the world today is to put a check upon the destructive aspect of atoms, and U.N.O. is trying its best, through its various Sub-organisations, to get atomic energy used on right lines. The scientists are now agreed that atoms must now go in for peace, for bringing welfare, solace and health to ailing and war-torn humanity.

I may very humbly suggest here that in the Science of Homoeopathy, the atomic energy is being utilized for the last hundred and fifty years or so for the good of humanity, for bringing relief and permanent cure at the door of the sick man. Hahnemann was probably the first scientist in the world who visualized the tremendous potentiality of the atom, and while once discovering the truth he did not stoop so low as to prepare atom bombs for destroying a city or as a matter of fact the whole humanity. Far from that, he utilized the new truth for bringing peace and comfort to mankind. Hahnemann discovered the principle of potentization and used potentized drugs instead of crude ones, which were creating havoc. This discovery of his is the greatest gift to Science in general and to the world of medicine in particular. It is evident that Homoeopathy has been using atoms for peaceful purposes and for human welfare, since Hahnemann's times, and has been throwing

a challenge to those who are out to outrage the peace of the world by the help of atomic energy.

Homœopathy is a Science based on a Natural Law. Hahnemann was a great scientist, scholar and philosopher and at the same time a great observer. He enunciated a few basic principles which are more eternal than the mountains. The said principles are scientific, for the results have been checked and re-checked and the findings applied with unflinching success when the principles were properly followed. The first therapeutic principle of Homœopathy is 'like will cure like'. The Homœopathic physicians are guided in the selection of their remedies by the law of similars at every stage of the treatment.

The second principle of Homœopathy is "Treat the patient and not the disease". To Hahnemann the tangible symptoms of a disease were nothing but the manifestations of the deranged Vital force, by which he realized that what was to be treated was not the outward manifestations of the disease but the sick Vital Principle, the real man. The Homœopathic physician does not hunt for the gross pathology and the name of the disease, but tries to study every case individually with an open eye. It is a common truth that if we go round a ward of Pneumonias all of which are pathologically alike, accurate observations will show that there are variations in the individual cases. One patient may be anxious, the other resigned; one quiet, the other restless in bed; one not thirsty, the other thirsty for small or large quantities of hot or cold water. Thus it is evident that there are variations in the details of patient's reactions to one and the same disease. Under the circumstances the Homœopathic physician takes into consideration the different varying symptoms in the selection of the drug suited to the case. The third principle of Homœopathy is "One and only one drug at a time is to be administered to meet the requirements of a given case. The minimum dose is to be resorted to in the cure of the patients."

The Homœopathic physician has to look into the per-

sonality, constitution and modality of his patient and has to study his diseased condition in the light of the totality of symptoms. He has not to bother about the search of this or that bacterium. This, indeed, puts him in a greatly advantageous position. He can begin the treatment of his patients, without taking the least trouble of making pathological investigations. The patient too is profited by this, for he is not to undergo heavy expenses on that account, nor has he to wait for the results of pathological findings so that his treatment might begin.

The greatest virtue of the homoeopathic drugs selected on the totality of symptoms is that they stimulate the diseased body cells in a unique manner and restore normal function of the economy in an ideal way.

The Homoeopathic physician's highest ideal of cure is "rapid, gentle and permanent" restoration of health as contrasted to the mere suppression of out-ward symptoms of the diseased individual (Vide Organon, sec. 1 & 2).

Homoeopathic drugs not selected on the totality of symptoms may cause suppressions, but such a suppression is very mild as compared to the suppression caused by the administration of strong dissimilar drugs. Such drugs cause great harm to the human economy and instead of curing the disease they overload the body with more serious types of diseases. For instance, a suppression of the outward manifestation of an itch on the skin, by the application of strong ointments, may produce in its turn asthma, heart disease, Bright's disease or some such other grave ailments.

The Homoeopathic physician usually comes across such cases of suppression and finally after the administration of the suitable homoeopathic similimum brings out the itch again on the surface of the skin, when the patient gets rid of his serious disease. This verifies clinically the grave consequences of suppression. In modern times, strong and stronger drugs are being invented every day in the name of panaceas of all diseases; but they go to prove them-

selves within a very short span of time to be strong agents of suppression. Homoeopathic physician with his tiny pellets of atomic energy stands as the only ray of hope for the help of the victims of such suppression.

The modern world is now attaching great importance to psychology in the treatment of the sick. It would not be out of place to mention that Homoeopathy from the very day of its inception is very particular about the mentals of a patient and according to its principles mental symptoms are to be given the first importance in the selection of a remedy ; for it is the mentals that represent the man in the most characteristic sense. I can here hazard an opinion, without fear of being contradicted, that the lunatic asylums of to-day would be non-existent, if the patients were allowed to be treated Homœopathically with patience and perseverance.

India has just emerged from the bondage of slavery, but it still stands at the door of poverty, disease and ignorance. The masses are poor, uneducated, ill-clad and ill-nourished. The ill health of our population is based on Socio-economic factors and the dominant school of medicine, with its high priced drugs, and expensive preliminaries to the diagnosis of a disease, can hardly cope with the health problem of the country. Homoeopathy with its cheap but efficacious drugs can prove to be a real boon to the ailing masses of India, and the sooner the nation-builders and planners entrusted with the task of revitalizing our economy realize this, the better for the masses in general and the ailing sections in particular.

Evidently, Homœopathy is a science based on certain basic principles, the application of which demands great artistic skill on the part of the Homœopathic physician. It goes without saying that any deviation from the above basic principles is never Homoeopathy and one who so deviates is by no stretch of imagination a Hahnemannian Homœopath.