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**KEY-NOTES AND THE RULE OF THREE**

In Homœopathy when the phrase "Rule of three" is mentioned, this refers to the fact, discovered by the old masters, that when a patient has three well-marked symptoms which have been developed in the proving of a certain drug, then that remedy may be prescribed with confidence. Two symptoms are not enough and prescribing on one symptom is usually not satisfactory.

It is reported that the elder Lippe said something like this: "If you sit on a stool with only one leg, you wobble about; if a stool has two legs, you teeter-totter; if it has three legs, you sit allright!"

This "rule of three" is valuable and reassuring. Thus, if the patient has general relief in cool weather, is not constipated but on the other hand has two and sometimes three normal stools every day and has also aversion to fatty foods, trimming the fat from his meat (when he has any), Pulsatilla is almost sure to help, no matter what the diagnosis is.

Dr. H. N. Guernsey, more than any other, developed "key-notes." Prescribing on single symptoms

would seem hazardous but that was not his idea. "The key-note," says Guernsey, "is only meant to state some strong characteristic symptoms, and on referring to the Symptom Codex, all the others will surely be there if this one is. There must be a head to everything : so in symptomatology,—if the most interior or peculiar, or key-note is discernible, it will be found that all the other symptoms of the case will be also found under that remedy which gives existence to this peculiar one, if that remedy is well proven. It will be necessary, in order to prescribe efficiently, to discover in every case that which characterizes one remedy above another, in every combination of symptoms that exists. There is certainly some thing, in every case of illness, which preeminently characterizes that case or causes it to differ from every other. So in the remedy to be selected, there is or must be a combination of symptoms, a peculiar combination, characteristic or, more strikingly, key-note. Strike that and all the others are easily touched, attuned or sounded. There is only one key-note to any piece of music, however complicated, and that note governs all the others in the various parts, no matter how many variations, trills, accompaniments, etc."

Here are some of the "key-notes" taken from Guernsey's "Obstetrics :"

*Belladonna.* The child cries out suddenly, and after awhile it ceases crying as suddenly as it began, and appears as if nothing had been the matter.

*Borax.* The child cannot bear downward motion,

not even during sleep. It cannot be put down out of the nurse's arms: it awakens and cries on the attempt being made. It has much colic and indigestion.

*Bryonia.* She must evidently be kept very still, in order to relieve her colic and other sufferings. The stools are dark, dry, and hard, as if burnt.

*China.* Colic comes on at a certain hour every afternoon.

*Jalapa.* When the child is "good" all day, but screams and is restless all night.

In practice it will often be found that the "key-note" gives the clue, and that further questioning will bring out at least two other symptoms to make the three legs of the stool upon which we may rest in safety. Thus we see that the "rule of three" and "key-notes" are really complimentary and not the result of different Homœopathic philosophies.

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## GLANDULAR DYSTROPHY

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The subject of glandular dystrophy is a vast one. In the diagnostic field, especially, it covers many phases of disease. Glandular disfunction is oft a much abused term, particularly in cases where the symptoms presented to us, defy our diagnostic acumen. Under this heading we have chosen for our discussion today