

COMMON PARASITIC INFECTION IN RURAL CHILDREN

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India being the second most populated country in the world, seventy per cent of the population live in rural areas. In other words most of the children, the real future of the nation, grow themselves in rural soil utilising all possible opportunities available in the environment as their manure. But their growth is restricted due to want of proper nutrients such as a tree cannot grow properly without light, water or any deficiency of salt etc. As a result they lose their resistance and become more prone to be attacked by noxious agents and earn fatal sufferings. India being an economically backward country, cannot afford them all possible medical aid with costly treatment in orthodox system of medicine and in the long run they die for want of proper medical aid or even if they live, they cannot face each and every challenge of youth due to want of vitality or stamina. On the other hand, in this unavoidable economical condition, Homoeopathy, a modern therapeutic and the cheapest curative pathy is the real controller of all rural sufferings. The Govt. of India is trying to introduce this pathy in all rural areas of the country to treat the people with the cheapest and brings the real 'cure', i.e. to restore the previous normal health.

Out of all sufferings faced by the rural children in vermination or parasitic infection is the prime cause of many vital sufferings. Let us discuss some common parasites which cause a great deal of obstacles for improvement of child health as they live on *blood*, the main constituent of the body.

One of the renowned homoeopaths of this century, Dr. Joseph Laurie, M.D. is of opinion that the existence of worms in the intestinal canal, the majority of cases, evidently arise from a peculiar constitutional taint inducing a certain diseased state of the mucus membrane or lining and thereby giving rise to the formation of these parasites, and although no period of life is wholly exempt from their presence, infants and children appear to be much more subject to the affection than adults on account of predominance of nutrition in early youth, weakness of digestive functions, accumulation of mucus in the intestines, an ill-regulated diet and a degree of moisture in the atmosphere.

On the contrary, allopathic system of medicine says that parasites and the outward living noxious agents which enter the human body through intestinal canal, skin etc. and multiply themselves using human body as host and cause all pathogenic effects according to the nature of parasitic infections if the host loses his internal resistance.

In protozoal infections, the parasites such as *Entamoeba histolytica* trophic form secretes a powerful histolytic toxin and destroys tissues and

plasmodia parasites destroy erythrocytes, while undergoing erythrocytic schizogony. In helmenthic infections no multiplication occurs inside human body but the growing larvae and the products liberated from dead parasites behave like foreign proteins and cause allergic manifestations such as creeping eruption and eosinophilia by hookworm larvae, Loeffler's syndrome (simple pulmonary eosinophilia) in ascariasis and strongyloidiasis, lymphangitis and eosinophilia in wuchereriasis and so on.

It matters little from which source the noxious foreign agents are infecting the human host and causing all virulent manifestations. As far as treatment is concerned we are to eradicate the parasite either through killing process or through arresting further growth. But when we come to the prophylactic part a controversy arises because both pathies differ regarding the origin of parasite. Any way, it is admitted both by Homoeopathy and Allopathy that it is better to prevent the susceptible individual from coming in contact with the infective agents or to create resistance in the individual so that the infective agents even if infested cannot multiply themselves inside the host.

Another prophylaxis called therapeutic prophylaxis is that parasite is attacked within the host, thereby killing the infecting agents. Clinical prophylaxis is not to prevent the infections but to cure the clinical manifestations by drug therapy, which Homoeopathy actually does. Modern entomologists have studied the life cycle of parasites and laboratory findings reveal that parasites need some intermediate host to multiply themselves which Homoeopathy cannot deny as a fact of science. Hence we are to eradicate the infection from intermediate host. Infective agents can also be destroyed while they exist free outside the human host.

As far as curative side is concerned like Allopathy, Homoeopathy does not believe in a specific drug therapy for a particular parasite, but the remedy is selected on the basis of totality of symptoms.

Hence, depending on the various signs & symptoms of the sufferer we are to select a remedy. As our medicines are administered in potentised form it acts with the dynamic life energy called vital force which is the real resistance of the body and by the conjoint effect of vital force and medicine can control the further growth of parasites as well as paralyses the same so that the outward manifestations caused by parasites gradually disappear to a full extent and child recovers the previous normal health.

As we are to deal with child health hazards, apart from medicines which relate to children's sufferings, we must also attend to the hygienic treatment. The natural history of the parasites should be attended to pork, meats which are uncooked or under cooked should be avoided to guard against tapeworm and Trichinae. Raw fruits and vegetables, sweets should be avoided to prevent entry of roundworm. Personal hygiene, i.e. cutting of nail regularly, washing hands properly before eating anything can prevent

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Antim. crud. etc. Similar is the case with acute tonsillitis which easily yields to Calc. iod., Baryta carb, Bacillinium, Phytolacca etc.

The respiratory affections of the little ones can easily be controlled with Aconite, Arsenic alb., Ipecac, Bacillinium, Pothos etc. if given in little pills. The constitutional remedies like Bacillinium may restore them to complete health.

For the aphthous mouth and stomatitis of the children Merc. sol., Borax, Acid nitric, Arum. triph. are the chief homoeopathic remedies.

The liver problems of the sweet ones are solved by sweet powders saturated with dynamic dilutions of Chelidonium, Lycopodium, Card. m., Merc. sol. etc.

Cina, Santonine, Teucrium mar., Chelone ϕ in drops doses are the enemies to every kind of worms settled in the large or small intestines of the small ones.

The remedies mentioned above for different conditions are most commonly indicated. They are not specifics. There are no patent or specific medicines for different diseases in Homoeopathy which treats the person as a whole after taking into account the family, past and present history of the case. The disease as such has no meaning in the homoeopathic treatment which should be based on totality of symptoms and chronic miasm involved in a particular case.

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reinfection of threadworm as the eggs usually come through nails while scratching the irritable perianal region caused by adult threadworm and go to stomach with the food if hands are not properly washed. Wearing of shoes is essential to guard against hookworm infection as they enter through soft skin of feet and go to the circulation of the body and grow inside as adult form. Using of mosquito net can prevent re-entry of malarial parasites through hair follicles. Drinking of boiled water can prevent infection of Entamoeba histolytica and Giardia intestinalis.