

THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

Vol. LI

SEPTEMBER 1984

No. 9

EDITORIAL

CURE

A good friend of mine, a medical practitioner of modern medicine, casually asked me, "Have you a cure for infectious diseases?". Naturally, like all homoeopaths I promptly replied, "Of course yes, what do you mean! Have you any doubts?" The topic ended there. But later during our subsequent conversation I realised the reason for his asking that question.

Hahnemann's first aphorism is very clear on the point. "The physician's high and the only mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, as it is termed." How much do we achieve this in practice? Honestly speaking, very little or none. Many of us may not agree. But it is a bitter truth.

Mother complains of the child having severe cold and cough. We prescribe on *similinum*. The cold and cough disappears. Later she reports, "Doctor, though the cough and cold is better the child is having diarrhoea now." Again we prescribe on *similinum* and the child is cured of its diarrhoea. This is followed by vomiting and fever. Again we treat and on it goes. Every time, according to us it is a *similinum* and the cure and every new situation is different from the previous one. According to the philosophy, each of these conditions is not a new entity but the same manifesting differently in different constitutions depending upon the individual susceptibility that Hahnemann attributed to miasm, an obstacle to cure an underlying propensity to become chronically ill. Cure, therefore, is very difficult ideally. What we achieve in practice is often a *palliation* or producing relief from symptoms of a particular time and not the Hahnemannian cure in its true sense.

The process of true cure may need approximately spaced constitutional remedies that may take months or years depending upon the strength of one's constitution and inherited influences. Each time a constitutional remedy is prescribed, it removes a part of this chronic propensity systematically, i.e. from within outwards, from above downwards and in the reverse order of appearance of the symptoms. During this process, rarely does the patient suffer from any acute ailment and any flare up is only a cleansing process, transient aggravation of the underlying chronic problems which rarely need

a treatment. If these transient problems were treated they would cause a relapse, a very unhealthy thing to happen. Surprisingly, during this 'operation cleansing' the patient enjoys a very fine resilient level of health which he had never enjoyed before.

Homoeopathy has a fixed principle, very easy to understand. But its subtle philosophy is difficult to practice. Each one of us must make an endeavour to practise conscientiously avoiding haste and impatience.

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