

A NEW LOOK TO CHRONIC MIASMS

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According to Hahnemann, all chronic diseases of mankind must have for their origin and foundation, constant chronic miasms, whereby their parasitical existence in the human organism is enabled to continually rise and grow. To be more precise, the three chronic miasms, psora (internal itch malady), sycosis (figwart disease), and syphilis (venereal chancre disease) are thought to be responsible for most, if not all, the chronic diseases, which manifest themselves through local symptoms.

Miasmatically, however, psora and itch are not identical; while psora is said to be a condition of man, a condition that favours diseases, itch is merely an indication of the existence of psora. Sycosis is not gonorrhoea but it is said to be the condition of human system, that is bonded on to it by gonorrhoea, which is not cured but only made to disappear, either by a course of un-homoeopathic treatment or of itself. Similarly syphilis is a condition of the system arising out of the suppression of the chancre.

T. H. Morgan, the Nobel laureate, observed, "Attempts were known to identify certain gross physical human types such as bilious, lymphatic, nervous etc. Some of these were supposed to be more susceptible to certain ailments or diseases than were other types, which in turn have their own constitutional characteristics. These well-intended efforts were, however, so far in advance of our genetic information that the geneticists may be excused if they refuse to discuss them seriously."

Normal development is a highly sensitive process and dependent on the harmoniously integrated function of thousands of genic units, changes or losses of which through mutation may lead to a breakdown of development. Expression of emotional disorder is also thought to be closely linked with genetic background. Genes are normally known to produce more than that of visible effect on the individual, while there may be many invisible effects also of the same gene and in case where a condition of susceptibility to certain diseases is present, it may be that, a careful scrutiny will detect some minor visible effects produced by the same gene.

It is relevant, therefore, in this context, to quote observation of J. T. Kent, "It is clear that Hahnemann wishes to teach that it is a disorder of the activities of the internal man, a lack of harmony or lack of balance, which gives forth the signs and symptoms by which we recognise diseases."

An understanding of the gene action is the basis to the understanding of metabolism and development of diseases, both inborn and secondary. More than 1600 human diseases are already known to be caused by defects in the content or expression of genetic information. Although normally stable, a gene subjected to unusual stress, is known to undergo a sudden

permanent change, mutation, in its inner constitution and continue to incorporate the changed feature into its daughter gene wherever it produces. Generally all mutations bring forth basic biochemical changes and practically most mutations are harmful to the organism.

While spontaneous mutations are known to occur under natural conditions of environment, mutations are also known to be produced by various physical and chemical agents. Recent findings that the coli bacteria can be responsible for more than doubling the spontaneous mutation frequency and also that when a virus penetrates into a cell, it introduces in the cell a new genetic structure that interferes with the genetic information already contained within the cell, have upset many old notions, including the traditional distinction between heredity and infection. Even a superficial bacterial infection is known to give rise to chronic kidney disturbances, due to absorption of toxic agents produced by the organism. No chemical agent of sufficiently low toxicity is however available for the treatment of systematic bacterial infection. Kent observed, "The chronic diseases are far deeper and tend to progress from simple states to the very highest degree of complexity, not always alone and by itself but often by villainous aid of drugging." Although mutation may arise in any type of cell carrying inheritable material, if one occurs in cells which give rise only to somatic tissue, the mutation will be eliminated with the death of the individual. If, however, the mutation occurs in a cell which gives rise to germ tissue, it can pass from one generation to the next. Miasmatically speaking the susceptibility of psora, sycosis and syphilis is laid by inheritance and that the complicated forms of psora are those which are inherited.

For descriptive purpose, the mutant genes are grouped into three distinctly different categories lethal, semi-lethal and sub-lethal based on the effects they have on the phenotype. Miasmatically also, psora, sycosis and syphilis are known to be distinctly different in producing their effects. While psora is more commonly known to attack blood vessels and liver and causes deposits beneath the skin, forming suppuration and boils, sycosis affects the soft tissues and syphilis affects both the soft tissues and the bones. To be more specific psora is the sensitising miasm, sycosis is the incoordinating miasm and syphilis is the destructive miasm.

Considering the above facts and analogies it may, therefore, be inferred that all diseases that involve changes or losses of genes, through mutations brought about by chronic stimuli, induced or spontaneous, are chronic in nature. Whereas the acute diseases do not necessarily involve gene mutations and are merely caused by defects in the defence mechanism of the body, which in turn is under the controlling influence of the immune response (Ir) genes.

For curing acute diseases, therefore, remedies that are short acting antigenic in nature should be required so that an antigen-antibody immuno-

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and all these he said in presence of my clients. This is not all. In support of his argument he cited from a book on Homoeopathy (Oh! he had it at the right moment.) that 'the placebo is the second best medicine.' We, the homoeopaths, do very well know that placebo is no medicine. After giving some medicine, when we ought to watch its effects for long till we decide to prescribe for the second time, some patients may lose their patience for going without medicine during this long period of watch. We prescribe placebo for them and also in some such cases with fleeting symptoms, not as a medicine but for earning their confidence. So the proverb should stand as *placebo is the second best help to the patients.*

In passing it should be mentioned that there are some who may not approve of the above modifications. They may suggest otherwise, but they must feel that the modifications are due.

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logical response can be triggered. Whereas in chronic diseases, the remedies should be deep acting mutagenic in nature so that a reverse-mutation system, manifested through coming of older symptoms in reverse order, can be effected.

A *reverse mutation* from a mutant to a wild type allele is, however, already known to occur.

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Since then she never had the trouble and on her next visit to Delhi (after about a year) she was again examined and declared free from the brain tumour. So I did get the support in my prescription of pathological findings or otherwise I might have made a mistake.

All modern aids and equipments belong to the medical science and they are just like tools which are to be used by any system of medicine, may be Allopathy, Ayurveda or Homoeopathy or any other system of medicine.

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