

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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## EDITORIAL

### DRUG PROVING/RE-PROVING

The armamentarium of homoeopathic therapeutics is homocopathic materia medica. Homocopathic materia medica is an outcome of continuous research work conducted by Hahnemann, who gave the medical world a unique method of proving on healthy human beings. We recognise it today by human pharmacology but science does not recognise Hahnemann and his foresight.

There has been an evolution in the homoeopathic materia medica. There were not more than one hundred drugs proved by the time Hahnemann left the scene. In course of the last one hundred years over two thousand drugs including nosodes, bowel nosodes etc. were added to our materia medica but of them not more than one thousand have been proved.

If we closely study, we find that any material on the earth is a potential therapeutic agent. Hahnemann had shown the marvel of potentisation. Any crude substance having no medicinal properties in that state could be converted to powerful therapeutic agent by potentisation. What we need is power of observation which we often lack badly.

While I was at the Central Research Institute a project to introduce new drugs in Homoeopathy by proving was taken up. Studying the literature on the provings conducted in the past it was found that there was a lot of scope for improvement in the *modus operandi* of the provings.

The project of proving drugs was introduced amongst the students of the homoeopathic colleges thinking that they would experience the first hand impression on the formation of materia medica and would have a feeling involvement which was more important. While a few showed interest and did work diligently, most of them took it very lightly and casually; they lacked the will to do the experiment.

In spite of the handicaps, over a dozen of drugs like *Abroma augusta*, *Tylophora indica*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Holarrhena antidysenterica* etc. were proved. A few of them have been well received by the profession. It is time that our profession gears up and starts work on this project. Un-

fortunately our pharmaceutical companies in this respect are very non-imaginative, and aloof; they are happy with their day to day dealings and they feel that they have nothing to do with research and development. It is a sad story. Even without the governmental assistance the Western pharmaceutical industry is totally wedded to the cause. We may have to take a lesson from them.

The question of re-proving is equally important. We know that the central figure in the entire proving programme is a healthy human being. The materia medica is a record of response of this man to the drug stimuli. A change in this man is bound to produce the changed response even if the stimuli (the drug) remains the same. We do not know if change in ecological factors over the years has any effect on the drugs though theoretically there is such a possibility. So, the case for re-proving is very strong.

We must start a new wave; colleges, associations and physicians must involve themselves. It is only then we could present a strong therapeutic system.

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