

IS HOMOEOPATHY SCIENTIFIC?

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Last year I had an opportunity to meet with Professor Santi Ranjan Palit, D.Sc., F.R.I.C. (Lond.), F.N.A., the world-famous scientist of polymer chemistry, who is a true lover of Homoeopathy also. Knowing me a worshipper of Homoeopathy during conversation, Prof. Palit raised some points against this therapeutic system of cure which are the result of his random thoughts on the subject. I have collected all these random thoughts of Prof. Palit and present it here to draw attention of the wiser fellow-brethren, as he thinks that it is our sacred duty, the duty of the homoeopaths, to try to remove all doubts against this therapeutic system of treatment.

Thousand and one words can be said in favour of Homoeopathy to prove that it is a scientific method of treatment but at some points any bridge between Homoeopathy and modern science cannot be made. Beyond any doubt science has established that matter is not infinitely divisible, atoms and molecules being the ultimate units of transaction. The number of atoms and molecules in a given quantity of matter can be counted, but in Homoeopathy medicines are diluted to such a stage where hardly one unit of atom or molecule is likely to be encountered in a given dose of medicine.

This loses all meaning in a scientific sense. From the above an unpleasant conclusion can be made that modern science can have no link with Homoeopathy. (1)

We, the homoeopaths always demand that Homoeopathy has to its credit a large number of cures and some of which are miraculous. This system of treatment is being increasingly accepted in our country also. To speak the truth, many other systems of cure, such as water treatment, talisman, witch-doctoring, etc are also claimed to be efficacious and seem to have an unending life in our country. In advanced Western countries Homoeopathy has a back seat and even in its country of origin (Germany), it has almost been ousted. It is difficult to understand why this therapeutic system is unpopular in progressive countries, had it any positive curative value. (2)

No science worth the name, can rest on the revelation of one single brain and that has actually happened in case of Homoeopathy. Science is no respecter of person but Homoeopathy is. The homoeopaths have adored Hahnemann, worshipped him, deified him but have never tried to critically examine, understand and extend him and here is the first and foremost breaking point of modern science with Homoeopathy. According to Prof. Palit, this is a deplorable unscientific state of affairs and the earlier it is remedied, the better it is for Homoeopathy. (3)

Prof. Palit has made some suggestions also for the betterment of Homoeopathy, which are given below.

It has been noticed that the chemical compound like carcinogens produce cancer by prolonged contact. Even cigarette smoke contains the deadly carcinogen benz pyrene which produces lung cancer. If the famous Hahnemannian dictum of similarity is universally applicable, an immediate conclusion can be made that these carcinogens contain the nucleus of cures for cancer. The homoeopaths should try to do the proving for these carcinogens and to potentize them to produce homoeopathic medicines for curing cancer.

There are other disease and abnormality producing chemicals also. For example, hallucinogens have been extensively used to produce psychic conditions. Attempt may be made also to do the proving of hallucinogens, such as L.S.D., mescaline etc. and to potentize them to produce drugs to be used for psychic cases. Phthalidomide had created panic by producing deformed babies. Attempt may be made also to do the proving on phthalidomide to produce homoeopathic medicine.

Starch is known to make people fatty. According to Hahnemannian dictum of similarity a medicine for curing obesity can be tried to prepare by doing the proving and potentizing starch homoeopathically. (4) A big field is awaiting homoeopathic exploration and even the slightest success would be a great boon to the suffering humanity. Prof. Palit advised to establish an institute of Homoeopathy to study possible homoeopathic use of the thousands of new chemicals.

Since the time of Hahnemann, the number of homoeopathic medicines, proved and unproved, have increased enormously and it has become a problem to choose the correct medicine matching mostly with the symptoms of the patient. If many more are added as suggested above, a chaos may result. Prof. Palit suggested to computerize all the symptoms of the existing and future medicines. It would be then a matter of few seconds only to find the exact medicine after codification of the patients' symptoms and feeding it into a computer. If not computers, card indexing of symptoms on data processing cards may be attempted. (5)

It is a fact that animal experimentation has been totally ignored in Homoeopathy and microscopic exploration has never received any significant attention of the Homoeopaths. According to Prof. Palit animal experimentation and microscopic exploration should be pressed into service.

Last of all again Prof. Palit reminded that Homoeopaths should critically examine the validity of Hahnemann's basic principle, *similia similibus curantur*, and should try to find out its limitations, to extend or to modify it, as necessary. (6)

Editorial Comments : (1) It is quite true that no molecules or ions are traceable in attenuations above 12C or 23X (Avogadro's limit), and no explanation for the dynamic action of remedies acceptable to the scientists was available so long. But the situation is fast changing lately by the works of various scientists of whom the following may be mentioned: Dr. J. H. Stephenson, Dr. V. M. Margutti and Mr. D. S. Rawson. Mr. Rawson has

proved that it is not the biophysical or biochemical action of the molecules themselves that produce the obvious effect on living organism, but it is the *information* of the molecules of the particular drug transmitted into the solvent or attenuating medium (cybernetics) that produce the dynamic action. We published a number of articles in this connection of which the following are mentioned for reference:

Mr. D. S. Rawson

Scientific Approach to Homoeopathy with special Reference to Potentization, *H. G.*, April 1973.

Entropy, Cybernetics & Homoeopathy, *H. G.*, May 1973.

Science and Homoeopathy, *H. G.*, August 1973.

Homoeopathic Approach to Pollution, *H. G.*, June 1972.

On the Nature of Serial Dilution and Succussion With a Note on Homoeopathic Proving, *H. G.*, December 1976.

Dr. J. H. Stephenson

On the possible Field Effect of Solvent Phase of High Dilution, *H. G.*, October 1971.

Fresh Evidence for a Biophysical Field, *H. G.*, May 1973.

Dr. V. M. Margutti

The Minima, Man & Biomagnetism, *H. G.*, October 1974.

(2) *Relief* (palliation or suppression) of one or more trouble may be given by any system of medicine. But *cure* is not possible by any form of medicine except those prescribed on basic principles of Homoeopathy. This is so only because, in all other systems, the medicine is prescribed for relieving one or two symptoms, but Homoeopathy has to prescribe medicine based on all the manifestations of the whole disease—*totality of symptoms*, with an aim to annihilate the disease in its whole extent. Naturally *cure* takes more time than simply cloaking the symptoms (palliation). So the crux of the problem is to clearly comprehend the basic differences between **cure versus palliation/suppression**. Homoeopathy is failing to make any headway in Western countries only because of time-fetish prevailing there. They generally are not much inclined to spare the time required for true cure and are prone to run after quick palliation at any cost of money or real health.

(3) No conscious homoeopath adores or worships Hahnemann as a man, rather they never spare him for some of the spots in his life. Homoeopaths as well as many a modern scientist bow their heads to the principles and facts contributed by Hahnemann to the art and science of medicine which are being understood and ratified today, more than 150 years after his life-time.

(4) The matter is not so simple. The causes of obesity are more complicated, multifaceted and deep rooted, in which the excess of starch intake

plays almost an insignificant role. So potentised starch is likely to produce little significant effect.

(5) The idea of quick processing of the data obtained from individual cases by computer, as a great advancement over card repertory, is already in the idea of homoeopathic society. But the problem of collecting and evaluating the data remains the same. And it is on this latter, that real curative prescription depends.
