

CAN HOMŒOPATHY DO HARM ?

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People ask, if a homœopathic remedy does not do good, will it not then do harm?

It is a pertinent question. Even a minute dose of a drug is supposed to retain all the properties of the original substance.

When a healthy man repeatedly takes a drug in minute doses, there comes a time when some disease-symptoms make their appearance. These symptoms are called "the drug-disease symptoms", as distinct from natural disease-symptoms.

It may be reasonably supposed that in a case where such symptoms have appeared, the earlier doses, including the very first one, have contributed to the production of the drug disease symptoms ; the fractional powers of each and all the doses, must have caused them by their cumulative effect.

In the light of the Arndt-Schulz Law, we have to revise our opinion. According to this Law, "small stimuli encourage life activity, medium-strong stimuli tend to impede it and very strong stimuli are apt to stop or destroy it."

So, the earlier doses are to encourage life activity, until they are raised to the level of medium-strong stimuli by their cumulation and begin to impede life activity and go to produce drug-disease symptoms.

Hahnemann's humility and regard for truth made him say, "We have no means of . . . gaining essential knowledge as to the process of life in the interior of man . . ."

As a genius he has built more than he knew when he declared that homœopathy has made provision for human fallibility. Even a wrong remedy is not likely to harm unless it is grossly misused in complete defiance of the dosage prescribed by him.

The apparent evil is often to follow the correct remedy which tends to cause aggravation, to be followed by amelioration. A cure without aggravation may take place when the drug-force and the disease-force happen to be equal.

The rightly selected remedy acts on the diseased parts

vehemently. Again, susceptibility to the impression of a remedy varies from one to a thousand degrees.

To avoid aggravation Hahnemann used to dissolve a pellet or pellets in seven to twenty tablespoons of water and administered the solution in teaspoonful doses. He assures us that one cannot minimise the dose of a rightly selected remedy to such an extent as to make it quite ineffective. He encourages his followers to use even less than what he prescribed.

The users of drops per dose either do not get susceptible patients or their choice is often wrong. The apparent good effect is no criterion of the efficacy of homœopathy. Though the indicated remedy is often the best palliative as well as radically curative, at times, immediate, sudden relief signifies the wrong choice, the symptoms will soon return.

An inmate of our house invariably gets relief from the pain in his loins in the morning which lasts only two or three days, whenever he takes a homœopathic remedy for any complaint. This must be the effect of small stimuli.

A partially similar remedy gives partial results; the most similar remedy may bring about a radical cure, unless obstructed by the remote effects of suppression, which too can be liquidated if the patient has vitality.

The real danger may come when a remedy which should have been used 20 years earlier is given at an advanced stage of an inveterate disease, e.g. Kali carb. high in T.B., and gout.

Thus, the reply to the original question is a qualified 'No'.

ANTIBIOTICS

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To cope with the risks of recuperation after surgery, Homœopathy has a wide choice from among remedies, covering destruction of tissue and suppuration, aiding the processes of healing including the knitting of bones. They are administered by mouth. Homœopathy is a boon to the surgeon who masters it.

—*The Layman Speaks*, Nov., '57