

A USEFUL ADJUNCT TO THE HOMŒOPATHIC REMEDY IN CHILDREN

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When the idea for this paper first occurred, it was to be a paper about "maturity." Since none of us has arrived at maturity, it was thought best to discuss some other aid to the homœopathic remedy. An article on loneliness caught the writer's eye and led to consideration of tensions in general. However, a feeling of loneliness can be one of the first tensions a being can undergo.

Hahnemann was right when he advised us to make the field in which the homœopathic remedy is to operate as clear as possible and as free from all hindering agents as any human can do. One of the hardest to get rid of is tension. If we could put our patient under a bell-jar and have twenty-four hour a day control over him we could do much better.

Loneliness in a crowd is even harder to bear than when one is absolutely alone. To see others with companions in a theatre or nightclub while one sits alone is far worse than being in the woods by oneself. Perhaps the most lonesome of all is a member of a family of many members who feels unwanted and out of it all. A child senses and learns this at a far earlier age than we realize.

The most lonely of all is the unwanted child. His apprehension of his position is picked up with unerring accuracy by his observation of his companions. Fine words cannot hide an adverse behaviour and the child becomes a "lone wolf." This can grow into all sorts of tensions. He feels frustrated from the start and by all kinds of imaginings he takes on his pattern of behaviour. He may do it by crying and whining, by feigned illness, by naughtiness, this latter followed in the future by crime, by developing haughtiness, by becoming a show-off, and by a great many others. As these are developed with opposite

reactions of the parents to overcome them, the tension increases and the health suffers, both mental and physical. Usually such a child is unwanted by the parents and he turns, if he has older siblings, to some older sister and brother. If he is unwanted by any of them, he is most surely out of luck.

It is a very rare parent who can remember his own childhood and adjust his mode of thinking and feeling to that of a child. The parent cannot seem to understand the child's problems, hopes and fears. The relative size is all awry, especially to the parent. The latter is a victim of his own training and although he may have undergone the very same emotions, he cannot look upon them in a detached manner, especially when they are of the more unacceptable practices of society. The parental reaction is to lecture and punish, instead of taking the matter in stride and saying, "Now look here, Bud, I went through that very same thing myself. I know how you feel. My dad whaled the daylights out of me and lectured me for two hours, but it didn't do any good. Here is the way we might be able to do this together—do it the way I finally worked it out." The child then knows he is wanted, that he has backing and that he is not alone.

The above could apply to a sick child especially one with one of the childhood diseases. When the child is tossing about with an earache, Pop could tell him how he raised Cain when he was a kid and had it, how he would not stay in bed and exposure brought on an ache like nobody's business. When Pop has the confidence of the child both he and the physician will have much better cooperation and less complication.

Love, confidence and understanding can do much to aid the homœopathic remedy. They resolve a lot of tension whose adverse reaction can be more potent than that of inimical drugs.

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