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EDITORIAL

HOW TO PAY HOMAGE TO HAHNEMANN

Hero-worship has no place in Science. Science adores a person not for his personality or any attribute other than his contributions to the general store of knowledge. The more radical and all-embracing those contributions are, the more permanent and unassailable they are or in other words the more perpetually true they are the more adorable the discoverer becomes and remains. And the depth of reverence of the followers increases in proportion to the depth and width of knowledge of the contributions, as blind faith (which is the main factor in the field of Spiritualism) has got no scope in the field of Science.

So, singing alleluiah of Hahnemann at the top of our voice at any appropriate or inappropriate moment or place will be far from showing respect to the multiform genius of him. If we at all want to adore our Great Master, we cannot but increase our familiarity with the vast contributions made by him to various fields of knowledge, and particularly to the field of Medicine. His contribution to the field of Medicine was not mere addition of some facts or methods, but it was a total reorientation of the Medical Science in all its aspects e.g., idea of Disease, idea of Cure, approach towards Physiology and Pathology, approach towards Drugs, Medicines and Remedies, the precise method of applying the remedy to a particular case according to "easily comprehensible principles" based on a definite and unchangeable Law of Therapeutics.

This Law of Therapeutics *Similia Similibus Curentur*, we all know, was not at all a discovery of Hahnemann; rather it was

well-known to both oriental as well as occidental masters of Medicine of yore. Hahnemann only rediscovered the old but neglected truth. What Hahnemann actually did was to establish this Law on a sound unshakable footing, and by this he established the art of Therapeutics on a scientific basis. It goes to the absolute credit of Hahnemann to discover for the first time in the long milleniums of the history of Medicine, the truly scientific method of finding the therapeutic properties of drugs, i.e. the totality of characteristic symptoms producible by individual drugs on healthy human beings. Before that, it was not possible to know how to apply the principle of symptom-similarity in every case of disease, because it was not known what properties of a particular drug was to be matched with a particular case of disease. It was only after Hahnemann's discovery of the method of *drug-proving* that the principle of symptom-similarity could be recognised and established as a universal Law of Therapeutics, and could be applied in practice logically, uniformly and easily by anybody.

Even if some hint for applying the principle of symptom-similarity could be obtained in some cases from the knowledge of the therapeutic properties of drugs then available (from toxicological phenomena), there had always existed the risk of severe aggravation on going to apply it with crude doses. Here again it fell to the lot of Hahnemann to discover for the first time the method of obviating the danger of aggravation by minimising the dose to an inestimable degree; while at the same time, in the process of minimising the dose, gradually increasing the efficacy of the drug concerned. This discovery he made not by mere speculation, but on the basis of clean and concrete practice and experience.

And through this process he was enabled to make a third absolutely new discovery, bringing to light a new type of property of drugs apart from their physical, chemical and physiological properties, viz., the *dynamic property*. However much we may fail to realize the exact nature of this dynamic property, bare facts of experience force any unprejudiced scientist to pay full recognition to it and to depend upon it with full confidence.

Hahnemann not only discovered these new principles in Medical Science, but he, in course of a long period of extensive

practice of more than half a century, verified, confirmed, improved and extended them and detailed out the solutions of various problems arising in their application in practice, and bequeathed to us a huge wealth of knowledge in rational and practical Medicine in his major books like the Organon, the Chronic Diseases, the Materia Medica Pura etc. As a scientist he was never satisfied with the simple revelation of any fact or method, he never hesitated to correct, modify or improve any of his former formulations and assertions in the subsequent editions of his works. And at last, he left his works to us with doors wide open for further research in every aspect and detail of them without tarnishing the basic principles and facts which are universal and perpetual truths, like Newton's Laws of Motion etc.

So, if we want to be true heirs of Hahnemann we should sincerely try not only to assimilate all that he left for us and meticulously put them to practice for human good, but moreover, try with all our might to improve, enrich and extend them in the light and background of real and authentic developments in the different branches of Science.

If we want to show allegiance or to pay homage to Hahnemann we should try seriously and sincerely to be true heirs of him. If we want to commemorate his birth-day, we need not talk aloud in praise of him, nor sing hymn in his name, what we should do is to take a solemn oath on waking in the morning of 10th April in the following words: *We will be true and conscientious heirs of Hahnemann.*

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