

A PEEP INTO THE MIND

SRI CHANDRANATHI CHAKRAVARTY

Body, mind and soul constitute the trinity of life. One can easily understand what body is, as it is the material part of the trio. Soul apparently seems to be mysterious as it is an energy which animates the material body. Mind is a function, a quality or a virtue of such an animated body. The controlling centre of the mind is in the cerebral cortex. This functional quality of the mind or mental faculty gradually develops as a result of adaptation with the surrounding environment through the process of various conditional reflexes.

A baby is born with certain unconditional reflexes such as sucking, swallowing, defaecation, micturition, effort to get free when caught hold of tightly, etc. The mental faculty of the baby first starts developing via sensations; in other words it realises the sensations, as arising from feeding bottle (touch), mother's voice (auditory), etc. Here starts the conditional reflexes. Then as the baby thrives, numerous external impressions establish a firm link between the conditional and unconditional reflexes. Thus it is the sensation which helps in the development of the mental faculty or power of thinking or intelligence which again is dependent on the brain, nerves and the different sensory organs.

Scientific studies of brain and nerves reveal the above anatomico-physiological truth, but to a homœopathic student a note of interrogation always comes up in each case, in each step which ever remains unanswerable from the angle of the modern scientific study. For example, being brought up in the same environment and under same conditions and circumstances why two brothers differ mentally in their power of thinking, realisation, and intelligence? Here comes the question of the mood of the parents, as the chain of life is maintained and the cycle moves forward from the previous life. So also it is aptly said, "man is the product of his antecedents, multiplied by his environments."

From the study of history we know that Rizzio, the paramour of Mary, the Queen of Scots, was murdered by an open sword.

Mary was very much shocked and frightened at the look of the dazzling sword which afterwards became brightly blood stained. At this time Mary was carrying James the Sixth. Though James the Sixth became the King in due course, he had an unusual terror of a drawn sword. On the other hand, while Napoleon was in his mother's womb, she exerted her queenly personality and controlled her husband's army.

Apart from the above historical events, there are lot of references to cases occurring in every day life, and the writer had the experience to see such a case. It happened in 1952. A lady became pregnant when she developed fear of ghosts and darkness and in course of the pregnancy she once almost fainted on seeing a person (imaginary) inside the kitchen whom she knew to be dead long ago. However she delivered a healthy boy in due course.

The boy is now thriving all right but he has a typical fear from darkness which he cannot explain; rather on suggesting to him if it was ghosts that he dreaded, he feels shy and flushed, which indirectly means that he is afraid of ghosts.

So it is quite evident that there is something behind the brain and nerves which apparently seem to control the mind. This point becomes more important on observation in cases where the mind becomes involved and/or plays a major part. Homœopathic remedies in mental cases lie in the heaps of a man or woman's history relating to his/her antecedents and environments.

—D. N. De Homœ. *Medical College Re-Union Magazine*, April 1964