

DANGEROUS MEDICINE

The statement was recently made in a medical journal that we appear to be passing from the era of dangerous surgery into the era of dangerous medicine. This would seem to be borne out when it is recorded in the Times that Dr. J. R. Simpson, of Exeter, told a scientific audience of the British Medical Association that no drug or treatment which materially altered the course of a disease was entirely safe.

Such a despairing and alarming statement cannot, however, be allowed to pass without challenge. Disease is an inclusive term which denotes a state of disorder in the body leading to a greater or lesser degree of dis-ease or distress which may take a great variety of forms. Such disorder is more often than not multifactorial in causation and widespread in respect of the bodily tissues and functions involved.

The observable manifestations of this disorder, whether subjectively noticed in the experience of the sufferer or objectively brought to light by investigation, are classed as symptoms of disease.

True it is that treatment aimed at the suppression of a symptom per se, the reduction of blood pressure, the control of anxiety, the damping down of the awareness of pain and such procedures, is only too frequently fraught with risk to the patient. As Prof. C. B. Pery of Bristol emphasized at the meeting mentioned above, treatment could cause illness in different ways, and it might be organic or psychological.

Questions of Risk

While admitting that the removal of symptoms by drastic means is too often accompanied by the risk of causing further symptoms, to aver that the course of a disease cannot be materially altered without risk is quite another matter. The control of symptoms must not be confused with cure—the initiation or enhancement of a healing process which reverses the course of the disorder within the body responsible for the symptoms (the disease); if accompanied by tissue damage, there will be need

also for reparative processes in the cells and tissues to be assisted.

It is vitally important of course that this healing process should be fostered before the disorder within has passed beyond the stage of reversibility to that of permanent cell damage and complete loss of function. But it is often difficult to say when this point of no return has been reached.

The defence and reparative abilities of the body are magnificently equipped for the task of healing, and it is on their activities that the body must depend if the course of a disease is to be materially altered, that is, in the direction of cure.

It is just here that Dr. Simpson's statement must be challenged. For a century and a half of experience in the treatment of disease by the homœopathic approach has shown that the course of disease can be altered and the cure of symptoms brought about by the use of drugs in a manner that, to all intents and purposes, is "entirely safe".

Manner of Using Drugs

It is the manner in which the drugs are used that renders their action in the body not only free from risk but effective to aid and abet the healing process. The very same drugs that in crude dosage are highly poisonous, ARSENIC, ACONITE, BELLADONNA and the like, can be used without risk when prepared in the Hahnemannian way and prescribed according to homœopathic principles.

It is true that occasionally the drug used in this way may cause an aggravation of the symptoms for a short time, but such aggravation does not involve risk. It is in fact an evidence of good being done, of an enhanced curative reaction in the body.

It is also true that used unwisely, in the matter of potencies or in persisting with the same remedy too long, the beneficial effects of the treatment may be interfered with. Even in such circumstances the element of actual risk is small.

There are, of course, pathological conditions in which the use of powerful drugs, involving risk, may be called for. But in a very great number of bodily disorders the course of the disease has been materially altered, the healing process assisted and en-

(Continued on page 267)

the *inventive*-Newton, the *philosophic*-Socrates,
the *religious*-Newman, and the *reasoning*-Kant—
discerning the cause of causation!

Vast is thy *dominion*, and *dynamic* is thy *action*;
Great *spring-cleaner* of all *impurities* of body and mind;
Every *kindred* of thy race can *find* in thee
the *elixir* for all the *ills*;

Prime Polychrest of Homœopathic pride!

Salutation to thy father Hahnemann of immortal fame, for
thy celestial birth!

DANGEROUS MEDICINE

(Continued from page 262)

couraged, and the sufferer restored to health by homœopathic means and without risk.

The use of drugs in this way does not further embarrass the defence forces of the body, does not tend to the causation of fresh tissue damage, does not carry the likelihood of getting rid of one symptom at the cost of causing further symptoms. It aims at providing a dynamic stimulus to the life processes of the body whereby they will be the better enabled to carry out their task of altering the course of the disease process and restoring health to the whole individual.

—Excerpts from the Editorial, *Homœopathy*, Oct., '60
