

A COMMENT ON THE BOYD REPORT

"BIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL EVIDENCE OF
THE ACTIVITY OF HIGH POTENCIES"

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In the January 1954 issue of the British Homœopathic Journal was published a 44 page report entitled "Biochemical and Biological Evidence of the Activity of High Potencies" by the late Dr. W. E. Boyd, M.A., M.D., M.Brit. I.R.E. This was a remarkably full, exact and well presented report on his highly scientific laboratory work of some 25 years duration. As a scientific report it has its own great value to the scientist, for it is in the form and language in which all such scientific original research should be presented.

However, to the ordinary man in the street, and indeed to very many members of the medical and, perhaps a little less so, to the pharmaceutical profession, the reading and even assiduous study of these pages will in itself cloud the extremely important findings, and one may be left with a more or less vague impression—smothered with scientific laboratory routine detail—that he has definitely found something—"an unknown factor"—in homœopathic high potencies of the order of the 30th C.H. (Centesimal Hahnemannian, as distinct from machine made) which it is now hoped scientists will read as true, as supported by the technique outlined in the report.

Significant Factor for Homœopathy

This technique occupied some 44 pages, while the all important kernel, a matter of some 14 lines on page 30, is written in such simple, self effacing phrases, that is likely to be missed by the man-in-the-street. This is what is said:—

"We are left with a conclusion which may be defined thus :

1. Microdoses derived from mercuric chloride and prepared by 27 to 31 stages of serial dilution with

mechanical shock, nominally of the order of 10^{-61} to 10^{-71} , were found to accelerate the hydrolysis of starch with diastase.

2. There being no material trace of mercuric chloride nor of contaminants in the microdoses additional to those normally present in the same distilled water as is used for controls, and there being highly significant effects obtained by these microdose solutions, it is concluded that an active factor derived from the mercuric chloride accelerates the hydrolysis of starch with diastase. This stimulative factor is capable of affecting the microdose distilled water, and of thus transferring its activity to subsequent ultra molecular stages of the "high potency" microdose preparations. The nature of this factor is unknown.

In everyday language the enthusiastic homœopath might be forgiven if he felt he would have preferred to have seen those few lines reported thus :

"The before mentioned laboratory work, shows without a shadow of experimental doubt that the 27 C.H. and 31 C.H. potencies of mercuric chloride have the effect of increasing the speed of the hydrolysis of starch using diastase, and that as a consequence it cannot be denied that the act of potentizing mercuric chloride to the 27 C.H. and 30 C.H. potencies causes the release of a force, or active factor within those potencies which although undeniably demonstrated is as yet unknown to science. Here is irrefutable proof that homœopathic high potencies possess a very active content. This is the force supplied in every dose of reliable homœopathic high potency medicine."

—*Homœopathy*, June, 1956.