

HOLIER THAN THOU

A.B.G.

Often the homœopathic reader, scanning the news, runs across confessionals in the field of medicine which kindle a heartwarming homœopathic glow. *Time*, May 30, printed one about a drug called methanimodiazepoxide, marketed by Roche Laboratories under a trade-name, "Librium", and said by them to act by allaying reactions of anxiety and rage without causing drowsiness or depressing mental activity. It is intended for psychiatrists to prescribe.

According to Gould's *Medical Dictionary*, psychiatry is: "The treatment of diseases of the mind". When Homœopathy proves a remedy, special note is made of the mentals, that is, the states and symptoms pertaining to the mind. Homœopathy was doing this long before there were psychiatrists. When psychiatry arrived, it was elaborated as something new and special and no attention was given to Homœopathy's wealth of experimental knowledge about the mind. This was all in the books, but the books, if read, might have worked the field of the mind already, and a new profession (psychiatry) might have been pre-empted. Certainly, if Homœopathy's work was thorough, it would cover every problem in the mental field, for it is the totality of all that is strange, rare and peculiar about the patient and nothing less than this which directs the homœopathic physician to his selection of the remedy. Among the parts of that totality, the mental signs rank almost first. There is no way scientifically to separate the mind from the man, Gould's *Medical Dictionary* seeming to the contrary notwithstanding.

This homely truth is a matter of homely observation. Nothing happening to an individual, even a draft of air or a beam of light, affects that individual at all but it affects his mind. Open a window in a church: one worshiper relishes the fresh air and the next one complains of the draft, and both these mental distractions from divine meditation work havoc on the mind of the poor usher. Man has no life nor any experience but by the mind. Man separated from mind is a corpse. Mind separated from man is a wraith.

Thus when the psychiatrist, thinking that he can deal with the mind alone, uses drugs, he is bound to encounter side effects and complications. According to *Time*, a psychiatrist of San Antonio sought to arrange peace of mind for some patients of his by means of Librium, as its manufacturer maintained that he could. One patient, remembering that she had left a light burning at home, turned around quickly, got dizzy, fell and broke her thigh; another put his car in reverse, backed into a tree at fifteen miles an hour without looking; a third who had been accident-free up at that time, got into a wreck downtown and lost her naturally mild manners in a rage at

the policeman. When his cases were reviewed, his colleagues agreed that his doses had been too high, but they also agreed that all powerful drugs can be dangerous "unless given in carefully controlled doses, with the patient under close watch." Most psychiatrists, says, *Time*, expect some undesirable incidental effects from Librium.

So it arises once more, at even this late day, the old problem confronting medicine which Homœopathy succeeded so well in banishing—the problem of undesirable side effects. In order to find the pure action of medicines, free of unwanted and unforeseen bad results, Homœopathy developed the process called potentization. In order to fit the remedy to the sick person precisely, Homœopathy developed the procedure of remedy proving. Like much else in Homœopathy, these two things are shared by no other branch of healing, and go far to make Homœopathy distinct as a practical science.

Potentization, by removing nearly all of the possible dangers and by rendering medicines at the same time almost cost-free, puts the traffic in drugs out of greedy temptation and frees medicine from graft. So it can be in happy serenity that the homœopath reads that other story in the same issue of *Time*. Under pressure of prying by the Senate Anti-Trust Committee, one of the high and trusted officials of the United States Public Health Service, it seems, was caught in a fabric of shady transactions misrepresenting drugs of the antibiotic group, notably penicillin, giving them ostensibly scientific write-ups which attracted lavish advertising outlays by their manufacturers, returning hitherto undisclosed profits to this trusted official running to \$260,766. Whoever now takes on authority what the Service publishes about a new drug, or even an old one, and hazards his own chances and the chances of his patients on it, must think such an incident as this over twice.

But the physician who consults a homœopathic materia medica finds there unvarnished and unslanted scientific data which came from rigorous proving, which is every day being clinically corroborated, in all lands in all quarters of the globe, by the same fundamental laws and under the same scientific procedures. These provings are done on the healthy and not on the sick, with particular reference to individual differences and not in the mass. These are precautions that minimize to almost the vanishing point all chances of surprise when the case is critical or delicate, and they remove the opportunities for misrepresentation and fraud. All of this has been too long scorned and neglected and too long concealed from the public.

—*The Layman Speaks, Aug., '60*
