

THE USE OF HIGH ATTENUATIONS*

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In Homœopathy, there is no place for any sort of favourite fancies or fallacies. It is strictly guided by principles and laws which are rather chiselled out from certain observations of facts. There are seven cardinal principles in Homœopathy—the seven pillars, so to say—which are broadly based on the rigid rocks of logic and hold the roof of Homœopathic philosophy above—under which we, the Homœopaths, take shelter quite safely and fight a furious battle against the dangerous delusions, created by the modern medicines with their huge armamentarium which are rather very powerful but at the same time ineffective for its ever-changing and never-ending ideas that are always devoid of any doctrine or principle, whatsoever. But we must confess that we, the Homœopaths also nourish some sort of fancies or fallacies, due to lack of particular doctrine for selecting a required potency in a particular patient.

Where there is no law to guide, naturally the trend of mind bends upon a notion or dictum, proclaimed in a careless manner by a successful practitioner during his loose conversations with his disciples or followers. In the field of medicine, such utterances have created havocs which are very difficult to eradicate from the minds of his followers. Regarding the selection of a potency, such 'havocs' of illogical utterances are rampant among the Homœopaths too, in India and abroad alike.

Some Homœopaths have a favourite fad that the low attenuations create marvellous action and the high and higher attenuations are of no avail; other groups are always demanding that the high-potencies are only effective medicines in Homœopathy. To my mind, both are extremists and devoid of logical rostrum to stand upon.

'Individualization' should be the guiding factor in the selection of a medicine as well as its potency. Therefore, no restric-

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tion is required for selecting a remedy from its lowest attenuations to its highest dynamisation. Of course, we have ample scope of research to find out certain principles for selecting a particular potency at the bedside.

In the footnote to the paragraph 287 of the Organon (5th Edn.), the following remarks have been made:—"The higher the attenuation by means of potentizing (by two concussive strokes) is carried the more quickly and penetratingly the preparation seems to transform the vital force, and to change the state, and the strength is but little diminished, even if the potentizing is carried very far, instead of carrying it on, as is usually the case (and as is usually sufficient) to the tenth even to the twentieth, the fiftieth, the one hundredth and higher, only that the duration then seems to be less enduring." The curative effects of the higher attentuations are not only quick in chronic cases, but it has, also, been proved many a time that it hastens a quick cure in acute diseases too. It has been verified in my practice that lower attenuations in cases of the whooping cough which are very troublesome and obstinate, take a very long time to cure, whereas a selected high potency quickly cuts short its course within a week or so. The experience is similarly true in many other acute diseases too. So, we have no right to exclude the higher attenuations for the treatment of acute diseases.

Another fact, we must bear in our mind that a "defective diet", as the great Dr. Boenninghausen has said "always does less damage, if the higher dynamisation, and the least of all if a minute dose, dissolved in water and everytime shaken anew, is taken several days in succession". This applies especially in the present era where the dietetic condition is rapidly changing from bad to worse, for the reasons known to all.

We are leading a miserable life, when the atmosphere of the world is becoming "attenuated" with so many atomic explosions; moreover, our day to day existence is under constant stress and strain of various anomalies to life, for which the use of high-potency will, of course, be very common, in our everyday practice for the following reasons:—

- (1) The efficacy of high attenuation, is very often proved by a single dose.

(2) It helps to achieve a quick cure.

(3) Dr. Fincke's rule "the more receptive the organism, the higher the potency, and the smaller the dose" is usually the indication for the selection of a potency.

Of course, there are certain drawbacks too, in the way of its using—(1) Where the remedy is really a simillimum, the use of high potency will possibly aggravate the condition of the patient followed by a rapid relief of the same.

(2) If the high attenuation is given in a case of too weak vital force, a disastrous result is likely to come and sometimes it gives a death-blow on the patient.

I have already stated that the choice of the potency has not yet been decided by any fixed law or definite principle, it is still within the realms of experiment. So, naturally, the physicians have to depend on their own experiences and consequently the experiences are of varied nature. Though Dr. Boenninghausen was one of the pioneers as the prescriber of high potencies and Dr. Kent was very cautious in its use, considering it as the most powerful weapon against the diseases, but unfortunately both of them failed to establish any law regarding the choice of potency. It is Dr. Close, who in his philosophy has made the following guiding factor for choosing a potency which is still to be verified for giving a proper recognition as a law:

"The more similar the remedy, the more clearly and positively the symptoms of the patient take on the peculiar and characteristic form of the remedy, the greater the susceptibility to that remedy and the higher the potency required."

Another point which we must bear in mind, is that if a remedy ceases to act, then we can select a suitable high attenuation of the same to awaken the susceptibility of the case once again, even without the application of any intercurrent remedy. In my practice, I have got such patients where simply by changing the potency and without applying any intercurrent remedy, it has produced an effective result. I hope, you may also have some type of experiences in your field of practice.