

HOMŒOPATHY AND ITS PLACE IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

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Dr. Bach was a non-homœopathic pathologist who set himself the task of studying certain bacteria which inhabit the normal healthy bowel. His work attracted the attention of two distinguished homœopathic physicians, Dr. Charles Wheeler of London, and Dr. Thomas Dishington of Glasgow, and they became associated with him in his research. These three pioneers are no longer living, but the work they started is being brilliantly carried on by a Glasgow homœopathic pathologist, Dr. John Paterson, and to him as well as to his predecessors are due many discoveries of the greatest moment both to homœopathy and to medicine in general. Apart altogether from its purely homœopathic implications this investigation has demonstrated that the bowel germs are of many more different kinds than had previously been suspected, and, moreover, that they—contrary to former belief—are, beyond any doubt whatever, associated with disease in their host. As a direct result of this work homœopathy not only has acquired many new deep acting remedies invaluable in the treatment of chronic disease, but also is now able to employ a pathological laboratory technique as an aid in remedy selection.

One discovery made by Dr. Paterson, though it is of no immediate practical significance, should be of especial interest to the allopathic sceptic. In the earlier days of the research a long series of experiments was carried out simultaneously by Bach in London and Paterson in Glasgow. In spite of the fact that precisely the same technique was being applied by both, it was found that their respective results were not tallying. Casting about to find the factor responsible for this unexpected discrepancy, Dr. Paterson realised that whereas Bach's specimens were obtained from allopathic patients, his own were derived from patients undergoing homœopathic treatment. He therefore started to note carefully in each case the last homœopathic remedy the donor had been given previous

to the collection of the test specimen. After hundreds of such experiments, comparison of the data obtained showed that certain particular changes in the bowel germs could each be associated with a particular pre-administered homœopathic remedy. Paterson therefore instructed the homœopathic doctors who were supplying him with specimens to send these in without revealing the medicines the patients had been given. He now found he was able, by means of his laboratory tests, to pick out those patients who had had one of that group of remedies noted in his previous experiments, and moreover tell accurately in each case which of the remedies had been administered. The remedies in question were of high potency, and the importance of this experimental proof that they were capable of causing specific changes in the bowel flora cannot be overestimated. What it means is that any pathologist can, if he will take the trouble, disabuse his mind of the allopathic delusion that the "absurdly small" doses of the homœopath are inert, for, by acquainting himself with the necessary data and by faithfully following out Dr. Paterson's technique, he can demonstrate in his own laboratory that such doses can and do influence bacteria in the human body.

Dr. Boyd's researches are many and varied but the one with which we are particularly concerned here is that connected with an instrument, devised by himself, which he has called, the emanometer. The basic phenomena associated with this instrument were closely investigated and declared genuine by a non-homœopathic Committee of experts under the chairmanship of Lord—then Sir Thomas Horder. Any new and unfamiliar field of study such as this provides ample opportunity for speculation and theorising on possibilities. Dr. Boyd however, with the caution of the true scientist refuses to hint at any claim unless he can substantiate it by experimental demonstration. In the report drawn up by the Horder Committee a very high tribute is paid by the Chairman to Boyd's scientific zeal and integrity as shown,

for example, by the helpful suggestions offered by himself for eliminating chance and making the tests more stringent and fool-proof. The experiments conducted before the investigating committee were thorough and exhaustive, and the genuineness of the emanometric phenomena can therefore be accepted as a proven scientific fact.

The essence of this particular research of Dr. Boyd's lies in the demonstration of a hitherto unsuspected kind of electromagnetic energy which radiates from all forms of matter. The emanometer not only detects this energy but also measures its intensity, and demonstrates variations in its character or quality. The character of the energy varies according to the specimen from which it emanates, so that each substance can be shown to radiate a particular quality peculiar to itself. The intensity of the energy varies also according to the type of specimen; it is relatively very much higher in tests taken from living things than in those from ordinary "dead" matter. One significant observation, however, reveals that when a substance is potentised according to Hahnemann's method of preparing homœopathic remedies, the intensity of the energy increases with each stage of potentisation till, in the range known as "high potencies," it becomes comparable to that exhibited by the living subject. Now, in the exhaustive series of test experiments observed by the Horder Committee the specimens consisted of two phials. One contained simple sugar of milk; the other held similar pellets which, however, had been medicated with a drop or two of Sulphur 10m. tincture. If you wished to indicate as a fraction the proportion of sulphur to diluent in this specimen you would have to write the figure 1 as the numerator over a denominator of 1 *with twenty thousand noughts* following it. Since no chemical or physical tests could detect matter in so infinitesimal a dilution, allopaths have persistently scoffed at the homœopath's remedies and have declared that their pellets all contained nothing but sugar of milk. The report of the Horder Committee, by implication,

destroyed this argument, for it confirmed that the emanometer detected in the Sulphur 10m. phial energy which was not found in the one containing simple sugar of milk. Homœopaths have always been aware that the curative effect of their medicines must be due to something other than crude matter. Boyd's emanometer gives, for the first time, a laboratory demonstration of the existence of that "something"; and the progressive rise in energy intensity during the preparation of homœopathic remedies reveals the poetic intuition displayed by Hahnemann when he declared that potëntising "releases the spirit of the drug."

From the emanometer we have gained a very great deal of useful knowledge never before suspected. Thus it is now known that each and every remedy belongs to one or other of twelve different groups. Patients likewise can be similarly grouped, and so, by discovering the group to which a patient belongs, we can immediately narrow down the field of search for his *simillimum*. Furthermore, if from the indicated group we pick two or more likely remedies, the final selection can be made with a greater likelihood of accuracy by comparing the emanometric reactions of each with those of the patient.

In addition to these invaluable aids to clinical practice, the emanometer research holds the promise of revolutionising some of the fundamental concepts of modern medicine. For this new energy can be shown to change in both intensity and character when a person becomes ill, and to return again to its original qualities when he recovers. It is possible—the homœopath would say, probable—that in this energy variation lies a clue to the nature of disease, and an indication of a causative factor more fundamental than any yet discovered. It may, indeed, be that the energy is, itself, that elusive unknown quantity which, for want of a more precise term, we call *Vital Force*.

To some of us Boyd's research, in its relation to present day medical science, bears a resemblance to that of Roent-

gen in relation to the physics of his time. Physical science then was at the very zenith of materialism. The Universe seemed to consist of collections of solid little bricks called atoms, and these were regarded as being *the* fundamental indestructible reality. Energy was conceived as manifesting itself only in the movements of atoms; a conception which required the invention of a mythical "fluid" called the Ether in order to account for the passage of energy through vacant space. But Roentgen discovered a new kind of energy—the X-ray, and from that discovery there has evolved modern atomic physics which teaches that energy is the essence of all things, and that matter as a fundamental reality has no existence whatsoever because its unit—the atom—is itself merely a kind of vortex or condensation of the universal energy. The materialism of present day medicine may be compared to that of physics in Roentgen's time. Perhaps Boyd's experiments will eventually smash the accepted materialistic concepts and show disease not to be only a matter of reactions between material germs and body tissues, but to have as its more fundamental cause an imbalance in the individual's electromagnetic field.

The emanometer investigation is only one of many lines of research pursued by Dr. Boyd in the fields of biophysics and bio-chemistry, and though some of these may, on the surface, seem to bear little relevance to homœopathy, they one and all are aimed at the advance of that science. The great practical contributions to homœopathic practice resulting from his researches and those of Dr. Paterson are of a value which cannot be exaggerated, yet perhaps a greater importance can be discerned in the theoretical implications of their work. For by means of these new lines of research homœopathy, which hitherto has seemed shut away by itself in a kind of scientific watertight compartment, is now being linked up and related to the sciences of pathology, bacteriology, chemistry and physics. When these relations become more clearly and

firmly established, homœopathy will be brought to the forefront in a manner which will compel impartial investigation. Once that has been initiated all dissension will be forever at an end; the genius of Hahnemann will receive the recognition it deserves, and his name shall be honoured for all time as that of one of the greatest scientists in the history of medicine. For, although the immense worth of allopathic discoveries can never be diminished, impartial examination cannot fail to justify the homœopath's present estimate of relative values. Homœopathy then will be granted its rightful place, and will be accepted by all as the main and central pillar of the structure of medical science.

—*Health through Homœopathy, June, 1949.*

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