

no alternative than to turn to real scientific Homœopathy, where I found a haven where I could dwell in peace, and do the greatest amount of good to suffering humanity who reposed their implicit faith in me, and in which I found order in place of chaos: a system based on natural law, a Law that never changes, a Law in sharp contrast to the "trial and error method and blind experimental method of modern medical "science." Homœopathy is scientific because it knows how to go about selection of its remedies to aid in the cure of disease; it does its work rapidly, pleasantly and effectively; the child does not have to be held or punished to get it to take its sugar pills; it cures disease right from its inception, does not have to wait until the disease is fully established to make a diagnostic (guess), thereby saves suffering, time and expense, something for one to think over.

—*Health through Homœopathy, Jan., Feb., 1947.*

## THE INFINITESIMAL DOSE

C. D. EWART

In order to judge fairly of the truth of a proposition which conflicts with existing beliefs, it is essential to divest the mind of prejudice—a difficult task. The usual reaction to a proposition which challenges existing notions is one of sheer disbelief or ridicule. This is true of the infinitesimal dose employed by the Homœopath. I must frankly admit that I shared in this disbelief, and is proved a great stumbling block to me.

At school, I had imbibed the element of the atomic theory, and believed that matter consisted of small particles (atoms or molecules) which could not be divided without losing the characteristics of the original substance. It followed from this that if you diluted a solution of a given

substance time after time, you would in due course reach a stage at which you were left with your last molecule, which, in all probability, you would lose if you went on diluting. A physicist would probably tell you that this stage would be reached about the 13th or 14th dilution on the centesimal scale. To go on diluting after this stage was reached would be simply to be diluting nothing at all.

Now Homœopaths go far beyond this point, diluting 30, 100, 200 even 100,000 times. At this point the believer in the atomic theory may emit a derisive guffaw, which would be justified if the atomic theory were fact instead of mere theory. The Homœopath points to the facts of the cures achieved by means of these high dilutions, and argues that, since there can be no effect without cause, it is reasonable to suppose that there is a mysterious "something" resident in the medicine. The physicist denies that this can be material. What is its nature? Hahnemann, the founder of Homœopathy, said these high dilutions were spiritualized, whatever that may mean. He said in *Chronic Diseases* "Nevertheless this true theorem is not to be reckoned among those which should be comprehended nor among those for which I ask a blind faith. I demand no faith at all, and do not demand that anybody should comprehend it. Neither do I comprehend it; it is enough that it is a fact and nothing else. Experience alone declares it and I believe more in experience than in my own intelligence".

The cures obtained by these infinitesimal doses are sometimes explained by faith or psychological causes. This seems to be invoking an explanation as mysterious as the cures themselves. If by psychological causes are meant something extraneous to the medicine, it does not appear to me to be the right one for the following reasons.

If the psychological factor is responsible for the cure, it would be a matter of indifference what remedy were used. A well selected remedy—the simillimum—is found to be curative while another not so well selected produces

no effect. Occasionally a single remedy—even the simillimum—does not prove curative whereas, adopting polypharmacy, a number of remedies given simultaneously, effect amelioration. How is it that the simillimum (or in default a number of remedies) cures, whereas the other remedy does not? Is it not reasonable to suppose that there is "something" in the simillimum which differs from the "something" in the non acting remedy or remedies. In the case of very young children and animals these infinitesimal doses have produced cures which in their case seem to exclude the psychological factor. There are many cases reported where under Homœopathic treatment a symptom (e.g. a callous or polypus) has disappeared, which was not noticed or reported to the physician (and consequently was not in his mind) and could not have weighed much in the patient's mind otherwise he would have mentioned it.

If the psychological explanation is not the true one it would seem that the factor responsible for these cures is resident in the medicine itself. What is its exact nature is a mystery.

—*Heal Thyself, July, 1947.*

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