

## THE USE OF PERSONALITY TRAITS IN REMEDY SELECTION

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The integrated group of behavior tendencies and emotional trends identify an individual. Kent wrote that the homœopathic principles, when known, are plain and simple and easily understood. We must have an understanding of how to take the case, and how to use the repertory.

The power of choosing is a gift from our Creator and can never be changed. Kent observed that the difference between two human beings is scarcely more than the will. What a man wills to do is his life and character. Man is what he wills. If he wills against everything but himself, he becomes a form of hatred or self-love.

It is the goal of many of the world's peoples to be ideal human characters, but there are also many with opposite ideals. We have many distinct sets of abilities and different sets of opinions, but man has the will to choose even though he cannot act in accordance with his choice.

To know an individual in health we would inquire about his understanding, for out of the will comes his understanding, his comprehension, discernment and interpretation.

In sickness we inquire how these characteristics have been changed without being turned into something else. We may find highly characteristic symptoms: the unusual; the unexpected. In the proving of drugs, tinctures and lowest potencies as a rule produce only the more common and general symptoms of the medicament not very sharply differentiated from other substances of its class. In the provings of the medium and higher potencies, the special and peculiar character of the drug is revealed by its finer and most characteristic symptoms. "By continual dilution and succussion," says Jahr, "remedies get neither stronger

nor weaker, but their individual peculiarities become more and more developed."

Close wrote: "The clearer and more positively the finer, more peculiar, and more characteristic symptoms of the remedy appear in a case, the higher the degree of susceptibility and the higher the potency." We may pretty safely judge the degree of susceptibility of the patient by the character and completeness of the symptoms.

If we find patients impulsive, quick to act and react, intelligent, intellectual, enthusiastic, they are best adapted to higher potencies. The principle of Similia was of no practical use until the related principles of potentization and the minimum dose were developed. Hahnemann made a new discovery in his work with dilution. In 1827 he wrote: "What a pity there is no name in any language for dynamization." If no language can find a word for dynamization we know the will is the faculty by which the mind chooses its ends and directs action in carrying out its purpose. A person may be devoted to religious duties or carry out a wretched performance.

The homœopathic physician must individualise. A sick person may not realize how sick he is. We consider the patient curable if the symptom picture is in the functional sphere and not in the organic. We must get a clear symptom picture of the sick man. The systematic search for these symptoms can become a habit well worth forming. The symptoms secured must be judged by the value they have as characteristic symptoms in relation to the patient. What is a common symptom to one patient is an uncommon one to another. First we take those relating to the loves and hates, or desires and aversions; next, those belonging to the rational mind (the so-called intellectual mind); thirdly, those belonging to the memory. The summary of the symptoms in the mental group should be retained.

We look next for the symptoms of the entire man, his entire body or blood and fluids, also the limiting and

qualifying symptoms. Adapt what is curative in medicines to what is curable in patients, and do it in the most orderly fashion.

In a homœopathic manner of speaking, aggravation describes the condition found when a latent disease becomes active and new symptoms appear, or there may be a return of old symptoms. In paragraph 153 of *The Organon*, Hahnemann says that in comparing the collective symptoms of the natural disease with drug symptoms for the purpose of finding the specific curative remedy, "the more striking, singular, uncommon and peculiar ones, in the list of symptoms of the selected medicine, must correspond to [those of the natural disease], in order to constitute it the most suitable for effecting the cure."

These directions have withstood the test of time. Hahnemann was compelled to formulate his directions amidst accepted theories and opinions. In the latest light of current research the greater part of these theories and opinions have vanished, leaving Hahnemann's directions as true and workable as when he gave them.

With any approach to the cure of the sick we might add Pearl Buck's thought from her book, *The Touch of Life*, that the sick person needs the superior knowledge of the perfected skill of doctors and nurses, who have the touch of life, this life-giving force which is the fruit of rich emotional understanding.

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## HOMŒOPATHY IN SURGERY

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This subject introduces the age-old question of the relationship between medicine and surgery. Is it possible for one to practice solely medicine or surgery? The answer in my opinion is No, if one wishes to practice either good medicine or good surgery.