

only recorded and found useful in incipient cases of carcinoma, like the cases of Dr. Chapman and Dr. Allen. It is of no use where the case has progressed to the point of ulceration. Grauvogl never found it of value in open wounds.

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### DR. KENT AND HOMŒOPATHY

By KATHLEEN M. GOODWIN, M.Sc. (Lond.)

Dr. Kent brings to my mind the picture of a diamond of great brilliance: a great prescriber with superb accuracy in diagnosis and instant knowledge of the remedy, unrivalled in the field of *materia medica*. His monumental work is consulted and valued by homœopaths the whole world over. He is a direct descendant of Hahnemann, steeped in his method and philosophy. Like Hahnemann, he sometimes lost patience with those who did not share his principles, especially his allopathic brethren, and gave vent to caustic tirades against them and their works.

In his *Lectures on Homœopathic Philosophy* he quotes from the *Organon* and each thought is examined under his vivid, succinct mind. It is from this book that one glimpses his profound knowledge of men and of Homœopathy.

He was far ahead of his time, too, in his conception of the mind of man and of what had to be cured. Concerning the role of bacteria in the

living economy following Hahnemann's thought on this and Béchamp's work on their true nature and function, he says: "Bacteria are the results of disease—they are scavengers, they are not the cause of disease." Disease cause is much more subtle than this, "the thing to look for is the image expressed in symptoms. The sick man will be made sick under every circumstance. The healthy will not, he could even live in amongst the worst diseases and escape".

Kent considered the symptoms of the mind the most important of all, because medicines act on the will and understanding first, ultimately upon the tissue functions and sensations, and he condemned modern drugging for destroying the mind, declaring that apparent benefits were never permanent, in fact a new disease had come, masking the original symptoms. He held that sickness can only be learnt by the study of drug provings upon the healthy (as do all the great masters of our art, especially that prolific writer Dr. Burnett).

But Kent always stressed the importance of knowing something of the endings of disease and of tissues in all conditions. Physical diagnosis was useful because it could show how far disease had progressed and whether the patient was incurable. He also believed in removing, wherever possible, all external causes of distress to the patient such as unsatisfactory housing, sanitation, uncongenial surroundings and so on.

Typical of his vivid descriptions taken from his *Lectures on Materia Medica* are the following:

"Aconite is like a great storm, it comes and sweeps over, and passes away." "It is the remedy of the rosy, chubby, plethoric baby."

"You may sometimes cure Bridget in the kitchen when the trouble is that she is continually breaking dishes by letting them fall, with *Agaricus* or *Apis*, but—*Agaricus* hugs the fire, *Apis* wants to get out of the kitchen.

Of *Anacardium orientale*: "Hallucinations—a demon sits on one shoulder, an angel on the other."

He calls *Argentum nitricum* "a wonderfully queer medicine". His fine clinical knowledge is shown by the following descriptions. He says of *Aurum*:

"Notice the peculiar relation between the lungs and the understanding and between the heart and the will. With every little trouble located in the heart there comes hopelessness, but when the manifestation of disease is in the lungs there is hopefulness. Heart and liver affections are associated with hopelessness and despair." Summing up, he says: "We see this entire perversion of all the loves of mankind, and finally their entire destruction."

"The very stamp and character of *Belladonna* is in its rheumatic state, like it is in all its other complaints. It is the *patient* that gives disease that character when he has it, and it is only the fulfilment of the Law of Similars when these come together and the remedy annihilates the sickness."

"About the first thing we SEE in an *Antimonium tartaricum* patient is expressed in the face. The face is pale and sickly, the nose drawn and sunken, the

eyes are sunken with dark rings around them—the lips are pale and shrivelled—the nostrils dilated and flapping, with a dark sooty appearance inside them. The expression is that of suffering. The atmosphere in the room is pungent—it makes you feel that death is there.”

Of *Sulphur* he warns: “*Sulphur* is such a full remedy that it is difficult to tell where to begin. It seems to contain a likeness of all sickness and a beginner reading over the provings of *Sulphur* might naturally think that there was no need of any other remedy as the image of all sickness seems to be contained in it.”

“The *Sulphur* patient is lean, lank, hungry, dyspeptic with stoop shoulders, yet many times it must be given to fat, rotund, well-fed people.”

“Cleanliness is not a great idea with the *Sulphur* patient.....seldom indicated in cleanly people but it is commonly indicated in those who are not disturbed by uncleanliness.”

Typical of Kent's exasperation with those who do not understand his art and have not his knowledge of drugs is the following passage concerning *Bromium*.

“It is so seldom indicated that most homoeopaths give it up as a perfectly useless medicine. They give *Brom.* for diphtheria and when it does not work they give *Merc. cy.*, and when that does not work they give something else ‘for diphtheria’, always for diphtheria. They do not take the symptoms of the case, and prescribe in accordance with the individualizing method. They do not prescribe for the patient but for the disease.”

On poisoning by excessive use of condiments he says: "Most of the substances that are used on the table as seasonings in foods will in the course of a generation or two be very useful medicines, because parents poison themselves with these substances, tea, coffee, pepper and tobacco (though tobacco cannot be said to be on the table, yet it might as well be if it is used at all), and these poisonous effects in the parents cause in the children a predisposition to diseases which are similar to the diseases produced by these substances." (What a tirade would have been forthcoming could he be alive to-day to witness present-day excesses in cigarette smoking, especially amongst women !)

"Every medicine has a pace, a velocity. It is an important feature of it. Every medicine must be observed as to its velocity, as to its pace, as to its periodicity, as to its motion, as to its wave. We get that by looking at the symptoms." And so Kent exhorted all his students to study *Materia Medica* and the symptomatology of the remedies by ceaseless study. He had enormously high standards and he expected his students to work and work and work, to reach that eminence which a lifetime of study and application of the principles of Homœopathy had convinced him was necessary to be a good physician and follower of his master Hahnemann.

—*Heal Thyself*, February, 1947.