

ARE HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES SLOW ACTING ?

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Ask any layman about Homoeopathy, and if he has heard of Homoeopathy, his reply would invariably be, "Oh, yes! Homoeopathy is a very good system of treatment, but it is slow".

It beats me how the average man has developed such an impression about this wonderful art of healing. I have thought about it and can explain it only this way: People cannot distinguish between apparent cure and real cure. *Apparent cure or suppression of disease symptoms is easier, and takes much less time than real or radical cure.* Cure through homoeopathic remedies will be real and permanent, which naturally takes, in some cases, a little longer to accomplish. The layman is unable to appreciate the longer time taken for the radical cure and gives credit to other systems of treatment for the quicker cure, and considers Homoeopathy inferior, since cures under it take a longer time.

To illustrate this: Some years ago a three-year-old child (of a veterinary doctor) was taken to a dispensary for treatment of eczema of the scalp which the child was suffering from for two months. An ointment for external application was given, and in two days there was no trace of the eczema. On the third day the child developed sudden high temperature and there was suppression of urine. It died in six hours. *Diagnosis: Acute nephritis.* As far as the layman is concerned the eczema was cured; the later trouble was a separate one. But really the child died on account of the eczema having been driven inside. Had the child been taken to a homoeopath he would have treated it with internal remedies, and would have cured it, say, in about a fortnight. So the layman imagines that what other systems of medicine can cure in two days, Homoeopathy takes fifteen days. This is the explanation for the popular *impression that Homoeopathy is slow.* But in this case the quick 'cure' cost a life. It is easier indeed to get 'cured' in two days and die on the third day, than to get cured in a fortnight and live one's allotted span of life!

Another case: I once cured a child of recurring fits after three months of treatment. The child's mother brought her friend, whose eighteen-year-old son was suffering from epilepsy for the last ten years. I told the mother that due to the chronic nature of the trouble she should be prepared for at least a year's treatment, though it was possible that it may take less. The mother replied that one year was too long a period for curing any disease, and took the boy to a physician practising a different system of medicine. After six months of treatment, the attacks almost stopped to occur. In another month the boy was free from attacks. Afterwards there were no attacks so long as the medicine was continued. But there was a steady deterioration in the boy's

mental capacity. Before the end of the year his memory power also was very much reduced, though the fits were controlled. (I cannot say whether the mental deterioration was a direct result of the side effects of the medicines, or a sign of the rapid and accelerated progress of the disease owing to wrong treatment. But such a thing can never happen under homoeopathic treatment.)

It must be a tragic consolation for the mother that though her son was almost reduced to idiocy, the epilepsy was cured.

It has been proved times without number that homoeopathic medicines are not only not slow acting, but also act and cure sooner than any other medicine. The time required for homoeopathic remedies to cure will be only the minimum time required for the body to repair or rebuild the tissues or correct the physiological functions, as is required. The time required for a cure depends upon many factors; the chronicity of the complaint, the nature of the disease, the age of the patient, the vitality of the patient, etc. These are natural laws which cannot be violated, and we can assert that *homoeopathic remedies cure quicker than any other*. The following cases will illustrate my statement:

(1) One evening, Mr. N. (58) came to me in agony on account of intolerable burning pain of piles contracted by overheating himself by prolonged exertion in the hot summer sun. He was suffering from severe pain for the past one week and had tried to get relief from application of ointments. The pain of a burning nature had become intolerable that day and therefore he hurried to me. A dose of Sulphur 200 was administered immediately. All the while, the patient was constantly stirring in his seat and changing his position and groaning. After a few minutes he began to slowly relax, and after eight minutes he smiled in great relief. He told me later that a few minutes after the administration of the medicine he felt as if a cool and soothing finger was gently passed over the painful part, relief speedily following.

(2) Velayudhan (50), labourer in a government farm, during his drunken sleep on an unprotected verandah one night, was drenched by rain and slept in wet clothes the whole night. When getting up in the morning, found himself paralysed. When I visited him I found him deprived of control of his limbs, his mouth was distorted and he spoke in a whisper, that too with great difficulty. The eyelids had drooped and he could not lift them. A dose of Rhus tox. 1M was immediately given and I left three more doses, a dose to be given every two hours. When I visited him the next day, I found him sitting up and speaking much more clearly and could open his eyes. In two days, he was completely free from trouble.

(3) Three-year-old child² of farm labourer; when I was called in, the child was unconscious, the skin all over the body was of a bluish hue. The breath was cold. I was informed that about eight hours of diarrhoea had found culmination in this condition. Treatment was immediately commenced

with Camphor; in half an hour the child regained consciousness. In another half an hour the colour of the body became normal and in another hour it faintly called for water, and very soon fell into a natural slumber. The child was completely all right the next morning.

Let nobody imagine that such spectacular results are possible only in acute diseases. Let me quote some instances, where the action of homoeopathic medicines has been no less dramatic in chronic diseases also.

(1) Late one evening Mr. K. (39) approached me for consultation. He had had his right leg amputated above the knee six months earlier for gangrene. Since then he was almost incessantly tortured by severe neuralgia of the stump. He had already been treated by another homoeopath with routine remedies for the trouble, like *Allium cepa*, *Acid phos.* etc., to no effect. Questioning revealed that when he was a young boy he had suffered from severe eczema all over the right leg, which was eventually 'cured' by leeching. *Psorinum 200* was immediately administered to him and also asked to report after three days. Next morning he was the first patient to show up at my clinic. He announced with pleasure that when he woke up in the morning he found that the pain which had plagued him for the last six months had entirely disappeared. He exposed the stump and pointed to a crop of eruptions which he said he found in the morning.

Speaking of neuralgia of the stump, I recently met a man whose left leg was amputated twenty-nine years ago and he was still suffering from neuralgia of the stump

(2) J. (2) female child, could not yet walk. The legs were thin and weak and she stood up with support, and when forced to walk with support, refused to walk and sat down. Rubbing the legs with cod liver oil and sun bathing, calcium injections and other tonics have all been tried. After fifteen days of homoeopathic treatment mainly with *Calc. phos.*, *Silicea* and *Sanicula*, the child could stand up by herself and in another fifteen days was running about and playing.

(3) Mrs. H. (25) suffering from fissure of the anus since the last confinement eight months ago. The movement of bowels produced excruciating pain which continued for hours. She was habitually constipated, and somewhat stout, but general health was excellent; was contemplating operation in a few days. For this complaint, except among homoeopaths, surgery is considered to be the only remedy. Decided to try Homoeopathy, because 'it was harmless' (what a sound reason for trying homoeopathic treatment!) At the end of first week of treatment with *Calendula*, *Graphites*, *Silicea* and *Hepar*, the only trouble that remained was a very slight pain when passing stool, and no pain at all afterwards. In another week, with the same remedies repeated, complete cure was effected.

The above cases have been selected just to show that homoeopathic medicines are not at all slow in their action, and as a matter of fact, cure diseases sooner than by other method. Not all cases, especially chronic ones,

respond so promptly and dramatically; as has already been stated, the nature of the malady, the age of the patient, his vitality and the duration of the trouble influence the time taken for the cure.

To sum up, homoeopathic medicines *cure* diseases in the minimum time that is *essential* in each case, in keeping with natural laws. The impression that homoeopathic treatment is slow in producing results is born out of ignorance, and is also a result of the widespread prejudice against this wonderful art of healing.

Editorial comment: The author deserves to be congratulated for the lucid manner in which he has put across the problem of misconceptions in circulation about the action of the homoeopathic remedies amongst the lay persons, and a section of the homoeopathic profession itself.

CASE OF OTITIS: MASTOID ABSCESS

(Continued from page 450)

Silica 30, every 4 hours.

Dec. 31—Abscess is discharging slightly and is shrinking fast. No pain. Bowels have acted and lumbar pain has gone.

Silica 30, night and morning.

Jan. 6, 1933—Abscess has now quite healed. Patient is very well, running about and playing, cheerful, has a good appetite, sleeps well. The hearing is very good, there is no discharge from the meatus.

April 7—The patient has remained well and his hearing is excellent.

This was a mastoid case that ran a sub-acute course. Had it been more acute or had there been the least sign that the brain was about to be attacked, a surgeon would have been called in to operate as the risk of the inflammation spreading to the meninges or the petrosal veins or cavernous sinus would have been too great. The medicine which in this case seemed to be the most effectual in controlling the inflammation was Sulphur but Silica and Hepar were both helpful. The slow progress enabled the abscess to be shut off and for the pus to make its way outwards and discharge. I let the abscess discharge itself, as I think that is always the more satisfactory treatment of abscesses when no vital structures are threatened. The subsequent healing is quicker. I hope, the publication of this case will not induce practitioners to think that mastoid cases should usually be treated only with medicines.

This was an exceptional case. In most cases a surgeon should be called in as soon as there is definite sign of mastoid inflammation. But it may encourage those who are far away from skilled surgical aid not to give up the case in despair but to persevere with our very potent medicines selected according to the law of similars.

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