

WREATH CEREMONY AT THE HAHNEMANN MONUMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The 150th anniversary of the publication of Hahnemann's historic announcement of the principles of Homœopathy was celebrated in Washington on June 1, 1946, in a nostalgic ceremony held before the monument in the Scott Circle.

Dr. Julia M. Green, Secretary of the American Foundation for Homœopathy, made the following address :

One hundred and fifty years ago Samuel Christian Frederick Hahnemann announced in Hufeland's Journal the dicta of "Similia Similibus" when he wrote "Essay on the New Principles of Ascertaining the Curative Power of Drugs, (with a Few Glances at Those Hitherto Employed)."

Professor Hufeland, a younger man than Hahnemann, occupied the chair at the University of Jena. "He was unmistakably a man with a career, a man, moreover, of an effortless rise to fame. And, combining the intuitiveness of an artist with the decorum of an aristocrat, he pursued the study of medicine with all his heart," says Dr. Martin Gumpert, in his book, "Hahnemann, the Adventurous Career of a Medical Rebel." One day he received for his newly founded Journal of Practical Medicine a voluminous manuscript from Dr. Hahnemann. Hufeland read it thoroughly, thoughtfully, then sent it to his printer.

To quote Dr. Gumpert, "This work was the

successful attempt of a man buried alive to force his way into the open air. Twenty years before this, professors had pounded their obscure doctrines into the heads of their young medical students, and drugged them with dogmas, walled them with hypotheses. Hahnemann battered his way through obstructions, spoke plainly, observed with open eyes. What did doctors do to the sick in their beds? They gave them cold for heat, depression for excitement, evacuations for stoppages." To quote Hahnemann, "To cure stoppages by purgatives, blood ebullitions by venesections, sour eructations by alkalis, and although the greater part of our medical contemporaries still adhere to this method I do not fear to call it injurious and destructive."

"I beseech my medical bretheren to abandon this method. It is the wrong one which leads to the abyss. The proud empiric plumes himself on the wretched power of giving a few hours ease, unconcerned if, during this specious calm, the disease plants its roots still deeper.

"In order to ascertain the effects of remedial agents we should trust as little as possible to chance. The true nature and genuine effects can only be derived from the effects that a given medical substance has, by itself and in this or that dose, developed in the human body.

"But since the key for this is still wanting, perhaps I am so fortunate as to be able to point out the principle under the guidance of which the science may be perfected by the gradual discovery and

application, on rational principles, of a suitable specific remedy for each chronic disease, among the hitherto known (and among still unknown) medicines. It is contained, I may say in the following: *Every powerful medicinal substance produces in the human body a kind of peculiar disease of its own: The more powerful the medicine the more peculiar and marked the disease.*

"We should imitate nature, which sometimes cures a chronic disease by adding another, and should employ in the diseases which we wish to cure that medicine which is able to produce another very similar artificial disease, and then the former will be cured: *Similia Similibus.*

"In order to cure diseases we must search for medicines that can excite a similar disease in the human body."

"Nothing then remains but to prove on our own bodies the medicines we wish to investigate. The physician, whose sole aim is to perfect his art, can avail himself of no other source of information respecting medicines than the answer to the following questions: First—what is the pure action of each by itself on the human body?

"Second, what do observations of its action, on this or that simple or complex disease teach us?

"Most medicines have more than one action: the first a direct action, which gradually changes into the second (which I will call the indirect, secondary action) the latter is generally a state exactly the opposite of the former. Only a few medicines are exceptions

to this rule, continuing their primary action uninterrupted but always of the same kind, although always diminishing in degree, until after some time no trace of their action can be detected, and the natural condition of the organism is restored.

"If in the case of chronic disease a medicine be given, of which the primary action corresponds to the disease, the indirect secondary action is sometimes exactly the state of body we seek to bring about.

"To me the strangest circumstances connected with the speculations on the virtues of individual drugs is that the infamous habit—which still obtains in medicine—of combining several medicines in one prescription was carried out to such an extent that I defy Oedipus himself to tell what was the action of a single ingredient of the hotchpotch." (The prescription of a single remedy was in those days almost rarer than it is now.)

"Simplicity is the physicians highest law...for many years I have never prescribed but a single medicine at a time...and I have never repeated the dose until the action of the preceding one had ceased...In this manner I have been very successful, have given satisfaction to my patients, and have seen things which otherwise I would never have seen."

Dr. Green then read the following excerpts from the records of the dedication ceremony of the Hahnemann Monument held in Washington in June, 1900, when the President of the United States, William McKinley, unveiled the statue. Dr. Green was present on that historic occasion.

Dr. Charles Walton, President of the Institute, formally presenting the monument to the Government of the United States :

“For many years the American Institute of Homœopathy, the oldest National Medical Society in America, and representing the Homœopathic School of Medicine, has been striving through its Monument Committee, to secure the erection, in a suitable location, of a fitting testimonial to the worth of our illustrious founder. The result of their gigantic efforts is before us. Theirs has been a work of love, and nobly have they performed it. Nor time, nor labour has been spared, and behold, ‘The end crowns the work.’

“He comes as no usurper to complete this group of memorable men. No false standard should begrudge the philosopher the right to keep his vigil in company with the statesman and the warrior. He stands for liberty of thought, no less than the statesman stands for civic liberty, and both look with confidence to the warrior to maintain, if necessary, their perpetuity. Right, and might, and light form an invincible trinity, and it is fitting that their sculptured representatives should fraternize within the limits of a common circle. I seem to hear from one end of this beautiful reservation the famous words, ‘Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!’ as they thundered forth the deliberative conclusion of the immortal Webster as to the necessary foundation of this great Republic; and from the other end, I hear the philosopher’s dictum, ‘Similia Similibus Curentur,’

proclaiming the law of cure for the relief of our suffering humanity.

• “In building a monument to Hahnemann, we honour not only him, but also ourselves. We seek, not to deify a man, but to pay tribute to his greatness as a scholar and a philosopher. We seek to bear testimony, in a substantial manner, to our belief in the value of his law of cure. He taught the difference between a law and a coincidence; between knowledge and a guess. He brought to a high degree of perfection the power of a thinking habit, and his attainments stand as a constant incentive to the highest mental activity. We would honour not only the doer, but also what he has done, and hope to perpetuate his example as an incentive to all investigators of philosophy.

• “In applying the doctrine of symbolism to Samuel Hahnemann, by rearing a monument to his memory, we only recognize a universal need. He stands for a superior medical truth. We seek to stimulate the recognition of the truth. The elements of a martyr were in his personality, and we strive to incite a reverence for these elements. A father in medicine we acknowledge his paternity. A wise counsellor in practice, we acknowledge his counselling. A past master as a remedial prover, we subscribe our faith in his provings; a lawgiver in therapeutics, we recognize his law.

• “We commend [the] broad spirit of that Congress which has furnished this eligible site, and the good judgment of our President who did not withhold his signature from the Act which made it possible for us

to make our contribution towards embellishing a city already renowned for its works of art. The city of Hahnemann's fatherland, which once drove him from her borders, now guards a monument to his memory. The city of his adopted country, whose enmity towards his fatherland is not yet extinct, now shelters his remains within the sacred confines of her most celebrated cemetery. The capital city of the world's greatest republic receives to her protecting care this Monument to his fame.

"We give into your keeping this testimonial of our recognition of one of the world's most pronounced benefactors. Take it under the National protection. Guard it as the cherished object of millions of our people.

"We dedicate it to the lover of art, who may see in its graceful proportions and ornate handwork a symbol of the beautiful life of the sage of Coethen.

"We dedicate it to the profession of which he was so great a leader, that they may learn the value of self-sacrifice and persistent effort.

"We dedicate it to our country, that she may be stimulated to perpetuate the fostering care which shall cherish the development of every truth that makes for the betterment of a nation."

General Griggs spoke as follows :

"Mr. President : There are triumphs to be won in the peaceful pursuits of life that bear equal glory with the victories won on the field of war. In the centre of this public plaza stands the statue of a great warrior, a soldier of his country in three wars, a representative

of martial heroism and valour. Beyond, on the other side, is the statue of a great statesman and orator, the expounder and defender of our Constitution, representing constitutional law and liberty and representative government. Here, on this side, this Institute, with great appropriateness, has placed this other statue, not to a man of war, not to a great senator, but to a scientist. There is one, and one only test of worthiness, and that is that the man should have fought, contended, wrought with unselfishness, with the spirit of sacrifice and devotion, in the interests of his country, of humanity, of the world. That merit of fame these three possessed in triune glory.

“It was the merit of Hahnemann that he exposed fallacies, uncovered truth and showed things not as they had been believed to be but as they are. It was not his chief glory that, by his doctrine, he founded the Homœopathic School, but rather that he uncovered errors and disclosed secrets of nature which all the world has recognized as correct. He accepted no dogmatic assertion of any school of philosophy, nor any edict of religious council, where the secrets of nature or of science were concerned. The Kingdom of Heaven cometh not by observation, but that is true of no other thing. Like Darwin and Pasteur and Koch, and all the tens and hundreds of thousands of scientific investigators of the present day, he believed that truth was to be recognized and found by experiment and observation. He met with persecution. It is not in Jerusalem alone that the prophets are stoned and so this man, for the truth's sake, endured persecution.

"It is no criticism of the action of this Institute and of the Federal Government that they have placed, and permitted to be placed, here the statue of a man who never knew or saw America. It is but an added glory that the work he did and the fame that is now his are recognized to belong not to Germany but to the world. I congratulate you, gentlemen of the American Institute of Homœopathy, on placing here, in the circle of the National Capital, this beautiful work of art. Generations of our people to come will pass and view this statue, will look at the figure of the young student bending in thoughtfulness upon his book ; at the figure of the scientist making his experiments ; at the figure of the wise teacher instructing his pupils ; and at the grand, the noble, the benignant figure of the great man whose position here today in view of the persecution to which he was subjected, teaches us to rejoice and to believe that it can no longer be said with truth that Right is ever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne, for here sits Right enthroned before the eyes of the American people, from whom forever and forevermore will be contributed the just need of immortal fame."

Editorial by Eugene H. Porter, M.D., North American Journal of Homœopathy, June, 1900.

"It symbolizes in its beauty and grace, not only the man whose name it bears, but also the strength and power and ever-living influence of the truths that he discovered and made plain. It stands, moreover, for that we, as Homœopaths, believe is true and best in medical science ; it stands for honesty, for

liberality, for tolerance; it stands for scientific medicine; and it stands for Homœopathy, whose light now illumines a new creation in bronze, dedicated, in the highest sense, to humanity, and commemorating the triumph of genius and truth, enduring as the centuries."

—*Journal of the American Institute of Homœopathy,*
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HOW TO TREAT OBSCURE CASES

BY J. ELLIS BARKER

The vast majority of cases, important as well as insignificant, are obscure. The majority of diagnoses made with regard to important cases, even if made by a team of experts, are doubtful or faulty. Diagnoses are largely based on guesswork. Besides, it is not sufficient to diagnose quite obvious cases such as cancer, paralysis, tuberculosis, diabetes, etc., by labelling them correctly, which is quite easy in the four diseases mentioned. These diseases are, after all, only end results and the practitioner should try to diagnose, or ascertain, *why* the patient is tuberculous, cancerous, etc. After all, every patient and every patient's family asks this question and is entitled to an adequate reply. Besides even the apparently obvious major diseases may not be what they seem. A tuberculous or syphilitic swelling may be mistaken for cancer, diabetic coma may be mistaken for drunkenness.