

## JAMES TYLER KENT ON POTENCY QUESTION

DR. DEBAJYOTI BAGCHI, D.M.S., Calcutta

The potency question has been a perpetual headache with homoeopaths, especially the newly initiated practitioners and the question one is invariably asked: "What potency shall I give and how often should it be given?"

The late Dr. James Tyler Kent has much to teach us on this vexed problem. So, I propose to quote from his writings and this may be some sort of guide to the students and practitioners of some experience.

Dr. Kent states: "I have in the office of the many homoeopathic physicians who have in their armamentarium nothing but tinctures.....I have in the other physicians offices where nothing could be found but CMs.....and in my judgment the selection of the best potency is a matter of experience and observation, and not as yet a matter of law."

I am sorry about the last two lines of the above quotation but there it is; be not disheartened for there is light in the darkness.

Dr. Kent goes on to say: "Individualization, in regard to potencies as in other branches of homoeopathic work furnishes us with an additional element of accuracy and success enabling us to reach certain cases that we otherwise could not reach. Some patients are very sensitive to the highest potencies, and are cured mildly and permanently by the use of 200th and 1000th potencies, there are other individuals who are torn to pieces by the use of highest potencies. Patients who have heart disease or who are suffering from phthisis are apt to have their sufferings increased and the end hastened by the highest potencies; they do better under the 30th or 200th. Sometimes very sensitive patients will do on a high potency if they have been prepared for it by the use of a lower potency, and then the remedy would cease to act .....Give the necessary doses at long intervals until the repetition brings no effect; then if you are sure that it is the similitimum give it in a higher potency until that ceases to act and finally the highest."

In regard to degrees he states: "It is not well to jump too many degrees. From the crude to the 10,000th there is a range of degrees in the ordinary person. You do not go from the first to the last in music, it does not preserve the chord. You take the thirds and the fifths, you can repeat the series beginning with the lower potencies and do good work. Too high a potency gives us unnecessary aggravation and then will not perform the best curative action. The best action is the slight aggravation, the ideal is, the one that gives no aggravation but amelioration."

Therefore Dr. Kent teaches us that:

- (1) The potency to be given is a matter of experience and observation,
- (2) The 30th potency is a good one to start with,

*(Contd. on page 147)*

urgently necessary to study this system with the most profound care, for it would indicate the dawn of a new era in medicine.

The art of therapy would be transformed into a science!

It is the resolution of precisely this problem, which has forced us to undertake a voyage of discovery and study to this new world. Seven years of investigation of the facts yielding these conclusions have led to the work presented in this thesis, written to fulfill the requirement for the doctorate of medicine, and refused by the faculty of medicine of Geneva.

#### REFERENCES

1. Kent: *Lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy*, lecture II.
2. Poincaré, H.: *La Valeur de la Science*.
3. Larousse: *Encyclopedia*.
4. Regnaud: *Précis de logique évolutionniste, Bib. Phil.*, p. 118.
5. Boutroux: *Loc. cit.*
6. Littré: *Dictionary of Medicine*, Art.: Law.

—*Journal of the American Institute of Homeopathy*, Sept. 1978

---

#### JAMES TYLER KENT ON POTENCY QUESTION

(Contd. from page 148)

(3) Sensitivity to potencies varies in patients,

(4) If we have the right remedy or the similimum then go up in a series. What he means to say is the 30th, 200th, 1000th etc.,

(5) Best results are obtained by giving the same potency twice only.

A final tip he gives us is that, constitutions can be changed, and to do this potencies from mother tincture to the highest to be given over a number of years. And he has done this.

It is yet to be decided that how many people, nowadays, when everything must be done at once and at full speed, are prepared to wait one, two or more years to be cured of their chronic complaints.

---