

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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## EDITORIAL

### ACUTE PRESCRIBING

It is our observation and experience that there exists a lot of misunderstanding in acute and chronic prescribing. Very commonly it is seen that on repertorising if Calcarea carries the highest marks, Belladonna is thought of as its acute remedy without consideration of its suitability to the case. The same thing happens with Carbo veg. and Kali carb. This I believe is because of the relationship of Belladonna and Kali carb., as acute of Calc. carb. and Carbo veg. respectively. This procedure of prescribing is not correct in all cases. Now let us understand what is meant by acute prescribing.

The acute totality consists of the chief complaint and its concomitants, each under the four elements. This must be quickly assessed. The four elements are location, sensation, modalities and accompaniments. The acute expression of any disease is nothing new but only an expression due to certain environmental factors and these expressions are directly linked up with the characters of chronic manifestations. So, while determining the acute prescription, attention must be paid to these environmental factors as causative elements and the manner in which the body responds to these factors. A peculiar response of the body such as the feeling of general chilliness, but desires for icy cold drinks will determine Ars. alb. and Phosphorus respectively. This differential modalities often become exaggerated in an acute state.

In epidemics, the presenting symptoms are mostly those of the disease since the pace of invading disease is so fast that even the most robust constitution finds it difficult to fight back and the body response is practically nil. Therefore, the presenting symptoms in many who are affected remain same, and very little individualisation is possible. The right remedy would, therefore, be based on the presenting symptoms, and when prescribing during the prodromal stage, it aborts the disease or minimises the suffering or it may even prove to be prophylactic.

When there is a paucity of symptoms often certain remedies help to palliate, like *Thlaspi bursa pastoris* is indicated in uterine haemorrhages,

or again Hecla lava is needed in tumours of the jaw and bone, or again *Carduus marianus* may be indicated in liver troubles.

At times, in acute diseases, the vital force is so overwhelmed that it is unable to throw out any clear-cut acute picture but instead constitutional symptoms which should have normally receded become prominent. It is then that a deep-acting constitutional remedy is needed and if at this stage the indicated constitutional remedy is not given, the case may turn fatal.

*Nosodes* besides having their miasmatic expressions have also their acute and chronic expressions and may be indicated in acute diseases, e.g. *Medorrhinum* may be indicated in a case of collapse or sepsis.

Much can be written of this subject, however it is equally vital that the prevailing wrong concepts that many of us have may be cleared soon.

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