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The Hahnemannian Gleanings wishes all its readers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

EDITORIAL

CONCEPT OF CURE

An organism in perfect balance represents health. A normal susceptibility is essential to maintain this fine balance. Susceptibility is an essential quality of all living organisms. It is a quality by which an organism responds to any external or internal stimulus. This normal susceptibility wages a relentless battle against various environmental inputs and tries its level best to maintain an all-time equilibrium and gives up only when it cannot bear the brunt further, thus losing the adaptability. It is only then this susceptibility alters its course and its reaction to the environment is represented by signs and symptoms. The ability of the susceptibility to fight on is determined by its hereditary attributes, i.e. the miasmatic background. The physician's main effort would be to restore this abnormal susceptibility back to normal, i.e. to regain stability. This we understand as *cure*.

The ultimates in disease are in fact the expressions of a disturbance in the harmonious flow of the vital force. Cure is nothing else but the restoration of this disturbed dynamical balance to harmony. How then can cure be effected and health restored? A mere elimination of the presenting symptoms does not necessarily signify cure. For example, a person suffering from diabetes, though his blood sugar can be controlled and maintained within the normal limits, cannot be termed as cured. Similarly in a case of kidney disorder unless the albumin-globulin ratio is brought to its normalcy, mere disappearance of signs and symptoms like oedema, dysuria, etc. cannot be termed as cure. Hence removal of symptoms together with restoration of the patient to a balanced metabolic state constitutes cure.

A disordered vital force can only be turned into order by something similar in quality to itself. Its similarity must be matched by the curative medicine in quality, in power and in plane. Again, cure by medication must be individual. Every case must be treated individually and a medicine capable

of altering the individual's state must be chosen. No two cases even of the same disease are exactly alike. Therefore, there cannot be specific remedies for specific diseases.

Cure relates to the case as a whole. A patient may have his pain in joints better; but if his rheumatic heart disease which preceded and caused the pain in joints is not eliminated the patient is not cured. Cure refers to the patient and not to his parts or to one of his diseases.

Finally, cure is effected only by dynamical treatment according to a definite pattern, observed by Hering called Hering's law of direction of cure.

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