

THE REAL, ABSOLUTE SIMILIMUM

DR. W. L. BALFOUR

"Only once in a blue moon do you find the real, absolute similimum", said the famous Dr. Constantine Hering to a class of his homoeopathic students in the eighties. This sweeping statement doubtless startled the class, but it is largely true. Hering knew what he was talking about and Professor Kent, that master of Homoeopathy, paid tribute to him by saying, "No better prescriber ever lived."

Hering said that we often think we have the similimum, when it is really only a similar remedy. However, it is comforting to know that medicines which are only similar can conduct many cases to a perfect cure, so that the doctor and the patient are both pleased with the result.

The similimum, I may say, is that special homoeopathic medicine, the one remedy which is particularly suited to the patient and which is often termed his constitutional medicine. It is the medicine which can give the constitution such a stimulus that it will start to put its house into order.

While gladly paying every respect to the memory of Constantine Hering, we had a blue moon, at least in Edinburgh, seven years ago this month and the real, absolute similimum has been found perhaps a little more frequently than he averred. When it is discovered, the result can only be likened to a miracle of apostolic days.

CHANGED PERSONALITY

There is something quite awe-inspiring about its working, when we see what the body can accomplish under its influence. The patient not only has his disease cured in so far as it can be cured, but something extra happens. I read about a dose of Aluminium making a weakly, timid man not only robust, but also courageous. Every experienced homoeopathic doctor gets hundreds of good cures but this is something different.

I regret to say that I have only found the real, absolute similimum a very few times in the past quarter of a century. The joy of seeing it work a miracle is tempered with the inevitable thought, why should not such a medicine be found for every patient? Even making every allowance for human frailty, Hering seemed to think it a very difficult feat and he proffered no solution of the problem, master prescriber as he was.

THE FIRST LACHESIS PROVING

Hering was the man who discovered the famous Lachesis at the peril of his life while botanising in South America. The local natives brought him a live specimen of this ferocious and deadly snake, and fled in terror as he

opened the box. Hering stunned the reptile with a blow from a stick, pressed out some of the venom and proceeded to make homoeopathic preparations thereof.

The task threw him into a high fever and, when he came out of his delirium, his first question was to ask his wife what he said and did, such was his devotion to science. It is fitting, therefore, that the first example of the real, absolute simillimum should be that of Lachesis.

Charlie was a little Cockney who found his way to a Canadian town. He was very loquacious, which is common to women but not as usual in men. Each spring, he got so troublesome that he had to be locked up under restraint. The homoeopathic doctor who told the story said that Charlie's tongue would move in and out just like that of a snake. Well, there was the famous three-legged stool of Constantine Hering, who said that three prominent symptoms of a drug constituted a three-legged stool to which the prescriber could safely trust himself. The doctor gave Charlie one dose of Lachesis 10M—a very high potency, and that was the end of the spring madness for ever.

Charlie went on well until he developed diarrhoea. His doctor very properly tried to find a medicine for the trouble, but nothing helped. I may say here that a very different remedy may be required for an acute trouble in a patient than the constitutional medicine, which, if given, can actually aggravate the condition. At length Charlie got his Lachesis again, and the second miracle happened. When Charlie asked the doctor why he was not given Lachesis, the doctor felt he could not embark upon a long and highly technical explanation, and the question was left unanswered.

Lachesis kept Charlie out of the asylum and cured his diarrhoea, but it could not cure his fatal pneumonia which he contracted in a distant town. As his breathing grew weaker and weaker, he was heard to say feebly, "If only the doctor was here with his magic powders, I would get better".

THE DRUG OF SOCRATES

I remember a patient who was attacked with disseminated sclerosis. There was no doubt about the diagnosis and he was soon reduced to using two sticks. The paralysis began in his legs and was rapidly ascending. I gave him one dose of Conium in the 200th potency, and the miracle began. He got a second dose in four months and needed no more medicine. The ancients knew that Conium causes ascending paralysis. His executioner gave it to Socrates and told him to walk about till he felt his legs giving out.

This patient's paralysis was cured and he could walk as well as anyone else, but something more happened. He was reborn physically, revitalised. He looked twenty years younger, and there was an alertness, a look of vigorous health stamped upon him which was never there before, as he had had much domestic sorrow.

I am sure that all homoeopaths have, at times, got excellent results in some cases of disseminated sclerosis but Conium just put something extra into that man. One case of mine has been cured for seventeen years but he lacks the look of radiant health which the conium patient developed.

In the last century, Dr. Wells of Boston, no mean homoeopathic prescriber, went on a visit to Europe and called on the famous von Boenninghausen, who was a son-in-law of Samuel Hahnemann. Wells had an inveterate skin trouble which no one in America had been able to touch, and they had some first class homoeopaths there.

Boenninghausen was at that time a very old and somewhat feeble man, and it took him half a day to write out all Dr. Wells' symptoms on sheet after sheet of foolscap. The process exhausted him and he told the doctor to come back the next day and get his medicine.

Wells duly called next morning and was given a bottle of pills, but Boenninghausen refused to tell him the name of the medicine. He went on a trip to Spain and, before he had returned, found he was cured, and more than cured. His skin trouble was gone for good, but the medicine had done more than this. It gave him a new nervous system. He called on the old man once more and succeeded in getting the name of the medicine this time. It was Petroleum.

A girl of about twelve was exceedingly nervous and caused her parents no little alarm by her impulsive and somewhat irresponsible actions, and her excitability. Two separate doses of Dys. co., the Bach bowel nosode, have transformed her. She is now grown up and has needed no more medicine. Her character has been literally transformed. I am sure that she could take the chair at a public meeting, being so full of confidence. A really remarkable result, but no better than that of her mother, who is also a tribute to the power of the real, absolute similimum.

NEED TO REPEAT POTENCY

Her mother has been changed from head to foot by one of the cancer nosodes, which was prescribed on her general appearance. If ever a human being seemed to be marked for malignancy it was she, and her brother succumbed very speedily and quite unexpectedly to a growth. She is physically reborn, as far as that is possible. The dragging pain in the back has gone, the wearied look, the heart is much stronger and her pulse is quite respectable now.

She can do things which she could not attempt before and a short walk no longer exhausts her. The interesting thing is her body wanted only the 30th potency of the nosode. I gave her so many doses of it that I would try the 100th or 200th, but these did not suit her nearly as well as the 30th. She had no less than thirty doses of the 30th while under treatment, thus

showing that we can continue to repeat a potency as long as it obviously helps the patient.

This case differs from the others in that she had to get her own special medicine so many times, but she has remained well and strong. The end result was just as dramatic, though it took much longer to achieve. She got the nosode because she appeared to be heading for malignancy. I assume that she needed so many doses because she was so far down, and the remedy certainly chased her up the ladder to good health. A good time after her recovery. I read Dr. Foubister's description of the nosode and realised how perfectly it fitted her.

SOME CASES OF ARTHRITIS

It is really amazing how quickly the absolute similimum acts in most cases. I read of a very bad case of rheumatoid arthritis who was given one dose of *Lycopodium* 1M, and was moving about with wonderful freedom in a few days considering the previous condition of the patient. While hunting through my files recently, I found the case notes of a hairdresser whose feet were badly affected with arthritis. After a single dose of a rather unusual nosode, she considered herself to be cured in six weeks. And the same nosode enabled another hairdresser to reopen her shop which the same trouble compelled her to close.

I have no explanation to offer why, in these cases, such a quick response should occur. Every homoeopath has had very nice cures of arthritis and some of the best results took a long time. Sulphur 10M began to loosen the locked joints of a young woman, whereas in other cases the improvement is slow because the arthritis appears to be putting up a stubborn fight not to yield to Homoeopathy, although the outcome may be a perfect cure.

A patient did not need a repeat of a dose of *Medorrhinum* for years and it was very heartening to see the distorted, swollen knuckles gradually assume their normal shape. A late colleague of mine told me that his mother did not need a repeat for four years of one dose of *Rhus tox*, as it kept her free from rheumatism all that time.

These are some examples of what the real, absolute similimum can do. If it could always be found, Homoeopathy would sweep the country. Such results cannot be explained away by the stale old comments of their being psychological, or due to faith in the medicine etc.

This article began with a *Lachesis* case and will finish with one. Before the war, a patient from abroad consulted me about the serious state of his health, which was going to necessitate his resigning his post. Like many patients, he came to Homoeopathy as a last resort. I remember putting a dose of *Lachesis* 30 on his tongue and the miracle began at once. In two days, he was transformed, and certainly looked it. The healing process started at the crown of his head and went right down to his toes.

He passed out of my ken and in due course I sent him a modest account for services rendered. Instead of the fee, I got a withering letter telling me that the nations were at war, a much more important matter than money and more in the same strain. However, as another patient of mine remarked with the air of Euclid throwing off an axiom "It takes a war to show people in their true feathers"!

—*Homoeopathy*, Dec. 1957
