

433

# Some Recent Research and Advances in Homoeopathy

Compiled By

Dr. P. SANKARAN, L. J. M., D. F. Hom. (Lond.)

Hon. Physician, Govt. Homoeopathic Hospital, Bombay.

THE HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL PUBLISHERS,  
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Printed by G. K. Aiyar at Psycho Press, Bombay  
and Published by Dr. P. Sankaran for the Homoeopathic Medical Publishers,  
Santa Cruz (West), Bombay 23.

*Dedicated to*

Dr. Templeton, Dr. Foubister,  
and all other research workers  
in the field of homoeopathy.

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## Some Recent Research & Advances in Homoeopathy

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There is an unfortunate impression that the science of homoeopathy is static and that no research is being done or advance made. This is quite untrue, for the simple reason that every science represents an eternal search for truth, and homoeopathy is no exception. While the basic concepts of homoeopathy are the same as propounded by Hahnemann a hundred and fifty years ago, further studies have suggested wider fields of application and newer approaches to the subject. We shall now briefly deal with some of the research done and the advances made in the last fifty years.

### ELECTRO-PHYSICAL AND BIO-PHYSICAL RESEARCH

Ever since medicine became a science there has always been perpetual enquiry and inference regarding the actual nature of the fundamental processes of the living cell, both in health and in disease. Various theories have been put forward from time to time only to be demolished later on. Concentrating on this subject, Dr. William E. Boyd, an eminent physician and scientist of Glasgow, after many years of patient research built up evidence to show that the inner intricate processes of the body and mind are accompanied by activities in the bio-physical sphere, intra-cellular and inter-cellular, in which electrical activities, especially in relation to the cell membranes, play an essential part.

He summed up his conclusions as follows:—

1. The body-mind inter-relationship can be shown by the psycho-galvanic reflex to be objectively demonstrable throughout by cathode ray oscillograph and suitable amplification.
2. The electrical activity of the body can be shown in various ways by different bio-physical methods.

1. The skin carries varying electrical potentials which can be measured.
- ii. There is an electrical field surrounding the body extending in every direction, modified by the environment, affected by such actions as passing near other people, and having a fluctuating quality. This can be demonstrated qualitatively by suitable apparatus, entirely objective in character, recording on an oscillograph.
- iii. The body reacts in particular ways to both direct and alternating currents showing varying impedance to the latter according to the periodicity, following in this action certain formulae.
- iv. The brain activity is accompanied by electric potentials of periodic varying character—now well known and detected by modern methods of encephalography.
- vi. The body continuously emits radiation in the long infra-red regions which can be filtered by various crystals and detected by delicate thermo-junctions.

All these activities and properties are dependent on electronic or atomic changes.

3. The lower attenuations of homoeopathic drugs, called low potencies, can be shown to have in their attenuation definite electro-physical properties; for example:—

- i. Arsenic in an attenuation of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  is capable of showing distinctive response to ultra-violet radiation by fluorescence.
- ii. Tincture of gold prepared by the method laid down by Hahnemann, an apparently clear transparent fluid, can be shown by spectroscopic methods to be capable of modifying a beam of ultra-violet light. The modification is distinctive for gold. This tincture is in an attenuation of 1 in  $10^{-7}$  i.e. 1 part in 10,000,000.



- iii. China, the famous cinchona of Hahnemann's early experiments, can be shown capable of physical action on ultra-violet light (selective absorption) in an attenuation of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$ .
- iv. Nux vomica can be shown to have a similar action in an attenuation  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ .
- v. Radium bromide can by Geiger Counter be shown to have a radiation through air (showing ionizing properties) which can ultimately be visually recorded by oscillograph in an attenuation of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  and can be demonstrated by electroscope at least to  $1 \times 10^{-10}$ , or 1 part in 10,000,000,000.

Further steps in the recognition of the electrical nature and responses of the living organism as well as the electro-physical nature of drugs in potentised form were gradually taken and naturally attempts were made to define and measure this energy. These attempts have gradually led to the demonstration of a form of disease-activity as well as drug-activity, hitherto unknown, by certain methods involving body reflexes, though such work continues to remain highly intricate and unorthodox in type.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRO-PHYSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The beginnings in this direction were first made in the earlier part of this century, when Dr. George Starr White of Los Angeles discovered certain curious phenomena. He noticed that in the human body there is an effect caused by the change of position in relation to the points of the compass. For example, if a person slowly turns from the east-west to the north-south direction and all the time his chest is continuously percussed, then there is an alteration noticed in the percussion note during the change of position. The percussion note is of a higher pitch when the subject is facing east-west than when he is facing north-south.

Even if the individual is in the same east-west position, the percussion note is found to change if a living plant or crude tincture or a potentised drug is brought within a certain distance of the person.

## ABRAMS' DISCOVERIES

Dr. Albert Abrams of San Francisco was one of the first physicians to turn his attention towards these wireless waves which emanate from the human body. In the same indirect manner as Rontgen had first obtained his X-ray effect while working at a different problem, so Abrams became aware of the electro-magnetic waves of the human body whilst studying the spinal reflexes by means of percussion. It was by chance that he found that all tubercular patients gave a dull note when tapped at certain spots on their back and that this dullness was present in all cases of tuberculosis, whether there was lung disease at that location or not. He further found that he only obtained this dull note when the patient was facing west, and that it disappeared when he turned the patients so as to face north or south. This fact suggested that there was a relation between the electro-magnetic field of the earth and that of the individual. He further found that if he held a tubercular specimen, either a piece of tissue or a tube containing tubercle bacilli, over the back of the neck of a healthy person, the same dullness was present on percussion. This experiment certainly suggested that wireless waves from the specimen were received and recorded by the body and that these waves altered the character of the healthy tissues.

His next experiment was to pass a wire from a patient to a healthy person, one end of the wire being placed over the lesion on the patient and the other placed over the cervical vertebra of the healthy subject. He found that on tapping the back and abdomen of the healthy person he obtained the same dullness as when tapping the diseased person. This may be regarded as an amplification of the earlier experiment and went to show that waves from the diseased patient passed along the wire, altering temporarily the electro-magnetic condition of the tissues of the healthy person, who was termed the subject.

At about this time Dr. Abrams made yet another discovery. He was percussing a patient, and found on the abdomen a dullness for which he could not account. On looking around he noticed that there was a bottle containing a cancer growth on his table. He had it removed

and the dullness disappeared. The growth was brought back where-upon the dullness reappeared. He had thus found two separate reflexes on different areas, one for tubercle and another for cancer. This was surely an astonishing observation, and formed the basis of his future work. These experiments were repeated again and again, and each one gave fresh evidence of the passage of waves across space.

Experiments followed with other diseases. He found that syphilis caused a reflex on much the same area as cancer. So area-reflex was not enough in itself. Further evidence was needed for differentiation. A measure of wave-length was what was required. The plan he adopted was to interpose a coiled wire resistance between the patient or the specimen and the subject. He had a coil wound with resistances marked in ohms on it. He then found that diseases came through on the human indicator or subject at certain points on the coil. He also found that the best place for the reception of the waves from the patient was the forehead of the subject when he was using the abdominal muscles of the subject as his indicator. The abdominal muscles of the human being are peculiarly sensitive to the electro-magnetic condition of the organs and of the body in general, and just as a banjo string can be stimulated to vibrate to waves of sound, so also these muscles can be stimulated to reflex movements by changes in the electro-magnetic field. When following this method of diagnosis through percussion, Abrams found that in cases of malaria, dullness occurred with his rheostat set at 32 ohms; with tubercle at 42; with an infection due to bacillus coli at 44; with acquired syphilis at 55; with hereditary syphilis at 57; with cancer at 50; with sarcoma at 58; with a streptococcal infection at 60, and so on.

The apparatus which Abrams used for the diagnosis of disease consisted, in its simplest form, of a round black wooden box containing metallic contact points from which ran grounding wires. From the metallic top of this box passes a short insulating wire, having on its free end an aluminium electrode which is applied to the forehead of the subject. This apparatus has been modified and im-

proved upon, but the above description is sufficient to show his system of working at its simplest. His method of using the apparatus was as follows: A specimen of the patient's blood was placed in the box and experimental percussions made on the abdomen of the subject, the indicator being moved at each tapping from one ohm upwards. When a dullness of sound was perceived, the reading on the rheostat was noted. And thus, from previous experiments and readings taken from diseased tissues, he found that the disease could be identified.

His next step was to experiment with drugs and he was able to gradually work out the readings for various drugs. For example, quinine gave a reaction when the rheostat was set at a resistance of 32 ohms. For some time he continued to pick out the drugs and treat patients with the help of this apparatus; but the results were not up to his expectations.

Not being satisfied with the opposition of "disease vibrations" by "drug vibrations", Dr. Abrams built up a machine to generate suitable vibrations with which to cancel the disease force. This machine which he called the oscilloclast (wave-breaker) was his device for destroying infections and malignancies through the application of measured vibrations. It operated from a battery or from the main and delivered the proper electronic destructive vibrations which were expected to break down the disease in the patient. This concept was probably wrong, but he obtained good results. Waves from the oscilloclast cannot kill micro-organisms; if they give relief it is by stimulation of the patient's cells and the production of some protective energy.

#### BOYD'S EMANOMETER

Continuing the line of work before the stage of development of the oscilloclast, Dr. Boyd of Glasgow (1884-1954) considerably modified and improved Abram's box and succeeded in constructing a more accurate apparatus called the Emanometer for detecting the disease emanations and the corresponding drug radiations.



In his apparatus, a drop of some secretion of the patient, for example, the lacrymal, salivary etc. taken on a sterile blotter is placed in a compartment of the Emanometer. A healthy person is made to stand naked inside a screening cage in the machine and he is exposed to radiation from this secretion. It is ensured that the cage is quite intact and all parts of it have metal to metal contact so that the subject inside is completely screened and protected from all external electro-physical energies. The operator thrusts his arm through a panel for percussing and two copper cloth sleeves fit in closely over his wrists. The subject is exposed to the secretion of the patient and all the while his abdomen is continuously percussed.

When a change in the percussion note on the abdomen is noticed, the distance at which such change is produced is noted and on the basis of this the patient is assigned to a particular Emanometer group. Then those drugs from this group are selected which seem likely to cover the symptomatology of the case and the potencies of these drugs are placed in the apparatus so that the subject is exposed simultaneously both to the disease energy and drug energy. When the change in the percussion note caused by exposure to the patient's secretion is neutralised completely by simultaneous exposure to a drug in potency, then this drug is found to be the simillimum. Such an apparatus is being operated in London by Dr. W. R. McCrae.

Several years ago, the Royal Society of Medicine appointed a highly critical committee under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Horder, to investigate the nature and use of Abrams' coil as well as allied phenomena. This committee carried on investigation for nearly two years. The committee was critical of the claims made for Abrams' apparatus but they were satisfied with the results of the Emanometer. Numerous tests were arranged to discover if the potency could be identified by such a bio-physical method. During the series of tests, Dr. Boyd was not only able to demonstrate a clear differentiation between sulphur 10 M and an inert sugar control but he was also able to distinguish between different potencies of sodium chloride (Nat. mur.) such as 30, 200 and CM. The Emanometer was also shown to be so adjustable that it could definitely distinguish between various drugs such as arsenic,

pulsatilla, belladonna, calcium carbonate and cocculus, all in high dilutions. The final crucial test consisted of eight demonstrations. In this series, a high potency of sulphur was used as test material and in every test its presence was detected without error. The chances of accidental success ranged from 1 in 6 in the simplest, to 1 in 33½ million in the complex cases. Dr. Boyd was thus able to completely satisfy this committee that the Emanometer is able to detect the activity of homœopathic potencies although these potencies on chemical analysis reveal absolutely no drug content.

By means of this demonstration, Dr. Boyd was able to prove that there are some energies of a very delicate character inherent in highly diluted and potentised substances and that these energies evoke reactions on the human body that can be detected.

On the basis of the kind and intensity of the reaction which is provoked by each drug, the various drugs have been classified into certain groups, twelve in number. It was also noted that there is a specific relationship between these groups. Groups 1, 6 & 10 were found related to each other as also groups 4, 5, 8 & 11. When a patient in a particular group fell ill he always changed into a related group. Patients rarely changed from one group to a neighbouring group e.g. 4 to 5 or 10 to 11. They may move indirectly into it, as e.g. a 5th group patient may move into the 8th group and then to the 4th. It was also noted that when a medicine selected and administered to a patient is actually from a neighbouring group instead of the patient's own group he suffered an aggravation clinically.

The experiments of Dr. Boyd were highly complex and required infinite patience and practice. But a similar and much more simple experiment can be carried out by anyone. A normal person is made to stand facing east or west. An observer percusses over his chest at the border of the heart. A third person across the room picks up a homœopathic potency in his hand and approaches the subject while he is being continuously percussed. At some point anywhere from across the room to three or four feet from the subject, the percussion note will change. It will be found that different



remedies cause this change at different distances showing the varying susceptibility of the subject to different drugs. The remedies need not be diluted to produce this effect. Even flowers and plants evoke the same reaction. Even the energy from the third person who approaches this subject will produce this reaction but at a much shorter distance of two to three feet.

Such effects caused by the radiation from drugs are not merely confined to this change in the percussion note. Many other effects can be discerned simultaneously, particularly on a sick person. If a drug related to the case (as for example, one chosen on homoeopathic principle) is brought close to or into contact with the patient, a number of reflex changes are excited. There is a dilatation of the pupil, changes in the character of the contraction of the heart, changes in the capillary circulation shown by a slight variation in the colour of thin skin areas, a slight momentary alteration in the colouring of the iris and a modification of the pulse as to character and rate. Further, if a glass rod is drawn delicately over the skin, it will be seen to cling to the surface of the skin. From amongst all these reflex changes, the alteration in the nature of the pulse has been studied more closely and described and it has been found also to be helpful for the purpose of selecting the simillimum. This is called the pulse test.

#### THE PULSE TEST

The pulse test is performed as follows. First of all twelve vials called Group-vials, each containing homoeopathic potencies, are prepared. Each group-vial represents one group of the Emanometer classification of drugs and is composed of a number of representative drugs drawn from the list of drugs in that Emanometer group and mixed together. For example group vial 1 is made up by mixing up a number of drugs of the same potency e.g. 200c from Emanometer group 7. Then these vials are placed on a table about two feet away from the patient. The patient is seated comfortably and his pulse is felt till it shows a steadiness in rate and rhythm. Its rate is then noted by counting for two or three minutes. Now the group-vials

containing the potencies are brought either very close to the patient or into contact with his arm quickly, one by one in succession. Even if the vials are corked the potencies influence the patient, while the vial is in contact with the patient. The pulse is then counted for 15 seconds. Then this vial is put away and the next group vial is taken up. It is best before testing the next vial to "short" the patient by asking him to hold a metal bar with both his hands so that a circuit is formed from one side of his body to the other. As each group vial is tested a note is made as to which group-vial tends to normalise the pulse most—slowing it if it is fast, accelerating it if it is slow. If there is any doubt as to which group-vial produces the best effect, they can be retested, this time the pulse rate being counted for 30 seconds. The vial exerting the strongest influence towards normalising the pulse rate, represents the patient's Emanometer drug group.

Now from among the remedies in this particular group those drugs are selected which appear to cover the symptomatology of the case in question and these drugs are tested individually one by one exactly in the same way as the group-vials were tested. If several drugs produce an effect the first time, they are tested again and again until by a process of elimination one drug is arrived at which clearly produces the greatest normalisation of the pulse. This best single drug may some times alter the pulse by 8 to 10 beats a minute. A difference of atleast 4 beats is necessary to indicate a good remedy.

The above test is most applicable to cases which show an abnormal pulse rate (for example-febrile cases). But in cases where the pulse rate is normal, a change in the character of the pulse is noticeable. The proper group-vial and the proper remedy cause an instantaneous hesitation of the pulse followed by stronger beating which usually lasts a few seconds.

It must be noted that the group-vials can only be used for purposes of arriving at the correct group. They should in no case whatever, be prescribed or administered to the patient.

The following precautions are necessary in doing the above test. The patient should be free from excitement. The drug vials should be brought into contact with the patient by a quick jerk without any fumbling. If the experimenter is observing the pulse with one hand and picking up the vials with the other, this other hand should be kept away from the vial until the right moment. If an assistant is available he can stand behind the patient so that the patient may not see what is being done.

This test has been commended as being very practical and useful by some eminent physicians. The changes in the pulse as well as in the other reflexes observed, no doubt, result from the interaction of the disease and drug energies, this interaction being expressed through the autonomic nervous system of the body. It may be said that so far these are probably the only methods by which the drug energy and disease energy are detectable and measurable.

Dr. Guyon Richards, preferring to follow the original methods of Dr. Abrams as against the technique of Dr. Boyd has developed another variety of tuning circuit which is operated within a cage of perforated zinc. The patient sits in one compartment of the cage; the operator, his instruments and the subject are in another. With the help of this apparatus, he has been able to work out the figures of frequencies for various tissues and organs as well as for various drugs. His research embraces the fields of homoeopathy, radiaesthesia, physics and metaphysics.

#### ACTIVITY OF HOMOEOPATHIC POTENCIES

The basic principle of homoeopathy "Similia Similibus Curentur", peculiar though it may seem at first, is found acceptable to the orthodox medical profession. But what they fail to comprehend and therefore refuse to acknowledge is the effectivity of the ultra-minute doses of drugs used by the homoeopaths. On the other hand, the homoeopaths have explained, demonstrated and proved in several ways, the action of the infinitesimal dilutions called potencies.

Among those who have tried to demonstrate such action through laboratory experiments was again, Dr. W. E. Boyd. With the help of a new biological heart rate recorder, and using 367 frogs for the experiments, he was able to record biologically the action of microdoses of *strophanthus sarmantonus* of the range of 6 x to 11 x potency.

It has generally been found impossible to demonstrate physically or chemically the presence of any element in the higher homoeopathic dilutions. Among the exceptions, was the instance where a 60 x triturate of radium bromide was found to cause fogging of a photographic plate. The other instance was when the French physicist Gustave de Bon demonstrated that sodium chloride in 1 M potency sprayed into a vacuum will show a sodium band in the spectrum.

It is well known that the ferment diastase produces hydrolysis of starch, converting it into sugar. Dr. Boyd by a series of most scrupulously planned experiments was able to demonstrate that the rate of activity of the diastase is changed by the addition to the ferment of microdoses of mercuric chloride in various high potencies from 61 x to 71 x. He had actually derived the clue from the earlier experiments of Dr. Arndt and Dr. Schultz, who had been able to demonstrate that the same drug which in material doses acts as a toxic agent to the ferment inhibits its activity when diluted, and actually acts as a stimulant when still further diluted which had led to the enunciation of the famous Arndt-Schultz law. It took Dr. Boyd over twenty years to bring his experiments to a conclusion but he was able to succeed just before his death in demonstrating the activity of high potencies in the laboratory just as he had demonstrated their activity in the biological sphere with the help of the Emanometer.

As is well known to students of bio-chemistry, certain minerals when ingested into the body are not completely eliminated, a certain amount being fixed and retained in the tissues. For example, after the administration of a strong but non-toxic dose of arsenic, a rapid urinary elimination is observed, about 35% of the arsenic being excreted in the urine during the first ninety hours following the injection. Thereafter, no further trace of arsenic



is observed in the urine, the remaining arsenic remaining fixed to the tissues.

Lise Wurmser assisted by Mr. Ney and Madam Krautele working in the laboratory of Prof. Lapp in Strasbourg carried out a series of very intricate and interesting experiments to see if the infinitesimal dose of the same substance influences the elimination of the mineral previously fixed to the tissues. Experimenting with the 4th, 5th & 7th potencies of arsenic and bismuth in animals which had previously received large doses of the same substances, they found that these potencies definitely increase the excretion of the drugs. For example, the potencies of arsenic raised the elimination of arsenic from the normal 35% to 42%. Similarly, after every test injection of the bismuth in potency, a further elimination of the bismuth originally absorbed, was observed.

Earlier, Dr. Bier had performed similar experiments and had come to similar conclusions. One patient, put on sulphur 3 x, was found to excrete daily 576 mgms of sulphur, which is sixty times the normal rate. Even after discontinuing the sulphur, he was found to excrete 117 mgms on the day after; he then averaged 54 mgms for ten days and after thirty days he was still excreting about twice the normal. The seborrhoea about which he had complained was markedly improved and his general well being decidedly better than before the experiment. The patient was located two years later and agreed for the sake of experiment to make a retrial, although he considered himself cured. When he now took sulphur 6 x for 10 days, hardly any extra excretion of sulphur was found.

In 1922 Krawkow demonstrated in his laboratory the pharmacological activity of adrenalin, bichloride of mercury and copper sulphate in the 24 x, and histamin and silver nitrate in the 32 x potency.

Mrs. L. Kolisko working at the Biological Institute, Dornach, for several years was able to show the effect on wheat seeds of the metallic solutions in the first to the sixtieth potencies wherein results showed even stronger activity in dilutions where no chemical action could be seen.

The authoress demonstrated through her experiments that the different metal dilutions, as far as the 60th

potency have an effect on the living cell. Out of these experiments curves of maximal and minimal activity characteristic of each metal could be obtained.

### DR. STEARN'S EXPERIMENTS

In 1920, the Foundation of Homoeopathic Research was founded in the United States for the purpose of investigating homoeopathic problems. Under the auspices of this Foundation, two sets of experiments were conducted at the New York Homoeopathic Medical College, under the able direction of Dr. Guy Beckley Stearns.

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH GUINEA PIGS

Some experiments with guinea pigs were conducted to study the effect of potentised drugs on normal animals. Experiments were conducted in two series during two years. In these experiments two hundred and twelve animals were used, sixty-five being used as controls and one hundred and forty-seven for the experiments. The substance used in all of the experiments was *natrum mur* in dilutions ranging from the 30th to the 2000th. These dilutions were made in the college laboratory in accordance with the rules laid down in the homoeopathic pharmacopoea, with the exception that the dilutions were run up in distilled water instead of in alcohol. This means that 2,000 vials were used to make the 2,000th dilution.

The experiments were made with groups of fifteen animals. The control-animals were in separate pens, but all groups were cared for under identical conditions except that the controls were given plain distilled water every time the proving-animals were given a dilution of *natrum mur*. Each proving group was given a certain dilution of *natrum mur* and the same dilution was repeated daily until all symptoms that followed its administration had ceased; then the animals were given a rest, after which another dilution of *natrum mur* was given. This second dilution was continued in the same way as was the first. The change from one dilution to another was always a wide jump; for instance, the 30th would be followed by the 200th, the 200th by the 400th, the 1000th by the 1200th. In every instance effects were observed.



The history of a group of sixty provers with twenty controls illustrates the full extent of the experiment. The groups were placed in five pens, the provers in four groups of fifteen each, and the twenty controls in a single pen. The arrangement of all the pens was as nearly as possible identical. The experiment was begun by giving the first group the 30th dilution, the second the 200th dilution, the third the 400th dilution and the fourth the 1,000th dilution, three or four drops daily. The control-group was given three or four drops of distilled water each morning. In every other way the controls and the provers were under the same care and conditions.

The first signs of proving-effects were noticed on the fifth to the seventh day. The effects began to wear off by twenty-second day and by the thirty-fourth day, all effects apparently had ceased. The animals were then given a rest for ten days, when a new series of potencies were given 200 dilutions higher. With the second series of dilutions, the first effects occurred from the eleventh to the fifteenth day and it was not until the fifty-fifth day that all effects of the proving seemed to have ceased. The third series began with two hundred dilutions higher for each group. It was nineteen days before any effect was observed here and the gross effects were not as marked as they had been in the first and second provings, although they dragged out much longer. The most pronounced obvious effects appeared to result from the cumulative effect of each succeeding dilution. The obvious effects were such as would be observed by any animal-dealer. There was lessened appetite, relative loss of weight with less alertness, diminished glossiness of hair, watery and lustreless eyes and a general appearance of not being in good condition. The more far-reaching results had to do with the reproductive function and progeny. The time between pregnancies was increased and there was a corresponding lessening of the number of young. The average weight of the young was markedly reduced while the mortality was increased. All of the progeny of both the controls and provers were retained and kept in the pens in which they were born, excepting as the increase necessitated new pens. At the end of six and one-half months, the controls had increased to seventy six.

while the provers had decreased to forty four. This brought the experiment into the summer vacation period but it was continued through the summer. Soon after the close of the college, the college officials deemed it necessary to reduce the experimental animals to the number necessary for clinical use in the hospital and through an error, the seventy-six controls were all disposed of, so that the remainder of the experiment was carried on without any controls. However, at the end of three and one-half months more, the proving group was reduced to twenty-five provers, ten males and twelve females with three new-borns whose sex was not noted. No further experiments were conducted, but the proving-groups were retained for observation for six and a half months more, at which time there were seventeen remaining and towards the end of that time one more set of young was born, consisting of twins. At this stage, the experiment was ended through a mistake—a new janitor sending these observation-animals to the laboratory for clinical purposes.

The result of this experiment can be summed up as follows. Sixty guinea-pigs living in family groups of four females to one male, including all progeny born during a period of sixteen and one-half months, were reduced to seventeen by giving dilutions of Natrum mur., ranging from the 30th to the 2000th dilution.\* Twenty control-animals in seven months had increased to seventy-six. This ended the most elaborate experiment ever conducted for the purpose of ascertaining whether normal animals react to the highly diluted substances used in homoeopathy and there is conclusive proof that they do.

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH FRUIT FLIES

This experiment had to do with a strain of fruit-flies. The experiments were not undertaken for the purpose of determining if high dilutions would affect this insect, but to determine if an effect could be produced by potentised drugs on a lethal hereditary characteristic. The strain of fruit-flies used was the *Drosophila melanogaster* lethal No. 7. This strain is tumor-bearing, the tumours occurring in accordance with the Mendelian law, in every fourth fly. The males are the only ones affected and those that bear

\* This 2000th dilution is represented mathematically by the figure 100-2000.

the tumour die in the larval stage; thus only one-half of the males survive. These tumours have the characteristics of cancer. Dr. Mary Stark, a world-renowned genetist, who discovered the nature of the tumour which kills these flies, did not claim that they are cancer-tumours but simply called attention to the fact that they are composed of the same kind of cells that constitute cancer. It was because of this cancer-characteristic and because of the inevitable death of all those that inherited the growth, that the experiment was undertaken to determine if any change could be induced by the administration of drugs known by homoeopaths to have had a controlling influence in cases of cancer. Dr. Mary Stark carried out the experiments herself and to her is due all the credit for the labour involved. A mere recital of the result of the experiment would convey no idea of the enormous amount of work entailed. To appreciate this, one must have visited her laboratory and observed the hundreds of colonies, each colony, consisting of about one hundred and fifty adult flies occupying its own special glass fruit-jar. These flies had to be counted and examined microscopically, individually, so that each colony as it came out was accurately tabulated. Each adult colony would have amounted to approximately two hundred but for the fact that one-half of the males died in the larval stage.

In order that part of the experiment might parallel the prevalent vaccine-line of experimenting, a trituration of the tumours themselves was made. The tumours were triturated with sugar of milk up to the 6x and from this trituration, dilutions up to the 200th were made. Among the remedies known to homoeopaths to have influenced cancer, arsenicum was selected and at the suggestion of Dr. Boger, mercury nitrate was selected as a third drug. The potentised drugs were put in the agar-banana food supply that was placed in the bottom of the jars. Special precautions were taken to prevent any possible contamination of the cultures. Cultures of the flies were treated with 6x trituration of the tumours without any obvious change, the same ratio of tumours appearing as before. Later generations were treated with the 30th and then with the 200th dilution. This resulted in a culture where the tumours did not develop as formerly and subsequent cultures from this showed only a few with tumours. This indicated

that successive doses of the 6x, 30th and 200th had had a permanent effect upon the development of the tumours. In other words, high dilutions of the tumour itself had in some way apparently modified the hereditary factor which caused the tumours. Arsenicum 30th and 200th were given to other colonies. With the 30th followed by the 200th in the third generation, a culture came through with the tumour eliminated. This experiment with Arsenicum was repeated twice with two other colonies, showing the same effect; one in the fourth generation and one in the sixth generation escaping the tumour inheritance. Mercury nitrate in the 30th caused at first a stimulation, for the colonies receiving it were abundant and vigorous, but no other effect was caused. Altogether, in this set of experiments, two hundred and eighteen cultures were made. This experiment is reported here because of the fact that the drugs used in the experiment were all in high dilution and it proves that flies, as well as guinea-pigs, are affected by high dilutions. Another even more important significance is that the effects are so profound that hereditary characteristics are modified.

Both this and the guinea-pig experiment also indicate that it may be necessary to give a succession of dilutions in order to bring about the most profound effects.

#### ALTERATION IN SCHICK TEST

Drs. Paterson and Boyd conducted a series of experiments with Diphtherinum 30x as well as with higher potencies and were able to demonstrate that this drug has an appreciable clinical action in certain cases as indicated by the Schick test. The drug was able to alter the reaction of individuals in such a way that those who were originally positive became negative.

#### THE BOWEL NOSODES

In the early part of this century, a very young, highly qualified and energetic physician, Dr. Edward Bach of England (1886-1936) had developed a theory that most chronic diseases were the result of auto-intoxication from the bowels. Experimenting along with Dr. C. E. Wheeler, another eminent homoeopath, Dr. Bach develop-



ed the idea of preparing an autogenous vaccine from the stool of each patient and using it on the same patient orally. They had such excellent results in hundreds of chronic cases that there were demands for vaccine from all over the world. Besides preparing and treating cases with such autogenous or polyvalent vaccines, Dr. Bach was able to identify and classify these bowel organisms into seven major groups, viz. 1. Proteus; 2. Dysentery Co.; 3. Morgan; 4. Faecalis Alkaligenes; 5. Mutabile; 6. Gaertner and 7. Bacillus No. "7".

Dr. John Paterson of Glasgow (1890-1955) studied more deeply the characteristics of the bowel flora and its behaviour in health, in disease and in drug provings. After doing patient and laborious research for over twenty years he came to the following definite conclusions:

1. The non-lactose fermenting non-pathogenetic bowel flora (*B. coli*) undergoes definite changes in disease conditions. While this alteration in the nature of the bowel flora might be a mere concomitant to the disease condition there is reason to believe that the *B. coli* actually turns pathogenetic.

2. The balance of the bowel flora is disturbed in diseases.

3. Similar changes are also observed in drug provings.

He grouped and typed the flora and by continuous experiment and observation he was able to detect a definite relationship between certain drugs and certain types of bowel flora. When particular drugs were administered in potencies the bowel flora was altered in a particular fashion. By clinical study he was also able to bring out more clearly the indications for each type and develop further the technique of treating cases with these bowel nosodes.

Bach and Paterson have thus made invaluable additions to the armamentarium of homoeopathy.

## HOMOEOPATHIC PHARMACY

Hahnemann, in the sixth and last edition of the Organon had envisaged a new scale of potencies in which he had suggested a dilution with 50,000 parts of the diluent instead of the original 99 parts. This scale is termed the Hahnemann's 50,000th potencies or 50 Millisimal scale. These potencies are marked by roman numerals as I, II, III and so on.\*

Dudley W. Everitt has calculated that these potencies can be compared or equated theoretically on paper to the traditional potencies as follows:—

New Scale Potency	I	—	16x		
"	II	—	between 20x and 21x (i. e.	10c approx	)
"	III	—	" 24x & 26x ( "	13c	" )
"	VIII	—	" 44x & 51x ( "	25c	" )
"	X	—	" 52x & 61x ( "	30c	" )
"	XII	—	" 60x & 71x ( "	35c	" )
"	XVIII	—	" 84x & 101x ( "	50c	" )
"	XXIV	—	" 108x & 131x ( "	65c	" )
"	XXX	—	" 132x & 161x ( "	80c	" )

In practice however they seem to be far more powerful.

For some obscure reason these potencies have not been prepared or tried on any extensive scale, so far. However, Dr. Charles Pahud of Lausanne has used these potencies on some of his cases with success and has reported these results.

## PHARMACOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The subject of homoeopathic pharmacology offers infinite scope for fascinating research, which opportunity has not been fully exploited. Among those working in this field must be mentioned Dr. Willmar Schwabe's Laboratory of Germany which conducts experiments to study the effects of various drugs in potency on the organism.

We should also mention the experiments done by Prof. William Burrige, former professor of physiology and dean of faculty of medicine at Lucknow, who proved that various drugs, as for e.g. nicotine, which act toxically on the myo-

\* This scale of potencies is now available in India manufactured by the Hahnemann Publishing Co., Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta - 12. This firm marks them as 0.1, 0.2, 0.6 & so on.



cardium in certain doses, merely inhibit it in smaller doses and actually stimulate it when highly diluted, thus confirming Arndt Schultz law.

## DRUG PROVINGS

Provings of a number of drugs have been carried out. The Drug proving and Research Committee of the Faculty of Homoeopathy, London has been conducting a number of provings under the able and energetic guidance of Dr. W. L. Templeton. These include among others mustard gas, quebracho, alloxan, beryllium, carcinosin, ACTH and rawolfia serpentina.

Drs. Sutherland and Roberts have carried out in 1940 a rigorous proving of sulphanilamide on 200 provers.

A proving of penicillium glaucum has been carried out by Dr. Whiting.

An elaborate proving of radium bromide was carried out by Dr. William H. Dieffenbach in 1911 and published in the Homoeopathic Recorder.

As is well known, flouridation of the water supply in the cities of the United States is being done in an effort to control the high incidence of dental decay in the population. With a view to study and assess the effect on normal individuals of the continuous ingestion of the substance in small quantities, Dr. William Gutman of New York has carried out and published provings of sodium fluoride.

## BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

### RESEARCH IN BLOOD-GROUPS

One of the latest research to be done in the homoeopathic biological field was by Dr. Emile Florentin of Paris. It is well known that the biological blood groups (A, B, AB & O) are so basically constituted that they never vary during an individual's life. On the other side, it is believed by some that the homoeopathic constitutional make-up of an individual is also basic and rarely varies during his life time. If so, it might be interesting to make a correlated study of the blood groups and homoeopathic types of individuals. With this idea Dr. Florentin examined hundreds

of blood specimens in various groups, studied also the make-up of the individuals concerned and has published the results of his study which are most interesting.

### CLINICAL RESEARCH

Prof. Augustus Bier, a celebrated surgeon and scientist of Berlin, experimenting with dilutions of Sulphur in cases of furunculosis found such excellent results that he became converted to homoeopathy which he had originally believed as "an unscientific humbug unfit to occupy the attention of a regular physician".

Dr. Foubister has worked out clinically the indications for the nosode *carcinosis*, which drug seems to have a very wide and deep range of action. It holds out great promise and the credit goes to Dr. Foubister for introducing it to the profession.

Dr. Paul Daynaz, a French homoeopath, has recently reported good results in the treatment of endarteritis obliterans and coronary angina pectoris with weekly injections of *mercurius dulcis* in the 1st potency.

### TREATMENT OF CANCER

It is well known that a great deal of attention of the whole of the medical profession is concentrated on the problem of cancer. Homoeopaths have also been interested in cancer especially as they have the advantage of viewing the affected organism as a whole. Some research is also being carried on in the homoeopathic treatment of cancer. This is mainly based on the ideas scattered by Dr. Rudolf Steiner, a world famous philosopher. Steiner was a German Swiss who had a deep insight into Indian philosophy also and his concepts have been utilised in various fields like education, health etc. Basing the research on his teachings, several doctors in Switzerland, among whom is Dr. A. Leroi, have prepared an extract from a growth found on the tree *viscum album*. This extract called "Iscador", when injected in particular dilutions is found to have a specific effect on cancer both in arresting and retarding its growth, thereby prolonging life. This drug is regularly used, along with the *simillimum* given orally, in cancer cases by Dr. L. R. Twentyman at the Royal

London Homoeopathic Hospital with good results. Due to many reasons, it has not yet been possible to make this treatment a standard and universal one but there is no doubt that it will soon be so.

### STATISTICAL RESEARCH

Statistical surveys which play such an important part in modern medicine, particularly in the efforts to assess the value of each drug, have been sadly neglected in homoeopathy. After the cholera epidemics of the nineteenth century, no major statistical surveys are to be found in the homoeopathic literature.

Dr. Noel J. Pratt has turned his attention in this direction and with the help of the members of the British Faculty, he has collected and published valuable data on such points as (a) the most reliable indications of *arsenicum album*, *lachesis*, *lycopodium*, *silicea* and *calcarea phos.* (b) whether in prescribing, repertorization was always done, how often the doses were repeated and the effect ratio as well cure ratio in general practice with homoeopathy.

### CONCLUSION

Homoeopathy is a most fascinating subject and a number of aspects of this science and art await investigation and elucidation. A vast field lies ahead unexplored offering ample scope and opportunities for research to the scientific minded and enthusiastic homoeopath. Due to various reasons, research and advance have not been so intensive or extensive as one would wish for; yet quite a good deal of work is being done. A very brief review of the more important items of such work has been attempted in this booklet.



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