

Homoeopathy in India.

(Some Random Jottings)

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The Great Genius Hahnemann was the Master mind of the 19th century. Though many physicians might have observed the natural law "Similia Similibus Curantur" yet it was Hahnemann alone who first put it into actual practice for the benefit of the suffering humanity. The dominant school of medicine with its various dogmas was blind to the fact and it turned a deaf ear to the new gospel. Every one who departs from the present and soars high in ideals is a fool from the point of view of these "Present day practical men", and Hahnemann according to such people was one of the greatest fools of their time. But time alone shows the worth of the Genius and the Truth never dies though it has to struggle hard for existence. The suffering public no doubt gave its recognition to Homœopathy much earlier; but old school, realising its mistake, is just beginning to understand and grasp Homœopathy, and we hope that time will show the Survival of the fittest. The British Hom. Medical Association have arranged a post-graduate course of Homœopathy. This surely shows that its principles are gaining ground.

The principles underlying the Homœopathic School are fundamental and they will never change; but the externals will, according to new ideas and circumstances. The "Materia Medica Pura" prepared by Hahnemann, his colleagues and students, though forms the "Bible" of Homœopathy yet every word of it is not adaptable to every student of Homœopathy wherever he is, say North Pole or Equator, in cold and snowy lands or hot

and Sunny ones! The creator who has given birth to us all has also kept in hand the medicines necessary for all our bodily ailments. A man in the tropics need not search the medicine in the Alps and cold countries and they will not be of so much use to him. Climate and Geographical situations also have much influence on the herbs that grow there. Aconite that grows in cold atmosphere at high altitudes in the hilly region, though of frequent use in that climate, will be of no such use to a patient in tropical region in plains. If we read about the provings of Aconite, it seems useful for changes of "Dry cold weather" which is rarely observed in tropical regions.

Now for Modalities—Modalities are one of the most important facts regarding the patient that help in confirming prescription and diagnosing the patient and the required drug for him. All the modalities described and noted were those by the Europeans and on Europeans whose mode of living is quite different from ours. The words "aggravation from exposure to cold and amelioration from heat" cannot be appreciated here in this hot climate both by the patient and the physician so much as in cold countries where cold is very severe. Our country is such that it has various types of atmospheres and climates at various regions and provinces; in Himalayan regions we have the climate of Europe while in southern India cold is a rarity; dry climate at some places and humid at others. So we must search for our own modalities.

Regarding aversions and desires for food we require our own research. There are very few people who are truly alcoholic and nonvegetarians in a European sense of view. Their aversions and desires are fundamentally different from ours and we must have our own findings

from the view point of our diet and dishes. Dreams should be analysed from Indian point of view.

India desires independence in every sense. We must have independence in the medical world also. For how many years are we to go on borrowing? Must not we study our own plants and see how useful they are to us Homœopathically? Must not we have a research in medicines of mineral and organic world? Mere compilations of books by borrowing from different authors of the world is not an original work. We must have a 'Materia Medica Pura INDICA'. Of course it is easy to say this, but very difficult to put into practice. We must have ardent, zealous students for the truth who will sacrifice their health (for the time being of course) for the health of the suffering humanity and allow themselves for personal experiments. If the present wave of (world) economic depression will inspire some healthy benevolent minded youths to serve their own people by allowing themselves as "Provers" of Indian Homœopathic medicines it will be a boon in disguise. These youths will truly be the benefactors of future generations.

Homœopathy has come to stay, and the days of despising potentised Homœopathic medicines as "sugar pills" have gone. If Homœopathy fails it is not her fault, but of the prescriber. It is a very sharp instrument and it cannot be used indiscriminately. Any man who has been a failure in every branch of life, takes to Homœopathy thinking it to be an innocent science. But if we go deep both in its literature and practice we will see that it is nothing but a very sharp instrument which must be handled very carefully by men of pious conscience who know their responsibility. Otherwise it will do more harm than good. The general public thinks that Homœo-

pathic Medicines are harmless. They are not,—they are nothing less than bombshells—only they act insiduously. So it is the duty of the leading men in Homœopathy in India to start a society, have rules and regulations and bestow membership on such people only who are thoroughly conversant with the science of Homœopathy. It should try to remove the misunderstanding regarding Homœopathy and educate the public and the state. Though the society will have no recognition or aid like the provincial or the Indian Medical Council in the beginning, yet the general public and the followers of Homœopathy will give it due recognition. The effect will be that the lay public will know who is a regular and genuine Homœopath and be away from the bogus ones. The work is not a simple one no doubt, but one day it must begin and earlier it is begun the better.

Random jottings though they be, if they give some impetus to somebody and direct the people concerned to work in the right direction, I will consider myself amply repaid.

Book Reviews.

Text Book of Materia Medica. By Ad. Lippe, M. D., second edition, revised and augmented. Published by Mr. N. K. Banerjea, B. Sc., of Salzer & Co., of 169, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta. Pages 892. 1935.

It is with true emotion that we received a complimentary copy of this Materia Medica bearing the imprint of the second (Indian) edition.

This book on Materia Medica was first written and published for the use of those students who attended the