

Hahnemann's Three Rules.

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In Chronic Diseases Vol. 1. page 152, Hahnemann says :—
“There are three mistakes which the physician cannot too carefully avoid. The first is to suppose that the doses which I have indicated as the proper doses in the treatment of diseases, and which long experience and close observation have led me to adopt; are too small. The second great mistake is the improper selection of the remedy, and the third mistake consists in not letting the remedy act a sufficient length of time. In the treatment of chronic diseases the too hasty repetition of the dose cannot be too carefully avoided. The whole cure fails if the antipsoric remedies which have been prescribed are not allowed to act uninteruptedly to the end.”

Allow me to write a few lines from Hering, the practical rules of Hahnemann for the treatment of chronic diseases :—

Rule No. 1. The characteristic symptoms of the drug must be similar to the characteristics of the case. In making this comparison, the more prominent, uncommon and peculiar features of the case are especially and almost exclusively considered and noted ; for these in particular should bear the closest similitude to the symptoms of the desired medicine, if that is to accomplish the cure. The symptoms of a case and the symptoms of a remedy must not only be alike, one by one, but they must also be of the same rank. In the arrangement of symptoms after the examination of a case, the value, the importance, and the rank of the symptoms must be considered, for in a careful comparison of several remedies having the same similarity it is this rank or value which often decides the selection of the curative remedy.

Rule No 2. This rule of practice is based upon Hahnemann's theory of chronic diseases, viz. :—All chronic diseases progress from without inwardly, from the less to the more essential parts of our body, from the periphery to the

central organs, and generally from below upwards. Hence, in the selection of a remedy one should be chosen which acts in the opposite direction—from within outward, from above downward, from the brain and nerves outward and downward to the most outward and lowest of all organs, the skin. Hahnemann's antipsoric remedies all have this peculiarity as characteristic, viz., the evolution of symptoms from within outward. Hence, all symptoms of the skin having such a direction, from without inwards, and all symptoms of remedies from within outwards, the opposite direction, are always to be considered of the highest rank of value in the choice of the simillimum.

Rule No 3. The symptoms recently developed are the first to yield, older symptoms disappear later, or, as Hering says:—In diseases of long standing, when the symptoms or groups of symptoms have befallen the skin in a certain order, succeeding each other, more and more, being added from time to time to those already existing, in such cases this order should be reversed during the cure, the last ought to disappear first and the first last.

It should always be borne in mind that *the greater the value of a symptom for purposes of diagnosis, the less its value for the selection of the remedy.* When the most similar remedy has been selected and administered, allow it plenty of time to do its perfect work, using *placebo liberally* if necessary.

CLINICAL CASE.

PARESIS IN A T. B. PATIENT.

DR. N. GHATAK, B. A., CALCUTTA.

Mr. E. A.....C. E, a civil Engineer under the employ of a very respectable Iron and Steel Works Company, came to my office last rains for the paralytic weakness of his lower limbs, which commenced, as he supposed, from a bad fall from a height when he was supervising a bridge