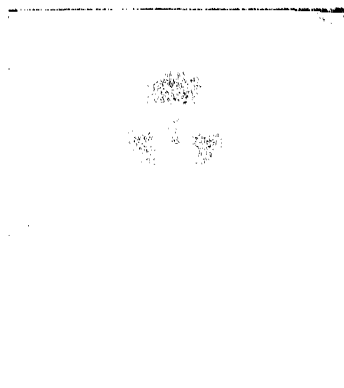


ON HOMOEOPATHY



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It is rarely in the history of any art or science, that there arises a figure of such gigantic stature, of such prodigious achievement, of such strong character and creative force, who seems to have incorporated in his one life, all that his predecessors had for years been blindly seeking after, giving inspiration and impetus to the efforts of his successors in generations to come, as the immortal Dr. Christian Frederick Samuel Hahnemann,²

the founder of Homoeopathy.

After doing M.D. (on 10.8.1779), the then highest medical degree in allopathic³ system of medicine, Dr. Hahnemann started his medical career. Soon he developed a flourishing practice. As the time went on, he was disgusted with the system of medical practice then in vogue, to restore the sick to health, to cure, based on easily comprehensible principle, the highest ideal of cure being rapid, gentle and permanent restoration of health. So he threw up his allopathic practice and plunged himself into the quest of truth. He was a master

of seven languages and took up the work of translating different classical works of different branches of science with special relation to medical science, mostly for two reasons:

- (a) To enhance his further knowledge by going deep into the subjects
- (b) To earn his bread.

And in this process he had to invite poverty, bitter enmity scorn and even banishment, and what not! But nothing moved him His steadfast appeal, was to experience, and to posterity.

In the year 1790, while translating the Cullen's *Materia Medica*, he came across a comment:

I have endeavoured to explain, in my first outlines of practical medical science, that the bark (Cinchona bark -Author) in this instance acts through its tonic effect on the stomach, and I have found nothing in any writings which could

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1. Author of : Dr. James Tyler Kent (Bengali & English); Dr. J.N. Kanjilal (Bengali & English); Sarthak Byabasthaatr; Jannaya Chikitsaker Gyatabya (Bengali)
2. Born on 10.4.1755 at Meissen, Germany; died on 2.7.1843 at Paris, France
3. To differentiate the newly discovered system of medicine (Homoeopathy) from the orthodox system of medicine Dr. Hahnemann coined the term *Allopathy* for the then prevailing old system of medicine.

make me doubt the truth of my statements".⁴

A scientific minded man of his calibre like Hahnemann failed to accept this comment of Cullen so easily as his predecessors. So he consequently questioned himself:

- (a) Does Peruvian bark cure Malaria only for its bitter taste?
- (b) If so, then all the bitter substances have curative action in the case of malaria?
- (c) Or is the basic cause else where?

To fetch the queries of above questions he took mother tinctures of Cinchona. Lo! And behold - he developed symptoms like ague. In words of the Master, Dr Hahnemann:

By combining the strongest bitters and the strongest astringents we can obtain a compound, which in small doses, possesses much more of both these properties than the bark, and yet in all Eternity no fever specific can be made from such a compound. The author should have accounted for this. This undiscovered principle of the effect of the bark is probably not very easy to find. Let us consider the following: Substances which produce some kind of fever (very strong coffee, peeper, arnica, ignatia-bean, arsenic) counteract these types of intermittent fever. I took, for several days, as an experiment, four drams of good china twice daily. My feet and finger tips, etc., at first became cold; I became languid and drowsy; then my heart began to palpitate; my pulse became hard and quick; an intolerable anxiety and trembling (but without a rigor); prostration in all the limbs; then pulsation in the head, redness of the cheeks, thirst; briefly, all the symptoms usually associated with intermittent fever appeared in succession, yet without the actual rigor. To sum up: All those symptoms which to me, are typical of intermittent fever, as the stupefaction of the senses, a kind of rigidity of all joints, but above all the numb, disagreeable sensation which seems to have its seat in the periosteum over all the bones of the body - all made their appearance. This paroxysm lasted for two to three hours every time, and recurred when I repeated the dose and not otherwise. I discontinued the medicine and I was once more in good health⁵

And then Dr.Hahnemann concluded:

Peruvian bark, which is used as a remedy for intermittent fever, acts because it can produce symptoms similar to those of intermittent fever in healthy people.⁶

The concept that was current from time immemorial, and that his predecessors of Hahnemann had for years been blindly seeking after - whether Cinchona cured ague for its bitter taste smashed smithereens. A vista of new horizon was added to medical science. Thus he was a man of genius, who can rightly be called a reformer of medical science. he was not only a great doctor, but a brilliant scholar as well.

Followers of the orthodox system of medicine did not take it easily, because they lacked the courage in accepting the truth and comprehend as well as assimilate it. On the other hand, they were over cast with inveterate prejudice of the prevailing notions. So they started making conspiracies and collective attacks on Dr.Hahnemann, because the line he advocated was so just logical and scientific that it was a threat to their very existence. At last they banished Dr.Hahnemann. Their fallacy: Banishing Hahnemann they will succeed in crushing Hahnemann and his Homoeopathy - proved to be futile. But the effect was just the reverse. In fact, it was observed-instead of being uprooted Homoeopathy gained momentum in flourishing from one country to the other. Being citizen of Germany, Hahnemann became the saviour of ailing humanity round the Globe. Not only the men of medical science, but also people from many branches of science were inspired by Hahnemannian concepts and devoted themselves whole heartedly to Homoeopathy for establishing it on a solid ground and the foolish dreams of Allopaths started dwindling.

After adding new dimension to medical science, Hahnemann assailed further in investigating the matters. The truth of his convictions went on confirming it further. It was observed in confirmation of Hahnemann's findings, in regard to Cinchona, that workers in quinine factories suffered from Cinchona poisoning, resembling ague. His eyes opened with that initial experiment with Cinchona, and after all Hahnemann's subsequent experiments, conducted during fifty years - have confirmed this, *that drugs can cure sickness, and that medicine can only cure such morbid conditions as it can produce, when it is tested on healthy human beings.* Hahnemann had one of the attributes of Genius, an infinite

4. CULLEN : Treatise on Materia Medica, Vol.II, Page 108.

5. Ibid.

6. HAEHL, R. : Samuel Hahnemann His Life & Work, Vol.I, Page 37, B. Jain Publishers, New Delhi-16.

capacity for taking pains: But he had more than this: he was pre-eminent in intuition, in deduction, in industry, in research and in absolute self-devotion to truth and humanity. He was not only great as a scholar, linguist, chemist, sanitarian and physician; but he takes special rank as one of those to whom law reveals itself. As Newton discovered the Law of Gravitation, in the true sense of the term, so Hahnemann discovered the Law of Similars - the miracle which had never been realised, understood and demonstrated before his days.

Hahnemann founded and enunciated the Law, in the remarkable words, **Similia Similibus Curentur** (Let likes be treated by likes) in one of the books attributed to Hippocrates.

The tendency of orthodox medicine has always been to experiment on the sick and lower animals for drug provings till date. But Hahnemann experimented only on the healthy persons for drug provings of medicines, in order to have an exact *Materia Medica*, based on the sick making property of those medicines, so that it can be administered on the sick safely. He soon gathered round him an enthusiastically bent of disciples (some fifty of them were medical men) and he, and they proved (i.e., tested) drug after drug, with all the possible precautions to eliminate error; and those original provings, carefully and faithfully recorded, form the nucleus of the *Material Medica*. They are embodied in his wonderful work - **Materia Medica Pura** (in two volumes) - which is as alive and upto date, as it was first published; rather it is developed from time to time, instead of rejecting it all together, like orthodox system of medicine. Because *Truth is universal and unchanged in any length of time*. Besides, his subsequent works - **Chronic Diseases Their Peculiar Nature And Homoeopathic Treatment** and the **Organon of Medicine** are most potent amongst his other writings, which embody the essentials of his teachings.

The purely scientific bent of Hahnemann's mind and the reason why his illuminating and useful medical works have survived and proved the test of time is seen even today by the following: "A true *Materia Medica*", he says, "will consist of the genuine, pure and undeceptive effects of single drugs.....", "...and again every such *Materia Medica* should exclude every supposition - every mere assertion and faithful inquiry" recorded in the simple language of nature, free from theory, safe from the transient language of succeeding generations, they stand for all time complete and true: While science, in discovering new truths, had never been able to touch Hahnemann's premises - except to confirm - since they are based on universal Law of Nature.

For the more exact purpose of Homoeopathy, exper-

iments in drug actions (i.e., drug provings) on animals are useless for two reasons: The proverb, "One man's meat is another man's poison", applies with tenfold force when it comes to animals e.g., Hedgehogs feed on Cantharides and take no hurt - Rabbits eat Belladonna with impunity - Morphine makes Dogs drowsy and vomit but excites Cats. Rats are immune to Diphtheria. Cats are said to be immune to Tuberculosis; where as Guinea-pigs and Monkeys are highly susceptible to that infection. By experiments on animals it may be found that certain drugs effect certain tissues of certain animals upto a certain extent, which can not be carried on healthy human beings on humanitarian ground. That is all.

Homoeopathic provings, on the other hand, have to be very fine, very delicate and very definite; and the subjective and mental symptoms (all important for our purpose) can only be obtained from humans. Even provings on the sick are not accepted, since sickness modifies the response of the organism to drugs, and from the sick, no true drugpicture can be obtained. Remedies also need to be proved irrespective of all age, sex and season in order to get detailed sick making property of those substances. The experiments of homeopathy have always been made on voluntary provers and on the contrary, the drugs tend, as Hahnemann pointed out, to raise the resistance of the prover. And Hahnemann, who spent the greater part of his life in proving drugs on his ownself, lived on in full possession of senses till only one year short of ninety. He says: The physicians high and only mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, the ideal of which being mild, rapid and permanent, on easily comprehensible principles. Choose for every case of a sick man, a medicine which can itself produce a similar affection, in a minimum dose.

Homoeopathy is no invention; no theory. It has been hammered out of hard facts. It is simply a scientific way of discovering what drugs can do in the way of preventing the health - mental and physical, of healthy human beings, and then are applied for the cure of just such conditions in the sick. "Homoeopathy appeals" says Hahnemann, "Solely to the verdict of experience. Repeat the experiment carefully and accurately and you will find the doctrine confirmed at every step".

Homoeopathy never contemplates curing diseases by drugs in massive and repeated doses. Therefore, it is never a question of quantity, where the vital stimulus is employed. It is always selection of a single drug in a minimum quantity. So, where is the ground for mixed prescription? In case of mixed prescriptions we are at a loss to decide-

1. If there is an improvement then:

- (a) Which medicine has acted?
 - (b) Which components of that mixture have removed which symptoms?
 - (c) What medicine of the mixture has failed to remove which symptoms?
 - (d) Will that medicine be capable of removing those symptoms in its higher potencies?
 - (e) If there be any obstacle to recovery, then how can that obstacle be overcome?
 - (f) Is there any need of a complementary medicine?
2. If there be any harm caused by that mixture then:
 - (a) Which ingredients of that mixture has caused that damage to the patient?
 - (b) How does the physician trace out the antidotal medicine for the mixture?
 3. Which component of that mixture is following the direction of cure as enunciated by Dr. Hering?⁷

Drugs to be exact and scientific, as Hahnemann contended, must be proved on healthy human bodies individually (in an unmixed form) and separately, and can then only be used with for knowledge and confidence for the prognosis as well as the cure of the sick by like symptoms.

There is no need to apologize for the small dose, Radium - vitamins, fermentations - chlorides and even mineral waters demonstrate the immense infinite potentiality. By minutest subdivisions, as in the case of the Atom Bomb, energy is liberated from inert mass-bulk-weight. We are, at last, beginning to realise the potentialities of the intangible and imponderable. But the most sensitive thing in the world is the diseased cell or tissue and to find out the remedy of like symptoms, in infinitesimal subdivisions. And it is with, what we have to deal with. Science is baring Hahnemann out in this, and his small doses present no difficulty to modern Biology.

Reid Hunt has demonstrated that Acetyl Chloride in the strength of a milligram in half a million gallon of blood causes a distinct fall in blood pressure.

Many a times it is questioned: Why, and when a medicine is concerned with the maximum dose? Should Homoeopathy teach the minimal dose? In reply to these questions it can be stated that medicines, hitherto, has been mainly concerned with doing violence to the organism. It can cause sweating, vomiting, purging or sometimes it paralyses the action of the bowels. It has been used in deaden pains, to induce a drugged sleep, to modify the action of the heart, to depress fever, or to excite appetite. In all these cases, it must be in material doses. Therefore, the dose must be poisonous but not a lethal one. It is for this reason that the dosage of ortho-

dox medicine is apt to be the largest one. Homoeopathy never wants to do anything to a patient, but only to stimulate its own reactive powers (termed as "Vital force"), and to bring about a cure. With us disease is merely the rebellion of vital force against disease. Vital force restores the total harmonious activity of the living being.

Now, let us come to the mode of administration of the remedy in a nutshell (in case of centesimal scale of potency)-

- (a) In acute diseases where structural changes have not occurred, the effect of the first dose may be dramatic, and establishing as such instant and complete reaction, and no second dose is needed. In deadly and more rapid cases such as Cholera, the remedy has to be repeated even every three to five minutes, until the reaction is established.
- (b) In chronic diseases, the call to repeat varies with every case. The symptoms demand a remedy and the return of the symptoms modified, will demand its repetition. But there are other factors that come in. Some remedies are deep and long acting; some superficial and short acting. Some patients respond actively; others are sluggish and slow in their response. The question of potency also comes in, since reaction varies with different potencies and lengthens out with higher potencies. Therefore, repetition depends on the individual reaction of the patient to the individual medicine. The call for repetition is the renewed call of symptoms, based on movement of symptoms after administration of the remedy.

In case of administering medicines prepared in the fifty millesimal scale of potency, comparatively rapid repetition is needed and the medicine must be prepared in distilled water to deviate each dose from the preceding one (For detailed information on this score see- **Organon of Medicine**, 6th edition, and our work on **Fifty Millesimal Scale of Potency**)

To observe the movement of symptoms, in a patient, after administering the remedy, it is a must to prepare the case record of the patient on his/her very first visit. And on each visit of the patient, after giving the date of visit on the top at left side, it should be consulted for comparing the movement of the symptoms. The prescribed

7. (a) From above down; (b) From within out; (c) In the reverse order of their coming (HERING, C: *Preface, Chronic diseases their peculiar nature and homoeopathic treatment*, 2nd edition, 1845.)

remedy for the patient should be noted at last, at the right side, with the direction of the taking of the medicine.

How long the prescribed remedy will act on a patient depends upon-

- (a) More the symptom totality of the patient is similar to the symptom totality of the remedy, the more it will last.
- (b) The action of a less similar drug to the patient will last less.
- (c) Deep acting medicines will act for a long time where as short acting medicines will act for a shorter time.
- (d) In the treatment of chronic diseases even the action of short acting medicine, may last long. On the other hand, in the treatment of acute diseases, the action of deep acting medicines may not last long.
- (e) More the medicine is potentised, more will be its action.

No two men are alike in this universe, as their susceptibility is not the same. As a result, there cannot be any uniformity in needed potency, dose, repetition and action of the medicine for all the sick man. Naturally all the Homoeopaths are to give emphasis on individualising the patient for selection of the remedy, diet and regimen of the patient because till date the scientists have failed to evolve out any instrument to measure the susceptibility of patients.

Sources of homoeopathic medicines are as follows:

1. Animal Kingdom : The medicines prepared from animal kingdom are the extracts of those substances in alcohol or prepared from poison, sweat etc. eg., *Apis mellifica*, *Lachesis*, *Tarentula Cubensis* etc.
2. Imponderabilia : These medicines are prepared by giving expositors of certain rays or substances or like that to sugar of milk or alcohol such as *Electricitus*, *Magnetis Polus Arcticus*, *X-Ray*.
3. Mineral Kingdom : The medicines prepared from minerals through triturations (even insoluble substances like Mercury are made soluble and here lies special distinction of Hahnemann as a chemist.) a few examples of these preparations are *Aurum Metallicum*, *Mercurius Solubilis Hahnemanni*, *Plumbum Metallicum* etc.
4. Nosodes : The medicines prepared from the diseased products are termed as Nosodes, eg., *Carcinosin*, *Medorrhinum*, *Psorinum* etc.
5. Sarcodes : The medicines prepared from the

secretions of healthy glands are termed as Sarcodes, eg., *Ova Tosta*, *Pituitrin*, *Thyroidinum* etc.

6. Tautopathic : Many a time indiscriminate use of certain drugs of other systems gives rise to various types of troubles. In such cases, if medicine from the drug is prepared according to the prescribed procedure of homoeopathic system and administered to that patient then at times cure results or paves the path for a total cure and these medicines are termed as Tautopathic drugs, eg., *Chloromycitin*, *Peniciline*, *Terramycin* etc.

7. Vegetable Kingdom : Medicines are prepared from this natural kingdom by preparing extracts in alcohol from barks, flours, fruits, herbs and roots collected from a particular species at a particular time such as *Belladonna*, *Opium*, *Thuza Occidentalis* etc.

Basically Hahnemann advocated two systems for potentising medicines and they are *Centesimal scale of potency* and *Fifty millesimal scale of potency*. But his medicinal chest contained a third type of medicines besides these two types. The two eminent biographers of Dr.Hahnemann i.e., Drs.R.Haehl and T.L.Bredford have not thrown any light on this third system of medicine or till date nothing is obtained in any of the writings of Dr.Hahnemann on that system of medicine. Upto the fifth edition of the **Organon of Medicine** the mode of preparation and administration of centesimal scale of potency is given. In the sixth edition of the **Organon of Medicine** only the mode of preparation and administration of fifty millesimal scale of potency is advocated. Basically 30,200,500, 1M..... potencies of medicines, which are at largely circulated and practiced, are the medicines of centesimal scale in different potencies. Medicines denoted as 0/1, 0/2, 0/3 or M/1, M/2, M/3 or I, II, III etc. are potencies of medicines of fifty millesimal scale of potency. Though Dr.Hahnemann advocated fifty millesimal scale of potency in his sixth edition of the **Organon of Medicine** only yet, in general, till date massively known and used medicines are of centesimal scale of potency owing to the absence of the sixth edition before the stalwarts like J.T.Kent etc. So, let us discuss about the centesimal scale of potency in short.

When one drop of the strong tincture, putting into 99 drops of alcohol is succussed vigorously we call it the first centesimal potency. Subsequent potencies are prepared in the same way - always one drop of the preceding potency in 99 drops of the attenuating medium, to form the next. It will easily be seen that so long as the matter is divisible, each succeeding potency will contain a saturated solution of the drug, in finer and finer subdivisions - always activated, and not diluted rendering less potent.

Dr. Boyd of Glasgow has proved, that every single succussion upto forty, alters the potency, but after that it remains constant, if not further potentised by taking one drop of *succussed* medicine into fresh 99 drops of alcohol.

Homoeopathy makes use of many insoluble substances, pure in tincture form. Now, how can this be possible? Here we have another discovery of Hahnemann. With insoluble substances like Gold, Silica, Carbon, Lycopodium etc. his first potencies are made by trituration or grinding - taking one part of the substance in 99 parts of sugar, milk, triturated in an agate mortar for a couple of hours (different stages of which can be had from any homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia). One part of this first trituration is again ground up with 99 parts of sugar of milk for the same period, to make second trituration and a third is made in the same way. He shows that after these three triturations for three times all insoluble substances become soluble in alcohol or water, and the potencies can be run up in the usual way.

Gold, Silica, Vegetable Charcoal, Silver and a host of insoluble substances were bequeathed to us, proved as to their exact role in combating sickness by Hahnemann for two hundred years approximately.

It will be seen that each succeeding subdivision contains more completely liberated energy, thereby, making them more and more potent in their action, and their medicinal virtues are infinitely developed.

The opposite effect of large and small doses is well known to medical men, and here the Arndt Shutz Law comes to the support of Hahnemann. According to him, large doses of poisonous substance prove lethal, and smaller doses inhibit stimulations, so minimal doses of the same poison actually stimulate the vital activities of the same cells.

Bier says, "The same remedy may stimulate a function, when given in small doses, but destroy it if large doses are administered." It is therefore, seen, that the same drug may stimulate or depress appropriate conditions. For instance, a large dose of the same substance are administered to check vomiting.

Homoeopathy takes into account the individual, with his personal reactions to environment and his physical, mental and moral state; his deviations from the normal condition and especially from his own normal habits, due to sickness. When a Homoeopath comes to prescribing, he knows no disease but sick persons (except in those limited cases where the uncommon peculiar characteristic symptom of the patient is

absent) and there is some limited role of the name of the disease on the score of prescribing the remedy. Basically it helps in differentiating in between common symptom and uncommon symptoms of the disease, of whose sickness has to be matched with a remedy that produced similar symptoms in the proving. And this is only common sense, that on enquiring illness of different persons we see that all persons are affected alike. In rheumatism, for instance-

(a) One may have pain on slightest movement and is more affected by dry weather.

(b) Other may have more trouble while starting to walk first but is relieved after walking for some time and his troubles may be aggravated in damp cold weather.

(c) Some may have most troublesome day in summer.

(d) Others may be better in summer.

So it is seen that though the name of the disease is the same yet medicine differs in totality of their symptoms. In all such cases from the prescription of the remedy to all other, advice will differ. On the other hand, we may cure a large variety of diseases by a single remedy if the totality of symptoms of all those patients are the same. If we get patients resembling to *Sulphur* in their totality of symptoms then whatever may be the name of the disease, such as Cancer, Asthma, Haemorrhoides, Heart troubles etc., it will be cured by *Sulphur* and *Sulphur* only.

And yet, though Homoeopathy knows no specific for any named disease, it has a remedy to cure every individual patient from whatever curable disease in which he may be suffering from. Homoeopathy cannot cure incurable diseases, which the orthodox system vainly claims to cure, but it can more for which the practitioners of the orthodox system themselves admit they have no cure.

Dr. MacLoughlin, Inspector to the Board of Health, wrote in 1854 to one of the Doctors at the London Homoeopathic Hospital, "You are aware that I went to your hospital, prepossessed against the homoeopathic system: That you had in me, in your camp, an enemy rather than a friend. That there may be no misapprehension about the cases I saw in your hospital, I will add that all I saw, were true cases of Cholera, in the various stages of the disease: And that I saw several cases which did well under your treatment, which I have no hesitation in saying, would have sunk under any other. "In conclusion he says, "I must repeat to you what I have already told you, and what I have told everyone with whom I have conversed, that though Allopath by principle, education and practice, yet was it the will of the Providence to afflict me with Cholera. I would

rather be in the hand of a homoeopathic than an allopathic adviser. You are at full liberty to make what use you please of this letter".

It found its way finally into the Parliamentary Blue Book. In those Cholera days of terror, Homoeopathy practically reversed the mortality. In many places homoeopathic results were almost incredibly dramatic. One might multiply such cases indefinitely: And remember, they are common not to any one prescriber, but to Homoeopathy. On 16-2-1867, the President of British Medical Association (allopathic) of Bengal Br. founder of Indian Association For The Cultivation of Science, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarcar, who stood first in M.D. in 1863 being second M.D. after Dr. Chandra Kumar Dey, the first cultivator of scientific thoughts in India, said while addressing on *On The supposed Uncertainty In Medical Science And on The Relationship Between Diseases And Their Remedial Agents.* at the fourth annual meeting of that organisation, "I become satisfied that the cures were really the effects of the medicines (Homoeopathic - Authors), and not the result of the influence of the imagination or of a restricted diet or of the natural progress of the disease as I formerly believe (about Homoeopathy - Authors)".

For uttering these words in favour of Homoeopathy, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarcar was expelled from the organisation.

In these days of advancing science, the foolishness of Homoeopathy is proving wisdom, and the amazing pre-science of Hahnemann is obtaining, everyday, new confirmation. What is there to prevent the most sceptical from adopting it? Those who test Homoeopathy and make the experiment, do not escape. Over and over again, allopathic doctors have studied Homoeopathy, or have been commissioned to look into it, in order to oppose it, only to become its most enthusiastic adherents and exponents such as Drs. C. Hering, J. T. Kent, M. L. Sarcar, B. K. Sarcar and J. N. Kanjilal etc.

Hahnemann ante-dated science, and his prophetic eye discerned the dawn that was to brighten into the most brilliant days of Medical Art and science.

Ellis Barker in **Miracles of Healing** says, "Medical men and others frequently argue, 'There cannot be anything in Homoeopathy. If that method of healing was superior to the allopathic method, it should have conquered the World since Hahnemann's time.' The advance of Homoeopathy has been impeded by the conservativeness of the medical profession and by the tremendous difficulty of practicing it. Those who advocate revolutionary changes in medical matters are apt to be attacked and denounced by the united profes-

ssion. That has been the experience of Harvey, Lister, Laennec, Sommeiweiss, Pasteur and many others. Valuable medical discoveries are often disregarded for decades and for centuries. For decades doctors refused to employ the stethoscope and clinical thermometer. Many important discoveries made by eminent medical men are not even tested, because they have seen quite improbable to the generality."

If one asks an allopathic physician or surgeon for his opinion on Homoeopathy, one is usually told (except a few seekers of truth) without hesitation, "Homoeopathy is quite worthless, sheer quackery!" and if one asks upon what knowledge that sweeping condemnation is based - the usual reply is, "I do not know anything about Homoeopathy and I do not want to know anything about it."

Herbert Spencer caustically wrote, "There is a principle which is a bar against all informations, which is proof against all arguments, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance, that principle, is contempt prior to investigation. The most beneficent and valuable discoveries are recognised and utilised only centuries after they have been made."

The first Nobel Laureate of India, Kabiguru Rabindra Nath Tagore, also echoes the same voice in a poetic manner through a song sang at a gathering to honour him on the eve of his reception of the Noble Prize, says (the english innermeaning is) - "This garland does not suit me; but it is also painful to tear it off."

Very few of the valuable discoveries in medicine have been made by physicians and they have always been opposed by the Faculty, till everyone else was convinced of their importance. In judging the value of a therapeutical method, the one and the only criterion is success. Dr. J. T. Kent says, "Homoeopathy will not be universally adopted for many centuries. There are many people in the world who cannot believe a great truth, however much evidence is presented in it's favour. We are all encumbered with tradition. The tendency to ridicule what we do not understand is born in us; only a few refined and educated minds that have been opened by circumstances are prepared to examine our principles."

Homoeopathy, which has survived for two hundred years is a true science, which possesses in it's literature instruments of precision for curing the sick, which are unknown to orthodox practitioner and undreamt of by him. Orthodox medical practice changes continually. Text books, which are a few years old, are completely out of date and unsaleable. Treat-

ments, which were considered highly scientific ten or twenty years ago, are now considered out of date of sheer quackery. In Hahnemann's time medical men were guided by the theory of *plethora*. Due to lack of far sightedness, the most eminent physicians held the opinion that the sick people could best be resorted (?) to health by merciless bleeding, leeching, burning, the most drastic purgation, vomiting, salivation, sweating etc., which of course, rapidly exhausted the strength of the suffering and killed them in numbers. Then the fashion changed, largely owing to the success of Hahnemann and his followers, who used gentle remedies. Without seems any scientific grounding or explanations, medical men evolved the theory that all diseases were not due to plethora, but to inanition, to weakness, called *asthenia*, and patients instead of being depleted by bleeding, sweating, purging etc., were fed on large quantities of meat, and were given fantastical quantities of wine, brandy, stout etc., to increase the strength (without considering the reaction of the patient to those substances i.e. without individualizing the case. As usual, patients mortality rate was elevated (as is the result of over feeding to a cholera patient) Then there was a Period of *over-medication*, when people were given large quantities of drugs, as a result sufferings of the Patients increased for a complex condition created by original disease and the drug disease (which is at large again at present era in the garb of sedations, vitamins, pain-killers and so on). So again based on speculative theories the previous theory was abused to give birth to a new theory, a period of watchful waiting, during which patients were given little or no medicine, when the so-called *expectant* treatment was in fashion. Orthodox medicine goes from one extreme to another. All these treatments, which in their time, were declared to be the most scientific and the most perfect treatments, are now considered a wild aberration of the human mind, for which there is no reasonable explanation. Once more medical fashion has changed. We are now taught that almost all diseases are due to the *guilty microbe* and that all of them can be cured by destroying the microbe when found, with some specific produced in a laboratory and injected into the blood stream. That sweeping doctrine is, of course, as mistaken as the previously held doctrines, of *plethora* and *asthenia*, and it will, in due course, be thrown into the medical lumber room, where it will join the doctrines and treatments which were fought by Hahnemann over two centuries. Kaleidoscopic changes have been taking place in allopathic system, and are still taking place; meanwhile, the homoeopathic method of curing diseases has not had to be changed since the time of Hahnemann, rather it is furthered. Orthodox medicine is a matter of fashion and is based on speculation.

Homoeopathic medicine is a matter of experience, and is based on exact facts, and is not disturbed by prevailing theories, however ingenious and plausible it may appear.

The orthodox practitioner no longer uses the *canet*, the most important medical instrument during Hahnemann's time. They swears now by the hypodermic syringe. Meanwhile, the ablest physicians practicing Homoeopathy round the Globe, practise medicine, exactly as Hahnemann did, using the identical remedies with identical results. *Scientia immutabilis* (Science is unchangable) is the call of science. The fact that orthodox medicine has constantly changed its doctrine and methods proves that it is not a science.

It is asked whether Homoeopaths have got anything that could compare with the so-called *wonder drugs* - the *Antibiotics*. It may be surprising to note that Homoeopaths have got something for better. **Every homoeopathic remedy is a wonder drug when administered according to the Law of Similars.** They cure with such rapidity, especially in acute diseases, that it would *astound* the greatest sceptic if he were to see it. As Antibiotics kill harmful bacterias of our body at the same time they kill some very useful bacterias of our body too. So, with the departure of first condition of sickness, another new type of sickness develops. This goes on till the death of the patient. On the other hand, homoeopathic remedies have no tonic after effects (if used judiciously) and there is no question of germ becoming immune to the remedy, as so often happens with the Antibiotics.

We should like to say that we have got the highest regard for the majority of allopathic practitioners, who are good and honourable men. Whatever we write here is to differentiate the two systems of treatments. We had no intention to injure anybody's sentiment. There are a lot of Allopaths who after witnessing the limitations of allopathic system and curing capability of homoeopathic system of treatment has not only taken to Homoeopathy and stuck to it fast, after deserting Allopathy, but also contributed a lot to enrich homoeopathic literature the pioneers amongst them are Drs.C.Hering, J.T.Kent, J.N.Kanjilal and others.

On the bicentenary year of Homoeopathy, we have penned down Homoeopathy in a nutshell for the Homoeopathic students in particular and public in general. It is based on a broad cast talk delivered by the late Dr.C.V.S. Corea from Radio Ceylone on the 21st and the 22nd of December, 1975.

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