

## Puzzle of Potency.

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Potency plays an important part in the world of Homœopathic treatment. The common forms in which they are used are the "X" or decimal and "C" or centesimal ones. One drop of the mother tincture added to 9 of spirit makes 1x, one drop of 1x with 9 of spirit gives us 2x. Proceeding on this line we get 12x, 30x, 200x and so on. Similarly 1 drop of mother tincture with 99 of spirit yields 1c or what we generally number as simply 1. One of 1c with 99 of spirit goes to form 2c or 2 and in like manner we get 12c, 30c, 200c, etc. These last named are generally known as 12, 30, 200 etc., meaning thereby 12c, 30c, 200c etc. So far so good. The puzzle arises when we are to deal with M (1000), C.M. (100,000) or M.M. (1,000,000) dilutions. The manner in which these terms are used in this part of our country gives rise to serious anomalies and misconceptions. Even physician of the standing of the late Doctor Chandra Shekher Kali had to approach a renowned Homœopathic Chemist of America to find out the truth about them. We expected that the reply given by that world-famous firm will set all controversies at rest once for all and will thus prove to be a document of abiding interest and of epoch-making character. But, to our great disappointment and to that of the late eminent doctor, it, though giving a key to unlock the puzzle to the few, was yet couched in a style which left enough materials for the wavering and the sceptic.

In case of X or C potency we find (1) the roman numerical "X" or "C", (2) and the arithmetical figures 3,12,30,200 etc. We also find that in either case the roman numerical "X" or "C" stands for the scale (Viz. decimal and the centesimal) and the ordinary numerals 3,12,30,200 etc. for the actual potency. It therefore stands to reason that the roman numerals "M", "C.M.", and "M.M." should represent scales.

If "M", "C.M.", "M.M." represent scales as "X" and "C" do, then the logical conclusion is that the potency which is marked by the figure "M" (an abbreviation of mille meaning thousand) is not 1000C potency but only 1M potency. Similarly C.M. would mean 1C.M. and not 100,000 C potency and M.M. only 1M. M. and not 1,000,000 C potency.

Therefore, M potency will be made by adding 999 drops of spirit to one of mother tincture, C. M. by 99999 to one and M. M. by 999999.

Dr. E. B. Nash while writing about Colocynthis says that he cured a case with 8M potency of Arsenicum. He had used 6M of Graphites, 42M of Psorinum, also 55M of Magnesia Phos. More instances can be added from other authors as well to show that "M." "C.M." "M.M." all indicate scales of potency like "X" and "C".

The complication has arisen from the bad habit of dropping the index of scale viz., "C" in all cases of preparations according to the centesimal scale. If we would have used "C" in all cases of centesimal potencies as we use "X" in cases of decimal ones the anomaly would not have arisen at all.

The whole trouble can be finished with if we give in future the numericals for the dilutions and the roman numericals for the scales. e.g. :

For potencies on the Decimal scale we write, say	3X,	30X,	200X.
" " " " Centesimal	" "	" "	3C, 30C, 200C.
" " " " Milfenial	" "	" "	3M, 30M, 200M.
" " " " Cente-milfenial	" "	" "	3CM, 30CM, 200CM.
" " " " Mille-milfenial	" "	" "	3MM, 30MM, 200MM.

and so on.

I think I am sufficiently clear. I shall be only too glad if I am personally referred to on the subject to meet the individual difficulties of any of my brethren in profession to the address :—97/1, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta.