

# Aggravation: The Violence of the Infinite Dose

The science of Homoeopathy is based on the trio of *similimum*, *single* and *minimum*. The minimum stands for the infinitely small dose chosen on the lines Hahnemann suggested. This small dose, does wonders and CURES the most chronic and complicated natural diseases. Hahnemann defined the word CURE in Aphorism 2 of his Organon of medicine. Every homoeopathic physician who follows this meets this truth.

The Homoeopathic Materia Medica has been constructed on the facts/symptoms revealed through actual provings ie, the potentized medicinal substances in infinitely small doses have produced morbid symptoms in healthy and sensitive persons. Therefore, the rule is 'because it (*a medicine*) causes, so it cures' and inversely 'when it cures it can cause also' is also true.

During our practice of Homoeopathy we meet with CURES but some times we meet with some very sensitive patients and then we encounter with AGGRAVATIONS too, sometimes in our own patients and sometimes in patients of other homoeopathic physicians.

Hahnemann has explained medicinal aggravation in Organon of Medicine as follows:

'This slight homoeopathic aggravation during the first hours - a very good prognostic that the acute disease will most probably yield to the first dose - is quite as it ought to be, as the medicinal disease must naturally be somewhat stronger than the malady to be cured if it is to overpower and extinguish the latter, just as a natural disease can remove and annihilate another one similar to it only when it is stronger than the latter (#43-48).' (Aphorism 158)

This kind of Aggravation is always favorable, but we sometimes meet the Aggravation caused by too strong or too large a dose. The sensitivity of every individual varies greatly. Therefore, some patients respond well to the few globules given as a dose (the author uses only three globules of No 10 size saturated in the potentized medicine in each dose) while some other patients start responding after repetition of such doses a number of times.

Hereunder I am giving some instances of AGGRAVATION I have met in my practice as well as in cases of others:

1) It was in 1980 that a man came to me with the lids of both the eyes full of styes. He told me that he had tendency of recurring styes, coming up one after the other, but he had never had more than one at a time previously. A hobbyist suggested him *Staphysagria* 30. The patient took the doses indiscriminately, within a period of two weeks he consumed four 5 ml bottles full of globules saturated in the medicine. Now, in place of getting well, the speed of recurring of the styes greatly enhanced. When he sought my help, his lids of both eyes were densely studded with the styes some of them suppurating and some were in the process of developing.

I asked him to be patient and gave him *Camphor* 30 few doses (as described above) to be taken tds and wait; within ten days all the styes vanished never to come again.

2) About twenty years back a gentleman was suffering from acute sore mouth for about three days, his whole mouth was raw and painful. Being out of station and busy he could not take any medicine. On his return he directly came to my clinic. I prescribed him *Carbolicum-acidum* 30 as indicated, to be taken tds. Next report came that he was feeling better and asked for more medicine. I sent six more doses of the same medicine. But, on the next day the gentleman came himself complaining that after two more doses, his mouth had be-



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come worse than it was before the medicine was started. These two doses proved too large for him and aggravated the trouble. Now I gave him six potions of placebo to be taken six hourly. After twenty-four hours the gentleman came to thank me that his mouth is almost normal.

3) In 1984 a gentleman was reading 'The Twelve Tissue Remedies' by W Boericke. During that period he had some gum complaint, the symptoms of which resembled the symptoms of *Calcarea-fluor*. He asked me if he could try the same. I consented. When he took the third dose of *Calcarea-fluor* 6X (4 tabs a dose) he felt much aggravation in his trouble. I advised him to stop the medicine. Within next two days he was feeling normal. After about a month remembering the incident I asked the gentleman to try the medicine once more. And lo! After three doses the old complaint of his gums flared up again and after stopping the medicine he again felt normal within twenty-four hours.

4) In 1983 a man about 40 years old had an attack of coryza. His symptoms indicated *Bryonia*. I gave him *Bryonia* 30 six doses tds. he felt better next day I repeated six doses but this aggravated his coryza promptly. Further medicine was stopped; by next day he was perfectly well.

5) On 7-9-1997 I was called to see a girl aged 13 years who was suffering from an acute inflammatory skin eruption with great itching and burning. Her lips were enormously swollen, eye lids also swollen, whole face was puffy with military eruption in patches, dark and rough, there was much burning in the eruptions. She also had such patches on arm, trunk, thighs and legs. The skin was much swollen at the sites of the eruptions.

- Her skin was very dry it used to become absolutely rough and dry soon after applying oil

- Itching and burning was intense and very distressing. Hot application >.

She was under homoeopathic treatment for skin eruption and whole of this condition came up after this treatment. It could not be known what the homoeopathic physician was giving her. The aggravation was very severe. On the basis of the modality I prescribed her *Arsenicum-alb* 30, two doses at 24 hours interval. She

felt great relief overnight.

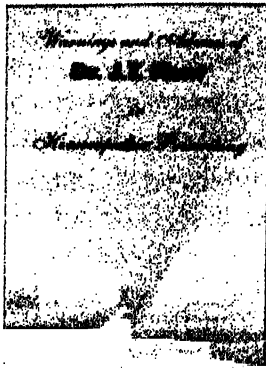
The whole aggravation was thus controlled in a short time with *Arsenicum-alb* 30 using it watchfully at long intervals. Then as follow up other medicines, as the symptoms demanded, were prescribed. Gradually the chronic eruption improved to almost normal state. After that she left the city to stay with her father at a distant place.

6) I also know a case of severe aggravation which is related hereunder. Long ago one of my acquaintances, called me to see his condition. I saw that he had weeping eruption all over his body, though it had receded somewhat, yet he was covered from the eruption from top to toe, with much swelling.. There was not a spot free of eruption on the body where even the tip of a finger could be placed. He told me that he was under the treatment of a very senior and knowledgeable homoeopathic physician of the city. Previously the eruption was very alarming and violently running. The patient was not aware of the medicine he was given. At that time I did not dare to give him any medicine. Therefore I suggested him to meet the physician and ask him about the prescription. But, in place of meeting the homoeopath he went to the allopathic skin specialist.

After a few days of seeing the above gentleman I happened to meet the senior homoeopathic physician who treated the above patient. In the course of our talk he told me about the aggravation and revealed that he prescribed *Graphites* 6 to a person and it worked very violently resulting in violent eruption.

That is why the Masters have advised the practitioners of Homoeopathy to be very observant while treating a patient. When the homoeopathic physician leaves the doses on the patient by giving him/her the name of the medicine or giving vial full of the potentized globules or dilutions, he is leaving the patient exposed for AGGRAVATION, because patients normally do not know the power of the infinitesimal. They may take the doses at their own will and thus creating possibility of bad name for the science and art of CURE.





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J T KENT**  
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The resurgence of Homoeopathy is not only at the level of homoeopathic practitioners but also at the level of academic part of homoeopathic science. We now see homoeopathy blossoming in all dimensions ranging from intricate philosophy to complex homoeopathic practice. Many obstruse areas of mysterious homoeopathy have been unraveled by the old pioneers and the homoeopathic generation at all times will always owe a feeling of gratitude to a great pioneer, a philosopher, a scientist and above all a true practitioner of our highly salubrious healing art, Dr James Tyler Kent.

'Warnings and advices of Dr J T Kent' is now available to the homoeopathic profession in a book from which a reader can tremendously benefit from the perusal of this book. The warnings, suggestions, brief teachings, some useful clinical tips etc amounting to 250 in numbers covering almost all aspects of Homoeopathic science and art under important headings.

Under 'Art of Applying Materia Medica', Kent writes, "If you are acquainted with the Materia Medica, with the art of individualization, you will easily see how to get the generals. The generals of one are so and so, and the generals of the other are so and so, and this will enable you to distinguish one of these remedies as best adapted to the constitution, when the two remedies have the one symptom in any equal degree. Now, this rules

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out the idea of substitution-From beginning to end, the homoeopath must study the patient. If he became conversant with symptoms apart from the patient, he will not be successful!" Through this paragraph Kent advises to study the patient as a whole and not to prescribe on symptoms alone.

As a teacher of undergraduate and PG courses, I always warn the students against the exclusive practice on Key-notes.

I found Kent, "**Avoid prescribing on Key-notes alone.**" Sometimes it may occur to you to say, that with five or six key-notes, certainly you would give *Calcarea*; but suppose you did have five or six key-notes of *Calcarea*, and the patient should be a *Puls* patient, would you expect to cure her with *Calcarea*. Unless you combine the particulars with the things that are general, and the generals with the particulars, unless the remedy fits the patient from within out, generally and particularly, a cure need not be expected. That is why I say, do not prescribe on key-notes, but upon the symptoms of the patient. This system of key-notes appeals to the memory only. It does not train the mind to know the character of the remedies. It omits the nature of the remedy or the image of the patient, which was the soul of Hahnemann's teaching. If we omit from our thoughts this soul, this image, we omit all upon which a homoeopathic prescription rests viz. the totality."

Today the word 'Classical Homoeopathy' has gained much popularity. While reading this book, one gets the feeling that Kent's comprehension and exposition of Homoeopathic science is the prerogative of classical homoeopathy! Kent, through his lucid language, elaborated on all aspects of homoeopathy in a scientific manner and made it richer.

A solid proponent of principles and philosophy, Kent always emphasized the unity of philosophy and practice. After perceiving that the principle of Similia is supreme, Kent advises, "**Individualization** must be made through the patient. This is a principle that should never be violated. The sole duty of the physician is to treat the sick, which means to study the patient himself until



an idea of sickness is obtained.”

Kent was expecting much from his colleagues, “The study of the homoeopathic pathogenesis, which is so extensive, requires so much time and perseverance, that men who are given to carelessness, indolence and levity, can do very little to make a showing for professional glory; hence the stupid, the flippant and the “smart” must always seek the material method and make it the basis of his efforts, thereby associating with, or placing himself on the same level as, the mechanic. Of course, all liquid substances seek their own level.” Kent’s statements may appear harsh but if viewed in perspective, we expect the same from a great and erudite physician like Kent.

Modern Homoeopathy is after specifics. Kent has very aptly said, “What constitutes a Homoeopathic remedy? The answer is: It has demonstrated its curative relation to the patient, after having been prescribed in accordance with his symptoms, the recovery taking place in the proper direction, from above downward, from within out, and in the reverse order of the symptoms. That constitutes the prescription homoeopathic. It is then a specific remedy, and in no other sense can a

remedy be called a specific.”

Full with suggestions, clinical guidelines and warnings, the book fulfills the need of every serious student of homoeopathy. An undergraduate can have a disciplined approach, a post-graduate can quote Kent’s statements for his research / thesis work and a true practitioner will enjoy through utilizing this book to the maximum extent possible!

Dr Satish Rana, a leading homoeopathician from Punjab and Editor of Similitude has very ably shouldered the responsibility by collecting, collating and selecting the literature of Kent and giving appropriate headings to add relevant information. This book sends a message to ponder over our faculty’s old literature; the gems lie latent and need to be explored at large.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

It would have been even better had Dr Rana used a separate paper for each warning or advice. Splitting the literature into specific chapters viz. philosophy, Materia Medica, clinical tips etc. might have helped the profession to refer to specific information. May be he can do this for the second edition. □

## One More Stalwart lost to the Profession

On 20<sup>th</sup> Sept., 03, we lost Dr Ashok Punwani – one of the pillars of Homoeopathic world, without any warning. He left this worldly abode, with what we call, his shoes on. He finished his morning clinic at Versova and went to the Bank across the road and collapsed. While it may be the best way for a person to go, it leaves the grieving populace behind really shell shocked.

Dr Sucheta Desai gives us a short life sketch:

**A SHORT LIFE SKETCH:** Dr Ashok Purswani, passed out from the then Bombay Homoeopathic Medical College at Irla - Mumbai in 1972. He soon joined the famous Dr Pralhad who had set up various Homoeopathic Charitable clinics all over the city. He later set up his own practise at Khar and Versova where he practised for over 25 yrs.

**HIS OTHER QUALITIES:** He was a stickler for time and a very methodical, meticulous person. These attributes made him a very good organizer. He headed HMAI for many years and conducted regular clinical meetings. In 1994, this was merged with IIHP Dr Purswani

*A Tribute by*

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