

THE
HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS.

VOLUME I

JULY, 1930.

No 6.

Etiology in Homœopathy.

(Continued from Page 203.)

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(e) *Suppression of eruptive diseases leading to secondary and tertiary malignancies.* Before writing anything under this heading, I beg first of all to describe a case that will throw a considerable light on this subject :

A child 10 months old got eczema (কাউর) in both the ankle-joints. He was placed under an Allopath and was given an ointment for external application. That being done for some days, the eczema gradually disappeared no doubt, but there appeared instead a virulent type of whooping cough which the said Doctor friend, inspite of his profuse dosing for pretty long time, was quite unable to cope with, and the child had to pass its nights almost without sleep and its days even without sufficient rest. It coughed and coughed, and coughed itself hoarse, till it was almost unable to cough at all, and when the terrible paroxysms came, it almost fell under a swoon. Then the child was brought to our care, and after taking the case and in conformity with the symptoms, a dose of Cal. Ost. 200 was given. The next day the child felt much relieved and the cough gradually subsided. After a week, another dose of Cal. Ost. 1000 was applied and the child got back his eczema on both the legs within a fortnight thereafter and it was entirely cured of both cough and the eczema without further medicines.

The whooping cough here is a case of secondary malignancy of the suppression of the eczema. If the child did not receive Homœopathic aid in time, the whooping cough might lead to the tertiary development of Bronchitis which in its turn, if allowed to run its course unchecked, might involve the lungs bringing further complications, to the serious detriment and danger to its life. This is a very clear example of how the suppression of an eruptive disease brings about serious internal disorders and malignancies. Though the citation of the case is enough for our present point of discourse, we may also mention the following to drive the matter home to our readers.

Most of our mothers are aware of the serious consequences to their children when the later are attacked with measles which are somehow or other suppressed and this suppression in our vernacular is described as "হাস লাট বেলে কাওরা"। The disease force being thus driven from the periphery to the centre, it usually attacks the bronchi, the lungs or the intestines, and either bronchitis, pneumonia, dysentery or typhoid fever is the natural consequence, and our friends of the regular school will call these as the "sequelæ" of measles, that is, separate diseases having no connection with measles but usually happening after the latter, though in fact both the measles and the so called "sequelæ" are but the outer and inner side of the same disease force which being checked and arrested in its external ravages turns its deathdealing processes towards the centre to cause ruin and havoc there. So also in variola, varicella and rosalia, if the eruptions are anyhow suppressed, infinite internal complications follow, leading to untold pains and sufferings of the patient.

Now, from what has been written above, it will be quite clear that both the external eruptions and the internal pathological states (Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Dysentery etc.) are but the outward expression of the same underlying disease-force,—Psora—"the father of death and the mother of poor health."

(f) *Advent and attack of acute diseases.* As we have already said, our vital substance is the formative principle of our body, and as such our organism can have no irregularities in its sensations and functions (diseases) unless and until its very formative principle is vitiated, its very spring and fountain is polluted, its very source of supply is enfeebled, enervated and exhausted. As we have already given a very graphic history of the development of the basic miasm Psora in the human family, it is unnecessary for us to repeat. We have also said that the other two miasms of Syphilis and Sycosis owe their origin to Psora, and we shall study the subject very fully later on. Now, acute diseases do not and cannot bond themselves with the life-force independent of these chronic miasms. Our vital force must have degenerated through the adverse influence of these chronic miasms and thereby must have paved the way and prepared the background for the advent and attack of these acute diseases. Thus the very supposition and possibility of acute diseases on our vital substance being already prepossessed by a malignant force that has wrought such disorderly changes in it as to make it *susceptible* to its being attacked by la-grippe, measles, small pox, etc. The influx of such disease forces as la-grippe etc., would have been a sheer impossibility, had such disorderly changes been not already effected in the constitution of our vital substance, thereby making it prone or susceptible to the said influx. Thus, it is clear that all our acute diseases owe their origin and appearance to our vital force being already under the malignant influence of the basic miasm Psora, for if any of the innumerable acute diseases be directly due to Syphilis or Sycosis, the same is as well due to Psora as Psora is also at the root of the other two miasms.

(g) *Any stasis of disease force or choking of inhibitory centres leads to violent internal commotion and wreckage of vital organs.* In these days of "refined" manners, our conscience is quite at ease so long our externals are all right, no matter how defile, polluted and poisonous our internals may be.

Accordingly, when the benign Nature, in pursuance of her eternal laws, throws out any of the internal venom in the shape of a burrowing abscess, a fistula in ano, a malignant ulcer, a gonorrhoeal discharge, a contagious leucorrhoea, a syphilitic bubo, or even the ordinary Psoric itches, our external-cleansing tendency will move heaven and hell and avail itself of the suppressive help of all sorts of virulent irritative agents, and, whether through their local irrigation or external application, will ultimately dam up these beneficent flood-gates of Nature which, being thus foolishly and rudely interfered with, will take vengeance with compound interest by levelling and directing her forces, thus prevented from their benignant natural outward course, towards the central and more vital organs, such as the bladder, the kidneys, the uterus, the ovaries, the liver, the lungs, the heart, the brain and the spinal column, and according to the nature of the forces thus diverted, any one or more of these vital organs will be affected, and stony concretion, strangury, prolapsus uteri, sub-involution, retroversion, uterine or ovarian tumor, gall stone, asthma, tuberculosis, consumption, cardiac palpitation, insanity, rheumatism or even paralysis may result. But, one may ask, "Is it not all a theory? A mere "boss and moonshine?" I shall answer by an example from personal experience.

One of my neighbours, aged 54 had an attack of fistula in ano. With the external application of this, that and a nameless ointment, he somehow managed to get the annoying pus-discharging opening of the fistula forcefully clogged and sealed-up. Do you think Nature received this rude handling mildly? No; not at all. The forces thus pent-up were directed to the centre and the man after a few months was fearfully oppressed with difficulty of breathing for which the customary nomenclature is Asthma. Then, after some time, he began to cough and spit blood, and the usual hectic fever followed suit. All sorts of Allopathic means and measures were adopted not excluding the help our indigenous

medicine could afford, but all to no purpose. His life's taper became gradually dimmer and dimmer till at last it was brought to a close. Such are the horrible consequences of forcefully clogging-up the most beneficent flood-gates of Nature in pursuance of the most regrettable external-cleansing ("লেকাফা-হরন্ত") tendency of the day.

Now, the question may arise, "Is there any necessary relation between the closing of the fistula and the subsequent appearance of Asthma followed by consumption"? Perhaps, it is unknown to our readers that fistula in ano can only appear, develop and flourish in a tubercular diathesis. Hence it was the height of folly both on the part of the patient suffering from the fistula, and the doctors who treated him, to attempt at a forcible untimely closure of this natural gate which was really an inhibitory point or centre created by Nature herself thereby to save the more precious vital organs within. But when it was made to be closed, that is, suppressed by external application, without curing the tubercular diathesis of the patient, that is, only a symptom was suppressed but the patient was not cured, Nature being thus deprived of her choicest means to save her internal economy, did not care to create any other inhibitory centre and allowed the pent-up evil forces within (pseudo-psoric miasm) to cause as much ruin and ravage as they could possibly do, and the results were as we have seen above.

Now, besides the seven arguments already advanced in favour of our theory of Psora, the basic miasm giving rise to the other two miasms of Syphilis and Sycosis, and the mixed miasm of Pseudo-Psora, we could adduce further arguments in their support but we think we have proved our case quite conclusively for those who require any proof at all.

In this connection, however, our survey of facts will be rather incomplete if we do not refer to Dr. Hering's standpoint so far as his views on Psora theory are concerned. We have thought it desirable to refer to him specially in the matter as

his statements and writings are some of the greatest landmarks in Homœopathic literature. He seems to regret that he cannot see eye to eye with our Master in the necessity of the Psora theory, and asserts that the similar remedy applied under the provisions of the Law of Similars will do the needful, whatever underlying miasmatic taint or diathesis there may be. In other words, he means to say that we should not bother ourselves with the nature and peculiarity of Psora, Syphilis and Sycosis, or of any mixed miasm, but should prescribe in strict conformity with the Law of Similars, and such prescription will cover everything. With due deference to his hallowed memory, revered personality and exalted authority, we beg to submit as under:

(a) Disease-forces are no doubt inimical to our life-force. Just as when a country is invaded by foreign enemies, it is greatly helpful to the ruling power to know the nature, peculiarity and numerical strength, foot or horse, of the enemies as well as their weapons of offence and defence, so that the reigning prince may adjust and prepare himself, and arrange things and events accordingly, with a view to deal a death-blow to the enemies, and without a full knowledge of these particular his necessary arrangements and preparations are obviously incomplete and he has more or less to grope in the dark all through, and his success necessarily depends more on chance than on martial tactics; so also if the physician has a full knowledge of the nature, peculiarity and numerical strength of the disease-forces (underlying miasms), he will be very much helped in the selection of the most appropriate anti-miasmatic remedy, and thus in dealing the death-blow to his adversary by the first stroke, without ever having had to undershoot or overshoot the mark which is only a round-about expression for groping in the dark. It is known to all good prescribers that a certain group of symptoms *often* (but not always) indicates more than one remedy, of course in rare complicated cases, and in such cases if we have a full knowledge of the underlying miasm or miasms, which

knowledge, however, we cannot but have if we but closely and carefully mark and examine the shape and contour of our patients' body, their visual expression, face, nose, lips, ears, mouth, hair—its growth, lustre or lack of it, skins, nails, mode and manner of speech—whether hasty or slow etc., our prescription is very likely to be always infallible and there will be no need for any alteration or reselection, unless symptoms change later on.

(b) *Mere numerical totality of symptoms is not always a safe guide, neither does it fulfil the force of the Law, though it may fulfil the letter of it.* For an intelligent and infallible prescription, we not only require the totality of the symptoms but also a definite picture, a very clear image of the underlying disturbing dominant miasm that has now overpowered the vital force and brought about the disease-effects and ultimates. Without a definite knowledge of this picture, without a clear conception of this image, we may *often* err, if not always, in our arduous task and responsible duty of curing the sick, for a single mistake in our prescription may mean much,—nay at times it may even mean death to our patients. Therefore, both the duty and responsibility of our profession conjointly demand that we should most diligently explore all the available avenues—nay the very creeks and corners of our science and art before we profess to be a physician to deal with the most precious human lives on earth in their sickness and suffering. Here, I may be pardoned to quote the following dictum from the *Mahanirvan Tantra* where the bipartite division of Sin has been prominently brought to light:

“अनुष्ठानं निश्चिद्य त्यागे विहितकर्मणः ।”

It is not only a sinful act to *Commit*, but it is also sinful to *Omit*. Thus sins of omission are of the same gravity as those of commission. And if in any other profession that man can lead, it is in our profession of medicine that we can ill afford to *omit*. No sort of omission will do where the question of human life and death is concerned. Hence it is, I humbly submit, our dependence on mere numerical totality of symp-

toms, to the unpardonable omission and neglect of the underlying image or picture of the dominant disturbing miasm will in all probability *often* undershoot the mark, to the infinite detriment of the patient concerned and to our ignominious failure not unmingled with sin.

(c) Our literature is also full of reports of buban itch and army itch which being of sycotic origin and nature could not be cured by a *similar antipsoric* remedy, but required the application of an *anti-sycotic* remedy to be radically cured.

Thus, though the Law of similars should always be our guide, we should never fail to arm ourselves with a full knowledge of the nature and peculiarity of the chronic miasms, as we have always to fight with these dreadful enemies—

“That are sure to be ever with us, do what we will,
They pitch their tents before us as we move,
Our hourly neighbours.”—

and unless we fully understand their death-dealing processes of non-assimilation, and mal-nutrition, anaemia and devitalisation, sepsis and false growths of tumours, nodes, glands and cancers, making gaps and breaches in nature, thereby deforming the body, dulling the intellect and destroying the reason. We shall be almost like the unfortunate mariner in the wide ocean, who is not only without his chart and compass, but also with his vessel without the rudder and the rigging. Thus, it will be seen that an accurate knowledge of all the chronic miasms with their individual peculiarities and modalities is absolutely necessary for a true Homœopath, and his unlimited love for humanity and implicit faith in God will naturally endow him with such powers of close observation and acute insight that all darkness of ignorance will be gradually dispelled with the rising sun of his increasing knowledge, and he will not only find pleasure in the faithful discharge of his duty, but he will gradually merge his personality and forget his identity in the discharge thereof.

So far we have discussed the chronic miasms rather

conjointly but their importance demands that we should now devote our time and space for their several and individual treatment, as such treatment is very likely to throw more light to their complex and intricate nature and greatly help our readers to a better understanding of the problem. and we reserve this for the next issue.

(to be continued)

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