

Let us take Selye's theory bit by bit and get Hahnemann's judgment on it. "All living organisms", Selye says, "can respond to stress as such, and that in this respect the basic reaction pattern is always the same, irrespective of the agent used to produce stress." He called this response the General Adaptation Syndrome, and its derailment, the Diseases of Adaptation. "Anything that causes stress", he goes on, "endangers life, unless it is met by adequate adaptive responses. Adaptability and resistance to stress are fundamental prerequisites for life and every vital organ and function participates in them."

Now Hahnemann says, "In the healthy condition of man the spiritual vital force, the dynamic that animates the material body, rules with unbounded sway and retains all the parts of the organism in admirable, harmonious, vital operation, with respect to both sensations and functions, so that our indwelling reason-gifted mind can employ this living healthy machine for the Higher purposes of our existence. When a person falls ill, it is only this Spiritual automatic Vital Force, everywhere present in his organism, that is primarily deranged by the dynamic influence upon it of a Morbific agent inimical to life. It is only the Vital Force, deranged to such an abnormal state, that can furnish the organism with its disagreeable sensations and incline it to the irregular functions that we call disease." He also says that "the causes of our maladies cannot be material, since the least foreign material substance, however, mild it may appear to us, is suddenly repelled like a poison by the Vital Force, or when this does not happen Death is the consequence. If even the minutest splinter penetrates a sensitive part of our organism the vital principle everywhere present in our body rests not before it is removed by pain, fever, suppuration or gangrene."

Now Selye says, "It will take many years, indeed many generations, before the details of the G.A.S. are satisfactorily

elucidated. In fact we shall never truly understand this phenomenon since the complete comprehension of life is beyond the limits of the human mind, but there are many degrees of elucidation. It seems that the fog has now been just sufficiently dispersed to perceive the G.A.S. through that measure of 'twilight' which permits us to discern the grandeur of its outlines, but fills us with an insatiable desire to see more." Hahnemann says, "How the Vital Force causes the organism to display morbid phenomena it would be of no practical utility to the Physician to know and therefore it will forever remain concealed from him. Only what is necessary for him to know of disease and what is fully sufficient for enabling him to cure it has the Lord of Life revealed to his senses." He goes on, "There is in the interior of man nothing morbid that is curable and no invisible morbid alteration that is curable that does not make itself known to the accurately observant Physician by means of morbid signs and symptoms."

(To be Continued)

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