

THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

Vol. XXXI

MAY 1964

No. 5

EDITORIAL

HOMŒOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS SUPPLEMENTED WITH ALLOPATHIC PALLIATIVES AND ARTIFICIAL FOOD PRODUCTS

We know of certain eminent and highly erudite Homœopathic practitioners and teachers, who preach and advocate that allopathic palliatives or synthetic chemical food products have no incongruity with Homœopathic therapeutics, on the only apparently unassailable plea that Homœopathic remedy acts on a far deeper dynamic plane than the physiological plane of the former. They further rationalise their stand by asserting that, Hahnemann denounced the use of the allopathic methods as supplementary to Homœopathy on account of the fact that, Allopathic therapeutics was then very poorly developed; he would not have any objection in this matter if he had seen the immense development of allopathic pharmacology and therapeutics of the day. And so they advise and teach the use of Sedatives and Analgesics, Vaporubs, Anti-histamins or Multivitamins along with the similimum.

With all humility and regard for their erudition and vast practice, we feel duty-bound to point out some dangerous fallacies in their stand:

(1) At the outset we must unequivocally admit the obvious fact that Allopathic pharmacology and therapeutics have vastly developed in the present century and are fast developing. But their basic outlook, stand and quality remain the same. Their outlook was and is never curative but palliative, never to be guided by the symptoms but to remove or alter the symptoms, never to treat the individual patient but to treat the so-called disease as diagnosed

by them; their stand was and is never Homœopathic but Allopathic—never to be guided by any law of therapeutics; their quality and methods have only changed in form—the crude and atrocious ones of old days to more gentle but, at the same time, more subtle and insidious ones; but all the same their capacity to damage and vitiate the system of the patient has thereby increased in depth, crookedness and permanency. So, we are sure, had Hahnemann been living to-day, he would certainly have castigated the modern methods of Allopathy far more emphatically.

(2) No controversy about the fact that the Homœopathic remedy acts on the dynamic plane and all other forms of remedies work on more superficial cruder plane. But this fact does not allow the Homœopathic physician to disturb the symptoms of the case, which are his only guiding lights in the path of cure. It is by observing the relative movement of the different types of symptoms that he can assess—(a) whether the remedy prescribed has been the true *similimum*, as also (b) whether the patient is proceeding towards cure or deterioration, and then again (c) to decide when to make the next prescription. If the symptoms are disturbed by various palliatives none of these objectives can be achieved and the patient is thrown to his lot.

(3) Dynamic doses cannot have any crude action, but crude physiological doses have surely some dynamic action inherent in it. This inherent dynamic action of the supplementary drugs is very likely to disturb the salutary dynamic action of the *similimum*.

(4) The problem of prescribing supplementary food and vitamins—especially the proprietary or synthetic products of this category, is a multifaceted one. In this matter we have got to take into consideration various questions most important of which are the following:—

(a) Precise diagnosis of the deficiency of the particular item or items of food principles or vitamins. This is not always easy and too often a matter of speculation, in the present stage of our knowledge.

(b) After the exact diagnosis is established the question arise, whether the case of deficiency is (i) one of lack of assimilation or (ii) lack of supply or (iii) of extra-drainage or waste. If the case is one of laek of assimilation it is no good, rather often harmful

to overload the system with unacceptable products. The defective assimilation can most often be corrected only by proper Homœopathic treatment, supply remaining the same. In the latter two types of cases, of course, we have got to consider the question of compensating the deficiency by arranging for extra-supply. But in this matter again we must remember that our patient is not a machine but a biological individual with his particular likings, aversions, idiosyncrasies, dietetic habits etc. If we become over-enthusiastic to make good the deficiency without paying meticulous attention to these individual factors, we are likely to cause more harm than good to the patient. And above all, it must be remembered that human system is far more likely to accept natural food products than the artificial ones. So any attempt to simplify the matter by prescribing multivitamin powders in place of placebo along with Homœopathic medicine is likely to further complicate the intrinsically complicated problem and cause irreparable damage to the patient. In this highly important matter we must eschew all so-called scientific fads and easy generalisations and be more objective and realistic in paying attention to the exact requirement of the individual case in hand. (These problems have been a bit more elaborately discussed in our Editorial article—"The Problem of Dietetics"—Hahnemannian Gleanings, XXVII/10/433 (Oct. '60) and the article "Vitamins" by Dr. E. F. W. Powell, *Ibid*, XXVII/11/498 (Nov. '60).

All these do not at all mean that, Homœopathic treatment does not ever require any physical, mechanical or physiological supporting treatment. Hahnemann in the foot note of the Aphorism 7 of his *Organon* gives enough hint in this direction. Apart from various hygienic measures, physical measures (like, application of heat, cold etc. according to the modalities of the case, Oxygen administration in cases of anoxæmia, and so on), mechanical and surgical measures, psychological measures, etc. etc.—real physiological measures are not only admissible along with homœopathic treatment but are often indispensable adjuncts. Any failure on the part of the physician in this respect would be criminal neglect of responsibility. Measures like administration of Saline, Glucose solution etc. in case of dehydration or inanition (in neglected cases of Cholera, Hæmorrhage etc.), blood transfusion in bad cases of

Hæmorrhage, etc. fall in this category. We do not expect that one dose of the Similimum will abruptly stop the purging or vomiting of a case of Cholera, but another single bout of purging or vomiting may act as the last straw on the camel's back in a badly dehydrated case of Cholera. But these measures must not be confused with the use of Antibiotics in a case of Cholera or Dysentery, Morphia or Pethidine in a case of pain or shock, Methergin or Ergot or Pituitrine in a case of uterine hæmorrhage, application of Antiphlogistine in a case of inflammation or Pneumonia, inhalation of Vaporub in a case of coryza and the like, the latter measures are sure to vitiate the Homœopathic method of treatment at every step, in selection of the similimum or following up the case, whereas the former measures will only help in sustaining the vital force and are least likely to cause these sorts of disturbances, if carried out with due care and vigilance.
