

A THOUGHT ON HOMŒOPATHY.

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Discovery:—A divine fulfilment of Medical Science.

"Whenever virtue subsides and vice prevails I come from age to age—" declares Sri Krishna in the *Bhagabatgita*. Whenever this world of ours requires new adjustment on account of growth or added circumstances the Divine power is brought into play. This is true not only of religion but of other fields of human activity. When the ordinary intelligence of man is found falling short of the mark it pleases the Eternal Source of all knowledge and Bliss to speak and act through mediums, super-human and extraordinary. So, when the best devices in the realm of medicine were found insufficient to cope with the exigencies of the new situation, when the wail of suffering humanity reached the Throne of Mercy, It sent a flood of energy, a keenness of observation that was gigantic in the endeavours and superhuman in its application.

It is said of world teachers that they come to fulfil and not to destroy. So this divinely appointed missionary in the domain of the healing science came to fulfil and not to destroy. As the teacher of spirituality pierces as it were through the illusions of this visible material universe and lays bare the unseen inner realities of the things that remain hidden behind them, so this God-sent teacher of therapeutic laws placed before the wondering world the almost infinite potentialities that remained dormant in the crude that formed the pharmacopœia of the Old School. This is Samuel Hahnemann.

Like all the preachers of truth we find him prosecuted and persecuted, driven from land to land hunted by those whose profession seemed to be in jeopardy, their blind followers and hirelings. Thanks to the mercy of the Almighty that he did not end on the cross, leaving the propagation of his doctrine in the hands of unknown posterity, but outlived all uncharitable designs to win the laurel and find his hoary head crowned with the honour conferred by peoples and princes. Like the great Budha he had the satisfaction of seeing many coveted converts from among the most blooming flowers

of the dominant school in his own life time, and the gratification of seeing his doctrine giving the greatest relief to groaning humanity.

It may be a pleasant task to have a peep into the life of this saintly genius, but this is not the place for that and perhaps we would do him more honour by putting his theory faithfully into practice than by the recording of his vocabularies in idle adoration. Yet we cannot leave him without mentioning how he inflicted upon himself suffering after suffering in the course of experimenting and experiencing actions of crude drugs and how he at length dedicated himself in his search after truth for the benefit of humanity. Such is the master that we have got to adore and such is the heritage we have got to uphold. Weak are our limbs and frail are our capacities. May it please God to grant us strength and fortitude to keep the banner afloat or to die beneath it handing it over to abler hands its honour unsullied, its lustre un tarnished.

Disease: Medicine: Treatment:—Disease according to *the* Hahnemann is the affliction of the vital force that sustains the body and pervades it. It is indicated by symptoms, and medicine is the substance capable of removing the disease-symptoms by producing on the vital force a temporary artificial affectation, devolving symptoms, bearing a close resemblance to the symptoms of the disease without any further symptoms indicating the reaction of the vital force. A medicine is capable of removing those symptoms which its internal administration produce on healthy human body and mind. It cures the disease or frees the vital force from the disease in the following manner. It affects the vital force and produces its characteristic symptoms which are similar to those produced by the disease, but far more powerful. The disease, which is nothing but the aggregate of the symptoms, being attacked by a similar set of symptoms more powerful, leaves the vital force and the artificial symptoms of the medicine, which can affect the vital force only temporarily, subside of themselves leaving the vital force free in its normal condition. The medicine being administered in a very fine form there remain no further struggle for the vital force to appear in the form of a reaction. These are no speculation, but established doctrine based on actual experience and verified by fact every moment,

Leaving aside the learned speculation about the nomenclature of diseases and their classification (changing every moment) and the conflicting theories and counter theories regarding their causes, that form the bulk of a treatise on medicine of the old school, it will suffice for our purpose to examine the basic principle that governs its prescriptions. If the similarity that exists between the symptoms of the diseases and those of the drugs be ignored and cannot be a safe guide, the only alternative left to us is to rely on the other relationship viz., antagonistic or contrary and this forms the foundation of that system. It was tried and is being tried in vain, at the cost of suffering humanity, but has been found wanting, as it laboured under a very serious drawback, viz, that very few symptoms of a disease find their opposites in the symptoms of a single drug. So other drugs are availed of in combination with it. In doing this the exponents of this school lose sight of the following among other facts :—

- (1) the relation which these additional drugs bear to the disease,
- (2) the relation which the drugs bear to one another,
- (3) the relation which the combined drug bears to the disease.

Moreover the use of drugs in high doses excites the vital force to exert its utmost to shake off their toxic influence giving rise to symptoms of reactions and ending, in a vast majority of cases, in a suppression of its normal action.

It is a matter of common experience that diseases with different symptoms can co-exist. But, diseases with similar symptoms cannot. The stronger one must drive out the weaker. This fact of the co-existence of diseases with different symptoms shatters the last stake on which a case could be made to stand for those who rely on the antagonistic relation between the disease and the drug symptoms. The artificially produced symptoms of the drugs in that case do not affect the disease symptoms, but disappear after a course of parallel existence. The disease are, therefore, cured either by nature or by the accidental presence of a drug, in the list of prescribed medicines that can cure the disease according to the law of similars.

This signal discovery of the law of similars has created a revolution in the world of medicine and though the orthodox members of the archaic school would not admit its theory yet they cannot avoid

its practice in some form or other to effect a cure, for the truth is one,—whether they admit it or not. The process of injecting medicines in fine form, the use of vaccines and autovaccines are indicative of a partial admission and we would only appeal to them to have a little patience to watch and see how the medicines act and how they could be made to act more easily, more effectively and without any the least apprehension of developing symptoms of reactions. The modern changes in the science (? and art of Allopathic treatment are echoes of the Homœopathic doctrine of cure. What we regret is their leisurely gait checked at times by false notion of prestige and callous indifference to responsibility and in the average by the awe of an organised institution backed by the resources and grandeur of States.

Diseases are divided into acute and chronic, according as the vital force is affected objectively or subjectively. Consequently, the diseases that attack the body and thus affect the vital force are acute diseases, while those that affect the vital force which, after persistent struggles, at last allows the symptoms to appear declaring its inability to cope with them, are said to be chronic diseases. Acute diseases whether epidemic or otherwise can be treated Homœopathically with greater ease and more preciseness than the chronic ones as the symptoms in the former ones are more marked and can be ascertained more easily than in the afflictions of the latter kind, in which the struggles between the diseases and the vital force are long drawn and at times impeded and rendered more complicated by the administration of crude drugs prescribed with cruder knowledge of their actions.

In both forms of diseases, the efficacy of Homœopathic Medicines has been more than established and the laws regulating their administration and course of action verified. The fact that in the teeth of vehement opposition from the brethren of other systems supported by the most powerful States of the world, almost 60% of the members of the medical profession to-day owe their allegiance to this infant school of thought and that of the remaining 40% a vast majority is conscious or unconscious party to the administration of medicines partly or fully Homœopathic in their form or principle are enough testimony of the soundness of its principle and the efficacy of its application.

Our Duty :—It is now for us to stick faithfully to the banner and exert ourselves to our utmost capacity. The truth of the doctrine is no doubt a great motive power but its success depends mainly on its judicious and faithful application. It is neither possible nor it is within the scope of this paper to forecast the immense possibilities of this system of treatment. It will suffice to bear in mind that it is the outcome of the search of an earnest mind after the truth underlying the science of medicine which stood aghast before the terrible scourges that were spreading death and disaster among mankind, that the truth was discovered by keen observation of actual realities and a scientific knowledge attained with almost mathematical accuracy.

Advantage of Homœopathic Treatment :—It cures diseases easily, rapidly and radically. The medicines are pleasant and patients already tired of the suffering of the diseases are not subjected to the annoyance of taking any medicine of repugnant taste or vexing odour. No blistering, cupping or other tormenting process are needed. The use of lancet and other surgical appliance is reduced to a minimum. Relapses are rare and medicines very cheap so it suits all pockets. It can prevent malignant growth before which Allopathy seems to be hopelessly at sea.

Conclusion :—In conclusion, I offer my most sincere gratitude to the Master Mind that conceived and reared the idea by his life blood, to my revered guru Doctor Kalidas Bhattacharya, whose thorough knowledge acquired by incessant study conducted in the seclusion of a retired life amidst the romantic surroundings of a remote village of Bengal and judicious application thereof extending over a quarter of a century attracted and guided me in the study and practice of this system, to those luminaries who by the contribution of the best products of the head and heart hedged and nourished this tender plant and to those lesser lights, the torch bearers of truth, my neglected brethren of the profession, who toiled in obscured silence preparing grounds for its full expansion in the form and shape of the gigantic banian. May God grant us strength to strive the hardest and serve the best and guide us with His light unto Peace.