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EDITORIAL

HOMOEOPATHY AND SURGERY

There is some misunderstanding and controversy about the relationship between Homoeopathy and Surgery. We, Homoeopaths have partly been responsible for this.

We are sometimes asked by our patients the following questions :

1. Do you have Surgery in Homoeopathy ?
2. Does Homoeopathy *allow* Surgery ?
3. During Homoeopathic treatment, can we consult an Eye Specialist (who might prescribe some Allopathic eyedrops or tablets) or a Dentist (who has to use *Novacaine* or an anti-septic) ?
4. If as it is said; during the Homoeopathic treatment of "Constitutional" or "Chronic" diseases, no other drug or medicine can be taken, lest all the good results of the Homoeopathic treatment achieved till then should be nullified, how then can the patient even *think* of any Surgery ?

How do you cure a ruptured appendix or a fracture ? And many more such questions on the some lines. It is, therefore, better that we clarify the matter.

First of all, let us be clear about one definition—“Homoeopathy is the science of *Therapeutics*” (Dunham). That means, it heals diseases through medicines. Surgery, on the other hand, deals with those illnesses or conditions that might need manipulation, incision, draining, cauterising, suturing and mechanical aiding. Surgery, therefore, is a distinct and separate branch of the Science of Healing.

A surgeon has to use medicines—the knife is always the last resort. Many eminent Homoeopaths were also surgeons. Dr. Edmond Carleton is a good example, and his book “Homoeopathy in Medicine and Surgery” is very illustrative. Another example is that of Dr. Thomas Skinner of Liverpool, who was a famous Gynaecologist, Surgeon and a first-rate Homoeopathic prescriber. Many general surgeons in India too have been using Homoeopathic medicines successfully.

So, we shall answer the questions raised earlier :

1. Homoeopathy and Surgery are two departments that can and should go hand in hand.

2. Yes, certainly. Homoeopathy does allow Surgery, though, owing to some astounding power of some of our potentised remedies, a great many cases that were almost on the point of being operated upon, could get well by medicines.

I have personally asked these questions (3 and 4) to many leading Homoeopaths, and except for a few puritanical, die-hard fanatics, their answers have been unbiased. They said, “Certainly we do not and never have objected to our patients consulting Dentists E. N. T. and Eye specialist and Surgeons. In fact, these specialists and Surgeons are our good friends and refer many of their cases to us for Homoeopathic therapy.”

Some Homoeopaths replied—“During the course of a well planned treatment of a Chronic (psoric) case, disturbances can occur if the patient uses some palliative frequently. But to assume that an eye-drop, or an ear-drop or an antiseptic dressing or even some surgery when needed will nullify all the good so far done

to the patient by Homoeopathy, that such things are capable of "antidoting" the medicines till then prescribed, is too far fetched and to be can did, not at all fair to Homoeopathy !"

I am certain that quite a bit of simple, day-to-day practical surgery is being taught to students in our own Homoeopathic colleges, so that these student can take their rightful place along with other doctors.

I should say that the curing of cases, apparently "impossible-to-cure other than by surgery", by Homoeopathy has brought in a large number of patients to this system.

In this Issue, we are giving the experiences of Drs. J.H. Allen, J.R. Haynes, E.E. Case, Baylies and M. Sridharan, who were able to spare the patients from the surgical knife with their beautiful prescriptions. Let us learn from their experiences and try to cure the "Surgical" cases with our wonderfully powerful medicines.

At the same time, let there be no belittling or condemnation of Surgery. Let us give up our attitude of non-co-operation or even hostility to really necessary Surgery. Let us not become a class of unapproachables and untouchables, who have nothing in common with other healers except prejudice !

Let us always remember that not only a stitch in time, but a judicious "cut" in time can save a life.

—S. P. Koppikar



"WISH THE READERS A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS DEEPAWALI"
