

Talks about Homeopathy.

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I am not a Buddhist, otherwise I might speak to you of Buddhism. I am not a Mahomedan; if I was, I would have studied the koran and be able to speak strongly of its good teachings; neither am I a Hindu, and I do not know much about the teachings of your Shastras. If I was as well up as some of your Pundits are in the teachings of your Shastras, no doubt I would willingly and gratefully speak about them to you. No; I have to a certain extent been brought up in the knowledge of the Church of England, and have had for my benefit the teachings of the priests of Christianity from our Bible, or, as I might say, from the Christian Shastras. Now I am not going to speak to you about Christianity, or the teachings of the Bible; but I am going to speak to you about Homeopathy.

In the New Testament of the Christian Bible, it is laid down by the great Teacher of Christianity, himself, as one of his commandments to His Disciples on leaving them, namely, "One last and great commandment, I give unto you—love one another". That is going to be one of my texts this evening. The other one I take from some of the books I have had the pleasure and comfort of reading by great writers of and instructors of Homeopathy, one of them is this little book in my hand this text is, "Prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good". These are to be my two texts this evening. Our subject according to the Pamphlet before me is "Homeopathy and its suitability to Indian Life".

So far as the Punjab is concerned Homœopathy is very little known. There are numerous teachers of Homœopathy getting a good livelihood; there are numbers also who are amassing wealth from the treatment of the sick on the

Homœopathic principles. Now in passing, I might remark that although Homœopathy is so well known in Bengal, and numerous men are doing well in this profession, there is one thing failing in Bengal, and it is this—the want of proving of new medicines, and remedies. If Hahnemann and American men had not taken up the proving of different remedies, both vegetable, and those taken from the living atoms of the earth, we would not know very much about Homœopathy to-day. Therefore I must confess that I cannot but think the great Homœopaths of Bengal have done very little to advance the further teachings of Homœopathy. I hope that so far as the Punjab is concerned, this will not be the case. As we advance in giving instructions to our students, I hope they, together with ourselves, (their teachers here) will bring forth new provings and shew to the world at large that we are not altogether a dead letter.

Now to come to Homœopathy. What is it? Here you have in front of you the Latin words, "Similia Similibus Curantur", which mean, Likes cures likes. That is to say, that what causes a disease, if properly triturated on the Homœopathic principles, will cure that disease. You will be surprised to know that many men of the old school are to-day practising Homœopathy in its crude state. I do not suppose there is a single person here this evening, who has not had crude Homœopathy instilled into his blood. How? By vaccination for small pox. That is crude Homœopathy. Then further we have different serums inoculated into the system, some away up at Kasauli; others by Army Surgeons in the different Cantonments, and especially upon young soldiers entering this country of India for the first time for Enteric fever. All these are practising, hardly aware perhaps of the fact, but in a very crude way, the laws of Homœopathy.

A Homœopath to a great extent depends upon what is called Symptomology, and also on what is called, Pathology. Now what is Symptomology? It is what the patient tells you. What is Pathology? It is what the Doctor sees, and observes for himself. Now we to a certain extent must depend more or less upon Pathology, because there are some things in the human system of which the patient knows very little, and the doctor, of course, knows more, but the patient can tell you all the symptoms of the disease he is suffering from. Now in order to illustrate this fact to you about Symptomology, I will mention to you a great doctor, Doctor Cook of New York, who had a patient in his charge. His treatment had up to that moment not been effective; the disease had not been overcome, and to a certain extent he had lost his nerve; so he called in consultation another great doctor of New York, Dr. Nash. The case was one of hydrothorax general dropsy, and it was a desperate case. While the two doctors were talking by the bedside, the daughter of the patient exclaimed "Oh, doctor, if you could only give me something to relieve my father at 3 o'clock in the morning, he is very much worse at 3 o'clock in the morning". There was the symptom; it decided the Doctors what to do. The night remedy, Kali Carbonica, was prescribed, and the patient was eventually cured, and lived to the good old age of 80.

Now to take an instance, not so far a field as New York, there is friend of mine sitting amongst us this evening, who was called in to see a patient a little time ago. On entering the room with the husband of the patient, the doctor noticed that she was being fanned; shortly after she asked for the doors and windows to be thrown open; and persisted in her request to be fanned. Now my friend, the Homœopathic physician, knew at once what remedy to give to that patient from that

particular symptom. He prescribed Carbo Vegetabilis, and that night was the first for many nights that the patient slept peacefully and woke up refreshed. This brings home to you as simply as I possibly can, what symptomology is, or what the patient tells you.

Now I do not know if any of you present here have ever read a great monumental work, called, "The Design of Nature", by J. Bell Betticrew, who is an M. D., L. L. D., and an F. R. S. To those who have not done so I would advise reading this book. Nature is set forth in a very plain manner by that gentleman. The circulation, both in mankind vegetable and the animal kingdom is explained in a surprising manner, and cannot fail to be of interest and great instruction to those about to adopt the medical as a profession. Most of our medicines in the Homœopathic nomenclature are taken from nature, and I feel that there is no illness, known to man, where there is no medicine to effect a perfect cure. The Great Ruler of the Universe, who has made everything perfect and beautiful, would not strike us down with a sickness, which has no remedy. And there is a remedy, if we can only find it, for every disease under the sun. The late Dr. Salzar of Calcutta did a great deal of good, both by his magnificent letters on Homœopathy which appeared in the "Statesman", and his teachings abroad, more especially is the Homœopathic world indebted to him for Camphora for the cure of cholera. The fortune he amassed, he spent in the cause of Homœopathy, and when he died he left the remainder of his money for the benefit of Homœopathy. I remember some years ago a clever sketch which depicted some hundreds of people running after something; this something was an American dollar, and was represented as rolling on its edge, and the crowd was running after it in their endeavours to catch it. Under-

neath the picture wore the words, "The Almighty Dollar". Now the greater number of people in this world to-day are doing the same thing, that is running after the Almighty Dollar, giving no thought to the poorer communities. But I am proud to say that here in Lahore you have in a very small way a number of gentlemen who are not running after the dollar. They are doing their best to promote the welfare of the sick, and especially the poor with the help of Homœopathy. Some of them have pharmacies where they dispense advice, medicines and bottles free. I think people like these should be encouraged by the communities in the Punjab. It is a notable fact, and one to which I would call your attention to, and that is that the names of the great men of the world have gone to posterity, not because they were rolling in wealth as the saying goes, but because of their good acts. Now how are we to encourage these gentlemen who are doing their best to promote the welfare of the poor and sick? By publishing and spreading in every way we can, the knowledge of Homœopathy and its suitability to the people of India. If we can teach the mother in her home a little knowledge of Homœopathy, a drop or two of the right medicine prescribed in good time will prevent a dread disease setting in, and resulting in the death of the sick one. You Indian gentlemen know a great deal better than I do what your mothers do in their homes when any of their children are ill. But they are working in the dark. Sometimes you will see a man going about with a swollen ankle or leg; he will have round the sore portion a ring of hair, either from a woman a cow or a horse, and attached to it you will observe, if you look, a cowrie shell. He has been told that this will cure him, and in his blind ignorance he thinks it will and so adopts this form of treatment. Now if the headman of that village, or the mother or wife of that person, had a

slight knowledge (let it be ever so little) of Homœopathy, that leg would not be tied up with a strand of hair and ornamented with a cowrie shell. A dose or two of suitable Homœopathy medicine would soon relieve and make him well.

I have travelled a good deal in India and have gained some experience of the diseases of India ; they can be summed up under a few headings. First, of all, I will place malaria fever. Now how is malaria fever treated by the old school of medical men ? By quinine principally—10, 20 or 40 grains a day is prescribed ; and this treatment is not confined to one particular fever, but it is used for all the different malaria fevers in India. It is a well known fact that the planters of the Nepal Terai, the dooars, and the Terai of Bhutan, are ghastly skeletons and wrecks from the consumption of quinine ; these unfortunate men have also established in that part of India a dread disease known as Blackwater Fever brought on by too much quinine ; and again quinine is responsible for that common complaint, enlargement of the spleen. And it is difficult to decide which of these three diseases is the worst. When we Homœopaths have a patient brought to us suffering from the abuse of quinine we immediately give him a remedy to eradicate this poison from his system. When I was lecturing to my students some little time ago I told them I never gave quinine for fever. There are numerous remedies, specific remedies for each particular type of malaria fever. I cannot understand what benefit quinine is in malaria fever and the only result it seems capable of is to bring on great debility, and in some cases a prostrating diarrhoea and deafness. If a patient comes to me with these complaints I cure him with a preparation of Quinine known as China.

Then again, here in Lahore your malaria fever may be

of a different type to the malaria fever of Peshawar ; both the Lahore and Peshawar fever may be of a different type to that found in the United Provinces. These again may be of a different type, and indeed are, to the malaria fever found in the Central Provinces ; so likewise in Bengal and Assam, and I may say that even in Bengal and Assam there are different kinds of malaria fever. Round about the district of Sholapur in the Central Provinces, Malaria fever is more or less concentrated in the head, so much so that one of the chief characteristics of the disease is coma, which, when it sets in, is more often than not fatal. In Bengal we have two kinds, which I will mention here, namely, the gastric fever, wherein the liver and the bowels are affected, and for which we have a specific remedy ; the other again is concentrated, as in the case of the Sholapur fever, in the head ; the brain becomes almost paralysed, the temperature rises very high. Now for this malaria fever we have another remedy, different from that which we give for the gastric fever, or what one might call, bowel fever. Then again we have a malaria fever which attacks the inhabitants of low lying and marshy country, and for this we have a specific remedy, known as *Eup. Perfoliatum*. Now the head and the bowels of the patient suffering from this kind of fever are not affected as much as the bones. For all these different fevers we have a different remedy ; most of these remedies are unknown to the old school. These are comparatively new remedies, and work miracles in the hands of a Homœopath.

The first of these that I will call your attention to, is the extract from the little bee known as the Honey Bee ; the technical name of this medicine is *Apis Mellifica*. In stinging pains and swollen limbs this is a wonderful remedy. How do we obtain this medicine from the bee ?

The bee is excited until it becomes angry when the poison is extracted from its poison sacs ; this poison is then triturated and made up in accordance with the laws of homœopathy, and is mainly used on people suffering from the stings of insects. When you get a sting on the hand or any other portion of the body, an œdema sets in, i. e., a swelling, and with the swelling also a stinging pain ; the physician at once knows that he should prescribe Apis. This Apis is a wonderful cure ; I may say it is a miraculous cure in local dropsy. A cure of this description came once within my own personal knowledge. Both legs and ankles of the patient were swollen. One noted man, a Civil Surgeon in Howrah, was called into the case (this was long before I knew anything about homœopathy) ; he said the patient was suffering from Lymphites, and further he went on to describe the origin of this disease and attributed it to women picking winkles in tanks in China !!! His medicine had no effect. Then the great Dr. Joubert of Calcutta, a specialist so far as women's diseases were concerned, was called ; his remedies were also without effect, and even cruel. A homœopath was then called in ; he prescribed Apis and made a rapid and permanent cure of the disease.

"The next medicine I will take is Baptisia ; it is taken from the wild indigo. This medicine has a miraculous effect on portions of the body suffering from muscular soreness, and putrid phenomena of the system.

Then another medicine we have, which is known to you all, is Marigold (*Calendula Officinalis*), known to you as the Gainder ; sometimes you decorate your houses with it and make garlands from it. This medicine has its *Symptoms Principally amongst them a great disposition to cold, especially in damp weather.*

The next great remedy is Causticum ; Causticum is Hahnemann's great preparation from potash. This

medicine is almost a cure-all, for certainly there are numerous diseases which it will cure.

The next one I will mention is *Cocculus*. What is *Cocculus*? *Cocculus* is the Indian Cockle. It has wonderful curative powers and acts in a most remarkable way upon those people suffering from mal-de-mer, or sea sickness, and sickness from riding in a carriage.

Another remedy we have is *Coffea Cruda*, which was not known to the old school. This is unroasted coffee. When a patient is very low indeed and unable to sleep, we prescribe one or two drops of *Coffea*, which sends him off into a comfortable sleep, and a healthy sleep, different from that brought on as a result of taking morphia.

Another remedy is *Eupatorium Perfoliatum*, which I have already mentioned to you as being a good remedy for a certain kind of malaria fever with bone pains.

Again take *Lachesis*; this medicine is procured from the lance headed viper. Take again *Ledum*; this is procured from marsh tea, in fact it is marsh tea in the homoeopathic form.

Take as another instance *Lobelia Inflatur*; this is Indian tobacco. I dare say some of you here know the ill effects of smoking a strong cigar; you feel a nausea & sickness, but a drop of this medicine obtained from tobacco itself will cure you.

Take another *Medorrbinum*; this is a wonderful medicine in venereal disease. It is gonorrhoeal virus and has a marvellous effect on people suffering from this disease.

The next, *Naja Tripudians*. This is the virus of the cobra, and is given in case of snake bites.

Take the next *Natrum Muriaticum*; this is common salt. It is wonderful how we can find out by provings what effect some medicines have on mankind. Have you ever

noticed a cow licking the side of a hut made of kutcha bricks ; it is hunting for a homœopathic remedy in common salt, of which kutcha bricks are full.

The next remedy I wish to mention to you is Pulsatilla ; this is known in common language as the wind flower. This in the hands of a sound homœopath, or even in those of an unprofessional man is a wonderful remedy for the many ills from which female suffers, and no woman in Europe, America, China or India should be without it, this great regulator of her system.

Another well known remedy is Plumbum Metallicum. This is lead, and in cases of paralysis, especially paralysis of the wrist, one can readily understand what benefit is derived from a judicious use of this medicine. If you have a friend who is suffering from weakness of the wrist, commonly known as paralysis, give him a few drops of Plumbum Metallicum, and see the wonderful effect it will have.

The next remedy is Rhus Toxicodendron, otherwise known as poison Ivy. This is another remarkable remedy for the cure of diseases as manipulated and prepared by the homœopathic system. It is one of our favourite remedies, certainly mine, in malaria fever with the appropriate symptoms, and also for Rheumatism.

Then the last one I touch upon is Vesper Crabro. This is something like the little bee, but so far as we meet with it it does not seem to be so good and kind to us as the little bee. It is extracted from the live wasp, and is a very powerful remedy for disease.

These few medicines, in mentioning which I fear I have taken up a lot of your time, are only a few of the hundreds in the list of homœopathic remedies. To revert to the subject of quinine for a moment, you will no doubt be surprised to hear that the Government are at the present moment

endeavouring to get a substitute for quinine, called Harnal. It grows wild all over your presidency and has the same properties of quinine, but I fear it will not so readily replace quinine, owing to the colour of it being yellow, whereas the preparation of quinine is as you know white. This is however the first time I have come across in the course of my 36 years of experience of India and its peoples a remedy brought out by the old school of the medical profession in India.

Now to go back to my original subject as to the suitability of homœopathy to Indian life. In most cases, and I am sure you have all more or less experienced it, medicines given you are nasty to take. You will swallow it down with a dry face from the bad taste of the medicine; children as a general rule are enticed to take these drugs by the promise of a lump of sugar or sweet after it. Now I do not care who the physician is, who treats his patient in a somewhat friendly manner, but will not say to him, "The less drug you take the better for you". And after pouring these noxious drugs into your system without effect, the physician will suggest to you a change of climate. Why? Because notwithstanding the medicines you have taken he has failed to cure you, and he will recommend a change in order to get the patient off his hands. Now, Gentlemen, with our homœopathic remedies you can swallow a dose of tincture preparation, and you will imagine you are drinking water; in the form of powder, or pillule, medicines have a sweet taste. You see the difference in the administration of homœopathic medicines, and you see what a tremendous advantage it would be to people in the villages to adopt this system of medicine. If the headman of every village had a few of the important remedies and knew how to use them judiciously, see what expense and trouble it would save. The tramp to the City and the doctor's fees

would be saved, and this saving could be put aside for nourishment of the patient. There are many other reasons why homœopathy is suitable to Indian life, but among them I will mention one, viz., its cheapness. As a general rule the cheap thing is no good, but homœopathy is the exception. If a physician fails to cure his patient it is the fault of that physician and not the medicines. When properly prescribed according to symptoms, it cannot fail. Now is it not extraordinary that these simple, cheap and assured remedies are not better known to the public at large. The leading professional medical men are antagonistic to homœopathy. Perhaps it is that they do not wish these remedies to become widely known to the public. I fear I have no more time to devote to this question, and therefore in conclusion, I would ask you to prove all things and hold fast to that which is right.

Editorial Notes and Comments.

Gradual Appreciation of Homœopathy amongst the Allopaths in Great Britain. Elsewhere we publish a letter which we have received from D. E. P. HOYLE, M.D. In the British Medical Association Centenary Meeting, July 25—29, 1932, at the request of the members of this Association. Sir John Weir, K.C.V.O. an eminent homeopath of Great Britain, read a paper on Homeopathy at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington on July 29, 1932, in collaboration with Dr. F. Bodman, M. D. This paper dealt with the history of British Homeopathy during the last hundred years and to our knowledge it was the first occasion on which a paper on Homeopathy was even