

**Dr. PIETERS G.**

**BELGIUM**

**" AN INSTRUCTIVE ARTICLE "**

Dear Doctor Renjeev,

Thank you for your letter of 15-04-92. It is an honour for my humble self, being invited to write an article for the first issue of your Quinquina Homoeopathic Quarterly.

I let my thoughts wander about a suitable subject that could interest your readers.

And as I was thinking about readers: it will be clear to everybody that the success of a magazine depends on a sufficient number of readers.

And the readers of a Homoeopathic Magazine will consist of a great variety of persons going from lay-men to learned doctors.

But they will all have one thing in common: they all want to learn more about classical homoeopathy and enlarge their knowledge.

They will expect interesting articles where successful homoeopathic doctors report spectacular cures and how they achieved these in harmony with the rules laid down by Our Master Hahnemann in his famous book "ORGANON".

And speaking of interesting articles:

I once read an article where the assistant of a famous homoeopathic doctor reported the following story:

At the end of a busy day of homoeopathic treatment of many patients in his cabinet, this doctor was a bit tired and told the assistant that he would be glad to go home, but there was still one patient left.

It was a middle aged woman. When she came in, the doctor looked her over attentively, then raised himself to shake hands with her.

After inviting her to the chair opposite his table he sat down himself, took his pen and asked her name and address.

Then he wrote down his prescription: Calcarea Carbonica 30C to be taken three times every three hours next day and then report back to the doctor after three weeks.

When the woman had left with the prescription the stupefied assistant asked the doctor how in the world he could prescribe without asking that patient one single symptom.

"Well" said the doctor " I see that you have to study a lot, because the symptoms were all over her person. When she came in I noticed her plump pale face, the fair hair and a bit sweat on the forehead the melancholy look in her eyes. Her body was rather corpulent and her abdomen protruding. I also noticed that she was a little breathless.

When we shook hands, I felt a soft, rather cold, moist hand and when she sat down I could see some varicose veins under the nylon stockings of her legs. For the time of the year she was warmly clad and when I asked her name and address she answered in a tired slow way.

What do you want more to see a typical Calcarea Carb. case? And when she reports after three weeks I am very sure she will tell us that she is positively better!"

Now, all the readers with some experience in homoeopathy will know that such cases can happen, but that they are the exceptions.

That there will be many patients where the same doctor will have to spend lots of time to note all the symptoms, to look them up in his Repertory and Materia Medica books, before the matching remedy will be found.

It is very natural that a skilful experienced homoeopathic doctor will find the matching remedy quicker than the young beginning doctor, but the prescription on the more look at the patient can never be standard practice in homoeopathy!

And going back to interesting articles: successful famous homoeopathic doctors will be invited to write articles about interesting cases out of their files and how they cured all these patients.

You will agree with me that a successful doctor will be a busy one, so his articles will be rather brief and being a learned doctor he will sometimes use medical terms like "encephalemia" (congestion of the brain), "haematemesis" (vomiting of blood), "icter hepatitis" (inflammation of the liver with jaundice), "otorrhagia" (haemorrhage from the ear) etc.... or he will use abbreviations like "E. S. R." (Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate), "E. C. G." (Electrocardiogram), "E. E. G." (electro-encephalogram) etc....

And not every reader will understand these terms and abbreviations unless their meaning is given between brackets as in my example.

Also we must realise that the Repertories and Materia Medica are composed on the language of the provers and sick persons that gave their disorders and symptoms in common language. And so we will not find the corresponding rubrics in the Repertories when we look for the medical terms.

And what is simple to a learned experienced homoeopathic doctor will be a puzzle to the beginner and student.

So in my opinion an instructive article should explain what reasoning leads to the curing remedy. What Repertories and Materia medica books were consulted, their exact names and writers and the pages where the rubrics and text can be found to be examined by the reader

Also the chosen potency will interest the reader and why not a higher or lower was chosen.

And were there any aggravations and when did the first signs of amelioration set in ?

I agree with you that this is "a long-winding" way to bring articles but we must realise that the readers want to learn and a mere enumeration of the symptoms with the curing remedy at the end will only be of use to an experienced graduate or a doctor.

As a proof for my opinion I want to point to an article in the homoeopathic monthly "Homoeopathic Heritage" where a well known Indian doctor wanted to engage an assistant. (April number 1992.)

About one hundred applicants presented themselves, amongst them many Diploma holders with years of practice but when interrogated about their knowledge of Repertory work or analysis of symptoms the result was so poor that the doctor could not select a single one of them!

So we must accept that the situation of the education of homoeopathic students must be taken seriously for the sake of homoeopathy in general!

There is another form of articles that I consider interesting: the case is presented with all the necessary information of symptoms, modalities etc needed to find the matching remedy. But this remedy is not mentioned in the same article but on another page in the magazine so that the reader can work the case out himself and check later if he found the curing medicine.

As a last point there is the publicity in homoeopathic magazines. Because publicity will be necessary to support the costs and it can even be of interest to the reader where titles of new homoeopathic books or reprinted old books are given and where they could be purchased, there might be dates and places of important meetings, useful addresses of homoeopathic laboratories or pharmaceutical stores etc.

Only advertisement for obvious quack remedies must be warned for, because that could spoil the value of the homoeopathic magazine!

And final: the printing must be brought in an attractive way with great care to avoid misprintings as much as possible.

And attention must be given that the reader gets his magazine regularly and in time.

I will end my article in wishing you a lot of success and a prosperous future. GOOD LUCK!

Yours sincerely,

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