

Totality of Symptoms.

DR. A. ROY, B. A., CALCUTTA.

Proving of a drug furnishes us with a group of symptoms which give exact picture of it. Wherever the group is found, the drug is indicated. Neither an isolated member of the group nor majority thereof is the required picture for treatment. This group is commonly known as Totality of symptoms. In Materia Medica they are principally divided into two sets, namely, general and particular. For illustration, take Phosphorous. Complaints of body are ameliorated from warmth, save and except those of head and stomach, which are relieved from cold. Here, relief from heat is a general symptom and relief from cold a particular symptom. There is a mention of another set of symptoms which are named local. Epistaxis in Phos. due to suppressed menstruation or exposure to cold is a local symptom or outward manifestation of disease in the main. But we must remember that a disease manifests itself through totality of symptoms. Again each of the above three sets of symptoms is sub-divided into subjective and objective. The patient is under an illusion that he is double, parts of body lie apart from each other and that he is anxious to collect the pieces. These are subjective symptoms of Baptisia. The patient is under intensity of heat in fever which the examining hand carries for some time, extreme congestion of brain and screams and starts during sleep. These are some of the objective symptoms of Belladonna. There comes another variety of symptoms for discussion. It is constitutional symptoms and as such included in subjective and objective and these call for no illustration. Different kinds of changes in economy in different parts under a drug constitute true totality of symptoms. Hence in order to ascertain a true similitum every physician's duty is to take minute notes of each and every part of the diseased organism. These notes will help him to easily find out a drug indicated or at least one most indicated and enable him to prescribe properly. He who prescribes on a particular set of symptoms throws

stones in the dark and is reproachfully called a symptomatist. He may succeed in his treatment in stray cases simply because the prominent symptoms happened to be one of the constituents of the totality of symptoms recorded under the drug.

Every drug has a dual action namely Primary and Secondary. Primary action of Opium is stupid and stertorous sleep; Secondary action wakefulness. Primary action of Podo. and Aloes is catharsis; reaction, constipation. Remedies in obedience to dictates of Homœopathy are based upon primary effects of drugs. If the primary symptoms are unavailable and curatives are to be selected on secondary effects, a record of past and present that is a history of primary and secondary symptoms must be prepared to find out a remedy which is a counterpart of this record. Here is a clear solution of opposite actions under a drug.

Homœopathy does not allow alteration of drugs which if practiced is a senseless practice. Aconite and Belladonna are frequently alternated. Cure may result from this sort of administration, though unscientific. Credit is not to the combined forces of both the remedies but it is either the action of one or the other. To cure an Aconite patient Aconite is sufficient and so with Belladonna.

"One or two doses of the properly selected remedy, even in low potencies, given after severity of the paroxysm has passed, as Hahnemann advised in the Organon, are sufficient to cure. The single dose treatment is not new"—H. C. Allen, Févër.

Totality of symptoms is not all sufficient to cure a patient. There come failures in treatment based on this well-founded motto even. There are three unseen agencies which stand on way to the true curatives and retard their progress of work to set the life-principle free. They are three latent chronic miasms viz., Psora, Sycosis and Syphilis. Hence wherever well-selected remedy fails to cure, one of the suitable anti-miasmatic agencies is required to remove obstacle and to clear up the case indicating actual symptoms helpful to physicians to ascertain proper artificial morbid agency.

Now the duty devolves to make a second prescription. A very careful observation is necessary for the purpose as the health of the patient depends on it. There are lots of drugs having similarity in symptoms and as such leads to confusion on way to selection. Alteration is an arduous task. Next remedy must be compatible and foreign to the former in respect of relation on the basis of genus. Suppose we select two remedies Sulph. and Sulph. Acid and are sure one of the two will cure the case. To day we give Sulph and failed in attempt; then to-morrow give Sulph. Acid. It is not the way. Because they belong to the chemically same group. Instead if we give Sulph. to-day Calcarea to-morrow then we are right as Sulph. and Calcarea are similar but of different groups. Similarly Nux. Vom. and Ignatia coming from the same race of plants are inimical. Rhus. and Apis; Causticum and Carb. Veg. and Nux. Vom. and Puls are some of the further examples of incompatible remedies. Nervous Homœopaths cannot rely on their own prescription and therefore try various medicines one after another but after all leave the patient uncured. As a result natural disease gets more and more complicated and the patient gets weaker and weaker and in some cases drug disease hastens death. Unnecessary complications can be eliminated by suitable antidotes though they are not clearly indicated. By way of example I would give below two exemplary remedies used for the purpose by well known and successful followers of Homœopathy.

“Carb. Veg. is one of the medicines to be thought of when symptoms are in confusion and the patient has been so much doctored that there is no congruity left in the symptoms.”
J. T. Kent.

“Nux. Vom. will benefit those cases in which the use of such drugs, aromatics, pills etc., has brought about a condition that simulates the symptoms produced in the provings of Nux. Vom. or in cases to which it is Homœopathic and no others.”
E. B. Nash.
