

Etiology in Homœopathy.

(Continued from Page 304.)

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We shall now beg leave of the allied profession to point out the infinite harm and injury that is being daily done to the sick and suffering humanity by the *injudicious application of local measures* which are nothing but *suppressive*, and consequently are mere *contributory causes of miasmatic* (Psoric or otherwise) *growth and development*. The all-wise and all-merciful Father of mankind has so instituted His beneficent laws (otherwise known as *Physiological Laws = Vis Medicatrix Naturæ*) within our organism that the vital force under the direction of these laws is always throwing out to the surface, driving to the periphery, forcing to the circumference, whatever venom appears at the bottom, whatever impurity appears in the middle, whatever disorder arises in the centre, due to the mal-functioning of any of its organs owing, no doubt, to the malignant influences of the Chronic Miasms. Thus, all sorts of eruptive diseases and all kinds of morbid evacuations and discharges, as already fully detailed, as well as a fistula in ano, a syphilitic bubo, a malignant tumour, a burrowing abscess, a fierce carbuncle etc.—all owe their origin to this benignant working of the vital force under the guidance of the Divine Physiological Laws for the safety, security and preservation of its physical counterpart. But while Nature thus tries to relieve herself of her internal stress and strain by eliminating the toxic agents, in the shape and form of these pathological states and conditions, our friends in question at once come forward with their balms and ointments, salves and suppositories, irritants and astringents, for external application or internal irrigation, and as a consequence the eliminative ducts are barred and sealed-up, the safety valves closed and clogged, the flood-gates forcefully shut-up. Thus the poison which was coming out in the shape of morbid evacuations and

discharges, or was being forced to the surface, in the shape of eruptive diseases or neuralgic and arthritic pains, is thus pent-up within the organism, resulting in the thorough miasmatic (Psoric or otherwise) intoxication of the very cells and fibres of the entire organism, with the subsequent resultant breakdown and collapse of the patient's health, as, for instance, in the case of the closure of the fistula in ano leading to Asthma, Consumption, and death (see our previous issue). Alas! our friends conveniently overlook that the *process of cure* is always *eliminative*, but never *suppressive*. Hence, the *remedy should always be applied within*, but never without,—barring, of course, cases of traumatic trouble. The empiric eyes may not possibly discern that there is no *pathological state* or condition (outside of traumatism) that is not *due to pre-existent organic functional change*, producing abnormal cell or molecular movement. Hence, the disorder in the economy leading to this organic functional change will have to be remedied by the internal application of a suitable therapeutic agent, instead of applying external local measure or irrigation, with the vain and delusive hope to thereby "cure" the patient. At best, such measures will only suppress the local pathological state and the disease force of which the said pathological state was a mere indicative sign will forthwith shift its venue, select a deeper and more precious part of the organism (the liver, the kidneys, the ovaries, the uterus, the intestines, the lungs, the heart or the brain), and attack it with still greater might and main, as if with malice prepense, due to the said foolish frustration of its original efforts. And very serious indeed are the consequences of such local measures and irrigations when applied to the reproductive organs of the female sex, as there is no greater field for the display of miasmatic virulence than in such organs and their several functions. All sorts of ovarian and uterine troubles including the irregularities of menstruation and various mal-positions of the uterus are in many cases the result of such local treatment.

Now, with a view to bring the dire consequences of local

measures prominently into our readers' attention, we may thus put their peculiar features in a nutshell; (a) Their action is *from without inward* and never from within outward, though a paralysed limb or a defunct organ shows a very lamentable loss of its inner link, and stands in urgent need of a connection from within. (b) They are *suppressive* and not eliminative, though all processes of cure, as we have already fully explained, should always be eliminative and never suppressive. (c) They are *inimical to and frustrate the salutary action of the Physiological Laws (Vis Medicatrix Naturae)* so mercifully instituted in our organism by its all-wise Creator for its security and salvation, (d) Instead of relieving, releasing, and refreshing, they *increase and complicate our internal stress and strain, disorders and difficulties*, though the sole aim and object of a therapeutic art is to relieve, release, refresh, soothe and allay. (e) They are *quite opposed to the Divine method of Homoeopathic cure from within outward and from above downward*. We therefore in the name of God and humanity—His physical embodiment, beg most humbly to request our brethren of the allied profession never to resort, barring of course cases of traumatism, to these local measures which are really so baneful to human health and happiness.

Another potent factor in the production, spread and development of miasmatic (Psoric or otherwise) cachexia is the misuse of various patent medicines that are now being sedulously sought for in the treatment of sick humanity. We shall do our very best to explain the matter as fully as we possibly can and try to show that such medicines can never "cure" the patients to whom they are applied internally or externally on the mere indication of a *similar* pathological index. News-papers, magazines, calendars, almanacs,—nay all sorts of printed papers intended for public persual, are now being flooded with advertisements which declare, as it were, from house-tops that such and such medicines are panacea for such and such diseases (pathological states).

Apart from the intrinsic merits or demerits of these

vaunted preparations, the question that forcefully thrusts itself before our eyes is this:—If the suffering public have already got such specifics and sure remedies for various pathological states and conditions. (diseases), our Central Government as well as the various Provincial ones should no longer have any need to set apart in their annual budgets vast sums of money for medical education and aid in India, of course in their own way, and our practising friends of the various schools of medicine should have now been relieved of the enormous and arduous task of coping with the various epidemic, endemic and sporadic diseases that have been ravaging this unfortunate land almost throughout the year. But alas! though these vainglorious vociferators have long appeared in the scene, the miseries and sufferings of the people not only continue as before but are gradually on the increase, and the ruling authorities are being taxed and teased for more and more funds, and the number and capacity of the dispensing hands, of any school whatever, are not only being constantly increased and improved, but their energy or working power is being requisitioned to its utmost limit!

Let us now explain why a certain patent medicine cannot be applicable to or useful for any and every pathological state of a similar nature, even though we suppose, for argument's sake, that it originally "cured" a few cases of the same or similar pathological state (known to the profession and the public under the denomination of a certain "disease"). Let us suppose that four individuals, A, B (males); and C, D (females) are suffering from the pathological state, known as "Insanity" and by "Insanity" we understand that the patient has lost his or her normal mental powers and functions of thinking (understanding and reasoning), feeling (sense-feelings, emotions and sentiments) and willing (volition and action). Now, the mental aberrations of these four patients are seldom due to self-same and identical causes. The first patient "A" may be insane owing to the suppression of a serious attack of Tinea Capitis, just as a similar suppression

by Nitrate of Silver led to complete deafness in a patient (Vide pp. 462—466, The Science of Therapeutics etc.,—by Carroll Dunham A.M., M.D., 1858); the second "B", owing to the inheritance of a malignant tubercular diathesis from his consumptive father; the third "C", owing to the suppression of malarial fever and scabies, and the subsequent resultant suppression of her menses (Vide pp. 141—143, Dr. Ghatak's case, in this Journal); and the fourth "D", owing to the failure and disappointment in her love affairs (we need not cite any definite case—there are innumerable instances of such madness in all standard literatures throughout the world). Now though these four cases of Insanity do not certainly call for the same remedy—"A" requiring a remedy that may develop and bring to the surface the suppressed Tinea Capitis, "B" requiring one that may clear and cure his inherited tubercular diathesis, "C" requiring one that may develop the suppressed malarial fever, the scabies and her menstruation, and "D" probably one in the shape of arranging and securing the object of her frustrated love,—yet the "Patent" inventors declare, as it were, from house-top that they have got "aspecific for Insanity" that will meet the requirements of all the four cases noted above. Not only so, this specific for Insanity is "also useful in Epilepsy, Hysteria, Insomnia and Neurasthenia." Thus, a certain fixed medicinal preparation is offered to the unwary and innocent public as a "specific" or "useful" remedy for a number of pathological states (diseases), irrespective of the large variety of causes that may give rise to each of such states (diseases). Can there be a greater crime in the eye of Law or a greater sin in the omniscient eyes of the omnipresent Father than such a foolish publication in the garb of the *apparent* good of mankind but really to earn money at the expense of public health and happiness? It may be safely said that almost 99% of the suffering public, though very proud of their worldly knowledge, have very scanty idea and knowledge of the science and art of Medicine including Hygiene, Anatomy, Physiology,

and Pathology, though all of us should have at least a moderate amount of working knowledge of the healing science and art for the sake of our own health on which depend our knowledge, wealth and happiness. Thus, owing to our want of knowledge in Medicine, we are easily tempted to buy and apply (externally) or swallow these powerful and strong patent drugs whose *exaggerated* medicinal virtues are so forcefully and *charmingly* described in daily advertisements, and particularly because of this exaggeration and charming description it is often very difficult for the sufferers, who are so very anxious for their recovery, not to buy and use them, with the baneful result that in cases where they are not at all applicable, for reasons we have elaborated above, the physiological conditions of the patients become confused and complicated, and the disease-forces are inextricably bound-up with the life-force resulting in the subsequent subsidence of the latter (life-force) and aggravation of the disease, leading often to death by inches, unless the evil effects of these strong patent drugs could in the meantime be antidoted by a suitable remedy. How preposterous and absurd it is for a human brain to declare and publish to the world that he has invented "an amazing elixir of life indicated in Lassitude, Tropical Debility, Dyspepsia, Kidney and Liver Troubles, Anæmia, Blood Impurities, Impotency, Sexual or Seminal Weakness, Loss of Flesh, Female Disorders, etc." ? That is, our *angelic inventor* is not satisfied with *mentioning* almost all the pathological states (diseases) *by name*, but he assures the suffering public that *all sorts of diseases* that are *now prevalent* in the world or those that *may hereafter attack* the human race, (which he means to express by his *etcetera*), will come within the curative jurisdiction of his "amazing elixir of life" !! We simply wonder the inhuman greed for money can proceed so far! In these circumstances, for the protection of the public health, it is desirable, nay, indispensably necessary that all advertisements for patent drugs should pass through a Medical Board comprising members from the Allopathic,

Homœopathic, Ayurvedic, and Hakimi Schools of medicine, who will look into and be satisfied of their vaunted virtues before the advertisements are actually published for public perusal.

Now, to come back to our discourse of thought. These patent drugs, when misused, and in almost 99 cases out of 100 they are mis-used, (they are *properly* used only when their medicinal virtues, so far tested, have got a counterpart in the similia of the disease-forces in the patients to whom they are applied), are either *suppressive, complicative or destructive* and in any case they rouse into activity the latent and dormant miasms (Psora etc.) which, thus fanned into fury, obstinately stand in the way of the patients' recovery, if not paving the way of their death.

Therefore, in every case of disease, we are to study the peculiar constitution of the patient, his mode of living, his surrounding atmosphere and influences, his inherited tendency, susceptibility and diathesis, his occupation in life, his failures and successes, his social position and pecuniary condition, his domestic happiness or otherwise, together with the totality of symptoms as evinced by him—whether mental (subjective) or physical (objective,—general or local), paying of course more heed to the subjective symptoms as they are truly representative of the actual condition of the diseased vital-force. The selection of a suitable therapeutic agent, therefore, will depend on a very close and careful study of all the above aspects of the patient, and never on a single pathological indication like Fever, Piles, Diabetes, Insanity or Consumption, &c, as each of these pathological states is only one of the disease-effects, disease-endings, or disease-ultimates, due to tissue changes in the organism on account of the disease-force having long been preventing the vital force from maintaining its equilibrium so necessary for the normal functioning of all the organs throughout the body. But is it at all thinkable that a patent medicine can ever provide for all such peculiar and varied exigencies of more patients than one seeing that even

the constitution of one patient is never exactly the same as that of the other, that while "A" can easily digest a pound of meat richly cooked, "B" gets a cholera morbus if he takes that meat in and that while "C" can swim full three hours in the Ganges without catching any cold, "D" has to make a weekly hot-bath in his closed room to avoid catching cold? Hence the mere pathological name of a *Malarial Fever* is not enough to induce the physician to prescribe, but we must analyse and see whether the ingredients of these medicinal preparations do really possess either jointly or severally, the healing properties that may cover the requirements of a *particular* case of malarial fever. The basic theory of patent medicines overlooks the *cardinal principle in medicine* that no prescription is ever *rightly* made when it is made on the mere index of a *single* pathological state or condition, e.g., Fever, etc., overlooking the rest of the other states and conditions of the patient, known as signs, symbols or symptoms. Hence, as no thorough provision can ever be made in any patent medicine for all the varying pathological states and conditions (totality of symptoms) of the individual patient in each case, it is unwise and unsafe to make use of any patent medicine that is advertised to be a "specific" or "sure remedy" for a certain pathological state (e. g., Fever etc.) which the patient in question may at the time exhibit, together with the other pathological states (symptoms) which are not even alleged to be covered, not to speak of being actually covered, by the vaunted virtues of the said patent drug, and the use of such strong medicines in massive doses, when not called for by the case in hand, is sure to result in unnecessary troubles, difficulties and complications that may last the remainder of the patient's miserable life and end only in his death.

Thus, it is clear how the misuse of various patent medicines is one of the fruitful sources of the origin, spread and development of the chronic miasms (Psora etc.), and so how their originators, out of their *apparent* motive to do good to

humanity, are really doing, in most cases, a world of disservice to its real interests. Hence, we hope that our suggestion for such advertisements passing through the scrutiny of a mixed Medical Board before their publication may in no distant date be realised into an actuality.

In this connection, we should also like to point out how the hawking of patent drugs even within the various moving vehicles for human transport, e.g., omnibuses, tram-cars, passenger-trains, steamers, etc., by the paid servants and agents of the allied patentees, is causing infinite harm by way of usually or often arousing and developing the miasmatic fire (Psoric or otherwise) in the systems of the unwary and innocent public most of whom being either uneducated, ill-educated or half-educated, take up as gospel truth the very nice and beautiful word-pictures, either in handbills or by the said servants and agents themselves, giving innumerable fancied virtues of the said drugs and thereby inducing them (the travelling public) to buy and use them (drugs) *at once*. Just on entering the vehicle, he distributes a few of the handbills among this, that and a third man, occupies a central space, and at once begins loudly lecturing on the various nameless qualities of the drug. All sorts of pains and inflammations, all kinds of wounds, sores and ulcers, all varieties of boils, abscesses, itches and eczemas, —nay, all kinds of skin diseases that may deface and disfigure our "public" and private parts and organs, may be "cured" in a day by the application of this "wonderful ointment". If he notices that his audience are ever inattentive to his lecture, he will so raise the tone and tune of his vociferations that they will perforce lend their ear to him. Thus, he gains his object! Once they listen, they cannot but buy! Once they buy, they cannot but use or apply! Such other quaint drugs whose names are a legion are being thus *forcefully* made to be used every day by many a hapless member of our society with effects and consequences known to all.

Thus, partly through advertisements in newspapers, hand-

bills, placards, plates, magazines, calendars, almanacs, telephone directories, railway, steamer and postal guides, telegram forms, station posters, tram-car posters, wall-posters etc. etc., and partly through the medium of paid agents, servants and hawkers, various kinds of patent medicines are made to be used by the unlucky people of this unfortunate land, and in most cases they unwittingly court their own misery at their own cost, as these strong patent drugs, when inaptly applied or used, and in most cases they are so done, cannot but complicate the internal state of the user and thereby develop his miasmatic (Psoric or otherwise) cachexia. O that we had the powers and means to put an immediate stop to all these fruitful sources of human pains and sufferings! But we are fully confident there will soon come a day when mankind will learn to realise the true nature of these alleged and supposed universal remedies, as our Divine Father cannot perpetually allow His physical embodiment to be under the eternal torture of these thoughtless but greedy patentees!

(to be continued).

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