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Changing Pattern of Homœopathic Practice

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Hahnemann after discovering the system of homœopathy went on experimenting in various ways to find out the best method of prescribing to bring homœopathy to more and more perfection. During his life time he made six editions of organon, every time reversing some of his earlier assertions. These changes he made in organon according to the problems he faced from time to time.

During Hahnemann's time, Science & Technology was not so much advanced as it is today. If the modern techniques available now a days to investigate the interior of human organism, would have been at that time, the drug pictures of present Materia Medica could have provided us better informations to choose the similimum. Dr. Boenninghausen felt this and expressed in his Lesser writing "If the practice of auscultation and percussion as well as the use of stethoscope, the plessimeter, etc. had been as well known to Hahnemann and his pupils as to our young physicians, they would no doubt have made the most extended use of the same, gaining a more exact knowledge and delimitation of interior ailments".

With the progress of time all branches of science made tremendous strides of progress accepting newer changes. Modern system of medicine i. e. allopathy equally keeps its pace pooling their knowledge from advanced physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Engineering and even certain principles from Homœopathic and Ayurvedic systems. Turning the pages of history of development of homœopathy, it will be observed that homœopathy continues the same state of rest since its inception through a century and half.

With the advancement of time though many new problems crop up and in many circumstances we feel much helpless to tackle some health problems as a physician, still many of us believe that the last word on homoeopathy has been said by Hahnemann and no body can add or alter to it. Some of these problems are :

a) Handling of poisoning cases by homoeopathic doctors.

b) Homoeopathy in gross deficiency diseases.

c) Study of drug action with different potencies by animal experimentations.

d) Homoeopathy in prevention of diseases.

e) Efficacy of homoeopathy in intestinal parasitic infections.

f) Homoeopathy in emergency conditions like dehydration, cardiac and respiratory failures, hypoglycaemia, hyperglycaemia etc, etc.

To limit the article, inspite of all the problems let us discuss few and how best the solutions can be made.

a) Treatment of poisoning cases :

Now Forensic Medicine and Toxicology is included in the curriculum prepared by Central Council of Homoeopathy. After undergoing 5½ years course one becomes fullfledged doctor of this branch and is also expected to attend poisoning cases of emergency nature to save the life of the patient. But it is a matter of great regret that homoeopathic medicine has no scope to antidote these poisons. Stuart close has rightly observed, "Diseases arising from these (Chemical) causes require the use of

chemical or physiological antidotes combined in some cases with measures for the physical expulsion of the offending substances".

And as also advised by Hahnemann, antipathic system of treatment can be resorted to in case of grave emergency where vitality is too much weakened as is the case with poisoning.

So referring the two stallwarts of homoeopathy it can be concluded that as these cases are not of dynamic nature, so these require to be treated with allopathic medicines (chemical antidotes) to save the life of the patient.

To overcome this problem legal rights and proper practical training should be given to homoeopathic doctors to tackle poisoning cases.

b) Role of homoeopathy in deficiency diseases :

In an economical backward country like India, deficiency diseases are very common in most parts of the country and most of the persons take diet lacking in protein, vitamins and minerals.

Some times also vitamins are needed to supplement in the conditions like pregnancy, convulsion, malignant diseases etc. Both the conditions are to be treated either by supplying nutritious food or by prescribing synthetic preparation of vitamins. When these sick persons are prescribed with indicated medicines and diet as well it is commonly seen that they do not take such diet inspite of repeated advice. Rather if a synthetic preparation of vitamin is prescribed these are gladly taken with a

compulsion that it is a medicine and they have to take it.

Some times the prescribed food containing particular vitamins are difficult to get or even costly.

Besides in certain gross deficiency diseases like Keratomelacia, Beriberi, gross nutritional anaemia, immediate administration of vitamins etc. are essential to save vital organs.

As per the definition of vitamins, these are accessory food factors essential for normal growth and development which are to be taken either separately or with food.

Being primarily a food factor and essential at times to save vital organs there is no harm to administer it with homoeopathic medicines when it is required which may accelerate the process of cure.

So works should be done to study the effect of homoeopathic medicines with vitamins in such diseases and according to response the view should be incorporated or discarded.

c) Role of Animal Experimentation in Homoeopathy :

Since Hahnemann's days pathology has made great advance with which the present state of our Materia Medica has not kept pace. Animal experimentation has now become indispensable to carry any research on drug action irrespective of any pathy. There are many advantages of animal experimentation by homoeopathic drugs.

(i) Proving on animals :

We often meet with cases like tumours (both benign and malignant), Diabetes,

Leucoderma, gross hepatic and pulmonary disorders etc. Where we observe advanced pathological changes in the respective organs. Some of these conditions improve by prescribing on symptoms totality. But still in many cases we are handicaped to prescribe and even unable to give palliation because we do not have any medicine which had produced identical pathological changes during its proving. Though our medicines produced no structural alteration during their proving, still there is no denial of the fact that while proving had we not discontinued the administration of drug on the appearance of the symptoms probably we could have able to produce pathological alterations through repeated administrations.

Therefore for developing such pathological ultimates by repeated administration of drugs, proving on animal becomes imperative.

ii) The effect of drugs in varying potencies can be observed.

iii) Objective demonstration of action of high potency and its lasting effect can be assessed.

iv) Better assessment can be done regarding the efficacy of homoeopathic medicines as regards the preventive aspect of a disease.

v) Pharmacological drug standardisation :

A standard preparation of a drug can be administered and its action recorded. Further, the quality of any other sample of the same drug can be assessed by administering and comparing its effects with the previous one.

So for more exact scientific outlook and research animal experimentation should be taken up which may prove beneficial to the science.

Other problems already mentioned in this topic can not be discussed to limit the article.

However homoeopathy which is the result of Hahnemann's scientific experimentation is a science and never a religious fanaticism. So, as a science its horizon is unlimited and to establish its claim as a science of therapeutics in the early dawn of twenty first century it has to provide the solutions of present problems. Rightly keeping these points in view, our learned, genius homoeopaths of India by their

utmost endeavour have institutionalised this system by imparting a course of 5½ years duration, quite same as of allopathy. These institutional qualified doctors are quite at success in the field of treatment correlating their knowledge of similia with allied subjects. But they are baffled at times while getting cases like poisoning, gross deficiency diseases etc. mentioned earlier. So as they are exposed to law of similia as well as to other subjects they should be given the opportunity to handle those cases as suggested. I have carried the arguments too far and approach all well wishers of this system to consider it in their rational mind and to incorporate these beneficial changes, if convinced, to establish a doctor of this Branch as a full-fledged one in the society.

"The human being is not a test-tube, the contents of which react with mathematical accuracy, but a laboratory in which physical reactions are modified by the emotional status and that elusive yet very real factor called individuality of patient".

Mc. Gava.