

S. P. Koppikar

1947 - Causation

“In the "Materia Medica of the Nosodes", under the *Lac caninum*, there is one of the most wonderful and artistic cures by the great healer, Doctor Adolph Lippe. This remedy cured a case of impotency of ten years standing because the patient had suffered from a severe attack of diphtheria in which the symptoms shifted from side to side, and the patient had never regained his health after the attack. As far as known, this medicine had not any impotency in its pathogenesis. But this did not worry Dr. Lippe. He prescribed it as it alone covered the case.

Now, is it necessary that the medicine to be prescribed should cover the symptoms of the trouble, or is it enough if it covers the cause alone? Many of our best cures show that the remedy also covered the cause though it was not taken into consideration while selecting the remedy; and secondly the remedy selected exclusively on the basis of causation even when it does not seemingly cover the case works many cures.

A gentleman was suffering from very bad asthma. More than the dyspnoea, which was of course there, his cough troubled him greatly. It came in sudden fits, at any time of the day, with choking and redness of the face, lachrymation and involuntary urine, and would leave him completely breathless for three to five minutes. The history of its beginning was interesting. He had been officiating as a magistrate in a town and in some criminal investigation had to be present at an exhumation. The cadaver was practically rotten as it was an old one, and the stench was unbearable, but he had to suffer it for more than two hours. It fairly choked him. When he went home, the feeling persisted and even after a thorough wash, the sick feeling would not leave him. That night he had a severe cough, which became worse in spite of all treatment for nearly six months. Then for a time he was better. After a year, he had to go to attend a marriage in a village. There all the children were having whooping cough. He again got a severe cough there, which had persisted, till he saw me. Seeing the cough, I had thought of various remedies like Drosera, Belladonna and others; but when, the cause became known, I felt it would be better to give a remedy indicated by the cause. Pyrogen 200 put a stop to his cough at once. After one month, there was a slight return. Could there be any "suppressed whooping cough" to be tackled? The only remedy, which could cover both the sepsis and the whooping cough was Carbo vegetabilis, one dose of that in the 1M potency has cured him.

In January 1941, a boy was discharged from the General Hospital as a hopeless case of Hydrocephalus. The worst thing that troubled the patient and the doctors was his terrible headache. The boy used to shriek and used to be almost unconscious during the attacks. The face would be congested, the carotids throbbing, and the pain was described as intensely hammering and shooting. Anodynes and sedatives were of no avail. Lumbar puncture had only increased the trouble. The boy was in the house of expert allopaths, and it was with great hesitation and misgivings that they allowed me even to see him. To get over his habit of aspirin and other drugs, which he was demanding, I gave a few powders of *Belladonna* 6, and they did relieve slightly. Now the question was how the trouble had started. The boy had a fairly big head as a child but he never had any trouble on that account. Three months previously, one day, he came home from school complaining of pain in the forehead, where he had hurt himself by knocking against the handle bar of the cycle. The pain had ultimately resulted in these severe attacks of headache. As a child he had been a typically *Calcarea carbonica* patient. So my idea was that it was an *Arnica* condition superimposed on a *Calcarea* constitution. *Arnica* was given in the 1M, one dose. He had severe aggravation for four hours, and after that the headache never appeared. Later on, for some digestive trouble, I had to give him *Calcarea carbonica*. He remains well to this day.

One evening, four years ago, I was urgently called to a place 100 miles away, as one lady was suffering intensely from some undiagnosed condition. I reached the place at midnight. The patient was pregnant, 7th month, and there was a hard swelling in the right hypochondrium, which was extremely sore. The patient was crying pitiably from pain, four allopaths had come, each diagnosing differently. One thought it was hepatic abscess; another said it must be pleurisy and so forth; but none could suggest a remedy for the patient. I had no time to go into the history, as I had to catch the return train. But the symptoms pointed to *Pulsatilla*. The pain came slowly and disappeared suddenly, and sometimes it came suddenly and left slowly. The patient being thirstless and desiring air, I left *Pulsatilla* to be given every three hours, and telling them I would return next night; I came back. I found her slightly better when I saw her after 24 hours. Then I started questioning her and others as to the cause of the trouble. Only one servant could give me the clue. They had shifted from one house to another and in arranging all the heavy vessels and tins on a plank high up, she had exerted herself a lot, and when one particular vessel was being raised, she felt a sudden pain in the abdomen. That was how the pain had started days prior to my going there. *Rhus toxicodendron* was given in the 200. one dose. The pain left her immediately, and she passed a large quantity of urine and the swelling subsided within 24 hours. Could it be a case of hydronephrosis, caused by some kink in the ureter? I do not know, nor do I know how *Rhus tox.* removed the kink after so many days. If I had not inquired from all people about the probable cause, I am sure I would never have thought of *Rhus tox.* for it, and probably I would not have succeeded in curing her so quickly and wonderfully.

Sometimes, the patients themselves do not remember the true cause and we have almost to use the methods of psychoanalysts to get at the root of the trouble. We have to bring before them the picture if possible, of their own life and surroundings when the complain first started, so that any small incident, which might have been forgotten, may again be remembered. Mrs. V., aged 23, had been a chronic sufferer from gastric troubles for six years. Flatulence, eructations, pain after food, and constipation were her constant companions. One doctor prescribed alkalis, which after one year's trial made her worse. Then a fractional test meal revealed hypo-acidity, so she started taking dilute hydrochloric acid with every meal. One year of this trial showed that this was as bad as the other treatment. So she wisely stopped drugging herself, and tried to manage with diet and fasting. She was still suffering when she saw me. As usual I started asking how the thing had started six years back. She said one night she suddenly vomited blood at 2 a.m., with some pain in the stomach, and from that time she dated all her ailments. Well, blood vomiting, cannot be the cause; what caused that thing? Did she have a fall, injury, or accident that day? She did not remember. After an hour of talking about her life habits, friends and other incidents that might have happened six years previously, she remembered the one small incident that she had not thought worth remembering. It seemed she was playing badminton one evening, and in the next court some people were playing tennis. One ball, hit hard by someone, came and struck her stomach region very forcibly. She almost fainted with the pain. Somebody offered her some iced drink and brought her home. That night she vomited blood. The abdomen remained sore for a few days. This was the history, and no wonder Arnica 1M one dose, cured her stomach trouble.

Mr. M., aged 35, was a chronic sufferer from a terrible type of asthma. Whenever he got the attacks he needed morphine as no other drug could relieve him. On going into the history of the first attack, I found that it came on during the summer holidays when he was studying in the college. He had gone to his village where a new house was being constructed. He was watching the workmen mixing lime, slaking it and so on. The fumes from the lime used to choke him and caused fits of cough whenever he went near the work-spot; and I also found out that whenever he shifted to a newly whitewashed house, he used to get the attacks. Though the cause was so obvious, it took me nearly two hours to get it out, as he had not

thought it important enough to remember. Once we know the cause, cure becomes simpler. *Calcarea carbonica* itself in potencies from 1M upward, has put a stop to those terrible attacks.

I could cite many other cases where the remedy, chosen only on the basis of etiology, was more than enough to cure the whole case, but that is unnecessary. Our literature contains hundreds of cures of this type. There is, for example, one case referred to by Dr. Clarke in his "Prescriber", where Rev. Dr. Canon Upchur cured a very interesting case with *Bacillinum*, *Thuja*, and *Bellis perennis*. Hahnemann has given us the most valuable hints regarding the probable causative factors under every medicine in his *Materia Medica Pura* and *Chronic Diseases*, and he was very thorough in taking the etiology of every case that came to him. That is how, perhaps, he discovered the wonderful idea of psora or suppressions.

I would be minimising the all-pervading nature of the Law of Similars if I said that EVERY case of illness could be cured on the basis of causation alone. The simillimum may be found on the basis of actual symptoms present, by repertorizing and comparison with the *Materia Medica*. Acute diseases yield themselves well to this method. Again Burnett and others have done so many cures on the idea of "Organotherapy". And there must be several other ways to reach our goal - the cure of the sick in the simplest, quickest and most harmless way. With careful consideration of the cause, hereditary, exciting, or persisting, our results must be much better than with any other method of selecting the simillimum."

(S. P. Koppikar, M.D., Causation, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 63, September 1947, p. 81-84)