

J. N. Majumdar

1907 - We learn more by our failures than from our successes

"In the last decade or more, since I have been practising in the city of Calcutta, I have observed that we have always learnt more by our failures than from the successful cures that we have been able to make by the administration of drugs according to the law of similars. Now if we chance to hit upon the right remedy, a cure is effected in the shortest time sometimes and in most desperate cases and we rest content thinking that we have done our duty.

While in difficult cases where we cannot make a positive diagnosis, where we do not get at the characteristic symptoms or where we fail to select the similimum, there is where we have to wade through a vast amount of medical literature to be able to come to a right conclusion. I lost my first case of cholera where I thought Verat. alb. was well indicated, and I have cured many cases by the administration of remedies like Arsenic, Cuprum, Colocynth, Carbo Veg &c., but I can say this much that I know more about Verat. alb. than I do of these remedies. I lost my first case of pneumonia. Since then I have had most desperate cases of double pneumonia and I have been able to cure them and I think I know more about pneumonia than I ever would have known, had I been successful with the first case.

We were unfortunate in losing a couple of diphtheria cases at the beginning. Then we rummaged through diphtheria literature and we have been wonderfully successful in curing, some very bad cases lately. Every case treated successfully brings joy and contentment and every failure brings disappointment and with it the desire to know more and to learn wherein we erred."

(J. N. Majumdar, M.D., We learn more by our failures than from our successes, The Indian Homoeopathic Review vol. 16 (1907), p. 199)