

## Pratap Chandra Majumdar



Pratap Chandra Majumdar († 1922)

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### 1907 - Homoeopathy Proper

"In our country, especially in our "city of palaces," I mean in Calcutta, the practice of the homoeopathic healing art is carried on by the whims and caprices of the so-called homoeopathic physicians. In America and the western countries of the world they array themselves as the high and low dilutionists, but here our colleagues, some of them of course, do their business in hap-hazard way. Some who give the two hundredth potency and one dose only, think they are the true Hahnemannian homoeopaths. They don't care whether the selection of the remedy is achieved according to the direction of the master given in his immortal work the Organon of the Art of Healing. A wrong remedy is selected of which a two hundredth potency is given and no repetition is made. What will be the effect? Every true homoeopath can answer this question. A friend of mine one day remarked that this was really watching the gradual death of the patient.

There is another thing and that is favoritism in selecting medicines. On one occasion I had a talk with a physician who was bent upon giving a wrong medicine and when asked by me the reason of selecting such a homoeopathic medicine to the case, he flatly said that that was his favorite remedy. I know of a colleague of mine in this city who sometimes prescribes the same medicine to all the patients he comes across, without minding the state and the symptoms of each patient. In this way I found Causticum had been made use of in all patients. Then again sometimes Apocynum cannabinum, sometimes Cinnabaris and so forth. I have been grieved to notice in a single day three patients - one suffering from diabetes with fever, another cataract and another diarrhoea with flatulent colic, all of them receiving Cinnabaris 2 c from the same colleague. This is truly sad. Had Hahnemann been gifted in this fashion, his homoeopathy would have gone to the dogs.

In this connection I shall quote an extract from the Medical Advance from its editorial columns. Dr. H. C. Allen the veteran Hahnemannian and sturdy editor has said:

"For years we have contended that the difference in the practice of the two wings of which the Homoeopathic School is composed, is not now, and never has been, a question of potency at all. It is a question of selection - one of far more vital import than potency. In fact, potency - or, as it is commonly called 'high' and 'low dilutions' - has little, of anything, do to with it. Hahnemann made good cures with the lower potencies, and even with the tinctures, and good cures may be made with any potency, provided the simillimum be *properly selected* and properly used after being selected; but neither potency nor tincture in any form or any dose *can force a cure* or atone for an imperfect selection. If the cure work could be done by guessing and dosing, Allopathy would long since have reached the goal. To assume that one is a 'high' and another a 'low' potency man is to take it for granted that both select the remedy in the same way, which is far from the fact. This assumes that there is only one way of selecting the remedy - the homoeopathic - and that all homoeopaths use the same process, which is a 'fatal error' and the sooner we see it, and the sooner we correct it, the better for our School and for our patients."

So it may be laid down as a rule to select the right remedy for the case with strict adherence to the law of cure. We have been extremely sorry of late to record this state of affairs of

homoeopathy here, as we have had occasion to observe people remark that even the highest potencies, *i. e.* two hundredth and higher, were taken to no effect, as if the highest potency is only homoeopathic. So we earnestly appeal to our colleagues to pay more attention to the selection of the right remedy than to the selection of potencies which are of secondary importance. by this we don't mean to say that we do not like high potency - far from it. We know full well that when we can select a remedy precisely with the symptomatic indications, higher potencies act promptly and without frequent repetitions.

We make bold to say to them "please practise pure and proper homoeopathy according to the teaching of our immortal master, select your medicines first in the light of *similia similibus curantur* and then select the proper dose and last of all adopt the dose according to the circumstances of the case and you will be crowned with success."

In homoeopathy there is no guess work, all must be done according to the law and so there is order and precision. Science is based upon natural law and precision."

(P. C. Majumdar, M.D., Homeopathy Proper, The Indian Homoeopathic Review vol. 16 (1907), p. 123-126)

### **1907 - Surgical After-Treatment in Homoeopathy**

"Some among our own rank can seldom realize what an immense boon has been conferred upon us by the illustrious genius of Samuel Hahnemann. Manual surgery has done a rapid stride in the profession in both the new and old schools. As far as instrumental aid is concerned, both are in the same level but with regard to the preparatory measures and the after-treatment homeopathy gains the laurel.

The reason is obvious enough. Homeopathy recognizes the dynamic origin of the disease. Derangement of the vital force is considered the cause of the disease; so in all surgical matters where homeopathic remedies are given much more benefit is derived.

This is not a matter of speculative assertion. We have repeatedly observed how beautifully the healing process goes on - so rapidly it takes place that every careful observer frankly acknowledges the superiority of homeopathy over all other systems of medicine.

An operation is performed where it is absolutely necessary and if it is followed by appropriate homeopathic medication, the cure is speedy and permanent. In many cases of surgical operation, the patient is rather psoric or syphilitic, there without any antipsoric or antisiphilitic medication permanent cure is out of the question. Of course other systems pretend to give constitutional remedies but they are of doubtful value and as they are principally of uncertain action upon the suffering individual, they are worthless.

It is often said against homeopathy in surgical procedure that in cases of hemorrhage, shock and other surgical accidents such a minute dose of homeopathic medicine is not sufficient. This is a mere assertion without any foundation in fact. We have very often witnessed the marvelous efficacy of our remedies in checking alarming hemorrhages, warding off speedily the effects of shock and nervous prostration and bringing the patient back from the very verge of death.

Even in such cases as fractures of bones homeopathic medicine can do wonders. It has the effect of speedily uniting the broken ends of fractured bones and regulating the plastic material for their firm union. We have known cases where union is faulty, remedies have been brought into requisition for correcting it. Pyemia, septicemia and other untoward conditions attendant upon surgical procedure are unknown under homeopathic treatment. The after-treatment of operation is so beautiful that these things cannot take place. Our calendula is the king of the antiseptics. I know of a case of gangrene of the scrotum under allopathic treatment, where the stinking odor from the diseased parts was simply unbearable and many things were used

without much effect. I washed the parts with calendula lotion and the fetid odor disappeared soon."

(P. C. Majumdar, M.D., Surgical after-treatment in homoeopathy, The Indian Homoeopathic Review vol. 16 (1907), p. 207-209)

### **1907 - Misguided selection of homoeopathic remedies**

"A careful study of the Organon, the master work of Samuel Hahnemann, cannot fail to convince the truth of his assertion that the totality of symptoms is the only guide to the selection of homeopathic remedies for the cure of sick people.

This is often lost sight of, by many of our homeopathic practitioners in this country. They have been often seen to prescribe medicines in an arbitrary manner, without taking much care and giving fair attention to all the symptoms in a given case.

Some among us rely mostly on the pathological state of the patient, taking little care about the minute symptoms of the case. They should understand that pathology only serves to diagnose the case, and prognosticate the probable issue of the disease but for proper treatment, for proper selection of the appropriate remedy it has no place.

In paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Organon it is clearly laid down, Paragraph 17 runs thus; -

"Now, as in the cure effected by the removal of the whole of the perceptible signs and symptoms of the disease the internal alteration of the vital force to which the disease is due - consequently the whole of the disease - is at the same time removed, it follows that the physician has only to remove the whole of the symptoms in order ; at the same time, to abrogate and annihilate the internal changes, that is to say die morbid derangement of the vital force, consequently the totality of the disease, the disease itself. But when the disease is annihilated the health is restored, and this is the highest, sole aim of the physician who knows the true object of his mission, which consists not in learned-sounding prating but in giving aid to the sick."

Again in Paragraph 18. "From this indubitable truth, that besides the totality of the symptoms nothing can by any means be discovered in diseases wherewith they could press their need of aid, it follows undeniably that the sum of all the symptoms in each individual case of disease must be the sole indication, the sole guide to direct us in the choice of a remedy."

Thus we see, before selecting a remedy for a given case, particular attention should be paid to symptom total of that case and not merely one or two symptoms only.

There is another class of physician who, calling themselves true Hahnemannians, mistake in another direction. They base their prescription upon some theory of their own. They think [that one phase of their patient's symptoms has the proper bearing on selection of true homeopathic remedy for the case. Certain symptom, they consider all sufficient for the selection of the remedy. In this way by attending some symptoms of the patient and after asking a few questions they jump to the conclusion of the selection.

There are characteristic symptoms which are often the guiding symptoms of any given case. Many a time these symptoms alone decide the selection at once. But here also we shall devote our energy in finding out the totality. These indicate the value of the symptoms and are not the only guide for selection.

Theoretical considerations of poisons in the system are taken as a true guide to the selection. But here again we must be guided by the symptoms. As for instance in psora, sycosis and syphilis there are symptom totals which guide us in the selection of the remedy. It is for this reason that there are numbers of psoric, sycotic and syphilitic remedies. In selecting the right psoric remedy for a given patient totality of the symptoms of that remedy should be

considered essential. In some cases Sulphur, in others Calcarea; in some Nitric Acid, in others Thuja should be indicated according to the greater number of symptoms.

We have observed with keen sense of responsibility that for the life of the patient we must search earth and heaven to select the right remedy. Here all the signs and symptoms of the patient should be taken into consideration.

Here is a case of an elderly lady suffering from an enlargement of a mammary gland (right side). She belongs to a family where homeopathy is the prevailing method of treatment. Some reputed physicians of this city undertook the treatment of this lady. For some time they had been treating her without result. The following symptoms were found. The tumor about the size of a hen's egg of recent origin in the right breast. It is moveable and painful on pressure and rather hard. There is slight fever in the evening with restlessness. Pain and swelling worse by bathing and in rainy days and also in the change of the moon. Pain was ameliorated by warmth.

We were told that she used to get some antisycotic remedies with an idea that she had a touch of sycosis. By questioning her carefully nothing definite was elicited. Rhus tox. was advised and information was had that she got relieved by a few doses of it and ultimate cure was effected.

A case came to our knowledge where by the totality of the symptoms Arsenic was the indicated remedy but one of our colleagues was giving Hepar sulph. because the patient was a chilly patient. Arsenic by the totality of the symptoms in the case performed an ultimate cure.

It is a malarious case so quinine is the medicine; it is a syphilitic patient so Mercury must be the remedy; it is a sycotic case so Thuja is the right medicine. Such generalization and theory are but known to our old school brethren. They have no place in Hahnemann's teachings.

Some of our colleagues have no hesitation in saying that it is our favourite medicine. They generally give that medicine in almost all cases they come across. Thus they make some of the remedies of our materia medica, as panacea for all cases. Their audacity is simply unpardonable.

If you want to cure your cases safely, permanently and within a short time, try to find out the totality of the symptoms of that patient on the one hand and the corresponding totality of the symptoms in our Materia Medica on the other."

(P. C. Majumdar, Misguided selection of homoeopathic remedies, The Indian Homoeopathic Review vol. 16 (1907), p. 321-324)

### **1907 - How we use higher potencies of homoeopathic remedies**

"Those who are desirous of ascertaining the efficacy of the higher potencies of homoeopathic remedies do well to commence the experiment in suitable cases. By suitable cases I mean where the indications are clear and unmistakable and where the lower potencies have been tried with partial success and further improvements are at a stand still. In these instances we will be able to find out the superior power of higher potencies.

When in America I had several conversations with many of our eminent colleagues there who have a strong faith in the efficacy of higher dilutions of our remedies. They all in one voice recommended me to try higher potencies. I must say here that before going over to that country I was not totally ignorant about the use of those dilutions, on the contrary I made use of some of them but occasionally and with the idea that such potencies are only useful and effective in chronic cases and where there is no danger of life. But by using higher potencies more freely and even in dangerous cases such as cholera, plague and others I am of opinion that they are not only useful in chronic cases but very acute and severe cases also. Now I give

them trial in cases of cholera, typhoid fever, plague and so forth. Here are a few examples to show the prompt action of the higher potencies.

A plump and healthy baby about eight months old had an attack of a severe form of cholera. *Verat. album* was given during the stage of purging and vomiting after each evacuation. It had marvelous effect. The child was almost cured by a few doses and further advice was not sought. Three days after I was suddenly called to the bed side of the patient. There was violent convulsion, pulse almost imperceptible, hands and feet icy cold but head and chest hot. A friend of mine was in attendance and gave several medicines without much benefit. I suggested *Belladonna*, but he said it was tried in vain. We despaired of the life of the patient. I asked my friend to try a higher potency as he had third and sixth only.

A dose of *Belladonna* Cm. two tiny globules were placed on the tongue. In half an hours time convulsion subsided and the child made a perfect recovery. My friend was surprised to see the prompt action of the high potency.

An elderly lady, thin and anemic looking, had been suffering long from diarrhoea and slight fever, she had homoeopathic treatment for the last six months with occasional good results. Relapses were the rule. She came under my treatment with symptoms of slow decay.

About twenty to twenty-five stools during the day and night; stools wore bloody with mixture of green and yellow mucus, considerable rumbling in abdomen and emission of flatus, much straining at stool, abdomen distended, lower extremities oedematous, micturition scanty and high colored. Much appetite and great thirst, pulse small and frequent burning of body. I gave her a dose of sulphur 200, very little improvement. I waited two days.

*Aloes* 200 one dose dry on the tongue followed by placebo; stools were less in number and character was also changed. The amelioration went on for a week so the dose was not repeated.

There was burning in making water and swelling the same. *Apis mel.* 6 one dose morning and evening. Not much improvement. *Aloes* 200 one dose again; stools were much less frequent and of fecal nature. No distention of abdomen. No more doses of *Aloes* required and the patient made a complete recovery in a month from the commencement of treatment.

A young lad of fourteen summers had an attack of malarious fever for three months. Drugged with big doses of quinine. Fever generally in the morning with slight chill, much heat and with seldom any thirst or sweat. Abdomen full of spleen and liver. Bowels constipated, voracious appetite, pale and anaemic appearance.

I tried various remedies according to symptoms. *Nux-vom.* 30 and 200 were given without much improvement. The day I gave him a dose of *Nux-vom.* cm was the last day of fever. From that time general improvement of his condition commenced and ultimate cure resulted.

A young man, plethoric and subject of malarious fever at an out station. He was under the treatment of a homoeopath there who tried several remedies. Fever used to come between 9 and 10 a. M. with good deal of shivering, considerable thirst, intense headache during fever, cough, bowels obstinately constipated. Pain in the chest, hydroa on the lips, tongue dirty white coating. *Arnica*, *Nux-vom*, *Rhus*, *Rod*, and *Natrum-mur* were tried but to no effect.

I gave him *Natrum-mur* 200 one dose, the next chill was much less. Another dose in the evening and there was no chill or fever. He made a complete recovery in a couple of days."

(P. C. Majumdar, M.D., How we use higher potencies of homoeopathic remedies, *The Indian Homoeopathic Review* vol. 16 (1907), p. 374-376)