

SCOPE OF HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY WITH RELATION TO ORGANON OF MEDICINE (APH 264-285), MATERIA MEDICA, NATIONAL ECONOMY.

1. Scope of homeopathic pharmacy in relation to material medica:

From the study of pharmacy we get knowledge of sources of drug, knowledge of mode of collection of drug substances and their method of preservation, knowledge of preparations, scales and preservation, knowledge of potentisation, knowledge of prescriptions and serving them, knowledge of posology or doctrine of doses, knowledge of drug proving.

A. Sources of drug:

With some exceptions, medicines prepared from the drugs of vegetable kingdom are short acting in nature. In acute forms of diseases, short acting remedies work very well. Medicines or remedies prepared from the nosodes and from many drugs of the animal kingdom, are deep acting or long-acting whose efficacies are seen in chronic diseases.

Medicines or remedies derived from the drugs of the same family (of any sources, e.g. vegetable, animal or mineral) have some similarity in their actions by producing generic symptoms. For example, all snake venoms of the same family of ophiotoxin e.g., Elaps, Lachesis, Naja, etc. possess some similarity in many of their actions, but they do not follow each other fully in their peculiarities. In case of mineral kingdom, the members of the halogen group, i.e. Fluorine, Chlorine, Bromine, Iodine have resemblance in many of their actions, and also their respective salts have much similarity of action between them.

A Materia Medica may be defined not only by the symptoms or the language of the drugs but also by its origin, composition, preparations and its physical, chemical and biological characters, and without the knowledge of pharmacy, this part of the Materia Medica will not become a complete one.

The respective relation between the source of a drug and drug symptoms is known as the 'Doctrine of Signature'. For example:

- i. The Belladonna plant grows in a soil rich in calcium carbonate. It has been observed that Calcarea carbonica (derived from the natural sources calcium carbonate by Hahnemann) complements the action of Belladonna very well.
- ii. Bryonia alba is prepared from the root. The root is fleshy, the edges of the root are yellowish-white in color, and rough; it tastes acidic and bitter; odor is nauseating. A Bryonia patient is also to some extent fleshy; with a tongue coated yellowish-white; with a rough irritating temperament; possessing a bitter taste in mouth and if there be any discharge, it is bitter.
- iii. Euphrasia was famous as a remedy for eyes because it had a black spot in its corals which looked like a pupil.

So, it can be inferred that sources of drugs help to some degree in knowledge of material medica. So, the knowledge of pharmacy supplement the knowledge of material medica.

B. Mode of Collection of drug substances and their method of preservation:

The drug substances do not possess equal amount of medicinal properties throughout the whole year. During a particular time or season their medicinal properties are highest. So, effect of medicine varies if drug substances are collected in different times of year.

Example: Rhus tox plants are to be collected in damp weather, rainy season in evening time because all that time Rhus tox plant possesses more medicinal properties.

The preservation of drug substance is most important in preparation of drugs. The method of preservation of plant substances and animal substances are different. The animal substance should be used immediately after collection.

The proper study of pharmacy gives the above information regarding collection and preservation of drug substances which supplement the knowledge of Materia Medica.

C. Preparation scales and preservation:

To be a true practitioner, a physician must know exact mode of preparation of medicine. The true physician must be provided with genuine medicine of uniform strength so that he may be able to rely upon their therapeutic powers.

Medicines or remedies are prepared from crude drug substances, according to the specific homoeopathic formula and certain definite scales (decimal, centesimal, fifty milisimal) The drug substances and the medicines should be properly preserved according to the pharmacopoeial directions, otherwise they will lose their efficacy on storing.

Pharmacy is an aid to the knowledge of different methods of potentisation. As such, this knowledge of dynamisation of the three different methods as used by a homoeopathic physician is a subject matter of pharmacy. Ideal cure depends not only on the proper selection of remedy but the doses and potency to be prescribed. This part, homoeopathic posology is greatly under the domain of pharmacy.

D. Potentisation:

A man may be sick in three planes, physical, mental and casual. A medicine selected on the law of similia cannot always cure a sick patient. Here proper selection of potency is required so that it must have the capability to reach the plane in which the person has been affected. If the potency selection is improper, then there will be no cure. Here the knowledge of material medica will be of no value to the physician if he has no knowledge of potency of the medicine and different methods of potentisation. The curative properties of the drugs are developed after proper potentisation.

E. Prescriptions and serving them:

A physician must know how to write a correct and proper prescription with the relevant abbreviations. Knowledge of vehicles for particular medicines is different. He must also know about dispensing of medicines. All medicines cannot be dispensed in every vehicle. The doses of triturations cannot be dispensed in globules. The medicines cannot be served either in liquid form (e.g. purified water, dispensing alcohol) or solid form (sugar of milk, globules etc.). Pharmacy gives us the above knowledge.

F. Posology or doctrine of doses:

Highest ideal of cure not only depends upon the proper selection of remedy but also on the proper doses of medicine. It bears a speciality in homeopathy. It is not the amount or quantity but potency is also a factor under homeopathic posology. In the absence of proper knowledge of homeopathic posology, a well chosen remedy will not be able to initiate the required amount of dynamic thrust for an ideal cure. A very large dose may cause violent aggravation. The knowledge of dose helps the “Simillimum” to act properly. So, the knowledge of pharmacy supplements the knowledge of Materia Medica.

G. Drug Proving:

It is an integral part of homeopathic pharmacy. Efficacy of homeopathy only be proclaimed if the latent curative power of drugs is well understood. Different observations obtained from the drug proving on healthy human being increase the correct knowledge of Materia Medica.

2. Scope of Homeopathic pharmacy in relation to national economy:

National Economy is specially related to two factors:

- i. National wealth: The total value of all money investments goods and property held in country at particular time.
- ii. Per capita income of people: Average income earned per person in a given area (city, region, country etc.) in a specific year. It is calculated by dividing the areas total income by its total population.

Our national economy is unstable since independence because of inflicts created by different catastrophes like last great war (world war II 1939-1945) or influx of refugees from eastern and western neighbouring zones of the country. Besides this, industrial crises are persisting. All these factors not only have shaken our economy but also the people.

Due to insufficient wealth our foreign exchange resources is utilised to meet different emergencies resulting in inflation which become a prominent one in our economy.

The primary and essential duty of all governments is to provide the minimum health coverage to the people by arranging to prevent diseases and supply all requirements to cure diseases. In this context, homeopathy can play an important role. For this two essential factors are: Trained technical medical personnel and requisite medicines.

In homeopathy, with the least expenditure, requisite medicines can be served to the patient. Not only the cheapness but its efficacy has also been established clinically. Preparation of medicine is also very easy and simple.

Besides this, most of the homeopathic drugs have the capability to grow or to collect in different meteorological conditions for which the government exchange has to spend a minimum amount.

Now, homeopathy has gradually proved its efficacy in different parts of the world, if properly nourished, this system of medicine will be expanded as there is ample scope. Under these circumstances homeopathy may even be helpful in earning foreign money for country.

3. Scope of homeopathic pharmacy in relation to organon of medicine (§ 264-§ 285):

Aph. 264: Use of genuine medicines of proper strength:

The true physician must be provided with genuine medicines of unimpaired strength, so that he may be able to rely upon their therapeutic powers; he must be able, himself, to judge of their genuineness.

Aph. 265: Physician to prepare his own medicine/Employment of correct dose:

Dr. Hahnemann advises the physician to be thoroughly convinced in every case that the patient always takes the right medicine and therefore, he must give the patient the correctly chosen medicine prepared moreover, by himself.

Aph. 266: Raw drug materials:

Substances belonging to the animal and vegetable kingdom possess their medicinal qualities most perfectly in their raw state .i.e. more potent in their crude state.

Aph. 267: Preparation of medicines from indigenous plants:

We gain possession of the powers of indigenous plants and of such as may be had in a fresh state in the most complete and certain manner by mixing their freshly expressed juice immediately with equal parts of spirits of wine of a strength sufficient to burn in a lamp. After this has stood a day and a night (24hrs) in a close stopped bottle and deposited the fibrinous and albuminous matters, the clear supernatant fluid is then to be decanted off for medicinal use. All fermentation of the vegetable juice will be at once checked by the spirits of wine mixed with it and rendered impossible for the future, and the entire medicinal power of the vegetable juice is thus retained (perfect and uninjured) for ever by keeping the preparation in well-corked bottles and protected from the sun's light and strong smelling substances.

Aph. 268: Preparation of medicines from exotic plants:

It is difficult to secure exotic plants, barks, seeds and roots in fresh form, they are to be collected dry. In order to ensure their identity the material is to be collected whole rather than in the form of powder.

They will then be pulverised and dehydrated by exposing to heat. A flat tin saucer with raised edges is taken. The powder of the plant is then spread on the saucer, which again is placed to float in a vessel of boiling water and thoroughly stirred to get the entire moisture evaporated.

The powder is then placed in well stopped bottle in closed chest, protected from daylight. In this way, the powder retains its medicinal properties forever.

Aph. 269: Dynamization of medicines/development of medicinal powers:

Dynamization is a process by which the medicinal properties which are latent in natural substances while in crude state, become awakened and developed into activity to an incredible degree.

The homeopathic system of medicine develops spirit like medicinal powers of crude drug substances to an unparalleled degree by a process which has never been attempted before and which causes medicines to penetrate the body, and thus to become more efficacious and remedial. It is applicable even to those substances which in their crude state give no evidence of the slightest power on the human body.

Aph. 270-271: Method of dynamization in centesimal scale:

Thus two drops of the fresh vegetable juice mingled with equal parts of alcohol are diluted with ninety-eight drops of alcohol and potentized by means of two succussions, whereby the first development of power is formed and this process is repeated through twenty-nine more phials, each of which is filled three-quarters full with ninety-nine drops of alcohol, and each succeeding phial is to be provided with one drop from the preceding phial (which has already been shaken twice) and is in its turn twice shaken, and in the same manner at last the thirtieth development of power (potentized decillionth dilution X) which is the one most generally used. (§ 270)

Pure metals, their oxides and sulphurets and other minerals e.g. petroleum, phosphorous etc. (except sulphur) are first to be potnetised to the million fold dry or powder dilution, by triturating them for 3 hours; then 1 grain of trituration to be dissolved and diluted in 27 successive vials, up to the 30th potency. (§ 271)

Aph. 272: Administration of single remedy:

In no case is it requisite to administer more than one single, simple medicinal substance at one time.

Aph. 273-274: Use of single, simple medicine:

In no case under treatment is it necessary and therefore not permissible to administer to a patient more than one single, simple medicinal substance at one time. It is absolutely not allowed in homoeopathy, the one true, simple and natural art of healing, to give the patient at one time two different medicinal substances. (§ 273)

It is wrong to attempt to employ complex means when simple means suffice, never think of giving as a remedy any but a single, simple medicinal substance. It is yet impossible to foresee how two and more medicinal substances might, when compounded, hinder and alter each other's actions on the human body; and because, on the other hand, a simple medicinal substance when used in diseases, the totality of whose symptoms is accurately known. (§ 274)

Aph. 275: Strength of the dose: Too strong a dose:

The suitability of a medicine for any given case of disease does not depend on its accurate homoeopathic selection alone, but likewise on the proper size, or rather smallness, of the dose. If we give too strong a dose of a medicine, it must, notwithstanding the inherent beneficial character of its nature, prove injurious by its mere magnitude.

Aph. 276: Strength of the dose: Violent the medicinal disease:

Too large doses of an accurately chosen homoeopathic medicine, and especially when frequently repeated, bring about much trouble as a rule. They put the patient in danger of life or make his disease almost incurable. They do indeed extinguish the natural disease so far as the sensation of the life principle is concerned and the patient no longer suffers from the original disease from the moment the too strong dose of the homoeopathic medicine acted upon him but he is in consequence more ill with the similar but more violent medicinal disease which is most difficult to destroy

Aph. 277: Minimum dose has a salutary effect

For the same reason, and because a medicine, provided the dose of it was sufficiently small, is all the more salutary and almost marvellously efficacious. A medicine whose selection has been accurately homoeopathic must be all the more salutary the more its dose is reduced to the degree of minuteness appropriate for a gentle remedial effect.

Aph. 278: Pure experience to decide the minimum dose

Here the question arises, what is this most suitable degree of minuteness for sure and gentle remedial effect; how small, in other words, must be the dose of each individual medicine. Pure experiment, careful observation and accurate experience can alone determine this. The pure experience pronounces respecting the smallness of the doses required for homoeopathic cures.

Aph. 279: Use of potentised remedy

The dose of the homoeopathically selected remedy can never be prepared so small that it shall not be stronger than the natural disease, and shall not be able to overpower, extinguish and cure it. So, the use of potentised remedy is necessary to properly cure the disease.

Aph. 280: Homoeopathic aggravation

A temporary intensification of symptoms after using medicine (usually first dose) is known as homeopathic aggravation. It is mild and only last for short time. Slight worsening of similar symptoms is a good indication that the disease will be probably cured.

The dose of the medicine that continues serviceable without producing new troublesome symptoms is to be continued while gradually ascending, so long as the patient with general improvement, begins to feel in a mild degree the return of one or several old original complaints. This indicates an approaching cure through a gradual ascending of the moderate doses modified each time by succession.

Aph. 281: Use of next higher potency; susceptibility varies from person to person

Every patient is, especially in his diseased point, capable of being influenced in an incredible degree by medicinal agents corresponding by similarity of action; and there is no person, be he ever so robust, and even though he be affected only with a chronic or so-called local disease, who will not soon experience the desired change in the effected part, if he take the salutary, homoeopathically suited medicine in the smallest conceivable dose.

In order to be convinced of this, the patient is left without any medicine for eight, ten or fifteen days, meanwhile giving him only some powders of sugar of milk. If the few last complaints are due to the medicine simulating the former original disease symptoms, then these complaints will disappear in a few days or hours. If during these days without medicine, while continuing good hygienic regulations nothing more of the original disease is seen, he is probably cured.

Aph. 282: Homoeopathic aggravation: Too large a dose

The smallest possible dose of homoeopathic medicine capable of producing only the very slightest homoeopathic aggravation, will, because it has the power of exciting symptoms bearing the greatest possible resemblance to the original disease (but yet stronger even in the minute dose), attack principally and almost solely the parts in the organism that are already affected, highly irritated, and rendered excessively susceptible to such a similar stimulus.

‘It would be a certain sign that the doses were altogether too large, if during treatment, especially in chronic diseases, the first dose should bring forth a so-called homoeopathic aggravation, that is, a marked increase of the original morbid symptoms first discovered and in the same way every repeated dose however modified somewhat by shaking before its administration (i.e., more highly dynamized)

Aph.283: Harmlessness of the small doses of homoeopathic medicines

In order to work wholly according to nature, the true healing artist will prescribe the accurately chosen homoeopathic medicine most suitable in all respects in so small a dose on account of this alone. For should he be misled by human weakness to employ an unsuitable medicine, the disadvantage of its wrong relation to the disease would be so small that the patient could through his own vital powers and by means of early opposition of the correctly chosen remedy according to symptom similarity (and this also in the smallest dose) rapidly extinguish and repair it.

§ 284-285 Routes of administration of remedy

Besides the tongue, mouth and stomach, which are most commonly affected by the administration of medicine, the nose and respiratory organs are receptive of the action of medicines in fluid form by means of olfaction and inhalation through the mouth. But the whole remaining skin of the body clothed with epidermis, is adapted to the action of medicinal solutions, especially if the inunction is connected with simultaneous internal administration (§ 284).

In this way, the cure of very old diseases may be furthered by the physician applying externally, rubbing it in the back, arms, extremities, the same medicine he gives internally and which showed itself curatively. In doing so, he must avoid parts subject to pain or spasm or skin eruption (§ 285).