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Homeopathic Pharmacy- A Review

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Abstract-

Pharmacy is ethnology of making the drugs. It involves multiple stages such as collecting, identifying, preparing, preserving, evaluating, standardizing and dispensing of medicine. It also incorporates the knowledge of medicines, the art of compounding, dispensing and proper distribution of medicines. It has been derived from the Greek word *pharmakon*, which means 'a drug, a medicine, remedy'. The study of pharmacy includes the study of the theories and exercise of the operations necessary to the intelligent preparation and dispensing of substances used in the healing art.

Key word: Pharmacy, Homeopathy, Medicine, Disease

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Introduction-

According to Stuart Close, "Homeopathic potentisation is a mathematico-mechanical process for the reduction, according to scale, of crude, inert or poisonous medical substances to a state of physical solubility, physiological assimilability and therapeutic activity and harmlessness, for use as Homeopathic healing remedies."

The "mathematics" of potentisation or drug dynamization are the scales under which the drug substances in their crude, original form or state are reduced or quantitatively decreased in

a definite ratio. This reduction is followed by the mechanical part of potentisation.

In the preparation of potencies from solid drug substances, decimal and centesimal scales are used. When the trituration attains 6X potency; then only it is fit to be converted into liquid potency and subsequently treated.

In the preparation of potencies of liquid drug substances three scales are used -

1. **Centesimal-** Based on the principle that the first potency must contain the one-hundredth part of the original drug and

each succeeding potency, one-hundredth part of the preceding one. Centesimal scale is denoted by 'C' or 'CH' suffixed to the numerical.

2. Decimal - Based on the principle that the first potency should contain one-tenth part of the original drug and each succeeding potency should contain one-tenth part of the potency preceding it. Decimal scale is denoted by 'X' or 'D' suffixed to the numerical.

3. Fifty Millesimal - This scale was introduced by Hahnemann in Aphorism 270 of the 6th edition of Organon of Medicine, published in 1921. Hahnemann termed it – “Renewed Dynamisation”. These potencies were termed by Pierre Schmidt as "Fifty Millesimal Potencies".

In India and Bangladesh – 0/1, 0/2, 0/3

Western world – 1/0, 2/0, 3/0

Hahnemann – 0/1, 0/2, 0/3

LM1, LM2, LM3

The '0' represents symbolically the poppy sized globule. 'L' stands for Fifty and 'M' stands for Millesimal

Extent Of Homeopathy

Homeopathy may be defined as the Science of Vital Dynamics. It is essential to understand the scope and limitations of the system and of one's self. The homeopathic therapeutic principle is known; the methodology of prescribing has been developed; a large number of remedies have been proved and studied; but the field of action has not been clearly defined. It is first necessary to discriminate between 'disease' per se, and the

material end products in which the disease ultimates. With the latter, homeopathy primarily has nothing to do. The gross, tangible lesions and products in which disease ultimates are not the primary object of the homeopathic prescription. The tangible things, which the examining physician finds in the body, are not the disease, but merely its effects. The intelligent physician should first remove the causes of the disease and the obstacles to cure as far as possible before he addresses himself to the task of selecting and administering the remedy. If it is advanced may have to be relegated to surgery. Failing to do this, nothing much can be accomplished by homeopathic remedies, and what slight impression is made will be of short duration. If the object of homeopathic treatment, the morbid processes from which they arise, or to which they lead, are amenable to homeopathic medication. If homeopathy does not have a scope as curative, it definitely has a scope as a palliative.

To understand the scope of homeopathy, one needs to first understand its limitations :

- ❖ Homeopathy relates to no affection of health where the exciting cause of disease is constantly present and operative.
- ❖ Which will, of themselves, come or bring to an end after the removal of the stirring cause by chemical, physical or hygienic measures.
- ❖ It relates to no affections of health occasioned by the injury or destruction of tissues that are incapable of restoration.
- ❖ It relates to no affections of health, where the vital reactive power of the organism to

medicines is exhausted, obstructed or prevented.

- ❖ Where the symptomatic likeness may not be perceptibly produced in the healthy organism by medical means, nor to affections in which such symptoms are not perceptible

Potentisation

Potentisation is not merely the process of dilution that liberates the dynamic property of a drug, but the friction with an inert vehicle, by the process of succussion or trituration. The principle of drug dynamization succeeded the proving of drugs and the enunciation of the law of similars and it was the third step in the evolution of Homeopathic principles. There are two closely related discoveries brought Hahnemann closer to the principle of dynamization – first was the improved curative effect of reducing the dosage of previously used medicines and the second finding was that substances like salt or lycopodium, not previously identified as medicines became therapeutically active on undergoing this process. Successive dilution and friction are the phenomenon of potentisation and scales of potentisation are as follows Centesimal scale, Decimal scale and Fifty Millesimal scale, whereas process of potentisation involves Trituration and Succussion

Dilutions And Potencies

A solution of coloring matter, by the mixture of more and more water, becomes at last almost colorless, and any amount of shaking will not increase its color. Dilutions exist

almost solely in objects of taste and of color. These are and continue to be mere dilutions, not dynamizations.

Dynamic

Dynamic action or power is the action of one substance on another substance without being able to recognize a sensible connection between cause and effect. Hahnemann calls such effects dynamic, virtual, that is, such as result from absolute, specific, pure energy and action of the one substance upon the other substance. The earth carries the moon around her in an orbit, in twenty-eight days and several hours, and the moon alternately, in definite fixed hours raises the seas to high tide and again correspondingly lowers them to ebb.

Advantages Of Potentisation

- ❖ By a continued process of reducing the material quantity of a drug, unnecessary medicinal aggravation and side effects of crude substances are avoided
- ❖ Medicinal properties that are latent in crude state become aroused and awakened into activity.
- ❖ Substances that are poisonous or toxic in their crude state like corrosive acids, poisons, heavy metals, venoms, etc. become important beneficial remedies after potentisation
- ❖ Substances that are medicinally inert in their crude state may be rendered active after potentisation.
- ❖ The concept of life, health and disease is not material, but dynamic in nature. Hence the concept of cure is also dynamic – and these properties are revealed by potentisation and provings.

- ❖ Potentisation helps reveal peculiar 'individualistic' properties of a drug aiding in selection of the similimum on the basis of similarity of these peculiar individualistic symptoms.

Effects Of Potentisation

- ❖ Quantitative reduction of the drug material
- ❖ Qualitative increase in the disease curing properties
- ❖ Elimination of toxicity of poisonous drugs

Conclusion

It becomes easy to select from a limited range of potencies. No fear of aggravation of disease or patient's condition by administering it in high or low potency and in repeated doses. It can be repeated any time when there is need for medicine according to Law of Similars. Action is quick and rapid.

Hahnemann wrote the preface to the 6th edition of Organon in February 1842. After a gap of 77 years, Dr. Haehl of Germany managed to get hold of the original manuscript in the early part of 1920 with the financial assistance of Dr. Boericke. In 1922 Dr. Boericke published the English translation of this edition. This long delay is one reason for the unpopularity of this scale.

Conflict of Interest: None

Source of Support: Nil

Some of Hahnemann's followers started using these high potencies, even before Hahnemann had laid down instructions about this new method. Hering, Kent, Dunham and Nash advocated the practice of using high potencies like 200, 1M, 10M, 50M, CM, MM and claimed better therapeutic results in many cases that did not respond satisfactorily with thirtieth and lower potencies. With the absence of the new directions and the popularity of the high potencies for about ninety years, sufficient experience was gained with the high potencies. When the 6th edition of Organon was available for the profession, it found some reluctance amongst the profession also due to its authenticity.

The intricacy of the mode of preparation of medicines and its administration and regulation has led to a lack of usage amongst the profession.

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1. The Genius Of Homeopathy By Stuart Close
2. Hahnemann 6th edition of Organon in February 1842
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