

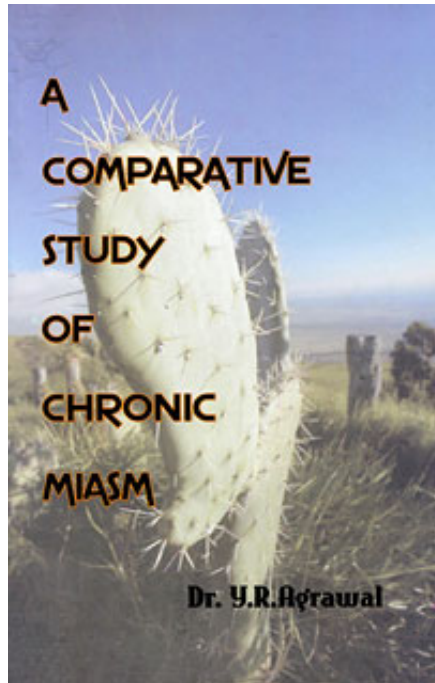
Y.R. Agrawal

A Comparative Study of Chronic miasm

Leseprobe

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von [Y.R. Agrawal](#)



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What is Miasm ?

The word miasm* derived from Greek means 'taint' or 'contamination'. Hahnemann used it for the manifestations in chronic diseased conditions. Fester defines a miasm as a morbidic emanation which affects individuals directly and not through the medium of another individual. Stedman's medical dictionary defines miasm s noxious effluvia or emanations, formerly regarded as the cause of malaria and of various epidemic diseases.

According to Hahnemann the disease is a state of disturbance of the vital force which maintains harmony and health. The disturbance is caused by something called miasms which are also harmful inherent dynamic forces on the same ethereal plane as the life force itself. Hahnemann thought of his theory of chronic disease in the years 1816-17, though he did not make it public for a further decade. In 1827 he summoned two of his most faithful disciples, Gross and Stapf, to Kothen to receive the new doctrine, and in the following years he began to publish his last major work, the '**Chronic Diseases**', in which miasm** theory was set forth. Hahnemann was led to formulate his theory when he found during 12 years of experiments and critical observations that certain diseases were easily cured with simple remedies or had a natural and spontaneous cure, but he was disappointed to see that many other patients returned with old complaints and or with new Symptoms. He studied all such cases carefully and deeply and the latent

* Miasm can be defined as a form of deranged dynamis-the vital force working under adverse circumstances, and failing to maintain normal function and thus producing a Symptom complex we call disease. (John Paterson)

** Hahnemann's ingenious views on miasmata had already been partially explained by the discovery of microbes considered as occasional pathogenic agents. They have since then been illuminated by viruses - whether filterable or not - and by all the modern concept of unapparent polyviruses, which has recently confirmed Hahnemann's original and extremely productive ideas on psora. (Pierre Schmidt)

inherent defect or obstacle to cure was inferred to have been caused by some miasms which he named as Psora, Syphilis and Sycosis.

Evolution of miasm:— The itch is looked down upon as a disgraceful affair, so is everything that has a similar correspondence. You go to an allopath he would apply external ointments and suppress it. Similarly if a true sycotic gonorrhoea appears to us second hand, it appears in its suppressed form which is thousand times worse than the original form. All the outward manifestations have been made to disappear. Syphilis is not treated from cause to effect, but simply in the way of driving it back or holding it in abeyance, without any effort to permanently cure it. Every conceivable thing has been employed to destroy manifestations and the disease has grown and grown until nobody can tell what its outcome will be. These suppressed diseases continue to manifest itself in various forms and become hereditary.

The miasms derive their force and obtain their grip from the suppression of original Symptoms such as discharges, chancres, etc., which are the body's means of expelling the intruder; and when that defence is removed, the life force is exposed to the full power of the disease which then holds the whole bodily machinery in its deadly grasp.

The miasms make such dents and breaches in the physical and mental economy of the person that the debilitated life force cannot repair. They deform the body, dull the intellect and destroy reason. They destroy men's wills, hope, courage, and drive the sunshine out of life, bringing all under shadow making him downhearted, low spirited, hypochondriacal, even to suicide. When their presence is felt in the organism every process, every organ is up in arms, every reserve is brought into action, and every nerve impulse into play, to oppose their inroads and to arrest their progress; secretion, excretion, even the whole circulatory System becomes exaggerated and intensified to accommodate itself to the new order of things. The miasms are like enemies entrenched. They attack us at all our weak points, recede and advance, advance and recede. They never seem to tire or grow less. When we are asleep they break in upon us; when we become tired or exhausted they come upon us unawares and take us by surprise. So, like sentinels, we must be ever on our guard; we must be ever watchful, ever ready to oppose

their advances; to understand their tactics, both when they are active and when they are dormant, when they give forth their acute, chronic or latent expressions. (J.H. Allen)

There are certain conditions or states of the organism due wholly to the action of the miasms and recognised in our works on pathology under special names, as cachexia, dyscrasia, diathesis, scrofula, Struma, idiosyncrasy, predisposition, hereditary predisposition and hereditary states, all of which are due, directly or indirectly, to the workings of, or they are expressions of, miasmatic action. When we speak of cachexia we mean a depraved condition of the whole System, we mean blood changes often due to toxic causes; it is an advanced chronic, active miasmatic state. Cachexias may be acute, subacute or chronic. Some times they depend on a single miasm, and again specifically combined with psora the cachexia usually assumes semi-malignant, if not malignant forms, even to the destruction of life, ending to toxic states, specific anaemias or general exhaustion and collapse. To cure a cachexia, we must select our remedies with care, basing our prescriptions upon the true symptomatology of the active miasm, when often the most discouraging and complex conditions disappear.

Dr. J.H. Allen while commenting upon the necessity of having knowledge about the miasms remarked, "The fact is we cannot select the most similar remedy unless we understand the phenomena of the acting and basic miasms, for the true similia is always based upon the exciting basic miasms, whether we be conscious or unconscious of the fact."

According to the Chronic miasm theory of Dr. Hahnemann, Psora, Syphilis and Sycosis are infectious disease and are curable in primary stage but when they are suppressed by maltreatment, they are changed into chronic. miasms and become the root cause of innumerable diseases. Each of them creates different disease in different subjects.

Constitution,* Diathesis, Temperament and Miasm

Constitution (Latin—*Constitutio* means to fix): is defined as the makeup of functional habits of the body determined by the

* See also page 146

genetic, biochemical and physiological endowments of an individual, modified to a great extent by the environmental factors. (Dorland Illustrated Medical Dictionary)

According to Blakiston it is the total individuality of the person, including his inherited qualities and cumulative effects of his reactions to all environmental factors which influenced his emotional and physical development.

Webster considers it as the physical makeup of an individual comprising inherited qualities modified by environment.

Master Hahnemann describes it as a composite entity of spirit, mind and body in relation to the environments it is put in.

Dr. J.N. Kanjilal describes it as a term which includes the sum total of individual characteristics of one's mind and body in relation to the environmental influence.

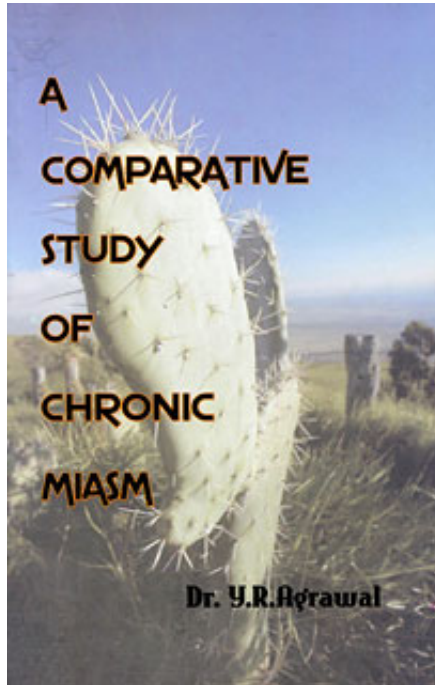
Diathesis (Greek—a placing in order, a disposition, an arrangement)

Blakiston defines it as a state or condition of the body or a combination of attributes in one individual causing a susceptibility to disease.

According to Dorland it is a constitution or condition of the body which makes the tissues react in special ways to certain extrinsic Stimuli and thus tends to make the person more than usually susceptible to certain diseases.

Many authors like Drs. Hering, Hughes and Kent have used the terms Constitution and Diathesis as synonyms but Diathesis has a connotation of susceptibility to disease which is not possessed by the term Constitution. For example, the constitution of a person may be quite healthy still he may be susceptible to cold (Tubercular diathesis).

According to the homoeopathic view point diathesis involves the quality of susceptibility or a state of proneness towards the environmental factors, due to certain invisible yet dynamic disease producing potential present within the constitution.



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