

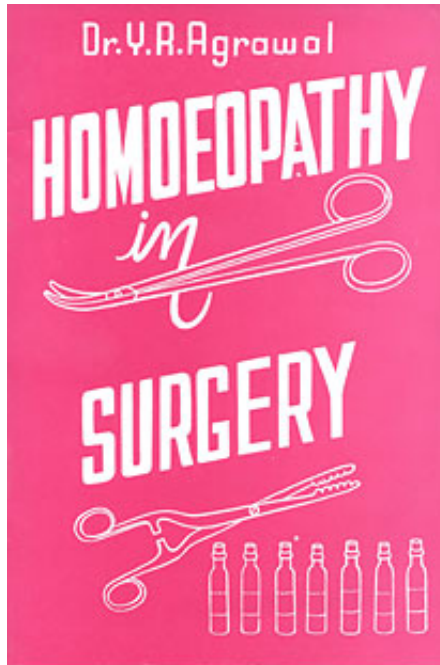
Y.R. Agrawal

Homoeopathy in Surgery

Leseprobe

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UTILITY OF SURGERY

Surgery may be defined as the art of treating lesions and malformations of human body by manual operations. Surgery is one of the branches of the art of healing and with the normal trends of scientific progress surgery has also come upto the .present phase of achievement along with the progress' of allied branches of medical science.

Homoeopaths are primarily physicians and not surgeons. A large number of cases *may* not require surgery if properly treated initially with homoeopathic medicines. But homoeopathy is not opposed to surgery. One should know that surgery is neither homoeopathic nor allopathic. It is a pure and simple specialised branch of art of healing. Depending on the condition required for the purpose any allopath as well as any homoeopath can go for surgery, if he is well conversant and skilled about the methods of the subject. Hahnemann in section 186 of the Organon writes".....For in the case of injuries accruing to the body from without, if they be at all severe, the whole living organism sympathizes; there occur fever, and c. The treatment of such diseases is relegated to surgery; but this is right only in so far as the affected parts require mechanical aid, whereby the external obstacles to the cure, which can only be expected to take place by the agency of the vital force, may be removed by mechanical means, e.g., by the reduction of dislocations, by bandages to bring together the lips of wounds, (by mechanical pressure to still the flow of blood from open arteries) by the extraction of foreign bodies that have penetrated into the living parts, by making an opening into a cavity of the body in order to remove an irritating substance or to procure the evacuation of effusions or collections of fluids, by bringing into apposition the broken extremities of a fractured bone and retaining them in exact contact by an appropriate bandage and c" This shows that Hahnemann wanted us to treat purely local conditions by mechanical help.

Dr. Stuart Close another authority in Homoeopathy observed as under :

"I can not be charged with having any undue leaning towards surgery; but there are times and places where good skilful surgery is an absolute necessity..... we must acknowledge that we are finite and that we have our limitations. There are times when we can not find the remedy; here are cases and states that mark a limit as far as any doctor should go in his own judgement, with the internal remedy alone; you must decide whether it is a surgical case and call in a surgeon to help you. Do not ever allow a patient to die on account of your inability to get the right remedy, but call in a surgeon to help you."

If we discuss the scope of surgery, we will see that it has the scope mainly in following conditions:—

1. To remove Diseased Tissue :— In the case of an organ or gland the operation is referred to by the suffix ectomy, e.g., pneumonectomy (removal of lung), mastectomy (removal of mammary gland), haemorrhoidectomy (removal of haemorrhoids). The removal may be partial or complete. In case of a limb the removal is known as an amputation. Removal of a breast is sometimes referred to as a radical amputation, it being an external organ.

2. For purposes of Repairs :— In these cases the suffix orrhaphy is applied, e.g., herniorrhaphy (repair of hernia), colporrhaphy (repair of a lacerated perineum). This may also include repair of structural anomalies like harelip and cleft palate.

3. For the purposes of procuring an Artificial Opening :— In such cases the suffix otomy or ostomy is applied. The most common forms are gastrotomy or gastrostomy (an opening being made in the stomach for the purpose of feeding or evacuating the stomach), colostomy (an opening being made in the transverse or sigmoid colon for purposes of evacuation), tracheotomy (an opening being made in the trachea for breathing). Any of these may be temporary or permanent.

4. For purposes of Inspection :— If a speculum or some form of viewing apparatus is passed the suffix oscopy is applied, e.g., cystoscopy (inspection of the bladder), sigmoid oscopy (inspection of the sigmoid colon-if the area is opened up for the inspection of the sigmoid colon). If the area is opened up for inspection or exploration the suffix otomy is again used, e.g., laparotomy (inspection or exploration of the abdominal contents).

5. Acquired Conditions :— These include conditions such as traumatic, inflammatory, neoplastic-benign and malignant tumours, vasucular-aneurysm, varicose veins, metabolic-results of diabetes; parasitic-hydatid cyst; nervous-results of anterior poliomyelitis, and other deformities caused by injury or accident.

There is a general belief amongst the public that surgical* cases can not be managed by homoeopathic medicines. But one should know that even when surgical procedures are adopted, adequate preparation and pre and post operative precautions taken with the help of homoeopathic medicines will avoid the unnecessary hazards of surgery and homoeopathic medicines will restore the sick to health. Homoeopathic medicines can be applied both internally as well as externally with some accessory mechanical treatment, e.g., after the extraction

*Surgery is neither rallopathic nor homoeopathic. It is all together a separate branch of healing. But medicine and surgery are often inter-dependent. The study of surgery is absolutely necessary for a homoeopath, for :— 1)

- 1, He will be able to differentiate a medical and a surgical case, and treat accordingly.
- 2, The elementary surgical cases which are purely manageable in ordinary private practices with homoeopathic medicines can be well tackled in his own dispensary and major cases directed to an expert surgeon.
- 3, Many complications occurring as a result of surgical interference can be better managed with homoeopathic medicines (even the after effects of anaesthesia).

"A homoeopathic surgeon is one who adds to his knowledge of surgery, a special knowledge of Homoeopathic therapeutics and practises his calling in conformance with that knowledge." (W.A. Dewey)

of the foreign body, after the reduction of any dislocation, lacerated wounds, fractures (after correct setting of the fragments) etc.

There are a few books which speak about the unnecessary use of surgery in view of many homoeopathic medicines available to cure the disease. I have not touched that disputable subject and on the contrary I have dealt with the subject of utility of homoeopathy in the field of surgery.

PRE-OPERATIVE CARE

OPERATION FEAR:

Aconite Nap :— Plethoric, easily excited persons, full of fears as to the approaching operations. One dentist used to administer Aconite while patients were still in the writing room to modify their fear prior to tooth extraction.

Anacardium :— When the fear produces anger, with swearing.

Arsenicum Alb/China Off :—Weakness and exhaustion, with fear and trembling in dread of the ordeal; thirsty and perspiring.

Aurum Mur Nat :— Weak and fearful, with tendency to run away.

Opium :— Occasionally Opium is useful post operatively when the old fright is presumably restimulated by another frightening experience.

Phosphorus :— Has been found of value in allaying apprehension before operation in children.

Pre-Operative Medicines

Coffea Cruda :— The highly sensitive intellectual patient who can not sleep from too acute hearing.

* The subject matter has been divided into three parts, viz.,(1)Preoperative Care, (2) Post Operative Ailments and (3) Homoeo medicines in specific type of Surgery.

Gelsemium :— For the nervous patient who is unable to prevent too frequent bladder or bowel evacuations. (Ignatia)

Glonoine :— An unusually high blood pressure, due to nervousness at the approaching operation, will be lessened.

Phosphorus :— Many surgeons are accustomed to give a dose of Phosphorus in reasonably high potency an hour or two before operating. They claim that it seems to prevent a great many of the troubles which arise as a result of the shock after opening the abdomen. When this is done, it often avoids peristaltic which may follow abdominal surgery.

For pre operative anticipation Phosphorus 200 can be given in conjunction with Arnica or other pre-operative medicine.

Pulsatilla :— This restores the weak, weeping female equilibrium.

Rhus Tox :— The best prophylactic for cases of surgery. It should be given for 48 hours in 30th dilution every 3 hours. It will prevent sepsis.

Sulphur :— In appropriate cases a dose or two of Sulphur high prior to operation secures better reaction from shock, modifies the ill effects of the anaesthetic, and induce a better wound state. Sulphur is very useful in diarrhoea following or preceding operation and failure to react properly after operation.

Zincum Met.:— Helps the patient whose nervousness shows itself by restless feet.

POST-OPERATIVE AILMENTS

Complications arising out of operation are pains, bad effects of anaesthesia, nausea, vomiting, sleeplessness, septic fever, bed sores, surgical shocks, gastric derangements, haemorrhages, jaundice etc. If these

ailments are treated with homoeopathic medicines miraculous success will be achieved.

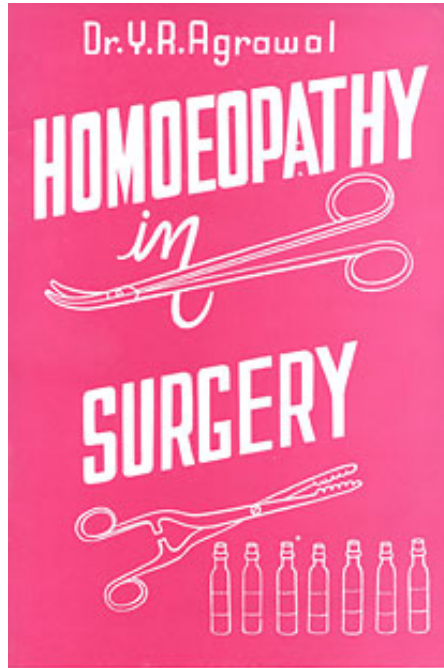
CONDITION OF COLLAPSE

Strontium Carb is of great use in the sudden collapse of vital energy following an operation, where Carbo veg. at first seems to be indicated. In this surgical collapse, where there has been an extended operation with much cutting and this collapse follows, with cold breath, cold body and pinched appearance, Carbo veg may fail you. but Strontium carb. if there has been previous congestion, will fit in exactly. In several instances under my care, Strontium carb has saved life. Therefore we may call Strontium carb the surgeon's Carbo veg. (H. A. Robert).

PAIN

The first complaint that a patient makes after operation is because of his pains. Here the vital point before the physician is to decide whether he should give morphine to the patient to relieve his pains. It should, however, be noted that morphine disturbs the stomach, stops peristalsis, has a tendency to stop the urine. If the pains are once relieved by morphine, the life of the patient becomes miserable, for he would refuse to sleep afterwards. Give morphine only when it is evident that the suffering will do the patient more harm than will the drug. An exception has, however, to be made in cases of patients who were in the habit of taking opium even before. The prominent homoeopathic remedies that could be used as a substitute and that affect the nerve quietening their irritability are : Chamomilla 12X, Hypericum 3X and Hyoscin 3X. It is said that Hypericum supercedes the use of morphia after operation. Hypericum 2X or 3X is also useful in post operative pains, especially after laparotomy. For post operative pains in lumbar region, Berberis vulgaris is the remedy.

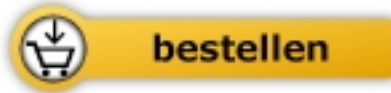
Asarum Europaeum:— Darting pains (head) after surgical operations.



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60 Seiten, kart.
erschienen 1997



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