

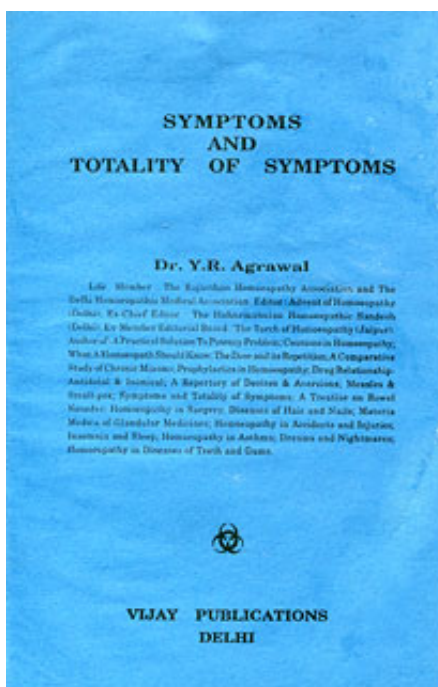
# Y.R. Agrawal

## Symptoms & Totality of Symptoms

Leseprobe

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von [Y.R. Agrawal](#)



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## WHAT IS SYMPTOM ?

In ancient\* times symptoms\*\* were understood as the expression of Nature's wisdom-filled with healing powers. In scientific medicines of today symptoms are often a perplexing enigma but are empirically used as a guide to the diagnosis. In psychologically oriented medicine the symptoms are the symbolic expression of instinctive and emotional forces and conflicts. In Homoeopathic science the symptoms are understood as arising out of functional, dynamic disturbances of the life principles. Such disturbances can be brought about by strong emotions and imaginations and also by dynamic effects of substances and poisons.

The word symptom derived from German word *Symptoma* means any morbid phenomenon or departure from the normal in function, appearance or sensation, experienced by the patient and indicative of disease.

Symptoms, as we commonly consider them in medicine, are an expression of any derangement within the human

\* In ancient Greece Hippocrates wrote of symptoms as the expression of Nature's healing powers. Nature was wiser than man and the diarrhoea or dysentery he regarded as her effort to eliminate the poisons causing the illness. He urged, therefore, that treatment should be aimed at working with her and not against her and so he gave a purgative rather than a constipating remedy. In the seventeenth century the so called English Hippocrates, Thomas Sydenham, likewise regarded the fever as part of the healing reaction in the patient and disapproved of efforts to curtail its actions. Thus symptoms are regarded as expressions of the healing force.

\*\* Symptoms to a homoeopath are guiding lights in the path of cure and more we disturb or put out these lights, the more is the path of cure darkened. (J.N. Kanjilal)

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being which seems to be essentially away from normal behaviour. Symptoms are induced by the body economy as reaction to the introduction of something foreign to its normal processes of living. We sense the expression of symptoms as being subjective or objective, mental, nervous or physical and we catalogue them as such for our convenience.

Symptoms are the outward and visible signs of the inward disturbance of the vital force which will ultimately produce morbid states and when these symptoms are removed the disease\* ceases to exist.

Prior to Hahnemann no one has given such care and thought to the study of symptoms as has been done by him. It is he, who has given, not only different types of symptoms but also guide lines for differentiating them. Homoeopathy, indeed, distinguishes more than one hundred different types of symptoms, viz., 1) General, 2) Mental, 3) Physical, 4) Strange, 5) Rare, 6) Peculiar, 7) Characteristic, 8) Particular, 9) Local, 10) Localised, 11) Common,

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A symptom is the expression of disturbance in a healthy body produced by a drug or some morbid agent. (Dewey)

According to Dr. Close a symptom may be defined as, "Any evidence of disease, or change from a state of health."

Symptoms may be defined "as any functional evidence of disease or of patient's condition; a change in patient's condition indicative of some bodily or mental state." —'New World Medical Dictionary'

Webster defines a symptom as "Any perceptible change in the body and its functions, either subjective or objective, which indicates disease, or the kind, or the phases of diseases. A sign is the objective evidence of disease, i.e., one appreciable by some others than the patient-local evidence of disease."

In the words of Hahnemann, "Any manifestation of a deviation from a former state of health perceptible by the patient, the individuals around him or the physician is a symptom."

\* We mean by disease the aggregate of those symptoms presented by the sick man which are characteristic of his particular deviation from a healthy state. (Corroll Dunham)

12) Concomitant, 13) Subjective, 14) Objective, 15) Absolute, 16) Pathognomonic, 17) Determinative, 18) Non-Pathognomonic, 19) Aetiological, 20) Accessory, 21) Accidental, 22) Alternating, 23) Artificial, 24) Acute, 25) Blurred, 26) Chief, 27) Chronic, 28) Clinical, 29) Consecutive, 30) Contingent, 31) Contrary, 32) Curative, 33) Deep seated, 34) Direct, 35) Dis-similar, 36) Distinct, 37) Disturbing, 38) Drug, 39) Dubious, 40) Elimination, 41) Equivocal, 42) Essential, 43) Exceptional, 44) External, 45) Fixed, 46) Frequent, 47) Functional, 48) Generic, 49) Hereditary, 50) Hetrogeneous, 51) Imaginary, 52) Incomplete, 53) Individual, 54) Induced, 55) Internal, 56) Invented, 57) Isolated, 58) Latent, 59) Masked, 60) Morbid, 61) Mortifying, 62) Mutated, 63) Natural, 64) New, 65) Occasional, 66) Occupationally acquired, 67) Old, 68) Opposed, 69) Organic, 70) Original, 71) Paradoxical, 72) Partitioned, 73) Pathological, 74) Perceptive, 75) Periodical, 76) Persistent, 77) Physical, 78) Present, 79) Primal, 80) Principal, 81) Progressive, 82) Psychosomatic, 83) Recent, 84) Reflex, 85) Secondary, 86) Similar, 87) Spurious 88) Stable, 89) Static, 90) Strong, 91) Sub-merged, 92) Subsidiary, 93) Superficial, 94) Suppressed, 95) Sympathetic, 96) Transient, 97) Trifling, 98) Ultimate, 99) Unforeseen, 100) Unusual, 101) Vague, 102) Variable, 103) Vital, 104) Weak, 105) Well defined, 106) Withdrawal.

**General Symptoms:**— These are the symptoms that deal with the patient as a whole, depicting the picture of his disease and not the disease in the mental and physical planes. When the word T or 'me' is used in recounting a symptom, that symptom may be placed under General Symptoms. Examples of this type may be cited such as (1) I feel the cold; (2) I hate cold; (3) since I have been ill I have become so irritable/sensitive that I can not stand the slightest contradiction; (4) I have become so chilly that the slightest draught of air goes through me, I can not take my hand out of the blanket without shivering with cold; (5) I

have developed such a fancy for sugar/salt/fat that I can not do without it now.

Generals are broadly classified as:-

(i) Mental generals and (ii) Physical Generals.

**Mental Generals:**— All mental symptoms are classed as Generals as they reflect the inner self and individuality of the patient. These symptoms are of highest value in case taking. There is one exception to this and that curiously enough is in the case of mental disease. It is very difficult to detect such symptoms as the patients are not in the mood to reveal their innermost feelings, thoughts and intentions etc. When marked they make the first few rubrics and go a long way in deciding the remedy.

According to Dr. Farrington, the mental characteristics are not only most important but also most dependable as guides to remedy selection and that frequently they are the key to the whole case.

Mental symptoms become less useful when there are many social and familial problems which tend to confuse them. Likewise, when the individual has been on special diet and has voluntarily restricted or increased certain food, the desires and aversions are also useful.

Mental Generals are further classified as, (a) Will\*, (b) Understanding, and (c) Memory.

### **WILL**

It deals with the emotions and excitements, determinations, weaknesses, loves and hates, moods and temperaments, traits, suspicion, fear, jealousy etc. These are of the highest importance among the Mentals. Here are a few examples:—

- \* Mental symptoms, whenever found in a case, rank high. The mental symptoms graded highest in rank and importance are those that relate to the Will, loves & hates, suspicions and fears.

- (i) Irritable,\* sad, melancholous, depressed, fastidious etc.
- (ii) Love and hate,\*\* jealousy of wife, children or near ones,
- (iii) Satiety of life, desire to commit suicide.\*\*\*
- (iv) Can not resist the temptation when wine is served;  
was a man of such a firm determination that he gave  
up smoking the moment he decided.

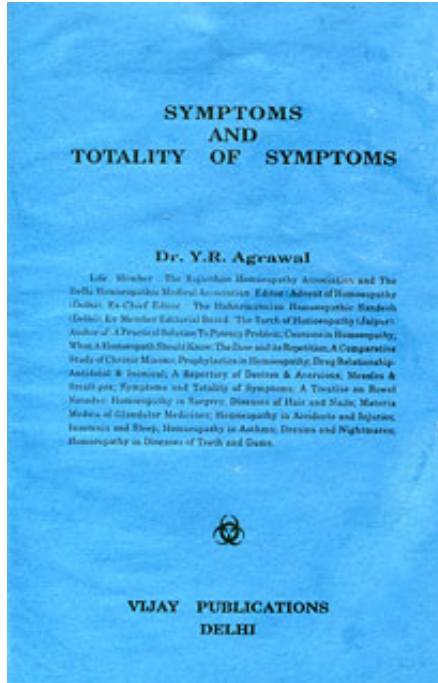
### **Understanding**

It deals with perversions of understanding, intelligences, perceptions, illusions, delusions, dreams, loss of sense of proportions etc. They are second to Will and play an important role in case taking. A few examples of this type can be seen as under:—

- (a) Does not know what he wants; does not understand what he reads, repeats a sentence before understanding the meaning; can not appreciate poetical verses, can not concentrate.
- (b) Thinks she is not herself; she is made of glass; she is scattered to pieces.
- (c) Imagines there is ghost in the house; that a demon sits on her either shoulder commanding to do contradictory things; that she is some divine being and has been chosen to guide the people; that some body is behind her.

Irritability and sadness belong to a large group of remedies, and will be useful only in the condition where precise modalities exist.

One of the deepest instinct in human nature is probably the love for those attached to one by ties of blood or marriage. If then a patient suddenly runs against one he or she has hitherto loved and cared for, that is a symptom of high worth. It may lead one to think of Sepia. Now here again it will be of great help if one particular method of committing suicide is threatened or attempted. Different groups of remedies apply to each method.



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