Chapter-5

Hahnemann's Organon of Medicine
Aphorism-1 to 70

The first aphorism is well known, “The life so short, the art so long to learn, the chance soon gone experience deceptive and judgement difficult.”

Hippocrates

"Aphorism is a famous book which contain 406 saying of Hippocrates about day to day experience."

History of Medicine

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Chapter Bibliography

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- Murphy, Robin, Commentary on Organon of Medicine, 6th Edition.
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5.1 Aphorism-1

Physician & Homoeopathic Physician's Mission:

"The physician's high and only mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, as it is termed".¹

Physician Meaning: The word "Physician" derives the Greek word "Physis" meaning nature or denoting that the physician has its roots in understanding the nature of things.

'Physic' is the science and art of healing.

Physician is the one who is skilled in the science and art of healing diseases.

Physician means the science and art of practice of medicine.

Definition: "A homoeopathic physician is one who adds to his knowledge of medicine a special knowledge of homoeopathic therapeutic and observes the law of similars.

¹ His mission is not, however, to construct so-called systems, by interweaving empty speculations and hypotheses concerning the internal essential nature of the vital processes and the mode in which diseases originate in the invisible interior of the organism, (whereon so many physicians have hitherto ambitiously wasted their talents and their time); nor is it to attempt to give countless explanations regarding the phenomena in diseases and their proximate cause (which must ever remain concealed), wrapped in unintelligible words and an inflated abstract mode of expression, which should sound very learned in order to astonish the ignorant- whilst sick humanity sighs in vain for aid. Of such learned reveries (to which the name of theoretic medicine is given, and for which special professorships are instituted) we have had quite enough, and it is now high time that all who call themselves physicians should at length cease to deceive suffering mankind with mere talk, and begin now, instead, for once to act, that is, really to help and to cure.

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All that pertains to the great field of medical learning is his by tradition, by inheritance and by right”.

A registered medical practitioner who specializes in medical as opposed to surgical treatment of diseases and disorder; anyone who is legally qualified to practice medicine.

**The Physician through the Ages**

- **Prehistoric physician**
  - Was man himself/woman herself

- **Babylonian physician**
  - The physician were priest

- **Historic or Mesopotamian physician**
  - Were priest
  - Surgery progressed as war increased

- **Egyptian physician**
  - The physician were priest a medical man.

- **Greek physician**
  - The first Greek physician was Aesculapius
  - The son of Nymph Coronis

- **Knife physician (Surgeons)**
  - Herb physician (Internist)

- **Spell physician (Psychiatrist)**

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**The Physician through the Ages**

- **Roman**
  - The first Roman physician were Pliny the elder, Dioscorides Celsus
  - Medicine was passed into the hand of Christian Church and Arab scholars

- **Middle ages**
  - Patient's life was in the hand of church
  - 'SALERNO' was the fist school of confer diplomas and title of doctor

- **Medieval physician**
  - Tenth century

- **Tenth century**
  - Fifteenth century
  - It is known as rebirth or renaissance
  - Sydenham says study the whole man instead of disease.
Mission of Physician

In the first aphorism Hahnemann has defined the mission of the physician as to cure the sick, to restore him to his former state of health which he enjoyed before falling ill.

There is nothing new in it. It is agreed upon in any mode of medical practice. But the real significance becomes evident when we know that Hahnemann meant by the term cure.

Hahnemann says, to cure the sick is the only mission. Mission means the special work assigned to the physician. Wheeler says, "Homoeopathy is no religion but a rule of practice."

By this word Hahnemann wants us to understand that it is a noble profession or work in which there is a spirit of devotion for the betterment of the individual or the community.

Every physician should undertake his duty with wholehearted devotion and sound mind. Any neglect on his part is a crime.

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Monks and nuns of the missionary organisations devote themselves with a mission that they will serve the suffering humanity to give relief without expecting any personal comfort or gain.

The importance of this first aphorism is much enhanced when we read the section along with its foot-note. Here Hahnemann criticised theoretic medicine, in vogue then, as it had no relation to the facts of life.

**Key Word Meaning:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Dictionary meaning</th>
<th>Homoeopathic Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Medical Doctor</td>
<td>A homoeopathic physician is a medical doctor who adds knowledge of medicine a special knowledge of homoeopathic therapeutics and observe the law of similia, law of minima and law of dynamization. All that pertains, to the great field of medical leaning in his by tradition, by inheritance and right.</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Noble in quality</td>
<td>It means ranking above others or greater than normal i.e. so called system or partisans of the old school of medicine strictly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only</td>
<td>Without others of the same class or kind</td>
<td>It means strictly to remove the cause and to cure disease and thereby to preserve health and prevent disease in the individual and community by strictly following homoeopathic principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Special embassy (W), A task that a person or group is sent to perform (O).</td>
<td>A noble profession in which he/she acts with prime responsibility from clear mind and heart for his/her patients.</td>
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Tapan Chandra Mondal

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