

P. Sivaraman

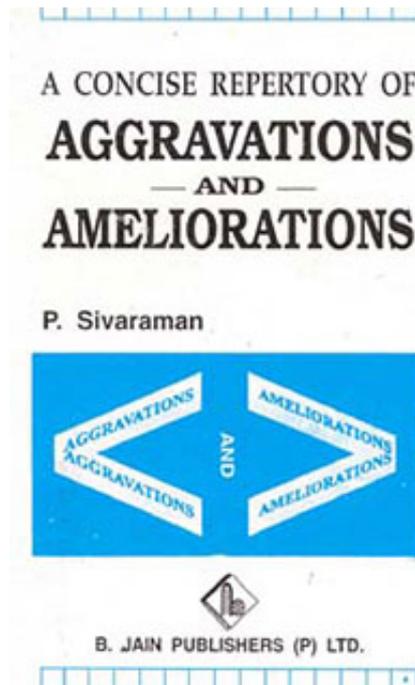
A Concise Repertory of Aggravations and Ameliorations

Leseprobe

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PREFACE

Hahnemann's life mission was not only to restore the sick to health but also to save them from the torture of the old school physicians. He has proclaimed in his book *Organon of Medicine* : "The highest ideal of cure is rapid, gentle and permanent restoration of the health, or removal and annihilation of the disease in its whole extent, in the shortest, most reliable, and most harmless way, on easily comprehensible principles." By this famous work he has revolutionised medical science of the world.

Treating a disease and curing a patient is not the same. Palliation or suppression by crude doses of medicines is the time honoured method of treatment of the old school physicians which they still follow, though they would like us to call them 'Practitioners of Modern Medicine'. Yes, they have become modern in the sense that they have added more sophisticated instruments to assist them in detecting the culprits of disease producers and to find out the end results of diseases, known as pathology. The physicians or apothecaries who mixed their medicines, the actions of which they are not sure and which they have not cared to know, are replaced by gigantic pharmaceutical firms who have the wherewithal to popularise their products. The intricate instruments find out the 'cause and result', the pharmaceutical firms produce medicines and advertise the usefulness of their products and the Modern Mediciners prescribe remedies to combat the disease. Is this

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Modern Medicine or Mechanical Medicine ? Over the tombstones of the victims who die under this principleless treatment must be inscribed "*Martyrs of Modern Medicine.*"

"Therefore medicines", says. Hahnemann "on which depend man's life and death, disease and health, must be thoroughly and most carefully distinguished from one another, and for this purpose tested by careful, pure experiments on the healthy body for the purpose of ascertaining their powers and real effects, in order to obtain an accurate knowledge of them, and to enable us to avoid any mistake in their employment in diseases, for it is only by correct selection of them that the greatest of all earthly blessings, the health of the body and of the mind, can be rapidly and permanently restored". Drugs are destructive. Every physician uses this destructive agent as a remedy to cure the sick. Hence the physician must have a thorough knowledge of the agent he employs as a remedy, what it is capable of producing in a healthy body, and what it can annihilate in a sick individual.

"The true healing art is, in its nature a pure science of experience, and can and must rest on clear facts and on the sensible phenomena pertaining to the sphere of action, for all the subjects it has to deal with are clearly and satisfactorily cognizable by the senses through experience'. As we all know, art is but the application of science to any particular field, Hahnemann and those who have worked with him leaves theory for fact; fact does not change ; it is added to but it does not change. Reactions of the human healthy body, recorded in the words of the person acted upon, admit no misinterpretations with changing medical terminology, altered biological conceptions, and newer scientific attitudes.

To a layman or novice who goes through the Homoeopathic Materia Medica it may seem that all the medicines are similar and all will act to a number of cases. Take an acute symptom, for instance, pain in head. Kent gives 258 remedies for pain in head. All these will cure pain in the head because all have produced pain in the head. Then it may seem easy to prescribe. Give anyone of the remedies and the prescriber, to his dismay may see the case in hand an utter failure, provided 'the remedy chosen is not a similimum. Why? The prescriber has directed his attention to a single symptom only, 'pain in head', or headache, as they would like us to call. He has not thought of the patient as a whole. 'He is not sick because of the headache, but the headache is because he is sick', must be the attitude of the prescriber. Then he can perceive something more in his patient. The type of pain, the cause of pain, the locality of pain, modalities of pain, other concomitant symptoms, etc. will come in the fore. Now compare these symptoms with those of the Materia Medica. Then will come one remedy which will be the similimum. Administer that and he can see how gently, how quickly the pain disappears.

Every homoeopath knows the importance of taking a case thoroughly. Taking a case itself is an art. H.A. Roberts in *The Principles and Art of Cure by Homoeopathy* says : "Each symptom must be rounded out as to time and place ; the sensations ; the kind of distress ; the type of pain ; all of the modalities connected with it ; the probable causation, that is, what the patient thinks was the start of the trouble. Under the modalities, we must secure the aggravations and ameliorations of each individual symptom, so far as possible. The

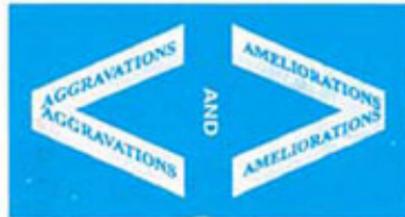
modalities, the aggravations and ameliorations, are the most important. ...Remember that the nature and sensation of the symptoms, the time of day, the positions and circumstances under which symptoms appear, are the most important modifiers of any given case.... In analysing the case, very valuable symptoms are those pertaining to the aggravations and ameliorations are the natural modifiers of diseased states and the definite reaction of the man himself."

Since modalities are the natural modifiers of the body and as such represent the man himself, and since we homoeopaths are curing the sick man, the significance of aggravations and ameliorations come to the forefront in deciding the similimum. The author has in the following pages, compiled such symptoms for easy reference. He does not claim any originality and assumes responsibility for mistakes, if any. With these words the author wishes to place this volume in the hands of my brethren inviting suggestions for improvement.

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