

Edwin A. Neatby

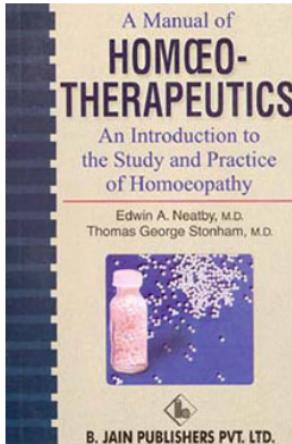
A Manual of Homoeotherapeutics

Leseprobe

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A MANUAL OF Homoeo- Therapeutics.

INTRODUCTION.

THE present volume is offered to professional readers who wish to make a first study of homceo-therapeutics, and to the students of the Missionary School of Medicine. It is not intended as a textbook for experienced practitioners of homoeopathy, though even for such it may occasionally serve as a reminder on doubtful points or where time cannot be spared for more advanced treatises or the use of repertories. It is not intended to displace or discourage the employment of such works, but to supply a primer or stepping-stone for those unfamiliar with the subject.

* * *

The observations which follow are intended chiefly for members of the medical profession commencing a study of homceo-therapeutics, and wishful to test for themselves whether the claims made for it are justified by experience. Personal experience alone can settle that question for any individual inquirer. The efficacy of a drug cannot be established by any apparent reasonableness of the principle upon which such drug is selected ; nor can the novelty or supposed unreasonableness of

demonstrates them to be, in the main, genuine drug effects. Together with toxicological reports and laboratory experiments they constitute what is known as the homoeopathic *materia medica*—that expression denoting the collected records of the powers of drugs (pharmacodynamics) both pathogenetic and therapeutic. Of these three elements in the *materia medica*—provings, laboratory researches and poisonings, the last two may be likened to the skeleton whereon are grouped the more plastic and vital elements of provings and the results of treatment, comparable with the soft tissues of the body. Poisoning records report the gross effects of drugs, showing anatomical and pathological tissue changes comparable with the pathological morbid changes in diseases. From these must be eliminated the chemical or physical effects of substances acting locally as escharotics, vesicants, &c, and producing, some of them, destructive effects on living and dead tissues alike. These results are of no use for therapeutic purposes, but effects which are the result of absorption, whether from large, medium or infinitesimal doses, are utilizable as therapeutic guides. The finer the indications the more accurate will be the prescription.

(6) *Interpretation of Symptoms.*—Objection has been taken to homoeopathy because it is said to be symptom-treating. This is not correct. Treating symptoms, surely, means giving different drugs more or less at the same time for different symptoms prominent in a case of illness. An example of this would be prescribing for the same patient a laxative for constipation, an antipyretic for raised temperature and a sedative for insomnia. To take such symptoms and to combine with them other symptoms or data—objective and subjective—

THERAPEUTICS.

Nervous System.—As would be expected from the action of plumbum as sketched above, the metal has its principal therapeutic application in the treatment of nervous affections, especially of paryses, neuralgias and convulsions. An enumeration of the nervous diseases in which it has been found useful will include infantile paralysis, multiple sclerosis, progressive muscular atrophy, locomotor ataxy, paryses of local groups of muscles, such as writer's or piano-player's palsy, paryses of pharynx, tongue, eyes and facial muscles, post-diphtherial paryses, chronic forms of epilepsy, epileptiform convulsions, lock-jaw, neuralgic pains, especially of the sciatic nerves, and those accompanying cerebral or spinal diseases, such as the lightning pains of locomotor ataxy, and crampy pains in various parts which, when occurring in the chest, may simulate angina pectoris.

Plumbum will often follow opium in cases of cerebral luemorrhage. Paryses requiring plumbum are usually preceded by an altered mental condition, the patient becomes slow of perception, his memory is impaired, he cannot find the right word, is anxious and restless, sad and dejected, there may be causeless fright and paroxysms of screaming if the patient is a child, or, if an older person, sudden fainting on passing from one room to another, or on entering a room full of company. Melancholia may be followed by delirium. Certain physical symptoms also commonly precede paryses, viz., trembling, spasms, shooting pains in the course of the large nerves, violent headaches and dimness of sight.

With paralysis of any part there is *wasting, - not only of the affected muscles, but of the skin,* which becomes shiny and cold, and of subcutaneous tissues from which the fat disappears, so that a paralysed limb is much emaciated and looks like only skin and bone.

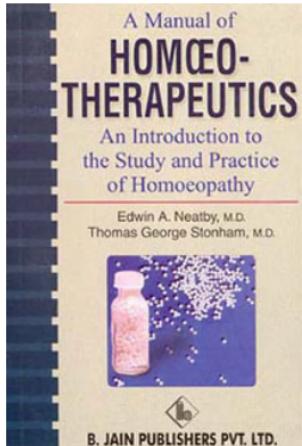
Neuralgic pains indicating plumbum are sharp and constant, acute by paroxysms, sometimes lightning-like and wander from part to part; they are relieved by *hard*

pressure and are worse from motion. Cramps, which are common, may be mistaken for rheumatism. Excessive hyperesthesia of the skin is an indication for plumbum in post-diphtheritic paralysis, as it may be also in other complaints. Vaginismus, for which the drug is useful, is the result of combined hyperesthesia and spasm.

In epilepsy plumbum is indicated in the chronic forms : before the attack the limbs are heavy and numb and the tongue swollen, after the attack there is long-lasting confusion in the head; there is no aura.

Neuralgic pains may alternate with colic, which is the same thing as saying that pain in the nerves of the limbs may give place to pain in the nerves of the intestinal walls, and is an instance of their wandering character.

Digestion.—Plumbum is an important remedy for affections of the alimentary tract when colic and constipation are present. It is useful for gastralgia when pains are very sudden and severe, are relieved by hard pressure and associated with vomiting of food; there may be a sensation in the epigastrium as if a ball rose into the throat and caused suffocation, preventing speaking and swallowing (ignat., rumex, lach.). When the vomited matters are fiecal or a brownish blood-stained fluid, and there are abdominal cramps, some obstruction of the bowels is indicated. Plumbum is the remedy if with the colic the abdominal muscles are hard and knotty, and there is a sensation of retraction of the umbilicus, the patient bends double and presses hard against the abdomen. The symptom retraction with the colic is very characteristic of this remedy, it may be a sensation only or there is an actual retraction of the umbilicus towards the spine which causes the contour of the abdomen to be concave. The colic is so severe that the pain as it were overflows and radiates to the back, loins, anus, lower extremities, chest and upper arms. Colics of this description are cured by plumbum, more especially when associated with constipation. A similar



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An Introduction to the Study and Practice of Homoeopathy

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