Chapter 1: Vital Force Why?

Why it is necessary to know the concept of Vital Force for a homoeopathic Physician?

The knowledge of the concept of VITAL FORCE is essential for a homoeopathic physician in order to be a proficient and successful practitioner in the science and the art of CURE- Homoeopathy. Dr. R. E. Dudgeon, who translated the Organon from the German into the English, writes in the preface of 5th edition, "...The fifth and last edition published in 1833, contains several novelties, such as the theories of the "vital force" and "the dynamization of medicines". In previous editions Hahnemann had in several places spoken rather slightly of the vital force and its influence on the production and cure of disease, but the expressions are rather eliminated or greatly modified in the last edition, and the "vital force" occupies quite a different and a much more important position in regard to disease, its cause and cure."

Hahnemann was a great scholar and researcher. It seems he had deeply meditated on this subject for nearly 43 years (since 1790 when he first discovered the law "similia similibus currntur") in order to perceive the importance of the "vital force"

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clinical basis in physiological doses. It is true that these medicines are being proved on lower animals like guinea pigs, monkeys and also on sick human beings before their use by the medical profession. Such medicines are prescribed in a generalized manner. The physicians first diagnose the disease by some name and then such medicines are prescribed for every patient supposed to be suffering from that so called disease. When such medicines are used, and sometimes abused widely, their side effects and toxicological effect come into light. Then such medicines are discarded and newer formulae take their place. Whereas in homoeopathy every medicinal substance is proved individually on healthy and sensitive persons to find out the pathogenesis i.e. sick making properties of each individual medicinal substance. The homoeopathic Materia Medica has been constructed mainly on this basis. Through this method the curative medicine is known for each individual case of disease before there is actual disease. The pathogenesis of each medicinal substance presents a symptomatic picture or personality of a disease having similar morbid symptoms.

Every homoeopathic physician is well aware of the fact that for nearly the past two centuries not a single medicine was discarded or became obsolete once its healthy proving was done. After proving every medicine has become a valuable asset of the The Spirit of Homoeopathic Science (Vital Force)
other way can it make itself known.* (Organon - Aphor. 11)

*A long foot-note appears in the Sixth Edition of Organon, as follows: [What is dynamic influence, - dynamic power? Our earth, by virtue of a hidden invisible energy, carries the moon around her in twenty-eight days and several hours, and the moon alternately, in definite fixed hours (deducting certain differences which occur with the full and the new moon) raises our northern seas to flood tide and again correspondingly lowers them to ebb. Apparently this takes place not through material agencies, not through mechanical contrivances, as are used for products of human labor; and so we see numerous other events about us as results of the action of one substance on another substance without being able to recognize a sensible connection between cause and effect. Only the cultured, practiced in comparison and deduction, can form for himself a kind of supra-sensual idea sufficient to keep all that is material or mechanical in his thoughts from such concepts. He calls such effects dynamic, virtual, that is, such a result from absolute, specific, pure energy and action of the one substance upon the other substance.

For instance, the dynamic effect of the sick-making influences upon healthy man as well as the dynamic energy of the medicines upon the

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through the proper understanding of the art of case taking, so that he could make out, what is to be cured in the disease (nature of the morbid energy); the knowledge of the pathogenesis of the medicinal substances- inherent energy of the medicinal substance- (through the study of the detailed Materia Medica), so that he could establish the similarity between the nature of the morbid energy and the inherent energy of some particular medicinal substance with the help of the mental, emotional and physical symptom termed as "totality of the disease" and a medicinal substance which has produced similar group of symptom totality/picture. The use of such similar medicine in proper potency and in minimal dose to be repeated at proper and requisite time the homoeopathic physician performs the cure as defined by Hahnemann in Aphor. 2

"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".

Thus he can fulfill his mission as defined by the Master in Para. 1 of his Organon in the following word:

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

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