

Chapter 1 : The Accidental Genius of Homeopathy | Medpage Today

The Genius of Homeopathy Lectures and Essays on Homeopathic Philosophy By Dr Stuart M. CLOSE Presented by MÃ©di-T Preface Chapter I - The Psychological Point of View.

To clear this point he ransacked literature for incidental cures so made, as well as started experiments of his own for the purpose of discovering pure drug effects, which could in turn be tried out upon the sick. The world knows the result. Thus it came about that homoeopathy was born as a perfected system of universal application, in spite of the fact that many of its parts had from time to time been separately set forth; as when Paracelsus declared that all drugs act potentially only. They used the most natural forms, of expression, making the paragraphs of the Organon models of concise reasoning, while the symptoms of the Materia Medica Pura are reproductions of rare native simplicity. This is in itself a tower of strength, because it constantly holds before the prescriber a natural picture whose elements must reappear in the sick. In comparing two such images it is self evident that the outlines regions must be similar and the general colouring conditions quite alike, but above all the motive mentality and sensation must bear the closest resemblance. Confusion in any one of these throws just that much uncertainty into the outcome. Essential peculiarities do not necessarily belong to any particular one of these spheres, for the investigator can only obtain what is available, although he may project the known harmoniously into the obscure, and when the doubtful field is one in which the otherwise well indicated remedy is known to be very active, it may well be taken as an affirmative indication both therapeutically and diagnostically. As a method this involves great risks, because it not only necessitates a profound knowledge of the natural ramifications of disease, but also implies an equal grasp of the finer extensions of drug action. Every picture has a motive or central idea., which controls the meaning of the whole. The careful observer tries to find this govern-ing factor first of all, for he knows that it colours the whole scheme and its detection will simplify matters. If there is a multiplicity of detail, the learner is discouraged and soon lost. Indeed, does not simplicity teach the highest form of art? This is an universal lesson, which applies with great force to the study of materia medica and therapy. Most symptoms come on in groups, and as all are alike the product of vital reaction, resemblances are bound to appear. These may be very strong, as in the case of Lachesis and diphtheria, Mercury and syphilis, etc. This is nevertheless a dangerous generalisation which encourages slovenly prescribing, even from a diagnostic standpoint. These group-effects also show a selective action upon particular and associated organs, whose interdependent symptoms may in turn aid in elucidating the choice of a curative remedy, as well as in clearing up the diagnosis; but they often lack the individuality of the apparently less related concomitants whose importance grows as they seem to lose connection with the affected part. This is especially true where the deeply rooted miasms are concerned. On the other hand, the symptoms and modalities of the affected part are of more commanding importance in very acute affections and the early stages of disease. He does not need this jargon of strange sounds to tell us that he is really sick, while we close our own minds to the actual realities of sickness every time we think of his illness in an exclusively pathological light. If he is full of words it is hardly likely that his talk will interest us very much; his loquacity and its character will be the point at issue. If he be reticent, the reasons therefore must be discovered. It is a case of finding the mental attitude. In the absence of this, the prescriber is severely handicapped. What does the patient do? Does he walk up and down the room rike Aconite or Arsenic, or does he lie very still in bed like Bryonia or Colchicum? It is then a question of watching him and seeing what is to be seen. The time when his distress comes on or is worse is the next great and often decisive factor, as when it returns at a fixed hour like China-sul. The wide latitude covered by our sensations is really remarkable and is only limited by the imagination. Sensation plays us many a trick, so that we are continually trying to place our hand upon it, define its character and find out its movements. If this elusiveness is excessive we think strongly of Iguana, which by the same sign cures many a nervous feeling that it has never yet produced. According to the laws of reaction remedies can remove only what they can also cause. It seems to work both ways, like the wonderfully ingenious argument for the necessity for sin; but every thing must needs have a beginning and it is just about as well to look at things as they start out. It gives a

much clearer view of what happens to follow, and saves a lot of mental gymnastics in the form of backward reasoning, helping us to avoid the innumerable pitfalls into which classic school medicine has so ingloriously fallen by sticking to the aposteriori road. It is now trying to abandon this method by a flank movement along the windings of Serum creek. From the study of a real materia medica to the meanderings of a well oiled experimental laboratory is indeed a far cry, but it seems that most minds must perforce darken the glass before they dare to look through it. They strain every inventive faculty of circumvent the open book of nature which writes similitudes everywhere, even leaving a faint trace of them in the doings of the germs which we are so fond of hunting down with infinite patience and the aid of much gold. In that wonderful record of experiments called Materia Medica the whole gamut of human feeling and emotion is carefully explored, along with some mention of conditions, season and weather, but there is almost complete silence as to the exact hour, the state of the barometer, the direction and nature of the prevailing winds and the position of the most influential heavenly bodies. He cast out the doctrine of signatures as then believed, but in doing so went too far, leaving us almost no record of the simultaneous natural phenomena. This never can be anything but a mistake, for such things do not simply happen so without any mutual influence whatsoever, and it should be our business to find out all about such matters, regardless of the results obtained or the jeers of a deadening and destructive unbelief. It is very difficult to say much on one of Dr. To get in a short sentence or in one idea what Dr. Boger calls the genius of a remedy. It then often reflects back a valuable light on diagnosis. I was called to see a case in which the diagnosis had been made of the last stages of general tuberculosis. The symptoms called for Lachesis and because of the remedy required I was not satisfied with the diagnosis and after death found that it was a colon bacillus infection. The other point is in reference to the far cry from the results of a well appointed laboratory skilfully handled to crude laboratory methods such as are all too frequent. We should be able to apply to the provings what we may learn in the laboratory. It was a difficult remedy for me to understand, for a long time, until I obtained from one of the books the fact that potash aids in the oxidation of certain organic substances and increases the amount of urates because of increase in the breaking down of tissues. That helped me a great deal in understanding the essential character of Kali carb. The facts of laboratory investigation fit in or should fit in with the facts that are developed in a good proving and the two combine and fasten the action of the remedy in mind in a concise form and thus contribute to an idea of what Dr. Boger calls the genius of the remedy. In other words, as I see it, he maintains that the mere number of symptoms, mechanically dug out, is not so important as an insight into the case and the remedy that enables one to put the emphasis into the right place. These are the points that should be taught in our colleges and to our younger prescribers, but seldom are. I have heard a discussion of these finer points in the classroom, but we all have occasion constantly to analyze our cases in much the same manner in our own practice. Should other symptoms point decidedly to Baryta carb. In this way we may extend the symptoms of remedies into- regions that are but faintly or not at all portrayed in the proving. In the concluding paragraph of my paper I laid some stress upon the relation of meteorological phenomena to disease. We should know more about the effects of the winds and weather upon the action of remedies and disease.

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Hazy and confused ideas prevail. One believes too much, the other too little. Neither one knows why he succeeds in one case and fails in another. Haphazard cures do not justify boasting. What we need is clean-cut, scientific work; work capable of being rationally explained and verified; results attained by the intelligent application of a definite principle and a perfected technic in a sharply delimited field. The therapeutic principle is known; the technic of prescribing has been developed; a large number of remedies have been prepared; but the field of action has not been clearly defined. In this respect we are like an army which is wasting much good ammunition trying to search out a hidden enemy of whose exact location it is ignorant. A philosophical aeroplane, sent into, the upper regions. It is concerned only with disease per se, in its primary, functional or dynamical aspect. Disease per se, Hahnemann says, is "nothing more than an alteration in the state of health of a healthy individual," caused by the dynamic action of external, inimical forces upon the life principle of the living organism, making itself known only by perceptible signs and symptoms, the totality of which represents and for all practical purposes constitutes the disease. We do not prescribe for the tumor which affects the patient, nor are we guided by the secondary symptoms which arise from the mere physical presence of the tumor: We prescribe for the patient-selecting and being guided by the symptoms which represent the morbid, vital process which preceded, accompanied and -ultimated in the development of the tumor. If there is doubt as to which symptoms are primary and which are secondary the history will decide. In the evolution of disease in the living organism, functional changes precede organic or structural changes. The order in which the symptoms of a case appear, therefore, enables us to determine which are primary and which secondary, as well as to, ascribe reflex symptoms to their source and correctly localize the disease. Symptoms are the outwardly perceptible signs or phenomena of internal morbid changes in the state of the previously healthy organism, and are our only means of knowing what disease is. They represent a change from a state of order to a state of disorder. When the symptoms are removed the disease ceases to exist. These phenomena result from and represent the action upon the living organism of some external agent or influence inimical to life. From this point of view, the most significant and general feature to be observed about the phenomena or disease is the fact of motion, action, change; change of states, forms and positions; change resulting from the application of morbid force in the living organism; change from a state of health to a state of disease; and the reverse; change of symptoms and their groupings; change of order to disorder change of form of diseased structures; change of function; change of molecular combination and arrangement; everywhere motion, change and transformation so long as life lasts. In one word, we find ourselves in the realm of pure dynamics. Its field is the field of disordered vital phenomena and functional changes in the individual patient, irrespective of the name of the disease, or of its cause. Its object is the restoration of order and harmony in vital functioning in the individual patient. Its laws are the laws of motion operating in the vital realm, which govern all vital action. Its fundamental principle is the universal principle of Mutual Action. All these perceptible signs represent the disease in its whole extent, that is, together they form the true and only conceivable portrait of the disease. The tangible things which the examining physician finds in the body are not the disease, but merely its effects. It is as impossible, and therefore as futile, to try to, find a disease in the hidden interior of the organism as it would be to try to find a thought by an exploration of the interior of the brain, the electricity in the interior of a dynamo or the song in the throat of a bird. Such things are known only by their phenomena. Metaphysically considered, they may be said to subsist in the dynamic realm as substantial entities, or forces, but as such they are perceptible only to the "inner vision," through the eyes of the mind. They are "spiritually that is, mentally discerned. Practically, however, we do not deal with abstractions. We deal with facts and phenomena, with symptoms. The removal of all the perceptible symptoms or phenomena of disease removes disease itself and restores health. Effects of disease in morbid function and sensation may remain after the causes have been removed. Removal of the tangible products of disease, if it be too far advanced, may have to

be relegated to surgery. It stands to reason, as Hahnemann says, that every intelligent physician, having a knowledge of rational etiology, will first remove by appropriate means, as far as possible, every exciting and maintaining cause of disease and obstacle to cure, and endeavor to establish a correct and orderly course of living for his patient, with due regard to mental and physical hygiene. Having done this, he addresses himself to the problem of finding that remedy, the symptoms of which in their nature, origin and order of development are most similar to the symptoms of the patient, and to the proper management of it, when found, as to size and frequency of doses. Thus, the growth of tumors may be retarded or arrested; absorption and repair promoted, even to a total removal of the morbid product or growth; secretions and excretions may be increased or decreased; eruptions, sores and ulcers healed. But all these happy tangible results are only incidental and Secondary to. Following the exclusion method adopted by Dake, in his "Therapeutic Methods," and using a modification of his phrasing, the sphere of Similia may be defined as follows: It relates primarily to no affections of health which will, of themselves, cease after the removal of the exciting cause by physical, chemical or hygienic measures. It relates primarily to no affections of health occasioned by the injury of destruction of tissues which are incapable of restoration. It relates primarily to no affections of health where the vital reactive power of the organism to medicines is exhausted, obstructed or prevented. It relates to no affection of health, the symptomatic likeness of which may not be perceptibly produced in the healthy organism by medical means, nor to affections in which such symptoms are not perceptible. The sphere of Similia in medicine is thus limited to those morbid functional conditions and processes which result primarily from the dynamic action upon the living organism of morbid agents inimical to life. The living organism may be acted upon or affected primarily in three ways: The causes of disease fall naturally under these three heads. Under the head of mechanical causes of disease come all traumatic agencies, such as lesions, injuries and destruction of tissues resulting from physical force; morbid growths, formations and foreign substances; congenitally defective or absent organs or parts, prolapsed or displaced organs, etc. These conditions are related primarily to surgery, physical therapeutics and hygiene. Entozoa or organized living animal parasites, when their presence in the body gives rise to disease, must be expelled by mechanical measures or by the administration of medicines capable of weakening or destroying them without endangering the person suffering from their presence. The effects of dynamical causes of disease, by which, is meant all those intangible and medicinal or toxic agents and influences which primarily disturb the vital functions of mind and body, come legitimately within the sphere of Similia. These are very numerous, but they may be roughly classified as 1 mental or psychical, atmospheric, thermic, electric, telluric and climatic, 2 dietetic, hygienic, contagious, infectious and specific-the last three including all disorders arising from the use or abuse of drugs, and from all bacterial agents or pathogenic microorganisms which produce their effects through their specific toxins or alkaloids. Such agents have their use only in the field of sanitation, which is environmental, not personal. Looking at the various drugs and other agencies capable of influencing health, and advancing, as before, by the method of exclusion, it may be said: It relates to none applied for mechanical effect simply. It relates to none required in the development or support of the organism when in health. It relates to none employed directly to remove or destroy the parasites which infest or prey upon the human body. To the foregoing propositions are formulated by Dake one more should be added. Although the ruling principle of his medical life is cure by symptom-similarity, and that end is always held in view as an ideal, he is not thereby forbidden the use of palliative measures in cases where they are appropriate and necessary. Hahnemann, after showing the futility of antipathic medication as a curative method, and pointing out the dangers incidental to its use, admits the utility and necessity of resorting to palliation in certain emergencies. In a note to Paragraph 67, he says: When this stimulation is effected, the play of vital organs goes on again in its former healthy manner, for there is here no disease to be removed, but merely an obstruction and suppression of the healthy vital force. To this category belong various antidotes to sudden poisonings; alkalies for mineral acids, hepar sulphuris for metallic poisons, coffee and camphor and ipecacuanha for poisoning by opium, etc. It may fairly be extended, for example, to cover certain cases where sudden and unendurable pain occurs and collapse is threatened by such semi-mechanical conditions as the presence or passage of renal calculi and gravel, or biliary concretions. In this region each physician must be governed by his own individual judgment and the

circumstances of the case. It follows that there will always be differences of opinion between individual physicians under such circumstances. He will not allow either pride or prejudice to obscure his sense of his own limitations, nor those of his art. Circumstances sometimes arise when the strongest man and ablest prescriber, by reason of the great moral pressure brought to bear upon him by the peculiarities of his patient, of the environment, or from lack of time, will be compelled to tide over a period of unendurable suffering by the use of analgesics, or of some other measure to meet extraordinary emergencies. He does this as a charitable concession to the weakness of human nature, his own perhaps as well as others, without in the least degree lowering his standards, or bringing discredit upon himself or his art. He does this knowing, perhaps, that if he had time and the circumstances permitted, he could do better. But time and circumstances are sometimes, at least temporarily, beyond his control. It is possible to violate the spirit by adhering too closely to the letter of the law. A strategic retreat to another line of defense in war often gives a stronger base from which to launch a successful attack. In cases of renal or hepatic colic, for example: It has often been done and, when possible, is the ideal way. But the physician may have been newly called to the case or family and not have had time to gain their complete confidence by the results of his work and teaching. Others are interested only in quick results, caring little or nothing about how they are obtained. It is in such cases that the pressure referred to will be brought to bear upon him, and he may be compelled to resort temporarily to palliation to gain time and strengthen his position. Unless he can do this there is but one honorable course left for him to pursue-resign the case and withdraw. In pursuing either of those courses the conscientious practitioner is beyond the criticism of all fair-minded persons. But he is always open and frequently subjected to the attacks of prejudice, bigotry and jealousy, and to these the best defense is silence and a clear conscience.

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"The genius of homeopathic remedies" stresses upon the symptoms of a remedy which are highly characteristic and run like a red strand through the whole pathogenesis of the remedy as the universal symptoms.

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Voila, the accidental genius of homeopathy thrives. Deliver a competent-seeming, confidence-oozing, self-labeled healer who listens with empathy, communicates well, and radiates good will, who.

Chapter 8 : The Genius of Homeopathy - Lectures and Essays on Homeopathic Philosophy - By Dr Stuart

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Main. The Genius of Homeopathy Lectures and Essays on Homeopathic Philosophy By Dr Stuart M. CLOSE Presented by MÃ©di-T Preface MANY of the articles which make up this book were originally prepared and delivered as lectures for the Senior Classes of the New-York HomÃ©opathic Medical College, during my engagement as Professor of HomÃ©opathic Philosophy,

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