

Editor Speak

Dear Readers,

Homeopathy throughout its history of 200 years has experienced varying degrees of opposition from orthodox physicians, be it in India, Europe or America. Wherever homeopaths have been given a free environment to practice homeopathy, it has grown and flourished. Homeopathy was brought to India by Dr Honigberger who arrived in Lahore in 1829-1830. The then ruler of Punjab, Maharaja Ranjit singh was impressed by him when he treated his favourite horse of its bad leg ulcers. On his consequent visit to India in 1839, Dr Honigberger treated Maharaja Ranjit Singh for paralysis of vocal cords and oedema. The Maharaja was relieved of his complains and in return Dr Honigberger was made in charge of a hospital and later on went on to practice in Calcutta. Homeopathy continued to spread in India as Indians found its philosophy and principles a reflection of their belief and culture.

Homeopathy is even more popular in India as it received the support of Mahatma Gandhi who was reported to have said that "it cures a greater number of people than any other method of treatment".

Homeopathy has been widely practiced in India since the middle of the 19th century and is an officially recognized system of medicine. India has the largest homeopathic infrastructure in the world in terms of qualified doctors in institutions and drug manufacturing industry. There are over 100,000 qualified homeopaths, 180 colleges and over 5000 government clinics. Along with ayurveda, homeopathy, is the second most popular system of medicine in India. Many speciality hospitals, like the Bombay hospital have homeopathic departments. Large corporate houses like the Tata group have homeopathic medical services for their employees. Recognized and used by millions, homoeopathy still lacks the benefit of scientific proving and that's where the lacuna lies.

But if we analyze each and every principle of homoeopathy, each has a scientific basis to it. For example the principle of drug dynamization, is based on the scientific concept that the rubbing together of two metallic objects brings out heat. Hahnemann is quite specific in *Organon,* §269: *"This remarkable transformation of the properties of natural bodies through the mechanical action of trituration and succussion on their particles (while these particles are diffused in an inert dry or liquid substance) develops the latent dynamic powers previously imperceptible and as it were lying hidden asleep in them. These powers electively affect the vital principle of animal life. This process is called dynamization or potentization (development of medicinal power), and it creates what we call dynamizations or potencies of different degrees."*

Hahnemann performed dynamization, or potentization, of medicines by a precise numbers of shakings – succussions – in given time sequences, or by an exact number of mixing – triturations – of a pure, diluted medicinal substance that was free from all coarse materials. Such high dilution was than potentized – dynamized – by repeated shakings. For treatment Hahnemann used as a rule high potencies which he achieved by diluting thirty times and than by dynamizing with exact number of shakings. This issue contains an article on "Dynamization" and its scientific relation.

Hypothyroidism is a condition in which the body lacks sufficient thyroid hormone. Homoeopathy has known to have a remarkable effect on keeping the thyroid hormones at an optimum level. According to a research at Gaurang Clinic and Centre for Homoeopathic Research, homoeopathic medicines were able to inhibit serum TSH level significantly in most patients. The complete documented article has been published in this issue of "Advancements in Homoeopathic Research".

"Potency selection" has been one of the greatest dilemmas for prescription in homoeopathy. In an article, the authors have highlighted the science of application of dosage and repetition of doses in acute diseases.

Advancements in Homoeopathic Research publishes authentic well documented articles on the latest and current research in homoeopathy to spread awareness and remove the doubts that many have on the science of homoeopathic system.

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