

Editor Speak

Dear Readers,

ENIGMA IN THE SCIENCE OF HOMEOPATHY

Dr Hahnemann developed Homoeopathy as a complete health system with a strong base on curative care in relation with the principle of *Similia*, *Genus Epidemicus* on preventive care and *constitutional and anti miasmatic* principles on promotive health. His main concerns while codifying Homeopathy were on safety of the medicines and on the efficacy of remedies. He largely succeeded in evolving a medical system that is easily comprehensible, safe, effective and affordable to the public. Homeopathy is now considered as one of the most rational medical arts.

The central theme of the system is the *Similia* concept that was made known to the world of medicine from antiquity. Within the time and resources available at his disposal, Hahnemann fortified this theme with the core principles of *drug dynamization*, *drug proving* and *individualization*. It was further reinforced with supportive principles such as *chronic diseases, vital force, minimum dose* and *miasms*. Thus, he laid down a sound theoretical foundation with practical explanations to his new founded medical discipline. Thus, now Homoeopathy is the most sought after comprehensive holistic health care option to the public.

If one critically examines the theories postulated by Hahnemann to consolidate Homoeopathy as an independent medical system, we could see that he was fretful on developing a more rational therapeutics, rather than finding the technical basis to its principles. This is evident from the way he explained extensively the concepts, principles and theories revolving around the *Similia*. When he started diluting the original drug substances to reduce their toxicity or potentising the inert substances to enhance their pharmaco-dynamic properties, Hahnemann well explained the process to be adopted to obtain the resultsin potentisation, drug proving and individualization. But he did not give a plausible explanation on why, how and what happens in the process. Thus, we know well on the method to potentise a medicine on different scales, number of strokes to be applied, quantity of vehicle to be used etc. The same is the case of drug proving. He laid down the criteria of selecting the provers, method of introducing the medicine, eliciting the symptom and evolving the drug picture. Hahnemann and his cohorts gave us the process of perceiving the case, analysis of the symptom to erect the totality and individualize the patient.

We are, therefore, well informed about the process of potentisation, but very less is known on what, why and how the dynamic changes happen to the remedies. Similarly, we are well trained on individualization but less is taught on its co-relation with human genomics, gene expressions or the basis of bio genetic characterization of the individual. We are also extensively skilled on the process of drug proving, but not knowledgeable on how the symptoms evolve on a prover. Thus, we have one of the most refined medical systems with distinct principles whose procedures are established but the science behind them is less known.

Hahnemann was one of the most well read scientists of his time with an analytical mind being considered to be the father of experimental pharmacology. The limitations of the science prevailed at the time could be one viable reason why some concepts and principles remained more at a philosophical domain rather than a realistic realm. It is the time now to understand why the edifice of homoeopathy that spread like wildefire across the globe two centuries ago gets the threat of annihilation. Is there a possibility of disintegration of the principles of homoeopathy before the expanding

world of science?

The irrefutable clinical evidence in conditions for which there is less treatment options in bio medicine is a big surprise to the world of medicine. The scepticism on the scientific basis of Homeopathy that prevailed few decades ago is less aggressive now. Curiosity to understand the principle in Homoeopathy that defies the edifice of science is creating an openness to investigate the truthfulness. There is pragmatism to understand the system more closely than any time before.

The tools of scientific investigation available now are enviably enormous. It is for us to facilitate inquisitiveness to investigate plausibility of the principles of Homoeopathy. There is a need to create more space for integrating Homeopathy with the world of science. This is possible when a common language or a common algorithm is evolved for better communication. The common language is the language of research. Research questions motivate scientific minds to investigate. Methodologies and tools are plentiful. The designs are to be directed by well informed scientists. Luckily, in India there are few fair mindednesses. Recently the CCRH has signed an MOU with Govt of Israel, one of the countries that promote unbiased investigation on abstract principles through the dominion of science. A collaborative investigation on some principles, may be theory of Individuation, could give dividends.

Research methodology promotes observation on sequential events that pave way for formulation of questions. Based on the information hypothesis could be prepared that are put for series of testing to see whether the results are re producible. Once the results are reproducible, the hypothesis would get validation or put for more rigorous testing for acceptance or rejection. There have been questions whether Homeopathy is a science and at the same time there exist irrefutable evidences observed through sequential events on the core principles of Homeopathy. The process on the principles taught by Hahnemann speaks about it practical application, but for a solid theoretical foundation we need to ask questions such as why , what and how it happens.

We shall get answers to these questions through validated methodologies. With the massive army of practitioners, researchers, teachers and students of Homeopathy, we need to make it possible with the enlightened Mentors. The enigma around Homeopathy should go.

Thamasoma Jyothirgamaya.
We can make it if we come out of the comfort and contentment that Homeopathy gives to us.

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Editor