

HOMOEOPATHY THE SCIENCE OF THERAPEUTICS

Carroll Dunham -

- Homoeopathy claims to be "THE SCIENCE OF THERAPEUTICS" with an assumption that prior to the establishment of homoeopathy on a scientific basis, Therapeutics, as a Science, had no Existence.
- To understand Science of therapeutics one needs to understand
 - ① The nature and preconditions of the only possible Science of therapeutics.
 - ② To Examine the methods by which this Science can be studied and made Subservient to the practical art of medicine.
- The Word therapeutics means → Healing, Curative, Beneficial, Restorative
↓
- It is the branch of Medicine Concerned with the treatment of diseases and the Action of remedial agents.
- Few Cases are mentioned by Dunham which need only Correction in the hygiene and diet and therapeutics had not yet come into play in those cases.

Example →

→ In a Case of Epileptiform Convulsions, which may arise from various Proximate Causes.

In this case the physician's knowledge of pathology enabled him to differentiate b/w the Varieties of convulsion as to their proximate cause, His Acquaintance with physiology enabled him to detect the Seat of Imitation, and finally his dexterity in practical Surgery placed him in power to cure the patient.

In this the removal of the Cause of Imitation removed the convulsions.

2. A child of two and half years Suffering with Epileptiform convulsions → Cause was the food the child take i.e Molasses cake and milk → Once this diet was reformed the Spasms steadily decreased in frequency and Violence.

And no medicine was given Only the diet has been changed.

→ So, the knowledge of physiology, anatomy, and hygiene are necessary for the physician to analyse the case and determine under which category it falls.

And helps to know whether it requires the medicine or not for the treatment.

→ So, the application of Scientific knowledge together with therapeutics is necessary.

THE NATURE AND LIMITS OF THE SCIENCES OF HYGIENE AND THERAPEUTICS :

→ Living organism possesses a susceptibility to the action of certain general stimuli such as light, heat, electricity, atmospheric air.

→ When the stimuli acting on the organism is in a relative proportion as regards intensity & quantity

↓
The Equilibrium of the functions is preserved and organism continues in healthy action.

→ If the proportion of stimuli is abnormal

↓
Then the functions are abnormal
deviating from healthy to diseased
state.

- Absolute withdrawal of stimuli for any considerable length of time → Results in death.
- As the stimuli are continually varying in proportion, the relative susceptibility of the organism also continually changes.
- The disease does not constantly exist, because of the inherent power of the organism to recover. It's a kind of elasticity, a power of enduring disturbance for sometime & then rebounding back to normal function again.
- But this elasticity has its limits in the organism.
- When the deviated state of health is not restored with the help of general stimuli then it needs a new element foreign to the organism and different from general stimuli called as a Specific Special stimulus

SCIENCE OF THERAPEUTICS → Application of the
Special stimuli to the diseased organism

SCIENCE OF HYGIENE → Restoration and maintenance
of a proper Equilibrium of the general
stimuli

Example: A person Exposed to cold

↓
has chills & rigors

↓
General stimulus ← (WARM DRINKS)

for deficiency of heat

↓
Treated on general principle

CAUSA SUBLATA TOLLITUR EFFECTUS

[Upon removal of the cause, the effect is
removed]

This represent the Great Law of Hygiene

→ And if the cold is Very Severe, in spite of
Cause being removed, as the organism
has suffered a dynamic & then a organic
change, functions are permanently
modified.

→ Here, the general stimulus failed to bring back health. It needs for Special Stimulus which is the therapeutic Law, and these new stimuli are therapeutic agents.

Law + stimuli(agent) → Science of therapeutics.

THE CONDITIONS OF A SCIENCE OF THERAPEUTICS:

1. The Capability of Infinite progress in each of its elements without detriment to its integrity as a whole.

Ex: Newton's law in physics

Dalton's Atomic theory → part of Faraday's theory of identity of chemical affinity & electrical attraction.

The phenomena and the Law are keeping on progressing from minor to a grander generalization, as it was advanced and no destruction of previous steps.

2. It must furnish means of prevision. It shall provide for the prediction of future events within its own domain.

Ex: Discovery of the planet Neptune by Leverrier and Adams affords an instance of this prevision in Astronomy i.e. predicted the Existence & position of Neptune using only mathematical calculations.

The RATIONAL MEDICINE cannot fulfill these conditions of Science of therapeutics as

→ The old School therapeutics based the plan of cure upon the nature of disease i.e. pathognomonic Symptoms of the Case.

→ And it is not Capable of Infinite progress
ex: methods followed by Brosseau; theory of dyscrasias, humoral and solid pathology → All these had successive rise and decline.

DOES HOMOEOPATHY FULFILL THE CONDITIONS OF A SCIENCE OF THERAPEUTICS?

Yes, and the reasons are as follows -

- ① Homoeopathy consists of a law or formula which expresses the relation between given case of disease and drug proving. and the law is *Similia Similibus Curentur*.

So, it is capable of Infinite progress in its each element without destroying the previously constructed ones.

- ② Second Condition prevision - is fulfilled by homoeopathy.

In this The medicine can cure the disease if symptoms correspond.

An illustrious Example was mentioned regarding the prevision condition

→ Dr. Hahnemann, without seeing a single case of Asiatic Cholera, had predicted the medicine for the case.

Thus, through the knowledge of physiology, pathology, Anatomy, a physician learns to know disease.

But, it is through Therapeutics alone, that he can cure it.

HOW TO STUDY THE SCIENCE OF THERAPEUTICS -

When a case comes to a physician, it is the responsibility of the physician to ascertain what branch of medical Science he is called upon to Exercise.

What the case requires i.e. Hygienic
management
Therapeutic
or Both.

For this the physician should be Equipped with the knowledge of physiology and pathology to know the disease and through therapeutics alone he can cure any ailment.