

REMINISCENCES

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AUTHORS' NOTE

Study of indigenous drugs has been one of the major thrust areas of the Council, be it through Drug Standardization, Drug Proving or Clinical Verification. However, 30 years hence, most of the drugs studied continue to be under-utilized by the homoeopathic profession. Such vital research studies need to be reposted through appropriate channels for wider appreciation and knowledge sharing. The following review is an attempt in this regard.

EDITORIAL

The Editorial of the issue begins on a thought-provoking note, "The applied science thrives on continuous research, otherwise, it stagnates and dies." The editor, Dr. V.P. Singh, lays down the importance of the objective of the research in science. It highlights that good results are outcomes of good research studies, which in turn, are based on good objectives.

PROVINGS – PLANNING AND PROTOCOL

The author Dr. V.M. Nagpaul reveals in this article how provings provide knowledge about the instruments that homoeopaths used in combating human sickness. However, provings need a lot of pre-planning and laying of protocols to achieve scientific validity. The author informs us that Dr. Hahnemann gave credit to the physician Albrecht Von Haller for observing before him the method of proving drugs, to elicit their pure and peculiar effects, by altering the sensorial condition of man. However, credit goes to Hahnemann for enunciating the fundamental theoretical basis of the proving of drugs on healthy persons. The author then

explains how the discovery of Homoeopathy took place through the proving of the Cinchona bark by Hahnemann. Ranging from aims and objectives of homoeopathic proving to various elements of the protocol, like investigators, volunteers, the test substance, and its dosage, involved in a drug proving process, the author explains the points succinctly and lucidly. Other aspects of proving, like the time scale for the process, nature of trials, precautions to be observed, proforma layout and recording, as also other legal and ethical considerations, are also described in the article.

The author stresses upon the need for adequate pre-planning of a proving program, while warning that an inappropriately planned proving might be worse than no proving at all.

HOMOEOPATHIC REPERTORIAL INDEX FOR EPILEPSY

Authors, Drs. V.P. Singh and Gulraj Kaur, share in this feature a vital Repertorial Index for epilepsy. Introducing the condition as more of a symptom than a disease in itself, and its causes and features, they mention the prevalence rate of the condition to be about 0.5%, with a male to female ratio of 10:8, with most patients having their first attack before the age of 20. Touching upon the classification of epilepsy and its general management and conventional treatment, the authors then introduce the objective of their article, that of indexing the available data in the form of a homoeopathic repertory, on the basis of pathognomonic or non-pathognomonic (uncommon) symptoms, with the view of offering to physicians a ready reference for epilepsy cases. The authors take Kent's and

Boericke's repertoires as the source material. Even as the rubric 'convulsions, epileptic' was taken from Kent's, 'Epilepsy' was taken from Boericke's as a reflection of the main pathognomonic symptom. The related medicines were placed in alphabetic order, with the gradings from each repertory remaining intact. The denotations (K) and (B) were used for the rubrics of Kent's repertory and Boericke's repertory, respectively. In all 27 common signs and symptoms were considered, covering 125 medicines. This laborious study was reflected in a comprehensive chart published alongside.

CLINICAL TRIALS WITH *HOLARRHENA ANTIDYSENTERICA* AND *GLYCOSMIS PENTAPHYLLA (ATISTA INDICA)*: THE INDIGENOUS HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES

The authors, Drs. B.N. Dutta and S. Das, highlighted in the article, the usefulness of the two drugs, *Holarrhena antidysenterica* and *Glycosmis pentaphylla (Atista indica)*, in amoebiasis and other gastrointestinal disorders, by verifying some earlier proven symptoms, and finding some new symptoms during the trials. They also revealed that the drugs were short-acting in nature and more effective in Q and 3× potencies, in repeated doses. Despite the fact that the utility of these drugs in amoebiasis was known during fragmentary proving by Dr. M. L. Sarkar (1973) and Dr. K. K. Bhattacharjee (1917), these drugs were not used in the homoeopathic profession due to lack of authentic clinical verification data, which inspired the authors to take up clinical trials on these drugs at the Calcutta Unit of the Council during the period 1972-1977. A total of 77 cases were enrolled, with 39 cases of *Holarrhena antidysenterica* and 38 cases of *Glycosmis pentaphylla*. The cases were placed under three groups, acute, chronic, and chronic with acute exacerbations. The already available symptoms in the literature were taken as the guiding symptoms for selecting the drugs.

The results revealed that the majority of the cases belonged to the age group of 11–30 years, and most of them were chronic in nature. It was noticed that the cases improved faster with *Holarrhena antidysenterica* than with *Glycosmis pentaphylla*. The authors concluded that the drugs had the power

to relieve various symptoms of amoebiasis and other gastrointestinal disorders. A striking feature of *Glycosmis pentaphylla* that was revealed by the authors was that it proved to be of great value in cases of amoebiasis associated with itching around the anus, passing of pin worms, and hyperacidity.

PRELIMINARY ACUTE AND SUBACUTE TOXICITY STUDY OF SOME HOMOEOPATHIC DRUGS

Drs. K. P. Singh and P. N. Varma, in this article, present the study of 13 homoeopathic drugs for their preliminary acute and subacute toxic effects on 181 albino mice. These 13 drugs were, *Acidum formicum*, *Aegle folia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Cannabis indica*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Cassia fistula*, *Cuprum oxydatum nigrum*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Hydrocotyle asiatica*, *Solanum xanthocarpum*, *Thymol*, and *Tylophora indica*. Except for *Thymol*, which was used in 3× potency, the rest of the drugs were used in the mother tincture form (1×). Of the 13 drugs, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Acidum formicum* were found to be quite toxic, resulting in the death of all the mice within six days. However, *Cannabis indica*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Azadirachta indica*, and *Cassia fistula* produced drowsiness, which was more pronounced in the Cannabis group. As the mice responded to the tactile stimuli, it was inferred that the drugs had a tranquilizing effect rather than them acting as a sedative. *Aegle folia*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Tylophora indica*, and *Thymol* were found to be devoid of any observable effect. In case of *Cuprum oxydatum nigrum*, one mouse died, however, its death was not considered to be related, owing to the fact that the other mice who received higher concentrations of the drug survived. Also, such mortality was noticed in a control mouse given lactose alone on the same doses.

In case of *Solanum xanthocarpum*, it was found that the drug prepared from berries or a whole plant, using the percolation method, had a strong protective effect against alcohol lethality, with five of the six mice dying within six days. No mortality was noted when the drug prepared solely from berries through percolation was administered, whereas, only one mortality was found when it was prepared from the whole plant through the same method. However, this protective effect against alcohol lethality was less marked when the drug was prepared by the maceration technique. The physicochemical study of

the drug also indicated that the tincture prepared by the percolation technique had higher alkaloid content.

The authors, in the end, caution against the use of *Calotropis gigantea* and *Acidum formicum* in tincture form and suggest a further study for the proving of *Solanum xanthocarpum* for alcohol intoxication.

SULPHUR (REFERENCES OF, IN KENT'S REPERTORY)

In a series of articles, the authors Dr. Vishal Chawla and Dr. V. P. Singh wanted to reflect the various rubrics related to *Sulphur* in Kent's Repertory. In this issue, such rubrics of *Sulphur* pertaining to the chapters 'Nose', 'Face,' and 'Mouth', are reflected along with their gradations.

ABSTRACTS

This bulletin covered 18 abstracts from international publications on various aspects of diabetes.

THE BULLETIN ENDS WITH A BEAUTIFUL QUOTE BY SIR ROBERT PLATT

"The conventional picture of the research worker is that of a rather austere man in a white coat with a background of complicated glassware. My idea of a research worker, on the other hand, is a man who brushes his teeth on the left side of his mouth only so as to use the other side as a control and see if tooth-brushing has any effect on the incidence of caries."

Chaturbhuja Nayak, Harleen Kaur¹

Director-Professor, Department of Materia Medica, Bakson Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Greater Noida and Former Director General, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, ¹Senior Research Fellow (H), Central Research Institute for Homoeopathy, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
E-mail: drcbnayak@gmail.com

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Announcement

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