### REMINISCENCES

### A Goldmine of information: Review of Quarterly Bulletin Vol. 15 (1–4) 1993



Today, we bask in the glory of the right path shown to us by the untiring research efforts of our pioneer scientists whose farsightedness and bold dedication has made us reap the fruits of their labor. One stumbles upon a goldmine of information in this time travel across the initial research endeavors of the council. Let's embark upon one such journey to the past.

#### **PROVING REPORTS**

Our Materia Medica is enriched with well-proved/ partially-proved drugs and also those which are used on empirical basis. It has been the Council's effort to present before the profession, the therapeutic value of India's rich medicinal flora by undertaking the proving of indigenous drugs since inception. The present issue gives the proving data of three such indigenous drugs viz., Holarrhena antidysenterica, Terminalia arjuna, and Terminalia chebula. The data are comprehensive with regard to the details of the proving centers, list and number of provers, and the potencies used. Pathogenesis of each drug is also detailed. The prominent sphere of action of these drugs and the number of times a particular symptom was proved could also be inferred from the proving data. *H. antidysenterica* proving symptoms show its important sphere of action to be in the head region and gastrointestinal tract such as 'colic amelioration lying down, with loose watery stool' and abdominal distension with loose foamy stool with white mucus and red urine. The symptoms of 'burning in eyes and dryness of mouth' in T. arjuna and 'headache and heaviness in frontal region, offensive saliva, flatulence, burning pain in lower abdomen, constipation, mucoid stool, and small pimpular eruptions over legs and arms with itching' in *T. chebula* were proved from Drugs of Hindustan.

#### EVALUATION OF 10 HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES IN THE CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF INTERMITTENT FEVER

This article by Dr. Krishna Singh was based on a follow-up open clinical trial started by the Council during 1989–1990 to reconfirm the therapeutic effectiveness of the following 10 drugs identified earlier viz., Arsenicum album, chininum arsenicosum, chininum sulfuricum, Cinchona officinalis, Caesalpinia bonducella, Gentiana chirata, Ipecacuanha, Natrum muriaticum, Nyctanthes arbortristis, and Amoora rohitaka, of which the last two are of indigenous origin. Intermittent fever enjoys historical importance in the discovery and evolution of homoeopathic system of medicine. It is an important clinical manifestation of a multitude of infections such as malaria, dengue, typhus, enteric fevers, spirochaetal fevers and AIDS and acts as a major guiding symptom for homoeopathic prescription irrespective of underlying pathology. Among ten drugs studied, Chininum sulphuricum, C. officinalis, and N. arbortristis gave 100% success rate. G. chirata also showed promising results in the Indian context. Of 144 patients studied (8 dropouts), the medicines had a mean success rate of 93%. In addition to symptomatic clinical improvement, pathological states such as splenomegaly (in 93.3% cases), hepatomegaly (in 88.4% cases) also showed

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considerable improvement with cent percent relief in urticaria and herpes labialis. There was a need for continued clinical verification of these results as this study was of immense clinical value for a practitioner in the tropical climate of India which is a fertile ground for such epidemic fever outbreaks.

#### ROLE OF HOMOEOPATHIC THERAPY IN HIV POSITIVE THALASSEMICS

This was a paper presented at the International Conference of Thalassemia at Bombay in 1993. It underlines the important role of homoeopathic medicines in conditions where the immune system is incapacitated as in HIV positive cases and was great encouragement to research undertaken by the Council at Bombay and Madras. Of the 186 HIV positive cases of different risk groups, there were 12 cases of thalassemics, of which 10 were thalassemia major and 2 were thalassemia minor cases. The pre- and post-treatment clinical, hematological and immunological status were reviewed after prescribing the three homoeopathic drugs - *Lachesis, Phosphorous*, and *Calcarea iodatum*.

Vital conclusions from the study corroborate the role of homoeopathic therapy in arresting the progression of HIV infection (as inferred from the positive changes in CD4 and CD8 counts), maintenance/ improvement of immunological status, and its role in stabilizing the annual blood consumption and rate of hemoglobin fall in thalassemics.

#### ALTERNATING SYMPTOMS IN HOMOEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

This paper authored by Dr. K Singh is continued from Vol. 14 (3 and 4) 1992, where a compilation of alternating symptoms from 13 Materia Medicas and repertories is presented at one place for clinical reference.

#### THE PAPERS WAS PRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE BY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF HOMOEOPATHY IN JAIPUR:

i. Research studies in HIV infection with homoeopathic treatment: The study at RRI (H), Bombay during 1989–1993 registered 190 HIV positive cases (66 cases dropped out and 124 cases are with follow-up). Periodical assessment was done based on changes in clinical presentation and also from hematological, immunological, and serological profile studies. Of the 94 cases, immunological profile improved

in 21 cases and 14 cases sero-reverted. *Arsenicum album, Phosphorous, Natrum muriaticum, Silicea, Merc sol, Lycopodium, Baryta carb* etc., were few among the effective remedies. Few case studies also make this an interesting read. HIV being a retrovirus rapidly varies the amino acid sequences thereby eluding the researchers in the development of an effective vaccine and in conducting clinical trials. Homoeopathy which emphasizes on symptom totality rather than delving in the intricacies of virology may play a formidable role in arresting this global pandemic as is corroborated by the case studies in this paper.

- ii. Research studies in malaria and role of Malaria Officinalis: This research paper was a result of a few malarial cases that didn't respond to the best-selected drugs at the homoeopathic Research Institute for Malaria at Jaipur. The study with the said drug commenced in 1990 with the objective to deal with chronic, relapsing, and persistent malaria cases. Of the total malaria cases registered, 67 were prescribed *M. officinalis* as intercurrent and 19 as main prescription. It was found to be very effective as an intercurrent remedy in 48 cases by clearing up the cases and leading to recovery. M. officinalis was tried on empirical ground especially in chronic malarial cases where a few doses brought about a miraculous recovery. Details of the introduction of drug into Homoeopathy and clinical vignettes of stalwarts are also included in this informative paper. The study concluded that this drug can be thought of in chronic malaria and its cachexia.
- iii. Sickle cell haemoglobinopathy and homoeopathic research: The prevalence of sickle cell gene in Western Orissa had justified the establishment of CRU (T), Sambalpur in 1987 by CCRH. This study during 1987–1993 had a total of 151 research cases with regular follow-ups (symptomatic were 141 and asymptomatic were 10) have been assessed, of which 114 cases showed improvement in marked, moderate, and mild scales. A greater percentage of cases were benefited from homoeopathic therapy especially in abating the frequency and intensity of the sickling crisis. This paper showcases the encouraging observations and justifications to continue this long-term project and to decipher the miracles of Homoeopathy at a genetic level.
- iv. Psoriasis and homoeopathic management: Ch. Raveender's skillful approach of treatment of psoriasis is 3-fold, that is, treating constitutionally, miasmatically, and managing acute local manifestations. In psoriasis cases where disease picture predominates over drug picture, alternating *Psorinum* and *Arsenicum album* by progressively increasing, the potency has been giving definite improvement, according to the author. Two case reports are also discussed, which followed the above approach.

Azis: A Goldmine of information

# ALLERGIC MANIFESTATIONS AND HOMOEOPATHY

This is another interesting paper that starts with an interesting insight into the historical landmarks of allergy and immunology by the stalwarts and then proceeds to explain the process in detail. Homoeopathic view in allergic manifestation is more or less synonymous with an enhanced susceptibility rather hypersusceptibility. Hahnemann's instruction of inhalation as a route of administration of remedies in hypersensitive patients was underlined. It also has clinical remedy information and a section, 'Pointers to correct direction' that gives interesting mental drug pictures in a nutshell.

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#### **Conflicts of Interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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