

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF HOMOEOPATHY

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Abstract:- Homeopathy is the second most popular system of medical treatment in the world. People need to know about its scope as well as its limitation. The subject matter is analysed from several angles keeping in view people of several category. Many new research data are included in the subject matter to provide update information to the reader. By going through this article the reader would get a wider vision relating to this system of treatment and would able to use it though proper decision.

List of abbreviations used:-

- § - aphorism (Mentioned in the book Organon of Medicine, in Homoeopathy)
- e.g. - for example.
- i.e. - that is
- < -aggravation
- > -amelioration
- θ - theta (Mother tincture)

Day and night are inevitable in diurnal course like happiness and sorrow in life as well as light with shadow in physical world. Scope and limitation exist side by side in any field of work as well as of any physical, moral or other phenomena like both sides of the same coin. Homoeopathy, the second most widely accepted system of treatment following allopathy, faces a good deal of criticism from all corners of the world. Still then its popularity is increasing and the sphere of its adaptation by people globally is being widened. People being affected with the hazardous effect of many costly as well as hazardous allopathic treatment measures do not hesitate at least once to think over the scope and limitation of homoeopathy. Iatrogenic diseases are significantly increased. Many physicians and surgeons are writing prescriptions for additional medicines, additional diagnostic tests along with the principal ones as well as performing unrequired surgery for their vested interest. Consequently, the poor patients, regarding the physician and surgeon as the god of healing, get exploited in their hands⁽¹³⁾. Such a trend although has been significantly reduced in the developed countries, is prevailing in India and backward countries rampantly. Poverty figure engulfs a lion share of population not only in the backward countries of the world but the most developed countries⁽¹⁰⁾ like the United States of America are also not exempted. After the popularity of Darwinism in social sphere of the United State of America the welfare activity for the downtrodden got significantly reduced toward the year 1870. Survival of the fittest became the social motto. Towards 1886, the situation was somewhat changed there, when America followed some United Kingdom's model in eliminating poverty. Towards 1933 the situation was further changed there during Franklin D Roosevelt's government and towards 1996 during Bill Clinton's government⁽⁸⁾. But, the basic priority of capitalism being market and growth over social welfare, poverty affecting the incompetent people is bound to prevail⁽⁹⁾. Thus, some Indians staying there say that although the United States of America is rich, the poverty stricken people as well as unemployment problem are not rare on that land compelling Trump's government, that came to power toward the beginning of 2017, to provide priority of employment opportunity to the Americans. Some homeless people seek help in public places there from others. Poverty figure is very high in India. One-third of world's poor live in this country⁽²³⁾. Nearly one third of National population in India do not seek medical service out of poverty⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾. Thus, homoeopathy, even if not a complete system of treatment in itself to cater the whole of sick population from all angles satisfactorily, can fulfil the need of major portion of suffering mankind from the several fold diseases. The increased incidence and prevalence of morbidity; partly out of stress and lifestyle disorders of modern living, and partly from polluted environment as well as influence of chemical fertilisers and pesticide upon agricultural yields; has put increased burden upon to the medicinal treasures of the nature. Homoeopathy being a method of treatment requiring consumption of minimum quantity of medicine, out of potentisation process in manufacturing drugs⁽¹⁴⁾, provides a good deal of solution to this problem. Scope and limitations of any systematic field of work are liable to be changed according to the changing concepts and situations prevailing in any existing period. The secrecy behind various phenomena is unfolded as the new discoveries and inventions widen the sphere of human vision.

Scope of Homoeopathy:

Scope relates to field or opportunity of work. Like the scope of every branch of human knowledge changes with age homoeopathy is not an exception to this. With the progress of time, the scope of homoeopathy is liable to be assessed on the basis of the existing concepts and prevailing situations in the light of current phenomena available to science and technology.

1. CURATIVE ASPECT: -

- (i) Holistic approach of treatment yields permanent cure - i.e., when one or two symptoms out of many is treated then the disease reappears after some time or is manifested in some other form. When the totality of symptoms is treated then all the symptoms are cured. E.g., in case of a space occupying lesion of brain the pain killer removes the pain, but other symptoms persist. When the tumour is cured then all the symptoms are removed. It is like, when one or two branches of a tree are cut then the branches of the tree regrow or the new branches grow instead. But, when all the branches of a tree are cut then it hardly regrows.
- (ii) Radical cure - It cures chronic diseases resulting from dynamic miasmatic forces by anti-miasmatic dynamic medicine which is little possible by any medicine in material form. For instance, a patient at Bhubaneswar, around the year 2000, suffered from bulbar palsy following the suppression of syphilis by allopathic treatment. He took a good deal of allopathic treatment without any relief. Then he consulted a senior colleague of the author, who on the basis of suppression of syphilis administered a dose of Merc.sol.1M, further diluted in distilled water, following which he was cured. There are many cases of dog bite in which, despite anti-rabies vaccination, the patient suffers from symptoms like headache, neurological disorders, disagreeable feeling in liver region, prolapsed of uterus, hypertension, or some other ailments, which are cured by administering Lyssin on the basis of its indications like fear of observing large amounts of water, disagreeable sensation in right hypochondrium, urging to micturate at the sight or sound of flowing water, intolerance to heat and bright light. It signifies that chronic diseases of dynamic origin require dynamic medicine for radical cure.
- (iii) Fixed principle of treatment - Homoeopathy is based on the fixed principle of treatment, i.e., *similia similibus curentur*, which means let likes be treated by likes. A patient having certain symptoms is cured by a medicine that would have produced symptoms in healthy persons during drug proving, similar to those in the patient. This principle guides the physician to select a medicine on the basis of totality of symptoms.
- (iv) Pure or positive symptoms are taken into consideration - The pure and positive symptoms are obtained, when a medicine is proved on healthy human beings. Such symptoms were initially recorded by Samuel Hahnemann in the book *Fragmenta de viribus medicamentorum positivis, sive in sano corpore humano observatis* and latter on in *Materia Medica Pura* and *Chronic Diseases their Peculiar Nature and their Homoeopathic Cure*. Many other provers of drugs like Constantine Hering, John Henry Clerk and many others have provided their valuable contribution to the pure materia medica of homoeopathy and enriched the volume of the medicinal treasures for the weal of mankind. Animal proving hardly reveals such benefit on the ground that the action of a medicine on animal differs from that on human beings. When the effect of a medicine observed on animals, is made the basis of its administration on human beings, then it is likely to differ in yielding the expected therapeutic effect. Thus, a medicine after animal proving needs to be proved on human beings prior to its therapeutic administration. Considering from that ground the homoeopathic medicines, being proved on healthy human beings, in order to ascertain their pathogenetic power, their effect is pure and positive.
- (v) Law of cure - Homoeopathy has a law of cure, i.e., diseases are cured from above down ward or from more important organ to less important organ, within outward, and in reverse order of their appearance that Constantine Hering⁽⁴⁵⁾ pointed out basing on the work of Hahnemann. This law enables a physician whether the cure is proceeding in right or in wrong direction, and there by adequate timely measure can be taken to rectify the latter. E.g., if after recovery from eczema a patient suffers from asthmatic attack then it is a wrong way of cure. It requires antidote. But, if recovery from asthma is followed by eczema, then the approach is towards cure in right direction, and the physician should allow it towards complete cure.
- (vi) Detection of material cause of disease is not necessary - Aetiology of a disease according to modern school of medicine is some material cause like pathogenic organism, deficiency or excess of some nutrient or hormone or enzyme, etc. These causes according to homoeopathy are considered as *causa occasionalis*. The fundamental cause, in the form of latent psora in acute diseases; and in the form of developed psora, syphilis or sycosis in chronic diseases; is said to be the cause of disease. The detection of the material cause is most essential in modern school, but it is not so essential rather sometimes required in cases for homoeopathic treatment. It helps in most cases of homoeopathic treatment for recommending diet and regimen.
- (vii) Any unknown disease can be treated - New diseases affect mankind from time to time. In the initial stage of such diseases as the hard immunity⁽¹⁵⁾ is not developed, there occurs massive death and disability. In due course of progress of time, its virulence is reduced by the development of immunity against it. At the initial stage, the effect of the disease is more virulent. The aetiology, pathology, pathogenesis and above all its treatment is not known to modern medicine. Somehow, such cases are managed with symptomatic treatment, despite the fatality rate remains high. In such condition homoeopathic remedies, which are selected on the basis of similarity of the totality of symptoms of medicines to that of the disease of the patient, are effective means.
- (viii) Treatment is harmless - The potentized medicines given in minimum dose do not produce any side effect^(§§154,155) when administered on the basis of fundamental principles⁽¹⁶⁾. On the contrary, the allopathic medicines administered in material form in large doses and homoeopathic mother tinctures are usually having some or other side effect. E.g., steroids administered for auto-immune disorder produce Cushing's syndrome, long term medication for asthma may produce goitre, *Rauwolfia serpentina* may produce suicidal tendency.
- (ix) Free from invasive pathological procedure - There are many pathological procedures such as lumbar puncture for test of cerebrospinal fluid, X-ray, endoscopy, etc., which are not free from danger. As homoeopathic treatment does not require a confirmatory diagnosis, basing on pathological and radiological investigation, for the purpose of remedy selection so the invasive procedures are not essential.
- (x) Treatment is painless - Treatment done in homoeopathy with administration of medicine orally, through inhalation, applying to skin, etc.^{(§§289-291)(17)} is free from bad taste, and painless when administered.

- (xi) Some surgical diseases are curable^(§§185-203) - Diseases like fibroid uterus, warts, whitlow, fibro adenoma of breast, benign hypertrophy of prostate, etc., which are rarely cured by allopathic medicine but usually referred to surgery, are amenable to homoeopathic treatment.
- (xii) Treatment of veterinary diseases is, also, possible largely by homoeopathy⁽²⁵⁾⁽²⁶⁾⁽²⁷⁾.

2. PREVENTIVE ASPECT:-

- (i) Prevention of chronic diseases that would take place in adulthood of the off-spring can be done by anti-miasmatic treatment of the couple before conception, of pregnant women⁽¹⁹⁾, or of the children at early age.
- (ii) Prevention of epidemic diseases^(§§100-102) is possible by genus epidemicus.
- (iii) Prevention of individual acute diseases is possible by curing psora, as latent psora lurks behind these diseases^(§73).
- (iv) It can cure 'disease per se' i.e. when the disease is before complete development in a functional state. Thus, the future course of disease is prevented by early treatment which is not possible by modern medicine unless the diagnosis of disease is done in its fully developed state.
- (v) Prevention of complications of pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum diseases is possible by treating a woman before, during⁽¹⁹⁾ and after pregnancy.
- (vi) The sequelae of the different acute diseases, which result from awakening of latent psora to developed state, can be prevented by timely antipsoric treatment⁽¹⁸⁾.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL ASPECT: -

- (i) Method of preparation of medicine is easy. The process of trituration for drug substances insoluble in alcohol or distilled water, and succussion for those soluble in the said vehicles in preparing homoeopathic medicines is easy⁽¹⁴⁾ when compared to the pharmaceutical preparations in other systems of medicine.
- (ii) Advantages of dynamization process- (a) It awakens the latent dynamic curative power of drug substances. Therefore, the substances, which are inactive in crude state, are brought to medicinal power. (b) In this process the poisonous substances are turned to medicine. (c) It is eco-friendly. By minimising the use of crude drug substances, it saves a good deal of plants and animals⁽¹⁴⁾. At present as some species of plants and animals are being abolished⁽²⁰⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²²⁾, so the minimal consumption of crude drug substances makes it eco-friendly.
- (iii) Advantages of minimum dose- (a) It requires less time to take (b) It requires less attention for the said purpose.
- (iv) It is easy to administer. (a) It can be administered to unconscious patients through inhalation^(Foot note to §288, Foot note to §289). (b) To insane persons it can be administered through their usual drink^(§228). (c) To breastfed children it can be administered by giving it to mother or wet-nurse without giving to child so that it acts through their milk quickly, mildly and beneficially⁽²⁴⁾.
- (d) It is not difficult to swallow, nor have any bad taste, nor painful to take.
- (v) Modern homoeopathic drug proving incorporates laboratory investigation before, during and after the drug proving which is scientific.
- (vi) Drug proving on healthy human beings is more scientific than on diseased individuals and animals.
- (vii) There is standardisation of uniform drug strength for, almost, all medicines in modern method of preparation of homoeopathic medicines.
- (viii) The purity test of mother tincture is possible by paper chromatography.
- (ix) Instructions regarding standardisation of each drug is mentioned in homoeopathic pharmacopeia.

4. LIBERTY IN HOMOEOPATHY:-

- In this age of liberalisation the whole mankind is one family. All the systems of treatment are under one umbrella with their own advantages. Hahnemann has instructed the use of different systems of treatment in different conditions.
- (i) In case of most urgent cases like accidents and poisoning antipathy is allowed. ^(Foot note to §67)
- (ii) In case of unequal distribution of vital force mesmerism is advisable. ^(§§293,294)
- (iii) In mental diseases resulting from faulty moral factor, psychotherapy is a suitable measure. ^(§224)
- (iv) In difficult and incurable disease conditions, as recommended by J. T. Kent, palliative medicines are the remedy of choice⁽³¹⁾.

5. ECONOMIC ASPECT: -

- (i) Dynamisation consumes less original drug substance⁽¹⁴⁾, and, therefore, economic.
- (ii) The homoeopathic pharmaceutical laboratory does not require large scale finance. So, it can be easily installed.
- (iii) Use of minimum dose is economical.
- (iv) There is little need of pathological investigation, many of which are not only invasive but also expensive, for the selection of remedy.

6. ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT:-

- (i) By consumption of minimal amount of crude medicinal substance in the dynamisation process of preparation of medicine⁽¹⁴⁾ as well as by dispensing minimum amount of medicine, it helps in protection of ecology and environment. Thus, the endangered species⁽²⁰⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²²⁾ are not liable to face further risk of extinction out of pharmaceutical need.

7. SOCIAL ASPECT: -

- (i) As it is economical, it can provide service to, almost, all people of the world.
- (ii) As it is easy to practice, common people can practice it in remote areas, where doctors are less available, so that first aid measures can be satisfied. Fortunately, homoeopathic kits with basic training to the ASHAs on the use of common homoeopathic medicines has been executed in state like Uttarakhand since around the year 2011.
- (iii) It is taking active participation in different national and global health programmes. Homoeopathy is widely accepted in Reproductive and Child Health programme. RCH wings of Homoeopathy with specialist doctors are running in the different government hospitals of Uttarakhand since the middle of decade 2010s.

8. SCIENTIFIC ASPECT: -

(i) The allegation of the materialistic scientific world is that homoeopathic medicines in high potencies do not contain the original drug substance. Consequently, it has a placebo effect, without having any scientific base of cure. Such allegation of the scientific community is nullified by the fact of discovery of nano-particles of the original drug substances in homoeopathic medicines up to 200th potency⁽²⁹⁾ and latter on in medicines up to 1M potency by Santaram Kane and his team of IIT Mumbai as presented by him in IHP National Congress held at Hyderabad on 23 and 24 Feb.2014.

(ii) Nobel laureate Professor Luc Montagnier, who is a French virologist suggested water memory concept working in homoeopathic medicines on the basis of his discovery of the link between HIV and AIDS. He said that solutions containing DNA of pathogenic bacteria and viruses could emit low frequency radio waves that induced surrounding water molecules to become arranged into nanostructures. These water molecules could, also, emit radio waves. Water could retain such property, and doctors could use the emissions to detect disease, even after the original solutions were massively diluted to the point where to original DNA is vanished⁽³⁰⁾.

(iii) The laboratory investigation procedure in drug proving is scientific. Thus, such investigations before, during and after drug proving has become mandatory in the guidelines of drug proving under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy as well as in other research activities.

(iv) The laboratory investigation used before, during and after treatment adopted by the modern homoeopaths as well as being considered as a guideline in research work is, also, a scientific approach.

(v) The theory of susceptibility in the pathogenesis of disease, which was emphasised by Hahnemann⁽³²⁾, is gaining wider acceptance by modern scientists. Pettenkofer of Munich (1819-1901), discarded the unifactorial causation theory of disease of Robert Koch by multifactorial causation⁽¹⁾, which supports susceptibility theory of disease. E.g., according to modern medicine Plasmodia group of parasites cannot produce malaria unless the susceptibility of the host allows these to enter into the cells of his body⁽²⁾. The ova of Roundworm cannot progress its further life cycle in the intestine of an individual unless he possesses a susceptibility to it⁽³⁾.

9. DRUG PROVING:-

The disease producing power of a medicine in a healthy individual is its disease curing power in a sick^(§21). Diseases are alterations in the state of health of healthy individuals, expressed through morbid signs and symptoms. Cure is only possible by a change to the healthy condition of the state of health of the diseased individual. Medicines cure diseases by virtue of altering man's state of health which depends on sensations and functions^(§19). This spirit like power to alter man's state of health (and hence to cure diseases) which lies hidden in the inner nature of medicines can only be discovered by experience of the phenomena it displays when acting on the state of health of man^(§20). The curative principle in medicine is perceptible through pure experiments with medicines conducted by the most accurate observers who are healthy individuals^(§21).

Medicinal substances taken in crude state by experimenter for the purpose of testing their peculiar effects, do not exhibit their full amount of powers that lie hidden in them, which they do when taken for the same object in high potency. By the simple operation of potentisation the dormant medicinal power is developed and roused to an incredible extent. The best investigation of the power of medicines is done by taking four to six small globules of thirtieth potency, moistened with a little water, in empty stomach, for several days^(§128). If the effect that results from such dose are but slight, a few more globules may be taken daily, until they become more distinct and stronger and the alterations of health more conspicuous^(§129).

Homoeopathic medicines being proved in thirtieth potency are free from their physical, chemical and toxicological property. It is known from the fact that, the medicines which are insoluble in alcohol or distilled water, gain the property of solubility at 3rd centesimal or 6th decimal potency. It is the beginning of dynamic medicinal property. At 12th centesimal potency it is not necessarily that a vial containing a certain homoeopathic medicine would have contained a molecule of its crude substance which is possible up to 11th potency. Only nano-particles are to be found at 12th centesimal potency. This is pure dynamic state. So, the proving of such medicines on healthy human beings has little fatal effect. On the other hand, the human experiment of allopathic medicines is highly dangerous out of their toxic effect. For instance, only five people in the world took ZMapp, a newly introduced drug on experimental basis for the cure Ebola in Aug. 2014. Liberian physician Dr. Abraham Borbor, the deputy chief medical doctor at the country's largest hospital who was among the three Africans to receive this, died. No such information about the other two Liberian Africans was available. Whereas, two Americans, who received the untested drug survived. A Spaniard infected with this virus received the treatment, but died. Experts opine that the drug had never been tested in humans before and it was unclear whether it works. The two Americans got treatment at an Atlanta Hospital, where there were five infectious disease experts and twenty-one nurses who had provided rigorous care. Where as in West Africa, where even basic facilities as sterile fluid can be in short supply might be the factor responsible for the situation faced by Dr Borbor⁽⁵⁾.

The precious life, both of human beings and animals, are sacrificed in the process of experiment on new allopathic drugs what the authorities can hardly compensate by any money! In the clinical trial of 475 new drugs on 39,022 Indians in seven years till April 2013 there were 80 deaths, which was attributable to the trials although 2,644 of them died during these trials. Maximum number of deaths resulted from Bayer's Rivaroxaban and Novartis's Aliskiren vs. Enalapril⁽⁷⁾. Vocal cords of the animals subjected to experiment are severed, in the process of debarking, in order to overcome unnecessary noise that disturbs the laboratory and its surrounding. Such painful and cruel procedure upon animals, mostly dogs, is widely practised in China and United States of America⁽⁶⁾.

In homoeopathy neither the human beings nor the animals are subjected to cruelty in the path of proving any drug.

10. LOGICAL ASPECT:- Science is based upon cause effect phenomena⁽³³⁾. A cause is a summation of conditions, which are either positive or negative. E.g., for cure of disease the positive conditions are curable stage of the disease, sufficient vitality of the patient to overcome the disease, selection of proper remedy, its potency and dose, the medicine at stock in right condition, proper diet and regimen, etc.; and the negative conditions are incurable stage of the disease, weak vitality of the patient to overcome the disease, improper selection of remedy, its potency and dose, improper condition of the medicine at stock, erroneous diet and regimen, etc. When the cumulative effect the positive conditions dominate over that of the negative conditions, an effect takes place. The conditions which are positive and those which are negative for certain effect are reverse for its counter effect. E.g., the conditions, which are positive for the cure of disease, are negative for its production, and vice-versa.

Quantitatively, cause is equal to effect. And, qualitatively, cause is an immediate, invariable, unconditional antecedent of the effect. When the condition becomes sufficient, an effect takes place.

Among the different conditions united to form sufficient condition, the most predominant one is known as agent and the remaining ones united together, patient. In other words, the condition, which acts upon is agent, and that, acted upon is patient. E.g., for the cure of disease, selection of proper remedy, its potency and dose is agent; and the patient is proper vitality to overcome the disease, the curable stage of the disease in him as well his observation of proper diet and regimen by him. Similarly, for production of disease the agent is virulent pathogenic organism; and the patient is a susceptible person, whose vitality is weak that may be due to his age factor, genetic predisposition, erroneous diet and regimen, etc., consequently vulnerable to be affected by that organism.

When the pathogenic agent acts upon the susceptible host, disease is produced in the latter, which is manifested through symptoms. When the agent factor is highly predominant, as in diseases of fixed character⁽⁸⁷³⁾ like measles, small pox (already eradicated), whooping cough, scarlet fever, mumps, etc. which usually affect once in life; or the plague of the Levant, the yellow fever of the sea-coast, the Asiatic cholera, etc., which usually affect more than once in life; the symptoms produced in all the patients affected with the same nosological disease are almost same, and everybody is cured by the same remedy. E.g., Thuja occidentalis was invariably effective in prevention and cure of Small pox, which was well verified by Boenninghausen in Germany⁽²⁸⁾. Similarly, Pulasatilla nigricans is highly effective in prevention and cure of measles. Arsenicum album was found to be effective in plague, Eupatorium perforatum in dengue. When the agent factor is not highly predominant over the patient factor, rather patient factor also plays major role with agent factor in production of disease, the symptoms produced are variable from one patient to the other although they are affected with the same nosological disease. This frequently happens in diseases like typhoid, malaria, tuberculosis, etc. Many symptoms of different patients affected with the same nosological disease differ from those in others affected with the same disease. Consequently, they are affected with the same disease, which is identified with a specific disease terminology that is misnomer and illogical^(Foot note to §81). They are neither affected with the same nosological disease nor are curable by the administration of the same remedy. Different patients affected with such disease of variable character manifest atypical symptoms. Thus, clinical diagnosis of such diseases, to give false names, on the basis of totality of signs and symptoms are not easy, leading to confirmatory diagnosis mostly on the basis of the report of laboratory investigation. Allopathic physicians, whose main object is to treat the patient factor, administer a medicine(s) to remove the agent. Thus, the disease is palliated in a unidirectional way. The susceptibility⁽⁴⁴⁾ of the host remains unaltered due to the existing fundamental cause^(§§242-44). Thus, the host after some length of time, on being exposed to the same agent again, becomes affected with the same nosological disease; or, his morbid susceptibility⁽⁴⁴⁾ may led him to be affected by some other nosological disease, out of the influence of other pathogen(s)^(Foot note to §235, Foot note to §244). Homoeopathic physician, on the other hand, takes the totality of symptoms^(§7) into consideration without paying greater importance to the nosological disease. Thus, the variable symptoms, which are mostly due to the variable conditions, like age, genetic predisposition, habit, occupation, diet and regimen, prevailing in the different individuals or patients^(§5) affected with the same causal factor or agent, are taken into consideration. The different patients suffering from the nosological disease malaria are found to be possessing different totality of symptoms, widely differing from each other^(Foot note to §235), consequently, demanding different remedies. Thus, one may require Arsenicum album, the other may require Cinchona officinalis, the other Eupatorium perforatum, the other Ipecac, etc., the object of which is to increase the body resistance against the malaria parasite, so that it would become dormant in the host. On the other hand, almost, all patients affected with this nosological disease may be administered Quinine or its derivative in allopathy, the object of which is to kill the malaria parasite.

The deep acting anti-miasmatic remedies take long duration to cure the patients. Consequently, people assume that the disease got self cured, which is a wrong concept on the ground that when the cause becomes sufficient effect takes place. The deep acting antimiasmatic remedies take long time to fully manifest their effect. Thus, it is obvious that the disease under treatment is likely to be cured after the scheduled period required for the medicinal action is over; like the disease hydrophobia develops indefinitely, the incubation period being 10 days to 1 year, after the bite of mad dog, in whom the disease appears, according to the distance of bitten

site of body from the central nervous system besides the amount of virus introduced, amount of tissue involved and host defence mechanism⁽³⁴⁾.

Limitation of Homoeopathy:

Limitation is the lack of physical ability or talent, etc. As there is some darkness, where there is some light; similarly, where there is some scope there, also, exists some limitation.

1. CURATIVE ASPECT:-

(i) Homoeopathy has hardly any role in surgical diseases, especially in congenital surgical conditions like imperforated anus, congenital pyloric stenosis, syndactyli, polydactyli, cleft lip, cleft palate, etc. as well as surgical conditions resulting from external injuries^(Foot note to §7, §186)

(ii) Cure is difficult where *causa occasionalis* is present^(§7). For instance, there was a medico belonging to Uttar Pradesh who was suffering from headache during the year 2011. Previously she had taken constitutional medicine *Calcarea carb.*, and later on, *Belladonna*. Her ailment was subsided. Nevertheless, it was reappearing at times. She was fond of cardamom. To herself, she had observed that, when she stopped taking cardamom, the maintaining cause of the disease, her headache was subsided. Consequently, she got relief by avoiding its intake.

However, there were cases of hypertension as mentioned in case of Mr. Rajeev Sharma, aged thirty-three years, in the topic 'Holistic Health and Homoeopathy' and that in a fifty-three year old man of Kashipur, as mentioned in the topic 'Psycho-Somatic Diseases and their Homoeopathic Treatment' in the book of the author 'Scope and Limitation of Homoeopathy', which were little cured due to the prevailing maintaining cause.

Besides this, many cases prevail out of the same reason without any satisfactory improvement. In many cases it is observed that patients, who take long course of allopathic medicine for chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes mellitus, etc., get less benefit from homoeopathic treatment during the course of allopathic treatment. For instance, a seventy five year old advocate cum social leader of Kashipur, Uttarakhand was suffering from low-backache, pain in calves and lower extremities since last two months. The ailment had a slow onset and gradual progress, which was aggravated by walking, from motion and relieved by lying down. The pain was not relieved despite allopathic treatment since more than one month. He had history of falling on low-back while descending on slippery stone steps of a temple in 2015 during which the said part of his body had repeatedly sustained hurt to eight descending steps successively in the act of falling down. He came home by his scooty from there without any remarkable pain immediately or afterwards. He, also, had sustained hurt to low-back by falling from a few feet height fifteen years back. He, also, was suffering from coronary heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus for which he was under allopathic treatment since several years. In the past he had eczema in 1974 and before. He was vaccinated twice with cow-pox vaccine having light scars. He had open heart cardiac bypass surgery in 1990, and six times exposure to x-ray. His parents had diabetes mellitus and father had some heart disease. He was married, and his son was having asthma and cracked spots on soles of feet; addicted to tea and coffee; and his hobby was watching television. He was neither feeling hot or chilly significantly; having desire for fatty food, sweet and salt; reduced appetite since the onset of backache; dry white coated tongue; constipation with defecation of hard stool at two to three days interval since recently; slow stream of urine; and profuse sweating from whole body, especially from trunk. He was extravert, liking music, religious, forgetful out of old age, and sympathetic. Previously he had taken *Syzgium jambolanum* θ , and some other homoeopathic medicine for eczema in 1974. A dose of *Hypericum per.* 200, diluted in distilled water, was administered on 24th Sept. 2017. By 25th Sept 2017 there was no relief in pain. His sleep was restless out of the pain. He reported that the pain was more felt in the left hip joint. A dose of *Kali carb.* 6, diluted in distilled water, was administered on that day. By 26th Sept. 2017 there was nearly twenty percent reduction in pain in left hip joint. By 6th Oct. 2017 the pain was in same reduced state although he was taking some physiotherapy simultaneously from last few days. By 15th Oct. 2017 his condition was further improved. He was walking slowly inside home. There was sensation as if drops of cold water were falling on his feet. By 24th Oct. 2017, he for the first time, after more than two months, came to the ground floor and thereafter walked to the nearby temple adjacent to his house. By 10th Nov. 2017 pain in heap joints was further reduced. But, there was coldness and anaesthetic feeling in feet. The blood sugar level in the morning was 85mg/dl, and in the evening 145mg/dl. By 10th Dec. 2017 there was soreness of right hip joint < while waking in the morning and < while walking, and soreness of left leg and left foot. A dose of *Bryonia alba*30, diluted in distilled water, was administered. By 14th Dec.2017 he was administered ten drops of *syzizium jambolanum Q* twice daily, which was continued for weeks, for feeling of general weakness and lack of self-confidence. Thereafter the ailments were further reduced and by 5th Jan. 2018 he was walking freely and his pain in hip joint was mostly subsided. The improvement was delayed and not remarkable to the optimal satisfaction for he was taking allopathic treatment for diabetes mellitus and for cardiac ailment that was prevailing since years together. On the other hand, a middle aged lady belonging to Bhamrola, near Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, a few years back, who had not been improved under allopathic treatment, had been administered *Kali carb.* 6, diluted in distilled water, for similar pain from the same cause, got significant improvement without any accessory measure. Her significant improvement was partly out of her age and vitality, and partly because she was free from the use of any other medicine during the course of homoeopathic treatment.

(iii) The articles in our daily life in diet and regimen like toilet articles, cosmetics, etc., which interfere with the action of medicine retard the cure^(§§ 259-263). But, such articles in this age have become the part and parcel of many people's life⁽³⁸⁾.

(iv) In the modern age the desire of people has become unlimited. It is difficult to gratify all the desires. Thus, man very often remains in a state of worry, which obstructs the free action of medicine.

- (v) Inappropriately named chronic diseases are not cured by it^(§77). E.g., night blindness cannot be cured, so long as vitamin A deficiency persists.
- (vi) Artificial chronic diseases are hardly cured by it^(§§74-76). E.g., Cushing's syndrome resulting from steroid is hardly cured by homoeopathy. Vital force, alone, has to overcome it⁽³⁹⁾.
- (vii) Cases with gross pathological changes are difficult to be cured⁽³¹⁾. For instance, around the year 2000, there was a case of profuse uterine haemorrhage of very long standing in a middle-aged women belonging to Sergarh of district Balasore, who had resisted all allopathic treatment taken by her. On taking history, it was found that, she had undergone tubectomy. A dose of Staphisagria 1M, in distilled water, was administered one week following an initial dose of Nux vomica 1M. The bleeding was very much reduced. It remained in a controlled state for some months with administration of different short acting medicines according to the symptoms. Thereafter, the bleeding increased and the patient died. It was a case of malignancy in advanced stage.
- (viii) Cases with lack of vital organ, such as one kidney, are hardly cured⁽³⁵⁾.
- (ix) Cases where vital force is too much debilitated as in extreme old age, prolonged debilitating diseases, etc. homoeopathic medicines have rare scope to work because the medicine that is administered to cure the disease after removing it in primary action, needs to be overcome by the effort of vital force in secondary action, curative action. Where vital force is very weak, overcoming of the medicinal disease becomes difficult ^(§§29, 63-66).
- (x) It is difficult to cure idiosyncratic patients^(§§16, 17).
- (xi) It is difficult to treat cases that are under prolonged use of palliative medicines, because on discontinuing the palliatives there occurs severe secondary action, counter action. It is frequently observed in practice that those, who use to take anti-hypertensive, anti-diabetic medicines and medicines for hypothyroidism, etc., since a prolonged period, on discontinuing the palliatives there occurs severe secondary action, counter action.
- (xii) One sided diseases with very few symptoms are difficult to treat. E.g., symptom like frequent washing of hand, which is hardly associated with any other symptom, is very difficult to cure.
- (xiii) There is less chance of cure of genetic diseases. E.g., there was a case of Duchenne's muscular dystrophy. The patient, who was belonging to Bhadrak, Odisha was coming to an eminent homoeopathic physician at Bhubaneswar for years together, and was being admitted in indoor hospital. Around the year 2000, he was coming at every two to three months interval. Each time after administration of medicine, he was getting relief for some length of time, and the disease was recurring again. It was an incurable case, which was requiring temporary relief, only. Treatment, for a few years since 2008, of a case of muscular dystrophy in a Mohammedian young man of 22 years age belonging to Kichha, Uttarakhand, which improved to some extent on administration of constitutional medicines like Calcarea carb. 1M, Lyssin 1M, Tuberculinum 1M, Thyroidinum 1M single dose each at sufficient interval, with different short acting medicines at different time in between these as per requirement, but the complete cure was hardly possible.
- (xiv) Cases, which are homoeopathically over medicated by frequent change of medicine become dangerous to treat by any further medication, rather require mesmerism⁽³⁶⁾.
- (xv) Cases in which obstacle to cure, such as stress, ungratified sexual desire, poverty, over exertion of body and mind, extreme of heat and cold, living in swamps, etc. are present, are difficult to cure⁽³⁷⁾.

2. PREVENTIVE ASPECT:-

- (i) Although genus epidemicus prevents an epidemic disease, it remains the same in all epidemic diseases of fixed character like measles, chicken pox, etc. However, in epidemic diseases of variable character the genus epidemicus is not the same. In the latter category of epidemics, the genus epidemicus varies from time to time. E.g., Pulsatilla is the preventive of measles, but there is no fixed preventive for malaria, jaundice, etc. the symptoms of which are likely to vary from one epidemic to the other.
- (ii) There is meagre data based study regarding the preventive aspect of homoeopathic medicines.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL ASPECT: -

- (i) Purity test of medicines in 12th potency and above is little possible, as these medicines do not contain any material molecule of original drug substance although nano-particles are detected⁽²⁹⁾ up to 200th and 1M potency.
- (ii) Action of drug substance observed during proving, varies to some extent when the source of drug substance used for therapeutic purpose varies from that of the proved one. J.T. Kent says that it is important not to change. A plant bearing the same name as the one proved, but grown in a different climate and on a different soil, should not be used. This was recognised by Finke while procuring the substances that Hering proved. Dr. Kent had kept the same Lachesis, proved by Dr. Hering ⁽⁴⁰⁾.
- (iii) The preparation of dose varies from physician to physician. As the same medicine can be dispensed by several means, so it lacks a standard. E.g., Nux vomica 200 can be dispensed by distilled water, sugar of milk, globules etc.
- (iv) The pharmacist, in most cases does not maintain the exactitude required for preparation of dose in dispensing medicine, out of his ignorance or carelessness.

4. PALLIATIVE ASPECT: -

In most urgent cases and irreversible pathological conditions, palliation is the only way. Very effective palliatives are less in homoeopathy. E.g., in organ failure resulting from malaria, advanced cases of cancer, advanced cases of tuberculosis, etc. homoeopathic medicines are of less use. Allopathy has good palliatives for it.

5. SCIENTIFIC ASPECT: -

(i) Science is based upon cause effect phenomena, which imply that cause is an invariable, unconditional, immediate antecedent of the effect. In homoeopathy, variables are many such as selection of medicine based on individualisation, selection of potency, repetition of dose, preparation of dose, etc. are widely variable due to unavailability of standard. Thus, this is left up to the experience of the physician ^(§278). So, from that ground it is considered less scientific.

(ii) Vital force is not scientifically proved. As, many theories are related to the vital force, so it needs scientific verification. Vital force being an immaterial agent it is difficult to prove this from materialistic ground.

Bergson's theory of creative evolution is a step ahead in support of the theory of vital force, the theme of which is that the different species of living beings are created from the 'elan vital' at different periods of evolution, and each species has its body parts and function according to its need. According to materialism of Darwin, lower species gives rise to higher species, and life is created out of matter. But, as per the theory of creative evolution the different species are created from the same source of life i.e. 'elan vital' which is a spiritual one ⁽⁴⁾.

(iii) The modus operandi of homoeopathy is not yet been scientifically established although many suppositions like membrane transport theory, water memory theory, Nano particle concept, etc. are being studied.

(iv) Building of totality of symptoms is an art that differs from physician to physician.

(v) Evaluation of symptoms is an art. It varies from physician to physician. Mental symptoms, which are given so much importance by Kent, are difficult to extract because in many cases it is masked by ego ⁽⁴¹⁾. E.g., if a person desires to drink wine in a gathering, where it is not allowed, there the person cannot express it out of his ego.

(vi) The selection of remedy is sometimes biased by emphasising temperament into consideration without taking the totality of the other features present in the patient ⁽⁴³⁾.

(vii) It is difficult to measure the susceptibility of a patient, which is essential in selection of dose and potency ⁽⁴⁴⁾.

(viii) Selection of potency is an art, which is based on experience of the physician.

(ix) Determining the magnitude of minimum dose and repetition of dose are art, having no fixed rule and based on physician's experience ^(§278) and judgement.

(x) Drug proving may be erroneous if sufficient precaution is not observed in selection of prover, diet and regimen during proving, attention in exact observation of symptoms, etc.

(xi) Theory of chronic miasm is still debatable among the homoeopaths.

(xii) Selection of dose and potency on material basis and spiritual basis is a debate amongst the followers of Hughes and Hahnemann respectively.

6. DRAWBACKS IN DRUG PROVING: -

(i) If the provers would be maximum number of males, which usually happens and observed during the time of Hahnemann also, than it would lead to bias.

(ii) The expression of subjective symptoms depends upon the sensitivity and power of expression of the prover, which is hardly standardised. If there is any defect in the qualitative phenomenon of the provers then drug proving becomes erroneous.

(iii) Drug proving has not been made up to change in tissue level, but up to functional changes. E.g., Silicea is not proved till the development of tumour although it cures it when administered for therapeutic purpose.

(iv) Proving of most of the drugs has been done up to 30th potency. When remedies are administered in higher potency, their pathogenetic effect is liable to vary from lower potency.

(v) The order of appearance of symptoms from the first day of drug proving has been mentioned in very few drugs. This is important to know the gravity of symptoms, because the symptoms, which appear late, are more valuable than those appear early.

(vi) Some medicines are proved both in mother tincture as well as potentized form. The toxicological symptoms are, also, taken into account. Nevertheless, the symptoms resulting from the medicine in material form and dynamic form vary from each other, which are not demarcated.

(vii) Drugs that were proved centuries back in a different socio-cultural and environmental set up are liable to differ in symptomatology in the present scenario.

(viii) Uniformity in gradation of symptoms is not maintained in different Materia Medica. In Materia Medica Pura and Chronic Diseases there are two grades, in Allen's Key Notes three grades and Hering's Guiding Symptoms five grades.

7. LEGAL ASPECT: -

(i) If any pharmacist gives one potentized medicine in place of the other then there is hardly any machinery to detect it. Thus, he escapes law.

(ii) Iatrogenic diseases ⁽⁴²⁾, which are induced by physician, are possible in homoeopathy when medicines are given in higher potency and in stronger dose on the basis of similarity of symptoms ^(§276). However, the side effect of medicines so widely vary from patient to patient that it is difficult to detect the fault of the physician.

8. SOCIAL ASPECT: -

(i) It has limited scope in family planning, which is a dire need of the present society. There is hardly any medicine to prevent conception or to induce abortion. Occasionally oral administration of Pulsatilla 1M; Pinus lambertiana θ and Gossypium herbaceum θ ; and the application of Carica papaya θ through vaginal route produce abortion. However, these are less reliable and not free from danger on the ground that sometimes incomplete abortion results from these means, leading to sepsis.

(ii) It has limited role in different national and global health programmes. E.g., although there are some homoeopathic medicines like Kali carb., Tuberculinum, Lycopodium, etc. for Tuberculosis, but sufficient research work has not been done to test the reliability of these medicines in the cure of this disease unlike the allopathic medicines used for the same purpose. Although a radical cure of the diseases is little yielded from allopathy, and it has been frequently observed that after removal of one disease by such medicines another disease is produced; this fact is hardly admitted by the allopathic physicians, and a statistical correlation of it is scarcely established.

(iii) Very poor patients consuming poor diet and having faulty regimen are likely to have difficulty in cure. Poor diet deficient in essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals, protein, and calorie, etc. lead to malnutrition, immunodeficiency, avitaminosis, etc. In such cases, the best effort of the most efficient physician yields nothing. It is because medicine is not the sufficient condition for the cure of disease; rather it is one essential condition, only. The other conditions like proper diet, house, clothing, sleep, exercise, mental relaxation, sexual function, etc. are essential for the cure of disease. As poverty can hardly make these needs available to a person properly, so, a best selected medicine taken in most suitable potency and most suitable dose can hardly cure a disease in such cases.

(iv) People having urgent work like very busy people and those who are to earn their bread and butter by daily wage require quick recovery. Homoeopathy, unlike the different antipathic measures, can hardly provide immediate palliative treatment. Thus, in most urgent cases a very quick relief is less expected^(Foot note to §67).

(v) In aristocratic society people usually have diet and regimen containing much medicinal virtue that disturbs the action of medicine, making its free action difficult. The different scented substances and chemicals used in tooth-paste, soap, deodorants, cosmetics, diet, etc. disturb the smooth action of homoeopathic medicines, making the cure difficult.

In the modern time period the many-fold pollution, adulteration, stressful and disordered life-style has lead to many obstacles in the path of cure. To many such factors human organism has become accustomed although the absences of these negative factors are suitable for cure. One should be optimistic in the way of life. Limitation are likely to exist along with scope like eddy current to the main stream. Thus, a homeopathic physician or student should not be dismayed by the limitation. It is his duty to minimise it to the best possible extent, and widen its scope further.

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