

“Evolution of Theory of Drug Dynamisation & its utility in Homoeopathic treatment”

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Abstract –

“Homeopathic dynamisation” is a process by which the medicinal properties which are latent in natural substances while in their crude state, become awakened and developed into activity to an incredible degree.

According to Dr. Stuart Close, “Homeopathic potentisation” is a mathematico-mechanical process for the reduction, according to scale, of crude, inert or poisonous medicinal substances to a state of physical solubility, physiological assimilability and therapeutic activity and harmless, for use as homeopathic healing remedies.

Drugs are potentised by two methods:

1. Trituration - in case of insoluble substances.
2. Succussion - in case of soluble substances.

Key words-potentisation, dynamisation, trituration, succussion, vital force

Discussion-

Today, homoeopathic medicines are safe to administer to the sick person, for the purpose of restoration of his health to give him cure. However, in initial days, Homeopathic remedies were prescribed in crude chemical doses just like other medicines and were prone to producing very pernicious effects. With the discovery of potentisation, however, we are not facing the trouble of having harmful side effects because of administration of homoeopathic medicine.

Dr. Hahnemann first introduced the theory of dynamisation in 5th edition of Organon. In his book “Materia Medica Pura” , he explained the power of dynamisation in the year 1826 as well as in 1827. Since the year 1796, Dr. Hahnemann prescribed homoeopathic medicines in crude form which lead to unwanted sufferings to patient called aggravation. This unwanted phenomenon led him to think upon the concept of dilutions. Dr.Hahnemann was experimenting on the curative effect of homoeopathic medicines in smallest doses. He prescribed the drug Arnica in 18th & Nux vomica in 9th dilutions itself in the year 1812. With this discovery, Dr. Hahnemann identified that some inert substances eg. common salt, charcoal, lycopodium, silicea etc, when triturated with sugar of milk, became efficient medicines. Because of such miraculous experiences, he started calling his medicine as dynamisations & not dilutions. Because of dilution, toxic effects of that crude substance is removed, but Dr. Hahnemann observed that they lost their healing benefits also. So the theory of Drug Dynamisation is very essential in homoeopathic practice.

About opposition-This doctrine, by which the stirring or shaking with a non- medicinal vehicle was alleged to increase the power of the drug, met with opposition from those physicians who believed that an increase of the material quantity of the drug was the sole way of increasing its activity. Accordingly Hufeland asking, “What effect can the hundred-thousandth part of a grain of belladonna have?”To this questions, Dr. Hahnemann replied, by a short article, in the Lesser Writings, entitled “On the power of small doses of medicine in general, and of belladonna in particular.” He refers to the difference observed in the effect of a hard dry pill of extract of belladonna and of a single grain of the same extract dissolved in a couple of pints of water, by being well rubbed up with it, and then strongly shaken for five minutes. In this way, he proved the effectiveness of homoeopathic medicine by the process of Drug Dynamisation.

Answering the question, how to release the hidden healing force from inside the drug, how to achieve its potentisation or how to dynamise the medicine, Hahnemann recalled Rumford’s experiments. Benjamin Thompson (better known as 'Count Rumford'), (1753 – 1814) was the inventor of mechanical heat theory. He knew the transformation of labour into heat by speculating that heat is movements of the smallest particles. By swift movements, i.e., by friction of two metallic plates in a closed room, Rumford achieved an increase in temperature inside that room. From this phenomenon, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann deduced that metal contains untapped reserves of heat energy in latent, bound, undeveloped state: “..latent heat, even in metals that feel cold, is manifested when they are rubbed.. ” Dr.Hahnemann used this partial discovery of physics, that the rubbing together of two metallic objects brings out heat, to support his theory of dynamisation.

The Process of Drug Dynamisation-

As described, the process of potentisation involves the repeated dilution and jarring shaking (succussion) of a substance to remove its toxic effects. In the process, healing effects are amplified. If the substance is insoluble (such as a metal) it will be grinded (trituration) with lactose in the early stages until it reaches the point at which it can be dissolved.

As Hahnemann found, dilution without succussion will not make a medicine; both stages of the process are necessary. While dilution reduces the toxicity of the original substance, succussion somehow releases the dormant energy of that substance into the liquid carrier to give the remedy its healing effect. Making a homeopathic remedy is as simple as dissolving a substance in a liquid, succussing it (shaking it with a pounding action against the palm of your hand or a leather covered book), diluting it further, succussing, diluting again, succussing, and so on. What is truly amazing is that these stages, even if repeated tens of thousands of times, will produce a highly active and curative remedy. The succussions and triturations are done mainly on two

scales of potencies- 'Decimal scale' (denoted by the letter 'X') and 'Centesimal scale'(denoted by the letter 'C'). Now, we have been able to go further to the 50 millesimal potency or LM potency.

Dr. Hahnemann explained about Drug Dynamisation in 5th & 6th edition of Organon.

Aphorism 269

§ 269- Fifth Edition

The homoeopathic system of medicine develops for its use, to a hitherto unheard-of degree, the spirit-like medicinal powers of the crude substances by means of a process peculiar to it and which has hitherto never been tried, whereby only they all become penetratingly efficacious and remedial, even those that in the crude state give no evidence of the slightest medicinal power on the human body.

§ 269- Sixth Edition

The homoeopathic system of medicine develops for its special use, to a hitherto unheard-of degree, the inner medicinal powers of the crude substances by means of a process peculiar to it and which has hitherto never been tried, whereby only they all become immeasurably and penetratingly efficacious¹ and remedial, even those that in the crude state give no evidence of the slightest medicinal power on the human body.

This remarkable change in the qualities of natural bodies develops the latent, hitherto unperceived, as if slumbering² hidden, dynamic (§ 11) powers which influence the life principle, change the well-being of animal life.³ This is effected by mechanical action upon their smallest particles by means of rubbing and shaking and through the addition of an indifferent substance, dry of fluid, are separated from each other. This process is called dynamizing, potentizing (development of medicinal power) and the products are dynamizations⁴ or potencies in different degrees.

1 Long before this discovery of mine, experience had taught several changes which could be brought about in different natural substances by means of friction, for instance, warmth, heat, fire, development of odor in odorless bodies, magnetization of steel, and so forth. But all these properties produced by friction were related only to physical and inanimate things, whereas it is a law of nature according to which physiological and pathogenic changes take place in the body's condition by means of forces capable of changing the crude material of drugs, even in such as had never shown any medicinal properties. This is brought about by trituration and succussion, but under the condition of employing an indifferent vehicle in certain proportions. this wonderful physical and especially physiological and pathogenic law of nature had not been discovered before my time. No wonder then, that the present students of nature and physicians (so for unknowing) cannot have faith in the magical curative powers of the minute doses of medicines prepared according to homoeopathic rules (dynamised).

2 The same thing is seen in a bar of iron and steel where a slumbering trace of latent magnetic force cannot but be recognized in their interior. Both, after their completion by means of the forge stand upright, repulse the north pole of a magnetic needle with the lower end and attract the south pole, while the upper end shows itself as the south pole of the magnetic needle. But this is only a latent force; not even the finest iron particles can be drawn magnetically or held on either end of such a bar.

Only after this bar of steel is dynamised, rubbing it with a dull file in one direction, will it become a true active powerful magnet, one able to attract iron and steel to itself and impart to another bar of steel by mere contact and even some distance away, magnetic power and this in a higher degree the more it has been rubbed. In the same way will trituration a medicinal substance and shaking of its solution (dynamisation, potentisation) develop the medicinal powers hidden within and manifest them more and more or if one may say so, spiritualizes the material substance itself.

3 On this account it refers to the increase and stronger development of their power to cause changes in the health of animals and men if these natural substances in this improved state, are brought very near to the living sensitive fibre or come in contact with it (by means of intake or olfaction). Just as a magnetic bar especially if its magnetic force is increased (dynamised) can show magnetic power only in a needle of steel whose pole is near or touches it. The steel itself remains unchanged in the remaining chemical and physical properties and can bring about no changes in other metals (for instance, in brass), just as little as dynamised medicines can have any action upon lifeless things.

4 We hear daily how homoeopathic medicinal potencies are called mere dilutions, when they are the very opposite, i.e., a true opening up of the natural substances bringing to light and revealing the hidden specific medicinal powers contained within and brought forth by rubbing and shaking. The aid of a chosen, unmedicinal medium of attenuation is but a secondary condition. Simple dilution, for instance, the solution of a grain of salt will become water, the grain of salt will disappear in the dilution with much water and will never develop into medicinal salt which by means of our well prepared dynamisation, is raised to most marvellous power.

Hahnemann understood the disease and remedy as pure dynamic states. In the state of untuning, disharmony, of the spirit-like vital force in man, which is the disease, homeopathic remedy evokes a new, artificial sickness. The original disease is replaced by a new sickness, which either extinguishes itself, or is overpowered by the original vital force. The result is the state of health again & this is possible only because of Drug Dynamisation.

Conclusion –

Potentisation is the process of minimising, rather negating the toxic effects of the crude drug substance and increasing its dynamic, curative property, by two methods called 'Succussion' and 'Trituration'. The potentisation imprints energetic information from the original substance onto the diluting liquid during the stages of succussion. This liquid is then prescribed according to the Law of Similars as either drops or medicated pilules to the sick person. They carry the energetic information into the body to trigger a self healing reaction that gives cure.

The objectives of potentisation in Homoeopathy are:

1. To reduce the medicinal substance, to avoid unwanted medicinal aggravations and side effects.
2. Homeopathy believes that vital force is dynamic in nature and that is affected by disease because of some dynamic inimical force, can only be cured by the dynamic power of the medicine, not by its material quantity.
3. By this process the most virulent and deadly poisons are not only rendered harmless, but are transformed into healing remedies.
4. Substances which are medicinally inert in their crude natural state are thus rendered active and effective for healing mission.
5. The medicinal qualities of other drugs which are more or less active in their natural state are enhanced and their sphere of action is broadened by this process.
6. The action of medicines is deeper, longer and more wide-spread because of the process of Drug potentiation.

Reference Books-

- 1) Organon of Medicine:Sixth edition – Dr.Samual Hahnemann
- 2) Principles and practice of homoeopathy – Richard Hughes
- 3) Genius of homoeopathy – Stuart Close
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