

## **Logical Views on Organon and Chronic Disease**

Organon of medicine and chronic disease are two very difficult books to understand easily.

I would in this essay try to make some points very clear for the reader. Let's me first give you introduction of Hahnemann's theory of the nature of chronic diseases.

Hahnemann after discovery of homoeopathy very soon realized that he had noted little success in his patients' long-term recovery from chronic diseases, although he achieved effective homeopathic treatment of patients with acute conditions. He started looking for the hidden factor of the "maintaining cause" of chronic diseases. He often asked himself whether it could be due to too small a number of remedies being known. However this explanation didn't fully satisfy him, even though in hindsight it was one of the major cause of the solution. Hahnemann tried to solve this problem for almost ten years by burning his night lamp. Finally in 1827, he presented to the homoeopathic community his discovery of the nature of chronic diseases.

Hahnemann reported that the cause of chronic diseases was an underlying chronic infection which he later lad as miasm. At first glance, this makes a lot of sense as most chronic diseases evolve in a similar fashion as infectious diseases—relentlessly progressing each time the defences of the organism are down. Hahnemann concluded, from the evidence then available to him, that almost all chronic diseases had their origin in three underlying miasmatic or infectious diseases, namely syphilis, sycosis or what he called "the fig wart disease" (genital warts), and psora (scabies). He writes, "In Europe and even n rest of the world so far as it is known, according to all investigations, only three chronic miasms are found, the diseases caused by which manifest themselves through local symptoms, and from

which most, if not all, the chronic diseases originate; namely, first, syphilis, which I have also called the venereal chancre disease; then sycosis, or the fig wart disease, and finally the chronic disease which lies at the foundation of the eruption of itch; i.e., the psora which I shall treat first as the most important." This discovery led him to search for remedies addressing what he considered to be the most important of these chronic diseases, psora or scabies. Thus, in 1828 he published the first volume of his materia medica of antipsoric remedies.(as contrast to Materia Medica Pura)

Hahnemann uses syphilis as the model disease to illustrate the evolution of chronic diseases, which incidentally was also recognized in his time as a chronic disease by the rest of the medical fraternity. Hahnemann described the different stages in the evolution of syphilis, which he eventually extrapolates to the other two chronic miasms. First, he said, there is the contagion that happens at the point of contact. This is followed by a prodromal state where the entire organism is seized by the miasm. Then after a lapse of time there is the appearance of local symptoms, the chancre in the case of syphilis. Then, he says, as long the local skin manifestation remains present, the disease will not manifest itself in the interior of the organism. Therefore, it is the disappearance or suppression of the chancre that precipitates secondary syphilis. "So it, the chancre, when not expelled acts vicariously and soothingly for the syphilis within." *This last point is so important that Hahnemann's entire understanding of the evolution of chronic diseases rests upon it.*

Hahnemann then explored these steps in regards to scabies. He writes in Chronic Diseases that "Psora (the itch disease), like syphilis, is a miasmatic chronic disease, and its original development is similar" but it is "the most contagious of all chronic miasms," as it "needs only a simple contact like a mild touch to the skin." He explained that in scabies, as in syphilis, there is a prodromal state during which there is an absence of symptoms while the miasm invades the rest of the organism dynamically through the fine nerves of the body. Then, he says, "The diseased vital force tries to soothe the internal

malady through the establishment of a suitable local symptom on the skin, the tiny vesicles that has a pleasurable itching.

Hence as long as this eruption continues in its normal form, the internal psora, with its secondary manifestation cannot break forth, but must remain "covered or latent".

Therefore, the danger of suppressing the external manifestation of a chronic infection became the keystone of his "discovery" or understanding of the nature of chronic diseases.

This becomes so important that this theory is the basic foundation of Hahnemann's theory of suppression.

Unfortunately Hahnemann was not the first scientist to discover this phenomena of the danger of suppressing itch like eruption, He himself quotes a great number of physicians having made similar observations, and among them Dr.Autenrieth



who between 1806-1808 published a treatise on the danger of suppressing the itch eruption. This name comes in the second edition of chronic disease where Hahnemann confesses that he was not aware of the work of Autenrieth.Hence the danger of suppressing the itch eruption with the use of certain ointments

like arsenic, mercury and sulphur was a major cause of psora to go deeper and affect the other important organ.

Hahnemann was very persistent in his view that disappearance of the local skin lesions of the three chronic infectious diseases, scabies, syphilis, and genital warts paves the way for the development of almost all natural chronic diseases, to an extent this was true but what about drug included and occupational diseases as well as diseases due to wrong life style!!!!!!

Finally Hahnemann concluded that the three chronic infectious diseases like syphilis, fig wart disease and scabies share a common denominator and that he called as "miasms" where, after incubation, a skin lesion develops and acts vicariously to keep the internal miasm in check. But as soon as the skin lesion disappears, the chronic miasmatic disease affects the interior of the organism.

Hahnemann and Autenrieth were at a cross road regarding their belief as Hahnemann believed serious internal malady appeared in patients who got their eruption suppressed by applying zinc ointment whereas Autenrieth believed it was the toxicity of the ointments used that caused these adverse health conditions and not the fact that scabies disappeared because of an external application!!!!!!

Here Hahnemann was totally correct in his belief because he also observed that many times skin eruptions make their appearance toward the end of treatment with antipsoric remedies, he felt that they were the old suppressed scabies eruptions and saw this as another confirmatory element of his discovery.

Let's examine the same for the fig wart disease, or sycosis, a sexually transmitted infection that has figwarts as its first symptom, and is "usually (not always)" accompanied by a thick, purulent, gonorrhoeal discharge. When the figwarts would disappear or be removed by local ointments or cautery , he felt there would be similar excrescences that would "then break out in other parts of the body, in different parts of the

body like mouth,face,tongue,lips,neck etc., or there would arise other ailments of the body like contraction of the tendons of the flexor muscles, especially the fingers."

Unfortunately when one examines the history of homoeopathy in detail one will see that great stalwarts of homoeopathy like Lippe, Hering, Guernsey and Dunham made almost no reference to Hahnemann's concept of chronic diseases.

Most of the above stalwarts considered constitutional defects what we call as dyscrasia and diathesis rather than Hahnemann's concept of chronic miasms as the fundamental cause of disease.

One thing which I liked about Hahnemann was that he always protected his theory by clinical success from his practice. What his theory lacks is that it does not hold true in the light of modern micro biology, immunology and genetics.

Hahnemann's errors are too numerous to be listed here but we could look at some of the major ones.

First, Hahnemann based his theory on many observations that have now been found to be incorrect. For example, regarding the disappearance of the skin eruption which is the keystone of his discovery, he assumed that if the chancre in syphilis is not removed by local treatment or cured after internal treatment it will remain "standing on the same place during man's lifetime" and therefore "the secondary symptoms of the venereal disease, syphilis, cannot break out as long as it exists." *It is now known that the primary chancre disappears spontaneously in most untreated people within two to six weeks of its appearance. It is also known that the chancre can still be present in some cases of secondary syphilis. Also, Hahnemann likely confused chancroid with syphilis, as he attributes to syphilis the chancre and its buboes being painful which, in syphilis, they are not.*

Thus, Hahnemann was wrong when he said that no "trace of the venereal disease breaks out, so long as the chancre

remains untouched in its place ... for it never passes away of itself"

An interesting fact is that Dr. Lippe reported that patients he thought had been cured of syphilis would return many years later with manifestation of secondary syphilis.

Also it is very interesting to understand that "almost all" natural chronic diseases, with the exception of those issuing from the chronic effect of syphilis and human papilloma virus infection, come originally from scabies.

Hahnemann neglected to identify genetic, congenital, metabolic, nutritional, auto immune and degenerative diseases. Hahnemann also failed to differentiate or consider the dozens of diseases issuing from chronic infection, other than those issuing from infection with the spirochete *Trepanoma pallidum* or the human papilloma virus, such as tuberculosis, gonorrhoea, genital herpes, leprosy, Lyme disease, malaria, brucellosis, histoplasmosis, treponematoses (endemic syphilis, yaws, and pinta), actinomycoses, etc.

He also mistakenly considered most skin eruptions to be manifestations of the internal itch infection, including eczema, leprosy, erysipelas, psoriasis, warts, ringworm, tinea capitis, psoriasis, yaws, etc., depending, as he says, on different environmental factors. We know today that scabies, or the itch, is the result of an infestation of the skin by the microscopic *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite. Hahnemann confused the skin infestation by the scabies mite with an internal infection. There is no evidence whatsoever to support a systemic infection beyond the skin infestation by the *Sarcoptes scabiei* or any other microorganism. Also majority of people now living all over the world have no past history of having contracted scabies, and have tons of chronic diseases!!!!. When I look at the time line during Hahnemann's period I can see clearly that Europe was under the grip of scabies.

Hahnemann in his chronic disease and organon attributed the chronic diseases due to some kind of poison or a virus ("Gifte") the agent transmitted in cases of infection.

The following references give validity of my statement.

This is noted in his treatise on venereal diseases of 1789

- In his two articles on hydrophobia (1792 and 1803)
- Article on the Genius of the Homeopathic Healing Art (1813 and 1833)
- In his Reminiscence (1818 and 1825)
- In a footnote to symptom 673
- Materia Medica of Sulphur in the Materia Medica Pura (1825)
- Chronic Diseases (1828 and 1835).

Moreover, in a pamphlet published in 1831 on the propagation of cholera, he writes *"the contagious matter of cholera most probably consists"* of "those excessively minute, invisible, living creatures," or "millions of those miasmatic animated beings." However, this contrasts with his later, but apparently incorrect, understanding that the transmissible influence of an infection is "invisible" and "nonmaterial." Indeed, in the sixth edition of the Organon of 1843, Hahnemann defines in a long footnote to paragraph 11 the term "dynamic influence," which begins as follows: *"When man falls ill it is at first only the self-sustaining spirit-like vital force (vital principle) everywhere present in the organism which is untuned by the dynamic influence of the hostile disease agent."* He defines this "dynamic influence" as an "invisible" and "nonmaterial spirit-like force" to which he ascribes the transmission of miasms similar to the way "the magnet communicates magnetic force to the needle."

Moreover when Hahnemann talks about return of skin symptoms after its suppression by local ointment is actually the return of scabies.

Regarding sycosis, Hahnemann wrongly associated genital warts with gonorrhoea, leukoplakia, pigmented nevi, and Dupuytren's contracture, which have no demonstrable pathological links between each other.