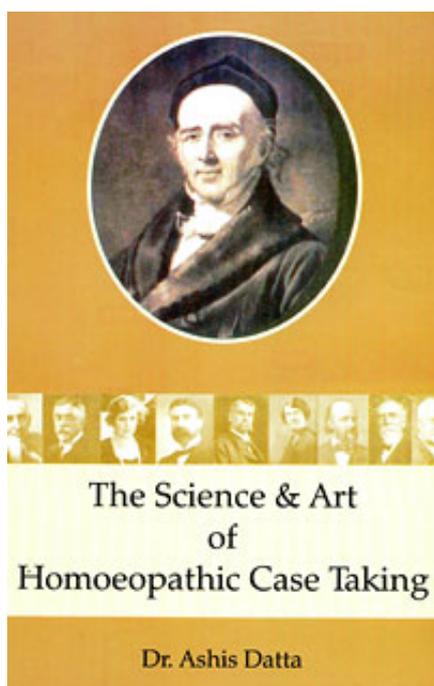


Ashis Datta

The Science & Art of Case Taking

Reading excerpt
[The Science & Art of Case Taking](#)
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5. Any pain or trouble anywhere else that accompanies the piles? Do they come with diarrhoea or constipation?
6. Any itching, burning, smarting, soreness? Are they large or small? When and under what circumstances it occurred?
7. Has he undergone operation for the piles? Has he ever had an injection of medicine into the piles?

Lungs and Breathing:

1. Is the pain or other trouble in the chest muscles or deep in to the lungs? Do colds usually affect the lungs?
2. Does he cough up anything? Does he have any difficulty in lying on either side or on back? Is there any rattling in the chest?
3. Is there any consumption or lung disease in paternal or maternal family? How many near relatives have died of lung troubles?
4. Is there any soreness of the lungs? Any sensitiveness? Have lungs been injured by excessive exercise, running, etc.?
5. Does he have any trouble in breathing? What affects the breathing? In what position is the breathing affected? What position does he assume when breathing is affected?
6. Does he have difficulty in breathing during inspiration or expiration? Is breathing affected during or after sleep, while drinking?

Heart:

1. Does the heart palpitate? At what time or under what circumstances does palpitation come on?
2. Any trouble of heart after eating or sleeping? What kind of palpitation?

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3. Is heart beat regular, loud, prolonged, purring, intermitting or skipping? Any other sound in the heart beside the beat? Do heart and pulse beat together? How many beats per minute? Has he blueness of lips or fingers?
4. Any difficulty in breathing in heart troubles? Any sensation in region of the heart? Does motion or rest affect the heart?
5. Has heart ever been strained by excessive exercise, mountain climbing, etc.?

Cough and Expectoration:

1. What kind of cough has he? Constant, croupy, crowing, deep, dry, explosive, fatiguing, forcible, frequent, gagging, hacking, harassing, hard, harsh, hissing, hoarse, hollow, jerking, labored, loose, loud, moist, muffled, nervous, noisily, painful, in paroxysms (spells), periodic (at certain times), racking, rapid, rattling, ringing, rough, scraping, screeching, shaking, sharp, short, shrill, spasmodic, sudden, suffocative, tearing, teasing, tickling, (where?) tight, tormenting, violent, wheezing, whistling.
2. What causes the cough? Acids, anger, anxiety, coffee, from cold, crying, teething, while drinking, after drinking, as from dust, while eating, after eating, emotions, excitement, exertion or working/in fever, from fright, heart troubles, heat, indoors, out of doors, laughing, liver troubles, least motion, mucus in throat or lungs, music, from nausea, odors, playing the piano, running, from smoke, stooping, talking, tickling (where?), dry weather, wet weather, windy weather, from yawning, going from open air into warm room, going from warm room into open air, when thinking of it, during study, sensation of sulphur fumes, feather, or anything else?

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3. When does cough come on? Afternoon, evening, forenoon, lying down, sitting up, morning, night, noon, during sleep (does it waken him?) before arising in the morning, just after arising, before midnight, after midnight, early evening, when going to bed, just after going to beds in company, when alone, during the day, only at night, etc.?
4. Where does cough seem to come from? Abdomen, chest (lungs), back of mouth, windpipe, stomach, throat, etc.?
5. Where does it hurt him when he coughs? How does it hurt him? What effect has the cough on him? Must hold his throat, chest, head, stomach, or any other part while coughing?

Expectoration:

1. Does he cough up anything? What does it taste like? Can he spit it out? Does it fly out of the mouth while coughing? Does it float in water or sink? Does it vary as to quantity, colour, consistency, taste, etc.?
2. When does he expectorate and when not? Morning, noon, afternoon, evening, forepart of night, after part of night, at bed time, on arising in the morning, after rising in the morning? Under any other circumstance?

Joints:

Locate which joint and side is affected. For any pain and sensation or feeling describe as mentioned above under *Pain and Sensations*.

1. Any cracking on movement? Has it been out of place or dislocated? Has it ever been injured? Does it feel as if dislocated?
2. Any eruption or sore about it?
3. Is it inflamed, hot, swollen, sore, and painful? Does it move easily? Is it still or is there no motion? Does the

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inability to move come from pain, or from any other cause?

4. Is it numb? Has he had rheumatism or suffering now? Has it ever been sprained? Is it weak?
5. Does he have corns or bunions? Any trouble in walking?

Muscles:

Are muscles contracted, knotted, sore, stiff, any numbness, pricking, tickling?

Bones:

1. Indicate the bone affected. Has the place affected ever been injured, bruised or broken?
2. Do his bones break easily? Is there any swelling of the bone? Describe the trouble carefully in all particulars.

Back:

1. Especially describe the time or position in which the pain comes on.
2. Also what position or act (like pressure, lying on hard bed, etc.) makes the pain better or worse? State carefully the part of back affected. Has he ever had the back injured in any way?
3. *Sensations*, as discussed earlier, may be consulted for any type of sensation.

Wounds and Injuries:

1. Has he had severe wounds or injuries in the past?
2. Was his general health good after the injury? Has he had a hard fall? Is the wound a cut, tearing of the flesh, punctured, gunshot, sting of insect, a strain, or anything else? Give exact location.

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3. What caused the wound or injury? Did it bleed much, a little? Did the wound heal readily?
4. What is the appearance, colour and shape of the scar? Does the scar give any trouble? Does the scar change colour at any time?
5. What kind of insect stung him (if bad effect from insect sting)? What bruised the place? What is the colour, appearance, and extent of the bruise?
6. What produced the burn (steam, hot water, fire, hot wax, etc.)? What is the extent and appearance of the burn? Is the burn deep or only on the skin?
7. What produced the cut or laceration? Was it deep or shallow? Is the wound cold, or very hot?

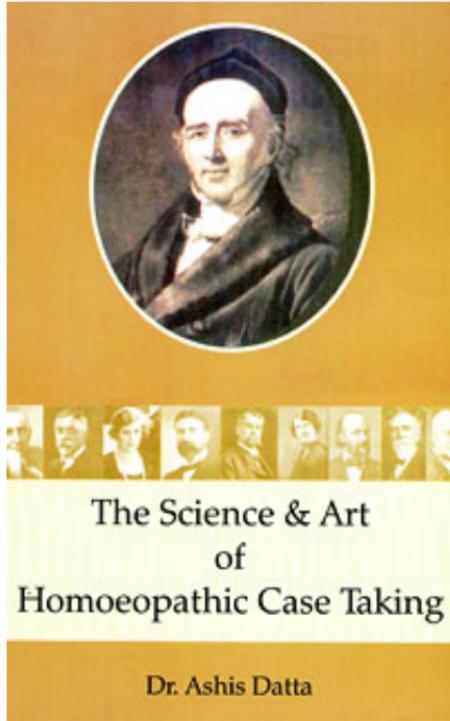
Bleeding:

1. Location and causation of bleeding. Does the blood ooze, flow, or come in gushes? Is the blood thin or thick, clotted, lumpy, stringy, hot? Colour and appearance of the blood.
2. Is he subject to bleeding? If so, from where? Has he ever been subject to bleeding? Does the bleeding weaken him?
3. Are there any peculiar sensations or feelings that accompany the bleeding?

Morbid Growths, Tumors. Cancers, etc.:

1. If on the outside, indicate the exact location and the appearance. If inside, describe the feeling to the hand.
2. Indicate the size and general form. Is it hard, soft, yielding, movable? Any sensation in it? Has he ever had any injury or blow on or near the place?
3. Describe how it began, and since how long. Has the growth slow or rapid? Is it first on the skin or from within? Does it grow at any particular time or from any cause?

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