Nagendra Babu
Comprehensive Study of Organon

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CHAPTER-1
KNOWLEDGE OF PHYSICIAN

Attempting to comment on the aphorisms of Organon is like trying to accommodate the sea in a tea cup. Every reader tries to interpret the aphorisms in his own manner. It is difficult to understand the mind of Hahnemann in a single reading of Organon. Each and every time one repeats the study; reader ends in finding a treasure of therapeutic hints. Organon of medicine is a subject to be discussed rather than a subject to be taught. Let us make an attempt to comprehend the aphorisms in the "Organon of medicine".

THE PHYSICIAN'S MISSION

§ 1: The physician's high and only mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, as it is termed.

In the very first reading, the first aphorism of Organon sounds very simple and well known. But the careful and repeated study reveals that each and every word in this aphorism is conveying something ideal to the reader. It is known that Hippocrates also had written an aphorism with the same meaning, but Hahnemann's view was different from that of the father of medicine.

The physician is a person, who has thorough knowledge of "art of healing". The word physician is derived from the Greek word "phusis", which means "nature". Hence, physician is a person who knows the laws and principles of nature and knows how to apply them in his practice. Hahnemann considered the physician as a person who is well versed in the "art of healing" than in the "art of drugging", as viewed by the allopathic
school. The patient expects removal of his sufferings from its root and not just temporary reliever naming of the disease. The patient is a victim of the adverse environmental conditions. He is the person who has lost his previous ability, who no longer enjoys the quality of life he used to do before, in short his equilibrium of the system has been disturbed. I Hahnemann used the article "the" while addressing physician, because the physician is not only a diagnostician of disease, but also a prognostician, a health adviser, a healer and a counselor. His prime mission is only to cure the sick. His knowledge must be used to restore the patient's physical, mental and social disturbances with health.

In his original German version of Organon, Hahnemann has used the word "Beruf". Different English translators have translated this word into different meanings:
1. C.Wesslhoef translated it as "calling".
2. C.A.Baldwin supported C.Wesslhoef’s idea.
3. C.Wheeler called it as "aim".
4. R.E.Dudgeon in the 5th edition called it as "mission".

The word mission seems to be appropriate because the physician must attend his patients with the inner passion to serve and to save the patient and not just with sense of attending duties. Hahnemann considered "curing the sick" as a holy and ultimate activity of the physician. No other work is important for the physician than curing the sick. All his energies must be focused at bringing the sick people back to the healthy state. The physician is not just a professional, who attends his duties for which he is trained. But he must see the sick people with a humanitarian approach. Physician's mission is to protect the life force of his patient to which the economy gives ultimate importance. He is the guardian of the most precious thing in the world called "life". "Life is invisible, substantial, intelligent, individual, coordinating power and cause directing and controlling the forces involved in the production and activity of any organism possessing individuality "– says Stuart Close. Hahnemann stressed upon this point by using "high and only mission".

**Concept of Health and Disease**

We observe Hahnemann stating "restore the sick to health" and not "disease to health". Hahnemann considers health as a state of well being. It indicates a state where all the structures and functions of the body are in harmony and the patient is not feeling any sort of discomfort. In the healthy
condition, the vital force is maintaining the integrity of the body. Health is not just absence of disease from the body. "Health is that balanced condition of living organism, in which the integral, harmonious performance of the vital functions tends to the preservation of the organism and the normal development of the individual" - Stuart Close. Health is the physical, social, psychological and economical well being of a person. Even W.H.O.’s definition seems to tally with the views of homeopathy. In healthy condition, man lives without any complaints from his surrounding environment. Health is a state of absence of symptoms of any sort. So long as the healthy man lives, he lives normally in the favorable environment he moves, he thinks, feels, acts and reacts in an orderly manner.

Health is a condition of a person, where he is enjoying state of "well being", maintaining the sensations and functions of the body with ease and comfort, without any complaints with the surroundings. In short, it is the harmonious state of 'ease' and 'comfort'. In the healthy condition, man is not aware of the functions taking place in his own body. Every function in his body goes on uninterruptedly. The heart beats, the lungs breaths, the kidneys filters and the stomach digests; but man does not notice this at all. He is in a state of perfect "ease". The value of the health can be best understood only when one looses it.

Disease is the disturbance in the harmonious state of body and mind. In disease, the patient is not at 'ease' and 'comfort'; it is a state of dis-easiness. "Disease is an abnormal vital process, a changed condition of life, which is inimical to the true development of the individual and tends to organic dissolution " - says Stuart Close. Disease is nothing but the deviation of health, which is understood only by its morbid symptoms. The disease, according to the dominant medical school, is nothing but the tissue change or the derangement. But Hahnemann explained that the derangement of the tissue change is always followed by the dynamic derangement of the vital force. The disease always manifests in the dynamic plane. Only the dynamic miasmatic power can derange the dynamic vital force. Hence, for Hahnemann "disease per se" is the dynamic morbid process which always precedes the pathological tissue change. The derangement of dynamic vital force always exhibits itself only by functional and behavioral changes, which we call as symptoms. If these functional changes are not controlled with the help of similar yet stronger dynamic medicines, it advances to structural changes.

By sick, Hahnemann meant disturbance of the whole personality.
Derangement of the vital force is termed as sick; it is the derangement of the inner man, which precedes any organic damage. When a person falls ill, it is not one part of the body but the entire human being that is suffering. Hahnemann believed strongly that the tissue cannot derange unless the vital force is deranged. Hence he comments "there is no disease, but sick people". The derangement starts in the centre, i.e. in the inner man, in the vital force. This derangement or the dynamic disturbance of the vital force is caused by the inimical forces, miasms. Only way to identify disease is by symptoms. Presence of symptoms is considered as disease in homeopathy.

**Concept of Cure**

Hahnemann strongly believed "removal of the totality of symptoms is removal of disease". In homeopathy, 'cure' has a special significance. Mere removal of the most annoying symptoms and removal of the external bodily symptoms does not mean cure. Hence, cure is nothing but the permanent removal of the whole symptoms by harmless and fixed principles. When the patient is brought back to his previous healthy state, it is considered that he is cured. "Cure is alteration of that altered state of health to its previously normal healthy state ".

Cure is "the removal of the whole perceptible signs and symptoms of the disease ".

Cure is the total annihilation of disease, permanent restoration of health by clearly defined and fixed principles as it is termed. In order to bring back health i.e. to cure, the intelligent physician has to rely solely upon the basic principles of the nature. These principles are clearly incorporated in the Organon of Medicine. Only based on these fundamental principles of homeopathy, we can restore the sick to health and cure the patient.

**Theoretic Medicine (§ 1, footnote)**

Homeopathy is not a theory of disease, but a theory of cure. In the footnote to § 1, Hahnemann criticizes that the physician's work is not to construct different theories about the disease and its cause. But, his aim is to find out the curative remedy to that disease. We have observed that in the medical history many physicians have wasted their talents and time in formulating various theories of diseases. Their hypothesis kept on changing from time to time. "If we look thoughtfully at the medical literature over
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