

CHRONIC DISEASE

It's Cause and Cure

An easy and comprehensive exposition
of the method of chronic treatment translated

Dr. N. Ghatak

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(An easy and comprehensive exposition of the method of chronic treatment translated)

by

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PREFACE.

The method of treatment of chronic diseases is peculiarly difficult, and the few books we have on the subject are in too technical and erudite a style for the ordinary man, and as such they are hardly enough for enabling a thorough grasp of the subject, particularly when studies of Homœopathy—in this country at least—have to be made unaided in most cases. As an humble but ardent student of Homœopathy for over a decade, I had myself had to encounter difficulties in having a grasp of this difficult subject, and I have ever felt the want of a small but comprehensive and easy treatise such as could be read and assimilated without the aid of an instructor. Such a book, I however found at last in Dr. N. Ghatak, B. A.'s remarkable treatise—“প্রাচীন পীড়ার কারণ ও তাহার চিকিৎসা”—in which he has explained the subject of chronic treatment to the Bengalee reader with a lucidness such as I have hardly come across even in the whole range of Homœopathic literature in English. And when I went through it on his having very kindly presented a copy to me, I conceived the idea of presenting a translation of this remarkably lucid exposition to those unacquainted with Bengalee, in the expectation that it might prove useful not only to the

student and the practitioner but also to such of the educated public as might care to know about disease and cure. The great Doctor's permission was sought for out of such considerations, and on his having very kindly given it to me and that most ungrudgingly and without any reserve—I turned out the following pages. A large portion of this was published in the famous Homœopathic Journal—"The Hahnemannian Gleanings" of Calcutta—during the last one year. And it is at the request of a large number of friends who saw it in that Journal that I am now offering it in book-form; and am leaving it to my reader to judge how far I have been successful and how far my expectation of having offered something useful has been realised.

Dr. Ghatak has placed me under a deep debt of gratitude not only by having given me his most unreserved permission for rendering a translation of his valuable book but also by having very kindly gone through the manuscript, and I take this opportunity of acknowledging it with thanks.

Sasaram.

P. N. Banerjee.

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CHRONIC DISEASE—ITS CAUSE AND CURE.

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I.

The Cause of Disease.

Some people are ever so busy in ascertaining the causes of the different diseases that they hardly find time to look to the more important part of their business as physicians—namely “cure”. For *true Homœopaths*, however, this is, to a large extent, waste of time and energy; and to some extent, it amounts to pursuing a wrong path, losing sight of the “Truth”. Various opinions have been expressed regarding the cause and origin of malaria. Some say that malarial germs breed in marshy tanks and ditches, and a kind of mosquito carries them into the human system, while others have discerned yet other causes by expensive and laborious researches. The

Allopathic method of treatment is a method of treatment by contraries, and as such, these searches for ascertaining the cause of a particular disease may be necessary for Allopaths. But one who understands Homœopathy and has really entered into its spirits knows, that the cause of disease is not outside the patient, and that the so called external circumstance that immediately precedes the disease and looks like the cause is really an *exciting cause* only. (Mechanical injuries—e.g. burns, a fall from a tree or a cut in the thigh, are not diseases, properly speaking, as they do not imply any disorder in the normal processes of the organism, and as such, they are left out of our consideration here). The *true cause* of disease is in the patient himself. There are many in malarious places, who have been exempt from infection, and the cause of this should be investigated. The true Homœopath knows that Gelsimium will cure a case of fever, if the particular symptoms of the case are similar to the particular symptoms of the medicine, no matter whether the fever has been caused by malaria or what. But an Allopathic physician has to know that the fever has been caused by malaria, as in that case, and in that case alone he can prescribe Quinine for killing the germs. You are a Homœopath, and you do not gain anything by knowing whether the fever is malarious or not, as you cannot give any other medicine than Gelsi-

mium, when it is Gelsimium alone that corresponds to the case. Your business is only to learn up the materia medica of the drug and to fit the drug to the patient. Your treatment is not according to cause (exciting) and you have no germs to kill. Of course, it is to be admitted that you too should have some knowledge of the external exciting causes, as these exciting causes have to be avoided for a prevention of the disease, though not to be treated.

There are other dangers, too, if, as Homœopaths, you do not take account of the *internal cause*, and worry yourself over the external exciting cause only. Suppose, a Gelsimium patient, who has been cured with Gelsimium, has a relapse after a short time, or suppose a Gelsimium patient is not at all cured with Gelsimium, you will be led at once to conclude that, for fever, there is no other medicine than Quinine—that in Homœopathy there is no treatment for fever, and so on. If on the contrary, you have understood the internal cause, and if you have the requisite insight, you will be able to discern that in the symptomatology of the patient there are indications of Psora, Syphilis or Sycosis, or of any two or of all the three of them, and that it is this internal enemy in the system that is either not allowing your medicine to act, or if it has acted, not allowing the action to be permanent. Then, you will be in a position to meet the situation with suitable anti-

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Psoric, anti-Sycotic or anti-Syphilitic drugs. If you have no knowledge of the internal cause of disease, and if you have not the insight necessary in such cases, Homœopathic prescribing is not possible.

Medicines, on the basis of the exciting cause, may be necessary at times—e.g., cold due to swimming, diarrhœa due to night keeping, and so on. But in such cases, the exciting cause will be one of the symptoms of the case, and the totality of the symptoms, and not this one symptom only, will decide the selection of the remedy. It is no Homœopathy to prescribe on the external exciting cause alone.

Three things are essentially necessary for true Homœopathic prescribing—(1) *The Law of Similars*—“*Similia Similibus Curantur*”—(2) *The minimum dose, and*—(3) *The application of only one medicine (unmixed) at a time.* There are other things too, but these three are the most fundamental.