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Porticos of Prescription: A review of the prevalent methods of Prescription

Dr. Chitra¹, Dr. Anil Sharma²

¹Assistant Professor, J R Kisan Homoeopathic Medical college & Hospital Rohatak

²Professor (HOD) Repertory, Sri Ganganagar Homoeopathic Medical college Hospital & RI, Sri Ganganagar

Abstract-

The prescription in the world of homoeopathy is an art. It is almost magical. In the use of words ‘art’ and ‘magic’ I do not wish to dissuade from one of the most scientific approaches to the treatment and possibly the only path of ‘cure’. Only that it is a thing so meticulously undertaken and such beautifully brought about that it seems much more than a plain prescription. The homoeopathic concepts such as of the patient in disease and not the disease in patient’ is still a thing less understood and lesser respected by the medical faculty. The laborious studies of the Organon since the days of the master himself and hence have given us a fair idea of the homoeopathic principles and we are much the thankful for them.

Key word: Porticos, Homeopathy; Prescription, Organon, Cure, organopathic, Miasm

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Corresponding author: Dr. Chitra¹, Assistant Professor, J R Kisan Homoeopathic Medical college & Hospital Rohatak

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Introduction-

Even though the current different ways or so called different schools of homoeopathy have come to profess their own variations of the path to the final prescription; they invariably follow the path laid down himself by the master. It is known that for any success in the clinical practice, the physician’s labours backed up by the scientific knowledge gained through years of toil are the most essential factors. These include the art of case taking, a

thorough knowledge of the principles of homoeopathy, a vast and at hand knowledge of Materia medica and last but not the least availability of an array of good quality Homoeopathic medicines.

One has to take the case in details and then analyse and assess according to each individual case. No two patients having a similar malady are the same. After categorising and repertorising all the symptoms a final ‘clinical picture’ is drawn

and accordingly the remedy and posology are decided upon.

Here are a collection of different paths that are observed in the clinical day to day practice for arriving at the prescription.

1. **Classical Homoeopathic Prescription or Constitutional Prescription**

Master Samuel Hahnemann has given three approaches to the same effect; these are

- I. Wholistic approach,
- II. Individualistic approach and
- III. Bedside approach.

Each of these help the physician to decide upon the prescription either singularly or in concert. The classical approach or the method given and followed by the master takes into consideration the complete totality of the symptoms, especially those that are characteristic to the case^{12, 8}. It is also known as constitutional prescription. The constitution of the case is actually the constitutional makeup of the patient's Mental, physical, and social aspects. Such a prescription, if done correctly and precisely can elicit the 'cure'. In fact this is the most sought after prescription by the patients who rightly entrust their health to Homoeopathy. It is aimed at bringing about a holistic healing at both physical and metaphysical planes. It has been observed that such prescription would not only bring about cure but also increases the resistance of patient from falling ill. It requires considerable time and patience parlance to both patient and physician.

2. Acute Prescription - In the course of day to day clinical practice there will always

be some patients who come in for an occasional prescription for allaying their acute symptoms that have just occurred in the course of their ongoing homoeopathic treatment. Most times these have a rapid onset, showing intensity and response over a short duration of time. Some are somewhat self-limiting in nature. But the intensity of symptoms call in for an acute prescription. The common acute diseases are sudden diarrhoea, most acute infections, common cold, sneezing, otalgia, etc. in most of these cases one may not find many peculiar symptoms that lead to a singular similimum. In such cases it necessitates to look towards the objective signs, keynotes and the aetiology to form the prescription. An example of such an acute prescription is the use of *Arnica* for falls, blows, bruises, sprains and lacerations.

3. **Prescription in cases of epidemics**

The master has recognised that in the cases of epidemics⁷ there is a single or a group of symptoms that have occurred in a population which manifest a remarkable similarity in every patient. In such cases it may be observed that a single case may not exhibit all the symptoms of that particular epidemic. It may be prudent thus to collect the complete picture from a group of individuals and then collectively undertake the repertorisation. By doing so, it may be possible to arrive at one or two remedies effectual for all the patients of that epidemic. Dr Samuel Hahnemann has asserted that sufferers of any particular epidemic respond well to such prescription.

4. Keynote Prescription - The word keynote literally means a prevailing tone or central

theme. The word is common in the language of music and also in the faculty of Homoeopathy. It has been a vital part of many a prescriptions. According to Dr H.C. Allen⁹, “the keynote is the characteristic of the remedy which individualises the case and this is something that is peculiar, uncommon, or sufficiently characteristic in the confirmed pathogenesis of a polycrest remedy. The keynote is the ‘red strand of the rope.’” In these prescriptions a thorough knowledge of *Materia Medica* is a must. The art of keynote prescription is a subtle one. Based on the competence and adeptness of the consulting physician, a keynote prescription may be scientific, artistic or intuitive.

5. Inter-current prescription

While treating any patient in disease there come the instances where there is a need to allay any acute disease or to accelerate the mode of cure. Sometimes there arises a need to remove some hindrances called as miasmatic blocks⁹. Dr Hahnemann introduced acute and chronic incurrent remedies in his first organon in 1828. The purpose of these remedies is to attain a desired result when a carefully selected homoeopathic remedy has not given it. The remedies given in an acute condition so as to manage an acute crisis in the midst of a chronic case are named acute inter-current remedies. The remedies administered to treat suppressions and other such obstacles to cure are termed chronic inter-current remedies. In the books of *Materia Medica*, common intercurrent remedies are mentioned in relation to the medicines.

6. Miasmatic Prescription - The concept of miasms and the chronic disease have been discussed in details by the master. Miasms³ are basically the inherent and the most notorious causes of the disease state. They predispose the individual towards a group of symptoms which occur commonly in these miasms. The miasms could actively or passively cause a disease state. It is believed that a few disease conditions that are inherited could be due to the miasm and they are propagated in progeny. There is a list of anti miasmatic⁴ remedies that a physician may choose from according to each individual.

There are a whole lot of other prescriptions such as the likes of nosodic¹¹ prescription, sarcodic prescription, organopathic prescriptions, pathological prescriptions, tautopathic prescriptions, palliative prescriptions and a lot more which are beyond the scope of this article.

Conclusion

The benevolence bestowed upon the mankind in the form of homoeopathy by the Master is a service beyond fruition. It has grown, has healed and continues to do so. In the flow of time different authors have added their uniqueness in the form of different methods of prescription and understanding. A few students of homoeopathy have found solace in one way a few in another. Yet, they have all achieved variable degrees of success and satisfaction, because, nothing satisfies more than a cured patient.

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