

HAHNEMANN & HOMOEOPATHY IN HISTORY OF MEDICINE

It is indubitable and infallible truth that "Life of all great men remaind us we can make our life sublime, departing shall leave behind us in the foot prints in the sands of the time"

On 10th April many people assemble, congregate and gather to pay their great tribute, homage, approbation, appreciation and acknowledgement to that great soul and to that great genius Who is the medical saviour of millions of frustratated suffering humanity down from the revial period of medicine to the present era. He is no one but Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homoeopathy.

Impartially, sensibly, if we want to visualise the place of Hahnemann in the medical history, the "Evolution of medicine " chonologically has to be looked for, Which is delineated below.

During antiquity, early men were believing on "Supernatural Theory" that mean the diseases are due to rath of God, invasion of evil sprits and mevolent influences of stars and planets. As a logical sequence the medicine was practised, consisted in appeasing God by sacrifices and rituals, driving evil spirits from human body by noise or violence and using charms and amulets to protect himself of against the influence of evil spirits.

Even today elements of primitive medicine are viable in India, Africa, Europe, and America particularly among pesant population.

Next comes the "Indian medicine". Its origin is traced back to the vedic time about 5000 BC. During this period medical history was associated with mythologicalfigures. Dhnanwatari the Hindu God of medicine is said to have been born as a result of churning the ocean during the "Tug of war" between the God and Demons.

Indian medicine is believed on "Tridos Theory". They are Vayu, Pitta and Kapha. Doctors of outstanding calibre were Atreya (1st doctor) Charak (Physician) and Susruta (Surgeon).

Then the period of "Chinese medicine" and its origin dates back to 2700 BC. Based on the traditional Chinese system of treatment. Chinese are pioners of Immunisation.

In 2000 BC Egyptian medicine developed on the Bank of river Nile, concept of Egyptian medicine was the disease are due to absorpction of harmful substances from intenzyme. Treatment was blood letting, cathartics, enema and wide range of drugs.

Therafter the Greek which traces back to 1200 BC "Aeseulapius" is the early leader of the Greek people were great believers in the theory of Humours - blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. Hippocrate was a shrewed clinician of Greek medicine. His famous oath the Hippocratic oath is the basis of medical ethic even today. We owe an enormous debt to Greeks for spearating from magic and raising it to a status of science. The glory of Greek faded away but not their contributions to science and arts.

When the great days of the Greek ended, the centre of civilization shifted to Rome. the Romans borrowed their medicine largely from the Greeks when they had conquered and added little to the medicine.

The medical men of outstanding calibres were celsus (25 BC to 50 AD) who gave the cardinal feature of Inflammation (Callor, dolor, rubor and tumor) and Gallen (131 - 200 AD) who observed the diseases are due to three factors :

- a) Predisposing factors
- b) Exciting factors and
- c) Environmental factors

Then comes mediaeval period (600 - 1400 AD). It is called the dark age of medicine. The lack of scientific knowledge promoted superstition in medicine. The charge of treatment was taken over by saints and sages.

In the midst, Arab stole a march over rest of the civilization. They translated the work of Hippocrates and Galen and preserved much of Greco-Roman wisdom.

Contribution of Arab is more to the knowledge of pharmacology. Drugs, alcohol, syrup are the terms still use today. When muslim invaded India they came with Greco-Arabian system which is "Unani system of medicine".

Then the period of Revival of medicine came. Medicine which was long in the knowledge of superstition and speculation began to emerge as a true science as new discoveries were made on human knowledge advanced.

Following genius took birth during that period.

- a) Fracastorius (1483 - 1553) enunciated the theory of contagian "Father of epidemiology".
- b) Paracelsus (1490 - 1541) who publicly burn the works of Gallen and attacked the superstition and dogma to medicine.
- c) Vasalius (1514 - 1590) revived surgery and became the father of modern surgey.

17th century was full of exciting discoveries in medicine.

- a) William Harvery (1578 - 1657) discovered circulation of blood.
- b) Leewenhock (1632 - 1723) a Dutch merchant made microscope
- c) John Hunter (1728 - 1798) laid the foundation of surgical pathology.
- d) Edward Jenner (1796) discovered prevention of small pox.
- e) During this period hahnemann appeared in 1755 and discovered homoeopathy in 1796.

Let us have a glimpse to the contemporary political situation of the place Germany where Homoeopathy had its birth in the middle of eighteenth century and the global political situation too.

Germany was consisted of 300 separate territories, the king of Austria and Prusia, the elector of Hanover and saxony, 94 spiritual lay princes, 103 counts, 40 prelates 53 free towns.

The most noteworthy feature of the period i.e. 1755 the year of Samuel Hahnemann's birth was that the whole Germany was utter and complete exhaustion as a result of 30 years war, a war of religion of previous

century. The commerce, art, literature, education in short everything which incites pride and heritage disappeared. Never was a country so scouraged or so devastated.

The background of Samuel Hahnemann the founder of Homoeopathy has been said to be a battle ground of wars and rumours of wars.

- a) Seven year war (1756 - 1763)
- b) The war of Baverian succession (1777)
- c) His second stay at Lepizic is the year of French Revolution
- d) In his third stay at Leipzig, Napoleon's soliders were actually fortifying the town.

During that time Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese empire was broked due to internal revolution and external conquest.

America was fighting for independence.

Canada was under British dominion.

India was under British trading Company. There were some independent, ambitious, powerful princes like Tipoo sultan of Mysore and Maratha chief were in India.

Let us unfurl the multidimensional talents of the precocious and gifted Germany boy. He was an intelligent and voracious reader acquired proficiency in many languages and quickly grasped all the medical knowledge available to his time and got his Doctorate degree.

During his life time he was engaged in translation from 1784 - 1806 being dissgusted with prevailing system of treatment. He has translated fourteen books with three major materia medica. Total number of pages translated will be 6000 pages.

He was engaged in the field of Research in Chemistry from 1784 to 1789 and have fourteen papers at his credit.

In the field of medicine he has 36 publications which are between 1782 to 1831 and comprising of 6213 pages. By above number of original publications he could able to build of a system of medicine which is called "Homoeopathy".

That great savant of medicine had a retched and measurable family life and was moved from place to place being humilated, harashed and frustrated but in long run he has given birth to a science which has been mitigating and will be mitigating the sufferings of millions of sufferers.

Hahnemann died on the 2nd July, 1843 at the age of 88 years, 2 months and 22 days.

Physicist, I. Galvani, G. Volta, Chemist Laboister, Priestley and Botanist Linne were the outstanding contemporary scientist in their fields of Hahnemann.

We visualise following outstanding physician/surgeons of that time too.

- a) Mackel who discovered mackel's diverticulum

- b) Scarpa who discovered scarpal triangle
- c) Brodie who discovered Brodie's abscess
- d) Dupuytren who discovered Dupuytren's contracture
- e) Pott who discovered Pott's disease
- f) Haberdon who discovered Haberdon's nodule
- g) Thomas Addison who discovered Addison's disease
- h) Thomas Hodgkin who discovered Hodgkin's disease
- i) Wolff who was a great embryologist
- j) Spallanzani was a great physiologist
- k) Frank was a great Hygienist.

That Homoeopathic system of treatment which was enunciated by Hahnemann is being given patronage by our India Government by opening a separate deptt. Attempts have been made to popularise the system by opening colleges to impart training, dispensaries to render medical services and research council to carry on research to improve the standard of treatment. But unfortunate is that financial outlay is so meagre it is impossible to carry on the research in a large scale to discover any new thing transibly and provide uniform standard of education.

We are confident the present popular government will give more stress in this system of treatment thereby poorer section of people will be able to reach the medical facilities and the goal to achieve the "Health for all" will be feasible.