

REMINISCENCES

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Reflections of the past help us to chronicle the events and make us optimistic that we are treading the right path. It is heartening to see the efforts of our predecessors bearing fruit. The reports of drug standardization studies, drug proving symptoms and their subsequent clinical verification in different issues of Quarterly Bulletin have resulted into Drug monographs, and disease-oriented research has culminated into Disease Monographs. These publications are being converted into e-books and shall be made accessible to students, researchers, and clinicians across the globe.

VERIFIED SYMPTOMS OF SOME LESSER KNOWN INDIGENOUS DRUGS UNDER CERTAIN CLINICAL CONDITIONS

In this issue, the authors V. M. Nagpaul and Anil Khurana have reported the clinically verified symptoms of 21 indigenous drugs at 6 centers of the Council. Another paper titled 'Reproving and clinical verification of pathogenesis of *Tarentula hispanica*' compiled by Anil Khurana has been published. The paper highlights the roles of "*Tarentula hispanica*" on clinical conditions of vertigo, inflamed tonsils, and bloated abdomen apart from many more.

TRIBAL CARE IN MADHYA PRADESH AND HOMOEOPATHY

Dr. Vishnu Saxena, Former Research Officer, describes the door-to-door survey conducted by Clinical Research Unit (Tribal) at Bastar village 18 km away from Jagdalpur, Madhya Pradesh from July 1984 to March 1992. The tribal population was also screened for the diseases prevalent in the area and treated through Homoeopathy. The data about the social habits, customs and beliefs, availability of natural resources, medicinal

plants, and their folklore claims were also collected. In the initial stages of the establishment of the unit, the tribal population of the area was not accepting the homoeopathic treatment. But later, outpatient department of the unit treated 1,38,332 patients for rheumatism, malaria, gastrointestinal disease, upper respiratory tract infections, atopic dermatitis, dysmenorrhea and leucorrhoea.

ON CONTROVERSY OF THE HOMOEOPATHIC DRUG *RUTA GRAVEOLENS* LINN. VIS-A-VIS *RUTA CHALEPENSIS* LINN.

Ruta graveolens was first introduced in Homoeopathic Pharmacopeia of India volume 1 in the year 1971. It was proved by Dr. Hahnemann in 1818 and has been described in *Materia Medica Pura*, Boericke, and Clarke's *Materia Medica*. While *R. graveolens* is widely known for clinical conditions like rheumatism, sciatica, warts, amblyopia, prolapse of rectum, exostosis, fractures, to name a few, *Ruta chalepensis* possesses antispasmodic and sudorific properties that stimulate the nervous system.

Both the drugs have wide therapeutic potential, but proving symptoms available in *Materia Medica* are of *R. graveolens* which are used by the practitioners for prescribing, but whether the homoeopathic

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pharmaceutical companies are using the correct species for manufacturing this drug, is the controversy.

The author, H. C. Gupta ARO (pharmacognosy) asserts that *R. chalepensis* Linn. is commonly grown in India while *R. graveolens* is cultivated at only some places. Hence, the commercial manufacturers must differentiate between the closely resembling species before undertaking the commercial production of the drug so that there is no discrepancy in the nomenclature and prescribing indications of the drug. He has very rightly pointed out the importance of identification of raw material and study of morphological characters of plant material for standardization studies in the paper, He advocates the need for differential plant anatomy, chemistry, pharmacology, drug proving, and clinical trials on *R. graveolens* and *R. chalepensis* which will help in regulating the quality of the drug prepared from different species.

STUDY OF HOMOEOPATHIC DRUGS IN ENCEPHALITIS EPIDEMIC (1991) IN UTTAR PRADESH (INDIA)

The authors report a study on 237 cases of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) done from October 29 1991 to November 16 1991 in the district of Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Deoria and Basti. Of 237, 223 patients suffered from acute paroxysm that is, headache, fever, vomiting, cough, headache, convulsion etc., and were given symptomatic treatment. Fourteen patients suffered from chronic sequelae of encephalitis with varying degrees of the neurological deficit like aphasia, paralysis, muscle weakness, trembling, stiffness, etc., *Belladonna 200* was found useful both as therapeutic as well as prophylactic. It relieved 149 (68.8%) of the patients during this epidemic. As a prophylactic, it was distributed to 322,812 persons in 96 villages. A follow-up of 39,250 persons did not reveal any sign and symptom of JE. The disease has become endemic in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh and the Council has established a mechanism to conduct a clinical trial at BRD Medical College with Homoeopathy as an adjunct to institutional protocol for JE and the results are encouraging.

ALTERNATING SYMPTOMS IN HOMOEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

In this paper, Dr. K. Singh, Former Assistant Director, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy emphasizes the importance of alternating symptoms in arriving at similimum. This literary work is a compilation of alternating symptoms from 13 Materia Medicas and Repertories with an objective to present these at one place for clinical reference. In volume 14 (3 and 4) 1992, alternating symptoms of mind are presented which is continued till volume 17 (1 & 2), 1995 following the scheme of repertory of homoeopathic Materia Medica by Dr. J. T. Kent covering the alternating symptoms chapter wise.

ROLE OF HOMOEOPATHY IN AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASES

In this paper, the author Ch. Raveendar describes the probable mechanism of auto-immune diseases, their spectrum and scope of Homoeopathy in the treatment of such diseases. He advocates that individual, constitutional approach has got considerable scope in the treatment of various auto-immune diseases and cites case reports on rheumatoid arthritis, Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and SLE in support of his contention.

APPLICATION OF COMPUTER IN THE LIBRARY OF CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN HOMOEOPATHY

With a phenomenal growth witnessed by research in Homoeopathy and resultant increase in information and number of users, the need for an effective system for information flow has become imperative. The computerization of library for providing information and access to the world of knowledge at a reasonable cost and in minimum time, as per the need of the user will be extremely beneficial, the author Dr. O. P. Verma hopes.

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