

# J. Benedict D'Castro Before Prescribing?

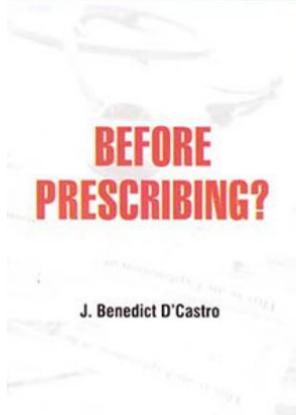
Reading excerpt

[Before Prescribing?](#)

of [J. Benedict D'Castro](#)

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What A Homoeopath Should Know



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# *Philosophical Part*

## SECOND PRESCRIPTION

What is more beautiful to look upon than the bud during its hourly changes to the rose in its bloom. This evolution has so often come to my mind when patiently awaiting the return of symptoms after the first prescription has exhausted its curative power. The return of symptoms image unfolds the knowledge by which we know whether the first prescription was the specific or the palliative i.e., we may know whether the remedy was deep enough to -cure all the deranged vital wrongs or simply a superficially acting remedy, capable of only a temporary effect. The many things learned by the action of the first remedy determine the kind of demand made upon the physician for the second prescription.

Many problems come up to be solved, that must be solved, or failure may follow.

How long shall I watch and wait.? It is a question frequently asked but seldom answered.

Is the remedy still acting.? Is the vital reaction still affected by the impulse of the remedy.?

If the symptoms are returning, how long shall they be watched before it is necessary to act or give medicine.?

Is the disease acute or chronic?

Why is the second prescription so much more difficult than the first.? Why is it that so many patients are benefited when first going to physician and thereafter derive no benefit?

I presume that most good prescribers will say; we have often acted too soon, but never waited too long" Many physicians fail

## BEFORE PRESCRIBING

because of not waiting, and yet the waiting must be governed by knowledge. Knowledge must be had, but where can it be obtained? To know this waiting is right, is quite different from waiting without fixed purpose. This knowledge cannot be found where its existence is denied. It is not found with unbelievers and agnostics.

When the first prescription has been made and the remedy has been made similar enough to change the existing image we have but to wait for results. The manner of change taking place in the totality of symptoms signifies everything, yet the manner of the return of the image, provided it has disappeared, signifies more : **FIRST** : If aggravation of Symptoms follow; **SECOND** : If amelioration of symptoms follow;

1. Aggravation of existing symptoms may come on with general improvement of the patient, which means well; but if aggravation of the symptoms is attended with decline of the patient the cure is doubtful, and the case must be handled with extreme care, as it is seldom that such patients recover perfectly.
2. If amelioration follow the prescription, to what does the amelioration apply?

It may apply to general state or but to few symptoms. If the patient does not feel the elasticity of the life returning, the improved symptoms are the facts upon which to doubt recovery.

The knowledge that the disease is incurable often is obtained only in this way. In such cases, every remedy may palliate his sufferings but cure does not come. The symptoms that are the expressions of the debility are there, and hence the totality of symptoms is not removed.

After the curative impulse has entirely subsided, the symptoms will appear one by one, falling into place to arrange an image of the disease before the intelligent physician for the purpose of cure.

If the first prescription has been continuously given, there has been but little if any chance of a pure returning image of the disease, therefore this image must be very unreliable

## HOW SYMPTOMS CHANGE

EDITORS HOMOEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN : For the interest of the members of the Rochester Hahnemannian society, I desire to comment on the page related by Dr. Brant to the Society, and published in HOMOEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN, October, page 538, last line, where the -doctor gave *Stannum*. He notes that the patient came back and stated that the sputa had changed in the taste to "salty". *Stannum* has the salty taste as well as sweetish, and it is very common for a drug to convert one symptom into another within its own sphere in curing. If it converts the symptoms into one not within its own sphere the cure will be slow or prove to be not a cure.

When a patient returns and reports symptoms worse or changed, it is proper to look to see if the new symptoms are found under the medicine taken. If they are found there the prescription is a good one and the physician may say to himself, Sac. Lac If the new symptoms are not found in the search into the same proving there are two conclusions to be settled by waiting .

1. The case may need another remedy.
2. If the case goes on to quick recovery it will be found that the new symptom or symptoms will some day belong to the pathogenetic symptoms.

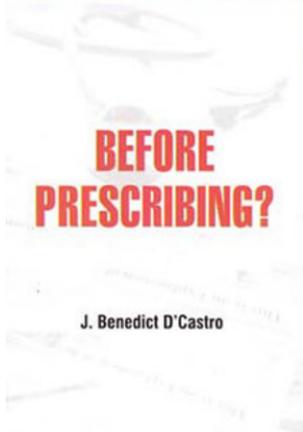
The cultivation of this watchfulness leads to great accuracy in prescribing, as much will be gleaned that comes under useful knowledge. The field is a very large one and the field of high potencies is especially a fertile one. Observing what develops in the aggravation of high potencies and the direction of the symptoms is the grandest study in the materia-medica.

## WHAT SHALL WE DO WHEN THE LAW FAILS.

"What shall we do when the law fails.?" said Dr. Snow. One day when I met him returning from a patient whom he had just visited. But said I "the law is not so changeable a thing as to fail today and succeed tomorrow; it cannot fail. If you have demonstrated that you have a curable case, the law is always equal to the emergency; if all embracing and positive."

But says Dr. Snow; I administered *Bry.* in a case of pneumonia and it has cured the patient; I know it was indicated." Now my dear doctor I have known the law a long time and never knew it to fail, indeed I have discovered nothing fallible in it. On the other hand, you my dear doctor, have been known to fail in your selection very often; you have exhibited so many demonstrations of fallibility that one can but believe that your *Bry.* was not indicated. You must realise my dear doctor that the law is a perfect law or it is no law at all, and that in this perfect law there is no exception, and that homoeopathy based upon that perfect law is an applied science and that it is not homoeopathy unless the remedy is similar and curative. The greatest master in the homoeopathic art of healing may give a remedy that has no homoeopathic relation to the given disease. The remedy is not homoeopathic simply it is carried in the case of homoeopathic physician. Then it is useless to say that many prescriptions lack the homoeopathic relation necessary to a homoeopathic prescription. But so often do we hear the expression " I have tried homoeopathy and it failed." When as a matter of fact the author of this common sentiment has simply demonstrated his own failure to apply this all-embracing art. The man who says this the loudest is most ignorant of what he professes. We are inclined to

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