

Edouard Broussalian

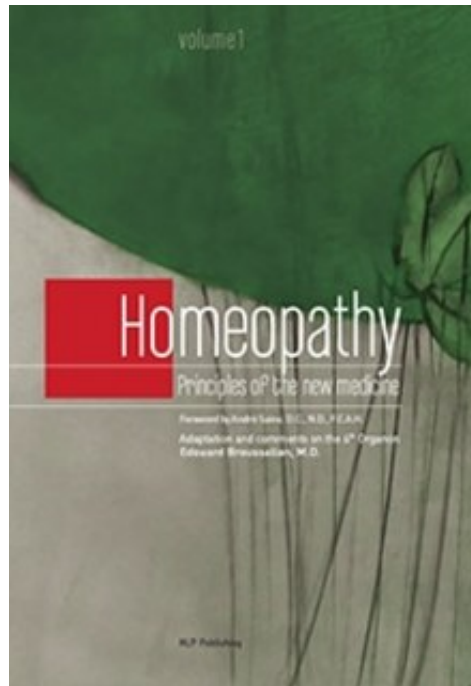
Homeopathy Principles of the new medicine

Reading excerpt

[Homeopathy Principles of the new medicine](#)

of [Edouard Broussalian](#)

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CAUSALITY

5.

Useful to the physician in assisting him to cure are:

I) In **acute disease**: the particulars of its most probable exciting cause. [S §73]

II) In **chronic disease**: the most significant points its whole history, to enable him to discover its fundamental cause, which is generally due to a **chronic miasm**

In these investigations, are to be taken into consideration:

— the ascertainable physical constitution of the patient (especially when disease is chronic),

— his emotional and mental character,

— his occupations,

— mode of living and habits,

— his social and domestic relations,

— his age,

— his sexual function, etc.,

From the start, Hahnemann distinguishes between two types of morbid phenomena: acute and chronic. As we now know, this was the fruit of a long reflection on his failures as his patients kept relapsing. There are two distinct types of causes:

- The recent, triggering or exciting cause
- The old fundamental cause, which is of miasmatic nature. Hahnemann names three: psora, sycosis and syphilis.

THE EXCITING CAUSE

It is responsible for triggering the acute illness or the acute exacerbation of a chronic condition. We find those in the materia medica and the Repertory under the famous rubrics: "after...".

This aphorism emphasizes the importance of identifying the exciting causes when addressing an acute case. For example, in the case of a "black eye", one can consider *Symphytum*, *Arnica* or *Staphysagria*.

If it is caused by a simple trauma, it narrows it down to *Arnica* and *Symphytum*. In cases requiring the former, there is a very marked fear of being touched, and the pain would be eased by cold applications. If this was not the case, and to top it off, the contusion was caused by a somehow pointed object, then *Symphytum* will act wonderfully.

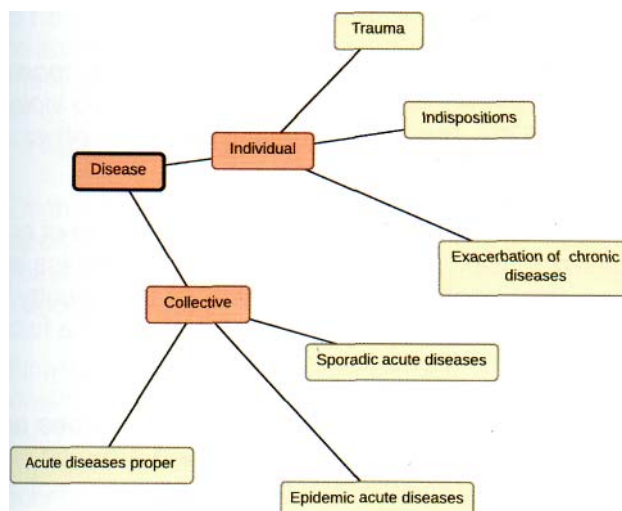
But if the injury were due to a deliberately dealt punch, *Staphysagria* then would be the remedy, since it covers the rage and indignation that resulted from this aggression.

You see how the nature of the exciting cause is essential in selecting the correct remedy. You should spend the best part of your time investigating it to solve these acute situations.

However, you should not grant it the same importance, that is to say, you should not spend an equally long time in your anamneses of a chronic case

seeking out the exciting cause. While this may be useful, what you really need is to outline the evolving picture of the disease, pinpoint its main phases, make out when exactly or if a miasm has engrafted itself onto the constitution, what the active layer is, understand the patient in all aspects of his life.

Do not waste time grilling your poor patient for half an hour about all the characteristics of his asthma attack, how it occurs, what triggers it, at what time, etc; It is secondary. What you



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must understand in this case is the patient, and the chronic miasm expressed through his symptoms.

Exciting causes have no miasmatic dimension; they are rather the various factors capable of awakening latent psora and thus causing disease.

In §73, we will study in greater detail these concepts.

Hahnemann distinguishes between individual and collective diseases.

Traumas induce pathological disorders mechanically.

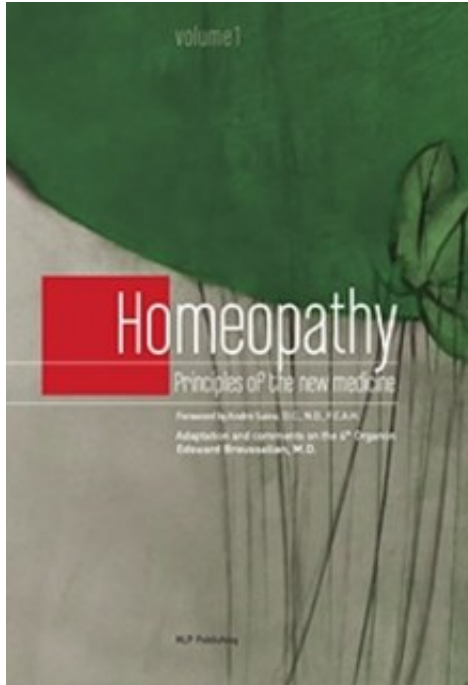
Indispositions (pathophysiological disorders) may come about as a result of:

- a) chills,
- b) overheating,
- c) excess of food or drink,
- d) lack of food or food poisoning
- e) violent physical impressions,
- f) strains and overwork etc.
- g) intemperance or suppressed desires,
- h) emotions, worries and various impulses, etc.

They are generally only a transient explosion of latent psora, which spontaneously returns to its dormant state if the acute diseases were not of too violent a character and were soon quelled. [§73]. They are usually caused by physical or emotional factors.

We shall only mention in passing collective diseases here, as treatment of epidemics involves very specific strategies. Of utmost importance in epidemics are meteorological factors, as well as what I call the "atmosphere" of the country in question: a cataclysm or any natural disaster, war, anxiety at the end of a fiscal year, economic concerns, etc.

It is important to note that **ceasing exposure to the exciting cause does not restore to good health**: latent psora would have irrevocably been aroused (if susceptibility of the patient), and a whole process would have been set in motion inflammation settled in, germs multiplying, etc. This does not rule out the possibility of providing against future exciting causes that have now been identified and prescribing specific diets and other appropriate advice (Prevention, see §4).



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