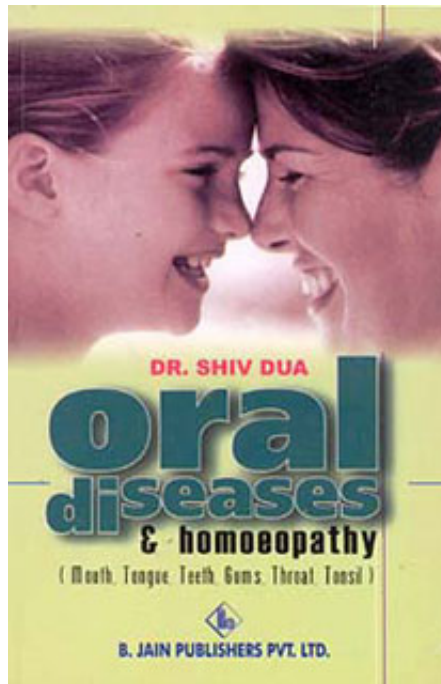


Shiv Dua

Oral diseases homoeopathy

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PREFACE

The science and technology in the medical arena has achieved new heights in the present era, and it has made the identification of internal diseases easier. It has also broadened our understanding to recognize various problems relating to clinical characteristics and pathology, especially in the field of Homoeopathy. Take the case of stomatitis, teeth, gums, tonsils and throat problems (rather whole of the oral cavity). If you are a Homoeopath, you feel it is easier to handle the oral disorders relating to stomatitis and throat because you can examine the type of inflammation and ulcers, etc., but it is a little difficult to assess the condition of teeth and gums without proper tools and accessories held by a dentist. Just see the practical aspect here. Art and science of Homoeopathy is based upon symptomology besides the physical inspection as an additional asset, but the patient goes to a Dentist first than visiting a Homoeopath. Awareness in this respect is indeed missing. Let us see it from another angle. A patient prefers to seek Homoeopathic treatment when he finds that an extraction of tooth or a surgical intervention is imminent and a last trial can be attempted in Homoeopathic treatment.

If you ever had an experience of a severe toothache, you can understand the extent of sufferings and moaning. A child can display his panic of pain by crying but an adult cannot do so. The pain is of such a nature, which cannot be explained in words. The sufferer moans, walks, lies, shuffles on sides, breaths heavily, presses, thumps and does all awkward things to silence the pain but to no avail. If you as a Homoeopath can remove the pain, it will be a great achievement. This book will certainly help you in this noble task.

Similarly, if a child going in for surgical removal of tonsils can be saved from the operation by Homoeopathic treatment, it will

be an asset to Homoeopathic culture. Poor child, he or she cannot take ice-cream, enjoy cold drinks and other delicacies of summer due to tonsillitis or throat problems. Over and above, apprehending operation he or she is under great fright. At this juncture, the Homoeopath's help to avert or even delay an operation for a few years will be a blessing.

This book has been written keeping in view such '*last-resorts*' by the patients. We know the ultimate (extraction of tooth or removal of tonsils) through the patient, who had been briefed by the dentist, and it is now our turn to apply and rejuvenate the *law of similimum*. This book has three main sections-dealing with stomatitis in the first section, teeth/gums ailments in the second section and throat, tonsils in the third section.

First section of the book

Stomatitis is a most common disease of the oral cavity in a country like India. Strange enough that people, in general, do not take this disease seriously. In rural India, a large number of villagers seek the help of locally available herbs in their areas to get rid of this and in most of the cases go in for local applications, which generally result in healing. This is the reason why people take the disease lightly, even to the extent of neglecting it, when it reappears. On the other hand, in urban India, people are conscious enough to seek medical help if there is any recurrence. The educated class, having basic medical knowledge, prefers to take Vitamin B-complex tablets as a first resort to get rid of this disorder. In case of recurrences, the first thing that strikes them is to seek alternative therapy instead of following the rigorous path of conventional treatment with laboratory tests in order to expel the fear of an imaginary malignancy (a rare phenomenon). Homoeopathy is, now, being adopted and adored magnanimously by the urbane higher and middle educated classes. The poor mostly go in for domestic herbs or local applications. One cannot ignore an itch, an inflammation, burning or slightest infection inside or around the lips because our mouth and the oral cavity is highly sensitive to tastes and reactions. If you are suffering from stomatitis and your food is spicy or hot, you are likely to get an intolerable pain and burning. You would not like to take anything till the ulcers inside the mouth get healed. Stomatitis, therefore, cannot be ignored and needs immediate attention.

Preface

Mouth has a main connection with two of the vital systems of our body. The process of breathing and the process of digestion, besides that it is a tool to enable us speak. Mouth is the very mode of delicacies we enjoy, the tastes we notify, the kiss we endear and the body, we feed.

The book was conceived a few years back when my Hindi article on the subject, "*Munh ke Chhale*" was published in Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur, and I was flooded with letters enquiring about remedies. I was surprised to find that the patients of stomatitis were much more than any other disease for which my articles had been published earlier. I concluded that there is a need for making a region-wise index of common diseases in India to find out local causation and cure with locally available sources. Stomatitis is a functionary disease in certain regions like Rajasthan and Andhra where spices and chilies are used abundantly in food (some districts). It is also prevalent in hilly areas, where tobacco is chewed or smoked inscrutably more. In today's fast changing homoeopathic environment, when future is likely to witness Homoeopathic remedies in modern chemist shops or general stores, it becomes *essential to hold study of particular diseases in particular regions of India*. In such areas, let students and scholars conduct research to find out remedies according to food habits and environments. Region-wise exclusive literature for the cure and causation of stomatitis is not available to Homoeopaths. Let the students and doctors concentrate on library work, conduct field work by opening dialogues with the patients, conceive ideas, accumulate data, and conclude a set of remedies useful in the disease according to the climate of the region. Finally after this, let there be a creative writing over one's findings so as to benefit others in the profession.

Second section of the book

The second section of the book is also related to oral cavity. The intricacies and doubts, if conceived, while studying the first section of the book, can be easily taken account of by the readers because of the fact that teeth and gums also relate to the same oral cavity. The text of all the three sections of the book have been designed in order to provide an in-depth analysis of the subjects assembled in one format, and to benefit all Homoeopathy lovers.

It is also to be seen that present trend in Homoeopathy is to become a jack-of-all-trades having no specialized study in one particular subject. 'Trade' here means dealing with ailments of all the parts of the body like a general physician of the orthodox system of medicine. If a Homoeopath is without any armament of specialization, it is not going to help the profession of Homoeopathy in the long run. Specialization in particular section, say ENT, Eyes, Teeth or Skin, etc. in Homoeopathy is bound to become a necessity in the coming future. Till that time, budding generation of Homoeopaths must have a comprehensive feedback in the form of some books written and fashioned to contain '*subject-wise*' specialization.

To ensure a logical and easy comprehensible treatment of the subject, the layout of second section of the book has been designed in 'heading-wise' fashion. Despite a great number of auxiliary methods of examination available with the Dentist, patients coming to Homoeopaths do not appear to be satisfied with the concluded diagnosis. If an extraction of a tooth is suggested, there is likelihood of a doubt behind. It so happens that after treatment with Homoeopathic medicines, the extraction of tooth is either temporarily postponed or not required at all for years. It has been practically experienced and this itself will be an achievement for Homoeopathy, if you can also accomplish it. Attempts have also been made to store as much possible information on extraction as could be compiled from different authors of the books.

Third section of the book

The third section of the book belongs to tonsils and throat. If you are a practitioner, you must have noticed that the patients suffering from sore throat and tonsillitis are more than the patients having toothache or a sore ulcerated mouth. Section-wise, I did not give first preference to throat because of the fact that there are many books available for this subject and practitioners or students are more familiar with the treatment. Children are more prone to these diseases and their parents are a worried lot. *Their greatest woe is whether to go in for operation to remove tonsils or not?* This question has been pricking the minds and people have not formulated any concept except to agree with the advice of the doctor. In 99 percent of cases where doctors advise removal of tonsils, parents strictly obey. In this respect,

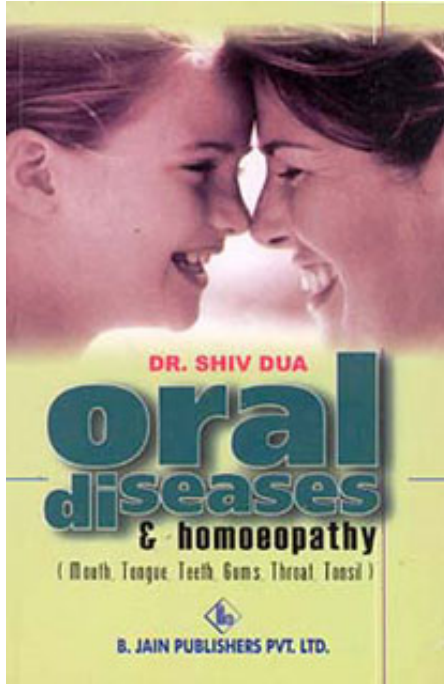
Preface

I am reminded of a saying by J. Henry Allen, M.D., the author of the book *Chronic Miasms and Pseudo psora*. In its preface, he says, "As our institutions are, so are our people". He further elaborates, 'We heal our patients as we are taught to heal them. The fount and the source is our sea level, we seldom rise higher'.

Whatever the doctors prefer, they reflect the same and the patients follow. In Homoeopathy we have to see something beyond the horizon of conventional-system-thinking and assure our patients about our stand. A light has been thrown on this burning issue in the third section of the book. I am sure this topic will be helpful for the new generation to cultivate and innovate their views for further reflection to the patients. Agreeing with or not is their concern but your concern should be to say what appears right and rational from *your* point of view.

Hope this book will serve Homoeopaths and admirers of Homoeopathy for a quick glance at therapeutics, repertory, causation, modalities, etc., and also impart knowledge of anatomical and physiological aspects of the oral cavity.

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