

Tapan Chandra Mondal

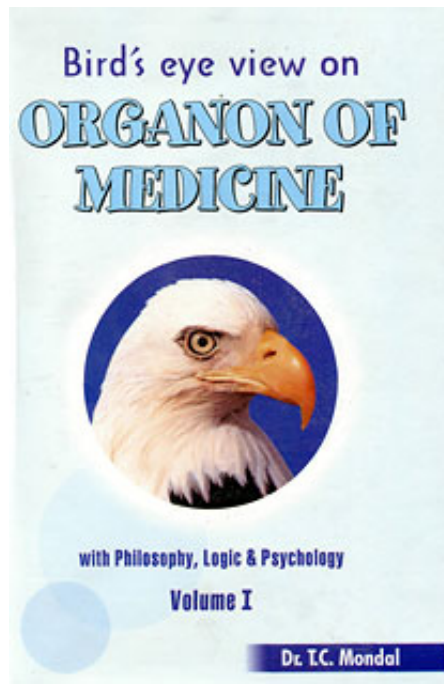
Bird's eye view on Organon of Medicine (Volume I)

Leseprobe

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von [Tapan Chandra Mondal](#)

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Chapter-4



Fundamental Principles of *Homoeopathy*

*'... (Everything must be
the pure language of nature carefully
and honestly interrogated.'*

Samuel Hahnemann

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Chapter features

- 4.1 Theory, Law, Hypothesis and Doctrine
- 4.2 Doctrine of Drug Proving
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Chapter Bibliography

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4.1 Theory, Law, Hypothesis & Doctrine

Theory:

Word Meaning: An idea or set ideas that is intended to explain something. Origin - Greek, Theoria "Speculation".

Definition: *A Theory is a matter of policy rather than a creed (a statement of belief or faith or principles)*

Explanation

1. When a hypothesis, is found to be in harmony with all known facts in a given field, it is promoted to the **rank of theory**.
2. Theory often involves detailed consideration about **the structure of matter**.
3. Its object is to connect or co-ordinate apparently diverse phenomena and above all to **suggest, stimulate, stimulate and direct experiment**.

Law:

Word Meaning: The statement of fact to the effect that a particular phenomena always occur if certain conditions are present.

Definition: The basic bulding blocks of science are quantified facts. Such facts accumulate and from this collection of facts one in the course of sorting out, similar facts, find out some generalisation valid for a group of those facts. If this generalisation can embrace a large number of facts and is not found failing in a single case so for tried, it is termed as Law.

Explanation

1. Collection of quantified facts.
2. Sorting out to reach a generalised truth.
3. Universal application of the generalised truth for a phenomenon.

Harmony is established without failure i.e. termed as "*Law*".

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Hypothesis:

Word Meaning: A proposed explanation based on limited evidence, used as a starting point for further investigation
origin = GREEK- Hypothesis "*Foundation*".

Definition: An imaginary model is framed so that the expected property of the model corresponds to the known property of the system under investigation. Such a bold conjecture called Hypothesis.

Explanation

1. A bold **conjecture** (an opinion based on incomplete information, a guess origin, Latin- conjecture) constitute a hypothesis and taking for granted the truth of a hypothesis, facts are explained on its basis.
2. A hypothesis though of a speculative origin, should on no account be regarded as a drill of imagination or "Vam play of the mind".
3. It has been most fruitful and illuminating in the **pursuit of science**.
4. It suggest new experiments to test its own validity and opens up newer avenues of research.
5. So a hypothesis is always a probation only and on the first failure should be modified a substituted without any consideration of its past service.

Relation between Theories & Hypotheses:

As it is obvious from above discussion, a system of psychology tends to explain all aspects of psychology within one general framework. A theory does the same thing but taking any one aspect of psychology. In other words, the scope of a theory is limited and is generally concerned with some particular aspect of psychology like forgetting, perception, learning, thinking, emotion, etc. Then what a theory is. (A theory may be defined as a set of related assumptions from

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which, by reasoning, testable hypotheses can be generated.) This definition, obviously, has three important features. **First**, a theory is a set of assumptions. It means not a single assumption can fill the requirement of a theory. This is because a single assumption can't serve to integrate various facts. **Second**, all concepts of a theory must be stated in such a way that they must permit, with sufficient precision and logical reasoning, deduction of various clearly stated hypotheses. **Third**, the theory must generate such hypotheses which are testable. If the hypothesis is not testable, it is meaningless and worthless.

There are some prerequisites of a good theory. A few of these are as under:

1. A good theory is based upon a number of observations and integrates them into a meaningful relationship. In this sense, a good theory becomes a statement of assumed relationships between events that are observable.
2. A good theory integrates both formal or theoretical propositions as well as empirical proposition. The formal proposition consists of words, sentences and / or symbols which reflect assumed aspects of the theory. The empirical observations are the observations- experimental or non-experimental-upon which the theory is based.
3. A good theory must be testable in terms of specific hypotheses. If the hypotheses are found to be correct one after testing them, the theory stands validated and gains strength. On the other hand, if they are found to be incorrect ones, the theory is weakened and it needs modification or revision.
4. A good theory must also be heuristic in nature. In other words, a theory must generate such researches through which the validity or falsity of the theory may be tested.

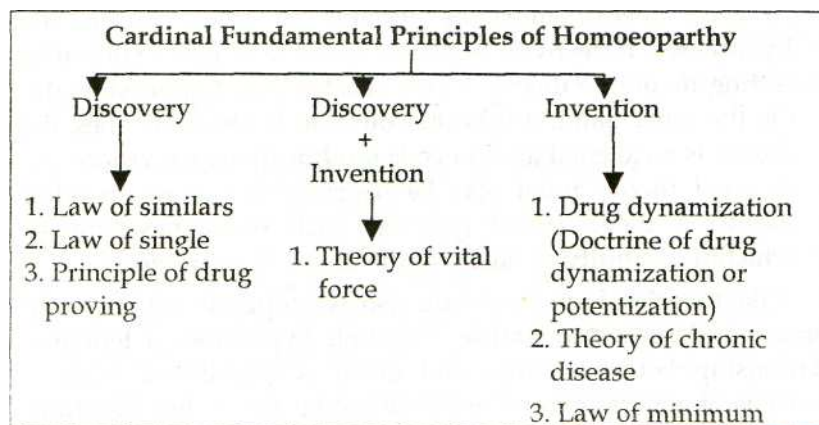
Like theories, hypotheses are also assumptions but of a more narrow and restricted nature. Through hypotheses a tentative relationship between cause and event is established. Since a theory is of general nature, one may not be able to test the entire theory. Take an example. A theory of forgetting has many

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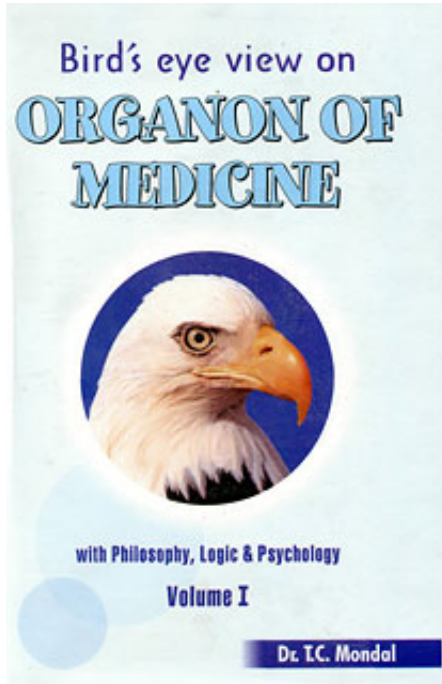
aspects, all of which can't be tested. One may consider how or why forgetting occurs and the various conditions which facilitate or inhibit forgetting. Therefore, some specific hypotheses are set-up. Subsequently, these various hypotheses can be experimentally tested. For example, one aspects of interference theory of forgetting is that similarity of original task and interpolated task produces higher forgetting. This aspect or hypothesis has been experimentally tested by several experimenters and they have found it to be true one. In this way, several hypotheses, one after another, can be tested. When all such hypotheses are tested experimentally and found to be true ones, a basic principle or law is finally established. For example, in the field of learning, after testing several hypotheses through experimentation, Thorndike establish a famous law of learning which is called as the *law of effect* that was subsequently reformulated by Skinner as the *principle of positive reinforcement* which states that when a certain response is followed by reward, the strength is increased and such reward *is* identified as positive reinforcer.

Doctrine:

Word Meaning: A set of belief or principles held and taught by a religious, political or other group. Origin- Latin- 'doctrina'-teaching.



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