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Doctrine of signature What Hahnemann says?

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Abstract

Doctrine of signature is found all over world. Most of us say it as primitive idea. There is no evidence that doctrine of signature is basis for medicinal properties. Even Hahnemann had not said the importance of doctrine of signatures for selection of remedy to cure patients.

Keywords: Sign, nature, sick, Materia Medica, clinical reports

Introduction

The word “signature” is derived from two words ‘sign’ and ‘nature’. Hence the term “doctrine of signature” says about signs of nature [3].

History says it is an old concept found in many European civilizations and later on accepted by various schools of medicine [3] Earlier Paracelsus said that nature will shows it sign according to it curative properties. ‘You bring together same anatomy of herb and same anatomy of origin- and it is the beginning’. His idea was that nature will present healing substances with some signs, indicating their use against diseases. There was saying that ‘parts of human body is having relationship and same plant or its parts can be used for diseases of particular organ’ Ex – tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart is red and has four chambers Kidney beans actually heal and help to maintain kidney functions and they look exactly like human kidneys

Discussion

Before Hahnemann, development of Materia medica was mostly based on theoretical concept, where Doctrine of Signature was great source of Materia Medica.

Hahnemann says that human health does not allow medicines based on doctrine of signature. Only the drugs which after drug proving on healthy human beings which reveal their original medicinal properties which are very similar in morbid state can be administered for ideal cure. [2, 5] Which is based on Law of Similars Hahnemann says in his prefix to the proving of drug Chelidonium “the ancients imagined that yellow color of juice of plant was a signature of its utility in bilious diseases [2, 5]. The moderns from this extended its employment to hepatic diseases” its use has trickled down to us through ages from primary source of Doctrine of signatures. But it was Hahnemann who proved the drugs on himself and healthy human beings and recorded the symptoms systematically and developed our Materia Medica. the symptoms of it are reprovved, clinically verified and they are supported by many clinical reports [5]

Hering says ‘the remedy Chelidonium from Middle ages, was administered in serious complaints in hepatic derangements according to ‘law of signature’. Arnica this wonderful remedy was used in domestic practice, [5] but Hahnemann has made its use scientifically by its power causing what in can cure i.e., he ‘proved it’. In the 110th aphorism he said it is wrong to treat patients based on the doctrine of signature and mixture prescription.

The only way to know or learn the medicinal powers of drug is that it should able to show changes in healthy human being which are very similar to changes that are produced in diseased state but not by the smell, taste or appearance of the drugs, nor by their chemical analysis, nor by the employment of several of them at one time in a mixture in diseases;....”

[1] His intention was that in future people should not treat patients based on this idea of doctrine of signature.

Conclusion

1. The body of oyster is soft and needs protection from the hard shell. As per the doctrine of signature, the same mentality of Calc carb patient is expressed here.

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In Homoeopathy, the medicine is prepared from the middle layer of hard shell; hence patient should be hard instead of soft. If the medicine was prepared from the soft body then the comparison as per doctrine of signature would be appropriate.

2. Yielding disposition of Pulsatilla - as flowers yield to wind, but there are many flowers like cina, calenedula that too yield to wind, then what about it.

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