

Review Article

A Review on 'Diseases of the Heart' by Dr Edwin M. Hale

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Abstract Diseases of the Heart by Dr Edwin M. Hale, M.D, is one of the book that at present not readily available. The present day increase in the cardiovascular complaints of the so called modern society, could have been combated, may be much more judiciously, had this book been readily available. No doubt, that when this book was published, the cardiac sciences, may not have developed upto the present modern level, but till it contains the therapeutic hints which if logically and judiciously applied to a particular case, could be effective too.

Keywords *Regional therapeutics or repertory; cardiac pathologies*

1. Introduction

Regional based homoeopathic therapeutics or repertory has got their own value. Being on the basis of a particular organ or disease, the information is quite descriptive, vivid, in respect to that particular organ or disease. The descriptive approach in regard to this type of homoeopathic literature, belonging to a particular system enhances the thought process of the physician and widens his angle of prescription. 'Diseases of the Heart' by Dr Edwin M. Hale is one of those literatures, where the homoeopathic fraternity must have a look to combat the various cardiac pathologies, where approach through similimum can produce a positive effect, in the present socio-economic condition.

2. About The Author

Dr Edwin M. Hale, M.D, of Chicago, was born in Newport and is the son of Dr. S. Hale. He is honorably descended from the Hales of Norfolk, England, a distinguished family. He graduated through the public schools, and became a printer and an associate editor of a newspaper in Newark. While in Newyark, had an attack of pneumonia, which required prompt treatment, he declined allopathic mode of treatment and placed himself under the charge of Dr Blair, the then only homoeopathic physician in Newyark, and one of the pioneers of that system of medicine in Ohio. The successful treatment of his case, made him decide against his father's wishes to prosecute the study of homoeopathy. He took admission to the Cleveland Homoeopathic Medical College, at its first session and graduated from that celebrated institution with distinguished honor. In 1852, he settled in Jonesville, Michigan where he built up a successful practice. He became the associate editor of North American Journal of Homoeopathy and the American Observer. In 1860 he was invited, to hold the chair of material medica at Hanhemann Medical College, Chicago. One of the result of his lectures,

which have been compiled as, '**Diseases of the Heart**' at Hanhemann Medical College, Chicago. Besides he had other publications like New remedies, A Monograph of Gelsemium, A Treatise on 'Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and its Homoeopathic Treatment, A systemic treatise on abortion and sterility etc'.

3. Discussion

In between the era of Dr. Boenninghausen, Dr. Jahr, Dr. T.F. Allen and Dr. J.T. Kent there were almost a gap of thirty years when many regional therapeutics and repertories either in the name of disease like diarrhea, fever or organwise related to eye, tongue were published. This book related to diseases of the heart is one of them. It is rather a compilation of the lectures on **DISEASES OF THE HEART** with a **MATERIA MEDICA OF THE NEW HEART REMEDIES delivered by Dr. Hale** in the winter of 1870-71, before the class of Hanhemann Medical College, as a special course on diseases of the heart and their homoeopathic treatment. The author's satisfaction, as he felt after taking the class, with overwhelming response from the students, emboldened him to publish them. The book published, DISEASES OF THE HEART BY Dr Edwin M. Hale, M.D, was dedicated to Dr David S. Smith, M.D of Chicago, the first homoeopathic physician, who worked as the first president of Hanhemann Medical College of Chicago and also the first president of the Illinois State Homoeopathic Medical Society.

In the second edition, of the book, published in 1875 from Chicago, the author has added an appendix containing several papers on cardiac disorders, read before the Illinois State Homoeopathic Medical Society, with a copious index, which may be of value to the students and practitioner. As with etiology and diagnosis of diseases, of the heart, new or original writings of the then literature of standard authorities have been quoted. The author also said that the book depicted about the treatment procedure as promulgated by Dr Hanhemann. The therapeutics have been enlarged by addition of new remedies not recommended by other institutions. The author here also advised about the quantities and attenuations which had been most successful in his hands.

After, six years since the second edition of Dr Hale's Lectures on Diseases of the Heart, no doubt there have been some advances in cardiac pathology and therapeutics and thereby the author has thought best to enlarge the book and bring it upto the present status of healing art. The third edition contained 478 pages, containing essays on the various subjects connected with cardiac diseases, with results of author's latest studies and clinical experience. It contained a complete materia medica of all new cardiac medicaments. There have been a discovery and investigation of new drugs which have a special affinity for heart and circulatory system. Digitalis was the only standard heart remedy upto that time. Now other drugs are grouped as important- namely Adonis, Barium, Cereus, Convallaria, Cafeine, Oleandrine, Sparteine, Strophanths, Kola and others. Some of these remedies have been proved on men and animals and all have further substantiated their claims as valuable cardiac remedies by large clinical experience in both schools of medicine. In the presentation of these remedies the author has collected this experience, drawing from all sources and has also given his own views of their method of action and laid down the indications for their use, the dose etc. **Another valuable addition to this edition is a complete Repertory of Heart Symptoms, which has been prepared by Dr E R Snader, M.D, Lecturer on Physical Diagnosis in the Hahnemann College of Philadelphia**, and it will prove an invaluable aid to the practitioner in the treatment of those cardiac affections which require the perfect similimum in the remedy selected.

4. Construction

The book in its contents have been divided into six parts,

Part I, relates to the functional disorders of the heart with an introductory lecture, with the anatomy and physiology of the heart, heart circulation, heart sounds, with their abnormality, on the topic of angina pectoris etc.

Part II deals, with the inflammatory affections of the heart, like pericarditis, endocarditis, myocarditis.

Part III deals with organic diseases of the heart, like hypertrophy, lesion of the walls of the heart, valvular diseases of the heart.

Part IV, consists of materia medica with 18 drugs and their respective indications, for therapeutic application.

Part V, repertory of heart symptoms with various sections like mental symptoms, cardiac action and accompaniments, slow cardiac action and pulse, increased cardiac action and pulse, Ebullitions, orgasms etc, palpitation, sensations, pains, clinical symptoms. Each section has been modified by modalities and concomitants have been also added in some sections. **So Boenninghausenian concept of complete symptoms also prevails somewhat here.**

Part VI, relates to miscellaneous papers on subjects relating to disorders of the heart. And at last is the index giving hints with page no, about various conditions of heart and also medicines.

5. Case

1. A woman had rheumatic fever, with quick and hard heart action in the 2nd week and auscultation revealing roughness of the valves and some irregularity of action. The pulse was hard, but irregular. Convallaria 3d, 10 drops every hour, was given, and in twenty four hours the heart was greatly improved, and in forty eight hours its action was nearly normal.
2. Dr Hale once suffered from sciatica with disagreeable twisting, constrictive sensation in the muscles of the thigh. Cactus removed it, applied on the basis of the keynote 'sense of constriction'.

6. Conclusion

As time went on, this literature of homoeopathy has gradually been forgotten. With advancement of cardiac sciences, in this so called modern era, people are taking blood thinning agent, like aspirin group of drugs, antiplatelet aggregator like clopilet, anti-cholesterol drugs of statin group etc, to sustain from cardiac illness. Literature like **DISEASES OF THE HEART BY Dr Edwin M. Hale, M.D**, is a wonderful piece of work in its own senses, with various drugs given in relation different clinical conditions of the heart, which have been repeatedly verified with substantiated claim as valuable cardiac remedies. The author also says that in this book, treatment is in accordance with the doctrines promulgated by the Master. So, why not the homoeopathic fraternity take help of this valuable literature when we know that law of similia is eternal, it is not changeable, unlike the concept of conventional medicine, where **the' drug good for today becomes bad for tomorrow'**.

References

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