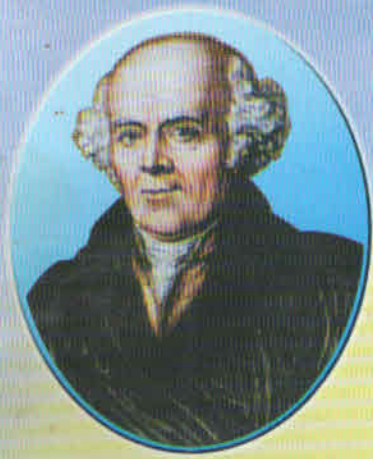


Journal - 2005



Dr. ABHIN CHANDRA
HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
BHUBANESWAR

Homoeopathic Approach to Paediatric cases, with an Understanding of Paediatric Psychology

Prof. (Dr). L.K.Nanda M.D(Hom)*

Introduction

The collection of symptoms required for a successful prescription is not only tedious and cumbersome but requires combined effort of both the physician and the patient and is more tedious in cases of children.

The child is like an animal .You never have to ask a horse or a dog where he feels pain because he will always tell by emotion so does the infant...J.T Kent. It is difficult to get symptoms in cases of children and only a shrewd and skilful observer can elicit the symptoms by keenly observing the emotions of children.

In the one side of the coin the parents can say about the physical general, particular symptoms but on the other side the genuine and painstaking physician can interpret the mental symptoms by observing deeply the child in his chamber and the various life situations which the parents put in front of him.

Sometimes parents and especially the mothers, due to their ignorance of the mental symptoms in homoeopathy present it casually which misleads the doctor in selecting the similimum. As for e.g. a mother, during the interview replied that my child is sober. But through observation it was found that the child is hyperactive, and when a cross-question was asked regarding the attitude of the child towards the pet, mother replied "Oh! Though he is mild

but brutal to the pet so much so that he pulls the tail, bits the dog mercilessly". This is one of the examples that can be seen in day to day practice.

Thus parents misguidance, misinterpretation and misconception and least knowledge towards the importance of mental symptoms in homoeopathy and profound affection towards their child give a red alert to every physician to base their prescription on astute observation which is highly essential for successful prescription.

The observation should rightly start from the waiting room , consultation room, his response during interview , his body language , appearance , dress etc. and it should be systematic lest important points may remain unobserved which will lead to a fruitless result.

To make this task simplified different authors attempted in different ways to typify the personality of children. To quote a few Douglas M. Borland's "children types include five varieties fat, fair type, skin type, nervy type, backward type, and warm blooded type", Bill Gray and J.Shore's pediatric types, Paul Herscue's pediatric constitutional types, and some Indian authors "different axis" concept etc.

The attempts are no doubt very much helpful for reaching but doesn't correspond with classical personal typing of standard

*H.O.D Materia medica, Dr. A.c.hom. Medical College And Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

psychological books. In this study an attempt is made to study some polychrest fitting into classical classification of personality typings of Kaplan and to prescribe depending upon this personality typing.

As defined by Gordon Allport "Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual consisting of his psychophysiological systems which determines his/her unique adjustment to the environment".

Personality is both complex and unique in each individual and differs greatly from one another in multiple compartments or behavior and each expresses only one of many potential life style. Personality develops through interaction of hereditary disposition and environmental influences to determine the particular behavior.

Genetic difference accounts for about half of the variance of personality trait. Of the remaining 50% of the variance 25-30% are due to nonshared environmental effect i.e. experienced unique to the individuals and 15-20% by measurement error. It has been observed that environmental factors shared by siblings reared together have little or no effect on basic

temperament traits but do influence other aspects of personality.

Personality consists of temperament, character and learning attitude. Temperament reflects biological contribution, character reflects social and cultural contribution to personality whereas learning attitude is the reflection of inherited temperament and acquired character derived from social and cultural surrounding.

Temperament as described by Alexander, modern concept of temperament emphasizes its emotional, motivational and adaptive aspects of human being. Temperament is conceptualized as heritable biases in emotionality and learning that under lies the acquisition of emotion based automatic behavior traits and habits observable in life and relatively stable over one's life span.

Temperaments are heritable, observable in childhood relatively stable in time moderately predictive of adolescent and adult behavior. The 4 temperaments described below shown to be universal across different cultures, ethnic groups and political systems in five continents

The ancient 4 temperaments are known in modern terms by Kaplan are: -

Former	Now	Associated with basic emotions
Choleric	Novelty seeking	Anger-Behavioral activation
Melancholic	Harm avoidance	Fearless- Behavioral inhibition
Sanguine	Reward dependence	Social attachment
Phlegmatic	Underachieving	Spirit- Partial reinforcement

Each temperament includes certain characteristics as described by Kaplan. Each of these individual characters under one type of temperament is repertorised and five highest

ranking drugs pertains to each type of temperament is determined.

Novelty seeking: - Comprises of Impulsive, hyperactive, irritable characters. The

five high ranking drugs covering the above characters

Tub., Tarentula, Hyosyamus, Stramonium, Medo The peculiar differentiating points are as follows:

Tuberculinum :- Is hyperactive due to his mischievous temperament and with inner desire to tease others.

Verat.alb:- Hyperactive is purposeless without any bad motive.

Tarentula:- Hyperactive but due to his foxy nature he escapes others attention

Medorrhinum:- Bipolar, sometime restless and sometimes sluggish.

Stramonium:- Hyperactive is accompanied with seriousness and to damage others.

Hyos:- Hyperactive but has some foolish and comic gestures.

Harm avoidance :- - Comprises of fearful; shy; fatigable characters

The five high ranking drugs covering the above characters Nat.mur, Ign, Aur.met, Puls

Nat mur:- Perfectionist – wants things in order but shy and introvert.

Ign :- Highly sensitive so tries to avoid any contradictory thing.

Aur.met:- Wants to top in all respect. In case of unsuccess tremendous depression upto the extent of suicide.

Puls:- Absorbs sympathy, forsaken feeling of want of affection.

Reward dependence :- Comprises of Sentimental, open, warm, affectionate characters

The five high ranking drugs covering the above characters

Phos, sulph, Nux.vom, Lyco, Carc

Phos :- Likes and gives sympathy, gentle, well behaved, extrovert, sociable.

Sulph:- Happy go lucky child, recklessness without fear to superiors, leads amongst his groupmates because of excessive cunningness, self centered.

Nux.Vom :- Industrious for reward Ambitious, Self willed, lively but not envious, irritable, sensitive to external impressions.

Lyco :- Lack of self confidence so for rewards nervous and stage fright, cranky

Carc:- In all cases maintains to be fastidious, top polite, passionate.

Persistence:- Comprises of Lazy, underachieving, underactiveness

The high ranking drugs covering the above characters (Calc., Silicea, Bar.c, Bufo)

Calc:- Under achieving but plodding to learn, physically dull but achieves things by persistent effort.

Silicea:- Refined personality, gentle when healthy, irritable with slightest illhealth.

Baryta carb:- Genetically under achieving know his standard so no interest to learn.

Bufo:- Baryta.carb mentality + hypersexuality even if in children.

Character:

In contrast to temperament, which is mostly inherited, character is less heritable and is moderately influenced by social learning,

culture and random life events unique to the individual.

Character is the conceptual core of personality involves higher perceiving functions regulated by hippocampus and neocortex. The major character traits have been distinguished as Self-directedness, Cooperative, And Self transcendence. The outline of three characters is as follows-

Self directedness-

Is characterised by- Responsible, purposeful; resourceful, self-acting, disciplined.

Drugs for them

Puls, Carc., Kali.carb, Nat.mur, Aur.met

Kali carb:- reserved, squariness, workaholic,

Cooperative –

Is characterised by -Tenderhearted, Helpful, compassionate, principled

Drugs for them

Ign., Puls., Nat.carb, nat.mur., Carc., Nux.vom

Self transcendental-

Is characterised by - Intuitive, Spiritual, idealistic attitude.

Drugs for them

Lach.; Sep., Plat., Lyco., Caust

Caust:- Sympathetic, introvert, brooding, cautious

Sep:- Indifferent, greedy, lachrymosed, unsociable, depressive.

Plat:- Haughty, egoistic, unsociable, religious

Lach:- Jealous, intelligent, wisdom like a serpent.

Learning Attitude:

The third aspect of personality is **learning attitude**, develops with the background of inherited temperament and childhood experience of culture of family, parents attitude, social background. They are described as follows

Artistic: Is characterised by Introspective, imaginative, and expressive

Drugs for them

Puls., China, Ign, Stram, Can.indica, Cocculus

China:- unsociable, disobedient, taciturn, no concern for others feelings, oversensitive to noise, lack of self confidence.

Stram:- Serious and causes violence

Can.indica:- Excessive loquacious, exuberance of spirits, uncontrollable laughter even at trifling words spoken to him.

Cocullus: Capricious, profound sadness, time passes too quickly, dwells over past disagreeable occurrences.

Investigative: Is characterized by Intellectual, curious, and energetic

Drugs for them

Lach, Choco., Aur.met, Lyco., Carc., Sepia, Sulph

Conventional: Is characterized by Mechanical, asocial, and careful.

Drugs for them

Bar.carb, Iodum, Ars.alb., Puls, Bufo

Iodum:- Intolerably cross and restless, desire to kill during rest, aversion to company.

Ars.alb:-Anxiety about health, fastidiousness, agonising fear of death.

Conclusion

Kent in his evaluation of symptoms gives more weightage to mental general symptoms where as Bonninghausen is of the view to consider mental symptoms for final selection of the drug. Whatever the fact may be while dealing with the pediatric cases the crux of pediatric case taking is to observe the behavior of the child which includes temperament, character, and learning attitude (Kaplan), is more authentic source than mother's information. But what is to be observed in the

child is to be kept in mind so that nothing should be missed to reach the similitum.

So consideration of Kaplan's personality which comprises of different temperament, character, attitude, of the child is a dependable way to elicit the mental symptoms. Medicine prescribed basing on these characters is found to be effective. As the child grows very fast from his infancy to school going age, the personality of the child varies in a greater or lesser extent with growing age, family culture, social surrounding etc. But by and large out of many personality characters described in above study some of them will definitely be suitable to any age and paves the way to select the correct remedy.



Irritable, easily angered; consolation
< (Ign., Nat., Sep., Sil.); does not want to be
disturbed (Gels., Nat.)

- *Helleborus Niger*

*Persons mentally and physically
exhausted by long-concentrated grief.*

- *Ignatia*