

I - Homoeopathy and current models : a very imprecisely identified problem...¹

Indeed... very imprecisely identified, not to say misunderstood in its profound nature, people's minds having been so heavily influenced by the ancient models that it engendered a lack of standing back from the true problem... until...

The position of the Academy of Medicine and the Academy of Pharmacy and the step backwards manifested by their statements asking for the stopping of the reimbursement of homoeopathy and of the teaching of it at university - therefore, for its elimination from the scope of 'official' medicine - constituted a form of 'punch' at the form of prevailing consensus. It was forceful enough for the fundamental questions to arise in a more acute way and engender the need to put into words what was confused in many people's minds and had never had to be formulated with so much precision.

If the opinion expressed by the Academicians concerning the acknowledgement of the impact of 'the placebo effect' is no surprise insofar as there is now no doubt about the actual work of 'healers' that falls into the great hotchpotch of that 'effect', a slight improvement should be noted... A form of 'hesitation' has appeared as regards the fact that the 'lack of services rendered' has brought about the stopping of the reimbursement of certain substances since their action had not been experimentally convincing in enough cases... The more or less implicit doubt shows, without it being clearly expressed, that this posed questions...

We are far from mentioning the notion of the individuality of the response... It would be too big a step to take for the advocates of current 'models'... It does not constitute a significant enough element for us to go into it in depth... Identifiable in homoeopathy - in which, for the same disorder, the substance and even the dilution chosen will have more or less impact according to the subject and the objective - , for conventional people, the element of individuality does not have the same importance either in the choice of the treatment or to throw light on the disparity in the responses to it...

And yet, its analysis according to the group chosen - and, for certain substances, to the time and place of the experiment - is not uninteresting... One has not forgotten how much questioning² a few antidepressants, notably Prozac®, aroused a few years ago.

Besides, making a list of the various elements that the subjects chosen have in common would probably permit, by providing a few more factors, to refine the choice of the therapy³ even more and to give more value to the experimental statistical results and therefore to contribute to a better apprehension of the 'services rendered'... But can one suggest this when one is a homoeopath ?

¹ First part of an article entitled, *Une réflexion sur les modèles actuels face aux 'Fondamentaux' de l'homéopathie* published on homeopsy.com in April 2019.

² The groups of the patients tested came both from a psychiatric private hospital and from a less specific - and probably less-targeted concerning the diagnosis - town general practice... Their results proved to be completely different as, regarding vein tonics or analgesics, for the same indication, a certain product will be more effective in someone, another in someone else, which is obvious in a homoeopath's experience...

³ Cf. the article *Molécules utilisées dans la maladie d'Alzheimer, un problème de 'type sensible'?* on homeopsy.com, November 2011.

Let us also emphasise the slight improvement which consisted in no more referring to charlatanism and deception but in using the more 'scientific' word 'placebo effect'⁴... Even if observed through its etymological sense, the latter is not more flattering, it is possible to glimpse an evolution in the apprehension of the issue...

Besides, if the desire for the stopping of the reimbursement of homoeopathy and of its teaching in the few universities where it was given constitutes a very marked step backwards, it shows the fierce desire to see medicine rid of 'not scientifically' approved points of view...

Probably linked to the Australian report unfavourable to homoeopathy⁵ and to the quick reaction of a group of doctors obviously supporting the scientific thought, those two requests are supposed to constitute a form of protection of the patient...

The introduction of homoeopathic dilutions and the current comparative analyses in certain cancer wards have certainly had something to do with the present stand. It will at least force homoeopaths and researchers doing experiments on high dilutions to make the reality of their knowledge and practice more public.

Away from the vagueness and lack of information on those points, the answer of a scientist is imperative... It must now shed light on the true reasons for the opposition of the main actors in the medical and scientific world to what relates more or less to homoeopathy⁶.

Carried out by one of the main founder members of the Groupe International d'Etudes sur les hautes dilutions, the appraisal that follows may surprise or disconcert one... It may even seem somewhat 'deleterious' to those who were not trained sufficiently in the rigour of terminologies and of the way of reasoning of 'scientific' circles and researchers and cite work that seems to constitute indisputable 'proof' of the action of the homoeopathic medicine in its pharmacological action...

However, it puts forward a line of argument that is not only pertinent but also acceptable to those whose basis of training it constitutes and it puts the emphasis precisely on the real stumbling blocks against which the search for proof in homoeopathy comes up... The latter, it must be stressed, have never really been listed or clearly formulated.

Besides, it opens the door to real hope and to results that run counter to the temptation to close the file quickly and label homoeopathy as a placebo... The studies carried out on plants undeniably prove the effects of dilutions, even if they are beyond Avogadro's constant.

The second text that is associated with it complements it. It, too, shows that homoeopathy is more and more 'different' from the current model, even though it has incorporated its diagnostic constraints and necessities (clinical examinations, further examinations, mixed therapeutic examinations if necessary...).

⁴ 'Placebo' : 'I shall be pleasing to the Lord'. From Latin, it started Vespers before being associated with the singing exercises of cheaply paid singers to manifest - and, in a way, to mime - mourning during masses for the dead... It later became the word designating the medicine given 'to please the patient'. Cf. *L'homéopathie face au placebo*, Editions des Entretiens internationaux de Monaco, 2005.

⁵ It would prove to be a 'forgery' (?). The 'genuine one' would be favourable to it.

⁶ The much talked-about 'water memory' that was incorrectly associated with it made it worse.

It reminds one of the impact of the readiness to listen and the taking into account of the information brought in the course of the consultation...

It also poses, implicitly and in its way, the strange question about the possibility - this was recently brought up - of achieving that result in ten minutes, which cannot satisfy any doctor, either a homoeopath or an allopath...

Do we want to take a step backwards and leave care to non-doctors who, if many of them listen attentively and benevolently, will not be able to make a diagnosis or detect the first signs of a pathology taking hold ?

Will not the deleterious consequences of that model leaving the patient to the miracles of 'the placebo effect' alone or to the problematic effects of a 'soulless' type of medicine made more technical and inattentive to the words of the person who needs care engender a much higher cost for the patient and for society, which seeks to make savings... ?

The question remains and is open...

We hope that the members of the Academy of Medicine and the Academy of Pharmacy who, without doing it intentionally, initiated these thoughts, will ask themselves the question objectively and now with full knowledge of the facts...⁷

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⁷ Translated by Pascale Tempka