

Homoeopathy... A telling crisis...

I - From the perspective of its opponents...

It is telling in many respects...

The fact of maintaining one's position that does not take into account the ongoing evolution or what constitutes its essential basis raises the issue of a form of stop in a time before that of Hahnemann.

The diviners of the past and their sacred and disquieting powers still seem to haunt people's minds sufficiently to engender behaviours that are as irrational as inappropriate, both in the 'scientific' opponents advocating absolute rationalism and in those of all kinds who 'just follow along' - allopaths or sect hunters.

The 'stake' intended for witches, the peremptory judgements stamped with the profound feeling that one possesses the truth resurface... They can only make one ask oneself questions about the underlying anxiety behind that state of tension over rationality claimed at all costs. The strength of that rejection that is difficult to explain if not by the fear of what is beyond all control by the mind, logic and deduction is most surprising in this respect : the fact of making ill-founded comments showing glaring ignorance, the use of unchecked - if not false - arguments contrast with the supposed rigour of the rationality claimed and the exaggerations of all types sometimes mixed with vulgar if not slanderous remarks... The emotion and vindictive anger perplex one compared with the energy expended and the time fervently spent 'pillorying' all non-demonstrable or non-reproducible practices.

Homoeopathy belongs to that category... Even though it is used without any real disadvantages - even if there may be bad doctors or stubborn or careless users - it is disturbing.

Day-to-day experience does not constitute a sufficient proof... The fact that it suits the majority of people more inclined to treat themselves as best they can than to know if their choice has a scientific foundation or not is of little importance... It must be eradicated...

The ideological tension on that point - in which certain homoeopathic types excel - shows profound anxiety about what does not seem to be mastered... The supposed - and somewhat hackneyed - pretext of 'loss of chance' does not 'hold water' compared with the number of people treated. That argument proves to be totally fallacious.

It is also worth analysing more precisely in its reality and statistically assessing before being widely and regularly put forward - also taking into account the fact that there are non-competent doctors and fearful or stubborn patients... These are also found in the world of homoeopathy... Nevertheless, as the prevailing common sense and the diffusion of knowledge generally permit to avoid inappropriate behaviours, it seems that there are no more problems of that type than in allopathy.

The form of 'deafness', even when it is stated regularly that the therapeutic strategy depends on the disorders presented - serious illnesses justify homoeopathic treatment and the use of the best means available - is surprising in this respect.

Often little known except through what is conveyed of it by the media or by certain current authorities, homoeopathy is very periodically considered to deserve to be banished and eradicated like a dangerous plant, an infectious scourge...

Its 'pillorying' seems to be a periodic way of focusing attention on a suspicious discipline to make it possible, as in the past, for a scapegoat to focus the attention of the masses and name the culprit of the problems of the City... The Greek rite of Pharmakos¹ is one of the manifest examples of it...

There appears a regular form of step backwards in which the different current powers play a role... Relayed by the media that is usually accusatory, something is periodically put forward as in a form of salutary cleansing² to such an extent that giving one's - even moderate - assent or support to homoeopathy might make one run the risk of being condemned as 'a heretic'. The withdrawal of the teaching of homoeopathy from certain universities is problematic in this respect. One can only salute those which have courageously maintained the position they had held for many years, embracing a form of 'modernism' and leaving out the irrational fears coming from the past...

If the latter are now making a strong comeback in spaces that had so far apparently supported homoeopathy or pretended to tolerate it, the unqualified adherence to that current way of thinking proves to be obvious there, undoubtedly mixed with the fear of being blamed or just rejected... What is stated in 'high places', more or less backed by politicians - caught, as always, in the electoral stakes - constitutes such an inviolable truth that it is not possible to question it ... There is total assent... The commitment to fight the 'charlatanistic' medicine is made carelessly - except by signing under a pseudonym (sic!)³. What comes from current authorities is so synonymous with absolute truth that it justifies no investigation of any type or personal checking. It engenders no objectivity of any type...

The fear of the irrational is such that it even annihilates all thought, open-mindedness and analysis from the point of view of the other and what it may reveal of their day-to-day experience.

This is an old problem... 'Official' medicine against popular medicine - therefore against Hahnemann, given what he transmitted about the possibility stated by Paracelsus and

¹ Cf. *L'homéopathie face au placebo*.

² The medicine shortage is 'forgotten' if not 'covered up' and never mentioned anywhere... Extremely serious in psychiatry, it generates every day the need to replace medicines, more often than not, on the phone, to calculate the equivalent dosage of the molecules sold, apparently, abroad at a higher price before learning that even the equivalent molecules are out of stock... The real person responsible is concealed, the responsibility for whatever problem will fall on the doctor... It is true that homoeopathy engenders more passion... Moreover, the laboratory in question directs towards other medicines whose indications are not the same at all, which the homoeopathic perspective will understand all the more as it knows the notions of 'responding type' and of the individualisation of the treatment and dosage, even if it is allopathic. For the same diagnosis, the indications for Depamide® will not be the same as those for Tegretol® and even less so for Zyprexa® or Xeroquel®... Will manufacturers dictate their conditions to influence even the indications for medicines - probably according to their prices?... Prescribed in an inappropriate manner, the latter will only cost society more and their side effects will increase... But who will complain about it and be able to raise their voice?... And then psychiatry... It is like elderly people... No comment... The step backwards is ineluctable, dictated by obvious economic contingencies for which homoeopathy pays in a new spiral...

³ - as in the case of 67 of the members who signed the manifest of various doctors asking for the stopping of the reimbursement of homoeopathy and the banning of its prescription by doctors.

alchemists that like cures like⁴ ; homoeopathic medicine rejecting certain Paracelsian points of view and certain official points of view... A new spiral is being put in place, wavering between tension over past positions and openness to the present in the light of the evolution brought about by scientific advance and day-to-day experience.

The issue raised regularly here is not of the rejection of 'like cures like' medicine, it is of doing so with such vehemence if not hatred and sometimes haughty and disdainful self-importance - whereas, as a non-opposing and conciliating doctor interviewed said, 'If it doesn't do any good, it doesn't hurt'⁵... 'It's a placebo' and 'It isn't expensive'⁶...

What seems to be suspicious if not puzzling is the fear governing that type of behaviour : the fear of being questioned, of seeing one's world of absolute certainties run the risk of collapsing to such an extent that one does not even want to make the effort to 'hear' the other or wonder from what perspective they speak...

The desire to base one's judgement on tangible points recognised by authorities - therefore not to be rejected by the active community - seems to be totally significant.

Irrational fears of the 'non-rational'... Does the potential loss of points of reference introduced here engender so much inner chaos, loss of all certainty and reference to recognised mentors that it terrifies so much that it engenders such hatred? And yet, is not all irrational person a rational person who has not found their perspective⁷ yet?

The position of the media shows all the ambiguity of today's society : trying at first to bring about the assent of those who, more or less well informed, will follow the instructions and points of view of 'those who Know', it sticks to that type of behaviour. It is meant to be impartial by interviewing homoeopaths who will not always have the right to speak... What is important is not to 'hear' them but, at best, to make them confirm that there is no proof of any therapeutic action if not that inherent in placebos... Some channels express in this respect accusatory criticisms that are almost stronger than those of the opponents.

Have we entered a world that is so muzzled or more and more in favour of doctrinaire approach that not a single voice is heard and we do not hear the words of those who defend their right to choose the way of treating themselves? Can any of those journalists say unambiguously that they have never used, for themselves or their children, Arnica, Apis or Allium cepa?

Until...

Oddly enough, it was after the planned stopping of the reimbursement of homoeopathy was announced that homoeopaths and users of homoeopathy have really had the right to speak⁸... The desire not to be discredited if 'the wind turned'? It is true that one always

⁴ - even if he made experimental re-using of it by introducing dilution and dynamisation...

⁵ Which is not correct given the action of certain dilutions that are inappropriate for an organism that is ill-prepared and fragile...

⁶ And, it must be said, the homoeopathic doctors who use Hahnemannian similitude have officially committed themselves for many years to giving their patients the same guarantee of care as their allopathic colleagues - a new charter established for that purpose has just been published - and, as it was announced on many occasions, there is no question of doctors - this often circulates - treating cancer only with homoeopathy...

⁷ As a South African 'medicine man' said, 'We know which herbs make snakes flee... It's up to you to find why...'

⁸ An inquiry would have been opened on *Le Monde*...

becomes kind to a sentenced person... Perhaps a way of diminishing one's feeling of guilt or doubt⁹ ? Who knows?...

Sclerotic and separating *Luèse* is doing its destructive work...

There is going to be a new turn... It depends both on what is put in place by the opponents rigidified in a scientific position and will lead to the need to revise the opposing elements and on the force of reaction stimulated by the new factors brought according to the evolution of knowledge.

As Professors Madeleine Bastide and Agnès Lagache said regularly, 'Homoeopathy cannot die, it obeys the laws of life'... But, to do that, deaf people should agree to make the effort to listen and leave their rigidified positions... Otherwise, *Luèse* will do its work in a new spiral but at what price and when? No one can know or foresee, even if they are a diviner - and a 'charlatan'...¹⁰ □□□

To be continued...

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⁹ It is important to know that no article proposed to various newspapers by myself or different homoeopathic colleagues to explain the issue in its essence has been published or has even received an answer (5 mass-circulation magazines, in my case)... The only one I got was, 'We do not publish articles that do not meet the criteria of the scientific community'... No comment...

¹⁰ Translated by Pascale Tempka