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Review Article

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A REVIEW ON “A HAND BOOK OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN AND THEIR HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT”

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Abstract-

“A Hand Book of Diseases of the Skin and Their Homoeopathic Treatment” by John Robert Kippax is one of the valuable book that not readily available in the present time. It is very difficult to distinguish between different skin diseases. But in our daily practice we found almost each and every patient have experienced some kind of skin trouble in the past or present. It is obvious that dermatological science may not have developed upto the modern level when this book was published, but still this is very useful text to combat with the different skin disorders with homoeopathic therapeutics.

Keywords- Diseases of skin, Symptomatology, Homoeopathy, Therapeutics.

Introduction-

Regional literatures with homoeopathic therapeutics has got their own values. As these literatures based on particular organs or diseases, the information is quite descriptive in respect of that organ or disease. In homoeopathy this descriptive approach on a single organ or disease has got immense value, as it enhances the thought process of the physician and widens his angle of observation. "A Hand Book of Diseases of the Skin and Their Homoeopathic Treatment" by John Robert Kippax is one of those literatures, where the homoeopathic fraternity gains confidence to combat with the different dermatological disorders with SIMILIMUM and also gain knowledge of diet, regimen and hygienic approach of the skin diseases.

About the Author-

Dr. Kippax was the Professor of Principle and Practice of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence in the Chicago Homoeopathic Medical College. He was also the Clinical Lecturer and Visiting physician to Cook County Hospital. Dr. Kippax had a long experience in medical practice and teaching as well. This book is a result of his long clinical experiences. He also the author of Lectures on Fevers.

Discussion-

Many regional and systemic therapeutics was published before Dr. J. T. Kent compiled his Repertory. As time went on and the popularity of homoeopathy increases day by day and the practitioners of that time badly needed therapeutics, so that they can serve more patients in a considerable time with the Similimum. This book "**A Hand Book of Diseases of the Skin and Their Homoeopathic Treatment**" by Dr. Kippax is one of the product of that time.

The first edition was published in 1880 from Chicago which according to Kippax- a digest of the essentials of practical dermatology, as will be serviceable alike to students and practitioners. The pronunciation of the various medical words and different definitions introduced in the first edition.

This handbook was a result of careful study of dermatological literatures and extensive clinical experience.

In the second edition which was published on 1883, many portion of the book has been entirely rewritten.

Third edition was the reprint edition of the previous edition.

In the fourth edition, published in 1890 a special chapter introduced- Diet and hygiene in dermatological cases which is very useful till date.

Construction-

This book consists of five parts-

Part first- This is the general consideration of the skin. This has five sections-

Section-I, The anatomy and pathology of the skin.

Section-II, deals with Symptomatology, Physical characters of skin diseases- macules, papules, tubercles, bullae, scales etc.

Section-III, consists of Etiology (cause of disease- internal and external). Heredity, Constitutional, functional, drug poisoning as internal causes and climate, irritants, parasites as external causes.

Section-IV, deals with diagnosis of the skin diseases. The interesting part of this section is the site of appearance of different skin diseases are listed here. Lupus, rosacea- the nose, lupus, rosaceous, eczema- the checks, epithelioma- lower lip, zoster- sides of the chest, eczema and scabies- flexors of the joints etc.

Section-V, deals with classification of skin diseases. This classification done according to American Dermatological Association of that time. Entire diseases of the skin classified under eight (8) classes-

Class-I, disorders of the glands- sweat gland, sebaceous gland.

Class-II, inflammation- erythema, erysipelas, eczema, herpes etc.

Class-III, Haemorrhage- purpura

Class-IV, hypertrophies- chloasma, callositas, paronychia, scleroderma, onychogryphosis etc.

Class-V, atrophies- leukoderma, alopecia, atrophy of nails etc.

Class-VI, new growths- fibroma, keloid, naevus, leprosy etc.

Class-VII, neuroses- anaesthesia, dermatalgia, hyperthesia.

Class-VIII, parasitic diseases- tinea, elephantiasis, scabies etc.

Part second, consists of the description and treatment of various skin diseases. Starting with Acne, 101 types of skin diseases are described, which ends with Zoster. Every condition was well described and best part is in the treatment which consists of internal homoeopathic medications as well as external measurement where applicable. Total 199 pages spent out of total 293 pages for this part.

Part third, deals with a chart of characteristics, with diagnostic, therapeutic, dietetic and hygienic hints. This chart prepared according to eight classification of skin diseases.

Parts fourth, deal with orthoepic glossary – the study of the pronunciation of different skin diseases with meaning.

Parts fifth, consist of diet and hygiene in diseases of skin.

In the last metric table and Index was placed.

Conclusion-

The dermatological science much more developed from that time when this book was written. This homoeopathic treasure almost forgotten with this advancement. But the value of this book is immense during the treatment of diseases of skin. This is a big challenge to combat with the skin diseases in day to day practice. This book can have played a big role in this regard.

Reference-

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