

If only one remedy is available – Oscillococcinum

by László Bóna

This series was driven by the idea about how we could give advices to homeopathic healing, based on simple remedies that can most easily be obtained and be used. Based on even only one remedy. To a remedy that, if we do not have our neighbour might have it. Or somebody has the remedy who has already tried homeopathy. Or to that person who watches commercials and does not know more about it and does not even want to know more. What should we tell her/him, we, who know homeopathy and want to help, to those people who are open to our help but not open to our explanation.

(I have written about Arnica in one of my previous articles.)

Usually we can find Oscillococcinum even in those pharmacies which do not sell homeopathic remedies otherwise. Oscillococcinum had a massive advertising campaign, and there was a time when lots of people bought it for influenza or lots of people tried it for preventing influenza. However, they did have much result, because they either did not notice anything or they had mild proving symptoms, since Oscillococcinum is a K200-diluted homeopathic remedy. Now, maybe time has arrived, when the stock of this remedy we keep at home or our acquaintances keep in their home, for the remedies' proper application in self-healing when initial symptoms, similar to influenza, show up. And maybe we can get this remedy in the nearest pharmacy, which is one of its greatest benefits in this epidemic.

I know, I know, Oscillococcinum is not really taken seriously by the homeopath, too. A professional homeopath does not subscribe this remedy, she/he even denies it. Because this remedy does not have any proving – only Boiron registered it and this remedy reached the highest sales volume of all homeopathic remedies. With this action not only the homeopaths got angry but the pharmaceutical industry as well. On the top of everything, the remedy's name breaks the homeopathic tradition, because its name is not related to its substance. The remedy is made from the 'muscovy duck', or otherwise called 'Anas Barbariae', but its name is referring to the oscillating bacteria in the blood sample of people, infected by the Spanish flu, the name given by Joseph Roy, a French medical officer. Roy spotted bacteria indicating similar movements in other viral illnesses, moreover, in the blood of cancer patients and in the blood of domestic duck. Nobody has ever seen this other than him, moreover, it turned out that some diseases, in which he saw this phenomenon are not even viral. It is interesting though that Roy was talking about a general causative agent that can be understood symbolically, and connects the similar viral diseases with the cancer, as if cancer and viral diseases were part of the same process. If we take it as a hypothesis, that should be examined, then we will understand why cancer is foregone by a number of viral diseases, that were suppressed, and what the relationship can be between the recurring influenza epidemics in the world, that are suppressed, and the cancer as a world-wide diseases.

Peter Fraser wrote a book, titled as "Birds", about the homeopathic remedies made from different kind of birds' feather or a drop of their blood. In his book he states that Oscillococcinum is similar to that of the Carconinum nosode. „The remedy indicates a gentle picture of Carcininum. It is worth using if the patients' reaction to the Carcininum would be too intense.”

Because the remedy did not have regular proving, its symptoms were collected mainly by the practical experiences by those who took the remedy. „Oscillococcinum is mainly used in colds or in the initial phase of influenza by most people. ... Influenza symptoms of the remedy are as follows: fever, cold shiverings, shattered sensation, throbbing headache, pain of the sinuses, stopped nose, coryza and sneezing. The lung may also be affected along with dry, painful cough, with hoarseness and loss of voice. Digestive problems may also occur...., distension in the abdomen, painful cramps, putrid, forcible diarrhoea... The patient is anxious, pale and very chilly. Usually warmth and rest ameliorates all symptoms.”

It is very interesting that, while taking the remedy it indicates many mental symptoms that are characteristic to this epidemic situations, such as fears and compulsive behaviour. „It is typical that, many times and for long time, the patient is anxious, with no reason whatsoever, about either herself/himself or about her/his family. The patient desires tidiness and neatness, and has fear from dirt and untidiness. This symptoms can even go to extreme degree. If the patient’s fear from dirt and from diseases become extreme, then compulsive cleanliness-related symptoms can show up, i.e. in the form of maniac handwashing. At this pathological level patient may even reject handshaking and touching others.” – writes Fraser in his book about the birds.

Therefore, we can actually realise, that if nothing else is available at home or we cannot buy anything else – not for prevention – we can immediately use this remedy as a self-healing mean, when the mildest typical symptoms of influenza appear, or when in an epidemic situation we have anxiety or fear.

It can easily be understood why homeopathy is looking for the most suitable remedy for influenza among the bird remedies. I am quoting Fraser again: „Birds are related to influenza in many ways. In the past, all massive influenza pandemics started off with the bird populations. ... The symptoms of the influenza mainly similar to that of the birds, so that it is not surprising that the most popular influenza remedy, the Oscilloccocum, is also made from a bird.”

All in all, there is another peculiar timely relevance of the remedy. About Oscilloccocinum Fraser also wrote in his book about birds: „The homeopathic remedy is made from the animal’s liver and heart that have been in an incubator for forty days.”

Nowadays many people had discovered that the word of „quarantine” is originated from the Italian expression of „forty days”, i.e. „Quaranta giorni”. This is the time length of a merchant-ship had to wait in the port of Venice in the 14th century, in order to turn out that the ship is not bringing in any disease along with her commodities. There had already been a tradition to this, earlier on Hippocrates already wrote that all acute diseases show up within forty days. Towards the end of the first millennium AD, a Persian physician, Ibn Sina, introduced the forty-day waiting into the history of healings. In ancient Persian language he called his method „the forty”. Namely, we wait for forty days and then it turns out whether the healthy-looking person is ill or not. Forty is a mystical number because ten is the unity, four also represents wholeness, and then forty is the number of unity in a multiple way, because it is four times ten.

Béla Hamvas wrote in his paper, titled as „One drop from the perdition” by interpreting the forty-day fasting: „Adam lived for forty years in the paradise, Israel was wondering for forty years. Jesus was in the desert for forty years. Christ was laying in the grave for forty hours.” And we may also add to it, that we born after 40 weeks the conception, Buddha was meditating under the trees for forty days before his enlightenment. So forty is a mystical number, and forty days is not just mere waiting time but the period of a great transformation, the mystical turn, the period for transformation, offering the possibility of transubstantiation. Or the downfall as a possibility.

So, the most common and best known homeopathic influenza remedy – by way of preparing it – can be related to the mystical state of shamanic hell-going, being broken into pieces and reconstruction, the life between worlds, the life of an embryo, the after birth isolation or the temptation in the desert. This remedy may include the power of forty days and the healing power hidden in the birds.

Just like we were prepared for a forty-day mental retreat in order to reform, transform our lives. And then the hell-flied numb duck helps us, while staying healthy, doing our transformation, our purification, just like we would return to a healthier life from a forty-hour fasting or a forty-day retreat. The quarantine will not only be a lockdown to us but a possibility for transformation as well.

It appears that the forty days is not avoidable. We must go through those internal processes what the forty day is meant for. But in order to stay healthy and lead to health the numb duck helps, as the healing power of a sacrificial animal that was transformed by potentisation.

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