

## HOMŒOPATHY AND DIGESTIVE DISORDERS

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If you opened the door of theatre during a particularly intricate operation, the surgeon might have thrown a wet swab at your head. Had you known him, you would have not been moved with choler. If you did not know him, someone would justify him in an apologetic whisper. "He's got a bad stomach". Yet when the gastric fiend within this surgeon was asleep, he was well liked as a nice and kindly man. He would often be found lying face downwards on the table in the doctor's room groaning with pain, thereby indicating the homœopathic remedy which he so sorely needed and never got. I do not know what exact diagnostic label colleagues affixed to his sufferings, but their best efforts profited him nothing. He did not have an ulcer or he would have welcome an operation. No one was surprised when, in time, he died of cancer of the stomach.

There are few bodily ailments which so strike at the root of a human being as vicious digestive disorders. Apart from the pain, which can be quite intolerable, they sap the mental and bodily energy. One surgeon used to say that he could often risk the spot diagnosis of an ulcer when he saw a patient with an unopened newspaper while those in the neighbouring beds were reading.

Napoleon lost the battle of Waterloo because of his stomach. His ulcer doubtless troubled him then as he sat for hours at a table with his head resting on his hands. His death at St. Helena was due to cancer of the stomach.

### SLIDING SCALE OF SYMPATHY

Nowadays there is a sliding scale of sympathy for the various digestive disorders. A duodenal ulcer is quite fashionable, but a gastric ulcer has not the same touch of class about it. Hyperchlorhydria, which can be seven times as painful, gets no sympathy. Chronic gastritis is beneath contempt, while

dilated and dropped stomachs are too often regarded as the hallmark of a physical or nervous weakling.

I remember a brilliant physician telling us how he used to roll on the floor with the pain of hyperchlorhydria. A student friend of mine could make his dilated stomach gurgle and splash like Tennyson's brook by giving a wriggle, and his war record showed that there was nothing of the weakling about him. He was, though I did not know it then, a beautiful picture of LYCOPODIUM.

A patient of mine has a stomach so incredibly low that you rub your glasses and take another look at the X-ray plate, yet homœopathy has slowly but amazingly improved her. A doctor patient related how, even on holiday, he was forced to disappear behind a dyke and make himself sick to get a fleeting freedom from pain.

Many people know what healthy gastric juice looks like, having produced it during a sea voyage, but this doctor said all he had to digest his food with was stuff exactly like the beaten up white of an egg. What the lining of his stomach was like can only be faintly imagined but LYCOPODIUM once more made a beautiful cure.

A well-known professor of medicine had, so an assistant of his averred, a tongue like a scorpion. This was not surprising as the creature was domiciled in the professor's stomach. In his more expansive moments he used to say: "The poor, silly public come to me to get their stomachs cured, and I cannot even cure my own". He often went to stay with a doctor friend in the Highlands and lived largely on cornflour, so one of the doctor's told me many years afterwards.

#### COMFORTS OF BAKING SODA

I have often been amused or indignant at those physicians who fulminate against the sufferers who take baking soda to get a little peace. Their charge is that the baking soda merely produces more wind and does nothing to help them. I speak from years of experience when I assert that it affords great relief in practice, whatever it does in theory.

The victim is told that the meal is on the table, which

statement leaves him unmoved, as he knows that he cannot sit still to eat it and also, has no appetite for food. However, if he fills a tumbler with hot water and adds a generous spoonful of soda the scene is changed. He feels a premonitory rumble, and opens his mouth to let the gas escape. He can now sit down to the meal with a lightened heart, free from pain, ignoring the somewhat greasy taste in his mouth, which he counts a small price to pay for his temporary freedom.

A chronically distended or dropped stomach is a terrible possession, as it exhausts the patient bodily and nervously. The food cannot be properly digested. When one of my patients was ill, her unavailing attempts to be sick roused the whole street to horror and pity. There is only one way to contract or raise stomachs and that is to find the curative homœopathic medicine. I have known of surgeons trying to take a reef in structures to raise them. That was many years ago. If the nervous system is tightened up, the stomach will also tighten up. I can still see a patient with a dropped stomach, a picture of *SEPIA* but, alas, I did not know the very name when she came to me.

Diet does not cure every ulcer. I once lived on milk for six weeks, which was akin to holding an enraged dog by the ears. It was all right as long as you could maintain your grip, but the trouble came when you let go, and the only ultimate profit was to the dairyman. The same applied to fasting. The pain returned and continued until such time as I learned enough about homœopathy to find the one, curative medicine 22 years ago.

#### PERFECT CURES

The victim of digestive disorder will naturally want to know what is the prospect of a cure by homœopathy. No case should be beyond cure or great relief, provided the correct medicine can be found, that there are no mechanical or structural changes which only surgery can tackle, and that the patient does his part. Even when there is a long history of stomach trouble in the family, perfect cures have been attained. I once treated four brothers, all ulcer cases, whose father died

of an ulcer. One was a perfect cure with DYSENTERY CO., another with LYCOPODIUM, a third with THUJA and the fourth has needed many remedies.

The pylorus, the outlet of the stomach, may be so thickened with scar tissue, the result of previous ulcers, that an operation must be done. Operations on the stomach may also be necessary. The ulcer may have spread so that it is adherent to surrounding structures, which become involved. My surgeon friend operated on a patient of mine 20 years ago and gave a very gloomy prognosis, as he said he had to shave away much more of the head of the pancreas than he liked. I gave her GAERTNER and she has remained in perfect health ever since.

It is my experience that if a patient makes little or no headway in spite of careful homœopathic prescribing, there is a reason for this lack of progress, often mechanical. One man came a long distance to consult me, and I was naturally eager to help him, but there was never more than flicker of improvement. His pain grew so intense that a surgeon was summoned and the inside was just a mass of adhesions. Homœopathy can do quite a lot with ordinary adhesions but a number of cases are beyond medicine.

Hahnemann said that the physician must remove the things that interfere with health, but this is not always so easy of accomplishment. There is one rock on which many patients split, the rock of tobacco. I have read that Lord Moynihan, acclaimed to be in his day about the foremost authority on ulcers, would say to a patient with yellow stained fingers; "Go home and stop smoking and come back to me in a month or two if you still have pain."

#### EFFECTS OF TOBACCO

When the matter of tobacco is broached to patients, they usually protest in an aggrieved voice: "But my doctor never told me to stop smoking". Of course he didn't, because most doctors smoke, or did. There is no doubt that tobacco can cause, or aggravate, a number of ulcers. I managed to cure one man with an ulcer in one month who smoked, and con-

tinued to smoke, 40 cigarettes a day, and a doctor patient was also cured who was assuredly not surrounded with a smokeless zone. Nevertheless, tobacco is bad for digestive troubles.

It is a tribute to homœopathy to see how patients have often managed to carry on considering what operation reveals. Homœopathy has actually banished the pain and discomfort of an ulcer, which has been free from symptoms for years. Of course remissions in an ulcer do occur without any treatment, but not of so lengthy duration as homœopathy has produced.

The correct medicine must be found for the patient, and this is not always easy, especially if the trouble is of long standing and symptoms are vague and not clear cut. There are some medicines which are perhaps fairly frequently indicated but any medicine may be needed, and none other will do.

One man in his 80's was cured by NATRUM MURIATICUM. He was the oldest case of duodenal ulcer I have treated but I have personal knowledge of a man well over 90 with an ulcer. SULPHUR cured a bad case, as it would have cured most troubles in him, because he was a sulphur patient. LYCOPODIUM has cured some chronic cases. One woman did not trust the doctors in her own town and came to see me, not knowing I was a homœopath. DYSENTERY CO. cured the ulcer.

#### ADDITIONS TO KENT'S LIST

It must be stressed constantly that there is no one special medicine for ulcers. Curative remedies I have added to Kent's list of drugs for ulcers are; ANACARDIUM, ATROPIA SULPHURICA, CADMIUM SULPH., CALCAREA PHOSPHORICA, CARBOLICUM ACIDUM, GRAPHITES, ORNITHOGALLUM, PULSATILLA, SEPIA, SYPHILINUM, VARIOLINUM, VERATRUM ALBUM and others.

Once in a while we get a case which is like the answer to the homœopath's prayer, as when a patient asked me if I could help her brother in New York who was afflicted with a duodenal ulcer and hæmorrhoids. I sent three powders of only possible remedy and he was completely and permanently cured.

It is a mercy that a duodenal ulcer, which is fairly common nowadays, does not become cancerous. I believe that it

is exceedingly rare for this to happen. The proportion of gastric ulcers which take on malignancy is not so high as used to be supposed. Digestive disorders should be treated and homœopathy has cured many cases of chronic trouble which might have become vicious. I am sure that every homœopath has seen suspicious cases clear up under the appropriate remedy. I was very uneasy about one patient who responded beautifully to HYDRASTIS.

I believe that a great deal can be done for cancer of the stomach with homœopathy and have read about some of the wonderful results of the late Dr. Cooper and of his father and that the surgeon, Dr. Burford, who laid aside his knife as he found that he could do more with homœopathy. And some of the American homœopaths have rescued seemingly hopeless cases.

#### INVITATION TO ALLOPATHS

Of course, if surgery can effect a cure, that is splendid, but I have encountered cases which were too far gone for the knife to help. The old homœopathic masters pinned their faith to homœopathy and kept patients wonderfully comfortable. Indeed, the late Prof. Kent had such confidence in homœopathy that he invited the allopathic doctors to send in cases of cancer to the homœopathic hospital in Chicago and watch the effects of treatment.

I have seen what homœopathy can do in keeping cancer patients comfortable but the physician must have a free hand in the treatment. I can think of cases who were persuaded to stop homœopathy and go over to allopathy. For discomfort, they got pain, for physical strength, weakness. I have known allopaths exclaim at the surprising general well-being of the patient after years of cancer.

I have read of the astonishing results which the late Dr. Edward Bach got in some seemingly hopeless cases. Patients were restored to a life of activity and death was speedy when it did come. A homœopathic friend of mine told me how a case of bad cancer was enabled to leave her bed and run the house for 18 months. A patient of mine improved so amaz-

ingly that he wanted to return to business on GAERTNER, but the disease had too big a grip for that I do believe that cases under pure homœopathy will have a minimum of suffering.

I know of an old doctor who had an inoperable cancer of the stomach. He began to live practically on fruit and fruit juice and improved amazingly. He used to sit in the park in good weather and tell everyone his story, how he had been a living lie for more than 40 years by not being able to tell patients what to eat. In those days nobody bothered much about diets. I do not know how long he lived but he evidently experienced a great and wonderful increase in health.

Cases which are the result of poor surgery are not so easy to treat. I have had some to handle. One is now completely free from pain on BRYONIA. I remember one operator whose surgery was a joy to witness, so skilful were his hands, but some of his cases of the short circuit operation were anything but successful. However, these cases can be improved with time and patience.

—*Homœopathy, Aug., '59.*

### EXPERIENCE

(*Contd. from page 344*)

symptoms in the process of cure, methods of prognostication by observing the action of the similimum discovered and formulated by the talented disciples of our Master); or even new theories may come out in extension of the older one (as, Einstein's Theory of Relativity in culmination of Newton's Laws of Motion).

Now, **experience** really means a synthesis of these two theory and practice. Dictionary meaning of the terms experience is "knowledge resulting from actual observation of facts and events", "wisdom derived from trials". If each trial in every case of our practice fails to add something to our store of knowledge and wisdom, if it does not enrich or improve our grasp on theory and principles, so that we are enabled to utilize them better in our subsequent trials we are far from gaining and experience, however long we may practice.