

HOMŒOPATHY v. PHYSIOTHERAPY IN A CASE OF BELL'S PALSY

DR. WILLIAM B. GRIGGS, M.D.

I am reporting this case because it took me a long time to realize how it was possible to cure a serious ailment with four powders of high potency :

Mr. L. H., a large husky man, whose occupation was that of a travelling salesman, came to me one Sunday in January 1952 with the following history.

He had put up at a country hotel on a very cold, stormy night, and slept with the window open beside his bed. The next morning, he told me, his neck was absolutely stiff from the nape up, with a couple of small tender lumps under the skin. Generally, he felt so sick that he sent for a local physician.

The next day he drove across the Pocono Mountains and down to his home in a suburb of Philadelphia. During this drive, the sleet and fog forced him to have the window open on his left side in order to see the road ahead. By the time he reached home he could neither speak nor close his left eye. His wife called a chiropractor who made an attempt to adjust the muscles of his stiff neck. After four days of intense suffering and a paralysed face, he went to one of the large hospitals. A very competent physician there made a diagnosis of possible myelitis and Bell's palsy on the left side of his face and advised him to take diathermy and aspirin. After five days of this treatment, the pain had fairly well subsided, but his neck remained stiff as a board and the left side of his face was completely paralysed.

He was in this helpless condition for another week when a friend of his, with whom he was associated in business and who was a patient of mine, advised him to see me. Accordingly, his wife drove him to my office. I could only elicit the symptoms as narrated above, but he felt that the cold, damp air which blew in his window during the night, coupled with the drive home the next day and the open car window, had caused all the trouble.

I took all his symptoms down very carefully, and picked up Dr. Robert Farley's *Punch-Card Spindle Repertory* and brought out *Rhus toxicodendron* and *Dulcamara*. On consulting the *Materia Medica*, I believed the perfect simile was *Dulcamara*. When I went to my medicine cabinet, my 6th and 30th dilutions had evaporated leaving only dry bottles with loose corks. This being Sunday I could not get any medicine from the pharmacy. But this man needed treatment immediately, so I looked through my high potency cabinet and found *Dulcamara* 10m, a Fincke potency, which was all I had in the office. Therefore, with great hesitancy and doubt in my mind, I prepared four powders of *Dulcamara* in this potency. I gave him one on his tongue, the other three to be taken night and morning.

I asked him to report to me the following Tuesday so that I could give him the 30th potency. I did not hear from him for ten days and assumed he saw nothing in those "sugar powders" and had gone to another physician; but to my surprise his wife telephoned and asked if I would see her husband again. I was very thankful to hear from her and made an appointment to suit their time. When they arrived his wife was all smiles, and he shook my hand very cordially and said there was certainly something worthwhile in those little "sugar powders". The stiffness in his neck was completely relieved, but the left side of his face still hung and his eyelid could not function. In every other way, however, he felt much better. After some thought I followed Hahnemann's dictum not to repeat the remedy so long as improvement continued.

His next visit to my office was on March 4th. This day he lesson to me. He had driven his car himself and was able to sleep comfortably at night. He could close his eye, chew food and the drooling from the side of his mouth had stopped. Improvement continued and placebo was repeated.

His next visit to my office was on March 4th. This day he was articulating well and both sides of his face appeared normal. He said he didn't bite his tongue and felt perfectly well. I kept my nerve and gave him more placebo in the form of discs, throughly wet with 95 per cent alcohol. Thus, in less

than six weeks from the first dose of *Dulcamara*, this man was entirely cured of a severe torticollis and Bell's palsy on the left side of his face.

His final request about two weeks later was, "Is it necessary for me to see you again as I feel as well as ever?"

My lesson in this case was :

1. The exact remedy does the work.
2. It took only four doses to cure this helpless man.
3. Exposure to cold, damp air is a valid indication for *Dulcamara*.

—*Health & You, June, 1956*

ONE HUNDRED EMERGENCY SHOTS

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SPINAL INJURY

An athletic German "felt something give way" in his spine while "twisting the broomstick" with a friend. Every few minutes he was seized with cramping of the muscles of the thorax which effectually locked his respiration until he became cyanosed and relaxed, then was all right again for a few minutes until the cramp returned. Copious sweat during each cramp. A few drops of *Gelsemium* tincture were put in half a glass of water and he had a teaspoonful after each cramp. Two teaspoonfuls were all that was necessary.

UREMIA

A woman of 66 who had had interstitial nephritis some years complained one day of a stitching pain in the left hypochondria, aggravated by applications of heat. Then lost her memory entirely, could not speak or move except the eyelids. Memory and motive power were restored an hour after a dose of *Sulphur* 1M, and next day she was at work as usual.