

every night, and nothing had helped them. Aside from this trouble they were well and menstruated normally. Daily doses of *Sulphur* cured lastingly in a few days. (Nusser).

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HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF ANIMALS

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The proportion of physicians working in accordance with homœopathic principles is increasing in a gratifying manner from year to year in most countries. In animal medicine this cannot be said. The number of homœopathic veterinarians is extraordinarily small. The reason for this may be the fact that the selection of homœopathic remedies for animals is more difficult than for human beings. In choosing remedies the objective findings are first of all to be considered, but the subjective ones—that is, the complaints stated by the patient himself—are of no less importance. In doubtful cases these often suggest to the physician the remedy to be administered. In animals this indication is lacking....

There is something truly gratifying to be reported from France. In that country the fairly numerous veterinarians practising according to homœopathic principles have organized and formed a subdivision of the large French Homœopathic Medical Society. Also, the French dentists, insofar as they are kindly disposed to Homœopathy, have joined the latter organization. Unfortunately, it is still too little known that diseases of the teeth and mouth can be successfully treated in many cases with homœopathic remedies.

When one has treated a family for a fairly long time in the role of family physician, one often gains the confidence of the people and is asked for advice on all manner of things; in preparing tax returns; in petitions to the autho-

rities; on the arrival of letters from abroad which are written in a foreign language; and not least of all, among farmers in cases of sickness of their domestic animals. Many know already that I am very glad to treat their animals; others are delighted when I tell them that I can prescribe medicine for their livestock.

Usually with animals, the lower potencies (3x to 6x) are preferred. For prescribing higher potencies one would have to take into account the subjective symptoms, which are not to be obtained in these cases. Generally speaking, *Pulsatilla* has proved specific in sickness of sheep, as is commonly recognized. To dogs one prefers to give *Nuxvomica* or *Strychninum nitricum* and in pigs, *Antimonium crudum* is effective. For horses, *Arsenicum album* is recommended, and I have found this likewise applicable when it is a question of light carriage and riding horses. With heavy plough horses, in my experience *Rhus toxicodendron* has proved specific above everything else. This latter medicine can be used internally or externally. I give here a number of reports on treatment of animals from recent years. I have not made exact notes about them, but am writing up the cases from memory.

The two-year old shepherd dog of a garage owner had for some time behaved in a peculiar manner in moonlight, especially during a full moon. He howled and ran about the yard, paying no attention to those who entered. When the gate was open, he left the property and came back again after some hours, still howling. He was no longer of any use in guarding the property, which he formerly did in an exemplary manner. The veterinarian had prescribed a remedy which accomplished nothing. I ordered some doses of *Luna* 12x, with the result that these disturbances, which were so evidently caused by moonlight, soon subsided and after one or two weeks permanently disappeared.

Luna is a remedy but seldom mentioned in homœopathic literature. It is prepared in the following manner.

One exposes a glass dish of distilled water for a while to the rays of the moon. The water is stirred somewhat and then this liquid is potentized according to homœopathic principles (cf. Dr. Clarke: *Dictionary of Materia Medica*, London). In former years I have smiled at this strange procedure. However, after I had a thoroughly outstanding success with it, I am very glad to make use of this medicine.

A two-year old female shepherd dog had aborted a few months previously. Her appetite, which was never very great, had recently diminished even more. The animal gave the impression of being sick and tired, and her coat was rough. As the whole sickness resembled tuberculosis—which was not the case however—I ordered *Tuberculin Koch* in the 6x, five pills to be given three times a day. Her appetite improved after a few days and after some weeks became remarkably good. The animal greedily cleaned up her dish and even took dry bread to appease her hunger. Her general health improved accordingly.

Paralytic weakness of the hind legs, which sometimes remained after the disappearance of the acute symptoms of distemper in dogs, I have treated with good results with *Causticum* 6x and *Strychninum sulfur* 8x.

A seven-year old Hungarian mare belonging to farmer A. D. was sick with spavin in the hind leg. If the reader is not informed about this disease, I will say that spavin is a rather unpleasant and tedious disease of horses, which affects the periosteum on the under side of the hock. This mare showed the typical symptoms. In the morning she could walk on the hind leg in question only with difficulty and also during the day when she had stood a fairly long time, she went lame. I prescribed *Rhus toxicodendron* 4x, to be put in water and given several times a day by means of drops on bread. After a few days the disease was cured, much to the astonishment of Mr. D. and the neighboring farmers.

Another seven-year old horse was suffering from a painful thickening of the sinews on the kneecap and went lame. In his case I likewise had the best success with *Rhus tox*.

Some years later I treated a horse with symptoms of rheumatic inflammation which appeared in various joints,—now this and now that joint was affected. The animal had already been given three injections of penicillin, but entirely without result. I was asked for advice and prescribed *Pulsatilla* 4x in liquid form. After a few days a noticeable improvement set in and after three weeks the disease was cured.

The comparative cost of homœopathic medication is also an important consideration. Penicillin was at that time still very expensive, whereas a small bottle of *Pulsatilla* drops still did not even cost one mark (about 25c).

A thirteen-year old gelding belonging to another farmer had a rheumatic inflammation in one joint of the left foreleg and of the right hind leg. In the morning he could not get up, and walking was extremely difficult. Taking into account the accompanying conditions I prescribed *Rhus toxicodendron* 4x, to be taken internally. A person versed in Homœopathy will remember that *Rhus tox*, is especially indicated in human beings when the left arm and the right foot are painful. Considerations of this sort helped me in the choice of remedies. As the result showed, the effect was absolutely satisfactory.

At the farmer Johannes Pf's two cows were almost dry. The last birth had occurred more than a year ago and there had been no pregnancy since. Various remedies had already been given without result. He decided to try Homœopathy and I was asked for advice. Since *Platinum natriomuriaticum* had hardly ever failed me in the sterility of cattle, I prescribed it in this case, with the desired result. (Translated by Waldo C. Peebles)

—The Layman Speaks, Oct. 1954