

remedy (of this later). No instruction is given in Lippincott as to exactly what sort of pains or the type of patient to be benefitted by this *Pulsa. Tinct.* Women can tell their medical man that there are very many "types of pains," and their concomitant discomforts, even, at times, telling their medico, "I can't taste or smell anything," which would be just telling a Homoeopathic doctor she required "*Pulsatilla Nigricans*," and only this remedy. Does this surprise you? This is a "Key Note" (known to every Homoeopathic sophomore), and an indication worth any doctor's attention. (Simple, but undoubtedly "scientific").

(To be continued).

GOLD AND SILVER AS REMEDIES IN DISEASE

BY HAROLD FERGIE WOODS,

M.D. (Brux.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)

The Chairman said that Dr. Fergie Woods did not need any introduction from him. He was one of their elder statesmen, and he was sure he would give the Faculty a most statesmanlike paper. Dr. Paterson would read it for Dr. Fergie Woods.

GOLD

From the earliest times gold has been the most sought after of all metals, and it has probably been the cause of more avarice and misery than any other single substance.

Hence it is not, perhaps, inappropriate that its chief keynote for use in scientific medicine should be mental depression—depression even amounting to tendency to suicide.

Gold does not seem to have been used to any extent as a remedy in disease until the genius of Hahnemann disclosed the powers, through potentizing and proving in 1818. The only other proving of note seems to have been that of James Compton Burnett in 1879.

In recent years the orthodox school has adopted this metal as a treatment for chronic arthritis, and there is no doubt that occasionally spectacular results are obtained. Such success can only be occasional, the treatment being directed against the disease and not for the patient.

Here I would offer a hint to our allopathic colleagues, when they are treating a case of arthritis or any other complaint with one of these so-called specifics. Let them give one dose and wait some weeks to see the effects. Should the patient be an *aurum* patient (taking for example, the gold cure for arthritis), one dose may be enough to lead to improvement for several weeks and repetition would only hinder the good effect.

Should the patient not be an *aurum* patient (which is much more likely), repeating the dose will do no good and will only do harm. I said that occasional spectacular results are obtained by gold injections, but this does not necessarily mean that the patient is cured.

One case came to my notice, where a middle-aged woman crippled with arthritis, received a course of gold injections. She was completely cured of her arthritis but developed a severe melancholia, which seemed intractable. I did not see the case but suggested a potency of *aurum*, which was given, with the result of the clearing of the melancholia, the arthritis remaining cured.

The form in which gold is usually prescribed homoeopathically, is that of the pure metal—*Aurum metallicum*, though the chloride, *Aurum mur.* is sometimes used, and has similar mental symptoms, another salt of gold is *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* or chloraurate of soda. This is unproved and as Hering puts it "is used at random", usually, I think, when symptoms of *Natrum mur.* are found with those of *Aurum*.

I propose to quote a few recent cases, illustrating the use of *Aurum* in Homoeopathy.

CASE I

Miss G. Aged 50.

Headmistress of mentally deficient's school. Unhappy life—for years having had to protect her mother from a cruel father. She dreams often of killing her father or of being killed by him.

She complains of frequent sudden exhaustion; of great mental depression,

<p>< on waking a.m. no > weeping avoids consolation</p>	}	<p>lack of concentration and a bad memory</p>
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Severe bursting headaches on waking.

M.P. intermittent—hot flushes. Sleep bad, wakes 2 or 3 times and lies awake.

Has had influenza every year for years. Severe pain behind sternum on exertion.

Mother's 4 brothers and a sister of her own died of consumption. Examination showed a deficient heart muscle, a heart specialist had suspected coronary disease.

November 16th, 1945. She received *Tub. Koch* 30 in view of the family history, and her own history of influenza every year, and (what I have come to consider an indication for *Tub.*) the sudden loss of energy.

December 7th, 1945. No better—sleep bad, hardly sleeps after 4 a.m.

Bad headaches, deep inside head. Pressing pain in chest on hurrying or exertion—heart muscle lacking tone. (I suspect some coronary atheroma.) *Crataegus* 1x—10 drops nightly.

January 4th, 1946. Been feeling a little better.

Had bad fall to-day—hurt back and head. Sleep still bad—attacks of migraine. Nails brittle and break. Heart sounds stronger. *Arnica* 10m.

February 6th, 1946. Symptoms worse. Had shocks. Rapid pulse. Hot flushes. *Ignatia* 200.

March 6th, 1946. Been having teeth out and many fillings. Sleep better, but exhausted. No flushes. S.L.

April 1st, 1946. Slight return of energy. Sleep better on whole. Blood pressure 115 systolic. S.L.

May 6th, 1946. Very depressed last few days.

Thoughts of suicide by gassing. Wants to be alone. Weeping is no relief. Avoids sympathy. Memory and concentration very bad. *Aurum mur. nat.* 30.

July 1st, 1946. Was better till last 3 weeks. Gets pressing pain behind sternum on hurrying. Sleep better—sleeps till 5 a.m. now. Heart sounds definitely better. *Aurum mur. nat.* 200.

September 9th, 1946. Much better. Sleep was better, now waking early again. Pain in sinuses. Heart sounds very fair. *Aurum mur. nat.* 1m.

October 23rd, 1946. More energy all the time. Migraine once or twice. Heart sounds good. S.L.

December 2nd, 1946. Feeling much better. Itching eruption on abdomen and hips (had similar eruption 12 years ago). Spirits better. Nails less brittle. S.L.

January 6th, 1947. Not quite so well. Last week had first M.P. for 6 months. Eruption cleared away. *Aurum mur. nat.* 10m.

CASE II

Mr. C. Aged 65.

Violinist and conductor. 2 years ago, was found to have a tubercular patch in his right apex, which a recent X-ray shows to be clearing. His wife recently died of tuberculosis and he is still suffering from grief. Complains of a pressing pain behind the sternum—worse on stooping and worse in bed—wakes him about 2 a.m. Palpitation and tachycardia without obvious cause. Recently getting pain in right shoulder—worse lying on right, worse lifting anything. Vertigo on stooping or on slight exertion.

On Examination—Heart—Apex beat in nipple line; 1st sound soft. Blood pressure, 185/140. Lungs—Percussion dulled at right apex—no adventitious sounds.

January 20th, 1944. *Lycopodium* 12.

February 10th, 1944. 3 weeks later. Pains in chest better. Vertigo gone. Blood pressure now 140/115.

(May I say in parenthesis that I find high blood pressure easier to get down than low pressure to get up. Also I find that 8 times out of 10, the indicated remedy in high blood pressure and the one that reduces it, often in a very few weeks, is our old friend *Lycopodium*.)

He received S.L.

March 3rd, 1944. Keeping better generally, in spite of a cold. Heart muscle sounds stronger. S.L.

March 24th, 1944. A little over 2 months after the initial dose; not so well; return of chest pain. Blood pressure up to 160/125. *Lycopodium* 30.

April 14th, 1944. Had another cold, but feels better. Blood pressure, 145/125. Heart sounds better. Dullness at right apex cleared up.

Well, in the next few months he received various remedies, as his symptoms changed, viz. *Sulphur*, *Merc. sul.*, *Pulsatilla*, *Causticum*, with general improvement, though with more rheumatic symptoms (which I was glad to see, believing that this implied relief to his heart).

We come to November 23rd, 1944. Feeling his heart more. Wants air. Apex beat keeping inside nipple line, but pulse dicrotic. *Aurum mur.* 30.

December 21st, 1944. A month later. Much better. Less pain in heart. Still wakes in night, but at 4 a.m. instead of 2 a.m. (incidentally, I look upon the latening of the time of an aggravation as a sign of improvement). Heart sounds much better. Pulse dicrotic. S.L.

January 25th, 1945. Some return of pain in chest. *Aurum mur. nat.* 30.

February 22nd, 1945. Better all round, though more pain in left shoulder and elbow. S.L.

March 29th, 1945. Heart keeping beter. Knees ache now (pain going downwards—good sign). S.L.

May 24th, 1945. Not so well since 'flu. Pain in chest again. Less pain in knees. *Aurum mur. nat.* 12.

(I gave the 12 here as I wanted to be quite sure the patient did not get an undue reaction as he had some conducting to do. In any case, I believe the main point in repetition of the remedy is to change the potency, and usually either up or down seems to work equally well.)

July 4th, 1945. Keeping better in health, but discharge from right eye for some weeks and some return of the pressing pain in the heart. Symptoms this time seemed to suggest *Lycopodium* again so he received *Lycopodium* 200.

August 21st, 1945. Keeping better, in spite of much travelling in crowded tubes. Had an X-ray of lung, which shows nothing abnormal in lung but a small scar at right apex. S.L.

September 25th, 1945. Heart been better until he tugged up some tree roots—had to go to bed with

cardiac pain and dyspnoea. Blood pressure keeping down—142/90. *Arnica* 10m.

(One is not afraid of an aggravation from a high potency of a vulnary such as this given soon after the injury.)

October 30th, 1945. Much better for a week, then pain in heart again, which lasted till he left off taking saccharin, which he was in the habit of using. Co-incidence? Not necessarily. He is dreaming of the dead. *Ignatia* 10m.

November 28th, 1945. Very well. Heart keeps better, but various rheumatic pains. S.L.

After that he had, in turn, *Rhus tox.*, *Phos.*, *Lueticum*. After this last remedy, he kept much better for 2 months. As I have said before somewhere I always think of *Lueticum* where *Lycopodium* has helped but not as much as expected, or where *Lycopodium* seems still indicated, but disappoints. After that chiefly *Ruta* in different potencies, for sprain of wrist and hand from overplaying of the violin.

Till November 14th, 1946. *Aurum mur. nat.* 30 for a general return of rheumatic symptoms. Heart keeps better, and he is more energetic than he has been for years.

CASE III

Mrs. H. Aged 46.

Has 4 daughters, no sons. (Incidentally, I seem to observe that where there is a preponderance of one sex in the offspring the husband or wife of that predominating sex tends to be lacking in virility, even in character.)

July 21st, 1939. Came to me complaining of the recent occurrence of attacks every few days, in which she felt a great impulse to rush out of the house. Her family noticed that she went pale when like this, and after a minute or two seemed to lapse into a comatose state. The attacks did not appear connected with the menstrual period. The patient had become very depressed, weeping easily and bitter therefrom. She had fear of insanity. Better in the air. Better when moving about. *Puls.* 12.

August 1st, 1939. Generally, but more frequent attacks, in which she says she feels she must touch someone, but cannot speak. Fear of impending calamity in the attacks. Memory bad for recent events. *Phos.* 12 (1), 30 (1).

She got worse, in spite of various other remedies—*Lycopodium*, *Ignatia*, *Puls.* in higher potency, until November, 1939, she was having 3 attacks a day. She then had *Stramonium* 200, after which she went some days without an attack, but then had one in sleep. Period 2 weeks overdue. Recently taken to biting her nails. After *Stramonium* 10m. in January, 1940, she was reduced to one attack a day lasting only a few seconds—an occasional one in night—these from observers' reports appeared to be of an epileptic nature. The improvement did not last. She had *Lueticum*, *Silica*. The patient said she had lost interest in everything. She had despair of recovery—used to go into a room by herself and mope. *Nat. mur.* 12 was given in August, 1941, and some definite improvement resulted, which lasted for 6 months, on 2 or 3 different

potencies of *Nat. mur.* then she relapsed and had in turn *Lachesis*, *Sulphur*, *Puls.* 10m. *Hyoscyamus*, *Sepia*, *Tub.*, *Cuprum*, more *Ignatia*, *Cuprum ars.*, *Medorrhinum*, *Bufo*, *Oenanthe*, until we come to September, 1944, when I once again went carefully over her symptoms. She would stand still in the attacks for several moments, looking vacant, but not falling or swaying. She sweated profusely in the attacks. There was no jerking during or after attacks. The patient, in my room, sat quite still saying nothing unless spoken to, and then replying in monosyllables. I gave her *Aurum met.* 30.

October 10th, 1944. A month later. I was able to write in her notes the magic letters M.B. (much better) for the first time. Attacks are less frequent, now mostly in night. The patient is obviously brighter, more communicative, and has more energy.

November 7th, 1944. In another month, improvement maintained except that the attacks continued unabated in sleep. I gave *Aurum met.* 200. After that, I did not see the patient for 10 months, September, 1945, when she reported that after being better, all symptoms had returned. I gave *Aurum met.* 10m., with resulting improvement, which lasted for 2 months, until November 15th, 1945, when I gave *Aurum mur.* 30. Disappointingly—no improvement. I went, in December, 1945, to *Calc. carb.* 200, after which the attacks were less frequent and less severe, but persisted in night, one or two each night.

The last time I have seen her was in April, 1946, when I gave *Calc. carb.* 10m. I am hoping that no

news is good news. In any case, as the menstrual periods are gradually leaving off, I am hoping that her attacks will diminish with them. Admittedly other remedies than *Aurum* have helped this patient, but none had the dramatic effect that followed her first dose of *Aurum met.* I have wondered since, why, in view of the improvement resulting from *Nat. mur.* at one stage, I never gave *Aurum mur. nat.*

SILVER

Argentum Nitricum was apparently used as a remedy by ancient Arabs and was actually introduced into medicine by Paracelsus. *Argentum metallicum* is sometimes used in Homœopathy. It has similar symptoms but is less well proved.

Silver, in the form of the *nitrate*, has been used in ordinary medical practice for many years, chiefly in two ways.

One is as a caustic—lunar caustic, and the other as a remedy for inflammatory conditions of the eye. This latter use has some scientific basis as the proving of *Argentum nitrate* (which is the salt used) show a very marked effect on the eyes, and in potency it is frequently of use in our own practice for such conditions.

If the keynote of *Aurum* be mental depression, that of *Argentum* is fear, usually manifested as an inferiority complex. There is a nervousness of appearing in public or of meeting people, stage fright, exam. funk, may result in diarrhoea. And very prominent as a mental symptom appears fear of

enclosed spaces—claustrophobia. No other remedy has this so strongly.

The remedy I have found most closely allied to *Argentum nitricum*, and which I have more than once prescribed first when *Argentum* later has proved the correct one, is *Lycopodium*. Most of my patients needing *Argent. nit.* have been musicians. It may be that the musical or artistic temperament is especially akin to this remedy.

CASE I

E.W. Aged 35. 'Cellist.

10 years ago had duodenal ulcer, healed in a few weeks by dieting. Complains of feeling faint and being nervous of his work. He is excitable and worries. He dislikes the cold, but is not much affected by either heat or cold. Memory and concentration bad recently. Craves sweets.

May 10th, 1946. *Lycopodium* 12 (1), 30 (1).

July 9th, 1946. 2 months later. Reported that 2 weeks after beginning the medicine, felt much better for 3 weeks, when he had some pain in the stomach after stewed mutton. He is very depressed about the relapse. Has lost 3½ lb. in weight. Obviously the *Lycopodium* was near, but not near enough. I questioned further. As a boy, he had claustrophobia, and used to imagine the walls of his room closing in on him when he was lying in bed. He has at times had diarrhoea from anticipating ordeals. During the gentle manipulation that I give his back each time he comes (I give this to most patients), he complains of feeling faint, and asks to lie down, *Argent. nit.* 12.

July 22nd, 1946. 3 weeks later—Much better.

S.L.

October 15th, 1946. Kept better for $2\frac{1}{2}$ months after the *Argent. nit.* Relapse 3 weeks ago, after eating a banana. *Argent. nit.* 30.

• • • November 13th, 1946. A month later. Not so well until last few days, since when he has felt much better. Improvement maintained when last seen January 10th, 1947. He has not lost his nervous fears altogether, and will probably get *Argent. nit.* 10m. before he is quite well.

CASE II

Mr. L. Aged 23.

No occupation (which may be largely his trouble). Is the only child. Unhappy childhood—not even now on speaking terms with his father. Suffered from severe headaches up to the age of 14. Came complaining of “anxiety neurosis”. Had had long psychological treatment and knew all the terms.

His trouble began a few years ago, with gastroenteritis. He had a gastric hæmorrhage, but X-ray showed no ulcer. Indigestion now from beer, onions, pork.

Sleep long in coming, anxious dreams.

•) Mentally—wörries much; fear of collapsing, and fear of water. Apprehensive; has had diarrhoea from anticipation of ordeals; clustrophobia. Better in company. Examination reveals nothing organically wrong. *Argent. nit.* 10m.

CASE III

Miss D. Aged 19. Shorthand-Typist.

Had an emotional upset 6 months ago, followed by slight eczema on the face. Now complains of heartburn, nausea and flatus, worse when preparing to go anywhere. Bowels generally loose, worse from anticipation. Rich food upsets her.

Spirits are good, also memory and concentration. She has claustrophobia. Has lost weight last few months (13 stone, now 7 stone 10 lb.).

July 23rd, 1946. *Argent. nit.* 200.

September 9th, 1946. 7 weeks later. Digestion much better. Bowels, instead of being loose are even constipated. Pustules on face, which she gets from time to time are worse. Weight 8 stone 4 lb. (8 lb. gain). *S.L.*

October 21st, 1946. 6 weeks after. Keeping better than she was but not so well as last time. Pustules on chin are worse. Bowels better. Pulse 125, irregular. *Argent. nit.* 10m.

December 2nd, 1946. Another 6 weeks. Better again. Digestion much better. Constipated again lately. Pulse 130 (reduced to 90 after osteopathic manipulation). *S.L.*

January 13th, 1947, Still feeling much better generally. Bowels better. Pustules on face less; some blackheads. Claustrophobia less, but still wants to sit at the end of the row in the theatre. Pulse 100 (72 after manipulation). Some pain in left abdomen on walking; and diarrhoea once. *Argent. nit. cm.*

CASE IV

Mr. C. T. Aged 47. Musician.

Operation 10 years ago for perforated duodenal ulcer. Stomach trouble started after gassing in first world war, in which he was also blown up twice.

Complains of attacks of retching, vomiting of bile, sore pain in stomach and back. Aversion to hot food. Constipated. Sleep restless; dreams of something huge engulfing him. Jerks on falling asleep.

Gets very depressed, lack of self-confidence. Cannot face any new work (gets trembling from this cause). Concentration poor. Examination shows nothing abnormal, beyond some chronic conjunctivitis.

January 20th, 1944. Argent. nit. 12 (1), 30 (1).

February 10th, 1944. M.B. Spirits much better. Bowels now act daily, without help. A week or two back, had severe attack of pain in stomach with vomiting. S.L.

March 9th, 1944. Digestion keeping better, but inferiority complex again. Spirits keep better however. Forgets the word he wants when talking. Trembling in occiput before any ordeal. S.L.

April 6th, 1944. Felt bad last week; had severe pain in stomach and back, and vomited. Been very much better since. Bowels regular, without help. Started work without getting upset. S.L.

After that, this patient had his ups and downs and for a time improved markedly on *Sulphur*.

Then January 25th, 1945. After an attack of bronchial catarrh, he got depressed and trembly. Argent. nit. 200.

February 21st, 1945. A month later. After an

initial aggravation during which he lost all energy, he now feels "marvellous". S.L.

April 3rd, 1245. Keeping better in spite of being blasted out of his house by a bomb. Only slight depression, dreaming less. *Argent. nit.* 1m.

May 11th, 1945. Got a chill, from sleeping in shelters. Depressed and nervy again. Better mentally, though weak physically. *Phos.* 6 repeated.

June 21st, 1945. Not so well since had a quarrel; says he was wrongly accused by someone. Sleeping badly. *Staphisagria* 200.

10 days later, he returned, saying that he had felt so bad that he had had to leave his work. S.L. (to be on the safe side). $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks later—"fear all the time"—very depressed. Sleeping badly. But digestion and bowels behaving well. *Argent. nit.* 10m.

July 31st, 1945. 8 days later. "Is feeling really ill." But sleep a little better—wakes at 5 or 6 now, instead of at 2. Depressed, especially on waking in the morning. Irritable—starts at noise. Feeling of internal trembling. S.L.

August 29th, 1945. A month later. Much better. Remaining better for another month after, when some of the mental inquietude returned. He felt trembling and had increased urination before ordeals. *Gels.* *Om.*

Gels. has many points in common with *Argent. nit.* It has the same dread of ordeals, stage fright, etc. The main difference between them in this respect is that *Argent. nit.* tends to get diarrhoea from anticipation, *Gels.* more the increase in and frequency of urination.

Gels. helped—so much so that, although he had

received notice to leave his present work, his spirits remained good, and he was sure things were going to be all right. Then a relapse following further shocks, and a pulling up under *Ignatia* 10m. After that varying fortunes (both in his work and in his progress) till June, 1946, when he again had *Argent. nit.* (in the 30). This, rather surprisingly, considering he had had the 10m. was followed by an aggravation for a week followed by improvement, which lasted 8 or 10 weeks.

October 16th, 1946. The old pain in stomach and back, with nausea. Sleep bad again. *Argent. nit.* 200. Aggravation, then some improvement, but relapse December 31st, 1946.

Sleeping badly and dreads his work. *Argent. nit.* 10m. (18 months after the last 10m. of this remedy.)

January 14th, 1947. 2 weeks later. Feels an absolutely new man. No aggravation first, this time.

I have not seen the patient since.

CASE V

Miss W.

First came to me many years ago for falling of the hair. She had *Lycopodium*, *Lueticum*, *Silica*, with only slight improvement. Later on, she lost all her hair, and she is now quite bald and wears a wig. She returned later with frequent severe headaches, of the migraine type, which incapacitated her for a day or two at a time. The headaches were over one eye (either), and were worse a week before the period.

- Worse on waking in the morning.

Better from eating; worse from light; worse

from cold air or east wind; worse motion; better lying with head low.

Spigelia and *China* both helped a little when the headache was severe, but attacks kept recurring. Until one day, the patient happened to mention that she was afraid of narrow spaces, to the extent of having nightmares about them.

I had not thought of *Argent. nit.* for her before this; she was not what I should consider the *Argent. nit.* type. She appeared to have plenty of self-confidence, and, so far from shirking responsibility, revelled in it.

But here was this most decided of all *Argentum* symptoms. I gave *Argent. nit.* 30.

She returned in $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks saying the headaches had been much better. Improvement continued for 3 months, when I gave the 200 with a further several weeks of improvement.

This patient had all the potencies up to *cm.* and then started again at 30. She is still on the same remedy, and gets very few headaches now.

(To be continued).