

longs to another Bureau and I shall not even detail a list of what we found efficacious.

I did in a way try to collect statistics regarding our results in the treatment of influenza and its complications but my replies were so indefinite that I gave it up mainly because they lacked accuracy. When replies came in saying, "I treated *about* so many cases with so many deaths," no mention made of the exact number of cases or of the frequency of pneumonia in this number, I grew to believe that to offer any definite number of cases with a definite death rate, a definite number of complications with their death, rate, was impossible if any semblance of accuracy was desired. That our death rate was decidedly low in both the disease and its complications, I know to be true but to be able to quote definite statistics for the purpose of comparison with other methods of treatment I do not think practical with the returns I was able to get.

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### INFLUENZA: A FAVORABLE MORTALITY AND PUBLICITY—DISCUSSION\*

*Dr. Pearson:* One of the most important things in this discussion is, first, to establish the records of the favorable mortality in influenza; and, second, to use this information in propagandistic work. I would like to hear from as many different sections of the country as possible, that our stenographer may get a paragraph or two from these various sections which I believe will bear out the information that I have myself collected.

*Dr. Carleton Harkness, Chicago:* At Camp Lee, we had at the time of the epidemic about 60,000 men. The epidemic started among the recruits, and for the first four days we didn't know what it was, so the camp was thoroughly infected. About 15,000 cases passed through the Base Hospital, and there probably were a good many more cases which were not reported. Of these 15,000 cases, as far as I knew, there were between 700 and 800 deaths. I personally, for six weeks, was in charge of four huts, with 22 patients in each hut, and during that six weeks, we never had more than one or two empty beds at a time. I had 13 deaths in the six weeks, and was complimented by my chief medical officer as having the lowest death rate in the hospital. The medical chief told me to use whatever I wanted. Of course, I couldn't get homeopathic remedies, but I had a few, and occasionally was able to get tincture of gelsemium, using the single remedies and diluting. I believe my low death rate was due entirely to the fact that I avoided the use of aspirin absolutely. After the medical chief had noted the effect of aspirin on the blood, and the results which I was

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\*Discussion following "Epidemic Influenza," by Wm. A. Pearson, Ph.D., M.D., J. A. I. H., July, 1919, page 11, and "Influenza in New England" by Dudley A. Williams, J. A. I. H., December, 1919.

getting in using homeopathy, he discouraged the use of aspirin, and the death rate came down very rapidly after that ruling.

There are one or two other points which we noted, and they have been partly covered by Dr. Williams' paper. There was absolutely no correspondence between the pulse and temperature. You would have high temperature and low pulse; again, the pulse would be up and the temperature comparatively low. Another thing that we noticed during the epidemic, was that measles entirely disappeared from the camp. There had been a good many up to that time. The preliminary symptoms were very similar to the symptoms of measles. This made me believe that the two infections could not exist at the same time.

*Dr. Laura Hurd, San Francisco:* Dr. Pearson has asked me to give some impressions of the epidemic from the far west. We had two epidemics, the first being much worse than the second. From the cases which came under my observation at Hahnemann Hospital, I noticed that during the first epidemic two-thirds of the nurses in the hospital were affected with the disease. All of those who were ill during the first epidemic escaped the illness of the second. Those who escaped the first were affected during the second epidemic. Homeopathic remedies acted in a curative way, while with some other forms of treatment the result was only palliative.

*Dr. Ernest F. Sappington, Washington, D. C.:* In November we had our monthly meeting of the Homeopathic Medical Society of the District of Columbia. Fifteen doctors were present at the meeting. We had a symposium on influenza, at which 1,500 cases treated by homeopathic physicians were reported, with but 15 deaths. This bears out Dr. Pearson's average as the average of homeopathic physicians all over the country. Recoveries in the Homeopathic Hospital in Washington were 100 per cent. The physicians in the District of Columbia had an unusually hard time. Those who were not familiar with conditions in Washington during war times could hardly appreciate our housing conditions. One doctor found thirteen war workers sleeping in an attic room. This room had only two small windows. Seven of those girls came down with the influenza. It was impossible to get nurses, so the other six volunteered to nurse the sick. I escaped without any mortality in that attack. That experience could be multiplied many times in the District of Columbia. I see Dr. Wright in the audience. He had some work in one of the large boarding schools. We had two epidemics. The nurses in the hospital and the people in general who were not infected during the first epidemic, succumbed to the second, and the second was not nearly so virulent as the first. People did not get pneumonia if the doctor was called early. The pneumonia cases that the homeopathic physicians treated were cases which had been neglected for days without any help. According to the records of the Health Department, 88 people died with influenza and pneumonia who had had no medical help whatever. They simply were not able to get help. You can appreciate this fact when I tell you that the population of the District of Columbia increased from 100,000 to 150,000 people during the first year of the war. So, it was physically impossible to take care of the sick, and yet we came out with the record of mortality that will compare favorably with any in the country.

*Dr. George H. Wright, Forest Glen, Md.:* I live in Maryland, very near the District of Columbia, and had the usual number of cases to attend to. We all had to be going night and day. I had charge of a young ladies' academy of about 360 girls. I attended over 100 cases there without any fatalities. The one who came nearest to breaking the record, strange to say, was a Christian scientist who would not admit that she was sick, or that she had the flu until it developed into pneumonia. It was a regular lobar pneumonia, and pretty nearly broke the record, but we managed to pull her through. I started out during the epidemic with "If homeopathy is any good, here is its opportunity," and I never deviated one moment from the prescribed homeopathic remedy. I never gave aspirin, and never gave stimulants to patients except to two at the pneumonia crisis. I lost one case which was referred to me from the old school, and who had loaded himself with aspirin before I saw him. I was called in to care for an old school physician who called me I presume because he couldn't get anybody else. I said I would take the case if he would submit to strictly homeopathic treatment. I was extremely scrupulous to prescribe in the old fashioned way, with two glasses with a few drops in each. He took it religiously, and called the nurse's attention to the fact that it was time to take his medicine if she happened to be a little late in administering it. We got him through all right, and also through a threatened pneumonia two weeks later. I don't know what he thinks about homeopathy, but he certainly took the medicine and he got the straight goods. I believe that is where we have lost out a good deal, professionally speaking. I believe we ought to put the word "Homeopath" on our signs. I know some of us will not feature ourselves as such because we fear opposition, but opposition is a good thing. Also, those who cannot meet the opposition become assimilated with the old school, and think they are going to succeed. I think it is perfectly proper to put "Homeopath" on our signs. The osteopaths, chiropractors, and other people put these names on their signs. It is only the people who feature themselves who get a hearing. Consequently, the laity do not recognize homeopathy. This epidemic should encourage us to renewed faith in homeotherapy. It certainly cannot be put on the table as a side issue.

*Dr. C. J. Loizeaux, Des Moines, Ia.:* I entirely agree with my good friend Dr. Wright, and I think we should let it be known that the patients who come to us for homeopathic treatment are going to get it, pure, and according to our skill and technic. I was not born a homeopath, but I am thankful that I ever had the opportunity to study it. I came over here from France when I was five years of age. Some years later an epidemic came down in my county, and was very severe. Still later I buried two of my daughters in the same coffin. When I was 39 years old I started to take up homeopathy at the College, when Gilchrist, Cogswell, Dickinson and Cowperthwaite gave us true Homeopathy, and I have been practicing it.

In my practice, during the flu epidemic, not one developed pneumonia. I had patients come to me from the chiropractors, and others from the old school who had taken aspirin. *The German aspirin has killed more people than the German bullets have.* In Des Moines

homeopathy had been weighed in the balances and *not found wanting*. I think it would be a wise thing to get out a tract on "Homeotherapy," showing facts, what homeotherapy has done, what it can do, and what it will do, so that in event of another epidemic this winter the people will know the truth. Truth never fails.

*Dr. E. B. Fiancy, Lincoln, Neb.:* It was during the year '89 that I had my first experience with an epidemic of influenza. It was the custom that year to fill the patient with whiskey, quinin or coal tar products and many died shortly after this treatment was given. I remember I was called to see one, a preacher who had been treated by large doses of acetanilid. I found him blue and pulseless, in a cold sweat. He was filled with whiskey and made a good recovery. This man would surely have died had he not have had something to antidote his coal tar product remedies. I have found that whiskey is the best antidote for coal tar products.

When this epidemic began last fall I said to my wife at the beginning, "Look out for deaths." I knew that aspirin and the coal tar products would kill more people than the disease itself, which proved to be the case in our immediate vicinity. I do not know much about statistics. I did not have time to stop to make a record of every case treated. One evening my daughter kept a record of the telephone calls after supper. She began at seven and quit at ten and had answered the 'phone for twenty-two calls. I do not do as much general work as I used to. My surgical practice keeps me busy most of the time, but owing to the shortage of physicians I did all I could possibly do. My record was one case lost of those which I had from the beginning of the patient's sickness. This child was of a tubercular diathesis and had a double pneumonia and no treatment which I gave did any good. I lost four other cases. All had been filled with quinin and aspirin in massive doses and when I was called I simply said that they had called the wrong telephone number—that they should have called the undertaker.

I lost another case which I was called to on Sunday evening, the patient having been sick since the Sunday before. She had a temperature of  $105\frac{1}{2}$ , was almost pulseless and in the cold sweat of death. These latter cases I do not charge as a death rate against my record because the patients were practically dead when I was called.

I know of a physician on the border line of Kansas and Nebraska who reported to Kansas and Nebraska 700 cases without a single death when he was taken sick and had to go to bed. The disease was very virulent. There were forty deaths in one week which speaks well for his treatment as he was the only homopathic physician in that city.

In Fairfield, Nebraska, a homeopathic physician, a representative of our Board of Medical Examiners, told me when the epidemic had just about subsided that he had not lost a single case and to show you the volume of work that this man does, he told me that his business for the year would amount to \$20,000, and that doesn't include his charity cases.

Homeopathy is sufficient and is the best treatment for influenza, and where carefully carried out the death rate should be very small. In my practice I used as the main remedies, and as indicated, aconite,

belladonna, bryonia, gelsemium, eupatorium perfoliatum, euphrasia, phosphorus, tartar emetic, iodid of arsenic and arsenicum.

One of the old school physicians, who has a pretty good working knowledge of eclectic and homeopathic therapeutics, when the epidemic was about half over told me that he had gotten wise to the fact that aspirin was killing his patients and that he had stopped using it and was relying more upon the remedies used by the eclectic and homeopathic schools of medicine.

I had several eclectic practitioners come to me for advice as to the use of our commoner remedies and they told me that as soon as they began the treatment of their cases as outlined by our little Johnson's "Homeopathic Key," that the death and pneumonia developments ceased.

Being the only homeopathic member on the staff of our general hospital I was called in consultation by several of the old school physicians. One of these physicians who had had a very large death rate called me one day and said: "I have a patient here which I cannot afford to lose, having lost his brother. It would be a death blow to me if I lost him." I found the patient with the following history: Had influenza very severely which was followed by pneumonia. His temperature was running from 102 to 104½ each day for something like a week and there was a question of pleural effusion. On aspirating and finding no fluid, I prescribed tartar emetic and phosphorus alternating them an hour apart. The next day his temperature did not go over 101. The next day it dropped to 100 and stood still but the patient did not improve. I was again called in consultation and advised the use of iodid of arsenic. The second day after this his temperature was normal and he was being propped up in bed. This patient made a rapid recovery and the physician said: "I don't understand how you get such actions from drugs."

This is a fair sample of what happened in our city in the homeopathic practice of the different homeopathic physicians.

*Dr. H. A. Roberts, Derby, Conn.:* As secretary of the State Society, I have been able to obtain valuable data. I sent out a questionnaire to all of our men. Unfortunately, only 30 of the active practitioners responded to that questionnaire. They reported 6,602 cases of influenza with a mortality of 55. That is .88 of 1%. There were 21 cases of meningeal form of influenza, and 496 cases of pneumonia. This is a splendid record brought out by the homeopathic practitioners of the State of Connecticut. I think the action of the Congress of States in appointing a press committee and their proposition to use these statistics in propagandistic work with laity is something that the American homeopathic physicians have got to back up and make the best use of.

Now, to digress to my experience in the army. During the first voyage over to Brest I was Transport Surgeon. We had very little influenza during September. In the month of October, I was sent over with another load of 2,000 men, and we developed on the way over in the course of two weeks, over 81 cases of influenza. This is what we did. We put all these cases in the Hospital Bay of the ship, and from sunset to sunrise every porthole had to be closed tight on account of danger of submarines. These cases of influenza presented three menin-

geal and several of the pneumonic form. However, I landed every man in Brest in good condition. This ship was the only ship in our convoy of nine ships that had that record. I was the only homeopathic surgeon on these nine ships. One ship in that convoy which carried 4,000 troops, lost 31 on the way over. Every man in our ship received homeopathic treatment, and careful individual treatment. The pneumonic cases I put on the hurricane deck and put canvas around them to protect them from the wind, because pneumonia in the hold of the ship is almost a death sentence to the patient.

I saw vaccines used frequently. A vaccine is a body changed to *simillimum*. It is not *idem*.

*Dr. E. B. Allen, Trenton, N. J.:* One of the busiest old school men in our city, a friend of mine, said to me the other day, "I am glad the flu is over. I got tired of seeing people get sick and *die*." I told him how many I had treated. In two days, I figured that I prescribed for 500 patients. I was too busy to differentiate. I was too busy to take the temperature. I gave gelsemium. I had three cases of pneumonia in my own practice which died. The lungs were completely blocked. One was a baby, exposed to draft through an open window, after convalescent. The baby died next day. The other was an adult, 35 years of age. I told his wife to put him to bed, and that I would see him the next day. He slept with his head to the north window, with a draft blowing on his head. His lungs became blocked, and he died in a short time. The other case was a mother, whose two little girls and husband were down with the flu. They could get no help. She stayed on her feet until she was practically dead. These were the only three cases which I lost. I prescribed for a number of cases which I didn't see. They came to me saying, "Give me some of that medicine you are giving." I heard of no ill reports in any of these prescriptions. Gelsemium was my remedy.

*Dr. W. H. Hanchette, Sioux City, Iowa:* This is a good opportunity for us to collect some excellent homeopathic propaganda. We are receiving reports practically alike from every section of the country. Homeopathy saved patients with influenza and pneumonia this past year and always has. I bought tinctures of gelsemium, bryonia, eupatorium and gave them to some old school men who used them successfully. We can do good work in this way. A graduate of one of the best old school universities, was having this same ill luck from coal tar derivatives, especially aspirin. He came to me one day and asked me what I was doing. I told him I was prescribing as accurately as I could, as a homeopathic physician. He wanted to know how. I gave him W. H. Burt's little "Handbook on Materia Medica," with keynotes of the various remedies marked plainly,—aconite, gelsemium, bryonia, phosphorus, eupatorium. During the days which the epidemic raged most severely, I gave more aconite than I had given in two or three years. You will ask "Why aconite?" Many of the patients feared they were going to die; they expectorated mucus full of blood; they had all the symptoms, high temperature and characteristic pulse of aconite, also the mental symptom of great fear.

The old school has been watching us, and here is our opportunity. One or two more such epidemics and we could make a great issue of

our results as compared with those of the allopathic profession. This is our golden opportunity. This was discussed at our last Society meeting in Sioux City, and the doctors all said that they had not lost a case if called in at the beginning of the attack. That is the record of the homeopathic physicians in my city. I know it is true because I know the men.

There was a school nearby my office, a tractor and automobile school, where young farmers came in large numbers. These young men had come from twelve states, and brought the influenza with them. They were dying at the rate of two a day at that time. The school was turned into a hospital. After they became ill they lived, on an average, only two or three days. One of the teachers had been a patient of mine. He had been sick with pneumonia, and had recovered. This man went to the manager of the school, and said, "Why don't you try homeopathic treatment?" The manager said, "I will try anything. We will have to close the school if this keeps up." He was panic stricken. He came to me in the midst of a very busy office hour, and said it was important that he see me at once. He said, "I want you to take charge of the school, and give talks on how the students shall take care of themselves, regarding ventilation, proper clothing, etc." I treated 40 cases at this school, and every one recovered. The principal of this school will bear me out in my statement. Any of you with your homeopathic medicines could have done the same.

*Dr. J. H. Wilms, Cincinnati, O.:* About six months ago, when I returned from the army, Dr. Hinsdale prepared a paper on Influenza. He took 110 cases in the clinic and tried to analyse them. These cases had been treated, as a rule, by the ordinary drugs which we use,—rhus tox., hepar sulph., gelsemium, etc. I came to the conclusion, after analysis, that it didn't make much difference which drugs were utilized—the results were practically the same. We know one thing about influenza. We know that influenza destroys the endocrine glands,—the pituitary body, the thyroid, and suprarenal.

*Dr. Frieda Weiss, Cleveland, O.:* It was my privilege last week to attend the A. M. A. Symposium on Influenza, and we had a tremendous scientific report of their research work in regard to the bacteria. They concluded that while the vaccines may have been of some value, their use should be discontinued. Aspirin was found very harmful. Some experiments with vaccines were reported by one who had treated a thousand cases of influenza with vaccines in minute doses. His mortality of 28 per cent in the pneumonias dropped to 7 per cent in the wards where vaccines were used.

It was my privilege to be acting surgeon under the U. S. P. H. S., State of New Jersey, during the flu epidemic. The 83 beds in the hospital were occupied continuously. The old school physician in charge and I compared notes. The patients who were admitted during the day were to be under his care; and the patients admitted during the night were to be under my care. I attended the death beds of one or two every day of those who were under the care of the old school physician. Not one of my patients died. Why? Because I used the indicated homeopathic remedies, as well as the curative doses of the vaccines. I used Squibbs' Influenza Vaccine, and Sherman's No. 38.

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connect with our hospitals men who are capable of studying *materia medica* and to bring cases before these men so that they can work them out. A repertory and a *materia medica* should be on every ward.

*Dr. H. H. Crum, Ithaca, New York:* I had three hundred cases with one death. One good homeopathic doctor had two hundred and seventy-five cases and no deaths.

I am health officer for the city of Ithaca and had all cases reported to me. In October and November, 1918, twenty-four hundred cases of influenza were reported. Seventy-five died. Of the twenty-four hundred cases, between nine and ten hundred were Cornell students, eight hundred of them belonging to the army. They were students of military tactics and all of them were cared for by army doctors. They were hospital cases. The dormitories were turned into hospitals. The treatment was entirely allopathic. Students of the army class were healthy but, even so, forty-five of the seventy-five deaths occurred among those nine hundred students.

Private patients fared much better.

In going over the records of deaths, I found that I had but one death while the old school man next to me, who has patients of the same class as mine are, had fifteen deaths among the same number of cases. Think of it! Two hundred and ninety-four cases with fifteen deaths! His treatment could be divided into three classes. Aspirin was given to a large number of the patients. Nothing was given to a certain percentage except fresh air. Patients were kept either in small rooms or in large wards. All windows opened regardless of the condition of the patients. I think that a number died from that cause alone. Iodized lime was another favorite remedy. Major Harris of the military department at Ithaca, used iodine mixed with lime. A number of cases were treated in that way but the results were nil.

There are other homeopaths in Ithaca and we feel that we have a right to be proud of losing so few patients.

*Dr. T. G. Barnhill, Findlay, Ohio:* We had a whirlwind in Ohio, which lasted until the first of January. I treated four hundred and fifty-five cases of influenza and twenty-six of pneumonia. I lost not a case. My chief remedies were *euphrasia*, *gelsemium*, *bryonia* and *apis*. I think these drugs very successful. Naturally I am proud of that record. One of my allopathic brethren consulted me. I told him that education was not needed to give aspirin, quinin, et cetera, but that it did take an educated man to prescribe scientifically. He used some of my remedies and got along better.

*Dr. William L. Love, Brooklyn:* I have been greatly impressed by these recitals. At the Cumberland Street Hospital, Brooklyn, we cared exclusively for naval men and I can say that we were told by no less an authority than a man very close to the Surgeon General, that our mortality rate was so much less than that of other hospitals that he preferred to send us all of his cases of influenza. You may say, "Why could you not give a great deal of publicity to this?" Unfortunately, this medical officer, high in the United States Navy, would not allow himself to be quoted *over his own signature*.

I think, if there has been one thing that has emphasized the impor-

tance of homeopathic therapeutics, it has been the experiences of our men as we have listened to them today.

As to the use of vaccines, I remember talking to a good homeopath at Mt. Vernon. I told him that I did not believe in vaccinating children. He agreed later after a thorough test that the vaccines were absolutely no good. In the hospital, the nurses were vaccinated. Twenty-four out of forty-two who were vaccinated had influenza and there were eight cases of pneumonia.

If there is anything that would make good homeopaths, it would be what we have heard here today. If the old school had such a good record—a record by comparison as superior—we would be legislated out of existence.

*Dr. N. R. Perkins, Dorchester, Mass.:* I was serving on an exemption board during the war, of which the chairman was an undertaker. The work of the board was held up for a time during the epidemic. This undertaker asked if I was doing any business, for, he said, "I haven't got a case from you." I did not lose a case and yet I think I had my share of the business in that part of Boston where I live.

*Dr. A. P. Stauffer, Hagerstown, Md.:* It is with special delight that I have heard these statistics for I have had the same experience.

I treated during the month of October five hundred and fifty-five cases. During the first three weeks I did not lose a case. In the last week of the month I lost three cases, due to pneumonia. My experience in Hagerstown is like that of other homeopaths of the city.

It makes a man feel that his life is worth while when he realizes what he has accomplished in an epidemic of this kind, while the other school of medicine lost case after case. We may certainly be grateful for the fact that we belong to a school that can bring such results.

*Dr. J. C. Irvine, Denver, Colo.:* In Silverton, Colorado, with a population of sixteen hundred people, there was a number of deaths. In Denver, the disease seemed not quite so malignant.

One doctor of the other school cured sixteen out of sixty-five cases and thought he was doing pretty well. I was on a hunting trip from which I returned in October and from then until January I did not have time to record the cases I treated. I lost three but they were such that nothing would have saved them. One boy who had pneumonia had been delirious before medical attention was called. One was a child with influenza meningitis and pneumonia complicating dentition. He went into convulsions and died. I did not use gelsemium as a general remedy in all cases but got good results from it when it was indicated. Spongia produced good results with children who were inclined to be croupy. There was a number of these cases. One child had been gasping for breath for days and, in thirty minutes after the first dose of spongia, was comfortable. Another case had been running on for a week. It required three or four people to keep the woman in bed. Within an hour or two after belladonna was given, the patient's temperature was normal. After three visits, she was out of bed. One of the men who had been helping with this woman, a man who knew nothing of homeotherapy, on seeing the results, took the spoon and tasted the medicine. He said, "Hm! Not much taste." The woman's husband said that he was converted to homeopathy.

*Dr. C. H. Duncan, New York City:* In autotherapy, we take the pus as it comes, in a teaspoon and give it to the patient. We filter out the microorganisms to get rid of the infectious element when a hypodermic injection is to be given. Let me make a homely illustration, perhaps it will clarify this subject of change that takes place by filtration that comes up so periodically. Let us liken the pathogenic microorganism and its toxin to a lemon and its juice. We believe we get the same lemon effect by taking the lemon juice diluted as we do by taking the lemon itself.

*Dr. F. A. Swartwout, Washington, D. C.:* In Washington we were very active and I had a great opportunity to notice the effects of our treatment. Eleven of us got together about the middle of November and talked things over. The eleven men reported thirty-six hundred cases treated and six deaths among them. We had another whirlwind in January and it ran the number of cases up a great deal. The exact number is not known. Some of the men treated fifteen hundred to two thousand cases with only three or four deaths. I questioned one man just before coming here and he had had four hundred cases with one death. My record shows about seven hundred and fifty cases with one death. We kept no account of percentage. The National Homeopathic Hospital figured up the records of its cases. At one time no cases were in but influenza and there was not a single death from that disease. I can't give you anything further on statistics. These facts were noted by the health department in Washington.

One of our leading physicians, Dr. Kingsman, said that a health officer had called him up to find out why he had sent in no death certificates. His only reason was that he had had no deaths. That was the way the record ran in Washington. An old school friend of mine said that he was "tickled to death" to be able to keep his mortality rate down to fifty per cent.

Two or three men used more or less of the serums. One man used vaccines—in February, he said that he did not use them after October. Homeopathic remedies do more than vaccines. Gelsemium, bryonia and eupatorium were the chief remedies.

*Dr. Pearson:* A lieutenant told me that thirteen wards of sixteen beds each were full of pneumonias all the time during the epidemic. The mortality rate was 25.8%. That ran on for two weeks. Then a young lieutenant from Cincinnati, a very bright man, said that he would not treat cases the way they were being treated. Aspirin, digitalis and quinin were the principal remedies. The major asked why and the lieutenant said that he wished to try the plan of using no medicine at all. The result was that the mortality rate dropped from 25.8% to 15%. The result was so manifest that the major ordered that medicine should be discontinued in all other wards, where the mortality rate had stayed at 25.8%. Their mortality rate immediately dropped with no medicine.

*Dr. James M. Heinbach, Kane, Pa.:* I had a peculiar experience when the epidemic of influenza first started. A town thirty-five miles away was calling for help because practically the whole medical force was laid up with the flu. I volunteered along with two allopathic colleagues. We started to work after seven o'clock one Sunday afternoon

and worked until three in the morning. I prescribed for about seventy-five patients that first night. Such a mess you never saw. We prescribed for from five to seven patients in one home. Often a whole family was absolutely down and out. I went home to look after my own work. The second day I went back and then once more after that. Then we got our own epidemic.

When our own work started, I must have treated at least five hundred cases with seven deaths. Those seven were "lame ducks." One was a very severe pneumonia. The patient simply closed up and died. One patient with pneumonia had become sick in town and wanted to go home. The next day he phoned for a doctor and asked him to send for the ambulance. He died three hours after reaching the hospital. There was one that we could not keep breathing. He simply drowned in his own sputum. One was a case of heart trouble. However, I did not lose a single child.

*Dr. Ralph Faris, Richmond, Va.:* I treated six hundred and eighteen cases. Where patients would mind me, I had no deaths. In 618, I had just five. Three of those came to me from allopathic treatment. Two I treated from the beginning. One was a man of sixty-five. The first day he went downstairs, he went out of doors and sat down and washed his feet under a pump! Following that, he went back upstairs to his room and opened the window; he put his feet up on the sill. He developed pneumonia and died. Another was an eighty-two year old woman who said she could not stay in bed. As soon as I would go, she got up. She would tell the nurse that she knew more than the latter because she was older. Patients who obeyed got well. Two of the cases that came from allopaths had pronounced recurrent jaundice. They were the yellowest things I ever saw.

*Dr. W. F. Edmundson, Pittsburgh, Pa.:* Like every place else in the country, we had influenza and we were troubled for lack of help in our hospital. Of the staff of forty-three men, over half were away. If one had a scattered practice, he could not attend them. I had some drives of five or six miles.

When the epidemic first started, the peculiarity which struck me was that it took hold of younger people—from twenty-five to forty years of age. That phase died down and the next time it started, it commenced with the older people. That died down and then we had to take care of the children.

My two sons were away and I tried to take care of some of the staff's patients too. I had five deaths. I do not know the number of cases I treated. I would start out at eight thirty or nine, work until dinner time, get dinner, tend the office until ten and then go out and work until one. It was a continuous strain which lasted all season, running far into the spring. I lost three hospital cases. They came in moribund and lived only about twenty-four hours. The other two I had from the beginning. One boy developed very severe delirium with double lobar pneumonia. The other was syphilitic.

The most useful remedies were aconite, gelsemium, bryonia, eupatorium and ferrum phos. I don't believe I have ever used so much ferrum phos. as I did then.

In one of our large hospitals in Pittsburgh, about one-half of the

resident nurses had been lost. The hospital had to call in trained nurses. One was from our own hospital. She told me after the epidemic was over that a man I knew had such terrible losses in the hospital that he came to her and asked if she knew something to do, better than he was doing. "Yes, Doctor, stop aspirin, and go down to a homeopathic pharmacy and get homeopathic remedies." The doctor replied, "But that is homeopathy." "I know it is, but the homeopathic doctors for whom I have nursed have not lost a single case."

Our success in the homeopathic ranks was so great that the city authorities, old school men, took notice. Several of them asked me what I had done. I did not know what others had done and did not have time to find out.

*Question:* Did not patients die of edema of the lungs? I mean the type of cases where there was bloody, frothy expectoration.

*Dr. Edmundson:* They almost invariably died. There were a few that I managed to save, three of them by lachesis. They all had the same characteristic indication. They were afraid to go to sleep for fear of choking up. There is no question but that they would have died if it had not been for lachesis. Another patient was sinking gradually and under that remedy got better. His jaundice was very pronounced. He was so yellow that you could not tell what his complexion might have been.

*Dr. H. L. Maps, Passaic, N. J.:* The doctor on my right asked a question about patients dying of edema of the lungs. The autopsies in cases of influenza were very interesting. Ordinary cases of the flu secondarily developed bronchopneumonia or rather what resembled bronchopneumonia, and later, edema of the lungs. There was, primarily, a bronchitis, followed by a pathological condition which simulated bronchopneumonia. The spots would undergo necrosis and grow larger until they involved the whole lung. In one case which I examined, the blood would not clot. The condition was simply an extravasation of the blood from the necrotic area and a filling up of the bronchial tubes with a modified blood. The condition is hard to describe. Every man ought to see an autopsy on influenza. It is not like anything else we know. The condition is a hemorrhagic inflammation of the lung with secondary necrosis and almost continuous oozing of a blood which does not coagulate. This causes the bubbling which has in many instances been called edema of the lungs.

*Dr. Pearson:* We might go on for an indefinite length of time. We have shown clearly that the mortality rate of influenza patients treated by homeopathic physicians is possibly one-third less than when they were treated by the physicians of the other school. If we had an open-minded jury, we would have no difficulty in convincing it of the value of our methods. I am going to suggest, for further propaganda, that those of you who have not reported write a personal letter to the editor of the JOURNAL so that the data can be included.

I want to thank those who presented papers and, more especially, our overworked stenographer.

*Dr. Rabe:* I would like to move that it is the wish of this bureau that the law, "Similia similibus curentur," be respectfully called to

the attention of the members of the medical profession at large, including those of the homeopathic persuasion.

Motion carried; also a resolution regretting the conflict of other programs at the same hour as this important bureau.

### RHUS TOXICODENDRON—A DISCOVERY

The century-old reiteration of the power of the small dose of rhus tox as a protection against ivy poison is bearing fruit, but without recognition of the homeopathic practitioners who have repeatedly published the same information. We submit the following:

#### SENSITIZATION AGAINST IVY POISONING\*

In an informal discussion of a paper at the Detroit session in 1916, I announced that I had been able to protect persons susceptible to attacks of ivy poison by the internal administration of minute but increasing doses of the tincture of *rhus toxicodendron*.

During the past few years I have been employing this method in my private practice, with uniform success. I have treated almost a score of susceptible persons, and all have remained free of dermatitis during the ivy season, whereas prior to undergoing this treatment they rarely escaped.

I may briefly mention the case of a 12-year-old girl who for several years had spent a couple of months in bed each year from severe and repeated attacks of dermatitis venenata. She was so susceptible that she could not traverse a lane where ivy grew without being attacked. After taking the treatment she was rendered immune except for an extremely light attack which developed as a result of her purposely handling the ivy plant to test her resistance.

The method of treatment which I have been carrying out is as follows. I prescribe:

	C. c.
<b>R</b> Tincture of rhus toxicodendron.....	1
Rectified spirit .....	5
Syrup of orange, sufficient to make.....	100

The patient is instructed to take the mixture in half a glass of water after meals, as follows: Breakfast, 1 drop; lunch, 2 drops; dinner, 3 drops [up to 21 drops.]

When this dosage has been reached, for purposes of convenience and simplicity, the patient takes a *teaspoonful* in half a glass of water merely once a day. This should be continued throughout the ivy season.

It has been my experience that the immunity (if one call it such) established after one month's administration will persist for about a month afterward. After this, susceptibility is prone to return.

The same mixture appears to exert a favorable influence on attacks of ivy poisoning in preventing an extension of the process, and in abbreviating the duration of the attack. In order to bring the patient more quickly under the influence of the drug, I administer it as follows: Breakfast, 2 drops; lunch, 4 drops; dinner, 6 drops [up to 18 drops.] Teaspoonful once a day, well diluted.—Schamberg, J. A. M. A., October 18, 1919.