

She had removed pessary 5 years ago and felt better after that. But now, after exertion and vexation, the uterine prolapse is worse; patient is exhausted, trembly, aggravation from climbing stairs. She was given *Stannum 30c* with good result.

—*Joul. of the Am. Inst. of Homœopathy, March, '57*

## HOMŒOPATHY AND THE ANIMAL

DR. R. C. G. HANCOCK, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.

If, as I understand, this is the first time a healer of animals has addressed you, you will appreciate that an unusual degree of stage fright is likely to attend my attempt to discharge the great honour you have done me in asking me to speak to you.

It is a curious fact that in this country the members of my profession are all called surgeons—veterinary surgeons. I have often protested that my true metier is that of a veterinary physician, but there seems to be no official recognition of the existence in my branch of the healing art of him whom the ancients called the healer with herbs (as distinct from the healer with the knife). So, in a sense, I stand before you perforce in the guise of a homœopathic surgeon—whatever that is!

Veterinary homœopaths are not numerous in this country. Probably not more than half a dozen members of my Royal College are homœopaths in the sense that you members of the Faculty are. There are some fifty veterinary surgeons, as well as registered veterinary practitioners, with whom I have corresponded in the last ten years who are whole or partial users of the mystery. In addition there are numbers of technicians and laymen of both sexes outside the control and registration of the Royal College who are enthusiastic acolytes. Of the 6,000 members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons some

2,500 are in general practice in Great Britain. It appears, therefore, that the percentage of homœopathic saturation is much the same in the veterinary profession as it is in the medical profession.

Like many of you I have striven to bring to the notice of my fellows the wonders of Homœopathy. Like you, you in this country at any rate, I have made disappointing headway. Like you I have asked myself again and again, why this inertia, this failure to persuade? Is it perhaps that we are too loyal to the literal dogma of our Founder? Instead of insisting that those whom we would convert must shed convictions of a lifetime, ought we not to meet them half-way, on their own ground, rather than in the, to them, forbidding atmosphere of Hahnemannian absolutism? How often has a likely "prospect" said to me, "what experimental evidence have you that this is so?" And I have realized that what is wanted is to talk less of proving of drugs and in its place give prominence, say, to the type of experiment that a pharmacologist carries out with allopathic preparations before launching them upon the physician. Why do we not titrate our remedies against the organisms we claim to conquer, in living tissue under controlled laboratory conditions? There exist nowadays cultures of disease producers of known performance in the tissues of laboratory rats, who themselves nowadays have become genetically so identical by scientific breeding, as to give identical morbid reactions to given doses of the pathogenic organism. The performance of allopathic drugs both as preventives and cures under such standardized conditions, is accepted as proof of their value. I feel that the homœopathic world may be lagging behind in its use of such contemporary methods to persuade those who are interested along the road to conversion.

I know many of you will riposte with a reminder of the Hahnemannian postulate, since this suggestion of mine forgets or ignores the essential individualism of prescribing. It is perhaps because in the animal field individualization is so much less practicable among our patients, that, far more than the human physician, we tend to relate our prescribing to the disease, and have to be less emphatic on picking out the variants

from the mean for special drug attention. This may be heresy, but no religion gets far without its heretics! Moreover, to give a concrete example of the special difficulties of the veterinary Homœopath in this direction, how would you, asked to deal with a serious outbreak of cannibalism in several thousand head of poultry, individualize your cases as you do with your human patients? It is this type of case, so common in our flocks and herds in these days of mass production, that makes it necessary to use mass therapeutics, whether allopathic or homœopathic, if we are to remain economically possible to our clients.

One of the joys of homœopathic cure is that, in the case of an animal patient, it cannot be adduced by the sceptics round the sick bed that it was "just faith healing". Another joy is the ability to deal with cases that by long tradition have been agreed to belong to the category of the untreatable, and to bring about that lightning type of cure that is usually elevated to the status of a miracle. For instance, it is not uncommon for a female animal to be so unmotherly as to be indifferent to her newborn offspring and to deny it nourishment. If the offspring happens to be sired by a Derby winner at a mating fee of thousands of pounds and has as well a potential sale value of tens of thousands it is a rewarding experience to see that mare reverse her attitude to her foal and eagerly receive its attempts to suck within an hour or so of a dose of *Sepia*. Again with the aggressive murderous dam, not uncommon among pigs, who attacks and devours her litter as soon as born, it is infinitely gratifying to give a dose of *Chamomilla*, and see the complete change of temperament that allows eight or ten piglets respite from slaughter until they grow to a size to satisfy our need for a rasher of bacon with our breakfast.

For some years now I have had to involve myself deeply in the problems of air transport as it affects animals. Many of you must have arrived in this country by way of London Airport, without realizing that between three and four hundred thousand animals pass through this one airport every year. At the moment a steady stream of some 10,000 Rhesus monkeys alone, pass through every month on their way to laboratories

in this country and the Americas, to make their tragic sacrifice towards poliomyelitis prevention. Not the least of travel horrors is air sickness, and with dogs in particular sheer uncontrollable terror leading to fatal apoplexy. I am glad to tell you how invaluable *Cocculus* has proved for the former, and *Borax* for the latter. Both are officially recommended in pamphlets that may be seen in every place where B.O.A.C. touch down with animal cargoes.

*Cocculus* and *Tabacum* both have a wide field of use in preventing car sickness in dogs. Many owners, because of the nauseating experience of having to clean up vomit from their cars every time their dog goes for a ride, give up taking their dogs with them, and hundreds can testify to the fact that Homœopathy has made it possible to go motoring once more with their dogs to accompany them.

I have recounted before how my introduction to Homœopathy came about. One of my first patients after the First World War was a small dog, afflicted with multiple abscesses in the web of skin between the digits. We call this very common affliction interdigital cysts. There seems to be no known cure, and radical surgery even is not certain. These little boils come up very quickly, cause local pain and lameness, and when they burst or are lanced healing is rapid and relief instantaneous. As fast as one heals another may appear on the same or on another foot. Some chronic sufferers may have half a dozen boils at various stages at the same time. After months and years much scar tissue begins to inhibit progression and the animal suffers constant pain. The patient in question, after six years, had reached this stage, when his owner thought destruction was the right and humane course. At the eleventh hour *Graphites 3x* was suggested and a tablet three times a day not only wrought a miracle and cleared up the cysts and the scar tissue, but awoke a spirit of enquiry in myself about this system of healing, that 25 years later was to deliver me from a chronic and allegedly incurable illness contracted during a post-mortem of a patient.

After *Graphites*, my next worker of wonders was *Silica*. I would like to see some experimental work done on this subs-

tance. A colleague tells me that the best way to convert sceptical veterinary surgeons to Homœopathy is to administer *Silica* to all the cats in his hospital. Within a week it is alleged any cat so dosed will become so ferocious (? full of "grit") as to be impossible to handle! For the horse *Silica* is a godsend. The buried thorn, usually in the neighbourhood of the fetlock joint, with its intractable prolonged lameness, will surface and become removable under the influence of *Silica*. The "green" young horse with slack ligaments and tendons that rupture easily, and a gangling gait will improve out of all knowledge under *Silica*. The horse whose tendons are heavily involved in scar tissue from breaking down at work, and the result of subsequent blisters and actual cautery, will lissom up and go sound under *Silica*, when orthodox practitioners have recommended the knacker's yard.

The muscular cramp of the type that led to Royal disappointment during the course of this year's Grand National would not have occurred had a dose of *China* been given beforehand. Old gentlemen wont to get cramp in bed can testify to this, and it was from this use that I extended this drug to racing greyhounds and horses.

*Chamomilla*, which I mentioned as an antidote to maternal infanticide in pigs, had a useful role to play recently during the Kenya troubles. A lady veterinary surgeon who farmed with her husband in Mau Mau country, and had Kikuyu workers, had mentioned in letters that they thought their immunity from mutilation and murder was largely due to the ferocity of three or four bull terriers, knowledge of whose prowess as guards was widespread among the natives. The lady was suddenly widowed and continued to farm alone with only a ten-year-old daughter as companion. You can imagine what her state of mind was when internecine warfare broke out among those ferocious guards, and it looked as if the best among them would have to be destroyed. You can imagine the joy when a dose of *Chamomilla* restored the *status quo*, and the fighting stopped among the dogs.

*Mercury* is invaluable in the very common interstitial nephritis of the aged dog, and many a dog on the verge of the

Styx, has been brought back to live comfortably for a few more years by *Merc. sol.*

*Arnica*, *Calendula* and *Ledum* to the veterinary surgeon are no less valuable than they are to you, for bruises and for the various huge wounds that large animals acquire from barbed wire and other metallic obstacles they encounter. A stable bandage soaked in a weak solution of *Arnica* tincture does wonders to puffy tendons and joints in the over ridden and jaded hunter and steeplechaser. *Calendula* is a useful styptic after the heathen ritual of tail docking.

*Ignatia* is helpful with that maddening experience of a race-horse trainer, when a horse a week before a big race, just coming to the peak of his form, goes off his oats, and wants more hay than is good for his wind and heart.

Most remedies for animals work satisfactorily in the low potencies. I learned the art chiefly on dogs at the 3x level. There does not seem to be any danger with the use of higher potencies such as one reads of in your medical textbooks, but on the whole I doubt their necessity with most animal complaints, since to me attenuation needs to be in step with the density of the part we are endeavouring to influence with our remedy. By this I mean that if it is the physical body that is mainly affected then my remedy is not potentized beyond the physical level. This holds true for most bacterial diseases. When, however, we get to that rarefied atmosphere of much attenuated body-stuff where the activities of the virus are mostly initiated, into that level of hyperphysical wavelength that the mystics call the etheric body, and higher still at the astral level, then I suggest that we need attenuation in the first instance to that point where the mathematicians tell us that our remedy no longer can contain physical amounts. In the second instance we need to use remedies over the 200c, and with the human patient whose highly developed mental region is above the astral, just as the astral is above the etheric level, no doubt there are many human physicians who can aver to the efficacy of attenuations in the region of thousandths.

I put it to you that there are many cases where you doctors could well use two potencies of the same drug at the same

time with advantage, or two potencies of different drugs, thereby attacking one set of symptoms at a low level, and another set of symptoms or the cause itself at a higher level.

I am probably unwise to introduce this mystical note, but it seems to me justified, in that the current discoveries in electronic physics give just as clear a backing to the inspiration of Hahnemann as does the mystical approach. When we potentize and attenuate do we not gradually release first the molecular energy up to 12x? At 12c we are assured the last electron must have been stripped from our nucleus, and so the infinitely rarefied particles left (the astral ghost of our original substance) that analytical chemists refuse to recognize in our pilules, act at levels and with a power that the gross molecular aggregate, of the allopathic drug cannot approach.

I have, greatly daring, touched upon homœopathic politics as well as homœopathic philosophy. You may well judge me as worthy of reproof, and consider that I should have confined myself to the clinical aspects of our art. It is only because I feel that on an international occasion such as this, with the forces of modern publicity at our elbows, the main endeavour of one with my particular background, should be to reinforce the propaganda drive rather than enrich the clinical records. I have therefore ventured to sketch out one or two lines of thought and endeavour that may help in spreading the gospel, and bringing it more in line with modern use of criteria and statistics. And if I have been too brief for your liking, I have been so deliberately, for in my experience the best paper is that which not only provokes discussion, but leaves adequate time for it to ensue.

#### DISCUSSION

The Chairman thanked Major Hancock for his excellent paper, which contained a number of valuable lessons for veterinary surgeons, but from which they all could learn something. He called upon Sir John Weir, President of Honour of the Congress, to open the discussion.

Sir JOHN said that he was glad that his first actual participation in the scientific discussions of the Congress should be

on Homœopathy as applied to veterinary medicine. He was delighted with Major Hancock's paper, which was very good indeed and from which he had learned much. He wished to give the meeting some of his own experiences with animals. Indeed, the first homœopathic prescription he ever made was for a dog. He recalled how Dr. Fergie Woods and he were in Chicago, and there a dog with dreadful diarrhœa was brought to their attention. The veterinary surgeon said there was no hope for the dog, but its owner appealed to them to do what they could. The indicated remedy seemed to be *Arsenicum*, and this was given in the 200th potency at four-hourly intervals for three doses. Within a day the dog, which apparently had been dying, was out in the street running after other dogs.

During the winter a dog fell into Lake Michigan and suffered paralysis of the hind legs, due to the intense cold. *Rhus* was tried and to their amazement the dog gradually recovered.

When he came over here he found Dr. Tyler, that wonderful woman, very much interested in animals. She had bought a horse which, however, was covered with warts. On being given *Thuja* in potency they all gradually disappeared, and the horse was sold at a good price. After the 1914-18 war a man who had been in the Hussars told him of many wonderful horses which, however, were very thin and tired and could be bought for a few pounds. He recommended *Arsenicum* 30 and the improvement was miraculous; his informant was able to sell the horses at a very enhanced value.

He recalled another example of a mare which killed every foal as it arrived. Her indifference to her offspring was extraordinary. She was given *Sepia* 200, single dose, and the next foal that arrived was loved fondly and not enough could be done for it.

A great polo player found his horses got very tired towards the end of a chukker. *Arnica* 200 on a piece of sugar was recommended and they finished so fresh that it was not really necessary to change them over.

In the case of dogs one had to discriminate. There was not necessarily one remedy; it depended on the individual. Some dogs responded to *Arsenic* and others to *Sulphur*. He was

very pleased to hear that a pamphlet was being issued on what could be done at the airport for the animals. This was a very good thing. They heard much about the acute illnesses for which there was just the one remedy. That was quite all right, because very often that particular remedy was what the epidemic demanded. But with chronic illnesses in animals one had to differentiate just as with human beings. The question of handling animals had been brought up. There was a tendency to suppose that any good results must be due to drugs. But he might remind them of the story of the man who declared that he got more and better eggs from his ducks when he was kind to them. Another point to bear in mind was not to give two drugs at the same time; that was not Homœopathy.

With regard to potencies, animals responded both to low and to high potencies. Mention had been made of Borax. This was a very good remedy with little children who did not like a downward movement, also for people and animals coming down in a plane rather quickly.

He was delighted to be at this discussion and to find so much interest taken in this subject.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Sir John for his valuable contribution. It was always a great pleasure to hear a great doctor talk about simple things. The little facts of daily life were often more instructive than whole scientific histories.

DR. PIERRE SCHMIDT (Switzerland) said that it was a great privilege to hear how Homœopathy could alleviate the sufferings of animals. Homœopathy was able to furnish help to animals, from the smallest to the largest, from the canary to the elephant. He recalled how he himself had treated by this means two rhinos out in India. One interesting case he encountered was that of a dog with a slight paresis of the hind leg which nothing could cure. A veterinary surgeon in Geneva, where this case occurred, took the dog for a walk, and noted that it dragged its leg, lifting it from time to time as if it wished to urinate, then lowering it again until it came to the next tree. This was a typical symptom and cleared up under homœopathic treatment.

Another like case concerned a cat which had enteritis with

diarrhœa and vomiting, and looked like dying from the seriousness of its condition. It was offered milk but did not take it. The milk was placed near a marble staircase which led to the street, and the cat came near but did not drink. It had a high pulse and temperature, and suddenly rounded up its back into a terrible bout of diarrhœa, but it was glad to get to the marble surface, which was cool, and to sit down. The cat obviously wished to be out of doors. *Pulsatilla* 200 was given, and the cat was well again in three days.

Another extraordinary case was that of a prize bull, worth a very large sum of money. But it appeared that it would have to be castrated as it was no longer a reproducing animal; as soon as the cows came it went away from them, but it would rub its genital organs against a fountain, showing that there was some other condition present as well as impotence. It was given *Staphisagria* 10m, and this bull, which it was expected to castrate, was well in a few days, and lived for a few more years as a prize bull. This showed that observations in veterinary matters could give good results, while realizing, of course, that the more acute observations might be denied because the patients could not speak.

DR. SANKARAN (India), in thanking Major Hancock for a very interesting paper, said that he had great admiration for veterinary doctors who practised Homœopathy, and not only admiration but also respect. This was not because animals were better than men for observation purposes, although in some cases they might be. In dealing with an animal they merely had to wonder how they would choose the drug; some of their human cases would be better for a freer choice of drugs.

The interesting hypothesis had been put forward that with animals the higher the animal the higher should be the potency. He wondered whether the same applied to man. What was the general experience of potencies in animals? Were certain potencies effective and not others? He also wished to know whether the effect of potencies had been compared in sick and in healthy animals respectively. Had anyone treated hydrophobia in dogs by homœopathic means?

DR. MITCHELL (England) thanked Major Hancock for a very

interesting and instructive paper which he had enjoyed immensely. Something had been said about racehorses, and he would mention one case as a grave warning. A racehorse owner early this year was told by one of his staff that one of his horses broke out into a sweat and got into a highly nervous condition on the advent of a race. The horse was given the appropriate homœopathic remedy and a month or two later the information went round that the effect had been, miraculous, and that the horse now had no agitation whatever, but unfortunately it had brought about such a wonderful state of docility that the horse now was hardly interested in the race at all!

A good many years ago a patient mentioned to him that his spaniel had been very ill. Everything had been tried, but without success. The animal was referred to Professor Tait at the Veterinary College at Liverpool, but still no effect at all was forthcoming, and the veterinary College at Liverpool, but still no effect at all was forthcoming, and the veterinary surgeon said that he had done all he could and gave up the case. *Aconitum* was suggested, and the speaker recalled that his father on a farm had always given *Aconitum*, and this was given successfully. He could quote other cases in his experience in which homœopathic remedies had proved successful with animals.

DR. W. LEES TEMPLETON (England) said that his only excuse for intervening in the discussion was to draw attention to the emphasis on certain signs and symptoms which were missed in animals apparently because they were not able to be tested. Obviously in human beings also very often what could be ascertained by sight, smell, and so on was apt to be forgotten. He was told by the owner of a certain cat that the animal was dying, that he would not eat and drink, that there was no passage of urine, no bowel action. He saw the cat but he could make no diagnosis. The skin was hot and dry; on lifting the animal he felt as if he were lifting a bag of sugar. It all pointed to a complete lack of reaction. Apparently there was no specific complaint. He thought of *Opium*, and that brought in the question of potency. How was it to be given—high or not high? His advice was, if the picture was there, to give the

highest potency possible with the usual restrictions. *Opium cm.* was given in this case two-hourly, and the next morning "Sandy" took milk, and the morning after that the bulletin was "Sandy is better; he has just caught a mouse." There was no diagnosis, no pathology, nothing to suggest a cause, but it was just a change from death to life on appearance. What were the important symptoms they should learn to look for in a case in point? He recalled the case of a dog with urethral symptoms, and involving some sort of disease with painful micturition. The animal was said to cry all night like a child with earache. Had it been a child one would have said *Pulsatilla*, and *Pulsatilla* it was and cure was obtained. He would add that it was in this case, of course, a female dog.

A MEMBER referred to a case of a bitch which had just had a litter and was suffering from some form of mastitis; the nipples and udders were extraordinarily hard and untouchable. It looked a hopeless case, but he prescribed *Phytolacca*, a dose every two hours, and next day she had lost nearly all her symptoms. He remembered another case of a beautiful dog, a really magnificent animal, with all the correct points, but not a good show dog, always at the show letting his owner down. It was an extremely intelligent animal and very highly bred. He ordered *Lycopodium* 200, to be given two days before the next show, and it was awarded a championship. He quite agreed with the remark that it was impossible to individualize in these mass production days, but, of course, animals had their individual characteristics. They were familiar with this from the researches of Pavlov in dealing with reflexes.

DR. VON PETZINGER (Germany) thanked Major Hancock for his most interesting paper. The records of the application of Homœopathy to animals were relatively few, and this made the present contribution all the more interesting. He wished to mention one case he had a few years ago. It was the case of a valuable bitch which had been ill with enteritis for about a week. The picture of the disease had got much worse during the period, although the animal had taken food. A number of remedies and injections were ordered, but the animal became so bad that the veterinary surgeon suggested that it be put to

sleep. It lay about in a state of torpor, and at night severe diarrhoea set in. The woman in charge had to get up to the animal about ten or twelve times during the night. It would crouch around without achieving the end sought, and moreover there was a stench from the mouth. It indicated a typical potency of D.4, which was effective.

DR. FUSSEL, who said that her experience had been entirely with animals, declared that in chronic cases the low potencies must be used first and not the high ones, or a violent reaction would follow. Some animals did not seem to react to homœopathic remedies at all, but if the physiological basis were first followed they would be found to respond, and if then put on homœopathic remedies a good result would be obtained.

DR. HANCOCK, who was invited to reply to the discussion, said that he was much obliged for the interesting contributions, but he would prefer to give his time to another colleague who was waiting to speak.

—*The British Homœopathic Journal, Jan., '57*

### HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL BILL

Speeches of Hon'ble Dr. B. C. Roy and Dr. J. N. Mazumdar,  
M.L.A. on the W. Bengal Homœopathic Medical Bill 1959,  
on the floor of W. Bengal Legislative Assembly  
delivered on 25. 3. 59.

Dr. Jnanendra Nath Mazumdar :

Sir, I beg leave to introduce the West Bengal Homœopathic Bill, 1959.

The Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy :

Sir, I may mention the fact—this is the time I should mention it—that I had a talk with Dr. Majumdar. This particular