

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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Vol. XXIV

MARCH 1957

No. 3

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## HAHNEMANN'S 50 MILLESIMAL POTENCY

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The last and sixth edition of the Organon is being gradually popular and increasingly more read by homoeopaths all the world over. But the 50 millesimal potency, *i.e.*, the potency in the 50,000th scale, as distinct from the centesimal and advocated by Hahnemann in Sec. 270 of the same edition of the Organon, has never been used in India and nowhere extensively in any part of the globe, and is rarely available from the pharmacists all the world over. Dr. Pierre Schmidt, M.D. of Geneva speaks very highly of it in the British Homoeopathic Journal, July-October, 1954, and the Journal of the American Institute of Homœopathy, December-January 1955-56. It is time that we should make up our mind, decide our course of action, and try to experiment with it.

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Concerning the preparation of the potencies on the said scale, there are certain distinctive, novel features, which Hahnemann recommends in this last and posthumous work of his. They are :

1. Dry powder trituration of all drug elements,—dry or oily in nature, for three degrees on the centesimal scale, *i.e.*, up to the 3C potency, giving the drug strength  $\frac{1}{1000000}$ .
2. The next operation converting the dry 3C trituration into liquid form is on the 500th scale, giving, for all

practical purposes, the Mother tincture, which is already 4C and has the drug strength  $\frac{1}{5 \times 100000000}$ .

3. The first degree of liquid potency, made from the above solution, is 1C, which is evidently on the Centesimal scale, comprising the last on the same scale, and is equivalent to a bit more than 5C, giving the drug strength  $\frac{1}{5 \times 1000000000}$ .

But considering the drug strength of the 1C potency, it may be safely said to be conveying the 50,000th part of the 3C trituration, from which it may be viewed to have been prepared indirectly on the 50 Millesimal scale, through two different degrees on two different scales, *e.g.*, 5 Centesimal & 1 Centesimal.

$$\frac{1}{500} \times \frac{1}{100} = \frac{1}{50,000}$$

4. All subsequent potencies are prepared on the 50,000th scale, *i.e.*, 50 Millesimal, as is aptly called by homœopaths. According to it, a poppy-sized globule, 500 of which can scarcely absorb a drop of alcohol, is saturated with a preceding potency and is crushed and dissolved in 100 drops of 95% alcohol, giving the advance drug strength for each ascending potency :

$$\frac{1}{500 \times 100} = \frac{1}{50,000} \text{ i.e. the 50 Millesimal scale.}$$

Therefore,

5. So each advance in dynamization on the 50 Millesimal scale is equivalent to more than 2 degrees more on the centesimal, and more than 4 degrees more on the decimal scale. Thus, 50 Milles. 2=4C=8X, approximately & so on.
6. Instead of 2 or 10 succussions as advocated in the previous editions, Hahnemann insists, in the 6th, upon 100, in each potency, to 'incredibly increase' the power of the potencies.
7. So, whereas in the 4th edition of the Organon Hahnemann lays equal stress upon dilution as well as succussion, and in the 5th more stress upon dilution, he gives equal stress, again, upon dilution and succussion in the 6th.

Now, what exactly will 50 Millesimal 6,12,30,100,200,500, 1000 be in terms of the centesimal? It involves a complicated mathematics, which is given below, with an almost cent per cent accuracy, tinged as it is with a very little of approximation.

#### 50 MILLESIMAL SCALE

As stated above :

The Solution

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10000000} = \frac{1}{5 \times 10^8}$$

Hence : 50 MILLES. 1

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^8 \times 100} = \frac{1}{5 \times 10^8 \times 10^2} = \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}}$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{5} \times 10X = \frac{1}{5} \times 5C \right)$$

From 2 upwards all potencies are similarly on the 50 Millesimal scale and are expressible in terms of :

$$\frac{1}{50,000} = \frac{1}{5 \times 10000} = \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4}$$

And between 2 and 6, both extremes inclusive, there are 5 degrees ; between 2 and 12, both extremes inclusive, there are 11 degrees. Similarly, between 2 and 30, 29 : between 2 and 100, 99 : between 2 and 200, 199 : between 2 and 500, 499 : between 2 and 1000, 999 degrees and so on.

Therefore :

1. 50 MILLES. 6

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^5 \quad (\text{there being 5 degrees})$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \frac{1}{5^5 \times 10^{20}} = \frac{1}{5^6 \times 10^{30}}$$

Now,  $5^6$  expressed in powers of  $10=10^4$  Approx.

( $10^{4 \cdot 1940}$  accurately)

$\therefore$  the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^4 \times 10^{30}} = \frac{1}{10^{34}} = 34X = 17C \text{ Approx.}$$

2. 50 MILLES. 12

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^{11} \quad (\text{there being 11 degrees})$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \frac{1}{5^{11} \times 10^{44}} = \frac{1}{5^{12} \times 10^{54}}$$

Now,  $5^{12}$  expressed in powers of  $10=10^8$  approximately

( $10^{8 \cdot 3880}$  accurately)

$\therefore$  the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^8 \times 10^{54}} = \frac{1}{10^{62}} = 62X = 31C \text{ Approx.}$$

3. 50 MILLES. 30

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^{29} \quad (\text{there being 29 degrees})$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \frac{1}{5^{29} \times 10^{116}} = \frac{1}{5^{30} \times 10^{126}}$$

Now,  $5^{30}$  expressed in powers of  $10=10^{21}$  approximately

( $10^{20 \cdot 9700}$  accurately)

$\therefore$  the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^{21} \times 10^{126}} = \frac{1}{10^{147}} = 147X = 73C \text{ Approx.}$$

4. 50 MILLES. 100

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^{99} \quad (\text{there being 99 degrees})$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \frac{1}{5^{99} \times 10^{996}} = \frac{1}{5^{100} \times 10^{406}}$$

Now,  $5^{100}$  expressed in powers of  $10 = 10^{70}$  approx.  
( $10^{69.9}$  accurately)

∴ the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^{70} \times 10^{406}} = \frac{1}{10^{476}} = 476X = 238C \text{ Approx.}$$

5. 50 MILLES. 200

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^{199} \text{ (there being 199 degrees)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10} \times 5^{199} \times 10^{796}} \times \frac{1}{5^{200} \times 10^{806}}$$

Now,  $5^{200}$  expressed in powers of  $10 = 10^{140}$  approx.  
( $10^{139.8}$  accurately)

∴ the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^{140} \times 10^{806}} = \frac{1}{10^{946}} = 946X = 473C \text{ Approx.}$$

6. 50 MILLES. 500

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^{499} \text{ (there being 499 degrees)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10} \times 5^{499} \times 10^{1996}} = \frac{1}{5^{500} \times 10^{2006}}$$

Now,  $5^{500}$  expressed in powers of  $10 = 10^{350}$  approx.  
( $10^{349.5}$  accurately)

∴ the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^{350} \times 10^{2006}} = \frac{1}{10^{2356}} = 2356X = 1178C \text{ Approx.}$$

7. 50 MILLES. 1000

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10}} \times \left( \frac{1}{5 \times 10^4} \right)^{999} \quad (\text{there being 999 degrees})$$

$$= \frac{1}{5 \times 10^{10} \times 5^{999} \times 10^{3996}} = \frac{1}{5^{1000} \times 10^{4006}}$$

\*\* Now,  $5^{1000}$  expressed in powers of 10 =  $10^{699}$  accurately.

∴ the sum

$$= \frac{1}{10^{699} \times 10^{4006}} = \frac{1}{10^{4705}} = 4705X = 2352C \text{ Approx.}$$

Calculated on the above basis, 50 Millesimal 10M, 50M and CM may easily be converted into equivalent Centesimal potencies.

So, as is evident from the above calculations, the difference between the Centesimal and the Millesimal scales is neither very wide nor spectacular. It is only about the ratio of 1 : 2. But what makes the difference much greater is the number of succussions (100 instead of 10), as advocated in the 6th edition, which gives the ratio of 10 : 1, and considerably enlarges the strides taken in the act of dynamization. So, converting the Millesimal potencies on the Centesimal scale, we get their equivalent Centesimal numbers, as given below in the conversion table, but even then we get far less in the number of succussions and so in the degree and power of dynamization.

#### Conversion Table

50 MILLESIMAL			CENTESIMAL		
Potency	Succussions		Potency	But	Succussions
1	100	above	5	50	only
6	600	appr.	17	170	..
12	1200	..	31	310	..
30	3000	..	73	730	..

\*\* Prepared with the help of LOGARITHMIC AND OTHER TABLES by Frank Castle, M.I. Mech. E : Macmillan and Co., Limited ; St. Martin's Street, LONDON.

50 MILLESIMAL			CENTESIMAL		
Potency	Successions		Potency	Successions	
100	10000	„	238	2380	„
200	20000	„	473	4730	„
500	50000	„	1178	11780	„
1000	100000	„	2352	23520	„
10,000	1000000	Accurat.	23498	234980	„
50,000	5000000	„	117478	1174780	„
100000	10000000	„	234953	2349530	„

Comparing the above calculations with those given by Mr. Dudley W. Everitt, M.P.S., in the British Homoeopathic Journal, April 1951, any keen observer will be convinced of the inaccuracy, inexactitude and erroneousness of the latter, not only in points of mathematics but also in respect of a close and faithful conformity with the rules laid down by Master Hahnemann. What a revelation comes to us after so many years !

#### THE MISSING LINK

A careful study of Hahnemann's life reveals that the spirit of scientific investigation and endless research dominated all his life. Observation, experiment, comparison and induction comprised the method of his approach to all problems. The same had been true to his handling of the potency question. There is ample evidence to prove that Hahnemann commenced experimenting with the mother tincture and proceeded through the potencies higher and higher up to the 1500th, the then highest by Herr Von Korsakoff, "a noble and landed proprietor near Moscow, and a great dilettante upon the subject of Homoeopathy". In *Materia Medica Pura*, Vol. 1, page 21, we find Hahnemann using 'a full drop of the undiluted juice of Bryonia root'. In his Preface to the 5th Vol. of the *Chronic Diseases*, he says, 'we obtain, even in the 50th potency, medicines of the most penetrating efficacy'. Of the two cases of cure by Hahnemann, published in the *New Archives for 1844* by Boenninghausen, one was with *Belladonna* 60 (Cp. Fincke on High Potencies, page 118). In Dudgeon's 5th Ed. of the *Organon*, page 195, we find references

to X, XX, L and C, which are no other than the 30th, 60th, 150th, and 300th potencies, respectively. But, about 1829 he shows himself strongly in favour of a standardization of the potency. The same year, writing to Dr. Schreeter, on September 12, he says:

"I do not approve of your dynamizing the medicines higher (as for instance up to XII and XX). There must be some end to the thing; it can not go on to infinity. By laying it down as a rule that all Homoeopathic remedies be diluted and dynamized up to X (30th), we have a uniform mode of procedure in the treatment of all Homoeopaths, and when they describe a cure we can repeat it, as they and we operate with the same tools. In one word, we would do well to go forward uninterruptedly in the beaten path. Then our enemies will not be able to reproach us with having nothing fixed,—no normal *Standard*."

Even commending in 1832, in his letter published in Stapf's Archive, that Herr Von Korsakoff's novel "experiments are of inestimable value", he says:

"but for the Homoeopathic treatment of patients, it is expedient in the preparation of all kinds of medicines to remain stationary at the decillionth attenuation and potency, in order that Homoeopathic practitioners may be able to promise themselves uniform results in their cures".

In the 5th and 6th Editions of the Organon and in the Chronic Diseases, we find, similarly, frequent references to the 30th potency, which is strongly recommended by Hahnemann in all cases, acute and chronic.

But, how did he come to decide in favour of remaining stationary within the level of the 30th, discarding the 50th, 60th or all other higher potency levels? We suspect that there is a story that has remained untold, that there is a link that we had the misfortune to miss.

The hypersensitive mind of Hahnemann, the extensive prover, famed clinician and notable humanist, could accurately feel and record within itself the most delicate quiverings of



the sensitized sick human organism in its deviated, morbid functions and sensations, so that his daily endeavour through the years was to reduce the dose of the medicine as small as he could but quite sufficient for a rapid and permanent cure, in order to eliminate the least chance of exaggerated potency activity or medicinal aggravation as it is called, in the already sensitized sick organism. Hahnemann's potencies above the 30th, incredibly reduced in drug strength, were of the 'most penetrating efficacy', which he admits in the said preface to the 5th Vol. of the Chronic Diseases. Also in foot-note 1 to Sec. 287 in the 5th Dudgeon-Edition of the Organon, he says :

"The higher we carry the attenuation accompanied by dynamization (by two succussion strokes), with so much the more rapid and penetrating action does the preparation seem to affect the vital force and to alter the health".

But the clauses that follow have been, most regrettably, extremely neglected by homoeopaths, though they bring down to us a new light, and a sensational discovery that helps to recover the missing link in the phases of Hahnemann's development of high potencies. The next clauses are :

"with but slight diminution of strength, even when the operation is carried very far,—in place, as is usual (and generally sufficient) to X, when it is carried up to XX, L, C and higher; *only that then the action always appears to last a shorter time*".

So, of the three ideals of potency activity, *e.g.*, (Cp. Organon Sec. 2., 5th & 6th Ed.).

1. rapid penetration,
2. gentle impression (minus medical aggravation),
3. permanent restoration (of health),

the third and the last, but not the least, could not be maintained by the short acting potencies above the 30th, in the experiments made by Hahnemann.

Consequently, in the 5th Edition of the Organon, Hahnemann was led to insist unhesitatingly upon the administration of the potencies up to the 30th only, in all cases, acute and chronic,

## NEW APPROACH

But, as days passed by and experiences accumulated, new problems cropped up conclusively. With the potencies up to the 30th on the Centesimal scale, while the two-succussion method failed to develop the latent powers of medicine to the desired extent, the ten-or-more-succussion method already produced potencies too violent and dangerous for the hyper-sensitive organisms. So, Hahnemann, faced with the new problems of the Centesimal scale, wandering between scylla and charybdys, was led to say :

"The proportion of medicine of attenuation to the medicine that is to be dynamized (100 : 1) was found altogether too limited to develop thoroughly and to a high degree the power of the medicine by means of a number of such succussions without specially using great force of which wearisome experiments have convinced me": (Organon, 6th Ed. page 292).

and,

"But with so small a diluting medium as 100 to 1 of the medicine, if many succussions by means of a powerful machine are forced into it, medicines are then developed which, especially in the higher degrees of dynamization, act almost immediately, but with furious, even dangerous, violence, especially in weakly patients, without having a lasting, mild reaction of the vital principle."—Organon, 6th Ed. page 293.

Therefore, the only way of escape was through :

- (a) the 50 Millesimal scale, to widen the gap between the medicinal substratum or quantity and the diluting medium or menstruum, incredibly reducing the medicinal quantity to obviate any furious potency exaggeration,
- (b) 100 succussions, to develop the powers of medicine to the desired extent, for a most rapid and long lasting penetration.

In the act of standardization, however, the potencies remained stationary at the ceiling level of the 30th (of the Millesimal

scale now,) even at the close of Hahnemann's life, although higher potencies were experimented with now and then.

### THREE QUESTIONS

1. Is it desirable, then, in the back-ground of Hahnemann's latest posology, to discard all higher and highest potencies developed or utilized by our Masters of the Hahnemannian or post-Hahnemannian age, *e.g.*, Jenichen, Stapf, Gross, Boenninghausen, Fincke, Swan, Deshere, Boericke, Lehrmann, Skinner, Nash and last but not the least Dr. J. T. Kent?

Each of the said pioneers with his vast and individual experiences has testified to the immense value of high potencies, not only of rapidly penetrating efficacy but also of vastly longer activity. Writing about Jenichen's high potencies, Dr. C. V. Boenninghausen says :

"We ourselves possess of Jenichen's preparations : Arsenicum 40,000 and Phosphorus 19,000, and have seen the most plain signs of the curative effects of both of them, with men as well as with animals".—Boenninghausen Lesser Writings, Ind. Ed. page 139.

In another place of the same work, page 136, he says :

"but we have even had a number of cases in which the usual potency, the 200, did not suffice and the cure was only effected through Jenichen's high potencies".

About Korsakoff's high (15000th) potencies, Hahnemann himself comments as late as 1832 :

"I must say that these procedures chiefly seem to show how one can go with the potentized attenuation of medicines without their action on the human health becoming *NIL*. For this, these experiments are of inestimable value".  
—Bradford, Life and Letters of Hahnemann, page 459.

On the subject of vastly longer activity of high potencies, Dr. Boenninghausen quotes Dr. Fincke asserting that :

"The high potencies show themselves effective in a single dose", and himself declares :

"From the beginning of the use of high potencies, nearly all attentive observers have experienced that as a rule they

require no repetition immediately".—Lesser Writings, page 139.

He is seen to confirm the same more explicitly in another place of the same work (page 103), when he says:

"I can show cases where one dose has continued to act for three months; but this is not only in the 200th potency, but also in the 30th, generally used".

That Hahnemann himself had been experimenting further with higher potencies is revealed by the following :

"In direct contradiction to it I can demonstrate by his letters which I have carefully preserved, that, especially in the last years of his life, he was most zealous and insistent in carrying on the dynamizations higher and higher and to diminish more the materiality of the dose."——

Ibid : page 100.

But what is most singular and historic, in relation to the subject of duration of high-potency activity, is the following categorical declaration of Dr. Carl Von Boenninghausen, coming as it does from the pen of the greatest of the contemporaries, the noblest and the most faithful of the followers and disciples, of Master Hahnemann :

"only his (Hahnemann's) conclusion as to the brief duration of the action, especially in chronic diseases, does not agree unconditionally and in general with my experience" (Ibid : page 99.),

since,

"experience has proved that they are slower and more continuous and more lasting in their action than the lower attenuations."—Ibid : page 171.

Willynilly, Hahnemann admits this, at last, when he acknowledges in Sec. 246 of the 6th Ed. of the Organon that the single dose of an appropriately selected remedy continues to act favourably for 40, 50, 60 & 100 days.

What, after all this, will be our attitude towards the said high potencies ?

Now, to the second question.

2. Is it desirable, on the other hand, to discard the 30th level of Hahnemann, along with his 50 Millesimal

scale, in view of the fact that we are now in possession of much higher attenuations, proved in various eminent hands and through ages to be of most penetrating efficacy and vastly longer activity?

Lastly, to the third.

3. Which method of marking should properly be resorted to, to differentiate, in the transitional period, the 50 Millesimal potencies from those on the Centesimal scale, if we decide to accept the former at all?

We are faced with these three pertinent questions which must be answered at the earliest opportunity.

If we keep in mind the basic necessity of Hahnemann's life-long-potency investigation, as stated above, *e.g.*,

(a) to eliminate most favourably the too violent potency exaggeration, and

(b) to develop medicinal activity to the desired extent, the solution to the above first two questions becomes easy, when we fall back upon Hahnemann's exceptionally sound reasoning and vast experience, accept his latest Millesimal 30th as a necessary unit, and revise our attitude towards the high potencies of Jenichen, Fincke, Swan and Skinner or Kent, though not contemplate to abandon them completely.

Despite the knowledge of the established fact that 'The dose can hardly ever be too small' (Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, part 2, Edition 1, page 149), Dr. Fincke has a special occasion to reiterate that 'The high potencies present at times the phenomenon of a homœopathic aggravation' (Boeninghausen, Lesser Writings, pages 137 & 139). Dr. Kent also repeatedly reminds us of the danger of the deeply penetrating and long acting (Skinner) high potencies and asserts in his classic passage that :

"I should rather be in a room with a dozen negroes slashing with razors than in the hands of an ignorant prescriber of high potencies. They are means of tremendous harm, as well as of tremendous good."—Kent, Mat. Med. page 543.

So, while the first and third ideals of cure, *e.g.*, rapid penetration and permanent restoration, are being maintained by

high potencies, the second, *e.g.*, of gentle impression is frequently violated by them. *Tolle Causam*. But where is it laid? The cause lies where it had been in the potencies of Hahnemann made about the year 1832. It is in the Centesimal scale itself. For, while we carry the potencies higher and higher, in modern M. Potencies as in those of the previous age, by means of a greater number of strokes than is advised in the 5th edition of the Organon, and strokes of the most vigorous character given either with the fabulously strong hand of a Jenichen or with a powerful potentizing machine that had been suggested first and foremost of all by the greatest of all the innovators of the past century; namely, Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the ratio of medicine of attenuation to the medicine that is to be dynamized has remained as ever about the proportion of 1 : 100, *i.e.*, as on the Centesimal scale. The ghost is in the mustard seed itself with which one seeks to charm him away.

The third question, concerning the marking of the 50 Millesimal potencies during the transitional period, may be easily solved by adopting the method of Hahnemann himself in this respect. The potencies may advantageously be marked  $\frac{0}{1}$ ,  $\frac{0}{6}$ ,  $\frac{0}{12}$ ,  $\frac{0}{30}$ ,  $\frac{0}{200}$ , and so on, the neumerator 'O' representing symbolically the poppy-sized globule, employed in each dynamization, as distinct from the drop of medicine utilized in the Centesimal scale. Dr. Pierre Schmidt also indicated the 50 Millesimal potencies in the same way, in his famous Oration, published in the December 1955—January 1956 issue of the Journal of the American Institute of Homoeopathy. It is quite likely that the inspiration came to him from the letter to Dr. Luther, published by the Reverend Mr. Everest, in the London Homœopathic Times for July 30, 1853, where it is said :

"This proceeding was thus carried on until the tenth, which was labelled  $\frac{0}{10}$ . Originally I think he used the Roman Characters and called them  $\frac{0}{IX}$ ,  $\frac{0}{X}$ , etc., but afterwards adhered for these preparations to the Arabic Ciphers.

"The preparations so made were called *medicamens au*

*globule* (which is the meaning of the *O*), to distinguish them from the old ones, which are marked with a small cross (x), and called *medicamens a la goutte* (medicines of the drop)—Bradford, Life & Letters of Hahnemann, page 466.

Can't we make a concerted effort and resolve to introduce all potencies, high or low, made on the 50 Millesimal scale ?

## CHLOROSIS

(Translated by S. W. Stead Rueckert's  
*Klinische Erfahrungen*)

### *Ammonium Carbonicum*

Woman of 19, phlegmatic temperament, has been sick for four weeks. *Symptoms*: Chlorotic complexion, severe headache with vertigo, frequent vomiting; tongue coated; thirst; poor appetite; has not menstruated for two months; short breathing; palpitation from every motion; pulse weak, slow. *Ammonium carbonicum* 4c given every three hours for three weeks improved all symptoms; menstruation more copious than before (Fleischmann).

### *Antimonium Crudum*

Girl of 15, short but strong, has always been florid; menstruated very copiously from her 13th year on, but since then has had the following *symptoms*:

Much headache; was happy previously, but now moody, angry; loss of appetite; stools irregular. Severe exhaustion forces her to lie down and sleep for hours. Night sleep deep, but not refreshing. Menstruation had been regular for a year, but ceased gradually; patient is getting to look pale, is weaker; lips and tongue less red; palpitation from motion.

All remedies given so far failed to help. *Antimonium crudum* 6c, a daily dose was given for a week, then no medicine for a week; headache and moodiness less, face resumed natural color; weakness less. Menses regular, but less copious. Cure complete (Gross).