

EPILEPSY AND HOMŒOPATHY

DR. RAY W. SPALDING, M.D.

Epilepsy has been described as a peculiar form of spasms. According to Raue, epilepsy is defined as a chronic form of fits which occur repeatedly but without any typical regularity, which are characterized by loss of sensibility and consciousness and are attended with clonic spasms.

Epilepsy is classified as one of the morbid affections of the motor nerves: that is, a chronic neurosis. Characteristic features, according to French physicians, include sudden deadly paleness of face; a shriek; falling down in spasms, followed by redness and turgidity of face; generally convulsed and entirely insensible. The convulsions decrease and are followed by heavy sleep.

Four points have to be kept in view: 1. The causal indication. 2. The treatment of the special paroxysm. 3. The treatment of the disease generally. 4. The constitutional nature of the individual.

Three cases of diagnosed epilepsy are cited.

Case 1—Over twenty years ago a man aged twenty with a diagnosis of grand mal epilepsy had had weekly attacks of some years past with loss of consciousness, convulsive movements of limbs, frothing at mouth, biting of tongue and confused sensorium after attacks. Rx *Natrum muriaticum* 1M. No attacks followed for a year and a half when the convulsions returned preceded by a crop of boils. Rx *Sulphur* 10M. No return of epilepsy in twenty years.

Case 2—A girl of seven suffered from grand and petit mal. Under the regular school, treatment of the condition had lasted for many months with little relief. Patient appeared moronic due to much sedation. The case was accepted on condition the parents would cease all previous treatment for two months. This condition was finally accepted. In September 1954, Rx *Sulphur* 30x. No improvement noted. October 1954 *Sulphur* 200x. No further attacks to date. The little girl is

bright in manner, has returned to school and needs no treatment.

Case 2—A man 39 years of age was first treated December 9, 1952. Duration of the condition was 14 years. Since 1947, started nightly attacks controlled by phenobarbital. Diagnosis epilepsy. Studied at Pratt Diagnostic Clinic in 1948. Later history after a year, black outs and convulsions, pupil of right eye dilated during same. Speech affected, sensation of being unbalanced. Convulsions appear suddenly, becomes rigid, chokes, then unconscious. His weight had fallen from 184 to 166.

In general he is chilly. He feels cold around shoulders. Drafts aggravate; desires sweets, pickles, meat. Averse fat. Averse high places. Averse sympathy when sick. Would straighten a picture. Gets hungry 9 or 10 a.m. Headache occiput to vertex, as if it would split. Better with sleep and better by removing hat.

Dec. 9, 1952—Rx *Nux vomica* 10M.

Feb. 13, 1953—Rx *Nux vomica* 48M.

April 2, 1953—Rx *Causticum* 2C.

July 23, 1953—Rx *Causticum* 1M.

Sept. 3, 1953—Rx *Causticum* 10M.

Dec. 7, 1953—Rx *Causticum* CM.

Dec. 13, 1953—Appendectomy.

April 10, 1954—Rx *Causticum* MM.

Aug. 7, 1954—Rx *Sulphur* 10M.

Dec. 10, 1954—Rx *Sulphur* 10M.

April 3, 1955—Rx *Calcarea carbonica* 200.

June 16, 1955—Rx *Calcarea carbonica* 1M.

Sept. 29, 1955—Rx *Calcarea carbonica* 1M.

Jan. 25, 1956—Rx *Calcarea carbonica* CM.

May 1, 1956—Rx *Calcarea carbonia* 5CM.

Nov. 1, 1956—Rx *Calcarea carbonica* MM.

No convulsions since November 1956. Definite all round improvement and is back to his normal weight, wife reports May 6, 1957. No blackouts, headaches. Appetite good. Is able to go to social functions for first time in years.

Observations on These Cases:

1. The patient was treated rather than the disease.
2. Remedies were allowed to act in potencies gradually deepened.
3. A dividend is achieved by not hurrying case taking or the case.
4. The so-called incurable case yields, provided the patient has vital reaction.

Appended are Materia Medica pages on each of the drugs mentioned. In a clinical research of homœopathic remedies similar to the various characteristics of this essentially nervous disease, many drugs are classified according to aura; precursory symptoms; symptoms of the attack itself, be it grand mal or petit mal; symptoms following an attack; and general constitutional backgrounds, since the totality and individuality of the patient transcends the epilepsy itself.

Seventy-four drugs were examined in their provings, poisonings, or clinical verifications in the literature.

Herein, then, is a valuable compendium in one text to justify the Homœopathic research of drug totality in epilepsy.

Natrum Muriaticum

SYMPTOMS PRECEDING THE ATTACK:

Epileptic attacks between nine and ten a.m. for three years; usually preceded for a few days by twitching of arms and legs; aversion to bread . . . *Hering*.

THE ATTACK:

Epilepsy with consciousness . . . *Hering*.

Twitching in muscles and limbs; frequent starts of upper part of body . . . *Hering*.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Trembling: of whole body; in nerves at night . . . *Hering*.

Dullness; difficulty of thinking . . . *Hering*.

Depression of spirits . . . *Hering*.

Great irritability . . . *Hering*.

Sulphur

AURA:

Aura in the arms . . . *Kent.*

Aura may be as if mouse ran up leg to right side of abdomen . . . *Cowperthwaite.*

From the solar plexus . . . *Kent.*

SYMPTOMS PRECEDING THE ATTACK:

Attacks preceded by vertigo, soporific sleep, gritting of teeth, nausea and vomiting . . . *Hering.*

A boy of four comes in after playing and running, leans head against a chair and complains of headache; feels tired and exhausted, falls asleep with jerkings and anxious starting in sleep, which is followed by a fit . . . *Hering.*

THE ATTACK:

Epileptic fits, as many as five a day, with at times two hours of unconsciousness . . . *Hering.*

Froth at mouth, eyes set, throws hands above head, and grows stiff . . . *Hering.*

Convulsions with tendency to fall to left side . . . *Cowperthwaite.*

Trembling of limbs, as if chilled . . . *Hering.*

Attacks last some minutes with only slight remission . . . *Hering.*

Body jerks, legs rapidly drawn up and extended with force, hands clenched, thumbs not drawn in . . . *Hering.*

Epileptic convulsions excited by a fright or by running, and sometimes by cries; rigidity of limbs, clenching of the teeth and sensation as if mouse runs over back or arms . . . *Clarke.*

Coldness of extremities . . . *Hering.*

Blueness around mouth . . . *Hering.*

Convulsions confined to upper extremities and trunk . . . *Hering.*

Head moving about in all directions, but mostly to side . . . *Hering.*

Trying to rise . . . *Hering.*

Both arms nearly in position of right arm when standing at guard in boxing . . . *Hering.*

SYMPTOMS FOLLOWING ATTACK:

Unconscious of what has happened . . . *Hering.*

After attacks, he wipes tears from his eyes; soporous sleep, great exhaustion . . . *Hering.*

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Seen as result of chronic disease, suppressions, dyscrasias, scrofulous . . . *Cowperthwaite.*

Convulsions worse during menses . . . *Cowperthwaite.*

Melancholia and epilepsy with strong impulsive tendency to suicide by drowning or leaping from window . . . *Clarke.*

Stupor, with pale face, dropping of lower jaw, eyes half open, cold sweat on face, suppression of urine, and frequent twitching of muscles . . . *Hering.*

Epilepsy with dizziness . . . *Cowperthwaite.*

Convulsions began in left side and went to right; now more frequently they are reversed . . . *Hering.*

Jerking in arms and about mouth in cold air . . . *Lilienthal.*

Chronic cases of psoric taint; suppressed itch . . . *Lilienthal.*

Nux Vomica

AURA:

From solar plexus . . . *Farrington.*

Begins with aura from epigastrium . . . *Lilienthal.*

SYMPTOMS PRECEDING ATTACK:

Patient at once thrown into convulsions. . . *Farrington.*

Convulsions beginning with slight twitching in muscles of lower extremities . . . *Clarke.*

THE ATTACK:

Convulsions with consciousness, worse with anger, touch, emotion, moving . . . *Allen.*

Convulsions epileptiform with tetanic rigidity; opisthotonos, with intervals of relaxation, renewed by slightest touch . . . *Cowperthwaite*.

Convulsions with red face and closed eyes . . . *Clarke*.

Spasms in *Nux vomica* affect all voluntary muscles of the body and the involuntary muscles as well . . . *Clarke*.

Convulsions with falling backward . . . *Kent*.

Involuntary defecation and urination in fit . . . *Miscellaneous*.

Convulsive twitching of single muscles or of a single limb . . . *Lilienthal*.

Limbs go rigid and go to sleep; choreic, with numbness . . . *Hering*.

Epileptic, bending head backward . . . *Lilienthal*.

Limbs drawn up with a sudden jerk to body and then forcibly thrust out; whole body would be tossed to right side, then on back again; face, hands and limbs cold; pulse almost imperceptible; after every spasmodic toss of body, head would roll to one side without any power of cervical muscles to control it; lips and cheeks flabby; eyes expressionless; conscious of the spasms and felt his strength fast ebbing away . . . *Hering*.

AFTER THE ATTACK:

Deep sleep follows the attack . . . *Lilienthal*.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

If indigestion starts the trouble, *Nux Vomica* is the first remedy to be thought of especially if aura starts in epigastrium and spreads upward . . . *Farrington*.

During the spasms evident relief was afforded by forcible extension of the body . . . *Clarke*.

Has proved curative in epilepsy when the fit occurred during stool . . . *Clarke*.

Worse in open air . . . *Miscellaneous*.

Irritable, morose, sullen with oversensitiveness to impressions upon the senses; noise, smell, light and music and the most trifling symptoms are unbearable . . . *Lilienthal*.

Painful spot in the abdomen in region of solar plexus ; pressure on the spot renews attack . . . *Lilienthal*.

Sensation in muscles of limbs, back, scapular etc., as if something in them were drawn back and forth ; more spasmodic than painful . . . *Hering*.

Convulsions following abuse of alcohol ; preceded by constipation, Jaundice, etc. . . . *Lilienthal*.

Stupor, lower jaw dropped ; deep sleep . . . *Hering*.

Trembling of limbs, all over, nerves generally . . . *Hering*.

Twitching of muscles of face ; in evening on lying down ; spasmodic distortion . . . *Hering*.

Causticum

AURA:

Aura is from the solar plexus . . . *Kent*.

SYMPTOMS PRECEDING THE ATTACK:

Violent pressure from pit of stomach over whole chest, making breathing difficult ; is worse before the attack . . . *Hering*.

Head hot and sweaty before an attack . . . *Hering*.

Imbecility before an attack . . . *Lilienthal*.

THE ATTACK:

Convulsions with screams, gnashing of teeth, and violent movements of limbs ; with feverish heat and coldness of hands and feet ; in afternoon and at night ; hysterical . . . *Lilienthal*.

Runs for a while in a circle, to the right, then falls down unconscious . . . *Hering*.

Especially affecting the right side . . . *Clarke*.

Unconsciousness . . . *Hering*.

Clenching of the thumbs . . . *Hering*.

Convulsions with jerking ; spasms in inner parts . . . *Guernsey*.

Drawing of head toward one side ; frequent urging to urinate ; involuntary urination during fit . . . *Lilienthal*.

Epilepsy in sleep, with escape of urine . . . *Clarke*.

Very red face during attack ; nosebleed during attack . . . *Hering*.

Bites the tongue and froths at the mouth . . . *Hering*.

Rolling of eyes . . . *Hering*.

Violent spasmodic motion of arms and legs . . . *Hering*.

In epilepsy being indicated in spasmodic or convulsive diseases, especially in la petite mal. When walking in open air, patient falls but soon recovers. During the unconscious stage, passes urine . . . *Farrington*.

SYMPTOMS FOLLOWING THE ATTACK:

Headache after spasms with great weariness after an attack . . . *Hering*.

Attack followed by paralysis . . . *Lilienthal*.

Soporiferous condition after an attack . . . *Hering*.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Periodical epilepsy . . . *Hering*.

Epilepsy at puberty, from fright, being chilled or exposed to some great change in the weather . . . *Kent*.

Spasms after a fright . . . *Hering*.

After fright; during time of puberty; also worse during new moon; with involuntary micturition; with scanty menstruation and leucorrhoea; in scrofulous subjects; after suppression of eruptions; with softening of brain . . . *Lilienthal*.

Better by drinking cold water as soon as pressure in stomach commences . . . *Lilienthal*.

Epileptic attacks during puberty . . . *Cowperthwaite*.

Sweats easily on head . . . *Hering*.

Taste, bitter, sour . . . *Hering*.

Trembling of the head and limbs . . . *Hering*.

Fainty, qualmish feeling . . . *Hering*.

Peevish, irritable, censorious mood . . . *Hering*.

Calcarea Carbonica

AURA:

May be like a mouse running on the arm . . . *Lilienthal*.

Creeping on the limbs like a mouse . . . *Guernsey*.

May run down from epigastrium into uterus or limbs . . .

Clarke.

Spreading up from the solar plexus, in which case the convulsion comes on immediately . . . *Farrington.*

SYMPTOMS PRECEDING THE ATTACK:

Before the attack, sense of something running in arms, or from pit of stomach down through abdomen into feet; sudden attacks of vertigo, loss of consciousness without convulsions; pharyngeal spasms, followed by desire to swallow . . . *Lilienthal.*

Chewing motion with mouth before attack . . . *Hering.*

Epileptic convulsions, especially when preceded by vertigo and followed by hunger especially in children . . . *Hempel.*

THE ATTACK:

Loss of consciousness, with anxious oppression of the stomach from which she was suddenly awakened as by a violent fright . . . *Allen.*

Chill with red face, gazes fixedly before him, fingers jerk spasmodically, while both arms lie stretched at length; then wild laughter with fixed staring gaze and hard bounding pulse . . . *Hering.*

Pharynx spasmodically contracted . . . *Lilienthal.*

Swinging legs while seated aggravates epilepsy . . . *Raue.*

Contraction and later rigidity of flexors of right arm; fingers, hand, arm and leg of right side, cold and damp . . . *Hering.*

The memory appears to be enfeebled . . . *Dunham.*

Sense of confusion . . . *Hempel.*

Giddiness and loss of senses, as if turning in a circle . . . *Hull.*

Loss of consciousness, with illusion as regards place; it seems as if the room were a bower . . . *Allen.*

Attack of epilepsy: when standing and performing some manual labor, he suddenly fell to the floor over one side, without consciousness; when consciousness returned, he found himself lying upon the floor with extended arms . . . *Hempel.*

Epileptic convulsions, also at night with cries; during the full moon; with hallooing and shouting . . . *Clarke.*

Worse at night, during solstice and full moon ; with hallooing and shouting . . . *Lilienthal*.

SYMPTOMS AFTER THE ATTACK:

Headache, dizziness, sweat on head, great thirst, canine hunger and diarrhœa after the attack . . . *Raue*.

Vomiting after epileptic attacks . . . *Hering*.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Causes are fright, suppressed eruptions and discharges, sexual excesses . . . *Clarke*.

Causes are vexation, fright, onanism, protracted intermittent, suppression of chronic eruption . . . *Hering*.

Epilepsy when it is connected with menstrual irregularities, and also when it occurs at the age of puberty . . . *Farrington*.

Menses irregular—every five months . . . *Hering*.

Debilitated rachitic persons and . . . pregnant women who are supposed to suffer from a deficiency of lime . . . *Dunham*.

Scrofulous constitution; children rather bloated than solid . . . *Clarke*.

Useful in some nervous diseases in scrofulous subjects, especially epilepsy and especially if it results from the constitutional cachexia, or brought about by fright or suppression of some chronic eruption . . . *Cowperthwaite*.

In affecting the processes of assimilation, *Calcarrea* resembles in its effects upon the system, the three great disorders of nutrition: scrofula, tuberculosis and rachitis . . . *Cowperthwaite*.

Vertigo, especially when walking in the open air, aggravated by stooping, and most noticed in the early morning when rising or shortly after rising ; accompanied by nausea and a feeling as though one would fall unconscious . . . *Dunham*.

In the evening, when walking, she would have fallen to the floor, if one had not seized her . . . *Hempel*.

Dizziness of the head, early after rising, with nausea and roaring in the ear, and a sensation as if he would fall down senseless or with tremor . . . *Hull*.

Confusion of head in the morning on waking with trembling through the whole body . . . *Allen*.

Rush of blood to the head, a sensation of something rising up from epigastrium to head is very characteristic . . . *Clarke*.

Stupor, like unconsciousness of external objects, with warning tingling on the upper part of the head, as if it were too full . . . *Allen*.

Single involuntary motions and twitching in the right thigh, in the left shoulder and left arm . . . *Allen*.

Pupils dilated. Twitchings of upper lids . . . *Cowperthwaite*.

As soon as he sits idle and quiet, he becomes peevish and sleepy, and everything is disagreeable to him . . . *Hempel*.

Excessive ill-humor with irritability . . . *Clarke*.

Irritability and peevishness . . . *Dunham*.

Frequent attacks of irritability and anguish . . . *Hull*.

Stupid, peevish, in the intervals, appears to be lapsing into complete imbecility . . . *Lilienthal*.

Despairing, hopeless . . . *Kent*.

Melancholy, solitude is insupportable . . . *Clarke*.

Low spirited and melancholy, also with anxiety . . . *Hull*.

Impatience, excessive excitability . . . *Clarke*.

Much nervous excitement . . . *Dunham*.

Disposition to take alarm . . . *Clarke*.

Great anxiety and oppressions . . . *Kent*.

Frightened apprehensive mood, as of some future misfortune or impending evil . . . *Cowperthwaite*.

Anxious about getting well during the intervals . . . *Hering*.

Anxiety in the evening, or at twilight, with horror and shuddering . . . *Hull*.

Child cross and fretful . . . *Kent*.

Trembling, twitching, internal trembling sensation on awaking . . . *Clarke*.

Twitching of the external muscles of the nose, in the muscles of the face and muscles of the lower extremities and around the pelvis . . . *Hull*.

Vertigo, on suddenly turning the head, and also when at rest . . . *Allen*.

Restlessness and palpitations . . . *Kent.*

Frequent palpitation of the heart . . . *Hull.*

Great physical depression, hands and feet are often cold with paleness of the face . . . *Hull.*

Weariness of the limbs . . . *Cowperthwaite.*

Profuse perspiration, mostly on the back part of the head and on the neck in the evening . . . *Clarke.*

Intellect dull; unable to progress in her studies . . . *Lilienthal.*

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