

## NEURALGIA—A MERCURY CASE

BY DR. GOULLON, OF WEIMAR

FOR almost a week Mrs. E. has been suffering of a suddenly appearing very violent neuralgia, against which all the remedies used so far have proved without effect.

The point from which the pains radiate is the left shoulder blade, and from this the pain extends in the arm down into the finger-tips. In the right shoulder, whence it extends down into the right thigh, the pain is considerably less.

The pain is worse at night, so that she cannot sleep at all, but only moans continually.

This has so much reduced her strength that she cannot any more stand on her feet. The pain is so severe that she thinks it will drive her crazy.

Their domestic physician has prescribed a liniment to deaden the pains, and for internal use, phenacetin. All without effect. Sprinkling with sulphuric ether also failed to give relief.

The patient has always been very excitable, but all these nervous excitations were unattended with pains.

Before the pains set in she had a severe catarrh, so that she took it for an attack of influenza. But this ailment had quite disappeared. She perspires easily and profusely, and it is possible that she had taken a cold while thus in perspiration.

She is not inclined to constipation, but rather inclines to the opposite diathesis.

*Bryonia*, *Arsenicum*, *Rhus* and *China* were without effect. One evening when the pains appeared with particular violence, Mrs. E. urged her husband that he should give her a remedy from his homœopathic pocket-case. His choice was *Mercurius solub. in trituration*. After the

patient had taken the medicine three or four times, she felt in the morning a decrease in the pains. The remedy was continued, and after two days the pains were reduced to a minimum, and have not since returned, excepting a certain formication, pricking and pinching in the parts affected, and a slight stiffness and numbness in the left hand.

The husband concludes correctly: "I cannot see otherwise than that the happy choice of a remedy caused the prompt cure of the attack."

Now what symptoms quite distinctly pointed to *Mercurius*?

1. The nocturnal aggravation, so that "she could not sleep at all". In this respect this violent neuralgia reminds us of the *Mercury* toothache, which also sometimes is so violent as to drive a person frantic.

2. *Mercury* is an excellent remedy in rheumatism (taking cold).

3. The excitable temperament of the patient (mercurial erethism).

4. The tendency to soft stools.

5. The tendency to violent perspiration.

We might also enumerate the preceding catarrh resembling influenza. We often hear nowadays of queer freaks of influenza and its apparent after-effects. Sometimes it affects the stomach, sometimes the nervous system leading to neuralgias of the abovementioned kind, sometimes the auditory organs, etc.

The homœopathic manuals enumerate the following characteristics of *Mercurius*:

"Rheumatic and gouty pains, with drawing and tearing in the limbs and joints, especially at night. Fatty, sour, ill-smelling perspiration, Jahr emphasizes the one-sidedness of *Mercurial* pains, restlessness and twitching of

the limbs, twitching, tearing (but occasionally also numbness and lack of sensibility, tendency of the limbs to go to sleep), great exhaustion and debility, with indescribable discomfort of soul and body, and finally: *Aggravation of the troubles, especially in the evening and at night, in the warmth of the bed, when they become unbearable.*"

—*Heal Thyself, January, 1947.*

*Just Out!*

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## THERAPEUTIC HINTS

OF

DR W. YOUNAN, M.B. C.M. (EDIN.)

By Dr. K. D. GOSWAMI,

*3rd Revised Edition, Price Rs. 3/4.*

HAHNEMANN PUBLISHING CO., 165, Bowbazar St., Calcutta 12.

Printed & Published by—Prafulla Chandra Bhar.

Published from Hahnemann Publishing Co., 165, Bowbazar St., Calcutta 12.

Printed at the Calcutta Printing Co., Ltd.,

98/4, Surendranath Banerjee Road, Calcutta.