

THE RELATION OF HOMŒOPATHY TO SURGERY

I. L. MOYER, M.D., COLUMBIA, PA.

For years I have been observing the effect of the homœopathic remedies on the surgical patients. In this paper I am making an effort to present this matter.

ARNICA MONTANA

Arnica is a treasure indeed. Let us not despise the herbal lore of the countryside. It does well in all injured muscles, bruises, contusions, extravasations of blood, strains of muscles and over-exertion.

Give a dose or two of arnica first for the shock of the accident. Follow it by ruta after the shock has subsided, and repeat the latter when the pain recurs in the torn tendons or bruised periosteum.

Sore, lame, bruised feeling all through the body, as if beaten. Everything on which he lies seems too hard. It removes the pernicious consequences.

The following valuable symptoms will respond to this remedy:

Confinement; its after effects.

Severe muscular crushing. Stops pain quickly, such as the injury of a clothes wringer.

House maid's knees.

Ganglion of wrist; other ganglion formation.

If backache comes on after a fall, injury or concussion, take arnica hourly until improvement sets in. Use arnica at once locally and internally.

Hemorrhages.

Typhoid ulcer before surgery.

Septicemia—sensitiveness of the affected part; black and blue spots, swelling, excessive sweats, steeple-chase temperature—before surgery. Sepsis due to bruises. Boils, carbuncles, one after another, extremely sore. Prevents suppuration and septicemia and promotes absorption.

RUTA

The common garden rue acts on torn and wrenched tendons, split ligaments of joints, bruised periosteum, synovitis inflammation of ligaments, knee joints, wrist joints; bruises and kicks on shins. Football and hockey players need rue to clear up conditions without any after effects. Partial detached tendons from bone will recover more rapidly with its aid than if left alone. Give a dose or two of arnica for the shock of the accident, followed by rue. Repeat ruta if symptoms recur. House maids knee, twisted elbow, ganglion of wrist respond well to ruta in potency. Do not neglect benzoic acid in these bursae. This bursitis is quite a modern thing now, and remedies vie well with surgery. It is a great help to the surgeon. Results show no adhesions. Prolonged recovery in Collis or Potts fracture will be hastened by ruta. Prolapsis of rectum after confinement. It follows arnica well and symphitum. Also aids bone healing. All parts patients lies on, even in bed, are painful as if bruised.

LEDUM PALUSTRE (WILD ROSEMARY)

Internally, ledum antidotes the effect of whiskey. This is another remedy for such accidents as stabs, puncture wounds, from sharp pointed instruments such as awls, rusty nails, bites from animals—dogs, horses, cats and rats—insect stings, septic wounds, whitlows caused by needle pricks, splinters under finger nail. This is a remedy totally unknown to the general run of doctors and the orthodox pharmacists, although it has proved clinically to be invaluable for such injuries. It takes the shooting and pricking out of these wounds, more especially where the patient prefers the cold dressing instead of hot fomentation.

It prevents sepsis in the majority of these injuries if given early enough. It even prevents tetanus—yes, without giving anti-tetanus serum! This is according to W^r. Dorothy Shepherd.

Ledum may be given half hourly, two hourly or four hourly as required according to the severity of the injury; repeat whenever the pain returns. Excellent in blood extravasations and hæmatomas where arnica is not sufficient. Nail tramps and rusty wire cuts, where injured areas are cold and the patient desires cold application. Extravasation of blood about eyes into interior chambers of the eye after iridectomy. In people who are cold and chilly all the time, they feel cold and chilly. The wounded parts especially are cold to the touch. Long remaining discoloration after injuries. Black and blue places become green.

Compare arnica, crot. h., to hamamelis, bellis, ruta. In traumatism conium in long-lasting effects of injuries. Stings of bees, wasps and mosquitoes. Modalities better from putting feet in cold water; worse from heat of bed at night. Boericke recommends 30X; Nash 200X; Hahnemann 15X.

HYPERICUM PERFORATUM

Hypericum perforatum was introduced into homœopathy in 1837. Remember it for lacerations, crushed fingers and toes, injured nerves, compound fractures, bad effects of falls on coccyx, however long ago, and falls on the spine anywhere. Spinal concussions. Preserves the integrity of torn and lacerated members when almost entirely separated from the body. (Allen)

It may prevent lock jaw—tetanus: injury to parts rich to sentient nerves where the intolerable pain shows nerves are severely involved. Nervous depressions following wounds or surgical operation. Removes bad effects of shock. Arrests ulceration. Headache after falling upon the occiput. Convulsions after blows on head or concussion. Nerve pains in stump after amputation. I can vouch that this symptom responds to treatment. I am indebted for many of these symptoms to C. H. Allen and D. Shepherd.

Memory is defective; can hardly arrange ideas. Cannot execute her intentions; forgets what she wanted to do. Forgets peoples' names, omits letters in writing. *This is a remedy worth looking into.*

SYMPHYTIUM OFFICINALE—COMFREY

Let me introduce to you a friend that will last your life time.

1. Acts both on periosteum and bones themselves.
2. Hastens formation of callus so important for the repair of bone; accelerates bony union, in malunion.
3. Bruised periosteum and fractured bones.

HEPAR SULPHUR

Slightest injury causes suppuration. Where suppuration seems inevitable; hepar may open the abscess and hasten the cure.

Higher potencies may abort. Hepar patient is hypersensitive, physically and mentally.

Sensitive to cold air, touch; fissures of lower lip in middle of lip.

This surely puts something between the patient and scalpel, that may avoid the surgery.

CALENDULA OFFICINALLIS—A VULNERARY

Locally gauze moistened with calendula (dilution 1-10) for traumatic cuts; injuries in general. Rusty wire cuts, use calendula cerate at edges of burns, lotion on septic areas.

Foreign bodies in eye, use 1-25 of Calendulas washing eye in eye bath, with cerute on edges of eye lids.

Foreign bodies in ear. Calendulæ ointment has no end of local uses. Minor surgical dressings. Incidentally, do not forget potentized doses for poisons, such as phosphorous, arsenic, rhus tox.

BERBERIS VULGARIS

The renal symptoms predominate. Pain in small of back; very sensitive to touch in renal region; worse when sitting and lying, from jar, from fatigue. Burning and soreness in region of kidney. Numbness, stiffness, soreness, with pain in renal and lumbar regions.

Pale earthy complexion with sunken cheeks and hollow, blue circled eyes.

Stitching, cutting pain from left kidney following course of ureter into bladder.

Renal colic; worse on left side.

Bubbling sensation of kidney.

Movements increase urinary complaints.

I. This has a great influence on renal calculi; therefore greatly aids in removal of calculi. My proposition of complete aid in removal of calculi is seventy-five per cent calculi of the left ureter just before entering into the bladder. Facts were demonstrated by x-ray. The other twenty-five per cent has also shown satisfactory treatment at the hands of this remedy, berberis vulgaris. This was a diffuse calcareous condition of both kidneys. It has shown arrest of progress. The patient has experienced comfort, needed no sedative.

II. Dr. Allen gives 1262 symptoms in his work.

III. Dr. Hering recommends it for biliary and urinary tracts.

If biliary effects are one half as effective as renal, no surgeon can afford to forget this remedy. I must say I had good effects with berberis vulgaris in biliary colic and gall bladder disturbances. I am not conscious of removing biliary calculi as I have of renal calculi.

ANTIMONIUM CRUDE

Antimonium crude: if indicated with such symptoms. Heavy coated white tongue, rales in lungs, corns of feet, callus of soles of feet, callus of palms of hands. Fissures of hands in cold weather. Fissures of corners of mouth,

eyes, anal fissures, horny formations under finger nails and toe nails.

The administration of 3X will reduce blood sugar. I have had patients get free of high blood sugar that ranged from normal to as high as 395 milligrams per 100 c.c. of blood. They got well and stayed that way. It is very effective, and I have had a number of patients with good results. I would use insulin in extreme emergencies.

ECHIMACEA AUGUSTIFLORIA

Echimacea augustiflora in blood sugar where patient has an infection such as can be controlled by penicillin. This remedy has a very favorable effect on the blood sugar, raising it if it be low, and lowering it if it be high. It will normalize the blood sugar, high or low. One can expect a change for the better in six weeks to the tune of 40 milligrams to 100 c.c. of blood.

PULSATILLA

Pulsatilla in high blood sugar. It will not let you down. This year I had a patient that had 295 blood sugar, and she was normal in 60 days and remained so since. Her first call was on January 9, 1952. She had a large number of pulsatilla symptoms and was a sick human. This is sure a short time to get a patient sugar free. It is nice not to have any hypodermic medication. It, of course, is good if you have to fall back on it.

GELSEMIUM

I have had good results in high blood sugar with gelsemium relying on the homœopathic principle.

High blood sugars seem to be about as easy to handle with this indicated homœopathic remedy as influenza or this winter's Virus X was.

The homœopathic literature is full of remedies that fit your case, whatever it be.

—*Journal of the A.I.H.*, Dec., 1952.