

SOME COMPLICATIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DR. DOROTHY SHEPHERD

Infectious diseases are accountable for a large amount of illness among children and even adults; unfortunately most cases of infectious diseases are segregated in fever hospitals by the local municipal authorities and the homoeopathic general practitioner gets very little opportunity of trying out what his little pills can do *unless* he ignores the law and by not notifying the respective infectious disease, and keeping the case at home, and if he has the necessary knowledge and the courage of his convictions, he will cure the child in a minimum of time and without having any of the nasty sequelae which follow on so frequently after orthodox treatment. I have proved the truth of this statement again and again in the past; now I do not often see the cases in the acute stages, I only see the aftereffects. How often does one not hear this: the child has never been well since an attack of scarlet fever or diphtheria.

Post-measles or post-scarlatinal debility, heart trouble or debility is common, and the usual treatment is, change of air, convalescence which has to be paid for by local charitable societies; or if the debility is not so serious, a course of iron treatment or some similar 'tonic' is advised.

I saw such a child sometime ago, on January 28th, 1937; she was then twelve years old, a thin, pallid child, brought to me for a cough—a deep dry cough which came mainly from the stomach. She was always tired, always lazy, did not want to do anything, did not want to go out, did not want to play even. Had heart trouble after scarlet fever in May 1935, and not been the same since. On examination the heart was found to be somewhat dilated, the second sound in the mitral area was accentuated, she was white and pallid though her lips were red.

Her weight was 5 st. 8 lb. 12 oz. She was given Sulphur 30 on her tiredness and her general appearance, and told to rest in bed.

On February 11th, 1937; report was: still very tired, changeable, complains of tiredness on walking fast, and the mother again emphasized the fact that she had never been well since the attack of scarlet fever. Thuja 30.

February 18th. Better this week, not so tired, worries about going back to school. Weight 5 st. 10 lb. 12 oz.—a gain of 2 lb.

March 4th. Less tired, eating better. To be excluded from school for another few weeks. Thuja 30.

March 18th. Better, eating better; to continue resting—does not complain now about walking too fast.

Weight 5 st. 13 lb. 8 oz.—a gain of nearly 5 lb. in six weeks. This was due to rest and the correctly indicated medicine which improved the meta-

bolism. There was no change made in her diet. Poor people cannot afford extra milk and eggs for the children.

April 8th, 1937. Better, more like her old self, no shortness of breath now, much better colour, heart not dilated, sounds normal. To return to school. Weight 6 st. Thuja 30.

I did not see her again until thirteen months later, on May 12th, 1938, when she was brought for a cough after swimming. Her first period came on in December 1937, and lasted one week, no periods since. Puls. 30 t.d.s.

May 19th, 1938. Better. Weight 6 st. 10 lb.; gained 10 lb. since April 8th, 1937, and over 15 lb. since January 28th, 1937, that is in not quite sixteen months. Sulph. 30.

July 19th, 1938. The mother stopped me in the street to tell me how well the child was, and that her periods were now regular.

September 15th, 1938. Brought for a sore throat. Ulcers on both tonsils, better for hot drinks; sore throat started on right side and went over to the left side, pain worse empty swallowing—heart well, has been in bed for two days. Lycopodium 30.

September 22nd, 1938. Cold gone, throat cleared up in twenty-four hours after the medicine, feels well in herself.

Weight 7 st. 4 lb. 8 oz., a gain of 1 st. 9½ lb. from the end of January 1937, to the end of September 1938, that is in one year and eight months. A very excellent record, when you take into consideration that the child lived in a working class neighbourhood of London, that she did not have a change of air during the whole of this time, and that her diet was the ordinary diet of a working class home. And the two years previously she had been ailing, never felt well, had not been eating, had not got on in school.

The only alteration that had been made was her having some homoeopathic medicines, a few doses of Sulphur and Thuja.

Was this just accidental? The mother knew better, she gave the praise to the treatment received, "the wonderful pills she had been having", as she called it. A much cheaper way than sending a child away for weeks to a convalescent home. What a lot of public money could be saved, if only doctors would get to know about Homocopathy and would take trouble to apply it and not scorn it.

Now, another case of complication after measles in December 1935, followed by a discharging ear, for a whole month. First seen on January 23rd, 1936. Perforated right ear, very spoilt, faddy child, does not like fat, cries all the time, wants a lot of fuss made of him. Pulsatilla 30 was given on the general indications. The ear cleared up within two weeks after the Pulsatilla.

On June 24th, 1937, he was seen again for "rough spots underneath the skin of his face." Right ear was dry and there was scarring over the perforation of the drum, pigmented 'spider naevus' underneath right eye. Thuja 30. No local treatment for spots which disappeared in a few days.

July 11th, 1938. Came this time for severe haemorrhage after dental extraction and ulcerative stomatitis. The mouth was extremely offensive and inflamed, the sockets of the teeth were inflamed, tongue coated, the breath foul. Temperature 99.8°—the right drum was sound, and the naevus noticed thirteen months ago on his face had disappeared—without local treatment.

He was given Mercurius 30 night and morning for three days.

Seen two days later, the mouth was sweet and clean, the ulcers had disappeared and there was no inflammation of the gums. No mouth-wash was given, no local treatment was ordered. Homoeopathy works rapidly, provided you get the correct remedies.

I was interested also in this last case, to make the observation that the naevus on the child's right cheek disappeared after the Thuja.

A naevus is said to be due to delayed vaccinal poisoning, which may appear in children of over-vaccinated parents; whether this is so or not, the fact remains that Thuja in this instance removed the naevus. And Thuja is the generally recognized antidote for vaccinosis. I do not know how long Thuja took to cure the naevus. I did not see the child often enough to watch it carefully, but in a little over a year it had completely gone. And the foul discharge from the ear which came on after measles dried up in a week or two after Pulsatilla, the remedy indicated by the characteristics of the little boy. I have known these cases of purulent ear discharge after measles go on for years and years, and they could be stopped, if taken in hand early, and much unnecessary suffering could be saved.

Diphtheria is another disease which leads to subsequent ill-health; whether this is due to the treatment received in the hospitals or due to the toxins remaining in the blood-stream, is a moot question, and more than probably this disease, if treated homoeopathically, would not lead to heart disease and paralysis. Nervous disabilities are often left behind after diphtheria. I remember a young woman who had a short, sharp attack of diphtheria for which she received the orthodox treatment in the fever hospital—that is diphtheria antitoxin injections. It cured the diphtheria, but she never felt well afterwards. She used to be in the best of health before, except she was inclined to be afflicted with a slight inferiority complex. Her brothers and sisters were so much cleverer than she was; she was the dunce of the family, she considered. This feeling of inferiority grew and grew after her discharge from the fever hospital. She developed almost immediately severe brachial neuritis of the left arm. She lost weight, became white and pale, and full of nervous fears and obsessions. She was terrified of doctors, she got into frightful states of agitation, before going to hospital or going to her panel doctor, her hands used to shake and tremble. She could not open her mouth to speak, her tongue clove to her palate with fright, she perspired all over with sheer funk and scare. No doctor could get anything out of her. She was sent into a nerve hospital, but she could not stand the sight of the

other patients, they made her only worse. Her agitation became worse, and her eyes were staring and looked wild, and her husband and parents could do nothing with her. Strangers agitated her, she even threatened to commit suicide, as she was a disgrace to her family and a drag on her husband.

When I saw her she was a pitiful nervous wreck. She was now thirty-three years of age and had not been well for eleven years, when she had this attack of diphtheria; she was very definite about this history of ill-health since diphtheria. Always septic fingers and septic throats for the last eleven years—nature's attempt at getting rid of the antitoxin poison which had been injected into the blood-stream. Pains in the neck and chest, feeling of tightness round the chest, severe rheumatic pains in the legs and feet, and then this agonizing neuritis in the left arm, the great depression, and always weeping, feels hopeless, does not like gloomy weather, timid and shy and weeping, and feels better for sympathy.

It took me a very long time to get anything out of her; she was in such a state of fear and agitation. I prescribed Pulsatilla 6, three times daily, and asked her to come back in a month.

Seen again on November 29th, 1937, she still feels very depressed, feels she is never going to get better, afraid to speak still, has had some days during the last month when she felt she was going to improve.

Has been vaccinated twice, did not take the second time. She was not quite so terror-stricken this time, got her words out with rather an effort and long pauses in between. Told me she had been attending three different hospitals, gone from place to place and nobody seemed to understand her. Everything was put down to nerves and she was told to pull herself together. She pathetically remarked, she had tried so hard and could not manage it somehow. She wished somebody would tell her how.

As an antidote against repeated vaccinations she was given Thuja 30, to be followed by Phosphorus 30 for her various fears. She was afraid of being attacked by consumption, afraid of storms, and liked to be made a fuss of.

Seen January 6th, 1938. Complains of tightness of chest, does not feel nearly so depressed or weepy, has more rheumatism, intercostal muscles thickened, also thickening of left sterno-mastoid. Thuja 30.

February 19th, 1938. Much better. Weight is 8 st: 4 lb., a gain of 6 lb. since her first visit on October 30th, 1937. She had been put on a fattening diet, more milk, one egg daily, more butter, more sugar such as barley sugar, and brown demarara sugar. And she had responded well.

Indigestion much better, depression much improved, feeling of weight and of iron band round chest gone. Sleeping well, has no troublesome dreams now. Still shakes and trembles on coming here, and complains of lack of confidence. Feels the cold very much. Continue Thuja.

May 10th, 1938. More like herself in every way. Not so many fears, not afraid of dark, of being alone, or of thunderstorms now, not afraid of

"developing consumption" any more. Used to have sick feeling in the streets, fear of falling down, all has gone. Thuja 1M.

July 11th, 1938. Weight 8 st. 5 lb. No fears, much steadier here, talks freely now, eyes steady, do not look so wild or staring. Pain in the left arm and neck much about the same. I told her that these pains would be the last to go; the greatest improvement being in her mind, the physical symptoms would go too in due course.

September 7th, 1938. Weight 8 st. 6 lb., looks well and feels well. Has had a holiday at the seaside, and everybody remarked how different her behaviour was. She could mix freely with strangers now, could enjoy a joke, she walked for miles without getting tired. She is just her normal self—happy, contented and serene. Her husband is so delighted that she has been saved from the asylum. They were all afraid she was going insane, as she was so peculiar.

Has had some indigestion while she was on holiday. She cannot digest fat or cream. Ordered Pulsatilla 1000.

This lady suffered from fears following after anti-diphtheria serum injections, and poisoning from repeated vaccinations.

Once these animal toxins were antidoted her metabolism improved, she was able to throw off her nervous fears and tremors, and became normal once more.

Where would she have ended otherwise? She contemplated suicide even. What Homœopathy saved her from? And yet the majority of the medical profession persist in saying that diphtheria antitoxin does no harm, that vaccination with calf lymph is necessary and leaves no trace in the human body.

Again and again one finds that mysterious illnesses clear up, if the homœopathic antidotes for vaccination and the modern curse, the immunizing sera and antitoxin treatment are applied.

—*Heal Thyself*, Vol. LXXIII, No. 875