

Homœopathic Recorder

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

G. W. McCoy, director of the Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., in *J. A. M. A.* for August 9, 1919, discusses the status of prophylactic vaccination against influenza and then draws the following conclusion:

CONCLUSION.

"The general impression gained from uncontrolled use of vaccines is that they are of value in the prevention of influenza: but, in every case in which vaccines have been tried under perfectly controlled conditions, they have failed to influence in a definite manner either the morbidity or the mortality."

Righto! As the experience of thousands of physicians in the great war-time epidemic has shown. After all is said and done, we must fall back upon the good old law of similars, or, as our excitable Bostonese friend, Krauss, would say, the law of symptom similarity. Whichever way you take it, or whichever definition you choose, the fact remains that straight old-fashioned homeopathy gives the best results.

In an epidemic, a small group of remedies quickly stands out as most often indicated and of this group, one remedy usually proves itself to be the *genus epidemicus* or epidemic remedy. In influenza this has usually been *Gelsemium*, although not invariably, and *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, *Bryonia* and *Rhus tox.* have loudly voiced their claims to recognition.

It is an undoubted fact that patients accustomed to good homeopathic prescribing, have been more resistant to the infection

of influenza, or for that matter, to the infection of any other disease. When such patients do become ill the illness is likely to be less severe and more quickly and easily overcome. For this reason homœopathic physicians are often charged with having the easy cases, when in reality they prevent them from becoming difficult. This is at the same time an advantage, as well as a disadvantage of homœopathy, for to the uninitiated it appears so ridiculously simple that to their minds there can be nothing in it. Rarely is the *croix de guerre* pinned upon the homœopath's manly (or womanly) bosom. The patient would have gotten well anyway, say the knowing ones, kind friends and interested neighbors. And after all, the patient could not have been very sick, for the little pill doctor came but once a day.

But how different the picture of him of the regular persuasion and Van Dyke beard. How serious and austere his manner! What marvels of skill are circulating in and out of the deeply carved convolutions of his over-developed allopathic brain! Witness the wonderful paraphernalia spread out upon the sick room table, instantly at the command of doctor and nurse. See how deftly friend nurse assists in the injection of the polyvalent, yclept shotgun vaccine. Note the serious-visaged family standing awe-inspired at the threshold, with eyes glued upon friend Van Dyke, lord and master of all he surveys. What fulsome praise is his if, after a stormy passage between the shoals of illness and the jagged rocks of therapeutics, our patient finally emerges into the calmer waters of tedious convalescence. Or if perchance the sick one slips into the sands of eternity, see how the *Booneville Weekly Bulletin*, in lamenting the death of one of the town's leading citizens, states with all solemnity "that all that science could do had been done!" And everyone is satisfied, and Dr. Van Dyke takes a well earned vacation at Atlantic City, where the Marlborough-Blenheim becomes his home.

The Power of Resistance depends entirely upon the health of the individual. The more healthy the individual the more immune he will be to disease infection, or, if attacked, he is at least less likely to develop the disease seriously.

After all, disease is a departure from the physiological normal.

When physiological functioning goes wrong, disease may be said to be present. What is then functionally wrong is soon likely to become organically wrong. The latter means tissues change; tissue change is a departure from the normal histology, and so becomes known as pathology. The latter, long-continued, eventuates in end-products which are no longer microscopic, but gross and usually beyond cure.

The time to prevent disease is before it occurs and often, so far as chronic disease is concerned, should begin before the child is born or even conceived. In other words, future generations must be provided for by paying attention to the present. Homœopathy, being a law of Nature and working in harmony with her, raises resistance by gradually restoring the physiological balance, in other words, by bringing about a state of health. Real homœopathy does not suppress, change or distort disease manifestations. The cure is never worse than the disease!

Homœopathy may often appear to fail; but if the apparent failure be investigated it will be found that the law of similars has been wrongly applied or that its tools, the materia medica, have not been understood. A poor workman may bungle a job with even the very best of tools, and usually excuses his failure by cursing the tools. So with homœopathy, its tools are often cursed and cast aside when the blame should fall upon the ignorance of the physician who essays to use them. Failures should teach us more than our successes; but let us be fair and place the blame where it properly belongs.

The homœopathic treatment of such bacterial diseases as influenza, pneumonia, typhoid fever, erysipelas, etc., amply proves that bacteria need have no terrors for him who understands the art of homœopathic prescribing. Such a prescriber raises the resistance of his patient to bacterial attacks, increases the phagocytic power of the leucocytes; or, in plain language, enables the sufferers to *throw off* the disease. A hint of this truth is embodied in an excellent editorial, "Diet in Relation to the Teeth," contained in our big medical brother of the other side of the house, *J. A. M. A.*, for August 9th, in which it is stated that "The importance which the so-called focal infections have lately assumed as sources of disease has brought new prominence to the

relation of the teeth to such infections. Indeed, pyorrhea alveolaris has tended to overshadow the far more widespread defects of carious teeth in which the conspicuous damage penetrates rather than surrounds these structures. If further evidence of the almost universal incidence of dental caries were needed, the records of the systematic examination of pupils in the public schools would testify to the degree of prevalence of teeth defects. The underlying causes are still unknown. They have usually been sought in local bacteriologic conditions within the mouth, if one may conclude from the emphasis that dentists place on oral hygiene. *They seem not to realize that the presence of bacteria in itself never causes disease; we have millions of bacteria in our intestine and still thrive. What harm do the micro-organisms do in the mouth?*

"Evidently much depends on our powers of resistance. Disease of many sorts is the outcome of the presence of micro-organisms along with the lack of resistance or immunity factors."

The italics are ours and are employed for the sole purpose of emphasizing the hopeful indication, that light and truth are penetrating the Egyptian darkness of O. S. sanctity and befuddlement. At least something has been learned from the poor little homœopath and his still littler pills!

Results of Preventive Vaccination Against Influenza.—In the *Public Health Journal*, Troonto, for July, is an article by A. B. Wadsworth, concerning influenza prophylaxis. "Summing up the results of this study as to the practical value of vaccines in influenza, it is evident that the vaccines that have hitherto been used have failed to give reliable protection against influenza or influenzal pneumonia." Thus runs the abstract of Wadsworth's article, contained in *J. A. M. A.* for August 2nd.

In the Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital in Boston, a most carefully prepared vaccine by Watters, was given to fifteen nurses as yet unexposed, but about to take over the work of nursing influenza patients during the great epidemic. Of the fifteen nurses, eleven contracted the disease. So much for the prophylactic value of vaccines in influenza. Another illustration of the futility of getting away from the law of similars in

the matter of the establishment of immunity! Sooner or later this law will have to be reckoned with in the real solution of the problems of immunity and prophylaxis. Verbum sap!

A Mulish Experience.—As any farmer will tell you a team of good mules is a possession to be highly prized, and no one who owns such a team wants anything to happen to it. A few weeks ago a big 16 hand high jenny down on the farm became infected with the tetanus bacillus, probably through a small scratch above the fetlock. After the usual period of incubation she showed symptoms of dulness, hebetude, disinclination to move around and a certain characteristic stiff awkwardness of the hind legs, when compelled to turn around. She slobbered at the mouth, the tail was extended stiffly in paroxysms and the eyes looked dull, with injected *membrana nictitans*.

This condition continued to grow slowly worse for three days when the tentative diagnosis of tetanus was confirmed by a veterinary surgeon who had seen and treated many cases while in government service. Tetanus antitoxin was at once ordered to be injected into the loose tissue of the neck. This was done in doses of 5000 units at a time, until over 15000 units had been given. No apparent result followed, although the animal's condition seemed to remain stationary. Tetanus antitoxin is regarded as of greater prophylactic than curative value. However, observing no change we now gave *Hydrocyanic acid* 6th centesimal potency, three times a day, in a little feed. Improvement commenced within three days and continued slowly yet steadily. Later the 200th of this remedy was given, a single dose each day for a week. Still later a single dose of the 45m. finished the cure. The mule is now well, right handy with her heels though not yet put to heavy work.

Hydrocyanic acid was chosen in preference to *Nux vomica* or *Strychnia*, because no trismus was in evidence, the disease showing itself first in the hindquarters through paralytic manifestations. The over-sensitiveness to external impressions, such as noise, light or air movements, found in *Nux vomica* was lacking entirely.

Palpitation of the Heart.—Palpitation may be a symptom of one of several conditions, not always truly cardiac in nature. Upon the recognition of the cause or character of the condition will depend to a large extent the choice of a remedy.

The repertory furnishes us many remedies useful in the treatment of this distressing symptom and the classical remedies are no doubt well known to all. In neurotic patients, where no actual cardiac lesion is to be found, especially in the state known as paroxysmal tachycardia, where the pulse runs up to 140 or more, *Iberis* is an excellent remedy and should not be forgotten. Its pathogenesis will repay study. When palpitation occurs from the slightest mental emotion, *Calcarea arsenicosa* should be recalled and likewise *Lithium carbonicum*. In females of the *Pulsatilla* type, the latter medicine is, of course, needful. Others will often need *Natrum mur.*, which remedy has many important symptoms referred to the heart. Palpitation aggravated by lying on the left side is found in both these remedies, and, of course, in our old friend *Phosphorus* as well.

Palpitation after drinking coffee is likely to require *Nuxvomica*. Of course, the use of coffee should then be stopped—for there's a reason, with Postum lurking around the corner! Palpitation after drinking, brand not specified, is said to require *Conium*, but that was no doubt back in the good old days before the Loganberry high-ball had been thrust upon an unsuspecting public. Perhaps Socrates had advance information concerning the momentous date, July 1, 1919, and for this reason so cheerfully shuffled off his mortal coil by gleefully swallowing a poculum full of *Conium*. Still, the Guiding Symptoms tell us that "wine and spirits often improve the sick who require *Conium*, though it suits persons who cannot take alcoholic stimulants." So after all, "Yer pays yer money and yer takes yer choice!"

Palpitation when listening to music seems to require chiefly *Ambra* and *Staphysagria*; but we have known some music to cause such an ebullition of profanity, which even the richly endowed homœopathic materia medica could hardly be expected to control. Palpitation seems a mild form of protest by comparison.

"Tarantism" is a dancing mania, set up in persons bitten by the *Tarantula*, or in those who imagine themselves bitten. The cure

is music and dancing. Thus states John F. Clarke, M. D., and cites cases in illustration. No doubt the modern *jazz* is a tertiary manifestation of tarantism; in any case it would appear to be an hysterical relation of midsummer vacation madness. *Tarentula* is useful in hysterical palpitation, relieved by music.

Palpitation on waking suggests *Lachesis*, of course, but also *Naja* and *Phosphorus*.

Palpitation which is relieved by walking rapidly calls for *Argentum nit.* or *Sepia*; but when better by walking slowly *Ferrum* or *Pulsatilla* will be required.

Palpitation from unrequited affections will need *Cactus*, *Ign.*, *NATRUM MUR.* and *Phosphoric acid*. Perhaps a successful breach of promise suit might also relieve, particularly when a sympathetic jury grants large damages to the fair plaintiff.

Cactus has the sensation "as though grasped by a strong hand" or "bound by an iron band." No doubt the fair one misses this sensation when the ardor of her swain has undergone refrigeration; hence the possibility of the usefulness of the similimum, *Cactus*, here.

Ignatia weeps and sobs softly to herself, with ever present lump and choking sensation in the throat. Like fair Ophelia, she wanders about disconsolately and distracted. *Natrum muriaticum* is the chronic of *Ignatia*, a sort of long, drawn-out *Ignatia* sadness, but combines this with the spirit of touch-me-not. No loving arms are here desired, no youthful swain is then admired; but like threatening clouds in darkening sky, quite every minute she could cry. Sadness and irritability in the *Natrum mur.* woman are aggravated before the menses. Thirst and an abnormal desire for salt or salty foods is commonly present.

Phosphoric acid suits the sad, hungry looking hectic youth whose inamorata has rudely bid him go. Sadness and grief from disappointed love; loss of appetite, emaciation, debility, sweat during sleep toward morning, are all accompaniments, particularly when our youthful swain has grown too rapidly and too tall.

The palpitation of sudden fright or fear will need, of course, *Aconite*.

Hospital Service.—Many of our hospitals are constantly under

the necessity of appealing for funds from the public at large to meet the monthly deficits from which they suffer. In order to even partly meet their expenses they are obliged to set aside private rooms or pavilions, usually at fancy prices beyond the ability of the average patient to pay. Indeed the maintenance of most hospitals is a constant struggle to keep the wolf from the door. Municipal or city hospitals are, to be sure, in a different position, but are not, as a rule, sufficiently numerous or large to take care of the needful cases.

To-day especially, with the high cost of living mounting by leaps and bounds, it is almost an impossibility for the patient in moderate circumstances to obtain hospital treatment and care, and thus a great hardship is imposed upon this class of patients. It has been truly said that the very rich and the very poor have access to the best hospitals and treatment. For reasons obvious this is in great measure true. The very rich can pay for what they need and get; the very poor have no compunction about accepting what they can neither get nor pay for. The middle class, on the other hand, cannot secure the benefits open to the rich, and are naturally too sensitive or proud to accept mere charity.

How differently our Cuban friends manage these matters in Havana, where, for example, among others is a magnificent and fully appointed hospital supported by sixty thousand members who pay one dollar and a half monthly toward the maintenance and support of their hospital and whose privilege it is to enjoy the benefits of this hospital, when they are ill, *gratis*. The physicians, surgeons, internes and all others essential to the conduct of the institution are on a salaried basis, which at once eliminates the petty graft and favoritism in assigning cases, so prevalent in our own institutions.

Call this socialism if you will or anything else, the fact remains that this plan works the greatest good to the greatest number; is, therefore, truly democratic and eminently practical. That it may discriminate against the individual outside physician may be so; but it would seem that the manifest advantages far outweigh the disadvantages of the plan.

The International Hahnemannian Association.—President Geo. E. Dienst of this association is leaving no stone unturned in his determination to make the 1920 meeting a success. Himself of rugged physique and with the habit of working early and late, he expects those associated with him to keep the same pace. Slackers and shirkers find no favor in his eyes.

As bureaux chairmen he has appointed the following members: R. F. Rabe, New York, homœopathic philosophy; Edwin A. Taylor, Chicago, materia medica; clinical medicine, K. A. McLaren, Toronto, Canada; surgery and gynæcology, Andrew H. Starcke, Kansas City, Mo.; obstetrics and pædiatrics, Mary Parker, Boston.

All these members are accustomed to hustle and will in accordance with Dr. Dienst's wish and desire, have their respective programs ready for publication by the first of the year, so that the members may have full and advance information as to the scientific program in store for them.

At the Asbury Park meeting in June a resolution was passed requesting that the surgeons—general of the army and navy make provision for the incorporation of homœopathic medicines in the army and navy manuals. A reply from Washington has been received by the secretary of the I. H. A., Dr. W. W. Wilson, of Montclair, requesting further information and data concerning the statistics, relative to mortality rates during the epidemic of influenza. This request is a most encouraging sign. It is now for homœopaths to show what they have done and to prove to those in authority the truth of their claims. The Government is ready to accord full recognition and justice wherever it is merited and deserved. In the slang of the day, it is now *up to us!*

Homœopathy in the South has always had a hard struggle. Its pioneer fighters have for the most part passed away; but have left their impress upon the communities in which they labored. In many instances no successors have trodden the path already blazed for them, yet to-day, earnest men may be found throughout the South who are working for the advancement of homœopathy.

The Southern Homœopathic Medical Association is the forum through which these men may speak, and this organization is planning to increase the number of students of homœopathic medicine in the South. There are hundreds of towns throughout the South and Southwest in which no homœopathic doctor is to be found, towns which would welcome with open arms well equipped, educated homœopathic physicians.

Dr. H. M. Stevenson, president of the Southern Homœopathic Medical Association, believes that the re-establishment of the old preceptorial system would go far toward filling the sadly depleted ranks of homœopaths in the South. With this opinion we fully agree. No inspiration is greater than that which comes from personal contact, from intimate association between preceptor and student. The lack of this communion largely accounts for the half-baked, weak-kneed, worm-eaten product of some of our medical colleges during recent years, a product which is neither fish nor fowl, and which has been a brake upon the progress of the profession to which it nominally belongs.

If each homœopathic physician will send but one student each year to one of our six accredited homœopathic medical colleges or departments, the problem of medical rehabilitation will soon solve itself.

The annual meeting of the S. H. M. A. will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 19, 20 and 21. The Queen City offers many attractions to her visitors. We recall with much pleasure the hospitality of her medical fraternity upon the occasion of a former meeting of this association, as well as the geniality and comfort found in the excellently appointed and well managed Gibson House. Let all who possibly can, forgets the old bogey, H. C. of L., and journey to Cincinnati in November!

The New York Homœopathic Medical College.—It is gratifying to note that under the able leadership of Dean Preston affairs at this college are rapidly assuming better shape. For example, all the recent graduates who appeared before the State board for license to practice passed their examinations creditably. This is the first time in several years that such a happy result has been achieved.

Dean Preston is busily engaged in securing the ablest full-time, paid instructors he can find, in order to meet the requirements of class A colleges. Already he has appointed Prof. Israel S. Kleiner, Ph. D., formerly of the Rockefeller Institute for Scientific Research, head of the department of chemistry. Dr. Kleiner served as chemist in the Rockefeller Institute for nine years, and last year became acting head of the department of chemistry of Yale University. His acquisition is a source of gratification to the New York College.

Prof. J. A. Harkovy, Ph. D., M. D., has been appointed professor of physical diagnosis. He was for two years admitting officer of Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City, and more recently held a similar position in the Walter Reid Hospital of Washington, D. C. This hospital is one of three thousand beds, affording abundant experience in diagnostic work.

Dr. H. P. Gillingham, N. Y. Hom. Medical College, 1894, has been appointed professor of experimental medicine and scientific research, and will devote all his time to the proving of drugs and to experimental pharmacology and demonstration.

Dr. Mary B. Stark, assistant State bacteriologist, Minnesota, 1914-1915, and more recently professor of histology and embryology, New York Medical College and Hospital for Women, 1916-1918, has been appointed by Dean Preston, professor of histology and embryology. Several other paid instructors have also been engaged.

Thus it will be seen that the New York Homœopathic Medical College already gives promise of a bright future, provided that her alumni do not fail to rally to her support. At this writing this aid seems assured. Let us hope, that for the sake of homœopathy, the promise may be fulfilled many fold.