

**GELSEMIUM THE HONOR REMEDY IN INFLUENZA**

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Not unlike some towering monarch of the forest Gelsemium has stood over-topping every other as the epidemic remedy of the "Spanish Flu."

As Bell. has maintained through a century it's undisputed place as the efficient prophylactic in the Sydenham Scarlet fever, so Gels. admits of no rival in the treatment of lagrippe. Happy is the medical man who has, during the trying experiences of the last year maintained an undiminished faith in his single Homeopathic remedy. Do not conclude that from this statement I use only Gelsemium.

Nothing could be more erroneous. Sharing honors with that princely remedy are such other polycrests as Bry., Sang., Eupat., Ferrum Phos., Acon., Rhus., and Bell.

I am recognizing the use of any well selected remedy as indicated by the symptoms in any case of "Flu." I have used all those enumerated and others. I am advocating the use of any well indicated medicine.

The Homeopathic physician who witnessed the splendid efficiency of his carefully selected remedies in the recent epidemic certainly has occasion for exultation. I wish to lay unusual stress upon the phrase "the indicated remedy." By this I would limit the medication. Adjuvant treatment is permissible. The hot water bottle is a solid comfort.

Picture the classical case; chill, creeping chills or chilliness, aching, aching over the whole body, legs and backache, headache, feeling of a band about the head, weight in the occiput, whole head heavy, dizziness, skin flushed and dry, marked

fever without thirst or little thirst. Marked prostration. Patient is tired, limbs feel heavy. Exhausted on least exertion, bordering upon paralysis, mental dullness, mind inactive, incapable of making mental effort, listless, indifferent, apathetic. The heart's action is labored, pulse is firm and full but not rapid, from 90 to 110, passive congestion, or as Dunham says; "both an arterial and a venous vasso-motor congestion from threatened paralysis. These sometimes result in hemorrhages from mucous surfaces. Some cough rather severe, and at times exhausting, nasal and laryngeal mucus membranes congested.

Of what is this picture? What has been portrayed in your leaving? Have I painted for you a classical case of "Flu"? Reverse the picture and may you not behold the characteristic symptoms of Gelsemium. If the portrayal of one reflects the outlines of the other as faithfully as the clear limpid water reflects the beautiful form of Psychi bending above, then can you deny that Gelsemium is the true simileum. You cannot refuse to accord to this polycrest, the place of honor in combating the Spanish "Flu."

For many years and through stringent tests the remedy has not failed us. We have learned to place in it a well earned confidence.

When we attempt to unravel the etiology of the "Flu," we are as yet grouping in darkness. By analogy we are led irresistibly to the conclusion that it is due to bacterial infection. All the numerous epidemics and pandemics have similar characteristics. The long spaces traveled, its far flung distribution, the analogy of its symptoms, the measure of its fatality, the character of its sequellae and disposition to recur, lead unerringly to such a conclusion.

What is the offending bacteria? What offending organism

creates such havoc in the ranks of the human family? Is it the bacillus of Pfeiffer? It is not proven, not yet. Sometimes this bacillus is present and more frequently it is absent.

The "Flu" has also been charged to the pneumonococcus of Friedlander, but this is the malevolent factor in lobar pneumonia, and not many cases develop into pneumonia.

Again various types of diplococci and streptococci are sometimes present in large numbers. Then again they are absent. To date no single bacillus has been found constantly and consistently present in "Flu" cases. No one bacillus has been criminally arraigned before the microscope and been successfully convicted of being the culprit.

No one can deny successfully that the toxine of the elusive germ is the cause of the "Flu;" analogy permits us no other possible conclusion.

The remarkable fact confronts us that its toxic effects are so strikingly similar to the provings of Gelseminum. The one is almost a counterpart of the other. The picture of either could be mistaken for the other. Let us compare them for a moment:

1. Does the "Flu" patient chill?
2. Gels. presents its counterpart.
1. Does the "Flu" victim ache?
2. Gels. covers the condition.
1. Is the "Flu" victim prostrated?
2. Gels. provokes like conditions.
1. Does "Flu" provoke a fever?
2. Gels. awakens one similar.
1. Does "Flu" produce mental lassitude?
2. Gels. again matches the symptom.

The comparison might be continued indefinitely. The far-

ther the comparison is carried, the more striking is the resemblance found to be.

This being true and no one can gain say it, thus it follows as effect follows cause that the imperial Gelsemium is the prime remedy, the invaluable cure for Spanish "Flu".

You have used it. Has it in any instance been a disappointment? Perhaps that is too sweeping a statement, too radical a claim. You will admit however that the medicine is of prime importance and your chief reliance in the recent epidemic.

May I have your forbearance while I marshall a little evidence from actual practice. This evidence would win a verdict from any sane jury. Listen. Recently in consultation with a very clever allopathic physician he made this statement: "Doctor, I am making a specialty of obstetrics, yet during the epidemic I have lost every pregnant "Flu" case I have treated." "Moreover, Doctor P. who has as large a practice as any physician in the city, told me he has had the same fatal experience." He then added: "I will use any remedy you can name which will help save my cases." I advised him how and added that I had saved 100 per cent of my cases. To this date in treatment of "Flu", not one case, including cases of pregnancy and of pneumonia has fallen. Gelsemium aided by a few polychrests named above has saved for me every case. The chairman when he assigned to me the subject rightly named "Gelesimum the Honor remedy in "Flu."