

INFLUENZA AND ITS RESULTS UNDER HOMEOPATHIC
CARE IN CENTRAL IOWA

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Probably nothing since the beginning of Homeopathy has done more to bring the truth of Hahnemann's teachings before the Public, than the phenomenal results that the Homeopaths have had in the treatment of that terrible epidemic that swept our country in fact the entire world, with a greater number of deaths than the terrific world war that was going on at the same time.

Influenza was no respecter of persons, it was found in both the hovel and the palace, and in its path it left the dead except where the Homeopathic physician came to the rescue.

But I was not to eulogize but simply to compile statistics on results obtained by the Homeopaths in the Central Iowa Homeopathic Association. In all we asked twenty eight physicians, with the flattering results that we heard from eighteen with a report of five thousand thirty two cases, (5032) enough surely to be of some importance in making a report. I was a little disappointed in the report on complications, although some were very complete. And I want to thank the doctors at this time for their cooperation, and from their reports I derived the following.

That out of over five thousand cases only one hundred and thirty seven cases developed pneumonia. And there is a question in my mind whether or not in all these cases we had a real pneumonia. It is true that we had the rust colored sputum the pain in the lungs, but from there on it differed, there did not seem to be any consolidation, instead we had more of an oedema

of the lungs, and where death resulted the patient seemed to literally drown to death. The cough sounded loose and yet they were unable to raise a sufficient quantity to keep enough breathing space to hold on to life. However we should be proud of the small percentage that developed pneumonia less than 3 per cent against an estimated 30 per cent of the old school. The majority of these cases were reported as coming on the fifth or six day. With about the following history; the attack of influenza would be practically well in three days the patient then against orders would over expose themselves with a result that on the fifth or sixth day they would develop this so called pneumonia, and you would immediately have a very sick individual on your hands.

Another complication or condition that complicated the "Flu" was pregnancy. I had a report of about fifty cases. Four of which miscarried. Two poorly developed blue babies were reported where the mother had the "Flu" late in her pregnancy. I have six cases with the combination of pregnancy, "Flu" and pneumonia at the same time with no mortality, in fact of the forty some cases reported of pregnancy complicated with "Flu" and pneumonia there was no mortality reported. This is a striking contrast between no deaths out of fifty and the reports by Haines in the A. M. A. journal, Vol 72 page 978 where he recorded 1350 cases of "Flu" and pregnancy of which 50 per cent resulted fatally and 62 percent aborted. I also had two cases of hour glass contraction following the "Flu" late in pregnancy. Of course there is no way of proving that this was due to the "Flu". But it is mentioned so that you can keep it in mind.

Another very common complication was epistaxis in the male and metrorrhagia in the female.. "This would often seem

to relieve the congestion and we would have rapid recovery", is the way the reports would come in.

Still another complication that several reported and I found quite common in my severe type of cases was a foul smelling diarrhoea, which was very weakening. Next in frequency we find reported a weakened condition in the heart muscle I think this is a sequel as well as a complication, for nearly all the cases that report to me that they have not felt right since they had the "Flu" I found a weakened heart muscle which breaks down on any marked exertion. Troublesome cough we all had this to contend with and with more or less trouble to find an indicated remedy that would relieve it. Terrific headaches with inability to sleep was another symptom that was a great source of worry, for all opiates or their derivatives to produce sleep or relieve pain were found to aid in the development of pneumonia.

MORTALITY

I know you are all very anxious to hear how the other fellow came out. As I have said in all five thousand thirty two cases were reported quite a few were able to send in reports with no deaths at all (I am sorry that I am not among that number) but I am more than proud to give the others the wonderful results, for in all there were only eighteen deaths reported. I challenge any other school of medicine to show as good a percentage in as many cases.

Treatment. Nearly all reported that they gave the indicated Homeopathic remedy. This was nearly always 1st Gelseminum ranging from the tincture to the 30, the next in frequency was Bry. 3x. then such remedies as Fer Phos. Eupt. Bell Aconite, Rhus Tox. Veratrum Abb and only two others besides myself mentioned Ars Iod. I really think that Ars Iod especially where

I had the black diarrhoea with marked prostration was of the greatest value. Another remedy that was not mentioned by any one was Antimonium Iodatium 6x which was of greatest value in clearing up that loose cough with no sputum. To hear your patient cough you would think that they would spit up a cup full but they insisted that there was nothing to come up. Tartar Emetic failed and yet after I received the advice from Dr. Geo. Royal to try Antimonium Iod. I had no trouble in clearing up that type of case. Dr. Alice Ross reports Natrum Salicylicum 3x for relief of that dry cough that nothing seemed to reach. There was no remedy that would hit all cases. Gelseminum coming the nearest to it. In the September "Therapeutic Digest" published for the Wm. S. Merrell Co. is a little article by the editor on "The treatment of Influenza. Of which I will quote a part. In the epidemic which occurred twenty years ago, phenasetin, antipyrine and quinine were the principle reliances of the medical profession. Since that time aspirin has won its way to the front as a popular medicament and in the routine treatment adopted by many physicians aspirin plays the leading role not with standing the fact that this drug is a heart depressant. The routine treatment laid down in the army hospitals embraced the use of coal tar derivatives and in case of pneumonia, large doses of Digitalis were ordered at frequent intervals. The rationale of this method of treatment is difficult to understand. We have here a disease which throws a heavy strain on the heart and are ordered to give coal tar derivatives which are heart depressants. When pneumonia sets in we are instructed to give huge doses of Digitalis in this case would undoubtedly add to the condrive more blood into the lungs already overloaded. The action of digitalis in this case would undoubtedly add to the con-

gestion and increase the area of the lungs involved. This routine treatment has undoubtedly been responsible for a considerable portion of the excessive mortality." And I believe that the above statement is correct. In summing up his article he says "To treat influenza successfully there is no routine method. Both the initial attack and the complication must be treated symptomatically as they arise" And if you want a compact materia medica on the influenza remedies I refer you to Dr. Geo. Royal's article that was published in the October Iowa Homeopathic Journal. A great deal could be said in regard to the serum treatment. Some reported its use with marked success some said it was of no account. I believe that Gelsemium or Creosote and Iodine or Iodine or Ars, are just as good preventatives as the serum. However I leave the treatment to you that had no deaths at all to report. And ask that you show to your patrons the fact that out of five thousand thirty two cases the Homeopaths of Central Iowa had only eighteen deaths.