

# HOMEOPATHIC PRACTICE

## INFLUENZA: BRIEF COMMENT

By Drs. McCann, Hayes, Dymont and Hawes

[The friends of Dr. T. A. McCann know that he never writes a letter, but will always reply to a telegram, so the JOURNAL sent him the following S. O. S.: "Please send night message, giving the names of the remedies most frequently effective in the prevailing epidemic; also differential diagnosis of Spanish Influenza. This is for February JOURNAL." The reply is dated January 16, 1919.—Editor.]

*Dr. T. A. McCann, Dayton, O.:* I had hoped to attend your meeting at Hotel Sherman. It is impossible. I am answering your telegram as best I can.

I have treated one thousand cases of influenza. I have the records to show my work. I have had no losses. I want no credit given me for these results. It is only another undeniable testimony of the efficacy of homeopathic drugs carefully administered.

Given an individual in a fair degree of health when stricken with this malady, there is no reasonable excuse for a homeopathic physician losing a single case. The symptoms of the disease are too well known to any intelligent physician to be repeated here. The typical symptoms uncomplicated are covered by about four remedies, viz., gelsemium, bryonia, eupatorium, and arsenicum. Added to an intelligent use of these remedies, the physician, as in all infectious diseases, must use enough common sense to clear the bowels of all toxic materials and keep them so by a properly regulated diet. It has been universal practice to give the juice of one orange with white of one egg every three hours for the first two days. After that, cereal, vegetables and fruit to the end of the trouble. Patient must be kept in bed, quiet during whole progress of disease and not allowed even to sit up until two days after all signs of fever have disappeared; then, dependent on degree of prostration, allowed to gradually get about on increased diet. This, with careful attention to detail, has given me one hundred per cent cure. If you have any occasion to use any part of this telegram, please give all credit to homeopathy, and none to the Scotch-Irish American, T. A. McCann.

*Dr. Royal E. S. Hayes, Waterbury, Conn.:* Two statements occur in Dr. George Royal's article, "Drug Proving," in your January number, page 729, to which I venture to voice exception because I fear they are misinforming. Dr. Royal reports the officer as saying, "You don't have any such pneumonia in private practice," referring to that type which presents rapid degeneration of blood elements and fulminating oedema soon after the onset or appearing suddenly after a few days of ordinary progress.

I would say that Waterbury was one of the hardest-hit cities in the country and there were many pneumonias here of that malignant type during October with occasional cases since. These occurred in my practice in people who had not had influenza inoculation or other recent vaccinations.

Dr. Royal furthermore says he studied but could not find a simillimum for these desperate cases. Turn to the Hahnemann's provings of cuprum and it will be seen that cuprum is exactly the remedy. It has, in fact, checked many of the cases for me, and quickly, the cure being more rapid than the progress was downward, sometimes. If the condition is so far advanced that the rattling has become extensive in both lungs and the pulse above 120, cuprum can only palliate, and often with borderline cases careful observation and dexterity is necessary to bring reactions to the viable point. I have had no experience with potencies lower than the 200th, preferring after some observation to hit hard at once with the 40m or 50m.

I am getting out a squib on these cuprum experiences to shoot off somewhere.

*Dr. Philip Dymont, Pasadena, Cal.:* The present pandemic of influenza is called Spanish influenza because of its severity in Spain, but from my data it would seem justifiable to claim that it originated in the Orient, as German writers speak of cases on the Eastern front in the summer of 1917. By April, 1918, there were cases on the Western front, and in May 30% of Spain had been attacked, while it was prevalent in England during the same month. It reached its height in Germany in June and July, and arrived on our Eastern coast in August, and on this coast in September.

Many other pandemics of a similar nature have occurred in the past, commonly originating in the East as severe epidemics and moving westward along routes of travel. The pandemic of 1889-90 started in the Far East in the spring of 1889, reached

Moscow in September, Petrograd in October, Berlin in mid-November, London a month later, New York in late December. During one year it spread over nearly the entire world. Surgeon-General Blue states that the identity of the present outbreak with those of earlier times is even more uncertain; that Hippocrates and Livius refer to an epidemic in 412 B. C., which is regarded by many to have been influenza; and that since ancient times epidemics somewhat similar to the present outbreak have been recorded in the 12th and 13th centuries, called at that time sweating sickness, four in the 14th, five in the 15th, eight in the 16th, eight in the 17th, twenty in the 18th, and fourteen in the 19th.

It is believed that this disease is due to bacteria, or minute fungus plants. A rod shaped form called bacillus influenza discovered by Pfeiffer in 1892, seems to be the causative agent, though this is doubted by some. It is usually accompanied by streptococci and pneumococci, associated with the pneumonia that so frequently follows. The bacillus influenza is only three fifty-thousandths of an inch in length and drying kills it quickly, hence it can not be transmitted for long distance through the air, but is carried from person to person in minute droplets from coughs and sneezes or on some object recently used by the infected person. It may live in dried secretions for two days or more. It can not multiply outside of the body, but when it reaches the moist surface of the nasal cavities or throat it begins to multiply very rapidly, the person "coming down" with the disease very suddenly, in perhaps two to four days.

A mysterious fact is that the same germ seems to be found between epidemics in persons with colds and even in some healthy persons, called "carriers." This makes it difficult to stamp out and is similar to what happens in diphtheria and typhoid. It is thought that some strain of the germ in some particular locality becomes exceedingly virulent and causes a severe local epidemic. If this is especially infectious, it may travel around the world and so become pandemic.

Influenza attacks a large portion of the population in the temperate zones. From 30 to 40% of the people in European countries have suffered from it during the present scourge and it has been most prevalent among young adults. It is estimated that about 600,000 have died in this outbreak so far. It does not depend on the season, although in this country the great epidemics have occurred in winter. In the past, each great outbreak has

been folloyed by others for several years. It seems to make people more or less immune for some time.

Vaccines have been prepared and used to more or less extent during the present epidemic and have been claimed by some to be quite a success as to making the cases lighter, and in others as a preventive. But it does not, according to the best authorities, reach the perfection of the typhoid, or the smallpox inoculation.

*Dr. A. B. Hawes, Bridgewater, South Dakota:* About a month before the Spanish Influenza reached Bridgewater, I commenced studying up on the subject. I heard time after time of the heavy death rate in Chicago, New York, Boston, and all over the country, and was scared stiff. When the "flu" struck Bridgewater I commenced with two homeopathic remedies, and have found no occasion to deviate therefrom, except that in certain conditions it has been necessary to use some of the other homeopathic remedies, and with pride I will say that so far I have treated 267 cases beginning with the commencement of the fever and have not had a case of pneumonia or a single death. Of the other 19 cases, that is, cases who did not take my medicine during the fever stage, but called me when they had a relapse, two cases had pleuro-pneumonia. Both recovered. Two cases, pneumonia, with one recovery and one death. One case, endocarditis, proved fatal. Recently I had one case of pleurisy (acute plastic) with recovery. Ask me again if I believe in Homeopathy. Ask me again if I believe in the Institute that has kept Homeopathy on the map and made it possible for me to achieve such results. Ask me again if I believe in supporting such an organization. Again I will say, "I do," and my check is herewith enclosed.

Two hundred and eighty-two cases out of 284 recovered. Can anyone beat it with any other than homeopathic treatment? Can anyone beat it with homeopathic remedies?

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**Tuberculinum.** The *Tuberculinum* patient is one who is constantly "catching cold" from slight exposure. He is prone to feel tired from slight effort, is inclined to sweat easily on exertion, is subject to chronic catarrhal inflammations, especially nasal and post-nasal, with thick yellowish or yellowish-green mucous discharges. Wet weather causes a general aggravation, whereas dry, clear, cold weather is grateful to him. Cold open air, even cold wind, makes the *Tuberculinum* patient feel better. In a sense, he is a sort of greater *Pulsatilla* with a dash of *Calcarea carb.* thrown in. His acute troubles will often need the former remedy, while his chronic state will fail to be aided by the latter, except temporarily.—*Homeopathic Recorder*, December, 1918,