

ACONITUM NAPELLUS IN MENTAL DERANGEMENTS

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Mrs. Anne aged 43 yrs., sister of one Village Munsif, belonging to a big family, was suffering from mental derangements. History of the case :—

On a fine evening she went to the latrine in her compound premises. Suddenly she heard some unusual sound from outside and got frightened. From that time onwards she talked abnormally. The next day she was more frightened and compelled her husband and children to sit by her side. There was great fear of death. She always predicted the day she would die. Fear was aggravated in the evening and night. Fear of ghosts. Extreme sensitiveness to noise. There was great fear and anxiety.

Two eminent allopathic physicians and one mental specialist of the old school of medicine attended her for 9 days, giving morphia, and insulin injections and some other patent medicines. They tried their level best since she belonged to a highly respected family. All of them completely failed in their attempts and they recommended "shock-treatment". Since it is a new art, the patient's relations and brothers were not in favour of that treatment.

Then their family doctor, an allopath, was sent for to give his sincere opinion on the shock-treatment. He suggested Homœopathic treatment and if it failed then they could think of shock-treatment.

Then I was sent for :—

On 11-11-51 at 7 p.m. I first attended the patient and saw her in a frightened agonised look. She was sitting on her bed. Her husband and children were by her side. It was a terrifying stirring look. At that time a baby cried suddenly from the neighbouring room. Suddenly she had a shock by this sudden cry. By any kind of noise she was affected much. Her husband or children, no one should

leave her bed. She used to say very often that something would happen soon, and she was to die very soon, and for that she wanted some medicine. There was no use of living in the world. Anyhow she was going to die and she wanted some poison. There was alternate laughing and crying. She used to perspire profusely on all times before. But when this mental trouble began the perspiration stopped. There was complete dryness of body and mouth. Due to the dryness she used to wet her lips with cold water. She passed urine in bed without her knowledge. After urination in bed she used to say that she had passed urine. Stool daily once only, with previous knowledge. For 9 days she didn't take any food saying that she was fasting and didn't want to break her fast. She used to sip very often tender-coconut-water. There was no sleep for 9 days. She was worshipping God often. At times laughing and gay but suddenly felt frightened and told that she would die soon. She predicted the time of her death. There was a history of some suppressed grief. There was deep sighing also occasionally she cried after thinking about her son who was away and apprehended that something would happen to him. Consolation gave relief. Sudden changes to fright when talking intelligently. Delivered two children, one male and one female. Very affectionate to all and a very sympathetic mind. She repented quickly and in repentance told that she was sinned and did something bad to others.

Since it started from fright which was at the sudden onset of the disease, I gave her Aconit 30 one powder at 8 p.m. At 9 p.m. she took one cup of rice kanji, an unexpected thing to all after 9 days fasting. Then I gave one more powder of the same to her husband asking him to give it on the next day at 5 a.m. and report to me at 9 a.m.

He came to me next day saying that she slept for two hours and she took breakfast without washing her teeth and face.

I gave Sac Lac 4 powders to be given twice daily. After the powders were finished, he came to me saying "there was no further change".

I gave Aconit 200 one powder to be given at 5 p.m. and S. L. 10 powders. B. D.

The next evening he came and told me that the last night she slept well and on the next morning she cleaned her teeth and took normal diet both morning and noon. Afterwards she was quiet alright and came to normal. I did not repeat the medicine further. It is now more than three years passed.

AN ADDRESS*

DR. SOURIN MOHAN BISWAS

Dear President, Ladies, Gentlemen and Colleagues,

You will recall, last year on this occasion I dilated on the usefulness of the Homœopathic Science in comparison with the Regular one in vogue.

But, to-day I would discuss on another aspect of it. Everyone knows that Homœopathy is a symptomatic treatment and that the majority of the Indian Homœopaths come from the laity. And, when they are equally successful like their other brothers of the profession, what earthly purpose does it serve to enlist oneself in the Homœopathic Colleges? Or, rather, to be more specific, are the Homœopathic Colleges Public Utility Concerns?

This is a very cogent question. A satisfactory reply to this will take us a long way down to the spread and development of Homœopathy.

It should be borne in mind that Medicine is a "Calling" and not a mere "profession". The calling to do good or to help should be a spontaneously natural instinct like a hearty laugh. So, unless a medical man has that

* Delivered on the 2nd Anniversary of the Singhbhum Homœopathic Medical College.