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HOMOEOPATHY IN TETANUS

DR. S. M. BHATTACHERJEE, M.A., P.R.S.M., BERHAMPORE

Tetanus is a terribly acute bacterial disease. Since the discovery of sero-therapy and the large-scale manufacture of sero-injectables, fell diseases like tetanus and diphtheria rarely offer us any opportunity for proving the efficacy of homœopathic remedies. Owing to (1) a mass fear of infection, (2) the amenities of hospital life, (3) a tendency to shirk responsibility and (4) avoid discomforts of nursing duty, such acute cases are being frequently hospitalized. We can not dream of the circumstances of the early decade of this century when a Kent or a contemporary of him would manage large numbers of diphtheria cases on the telephone. But although the Kents and the Allens are gone, the stream of Homœopathy is still flowing. Homœopathic remedies are as efficacious today as they were in the days of our past Masters.

Sometimes come to our hands a few cases of tetanus neonatorum in which the use of the serum offers a real problem (in addition to the low natural immunity of the patient) and so necessitates the transferring of such cases to our hands. Such cases usually come under our care at the last moment, when the toxin has pervaded the whole organism, when the nervous system has already been shattered and the heart is about to give way. Consequently, the mortality rate of tetanus neonatorum, even in our hands, is very high. Still, a few of our cured cases encourage us and hold out a clear prospect of hope that

homœopathic remedies, if applied earlier, would cure many cases, if not all.

Four such cases are cited here in order that they may dispel some grave misconceptions about the therapeutic value of Homœopathy in tetanus.

1. An eighty-year-old, dark-complexioned, robust gentleman developed tetanus after an injury to the right calf muscle. His life was a long record of suffering from filariasis and muscular abscesses, all treated empirically. As is usual, the first treatment was with 200,000 units of anti-tetanus serum injections, in combination with 6,000,000 units of Penicillin and a carbolic acid mixture. The spasm partially abated under this treatment, but the lock-jaw did not improve at all. The limbs of the patient were contracted and flexed. There were severe spasmodic jerks all over, especially of legs and hands, which induced heart trouble, simulating a picture of genuine collapse. At about midnight of an extremely chilly winter, his condition deteriorated fearfully and the case came under my care. Fortunately, a few doses of *Cuprum metallicum* 200. tided over the crisis and cured the patient ultimately in a week's time.

2. The second case was of a four-year-old, dark girl, who, after an injury to the head and simultaneous stoppage of an otorrhœa of right ear, developed lock-jaw with occasional starting during sleep, cold extremities, constipation and increased thirst despite moist tongue, which, of course, could not be clearly seen. She could neither eat nor drink for three days, as the lock-jaw was almost complete. The house physician of the family gave an unfavourable prognosis, and could not venture to push serum in view of the tender age of the patient. The case came to my hand on the third day of the ailment. *Mercurius sol.* 200. in 2 doses morning and evening, did not elicit any response. Then the remedy par excellence for injury to head and lock-jaw, i.e. *Hypericum*, was administered in two doses of the 200th potency morning and evening, after

which there was a sharp aggravation during the first twenty-four hours, followed by an amelioration that continued for six days at which time the patient was 99% well. One dose more of the same remedy in the same potency, administered on the seventh day, cured the patient completely. But, as is usual in Homœopathy, as the tetanus left the otorrhoea reappeared to be removed by a few doses of *Merc. sol.* 500th. She is now quite hale and hearty and is a picture of health.

3. The third case was of a twelve-year-old, dark, thin boy who, after a surgical operation on his right foot to remove a foreign body, developed tetanus which for twelve days baffled the best efforts of an able physician, using 200,000 units of serum and 600,000 units of Penicillin. On the night of the twelfth day, the case grew terribly worse and was abandoned as hopeless. By the time of my visit the patient was pulseless; his extremities were ice-cold; there had been no motion of the bowels for three days, no passage of urine for forty-eight hours; the lock-jaw was complete and there was an almost continuous spasm of the whole body, attended by risus sardonicus and the typical oppressed cry of tetanic subjects. *Nux vomica* 200., two doses, three hours apart, abated the nervous tension to some extent, whereupon the patient passed urine for the first time in fifty-two hours; his extremities warmed up and the pulse became perceptible at the wrist. Twelve hours after the application of *Nux vomica*, *Hypericum* 200., three doses every 4 hours, controlled the case brilliantly. After a repetition of the same potency on the fifth day of treatment, the patient completely recovered. The reputation of Homœopathy for saving a boy from the clutches of death after the failure of the most vigorous sort of treatment spread far and wide.

4. The fourth, an idiopathic case, was in a ten-year-old, thin, scrawny, fair girl. It presented a picture similar to that of the third, but was even more serious. The distinctive indications here were great general stiffness, mot-

tled blueness, general coldness, coupled with screaming between the spasms in an unconscious state which reminded me of the case of Dr. A. H. Croucher, cited by Dr. J. H. Clark in his *Dictionary of Materia Medica*, Part 1. *Hydrocyanic acid* was visibly indicated and administered in three doses of the 200th every 4 hours. It controlled the case in thirty-six hours, when the extremities became warm, blueness disappeared, crying abated, the patient gained consciousness and could drink a small quantity of milk. A dose of the same potency of the same remedy was administered on the fifth day of treatment, after which the patient was completely free from all symptoms. The convalescence was rapid.

The citation of only four cases need not disappoint us, as the insignificant four goes to make up its giant multiple 4,000,000, and that it will definitely do, if the fraternity of homœopaths all the world over combine to report their cured cases of such fell diseases to an international organization.

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HOMŒOPATHY AT THE CROSS-ROAD

DR. J. GHOSH, M.A. (CAL.), Ph.D. (EDIN.), F.N.I., CALCUTTA

Apart from the theoretical, experimental and philosophical foundations of homœopathy, the actual results, obtained from the treatment of patients, afford sufficient proof of the therapeutic value of homœopathic medicines. In many types of diseases of women and children in a large variety of chronic and constitutional diseases, homœopathic treatment has been found to be superior to allopathic treatment, and in some cases where allopathic treatment has definitely failed, homœopathic treatment has been found to be successful.

The value of homœopathic treatment has also been recognised by the Indian Medical Council, who have re-