

its action in diseases following chronic skin eruptions and damage to brain from intestinal sources (starting, crying out in cerebral irritation). But it is also a splendid remedy in lacking reaction. It is prominent in serous meningitis and hydrocephalus, and in tuberculous meningitis it stirs up reaction.

Tuberculinum 60x. and higher: Tuberculous meningitis; in rare doses.

Veratrum 4x.: Recommended especially in tuberculous meningitis and it is a reaction remedy in acute exanthemata which do not break out readily.

Zincum metallicum 6x. to 30x.: Cerebral irritation from suppressed eruptions in general reaction weakness. It is supposed to be able to prevent exudation, or to facilitate resorption. Restlessness of hands, but especially of feet; even twitchings are often present.

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INDIGESTION

MY MOST DIFFICULT CASE

By J. ELLIS BARKER

Miss H. asked me to help her because of her indigestion. Whatever she ate was lying like a stone in her stomach which swelled prodigiously. She suffered severe pain. She brought up gas in quantities all day long, bowel flatulence was severe as well and she vomited frequently. Ten years ago the house where she was had been struck by lightning. Some

weeks later indigestion and vomiting of the severest type had set in. She became desperately weak and ill for a long time, but was cured at last by an osteopath and nature curer. Her digestion had been more or less normal for years, but, some months ago, the old trouble had come back and she had consulted me.

Indigestion is, as a rule, easily dealt with by the experienced homœopath. While the orthodox doctor gives, as a rule, the white anti-acid mixture, even in cases where the sufferer does not produce enough hydrochloric acid, or produces none, the homœopath has a very large number of highly efficient remedies. I gave Miss H., *Nux vomica*, *Carbo vegetabilis*, *Carbo animalis*, *Coffea cruda*, *Ignatia*, *Hydrastis*, *Lycopodium*, *Momordica*, *Hydrochloric acid*, *Argentum nitricum*, *Asafoetida*, and many other remedies with only temporary benefit.

Hahnemann and his successors have urged that we should prescribe for "the totality of symptoms", not for a single symptom such as Indigestion, Flatulence, Vomiting, etc. This seemed easy in the case of Miss H. whose symptoms demanded claimantly *Pulsatilla*, for she is very affectionate, moods change easily from grave to gay, she weeps often at the slightest occasion, periods are delayed, and recently she had a bland leucorrhœa, hates fat, has much catarrh, is very chilly, sleeps with hands over head, is stout, blonde, blue-eyed. As *Pulsatilla* is a valuable remedy for the very symptoms of stomach and abdomen of which Miss H. had complained, I naturally

gave her *Pulsatilla* in various potencies from the 30th potency to the mother tincture, and was terribly disappointed by my lack of success. Only with the mother tincture could I give her some temporary relief.

I had tried for several months to cure Miss H's indigestion, pain, flatulence and vomiting. During these months her condition had steadily become worse and worse. She became desperate and feared ulceration or cancer and I became desperate too. At last I thought I should try *Hepar sulphuris* on her. One of the keynote of *Hepar sulphuris* is hyper-sensitiveness. Miss H. is hypersensitive but she lacks perhaps the most important of all *Hepar* symptoms. The introductory sentence of Boericke's *Materia Medica* states with regard to this remedy; "Suits especially scrofulous and lymphatic constitutions who are inclined to have eruptions and glandular swellings. Unhealthy skin—blondes with sluggish character and weak muscles. Great sensitiveness to all impressions." Miss H. has had no glandular swellings, no eruptions, no unhealthy skin. She is not sluggish, but very active and energetic and has excellent muscles. She has never had any eruption during all her life. However as she is hypersensitive I gave her a dose of *Hepar* in the 200th potency. Within a quarter of an hour she felt vastly relieved, her indigestion and the fearful flatulence from stomach and bowel disappeared completely and so far she has not needed a second dose. She is supremely happy after months of great and constantly increasing sufferings which seemed incurable.

This story of the most difficult case of indigestion I have ever handled yields a number of very valuable lessons :

1. I had given Miss H. thirty or forty different remedies which all proved disappointing, but I was determined to go on. Some prescribers might have stopped and given up after the failure of two or three prescriptions. A homoeopath should never give up.

2. The medicine which I prescribed on "the totality of symptoms" after the most thorough study and which probably every homoeopath would have prescribed, *Pulsatilla*, failed in all potencies. So the principle that one should select a remedy on the totality of symptoms and that one should vary the potency if the potency selected should prove ineffective was in this case a complete failure.

3. The selection of *Hepar sulphuris* was not based on the totality of symptoms but on the mental symptoms alone and I produced with a single dose of the single drug a most brilliant and instantaneous cure. Most people use *Hepar sulphuris*, particularly for ulcers and septic conditions of every kind. I have done so in hundreds of cases. Curiously enough the leading stomach symptoms under *Hepar sulphuris* did in no way correspond with Miss H's. symptoms. We read in Boericke under stomach : "Longing for acids, wine and strong tasting food." Miss H. never uses vinegar and pickles—uses practically no condiments—does not touch curries and such like foods; and has practically never touched alcohol. *Hepar*

sulphuris is particularly indicated for people who have a strong liking for vinegar and pickles.

The principle of prescribing on the totality of symptoms is not always reliable. In fairness I must mention that Boericke writes under stomach, with regard to *Hepar*, "Frequent eructations without taste or smell—distention in stomach—burning in stomach, heaviness and pressure in stomach after a light meal."

Vomiting which was particularly distressing in Miss H's. case is not mentioned in Boericke.

I am not particularly proud of having cured Miss H. with a single dose in a high potency after three months of suffering for her and of disappointment. She and I would have been far more pleased if I had cured her with thirty or forty doses of *Nux vomica* 3x or some other remedy in a week or two, or with *Nux vomica* and *Carbo vegetabilis* combined, which I had tried on her in vain.

—Heal Thyself, October, 1946.

A DIARRHOEA CURE

BY G. KINGSLAND HARRIS (Geelong, Victoria, Australia)

As a consequence of another young man cured of chronic diarrhoea, a young man of 27 years wrote to me from Hobart reporting that after a healthy and strong life, he joined the R.A.A.F. in December 1940, and in January 1941 had the first preventive injections and vaccinations, which resulted in very bad mucus