

KEYNOTES FOR HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES IN SURGERY*

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PRE-OPERATIVE PRESCRIBING

It is claimed, and there is evidence to support the claim, that Phosphorus given in a single dose of high potency the day before an abdominal operation, will prevent nausea and other distress after operation. Arnica has been used for the same purpose. Staphysagria, given before the incision for circumcision, allays the pain following incision and prevents inflammation.

Such generalising as the above is in accord with good homoeopathic methods and every case is a better surgical risk if it is well prescribed for beforehand.

POST-OPERATIVE PRESCRIBING

Arnica, given immediately after operation, has a marked control over shock and soreness. It is a good routine practice to give Arnica after an operation until symptoms manifest themselves that indicate some other remedy.

Aconite is preferred by some instead of Arnica. A differential point would be Arnica where there is more of a shock to the tissues, a depression of the forces due to direct injury, a reaction asthenic in type; Aconite where the reaction is more sthenic, the shock being more mental. The location and character of the operation would be influencing factors. For instance, in operations on tissues that are very sensitive, such as the eye and urethra, Aconite would be more likely to be the remedy. In major operations, Arnica.

Where sphincters are lacerated or stretched, do not forget Staphysagria.

Frequently, one of the above remedies will be all that is necessary to carry a patient through. In the cases where complications ensue, various factors determine the symptoms that follow. Healing starts with an inflammatory reaction and the location and tissues operated on determine the character of this inflammation.

The pathological condition of the patient is another factor. Back of everything is the constitution of the individual.

Rhus tox. has been a remarkably efficient remedy in relieving the soreness, restlessness and other distress after operation involving the right lower quadrant. The late Doctor Biegler of Rochester, N.Y., called Rhus tox his homoeopathic knife in appendicitis. Phosphorus has been equally useful for the effects of operations involving the right upper quadrant, especially of the liver and gall-bladder. Arsenic has also been useful here. Probably this is be-

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cause both of these remedies have an affinity for the liver.

Pulsatilla is indicated where the patient lies with hands above the head, keeps asking for air, and wants the mouth washed frequently.

Nux vomica relieves the vomiting after operation, when accompanied by much retching; irritability of the patient strengthens the indication.

Phosphorus where there is thirst for cold drinks, but water is vomited as soon as it becomes warm in the stomach. (Chloroform and Pyrogen.) Arsenic and Phosphorus are much alike and should be compared in their finer differentiations. The insatiable thirst of Arsenic may make it seem like Phosphorus.

China relieves post-operative gas pains where there is no relief from passing gas up or down.

Raphanus for incarcerated gas in the upper abdomen.

Acouite relieves the sleeplessness and anxiety following the continued use of morphine.

Vomiting from the smallest quantity of water, Arsenic, Bismuth, Bryonia, Cadmium and Phosphorus.

INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION

In intestinal obstruction, there is no time to lose; patients die in a short time if not relieved, and the passage of a short time may make surgical interference futile. While waiting for the surgeon, an attempt should be made to prescribe, but not opiates, Nux vomica will sometimes relieve where there is much retching, especially if there is also urging to stool. Belladonna, Opium, Veratum alh., Camphor and Nux vomica where fecal vomiting is present. In a case apparently due to mesenteric embolus, where the vomitus had a fecal odor, Nux vomica controlled the condition. There was marked abdominal tenderness, tympanitis and marked aggravation from all odors such as perfume, tobacco and even odor of food.

Stannum has acted remarkably where the pains come and go slowly. It stopped the pain and released the bowels in a case of fecal obstruction. It stopped the pain and removed the necessity for an operation in the case of an old lady with a growth in the left lower abdomen, that caused obstructive symptoms. It cured a left pyelonephritis in a woman, due apparently to impacted uric acid gravel. In all these cases, the leading indication was the gradual onset and gradual subsidence of the pain.

INJURIES AND THEIR COMPLICATIONS: EYE INJURIES

Aconite relieves the distress and inflammation from foreign bodies in the eyes. It is also useful after any injuries to the eyes. Coccus cacti has a sensation of a foreign body between the upper lid and eyeball, verified many times, and it has relieved the distress from foreign bodies lodged in the eye, that resist the spud. Coccus cacti is a useful remedy to carry when travelling with children on a train. When a cinder gets in the child's eye, after a few doses of this remedy the irritation ceases and something seems to happen to the

oinder and it causes no further trouble. Arnica for injuries to the eye from a blow, with hemorrhage within the eyeball. Ruta where the bone around the eye is injured. Symphytum relieves the pain from a blow on the eyeball and prevents complications. Nux vomica in bloodshot eyes.

HEAD INJURIES

Arnica relieves headache, dullness, sleepiness and other symptoms following a blow to the head. Has cured, even when abscess resulted with discharge of pus from the ears.

Stupor persisting, consider Opium, which failing, give Helleborus. Also, think of Cicuta and Natrum sulph. For the effects of long past head injuries, Natrum sulph and Cicuta are especially useful.

Calendula in potency, internally, is a specific for infected scalp wounds. Pyrogen may also be useful in infected scalp wounds.

LACERATIONS, PUNCTURED WOUNDS, ETC.

Calendula succus is very efficient as a wound dressing for all sorts of lacerations, preventing suppuration and hastening healing. It is called a homeopathic antiseptic. As a matter of fact, it is not antiseptic but probably stimulates granulation. It is recommended topically in erysipelas.

Hypericum cures the effects of punctured, incised or lacerated wounds, even when lockjaw has developed. It stops the pain very quickly, if given early, and prevents lockjaw. Injuries to parts rich in sentient nerves—fingers, matrices of the nails, toes, palms and soles. Injuries from treading on nails, splinters, needles, bites of a rat. Two cases of tetanus, a week after injury, were cured after lockjaw had developed. Hypericum cured two cases of coccydynia, one of thirteen and one of five years' duration, following falls on the end of the spine. The pain following fracture of the elbow was relieved in ten minutes by Hypericum and pain in the hand, following laceration of the arm, was quickly relieved. The pains of Hypericum are streaming in character.

Ledum for punctured wounds on palm. A man was injured in the palm from a brass fish-stringer. The wound had been cauterized. Pain was severe, pus formed in twenty-four hours, pain going up the arm. Hand swollen and jaw stiff, cured by Ledum high in forty-eight hours. Keynote for Ledum tetanus, twitching of muscles of wound, and wound apt to be cold. Ledum ointment is useful for punctured wounds.

DENTAL REMEDIES

After dental work, Aconite, Arnica, Merc. prot, Hecla lava and Staph. Calendula is a good mouth wash after extraction. Hepar sulph. removes pain and swelling after dental work.

In abscesses and decayed teeth, Merc. prot, often relieves at once. It has pain in the teeth, better by cold water.

Hecla lava has cured many cases of caries of the jawbone, upper or lower.

Phosphorus has cured cases involving the lower jaw.

ULCERS, NECROSIS, ETC.

For ulcers, necrosis, etc., in general, where dead bone has to be removed, Calcarea fluorica is useful. Also, Silica.

Calendula, internally and externally, for ulcers that will not heal.

Silica for insensitive suppurative processes of all kinds. May be useful for dental apical abscesses. In one case, acted curatively for acute inflammatory rheumatism due to apical abscesses.

Kali bi. for ulcers near tibia that look punched out.

Lycopodium, in ulcer of knee below left patella. Silica, in ulcers after vaccination.

Mereury, flat ulcers on the shin.

Asafoetida, syphilitic ulcers with atrocious pain.

Opium, old painless, insensitive ulcers, blue base, no attempt at healing.

AMPUTATIONS, FRACTURES AND SPRAINS

Arnica is the chief remedy after amputation. Rhus tox., Silica and Phosphorus are also useful. Arnica given immediately, in fractures and dislocations, relieves the nervousness and pain like magic, both externally and internally. A few drops of Arnica in hot water can be applied as a compress. Do not use when skin is broken, as it may cause inflammation resembling erysipelas. Arnica is useful for the first effects of sprain. Ruta is often useful after Arnica. Rhus tox. often follows Ruta and Calcarea carb. follows Rhus tox. Bellis perennis, in sprains where Arnica, Ruta and Rhus tox. have failed. Strontium carb. is recommended for old sprains. Pulsatilla, temperament and symptoms agreeing, will hasten resolution in sprains or injuries to the ankle. Apis is useful for housemaid's knee.

CELLULITIS AND INFECTIONS

Rhus tox. is a wonderfully efficient remedy in cellulitis and will often abort a beginning suppurative process near the rectum. The color of the inflammation is a mahogany red. Carbuncle may be aborted if given early enough. The pains are atrocious. Any cellular inflammation accompanied by pain so severe that the patient cannot sleep or be quiet day or night, must walk about all the time. This may follow injuries from punctures, bruises, bites, even though pus has formed. Abscesses and cellulitis very painful, with dark gangrenous colour, are cured by Lachesis. Tarentula, Anthracinum and Arsenic in carbuncles.

BURNS AND SCALDS

Urtica urens and Cantharides are useful for the effects of burns, used

topically and internally. A burn from slacking lime, involving the face and eyes, closing the eyes completely, first cleansed with sweet milk, then kept moist with Cantharides 3X, was relieved of swelling and pain in three hours.

APPENDICITIS

Belladonna, Bryonia, Lycopodium, Arsenic, Colocynth, Rhus tox, Carbo veg., and other remedies have cured cases diagnosed as undoubtedly appendicitis. The late Edmund Carleton claimed never to have been obliged to operate on a case and never to have lost a case that he had from the start, during his forty years of practice. Ignatia was a remedy that he found useful at times. Dr. Thomas E. Reed of Middletown, Ohio, makes the same claim. When they first began to operate for appendicitis, he decided that he would follow his own experience. He figured that he might lose some cases but that the surgeons would also, and although he is over 80 years old, he has not lost a case.

Appendicitis is a treacherous condition, and one must know his drugs, and never sleep on the case if he relies on homoeopathic prescribing alone.

BOILS, CARBUNCLES

Hepar, Sulphur, Silica, Echinasea, Arnica, Belladonna, Tuberculin, and Pyrogen will take care of most boils without resorting to surgery.

Rhus tox, Arsenic, Anthracinum, Lachesis and Tarentula will cure most cases of carbuncle.

OBSTETRICAL REMEDIES

Yingling's *Accoucheurs' Manual* is one of the most valuable instruments to carry in the obstetrical bag.

Remedy indications for obstetrical conditions are clear cut and there is no padding. The slack time while waiting is well utilized in running through this incomparable book.

After normal labor, Arnica takes away the soreness, quiets the nerves and prevents afterpains. Pyrogen or Rhus tox, is required in a few cases.

Pyrogen is one of the most useful remedies in puerperal sepsis. Kali carb. is also useful where there is a great distension, easy sweat, sensitiveness to touch and sharp wandering pains.

CALCULI

Chelidonium, Calcareo carb, China, Bryonia, Belladonna, Nux vomica, Berberis, Chamomilla and other drugs have relieved the pains of gall-stones. Lycopodium, Nux vomica, Berberis, Belladonna, Magnesium phos., and other remedies have done the same for renal calculi. There are a great many remedies that relieve pain homoeopathically and, to use them successfully, one must acquire the habit of thinking homoeopathically for all conditions. When attempting to prescribe for patients who are passing calculi, failures

will occur, but at least the attempt should be made. A skilful prescriber will rarely have to resort to an opiate. However, the best of prescribers will fail occasionally. The value of homoeopathic relief is that the remedy that relieves pain is always one that benefits the patient's general condition, whereas an opiate has harmful secondary effects.

DISCUSSION

Chairman Baker: Dr. Stearns' paper is open for discussion.

Dr. Farrington: Mr. Chairman, I can only commend the Doctor's paper. It is certainly very comprehensive. It contains a lot of the useful clinical hints.

I was very much interested in some of the indications that he gave. For instance, Strontium carb. in old sprains—I have seen it help in one or two cases where the swelling remained. In other words the sprained ankle was almost always a little bit puffy. And Cicuta, in head injuries: A young girl was thrown from an automobile and knocked unconscious. I prescribed Arnica and watched her for an hour or so, and was just about to go, when suddenly her mouth went up at one corner, her eyes began to twitch, and the hands began to be convulsed. Quicker than it takes me to tell it, I put a dose of Cicuta on her tongue. In about five seconds all the symptoms disappeared and in a little while she returned to consciousness. It was one of the quickest actions of a remedy I have ever witnessed.

Rhus tox. has cured several carbuncles, one in a man of 45, situated on the lower dorsal region of the back. It was five inches long and two inches wide, and healed in eight days.

Apis aborted another one in the case of an old lady of 90 years of age. She had had a very bad carbuncle in the middle of the back which had practically disappeared under homoeopathic treatment. She was so weak, however, that she was not expected to recover. While her physician was on a vacation a swelling about the size of a hazel nut appeared over the scar. It was dark reddish, burned as though she had been stung by a bee, and was relieved by cold water. A dose of Apis relieved the pain, the swelling went down during the day, and the carbuncle never materialized. Besides that the old lady got up and lived for nearly a year afterwards.

You want to think of Carduus marianus when you have a case of appendicitis and gall bladder involvement at the same time. I have seen it do marvelous work in two cases of that sort. Swelling in the region of the appendix, tenderness and soreness in the region of the gall bladder, pains under both shoulder blades, a little jaundice, and you have the whole picture.

Don't forget Sulphur in puerperal fever, or in fever starting shortly after childbirth. In nearly 500 cases of confinement I have never yet had a serious case of this infection. Although many remedies have been used, Sulphur was the one most often given. Fever and hot feet are the guiding symptoms.

Dr. Lehman: I would think that the surgeons would keep you busy all the time. I am sure if I were a surgeon I should have you around if I didn't

know how to give these remedies myself. When I see the remarkable effects of remedies used in connection with surgery, I feel that every surgeon should have a medical man work with him who understands how to give remedies according to the natural law of healing.

A great many of these remedies I have confirmed in my practice and from the indications here I think almost all of them I can agree with as being absolutely correct. They are not only confirmed clinically but they are correct according to text from which they were selected.

By the way, if you ever send out that paper for more information, I have some jottings set away that I will be very glad to give to you.

I wish to call your attention to Acetic acid. I can't recall the professor's name, when I was studying, but he used to saturate a sponge with Acetic acid and let the patient breathe it after giving an anaesthetic. I didn't know why he was doing it then, I don't know whether he knew, but Acetic acid is one of the greatest things to relieve the effects of shock from anaesthetic. It has the effect of replacing in the cell the fat which has been dissolved out by ether substances, and so forth.

I wish to confirm the use of Arnica in obstetrical cases. It is a wonderful remedy; and the use of Aconite in acute eye troubles, along probably with a dose of Sulphur.

I wish to place alongside of Arnica, Lobelia aceticum as being a wonderful remedy in chronic effects of head injuries. I have one case under observation now that has been almost relieved, who when he was eight years old was hit with a stone in the back part of the head. This showed very plainly in the eye as a marked scar, so the idea was confirmed as to the cause of the trouble, which was relieved almost entirely by the Lobelia aceticum.

I had another case of a man who had been kicked in the forehead by a horse eight years previous, and he had had stomach trouble ever since that time. He had doctored a great deal for it and never got any relief, but under the use of Natrum sulphate he was entirely relieved and I saw one of his daughters a short time ago, and I hadn't seen him for 15 years, but he has never had a return of the trouble, showing the efficacy of Natrum sulphate in these cases.

I wish to call your attention to Sulphuric acid as being the most wonderful remedy following operations in which gangrene sets in, the tissues are not strong enough to reproduce a healing inflammation, the wound does not heal, the stitches break open, there is a sort of blackness—Sulphuric acid will remove that, and the older the patient, the more Sulphuric acid is indicated.

I wish to call your attention again to Hypericum. Most of you will recall the death of President McKinley who was operated on by the great surgeon, Parks. Well, it is in such cases as that where all the vitality has been driven out of the abdominal organs through the shock of the injury. They sewed up the incision, but there was no reaction. Had he been given Hypericum his

life might have been saved. There is a field for *Hypericum* in abdominal operations.

If you will study your cases in sprains, breaks and fractures you will find *Stictum pulmonum* a good remedy if you will remember, that in the case of nervousness, a few doses of this remedy will put them to sleep even better than morphine. I have tried it a number of times and, as I say, when there are no other indications, give this remedy and it will put them to sleep. They will ask you sometimes if you have given them morphine.

Dr. Erni: I was very much interested in this paper of Dr. Stearns'. It certainly is interesting to me. I just want to say a word or two about *Arnica*. In my opinion *Arnica* is indicated in every surgical operation. It is indicated in every case of obstetrics. It is a remedy that you can use to prevent what is going to follow and the reason that I prescribe it in all cases of that kind is because it prevents a suppuration, it stops suppuration, it prevents hemorrhage, and of course it is the remedy for soreness due especially to an injury. In fact soreness is the red strand that runs through the entire remedy. If you have the soreness in any condition, it may be indicated. In other words it is not indicated if you have not the soreness.

Then in head injuries, especially, it ought never to be neglected, and I want to say something about the cinder.

I was told that if you close your eye after getting a cinder into it, and keep it closed for a few moments, the tears will wash the cinder out. Not long after that I read in some journal a statement by an engineer that if you got a cinder into your eye and rubbed the opposite eye this will relieve the condition, it will remove the cinder. I winked at that, and the next time I went on board a train I stuck my head out of the window and I got a cinder in a little while. I tried rubbing the other eye and it was even better than only keeping the one with the cinder in it closed. It seems that when you press on the other eye it takes the tension off the eye that has the cinder, and relieves the eye.

Dr. Krichbaum: It seems to me this discussion is altogether too pleasant.

Then some statements have been made here which we cannot afford to let go out as general practice. You give a remedy when it is indicated and upon the indication, and not upon what might be indicated, or when it may be indicated.

Dr. Erni: As far as I am concerned I know what he is driving at. *Arnica* is indicated in every stage of surgery because you know what is coming. The tissues are going to be bruised and may result in hemorrhage.

A physician was operated on in our city for a duodenal ulcer last spring. He went along nicely for over ten days then on the eleventh day he was taking a nap in the afternoon, when he awoke and called for a vessel, saying that he must vomit. He vomited blood and died from a hemorrhage. They held an autopsy and found that the hemorrhage was not in the field of operation but outside it. Who will say that *Arnica* wouldn't have prevented that

hemorrhage? Arnica does prevent and it stops hemorrhage. Arnica prevents and it stops suppuration.

Dr. Boger: There is one small point I want to call your attention to in this connection, and that is that Dr. Stearns omitted to mention Ledum in sprained ankles. That is the most wonderful remedy that I ever saw for sprained ankles.

President Underhill: I always feel more or less disturbed whenever we get to discussing remedial measures, along these lines, for fear some who may not be well grounded in homoeopathic philosophy may be led astray.

I think Dr. Stearns assumed, when he presented this paper, that everyone, in contemplating these remedies, would also keep in mind the true law of selection and cure. I don't think he intended to say that Arnica or Ledum or Calendula or any other remedy is always indicated in a certain case. We would be in a hopeless mess if we picked out all the remedies in the materia medica that are useful in a given case, and then attempt empirically to consider when they are to be used. It is past almost human comprehension and ability to properly select a remedy in this way.

I don't believe that Dr. Stearns was contemplating always using Arnica for bruises. Of course there are two ways of arriving at a remedy, one is in considering the remedy as it relates to the patient, another is considering the remedy as it relates to the cause.

Whenever we can select a remedy that is similar to the patient, then we are on safe ground, but sometimes we can't get a remedy that is similar to the patient, but we can find a remedy that is similar to the cause. That is the second best, and may be the very best we can do under some circumstances, and in many cases Arnica is similar to the cause and therefore it may do the business.

I shall have to take exception to Dr. Erni's remarks in reference to Arnica. It is true part of the time, but I cannot agree that in every obstetrical case we should use Arnica because we are contemplating bruised tissues. You can have a case of obstetrics and at any time as labor approaches, and often when delivery seems imminent, you can give that patient a dose of Arnica, go to bed and sleep until morning and forget it. The remedy is only similar to the cause. But now, if you study that patient and settle upon the exact simillimum whether it is Arnica or whatever it is, and you give it, you had better stick around, because there is going to be something doing. The remedy to meet the bruised condition after delivery should be selected in the same way.

I am saying this for the reason that some young men when they hear of a great long list of remedies that are useful in certain cases exclaim: "How shall I ever remember this and select the proper drug in this way?" Well, he cannot remember it. We don't want him to remember it. We don't want to remember ourselves. Forget it! The list puts us in a class of remedies, but we arrive at the proper one by studying the patient.

I think Dr. Stearns contemplated presenting to you certain pathological conditions, and then he gave you a list of remedies, any one of which might be indicated, and he will allow us to prescribe Arnica empirically, as Dr. Erni does, and just as any of us may if that is the best we can do, but he doesn't mean that all these remedies may in some measure be indicated in every one of these cases.

Dr. Julia M. Green: Talking about the Natrum sulphide, it is the only remedy given in Kent's for mental symptoms following injury of the head, and therefore it has been tried with great success in some cases of insanity, or approaching insanity, following an injury to the head years before, and also for backward children whose trouble may be due to either an injury after birth or an injury at the head at the time of birth.

Dr. Faris: Speaking of obstetrical cases, and Arnica, it is true that Arnica is often used, but I find that where there has not been so much bruising, and there is more of a tendency to hemorrhage, that *Secale cornutum* often controls a condition better than Arnica, and while I am on my feet I would like to ask Dr. Stearns one question. He spoke of using Phosphorus high on the day preceding the operation. I would like to ask him what he means by "high."

Dr. Farrington: I was thinking, in connection with when one of the speakers said that Arnica was for bruises, supposing that the case that is bruised needed *Bellis perennis*—it is as much of a bruise remedy as Arnica, especially in abdominal and breast cases.

Secretary Roberts: I want to call attention particularly to one remedy that he mentioned, that is not generally used in a very critical condition, in a condition where we get wonderful results, and that is following abdominal operations with a great deal of shock. I have seen cases that have pulled through under those conditions, when transfusion did no good, and that was Strontium carbonate. It brought them right up and held them up.

Dr. Roth: Dr. Stearns spoke of not using Arnica where the skin is broken. The *Calendula* where the skin is broken and Arnica where it is unbroken.

Dr. Lee: While they are speaking about Arnica I want to say something. I didn't know that it was good for much except bruises and such things as that, but I was lying up here about a year ago, and I couldn't get any sleep. I suspected that Dr. Boger knew something about what was the trouble. My son telegraphed to Dr. Boger and he telegraphed back and said: "Give him one dose of 50M of Arnica." He did and I was relieved.

Dr. Olds: When we are talking so much about Arnica in obstetrical cases, injuries, and surgical operations, it seems surprising to me that nothing has been said about Aconite. Think how many cases—take the young mother-to-be...we have Aconite symptoms right in the beginning, there is the fear, you find it before an operation. Aconite will do wonders for you there.

Dr. Custis: I wonder if any of you men who have been giving Arnica

to your obstetrical cases have run a series of cases without giving them any remedy I have tried both ways and cannot see much difference in a normal case. If you get a case that has any real trouble then that is a remedy to be considered, but in a normal case I cannot see that there is any difference in whether you give them Arnica or not. I don't believe that when we prescribe a remedy under those circumstances we have any right to attribute our results to the remedy, unless we have some definite indication for it. I have tried both ways and have run my normal cases with Arnica and without Arnica. I cannot see that my cases that get no Arnica get along worse than the cases that get the Arnica, I cannot see that I get any more complications in the cases that do not get it, and I think that we are fooling ourselves when we think that we have to give medicine in all these cases.

I always tell the boys: "Try your best anyway and if you only hit it once in ten times at first, you have done something which you wouldn't have done if you hadn't." So they don't feel disturbed so much if they don't hit it, but those who take hold of it at all will keep trying and they are all the time getting better.

Dr. Boger: Arnica was formerly more useful when we had dirty obstetrics.

Dr. Stearns: The parts you agree with were given for the purpose of showing my own erudition. The parts you don't agree with were told me by someone else.

Phosphorus high—I go back in memory to a case that told me this, and that patient had had Dr. Bayliss as the physician and was wishing there was some way she could get the same powder that he gave before an operation, in which she had absolutely no pain. Then I had a case of duodenal ulcer that was operated on, and the day before the operation I had given a dose of Phosphorus, of 50M, and of course she might not have had pain anyway, but that is one of the most comfortable things I had ever seen, the way that patient came through that operation. And it was after that, in talking it over with some of the older men that I was told that that was the practice, I think, of Dr. Bayliss, and I think Dr. Butler was quoted.

I put this in so as to find out whether anybody else knew about this particular thing.

Now, what is Phosphorus high? Anything above the 200th ought to be considered high. It might work just as well low. I know in the experiments of giving Apis the 30th worked as quickly and as hard as the higher potency. I know in our clinic sometimes we give a dose of the 30th and we seem to get as long an action as we do out of the high.

Now bear in mind another thing; you noticed the title of this: 'Keynote.' I teach my students never to prescribe on a keynote, and they look surprised, and I tell them to prescribe on the rest of the case. The keynote calls attention to that particular remedy; then you prescribe as the rest of the case fits.

Now I said when the patient is coming from under the anaesthetic it is a

good thing to give Arnica in a major operation until the patient's own symptoms call for something else. Now you save time, and I don't believe you do any harm. There is always a certain amount of shock.

Dr. Krichbaum: Can we prove that we do anything?

Dr. Stearns: I think I have seen it do something. I think so; I feel satisfied in my own mind. On the other hand in a perfectly normal case of labor I wouldn't think of prescribing unless the patient really complained of trouble. I never have thought of giving Arnica in a normal condition. An operation is a shock always, it is an injury always, and that is my opinion. I may be wrong. Arnica is a starting place from which you can branch out into any other remedy and it may be within a half hour you may not get more than one dose in or you may find that your Arnica controls everything.

Dr. Farrington, it was your father's book that gave me my knowledge of those carbuncles with that indication. I remember so well at the time of finding it and having a case come in within two or three days, with a terrific carbuncle at the back of the neck. That was a carbuncle that was aborted by that.

One thing I would like to say. It seems to me it would be a good idea to incorporate all this discussion in this paper and have it go out as a compilation by the International Hahnemannian Association, and if there is anything to add that isn't here, give the members a chance to add to it again.

—*Homeotherapy*, Oct. 1978
