

AS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN*

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A famous poet says the saddest words are "It might have been", but the strict homoeopath has a more optimistic experience. As the cases which follow are briefly submitted to your attention, think how they might have been and rejoice at the potential beauty and precision of the system which Hahnemann gave us.

Case I. Miss A., 11 years old, out of school for over a year five years ago, in the hospital for 9 months where the diagnosis was rheumatic fever with pains chiefly in the knees and the left hip; was in a total body cast; had three operations for osteomyelitis of the right thigh and left foot; had five blood transfusions; has been pale, anaemic, stunted and feeble ever since. Patient referred to a homoeopath by the family of a boy of nine who was brought through osteomyelitis by Homoeopathy without any operation, and who, after three years, is able to play football and do full athletics. The inner side of left thigh is discharging thick, yellow pus, offensive and sweetish; swelling around the fistulous opening with tenderness. Child had had serious ear trouble in infancy and measles just prior to the onset of the bone trouble. Marked foot sweat, offensive, stiffened the stockings, fear of and < before thunder storms, sweat of the head, great chilliness and constant weeping. Prescription: Silica 2C (1 dose) and placebo.

One month later looked brighter, better colour, has gained two pounds. Two splinters of bone extruded shortly after the remedy, a scab formed over the fistulous opening which itches. Sac. lac.

Two months later child developed a brown leucorrhoeal discharge which stiffened the underwear. Thighs completely healed, swelling and pain in the knees, which she cannot straighten. Scar of the left foot (previously operated) oozes on and off, pain in the left ear which had troubled her as an infant, gained two and a half pounds. Six months after the initial visit, repeated Silica 2C as thighs again painful although knee is now straight. Child has been going regularly to school, at first on crutches and after a couple of months without them. Dives and swims, rides a bicycle and has joined the Girl Scouts; has not missed but two days of school.

Eleven months after she was first seen has a slightly painful cyst of the left breast and is craving sweets, no longer chilly but unduly hot, especially at night, itching of the eyelids. Sulphur 2C (one dose) and Sac. lac. The month after this better in all ways save that the leucorrhoea is very green and profuse. She has an empty, allgoness at eleven in the morning and is craving sours; Sepia 2C (one dose) and Sac. lac. The cyst is better,

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footsweat better, steady gain in weight, no deformity save the operative scars, and looks and seems a happy, active youngster.

Case II. Mrs. B., 31 years of age, has been in an asylum with a diagnosis of maniac-depressive insanity and was released in the custody of her mother. Very abrupt, slightly exophthalmic, pale, dark girl with late menses, a tendency to brood, phobia against going out away from the house; is a heavy salt eater. Natrum mur. 10M (one dose) and placebo. Repeated after three months and again after six months. In the seventh month, Natrum mur. 50M.

Three months later developed swift impulses, threatened suicide, was abnormally hungry, the exophthalmos, which had been decreasing, returned suddenly, and complained continually of being too hot. Iodium 1M (one dose) and placebo. Steady gain for almost four months when it was repeated. Seven months later, Iodium 10M. After emotional strain a sudden recurrence of the maniac phase with prayer and singing, yielded to Stramonium 10M. Fairly steady mentally and going out more, over a period of a year. Suddenly, owing to emotional factors, a violent attack in August of this year with picking at flocks, staring look, great pallor, inclination to take off the clothing, cataleptic rigidity at intervals. Hyoscyamus 2C. Improved slightly. Two days later, Hyos. 50M, within two hours of which no more removing of the clothing or catalepsy, knew her surroundings better. Was finally able to have a talk with her boy friend and found definite nymphomaniac symptoms which the family had withheld from me. Patient suddenly began to wish to wash everything and bathe continually and was extremely egotistical in all her talk and action. Monthly period at about this time, black and stringy and scanty. Platinum 10M (one dose) and within six hours the family reported that she was more normal than they had seen her in a couple of years and for the two months since that time she has remained so. Although the acute phase lasted about three weeks we were able to keep her at home with constant supervision. Certainly without our remedies she would have been, at least for a period, in an asylum again.

Case III. Miss C., teacher of physical education, 26 years of age, had been troubled for a year with her sacroiliac. Strapping, osteopathic adjustments, long rest in bed, then a cast from the waist down for three months and finally a fusion operation were all of no avail to cope with her pain. She felt certain she would have to change her profession and in despair was persuaded to try Homoeopathy. The symptoms were clear for Lycopodium, although the patient was round faced, rosy, a jolly blond. Lycopodium 2C gave almost instant relief of backache and sciatica in right side.

She resumed her teaching and although slightly stiff on bending, continued painless for seven months, when upon return of same symptoms remedy was repeated. Five months later, Lycopodium 1M for a second recurrence. For two years she felt very well and did her full work at teach-

ing physical education. Then she developed aggravation on foggy days and before storms, relief of her pain on motion, severe pain in heel without swelling or apparent reason. Rhododendron 2C brought swift relief. Two months later she developed a sinus which Silica 2C cleared. She has since had two doses of Rhododendron and three of Lycopodium over the space of a year and a half, and considers herself in excellent health.

Case IV. Mrs. N., age 48, with a history of chronic bronchitis and liver disturbances, sent for me one morning in agonizing pain under the right ribs, drowsy, sweating alternating with chills, high fever, 103°, sensation as though the right side of upper abdomen would burst, with violent pain cutting through under right shoulder blade, tongue yellow, thickly coated, stool clay colour, loose, scanty. On examination a mass size of a grapefruit in gallbladder region, exquisitely tender and tense. Urine negative, no jaundice. The attack had followed a meal rich in fats combined with sad and shocking news. As you all can imagine she received Chelidonium 10M (three doses two hours apart) and placebo. That evening she was reported comfortable although sore and bruised and the next morning the gallbladder, though still slightly tender, was no larger than an egg. She was subsequently quite weak for several days and then developed what she told me was an old symptom of violent headache, like a nail driven in. Thuja 30 (three doses) not only relieved the headache but helped her in every way and on studying her symptoms previous to the acute attack, it was evident it was one of her deep chronic remedies.

Case V. Master T., twelve years of age, six feet tall, has been diabetic for several years and on a strict diet. Conventional symptoms of Sulphur and later Silica, each given at two or three monthly intervals, in single dosage over a period of two years, without insulin. He is now able to eat full diet, has gained in weight, no longer has the itching or sweaty feet and remains sugar free, a normal, happy, athletic boy.

Case VI. Little Miss S., whose father had been syphilitic and her mother sycotic, a heavy, squat, unattractive child of four, with Hutchinson's teeth and the stigmata of hereditary syphilis in palate, ears, etc. All her teeth were black and decayed almost before they came in. The child was on a sensible, high vitamin diet, green vegetables, raw fruit and so on. She complained of head and wandering bone pain. Syphilinum 1M.

Through the last seven years I have watched the development of this child into a stocky but pretty and wholesome girl, whose second teeth are perfect. Time forbids a full list of the remedies; Sulphur, Calcarea, Mercurius, Magnesia muriaticum, Graphites, Cina and Capsicum have played their part, and recently she has needed a dose of Sepia and later Thuja, both remedies deeply germane to her mother. The study of the interrelation of remedies between parent and child is a deeply interesting one.

In conclusion: A case of four and a half years' duration under my

care. Mr. W., 37 years old, preternaturally thin, almost a walking skeleton, complains of tickling sensation in the right chest just below the nipple, and a sensation of tightness there and of spitting up "gobs of bright, clotted blood." Weight 118 pounds. History of anaemia as a boy, tonsils out thirteen years previously, acute rheumatic fever which left him with a loud blown systolic murmur, mitral regurgitation. An x-ray of the chest was ordered. They reported bilateral, upper lobe tuberculosis with an apparently suggested possible activity. Examination of the chest revealed fine crepitant rales below the right nipple and definite change of breath and a few fine rales in both apices poster. Probable small cavity in the right upper lobe at the back. His sputum which was scanty, was in green fleshy lumps with a sweetish taste. He slumped in a chair. Prescription: Stannum 2C (one dose) and Sac. lac.

One month later no cough, gained a pound in weight which, for him, was tremendous. Apices clear to auscultation. No return of blood spitting but the last few days had had recurrence of the tickling, tightness, etc. below the right nipple. Repeated Stannum 2C (one dose) which alleviated, but only for a couple of weeks, so he received Stannum 1M (one dose). This patient had a sick child and was doing a one-man job and simply had to continue at work, as he said, "if it killed him." He adhered strictly to the regime of fresh air, extra sleep and high diet, but in the four and a half years since, this patient has never missed a day at work, although he has taken a month instead of the customary two weeks vacation each year.

Four months after the Stannum he returned complaining of great dryness, inability to sweat, hoarseness, marked constipation in little hard balls and aversion to starch. His weight was up to 124 pounds. Alumina 10M (one dose) and Sac. lac. Three months later a recurrence of blood spitting and green, sweet sputum called for a repetition of Stannum 1M which he needed again in another three months. Two months later the picture changed. He became preternaturally hot and hungry and restless and mentally disturbed and told me, what he never had before, of a relative in definite mental difficulties. Iodium 2C followed in five months by Iodium 1M. No further blood spitting.

Three months later, November 1938, blood spitting again with old tickling in right lung, weight on the chest, loss of weight, down to 121 pounds. Stannum 10M (three doses) and Sac. lac. Six months later, he having been checked and given placebo in the interim, a return of the stools in balls and of the great dryness, one single clot of blood, Alumina 1M.

He had a couple of doses of Bryonia, one of Pulsatilla, one of Rumex and one of Sanguinaria in the course of the next year for beginning colds or coughs which never made any headway. Just a year ago the Alumina 1M was repeated. The beginning of this year, although there has now been no blood spitting for one and a half years, there was a return of the green sputum and he received another dose of Stannum and is still working hard

(Continued on page 449)

Cough—(Contd.)

- going to warm room—add p. 368 D: Acon., Bry., carb. v., kali. n., Nat. c.
 change of weather—p. 810 K; add p. 368 D: Acon., bell., bar. c., calc., calc. p.,
 hep., nat. s., Nux v., rhod., rhus t., thuj., tub.
 damp weather/damp cold air—p. 782 K and 810 K; add p. 368 D: Tub.
 sleep modalities—p. 804 K.
 suffocative cough—p. 806 K.
 from tickling in bronchia—p. 808 K.
 chest—p. 808 K.
 epigastrium—p. 808 K.
 on touching the canal of the ear—p. 809 K.
 larynx lightly—p. 809 K.
 deep-sounding—p. 785 K; like a trumpet—p. 809 K.
 as if he coughed in tube—p. 809 K.
 uncovering agg.—p. 809 K.
 whistling—p. 810 K.
 winter—p. 811 K; 529 BB; 890 B.
 winter cough of old people—p. 811 K.
 autumn—p. 782 K.
 spring—p. 805 K.

AS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN*(Continued from page 433)*

with neither sweats, loss of weight or any apparent disability. It was interesting to me to see how the three strands, Stannum, Iodium and Alumina weave in and out in this case.

One could go on indefinitely adding to these cases in which permanent disability, operations, prolonged confinement and prolonged illness have been avoided through the beautiful exposition of our homoeopathic remedies.

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