

CASE REPORTS

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Case 1

March 24, 1888 found me parked in a little town in the state of Maryland. After we had gotten our household goods in the house and eaten supper, a knock came to the door which I answered, and a man stepped inside. At my request he introduced himself and stated, he had several patients which he desired me to call on, and he would accompany me. We made three calls, the third to a young man bedfast with tuberculosis. His doctor had stated there was no more that he could do for him, some time before I had arrived; So I was not trespassing any. I found both lungs in bad shape, night sweats, pain in lungs on coughing, headache from jarring of cough, bowels quite loose with considerable gas and rumbling, expectoration quite heavy and yellow, so weak he could not stand on his feet without someone to steady him. In other words he was a living corpse, craving large quantities of water, and vomiting with almost every coughing spell.

I prescribed Bry. 3x and Calc. phos. 6x, in separate glasses one-half full of water, a teaspoonful every half hour alternately; and bovine to nourish him. He apparently began to mend with the first dose; and in a few weeks he was dressed and up around the room; and as the weather got warmer, he went out. Those were the only remedies he received.

Coughing after supper with vomiting of all that has been taken will in almost every case be stopped with Bry. 3x. That has been my experience. This young man died with an attack of pneumonia two years later while I was in Philadelphia, being treated for malaria, brought on from too much quinine, which I was taking to keep me up until I could get a number of sick babies cured.

Case 2

I had been in the town between three and four weeks; when one morning a woman, about 30 years old called. I asked her to be seated, and what I could do for her; and here is what she sprung on me. "I don't know what my trouble is, but if you do not give me something to help me I'm going to kill my baby." "Oh," I said, "have you a baby? How old?" "Six weeks," she replied. "What are you going to kill him for?" "I don't know, but if you don't give me something I'm going to do it, and I can't help it." "Well," I said, "don't you know that would mean hanging or penitentiary for life?" "Well I can't help it. I could hardly keep from killing him this morning when I was giving him his bath; and my daughter has a piano, and if she plays on it, I'll smash it with the axe." I said, "I don't care what you do to the piano but don't lay a hand on that baby to harm him." "Well

you give me something to help me." I asked how she got along after her confinement and she said all right. "Did you have any trouble after the other children were born?" "No." "Are you ill in any way now?" "No, but something keeps telling me I must kill the baby. I have driven 18 miles this morning to see you, and I want you to help me."

Here was a case of a child's life depending on my prescription, apparently. While she was talking, Sepia flashed on the horizon of my mind. It was the only remedy; the rest of the *materia medica* was a blank, so far as I was concerned. When our examination which lasted almost an hour and a half was over I prepared a two dram vial with Sepia 3x on pellets, and wrote directions for her to take five every two hours, and for her to return when they were exhausted. About three weeks later she came back, with basket partly filled with eggs in one hand and in her right arm she had the baby. "Well," I said, "how are you. How is the piano." She said it was all right. "And is this the baby?" "Yes." "What will you take for him?" She replied, "Nothing in the world, but I surely would have taken its life if you had not helped me; and what a terrible thing it would have been." The following August, when Mrs. E. came to be treated for hay fever, she stated that she came through Mrs. B. "Oh," I said, "how is she?" She was fine. I gave Mrs. E. Arsenicum and Nux on pellets; never saw her again until the next August, when she returned for more medicine. She stated that the other attack broke up and was gone in three days.

Under Gentry's *Conc.* we have three remedies mentioned under the word murder. Hepar sulph., inclination to murder. Hyos., jealousy, delirious with rage and attempting murder. Calc. c., loquacious and talks about murder. Under Nux vom., we have: an insane desire to kill her husband, whom she adores. These are the only remedies we have found, which have a desire to murder or kill.

Case 3

During the year of 1883 after spending my first term in Old Hahnemann, Philadelphia I returned to Dr. T. C. White's office in Rochester, N. Y., to spend the summer and try by observation and study to add a little to the mite I had already learned. One day I picked up a little volume published by Lacy & Hunt. This may not be just correct, as I am writing from memory. In reading on some subject, cannot recall, I ran across this paragraph:

"For ophthalmia following measles, give *Merc. biniod.*" The thought flashed through my mind that that was worth remembering, so I just pushed it up into the attic, for future use.

After spending seven years practising in Delaware and Maryland, I returned to Philadelphia. One morning in June (three years later) a little girl of five came to the office leading her little blind brother by the hand.

Both his eyes were shut tight with good, healthy, rotten, creamy pus running a stream down each cheek.

I ushered them into the private office. The following conversation took place:

"Well," I said, addressing the little girl, "what caused all this trouble?" "I don't know." "How long has he had it?" "I don't know." "Has he been sick?" "I don't know." "Has he had the Measles?" "Yes." "Has he had this trouble ever since?" "Yes." "Well then I guess that is the cause, is it not?" "I don't know."

I studied for a moment, and I recalled, for ophthalmia following measles, give Merc. biniod. I filled a two dram vial with 3x tablets with directions to give one tablet every two hours. He never came to the office after, but I heard from the family and others, that he was cured. He was three years old when he received the treatment; I saw him a number of years later and he was suffering from tosis or drooping of the upper lids. I asked him to come to the office and I would give him medicine to correct it; but he never came. I never learned how long he had been blind; but was told by persons that they had taken him to every doctor in the neighbourhood but without any results.

Case 4

A number of years later my friend, Dr. Griffith, one day asked me if I would like to go to the children's homoeopathic hospital every Friday from twelve to one p.m. and help them out in the eye department, to which I consented. I made the fourth physician, and it kept us all quite busy to get through in the time allotted.

Among the cases coming for treatment was a little girl four years old. Her case was under the care of the chief, Professor P. Every two weeks she was brought in, and the professor would examine her eyes thoroughly, and he could do it finer than any person I had ever seen. Seemed he could remove the whole eye ball from the socket, hang it over the patient's shoulder, and when finished replace it again. But, for a fact, he could manipulate the eye with less annoyance and objection from patients, than any doctor I have met. This child was suffering from very heavy ocular and palpebral congestion; with a great deal of photophobia, but not to the extent that the former case did, for he could not open his eyes at all; but she could.

This patient was given Rhus tox, I don't know what strength. Probably had received other remedies previously, however, she apparently was not mending at all.

After I had been assisting for several months, and was just getting a little knowledge of fitting glasses, etc., one Friday I went up as usual, and not one doctor came in. I was alone and a houseful of people to wait on, and among them was this little girl and her father. Here, I thought is my opportunity. When their turn came I questioned the father, and found that

she had been suffering with the ophthalmia, etc., ever since she had had the measles, two years previously. I prescribed Merc. biniod 3x trit. but the druggist said they did not have it in stock. I said to the father, that if he would come down to my office I would give him a remedy which I felt pretty sure would cure the trouble. He came down the next evening; I gave the above medicine; he returned when it was taken, with the information that the little girl was very much improved; I repeated the same prescription and never heard from her afterwards, but assumed she got all right.

I have searched through Farrington, Gentry's *Concordance Repertory*, Goodno, Guernsey, Hering and Royal's *materia medica*s and Norton's *Ophthalmic Therapeutics*, also Raué's and Cowperthwaite's *therapeutica*, but not one of these mention Merc. biniod as useful in the above condition.

Guernsey gives the fullest and most complete list of remedies with the very special indications for each. Merc.-vividus is mentioned for the gland enlargement, diarrhoea and sore throat. I have given it for those symptoms in measles with success. Merc.-biniod is mostly recommended in left sided troubles, but in ophthalmia coming from the above disease it takes in both sides, for in the two instances mentioned, both eyes were affected.

Case 5.

Mrs. R., 30 yrs. old, weight about 125 lbs., black hair and eyes, complexion very pale and anæmic, called at our office Feb. 21st this year, with the following story:

"My vision has been gradually failing for the past several years, at first it seemed only a slight blurring, which I could to a certain extent remove by rubbing with my hand, but after a while as time passed it would return, and by winking and rubbing the eyes with my fingers more or less persistently. I could dispel it for a few minutes or longer, but the blurring would sooner or later return. This continued, and gradually grew worse, and at times would seem relieved and I could see a little clearer only to be worse again in a day or so. Finally my husband took me to an oculist, he examined my eyes and said I needed glasses, he fitted me and for a short time I could see very well, but in a few months the sight began to grow very dim, and we went again to the oculist. He stated we would have to have stronger lenses, he fitted them and the improvement was very gratifying, but very short lived. Then we tried another oculist, with no better results, and then another who was very highly recommended, he worked very patiently for about an hour, finally he stopped, removed the test frame, looked into my eyes and remarked, you are going blind and no glasses will help you. This was in Houston, Texas.

Then we talked it over and concluded to come to Denver, to try the eye doctors here; we called on several and after trying to fit me, they would give it up. The last one we visited, we asked if he thought he could fit my eyes with glasses, so I could see. He replied, he could fit any eyes; but after

working for about an hour and a half, he removed the testing frames, raised my eyelids, looked into my eyes and said, nobody can fit you, you're going blind.

"Some time after this, my daughter and I were down town and stepped into a restaurant for lunch and took seats at a table across from another lady who was being served; I asked the strange lady if she would please read the menu for me; she looked up at me and inquired, why cannot you read it? I said I cannot see, and my little girl is not far enough advanced to do it for me. Then she became very interested about my condition after I explained how the oculists told me I could not be fitted and that I was going permanently blind. The stranger said don't you get discouraged, go down to Colorado Springs and see Doctor Fanning; I know of several persons he has helped and restored their vision when they could not get help from glasses. When my husband returned home that evening, I related to him what I had been told and he said we will go down there and find out if he can give you any relief."

Their first visit was Feb. 21st, this year, and on examination, I found the following: In the eyes, which on ordinary observation appeared quite normal, but under the glass the whole pupillary space was filled with dark, irregular shaped masses or chunks that reminded me of rotten or porous ice in its consistency, both eyes apparently were the same, and almost completely carbonated, no light could penetrate such a mass. I raised my two fingers about three feet from her face, and in front of a bright light coming in from the window and asked if she could tell me what it was I was holding; she looked and turned her head from side to side, and finally said I can see a dark blur. I informed her that we could remove the carbon and very likely restore her vision, but it would take some time to clear it all out, as it had to be re-absorbed and carried off through the general system; and because of her very exhausted general condition, which consisted of soreness of the liver, pain in left kidney, weak heart and too rapid; the menstrual flow was dark, scant, painful and very offensive, bowels costive, oppressed when in a close room, pains in both ovaries much worse on right side; said if she received cut, all that flowed out was just like coloured water; the lips and finger nails were very pale.

Our prescription at this first visit, Pulsatilla, 20 dilution on pellets, was given, and a pint bottle of the carbon eliminator compound to clear the eyes and take care of the anemia.

Her second visit was March 30th when she stated she was feeling considerably better. I tested her vision with the two fingers and at the same distance I asked her what she saw. She replied two fingers; her colour was improved, all her other pains were less severe.

The same medicines were repeated, with the assurances that she would regain her health and vision.

Her third visit to the office, was April 17th when she reported a

wonderful improvement in every way: her pains were all gone, she was feeling much stronger, colour was returning to her cheeks, appetite was much better, bowels regular and best of all she could see to go about the house and do her work without being guided. The pupils had cleared decidedly with the second bottle of the compound.

We have not seen Mrs. R. since, but heard some time ago, that she was very much better; and that her sight was almost as good as it ever was, and she was coming down to see us again soon.

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