

SOME NOTES ON MALARIA*

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Malaria has been a scourge to a great part of this country throughout its history, and while it has been controlled to a great extent, now there is still enough of it left to give plenty of trouble. This section of country was especially malarious. The James-town colonists suffered seriously from it, and during the war between the States both armies were affected by it, especially the Southern, as they were short of medical supplies.

The First North Carolina Regiment was stationed on the Peninsula during the first summer of the war, and their mortality was so heavy that the Colonel told my mother the following fall that he would rather lead his regiment as a forlorn hope in an attempt to storm Fortress Monroe than stay on the Peninsula another summer, that he believed he would lose less men.

We do not see so many cases of acute malaria now, the old chill, fever and sweat; but there is still a great deal of chronic malaria, and it is often very difficult to clear up.

I have seen a number of cases of tic douloureux which were undoubtedly of malarial origin, and which cleared up under the indicated remedy, usually one of the malarial remedies. Another form is supraorbital neuralgia. The old people in the low country called this brow ache, which is certainly a very descriptive name. In my experience Spigelia has been the most frequently indicated remedy in these cases.

I had an interesting case of this kind some years ago. The patient, a man of about forty-five, was a professor in a college in the South, and was on his way home from Baltimore where he had been through the clinic at Johns Hopkins. He said that they took six days to go over him, and that it would probably take him six months to pay their bill, and I have no doubt that it did. He was suffering from severe attacks of supraorbital neuralgia which would come on about every six weeks and completely knock him out for a day or two. He said that after examining him at Johns Hopkins they told him that he was a hundred per cent sound, that it was true that he had the pain but that they could not find any cause for that, so they gave him a prescription with a little dope in it to take when the attacks came on, and sent him home. Now this patient had a marked malarial history in early life, and I am confident that malaria was the cause of his trouble.

I regret to say that I was unable to follow this case up. He did not have any faith in Homoeopathy and did not want to come to see me, only did so to please a relative with whom he was stopping.

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In treating acute malaria, while any remedy may be indicated, the vast majority of the cases in my experience run to a few remedies: Arsenium, China, Eupatorium perfoliatum, Ipecac, Natrum mur., Nux vomica, Sepia and Sulphur cover the vast majority of the cases.

If you do not see your remedy at once, a very good plan is to give Nux vomica low and wait. Frequently it will clear the case up entirely, but if it does not it generally straightens it out so that you can see a remedy. Sepia is also a fine remedy to straighten out a case, but it is more useful later on after you have tried several remedies without success.

The most puzzling case that I ever had was one about thirty years ago, in the early fall. The patient was a healthy young woman, and she had what I thought was a typical Eupatorium perfoliatum case, and I gave it to her in the 50M. No results. I repeated it and then tried lower potencies; no results. I still could not see anything but Eupatorium. I tried intercurrents and a number of other remedies with no results. Finally after about a month of this the family began to get restless and wanted something done, so I told them that there probably was a homoeopathic remedy for the case but that I had failed to find it, that I could stop the chills but the patient would not be cured. They said that they would like to have the chills stopped, so I gave her two grains of quinine every two hours for twenty-four hours and the chills stopped. She went through the winter without any more trouble, but in the early spring the chills came back with exactly the same symptoms that she had in the fall. I gave her one dose of Eupatorium perf. 50M. and as far as I know she has not had a chill from that day to this. She does not live in Richmond now, but I treated the family for a good many years before they moved away.

One of the best results that I know of in a case of chronic malaria was a case that I did not treat myself, but as the patient lived in Chicago he was referred to Dr. Farrington. I was returning from Chicago in the spring of 1922 and met a gentleman on the train who, while living in Chicago at the time, was originally from Virginia. He knew my people in Virginia and we talked a good deal. He told me that he was very worried about his wife, who had a severe case of tic douloureux. He said that he had taken her to the leading men in Chicago, New York and Boston; that forty x-rays had been taken of her head and one tooth extracted, which was perfectly normal, and that nothing had done her any good.

I knew that his wife had come from Essex County, Virginia, and I knew that at the time she lived there about every man, woman and child in the county could be charged with having, or having had, malaria. So I said to him, "Colonel, I can tell you a man in Chicago who can cure your wife if you will try him." He said that he would be delighted to do so and he took Farrington's address. I parted with him the next day in Richmond and did not hear from him until the following February, when I received a very nice

letter thanking me for my advice, which he had taken, and stating that his wife was now a well woman.

Malaria is frequently one of the most difficult things to prescribe for, and I have sweat blood over it many times, but occasionally the Fates are kind. We had one summer in Richmond many years ago when *Natrum muriaticum* was the *genus epidemicus* and cured nearly every case. It was not necessary to take any symptoms. It was a case of chills just given *Natrum mur.* and you had a nine to one chance of hitting it. I have never seen anything like it except the fall of 1918 when *Gelsemium* was the remedy for 95% of the cases of influenza.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Green: I never see a patient more surprised and perhaps more impressed than when I suddenly ask her if she ever had malaria when she was young. They never seem to think of that as having anything whatever to do with the present condition.

Dr. Spalding: We see very few, if any, cases of acute malaria nowadays. I don't recall a single case of acute malaria in twenty-one years' practice, and yet it seems to have been full of malaria, according to the old transactions recorded. But I have seen evidences of suppressed malaria more than once. I will just mention one case briefly to illustrate. About seven years ago a patient had influenza and was doing fine, but he got up sooner than he was told to, went downstairs, and he had a relapse. Then he developed an exceedingly high fever. There were few other symptoms. I prescribed without any success for a week. The family was getting in the same state that Dr. Baker refers to, restless, wanting something done. I went in different hours of the day, and finally discovered that the high fever, up to 105, was occurring at clock-like intervals around three or three-thirty in the afternoon, and it then occurred to me to ask if he had ever had malaria. He said, "Oh yes, I was cured twenty-five years ago with quinine." By referring to the time of day aggravation, *Eupatorium* cured the man in a couple of days. I have forgotten the potency, but this was an example of suppressed malaria which came to light after the relapse of influenza. It uncovered the soil which was there all the time.

Dr. Woodbury: How high a potency?

—*Dr. Spalding:* 10M., one shot, I think—I don't recall the potency.

Dr. Dixon: I am surprised that Dr. Moore hasn't been on his feet to tell how he used to cure hrow ague before he was regenerated into the homoeopathic school. I will sit down and let him tell you.

Dr. Moore: We had a man who had recently been in the Philippines quite a number of years, and he had come to be more or less a routinist on blood examinations for the plasmodium. Everyone in Akron was surprised every once in a while, where we had no malaria for years that anyone knew about, when he would turn it up here and there quite often. I am quite at

home to find an 'old-school' man here with his two grains of quinine. That was just as good as your Gelsemium for your influenza down here. One of my specialties was stopping this brow ague, which is very much like a frontal sinusitis. If you put your thumb right there (indicating), your patient will go right away from you, and I have even seen the frontal sinus opened without finding any pus but the pain was there. If any of you get stuck in any way with brow ague, two grains of quinine every hour until the ears begin to ring. That is all there is to it.

Dr. Woodbury: Where do you apply your pressure, Dr. Moore?

Dr. Moore: On the floor of the frontal sinus.

Dr. Woodbury: For the tenderness, just the tenderness.

Dr. Moore: In a frontal sinus case, that will always get rid of the pain, because that floor is thin.

Dr. Woodbury: Thin plate.

Dr. Roberts: I had one case in which I myself was the victim. A few years ago I was out making calls, and at eleven o'clock in the morning I was immediately struck with a very severe headache and fever. I went home and went to bed. Dr. Phillips, who was living then, came down and saw me, and he was so worried about it that he came down again in the evening. I had a temperature of 105 when he was there about twelve o'clock. He told me to stay in bed. I did. The next day at eleven o'clock my fever began to come up again. No chill. Dr. Seaver Smith happened to drop into the house at the time, and I said, "Take some of my blood. I want to see what it is made of," and he tested it. He said he had never seen plasmodia so thick in his life as they were in that. The next morning at eleven o'clock the temperature went up to 105½, and that was the last of it. At six o'clock it was normal again, and I have never had any return of it and my blood is all right now. That was a Natrum mur. cure.

Dr. Grimmer: I have cured a number of malaria cases with Natrum mur. I have found it a banner remedy for chronic cases of malaria with the typical symptoms.

Dr. Woodbury: Dr. Hayes, do you find many cases nowadays?

Dr. Hayes: It has been several years since I have seen one. I had a case of it myself. Years ago I had a chill every year just about the same time, one chill a year.

Dr. Green: I would like to mention a case Dr. Thurston had in the old days in Boston. I had the patient later on, and he told me this tale. The patient was an epileptic, and the past history was that he had malaria badly long before Dr. Thurston took him. When he went to Dr. Thurston he had epilepsy. I don't know the remedy, but Dr. Thurston prescribed and cured the epilepsy and brought back the malaria.

Dr. Baker: I would like to ask Dr. Moore, did you say he found the plasmodium in those cases?

Dr. Moore: In the routine cases that came along. This fellow was just

in the habit of making these blood examinations. He was quite a laboratory man. He had done it a lot in the Philippines, so when he came back he kept at it, and he found it very often in patients where no malaria was suspected.

Dr. Baker: The Marines have had a lot of trouble with malaria down in Haiti and Central America. I have had one or two of those cases, not in the acute stage, where they had had it down there, and I tell you it tears them up.

The reason I asked you about the plasmodium is that I haven't had a chance to check up on those data on plasmodium, but I don't suppose that in those old *tic douloureux* and things like that, where the malaria history is forty years back, you will ever find any plasmodium there.

Dr. Grimmer: I have seen it.

Dr. Baker: You have? I have seen a number of cases from Johns Hopkins, and it wasn't there at all. It has got them up a tree. They didn't think that malaria ought to hang on that long.

Dr. Moore: In my earlier homoeopathic days, I had one of those from the Spanish-American War. He had had a lot of malaria. I gave him a dose of *Natrum mur.* He went home and had some chills and fever for which he took quinine, and I was out, of course. He hadn't had any chills and fever for a long time. It followed immediately after that dose.

Dr. Baker: I reckon that quinine will cure a case of malaria, of chills and fever, if that is the indicated remedy, whether you give it in the CM or the five-grain dose. I had a beautiful case of a child once, the only case of double tertian I ever saw in my life. I used to be taught about double tertians in college, but I have seen only one. There was a paroxysm every day at ten and every other day at three. There were two separate infections there. The child was down at Highland Springs, six or seven miles below Richmond, down on the Chickahominy. You get any quantity of malaria there. His grandmother was a graduate of the old Baltimore College of Homoeopathy, so-called. She was some prescriber! She had given him about everything she could think of, and she finally asked me to come down. The case was very pretty, and the symptoms showed up well. I took the symptoms down and went home and worked it out, and I gave him a dose of *Chininum sulph.* He never had another chill and healed beautifully. That is the only double tertian I have ever seen.

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