

CLINICAL COMMENT ON INFLUENZA

Dr. Harry B. Baker, Richmond Virginia: Our results have been much superior to those of the old school. Neither Dr. Tabor nor myself have lost a case. Gelsemium was the *genus epidemicus* and covered probably 95% of the cases. I used it as a prophylactic also with very satisfactory results.

Dr. B. E. Miller, Portland, Oregon: We have had our quota of influenza, but I have not heard of a death under homeopathic treatment. One of the severest cases I have had is that of Dr. A. L. Canfield, who developed pneumonia with influenza. He is now well and on the way to recovery. Our doctors are worked to the limit.

Dr. B. W. Henderson: Every influenza patient running a high fever five to seven days is reckoned a central broncho-pneumonia. *Head on the pillow* (that is, patient kept strictly in bed) and straight homeopathic treatment will bring most of them through. One death; a young man who refused to stay in bed after the fifth day had a relapse and died.

During service at Hahnemann Hospital, no case coming under treatment early was fatal. Of ward patients, two women, both pregnant, came in with well developed pneumonia and died. There were other fatalities in patients arriving in advanced stages. Some of these cases had had aspirin. There was no pneumonia or deaths among the student nurses or interns.

Remedies in order of choice: belladonna, bryonia, phosphorus, calcarea iodide, arsenic iodide. The period for gelsemium, if present, was very short,—this remedy did not maintain its record for influenza.

A heart stimulant was required in many cases. This was met by the dig.-nitroglyc.-strych. tablet, or the P. D. camphor-olive oil (1 c.c.) hypodermic.

Dr. Mary E. Hanks: A central pneumonia can often be diagnosed by the temperature curve (24 to 48 hours) before physical findings confirm such diagnosis.

Dr. E. E. Vaughan: Heavy general work for four weeks. One day, forty-two homes visited, and sometimes six in a family. Epidemic characterized by sudden rise of fever and very high temperature with general aching; serious infections showing marked tendency to pleuropneumonia. Four deaths from sequelae to influenza. All were young men; all had taken aspirin freely; two were heavy drinkers. A fifth fatality observed was a man with "an earache,"—at the specialist's office in the afternoon, became unconscious during the night, developed meningitis in the morning, pulmonary complication during the day, and died in the evening.

Remedies: baptisia, bryonia, phosphorus, ipecac and arsenic.

In Union Hospital of thirty nurses, ten were stricken at the same time, but there was no death either in the nursing or the medical staff.

Dr. A. L. Blackwood: Every last one lived. Simplest thing on earth. Give them a well-ventilated, warm room, good general care, and 75% to 80% require nothing but eupatorium or gelsemium, or for the pulmonary involvement, sanguinaria nitrate.

Dr. A. H. Gordon: Two autopsies confirmed the diagnosis of mixed infections involving bronchi, lungs, heart, intestines, and liver. Treatment based on these facts. Lesions in heart and liver were cloudy swelling, and ulcers in stomach. Patient taking aspirin apt to die. No pneumonia and no fatalities in patients seen in early stage.

No food during fever, but plenty of hot water; absolute rest in bed. Malted milk and broths are best tolerated. Eggs seriously disagree.

Aconite, arnica and arsenic iodide; later (for the gastric involvement), nux vomica. No whiskey, no hypodermic stimulation.

Dr. Julia Strawn: Eighteen to twenty cases; one pneumonia, two with serious infection. Gelsemium, ferrum phos., bryonia and phosphorus. Made some experiments with vaccine as preventive.

Dr. Marion Russell: Many cases, one death from pneumonia. One bad complication in a patient with a ten day fever, 103° to 104°. After a normal and subnormal temperature, shrimp salad and cranberry sauce induced acute indigestion, and in the relapse the patient developed pleuropneumonia with bloody frothy sputum for ten days, hematuria and nasal hemorrhage, but is now recovering.

The peculiarity of the epidemic has been a slow pulse with high temperature and, in women, premature return of menstruation.

The selected homeopathic remedies and digalen (Hofman and LaRoche) in cardiac complication contributed to low mortality. Some experiments with vaccines as preventive.

Dr. Edward Cobb: Few patients have developed pneumonia. Children are less susceptible than grown-ups. Of seven pregnant women, five were desperately sick. One died; she had taken aspirin freely before calling a doctor. Remedies: Gelsemium and bryonia.

Dr. W. Henry Wilson: From the pathological standpoint many cases start out as influenza, but another infection is superimposed; frequently there is pulmonary hemorrhage of edema and a toxic myocarditis. Many have damaged their therapy with aspirin; they have not demanded rest; and they neglect nutrition.

Dr. Alfred Lewy: The ear sequelae have been peculiarly stubborn without the usual relief from paracentesis.

Dr. Agnes Fuller: Fifty or more cases, in private practice. No mortality, two or three in a family; treatment in general along the same lines as at the Home for the Friendless. There the children were practically exempt. Thirty-eight from the adult household gave pretty uniformly the following: fever 103° to 105°, dry throat, squeamishness, sleeplessness, muscular sore-

ness, obstinate diarrhea, or constipation, and always profound exhaustion. Only four had bright red bloody sputum, and these without pneumonia; one death, a patient who had quinsy three weeks earlier.

Every child with snuffles or enlarged tonsils had the nose swabbed (*not sprayed*) with equal parts chloretone and albolene and listerine for a gargle.

Bryonia, hepar sulphur, arsenic, or chininum arsenic, aromatic spirits of ammonia, and crystals of ammonia carbonate were frequent remedies.

Hiccough was rather common, and was relieved by aromatic spirits of ammonia.

Kepler's Malt and Phillip's Syrup of Wheat Phosphates were valuable adjuncts.

Dr. H. M. Schofield: Remedies: gelsemium, echinacea, eupatorium and belladonna. For the myocardial weakness, the dig-nitroglyc.-strych. tablet. One patient who took ten grains of aspirin every half hour for five doses while she was waiting for the doctor, insisted on getting well—in spite of the aspirin.

Keep patient in bed four days after the fever is gone. Insist on liquid diet—milk often disagrees.

An intern in Cook County Hospital reported two thousand cases in one month, and it was commonly observed that the infection precipitated menstruation. A striking mortality was reported in the obstetrical ward of another hospital.

From private life one patient is reported to have been ordered to take five grains of asperin every two hours. When she had taken one hundred and twenty grains, her heart "almost stopped."

THOMAS J. PRESTON, JR., DEAN OF THE NEW YORK HOMEOPATHIC COLLEGE AND FLOWER HOSPITAL

By William W. Blackman, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. Thomas J. Preston, Jr., was born at Hastings-on-Hudson in the State of New York. He spent his boyhood in the Eastern District of the City of Brooklyn, where he attended Public School No. 34.

After graduating from this, he attended the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute, which was then a college of liberal arts and not, as now, an almost exclusively engineering institution. From the Polytechnic Institute he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

He then entered the Columbia College School of Mines, when that institution was located at 49th Street and Madison Avenue. He was unable to finish his course at Columbia owing to his health being impaired by overwork.

After some recuperation he went abroad and studied at the University of Geneva, in Switzerland, and at Paris.