

Some Indicated Remedies in Pneumonia

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I WILL limit this paper to a few remedies which we find indicated in pneumonia.

After the diagnosis is made I always try for the time being, or at least while prescribing, to forget that my patient has pneumonia. All forms of pneumonia are given the same consideration, whether it is lobar, central, bronchial, traumatic, any one of them, I try at least to forget pneumonia long enough to make my prescription.

I could cite cases, but am inclined to think you will appreciate indicated remedies more. You make your personal call, and get the history of the case. While doing all this, your patient is before you for observation, and remember actions to a close observer speak louder than words.

If you observe a very restless anxious patient, with fear, dry hot skin, flushed or pale face, sharp pains in chest, hurried respirations with a hard full quick pulse, you have one remedy which is needed and that is aconite. You may observe more symptoms, the attendant could tell you more about the patient, but you have enough to make a very good prescription. The arterial excitement alone, hard, full and quick pulse is sufficient. I like aconite given in 3x dilution — 30 drops in four ounces of water *ziz* every hour.

In the case where the patient tells you of a dry hacking annoying cough, feeling of weight in the chest, and you observe a flushed face, hurried respirations, blood-shot eyes, red tongue, and a full, soft, quick pulse, give that patient Ferrum Phos. 3 tablets of the 3rd x in a little hot water every hour.

Take for instance Byronia. The keynote of this remedy is found in the statement, all symptoms are aggravated by even the least motion, and this characteristic will be found running through all complaints needing this remedy.

Don't forget Baptisia in your severe septic type of patients, prostration discharges have a decidedly foul odor, marked gastric disturbances, tympanitis, bed feels too hard, aches all over, feels sore and

too sick to move. He is dull, don't sleep, imagines himself to be two persons or is separated and scattered about in bed, dark purple appearance of the face, besotted look as if drunk. The tongue is white and coated and changes to a brown and the pulse is full, rapid and irregular. In that case Baptisia is your sheet anchor.

You have other remedies just as valuable as the ones we have noted:

Veratum Album
Phosphorus
Rhus Tox
Labelia
Ipecac
Tarter Emetic
Kali Sulph.
Belladonna
Hyoscyamus.

These remedies all have characteristic symptoms, and these symptoms are facts. Therefore a careful analysis of each case is absolutely necessary before the prescription is made. I have seen cases of delirium entirely clear up with one dose of Hyoscyamus 30x.

You prescribe for your patient today and the next day another line of symptoms are observed and it means a new prescription; so during the course of pneumonia you may employ from one to a dozen remedies before your case is entirely cured of the disease. I will admit that it is not easy at times to prescribe the remedy indicated, but it is our painful duty to give our patients the best we have.

When it is a toss-up with two remedies or both seem clearly indicated, I see no objection to alternating them. However, avoid the compounds. Allow no pharmaceutical house to prescribe any way from four to ten of your best remedies mixed up in one nice looking chocolate covered pill. Always make your own prescription, and at all times be prepared to meet any emergency which might arise.

DISCUSSION

Dr. H. C. Whitaker, Dublin: In commenting on a paper of this kind puts me in mind of the story of the boy asking

another one for the core of his apple and the answer that he received was that there wasn't going to be any core.

In looking over the essayist's paper I find that he has omitted one remedy that is the sheet anchor of many men of our school and also by the men of other schools, and that is *Veratrum Virides*. I think the early stages of pneumonia, especially of lobar pneumonia, will call for this remedy oftener than any other.

In the use of *Ferrum Phos.* it has been my custom to use it in cases where the power of resistance seemed to be low, in fact, probably would show a low opsonic index; or in slang, the patient did not have much kick to him.

This remedy comes into my mind as secondary to aconite where we do not have the pain that we would expect from *Bryonia*. I think it is of special benefit in the pneumonias of children.

I am inclined to think that the Homoeopathic school has the best of it when it comes to treating this disease, as we have settled on a certain line of remedies and that is something that the others have not, but we must not get the impression that we have all the good things.

What shall we do when the right heart is weakening in the congestive stage? Shall we push out *Veratrumvirides* a little harder or shall we insert a needle in a vein and relieve this condition?

Later on in the disease when the heart as a whole begins to show the strain that it is under shall we depend on the indicated remedy alone or shall we give the patient the benefit of *Digitalis*, *Campor*, *Caffeine* or other drugs that may help us over these emergencies. Personally, I am in favor of using all the methods that are known to help the patient over these times.

Again, what shall we do with a cough that fails to respond to the indicated remedy as you see it. We always have some preparation of *Opium* to fall back on, and in place of seeing a patient wearing himself out with a terrific cough why not use something that will prevent it. There may be some bad effects from using the opiates but at times the good effects will far outweigh the ill effects.

It may be heretical for me to say some of this in a meeting of this kind but am

going to run the risk, and some of you may step on me hard for saying it.

Along early in the year 1919 the Chief Surgeon, A. E. F., issued an order to the effect that all cases of pneumonia should have enough *digitalis* to render the heart susceptible to it so a quick action could be obtained if needed, an enough morphine to control the cough. In a series of cases during the spring of 1920 I followed this plan, using the indicated remedy as I saw it and enough of the above two drugs as I thought was needed. In this series of cases I had only one death and that was one in which this treatment was not used.

Dr. Wilms, Cincinnati: Mr. President, I know nothing about pneumonia, but the discussants seem to be a little slow in getting on their feet and I am willing therefore to say something which might be of some value. I did not hear all of the doctor's paper, but I heard a few things. He said something about pushing the drugs and giving a low potency. I do not know that there is a greater field for Homoeopathy than the treatment of pneumonia, but there are certain dangers in treating pneumonia with Homoeopathic remedies, especially the use of low potencies. We seem to forget, or lose sight of the fact, or are ignorant of the fact, that the drugs which we are using are liable to produce pneumonia, so that it has often occurred to me — is it possible that the drugs we are trying to use to cure pneumonia, in case the patient dies, whether the drug that was supposed to cure the pneumonia did not really produce the disease? I do not care to mention very many drugs, but we have some of great value in septic conditions, as well as the pneumococcus which is septic. We do not know very much about the pathology, but we do know that it is profoundly septic. We have such remedies as bi-chlorid of mercury, and merc. cro. in 3x undoubtedly will produce pneumonia. We should not lose sight of the fact that drugs we are using may produce pneumonia. I think it would be a very good thing if we would instigate some research work which would show how low we can use potencies, and how often without producing pneumonia.

Dr. Reddish: My experience with pneumonia has led me to believe that we should not give digitalis until the heart calls for it, which is very seldom under strict Homoeopathic prescribing. There is one remedy I did not hear mentioned, and which is of great value in these desperate cases, and that is arsenicum. It will hold the patient up fine.

Dr. Ralph Reed, Cincinnati: I do not know in regard to digitalis. As to morphin, all I can say is that if the physician who read the paper were treating me for pneumonia he would not give me any morphin. I have seen a good many results of morphin administration in pneumonia, particularly bronchial pneumonia, and I speak more especially of that, in the army. Opium and morphin relieves the cough by abolishing the coughing reflexes. The cough reflex is what relieves the lungs of the toxic accumulation of mucus, especially the bronchial type. I think in severe bronchial pneumonia you can kill your patient just as certainly as any way you want to do it by giving the patient sufficient morphin that he will have no inclination to raise the large accumulation of mucus, if there is any.

Dr. Alfred Pulford, Toledo: I would like to cite one case. I was called in consultation with one of the very best subscribers in this State. He had four cases of pneumonia in one family, the mother and three children. The case which was most puzzling was that of the baby. We went out there one cold night and examined the patients, and found that contrary to expectations belladonna, a very restless remedy, was indicated in the baby's case. There was a choice of two remedies, bryonia and belladonna. It was found that when the baby was turned over onto its side it would move back. Now bryonia is better in pressure, while belladonna cannot stand pressure.

Dr. J. W. Means, Troy: My experience convinces me that the Homoeopaths have a very superior treatment for pneumonia, but the thing that amazes me more than anything else is, why we cannot convince the old school practitioner of this fact. There is surely something wrong with us. If we are telling the truth, and we are having the successes that we claim we

have, why should we not give the information out among the people? The old school system has never had success with pneumonia. They did not have success with the treatment of influenza. They lost about 3% in the cantonments while the Homoeopaths lost 1%. Yet with all these records, if we tell this to the old school physicians they will not believe us at all. They do not think we tell the truth if we say we treated 800 cases of influenza without a death. I could say that to you people, but I could not say it before an old school society. They would think I was lying. I only want to relate a short incidence. A physician in our town had two cases of pneumonia, a father and mother about 32 years of age. The father died, and they were holding the body, expecting the mother to die that very day, or the next night, and they could then bury both together. I was called one morning to see the mother. I suggested that inasmuch as the doctor had killed nearly all the patients he had treated it might be well to change the treatment. He said he would do anything I wanted him to. The nurse had an overcoat on to keep from freezing to death. The patient was supposed to be dying. I told her we would change the treatment. I had them shut the doors, build a fire in the room, and put something hot to the patient's breast. I then prescribed for her. That woman got well. Was that a mere coincidence, or was it a matter of correcting the downward treatment which she was getting? We do not advertise ourselves enough. We seem to be afraid.

Dr. Bates: In regard to the treatment of pneumonia, I would like to say a few words. I believe the Homoeopathic treatment of pneumonia is pre-eminently the most successful. I was impressed by one point mentioned by Dr. Means, and that is, why do not the men of the other school listen to this message of superiority? I will tell you one reason. I had occasion at one time to speak before a Materia Medica Society in New York. At that time I told them, as I am telling you, that the one great trouble with the Homoeopathic School is that when the men are turned out of your colleges they are immediately swallowed in the maelstrom of general

medicine. They lose their identity too frequently. They join the regular associations and have nothing to say. They do not herald the treatments you proclaim. They let the other man tell of his treatment, and give his statistics showing poor results. This is true with but few exceptions. We have some men in our town who are exceptions and of course we have to give them credit. It is true, however, that many Homoeopaths are members of regular associations, and they do not speak in these societies of their Homoeopathic treatment. So many of our men when they leave college are swallowed up in the maelstrom of medical nihilism. That is the reason the old school men do not receive the message you may have to give. On my way down this morning I was reading the Institute Journal which contained an article on the treatment of influenza, in regard to different investigations which had been made. I tore out a few pages which I wanted to save. A man sitting by me picked it up, and note immediately the amount of money which Kettering of Dayton has so generously donated for investigation, etc. The remark which the man made was "that will all the investigation he will find it is no good. There is nothing in Homoeopathy." I turned to the article in regard to influenza and suggested that he read that when he had an opportunity, and he put it in his pocket. That is the propaganda which should be pursued whenever opportunity offers.

Dr. W. H. Loomis, Cleveland: A few years ago during the flu epidemic I had a little experience in the treatment of pneumonia. I had a small hospital and we had about 103 cases of pneumonia. The majority of cases came from old school men. They knew I was a Homoeopath, but they did not have time to come in to treat the cases, and so left them to me. During that epidemic I made it a rule in the hospital not to treat with the open air treatment. We treated with closed windows, but

plenty of fresh air of course. In the 103 cases of pneumonia, and we had in the neighborhood of 1000 cases of flu, we only lost 15 cases. In the flu cases we used gelsemium. In the latter part of the pneumonias we used arsenicum, iodid and phosphorus. Many of the cases had severe coughs. The cough was controlled quite freely by the use of morphin. The morphin was used $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. in four ounces of water, and given as the cough required. That controlled the coughing very nicely.

Dr. C. A. Dixon, Akron: I do not want to let this opportunity slip by without putting on record how I saw a Homoeopathic physician tide his patient over in a case of pneumonia, a desperate case, perhaps four months ago. The patient was in complete collapse, jaw dropped, tongue black, breathing irregular, unconscious defecation, etc. A desperate case I think you will all admit. The Homoeopath who had it in charge did not resort to morphin, nor to digitalis, nor anything but the indicated remedy, which in that case we thought was lycopodium. That was given I think in a 50 thousandth. The lady made a complete recovery from that death bed scene, and is now well, very much to the surprise of even the nurse who was on the case.

Dr. Basinger (closing): I only want to say a word. Do not use morphin—leave it alone. Get busy with your materia medica. The pneumonia symptoms of today are like those of yesterday. Get busy—it is up to you. Get your remedy. If they do not make remedies as good as they used to, that is not our fault. We expect that they make them as they did one hundred years ago. Of course I do not mean to say that we do not lose any cases, because I know we do. It is our duty, however, to get busy and prescribe the remedy indicated. You are the physician and should find out what remedy is needed, and should get it.