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HOMOEOPATHY
IN
VETERINARY PRACTICE

BY
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Collected & Arranged by

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Homoeopathy in Veterinary Practice *

“Do I understand you to say that during the ten years you have been in active practice you have relied solely upon homœopathic medicines among your patients?” “I am pleased to be able to reply in the affirmative, madam!” “But do you mean that among the larger animals, such as horses and cows, it does any good at all?” “Most certainly!” “and do you give them those tiny little globules?” “Well, no! I use the tinctures and triturations, because by this means a strictly defined strength is assured, and I can tell to the fraction of a grain what strength to administer!” “I suppose then, that you always use the strong tinctures?” “Not of necessity; it depends partly upon the class of animal I am prescribing for, and partly upon the nature of the disease of which it is a subject.” “Well, I am surprised; I can understand babies and young children getting a little benefit; but animals, and horses, too, of all others: you certainly do surprise me!!!” “But, madam, I hope you will pardon me, if I remind you that homœopathy does not mean small doses only; it is in

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reality a grand principle which enables those who practise it to select suitable medicines according to a certain fixed rule!" "Oh, yes, I know; my doctor has tried to explain to me about it; but I cannot see how you can practise upon animals, for they cannot answer any questions if you ask them!" "So far as your objection applies to an animal's power of speech, you are quite right; but to an experienced veterinary surgeon, animals have the power of conveying by signs and movement, where they are suffering pain, and careful physical examination enables us to determine what is the matter, although I am free to admit, that, as compared with the human physician, we labour under difficulties in diagnosing; on the other hand, our patients never mislead us by detailing a long list of imaginary symptoms." The fore-going is only a portion of a long conversation I had with a lady a short while ago, preparatory to undertaking the treatment of a favourite dog: it serves to demonstrate, however, in a modified degree, a very common impression that prevails in the minds of a large number of people, who, fully believing in the advantages of homœopathy for children, and up to a certain point for adults, seem incapable of understanding what good it can do for animals. Even among some of the staunchest adherents of the cause who would under no consideration call in any practitioner other than an avowed homœopathist, ladies and gentlemen of rank, title and social influence, there is a very large per-

centage, who permit their animals to be subjected to the tender (?) mercies of allopathic practice, even though homœopathy is within reach.

Now, this is all the more remarkable, when we consider that many of the objections raised by allopaths against the principles of homœopathy fall entirely to the ground when put to the test upon the lower animals ; such for instance, as the part which imagination plays in recovery from disease : it is of course perfectly futile for our medical opponents to say that a horse suffering from colic *thinks* that he is better after taking a dose or two of homœopathically selected medicine ; nor is it at all logical for allopaths to aver that a horse suffering from an acute attack of pneumonia or bronchitis which had recovered after being treated homœopathically would have got well even though he had not taken the medicines ; because every practical man knows by this time that, with such fatal diseases, the practice of EXPECTANCY is but a fraud and a delusion, and that not one case in a hundred, if left to unaided nature, ever does recover : therefore those who are enthusiastically desirous for the spread of homœopathy and for unquestionable proof of the truth of the principle, cannot do better than submit their own animals to the treatment, when ill, and do all they can to induce their friends to follow their example ; in this way much important evidence of its efficacy and value may be furnished. There are many ladies and gentlemen of position and influence who subs-

cribe most liberally to the reconstruction of such a useful institution as the Homœopathic Hospital, presumably because they are deeply interested in spreading far and wide the blessings which Hahnemann was instrumental in discovering : but if one may judge by their actions in daily life, they are totally indifferent to the advantages which the system affords to the faithful animals which either draw them about through the busy streets of the West End or help to protect their property during the silent hours of the night when no one but the trusty dog is on the look out for the light fingered gentry who perambulate our wealthy urban and suburban districts. All this seems very short-sighted policy : it's all very well to subscribe liberally to hospitals and such like public institutions, which in their turn do right royal service in spreading a practical acquaintance with this God-sent system ; but if it is after all so good for the human subject, why should not the faithful animals who minister to man's luxury and gratification share in the advantages which this most humane law of nature affords ? The answer is is not far to seek : plain unvarnished truth, though at times extremely unpalatable when brought straight home, is always the best in the long run ; and as regards the matter considered, it is as follows : Ladies and gentlemen of high social position leave the management of their horses, and, in many instances their dogs also, to the tender mercies of their coachmen, grooms or other household servants ;

in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, persons among the employed classes of society have not enjoyed the advantages of a sufficiently liberal education to enable them to appreciate correctly what homœopathy means, and in the same numerical proportion they are very frequently more amenable to the influence of the almighty dollar than they are to the well-being of their employers' property; consequently when "Jeams" has the power and authority delegated to himself, it is not often considered what medical system is the best in the interests of the animal, but who will pay the most liberal commission on the accounts. If ladies and gentlemen *will* place themselves in the hands of their servants in this way, merely to evade the trouble of looking after their own affairs, there is no wonder that homœopathic principles stand little or no chance of being properly tested among the lower animals; and in an equal degree the opportunity of testing the truth and value of the Homœopathic Law on creatures quite unbiassed by fancy and imagination is absolutely thrown away. There is no manner of doubt that in veterinary practice opportunities frequently present themselves of putting this medical system on its trial in such a way, that opponents who quibble over dosage and potency and make these the strong points of their objections against Hahnemann and all his work; would, if cases were carefully described, be *nolens volens*, compelled to admit that there must be something in it, unless as one is sometimes com-

pelled to fear, they have wilfully determined to close their eyes to the truth; so long however as, for reasons already assigned, cases for description are awaiting, for so long will unbelievers be able to plead that homœopathsists are not true to their faith, and homœopathy itself loses the advantage which so mighty a factor in its proof and in its dissemination would assuredly be. It will probably surprise many staunch homœopathsists to learn that the number of qualified Veterinary Surgeons who have openly avowed their belief and faith in Hahnemann's principle of drug selection can more than be counted on the fingers of one hand, leaving the thumb out of consideration, while the present total number of active graduates of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is very nearly three thousand. Personally, I look upon this as a most humiliating admission to have to make, and were it not that, as a whole, the Veterinary profession is far and away more liberal towards heterodox practitioners than is the Medical profession, my relations with my brother practitioners would be simply unbearable. And how is this paucity of Veterinary Homœopathsists to be accounted for? There must be a reason! To reply to this question, one cannot do more than surmise; there is, however, very little doubt that the law of supply and demand has something to do with it, but in what degree it is difficult to say. If, nevertheless, homœopathsists would be true to the convictions which they apply to themselves and entrust some of their value-

able carriage horses, race horses, hunters, neat and other stock to homœopathic treatment, utilising the assistance of those professional men who are available, plenty of really important cures would be effected which would furnish interesting cases for report in the Journals, and in this manner spread abroad a knowledge of the splendid system which has already done so much to assuage and alleviate the pains of poor suffering humanity: this done, thoughtful and intelligent young men would have their attention drawn to the subject, and it would almost certainly result, as it has in the Medical profession, that some of the more serious and conscientious of the number would determine to investigate, study and test for themselves this beneficent law of nature, which Hahnemann was instrumental in discovering, and which he so ably presented to the world. Reference, in passing, has already been made to the liberality of the Veterinary profession in the matter of creeds: this was no mere figure of speech thrown out as a sop to mollify the injured feelings of the allopathic practitioners: I am very happy to say, it is a fact which ten years of active life serves to confirm: during this period, as some of my clients, medical friends, and professional brethren know. I have from time to time as opportunity offered, reported cases and advocated the cause of homœopathy by the use of the pen, and on no occasion have any of my literary efforts been declined by our Veterinary journals, the editors of which

knowing full well the while what my medical tenets always have been. How does this compare with the treatment meted out to the many members of the medical profession who have sought to discuss the merits of the homœopathic system in the *Lancet* and other similarly conducted medical periodicals? It may then very reasonably be asked, if the Veterinary profession and the Veterinary journals are so liberal and so pacific in their attitude towards one whose professional sympathies in favour of homœopathy are so well understood and accepted, how is it that so few, such an insignificant minority, is found converted to the ranks of Hahnemann's followers?

I commend it to those who do me the honour of perusing these pages, to answer this question; I confess myself to be unable to answer it satisfactorily. One thing I can state as the result of my ten years' professional experience, and that is, the fault is not in the system. I have been instrument in making cures as striking and marvellous as any that I have ever heard or read of as attained by the medical profession: and many cases, that under orthodox allopathic treatment have been pronounced hopeless and incurable, have been raised up to ordinary health and usefulness after being treated on strictly homœopathic lines by myself: therefore I cannot and do not allow for one moment that the members of my profession have any warrant or reason for abstaining from an honest and intelligent investigation of the truth of the homœopathic law on

the ground of insufficient results. I do believe, however, that, as in some other branches of science, veterinarians have allowed themselves to be unduly biassed, without making reasonable personal investigation, by the allopathic members of the medical profession and by the allopathic journals and periodicals: the childish vapourings against homœopathy and the virulent diatribes against its followers which formerly used to form a portion of the literary productions of the *Lancet* and its contemporaries were, in cases that came under my personal observation among professional friends, accepted as affording good reason for taking no trouble to look into a system which was treated so contemptuously by leading authorities, or rather, I should say, by those who were, and are still, looked up to as leading authorities in matters medical by the many who, unhappily for themselves and their reputation, are content to allow any one to think for them rather than expend a little of their own time and a modicum of their own brains in thinking for themselves. It seems as though the medical profession never could forgive Hahnemann for discovering a law in medicine, and it pleases the members of this liberal (?) profession to contemptuously push aside even the bare possibility of the existence of such a law; indeed, to hear some of the learned magnates of this profession pour out their effusions, one would conclude that drugs generally were a delusion and a snare, and that the only scientific study worth a

moment's consideration is concentrated in bacteriology, and next to that how the living organisms which are included in that science may be combated by certain undefined and extremely variable systems of inoculation, all of which have up to the present time proved futile and not infrequently a great deal worse than useless, as witness the large percentage of deaths due to Pasteur's so-called anti-rabic inoculations. This, at the present time, is the fashionable craze among the medicos, and consequently veterinarians seem to think they must follow suit, and act accordingly. It is not to be wondered at then, if poor despised homœopathy is allowed to pass unheeded, and that so few trouble to make themselves acqu'nted with its advantages. In some measure, then, we can account for the apathy of veterinarians towards homœopathy. I now propose to examine the DISADVANTAGES and the ADVANTAGES of the *system* in its application to the work of the veterinarian, so far as I am able to do so from a personal experience of ten years. The *disadvantages* are certainly not very numerous, and there are but few that, given a firm determination to supersede difficulty, cannot be overcome. The most powerful factor among the hindrances to the more general adoption of the homœopathic law is IGNORANCE; there is no doubt, whatever, that to thoroughly understand and properly appreciate the real meaning of all that is involved in the word homœopathy, demands

the most studious, patient, and conscientious enquiry. Only those who have mastered the study are competent to express an opinion upon it, and I am quite confident that there is not one educated homœopathist who would venture to contradict the assertion: a successful homœopathist must be a strict precisionist. Having admitted thus much, is it to be wondered at, that coachmen, grooms, horse-keepers, cattle attendants, shepherds, kennel men and the like, from a simple want of knowing what homœopathy really means, and from an incapacity to grasp the theory of the system, should look with contempt upon it, when all they ever heard was that it consisted in the administration of minute globules; it is a pardonably natural conclusion for them to arrive at, bearing in mind how from their youth up they have been accustomed to see aloes administered by the five-drachm bolus and Epsom salts by the pound, the consequences of which are more easily imagined than described. It may be quite true that poor old Mary Jones who has "*for years been cat up with the rheumatiz,*" or poor little Nellie Robinson who was "*down real bad with the measles,*" may have been prescribed for to their un-mistakeable advantage by some enthusiastic amateur, who, with nothing more than a few globules of *rhus* and *belladonna*, utterly put to shame the treatment of the local physician, who in his turn sought to convince the too sceptical minds of their friends that it was simply impossible any such

rubbish could do any good; and *ignorance* of the educated only fostered the ignorance of the uneducated, and in this way has ignorance been perpetuated. This is usually what takes place in the country; in towns and large centres of population where the enlightened homœopathic physician is in evidence, and the dispensaries and hospitals flourish, matters assume an altogether different phase; there the success of the system is palpable and, as people judge of homœopathy by its results, converts are numerous: still, it is not because the system is scientifically understood, and though belief in homœopathy is firmly rooted, the public is not generally able to give a scientific reason for the faith that is in it.

It may be said that two degrees of ignorance prevail—first, that which is due to an obstinate and and perverse determination to know nothing of the system; this deserves censure because it exists, in the main, among members of the two professions which ought to be the very first to hail any improvement upon the empirical methods of the self-styled orthodox school; and second, a want of knowledge which, while not of the perverse type, is satisfied to judge from the practical standpoint of results only, without wishing to know wherein the real difference between the old and new schools of medicine consists. This indifference to a true appreciation of the scientific meaning of Homœopathy places its lay adherents at a great disadvan-

tage, and does much to hinder the spread of truth. The majority of the lay public seems to think that homœopathy means infinitesimal doses and nothing more, and entirely overlooks the fact that while allopaths have no guiding principle to go upon in the selection of suitable drugs, homœopaths endeavour always to prescribe according to the now recognised law of nature that *likes are cured by likes*. Of course it is a very difficult matter to convince a too credulous public that the noble profession of medicine was, till Hahnemann's time, floundering in the dark, with nothing more tangible than experience gained by experimentation to trust to, and with no definite principle to go upon in selecting what are proper drugs to administer in particular diseases; but so it was, and so it is now, with all who practise other than according to Hahnemann's principle. The more this is clearly understood the better for all concerned; unfortunately, this *want of knowledge* serves as a hindrance to many whose common sense must otherwise enable them to discern that the school of medicine—though for the time numerically in the minority—which is guided by a law of nature and a recognised principle in prescribing for disease, deserves to be better trusted than one that has nothing definite to guide it and which rather plumes itself upon declining to recognise the existence of any fixed law in drug selection for the cure of disease. Until those who do understand that homœopathy

implies a fixed principle in drug selection, and that the quantity and strength of the drugs used is a matter of practical experience, having literally no bearing at all upon the principle, will take the trouble to explain the real truth, the crass *ignorance* of the one class and the *want of knowledge* of the other will hold sway, and certainly in veterinary practice the advantages of the Hahnemannian system will be limited to the very few.

The next disadvantage homœopathic veterinary practitioners have to contend with is the difficulty experienced in convincing attendants of the great advantage gained by the frequent administration of small doses. This important feature of homœopathic practice—which, as has already been stated, is essentially a matter of experience and not of principle—is particularly advantageous in all cases of acute disease, and it must be understood that I refer to quantity not potency. The special attenuation of a given drug can only be determined after a fairly extensive practical experience, both as regards the nature and character of the drug to be used, the class of animal to be treated, and the stage of the disease of which it is the subject. By way of illustration, we will assume that an animal is the subject of some acute form of disease which is ushered in with very decided febrile conditions—an exalted temperature, rapid pulse and tumultuous respiration; the animal refuses nourishment, and in a very short time—only a few hours perhaps—

great prostration and weakness supervene, and the poor creature feels too ill to be bothered with taking medicine or anything else. Some allopaths would tell you that frequent doses are injurious because, they say, the animal is worried by constant attention. Undoubtedly, to the administration of considerable doses of crude unpalatable drugs, the swallowing of which the animal will resist to the uttermost of its available strength, this objection applies with great force. On the other hand, the small doses of the comparatively tasteless homœo-preparations, which have always proved so effective in their results, may be frequently administered with a minimum of annoyance to an animal and with a rapidity of action alike gratifying to the sufferer, the attendant and the owner; and my experience confirms me in the belief that the wear and tear which both patient and nurse undergo—bearing in mind the duration of the illness—is considerably less with the frequent dose of the homœopathist than with the more pungent and less frequent dose of the allopath, independent of the advantage gained in the selection of the medicine. All this, however, has to be learned by experience before attendants will believe in it, and it is essentially a disadvantage, and will continue to remain so until homœopathy is better understood; furthermore, the results are not infrequently disappointing, because the attendant neglects to give the medicine as often as he ought and is instructed to do, and in this

degree the practitioner is handicapped. I have very often proved the truth of this when I have had patients under personal supervision at my own infirmary, to which I regularly administered the medicine myself. Under such circumstances the results are little short of marvellous, proof of which will be afforded in some of the cases I propose to give an account of hereafter.

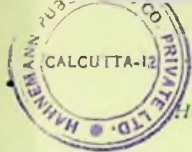
The potency or attenuation of the homœopathic preparations is often a source of difficulty. It may be argued that it is unnecessary for a veterinary surgeon to explain what, or what manner of drug he is prescribing. Granted. But, as a rule, particularly if it is the professional man's first visit, and the case is an urgent one, the attendant—and for that matter the owner too—is sufficiently curious and inquisitive to have a taste at the bottle, and unless it contains some pungent or nauseous concoction, he runs away with the idea that no good can result from its administration—indeed, the more unpalatable and disgusting to the taste the medicine is, the greater is his faith in it, and the more assiduously will he apply himself to its administration.

Only a growing confidence in the practitioner and a more extended knowledge of the really wonderful results obtained from the use of homœopathy-prepared drugs can obviate this disadvantage.

Cases of lameness in horses are a fruitful source of difficulty and disadvantage; this arises from no lack of success in our treatment. It is, nevertheless,

much more difficult to obtain good results in cases of lameness than in cases of idiopathic disease. Lameness, in the majority of cases, is due to violence in some form or other, such as concussion, strain and injury from falls. Splints, spavins, curbs, thoropins, and the like, though they do unquestionably arise spontaneously as the result of hereditary taint in numerous instances, probably more often than not owe their origin to some traumatic cause such as I have already indicated. In any case, however, an alteration of or an addition to the normal healthy tissue takes place; for instance, in the case of a sprained tendon or ligament, due it may be to a slip either in the stable when rising from the recumbent position or on the treacherous asphalt or stone pitching of our busy towns; what is the effect upon the fibrous tissue of which these parts are composed? The inflammatory process is set up, whereupon an exudation takes place both within and without the substance of the tendon. This exudate ultimately becomes formed material, which results in a complete organic change in the structure of the part. If taken in time the thickening which is thus effected may be absorbed, but it will be apparent to any one that, to effect such an alteration of tissue from the diseased condition produced by the inflammatory process and to restore it to its normal state, some time and unremitting perseverance in treatment is requisite. To realise benefit by the application of drugs which have a specific influence on fibrous tissue must of necessity

involve considerable hard work in the way of friction without which under such conditions their application is perfectly useless. The amount of trouble that has to be expended in this direction to obtain a successful issue only too often proves a barrier to its adoption ; it is so much easier to adopt counter-irritation by resorting to some form of blistering agent and allow the animal to lie by for a time. I am by no means a hard and fast opponent of counter-irritation, for under certain conditions I believe it to be a truly homœopathic method of procedure, and in some cases it cannot be dispensed with ; but discrimination is all important so as to avoid putting an animal to unnecessary pain. Moreover, the use of drugs which require considerable friction, and involve frequent labour in their application, is very often the best and most suitable to the nature of the injury and by far the most economical, the cure being effected more rapidly without any after consequences as in the case of counter-irritation ; but how few take this into consideration, and the allopathic practitioner almost invariably vetoes any sort of treatment other than counter-irritation, and in not a few cases, I regret to add, scoffs at the idea of any good arising from the use of arnica, rhus tox, calendula and any other such remedies as homœopaths are accustomed to rely upon under conditions of the kind already described. As I have before asserted, there are cases wherein counter-irritation is not only the best, but actually



the only method of treatment likely to prove useful ; on the other hand, there is a considerable number of cases wherein counter-irritation and its attendant pain, and not infrequent blebbling, is not only unnecessary but positively harmful, in which our homœopathically selected drug, externally applied, is the true remedy ; but to avail themselves of its advantages owners must insist upon having only a homœopathic practitioner called in.

It does not come within the compass of this tract to dilate upon the various pathological conditions which are the causes of lameness or it would be a most congenial task to point out the different circumstances affecting horses when lame, and the advantages, both to owner and animal, arising from the use of non-vesicating drugs, among which are included those already indicated ; the bare statement must in the present instance suffice, and I must ask readers to take my word for it ; after which, the best method of proving or attempting to disprove the claim I make for this kind of treatment is to put the first available case to the test under the care of a competent homœopathic practitioner. Thus far I have confined myself to some of the **DISADVANTAGES** that attend the homœopathic system in veterinary practice ; in support of the **ADVANTAGES** which follow the practice of Hahnemann's system, I propose to support this part of my argument with a few illustrations from my case book, and with a view to show how general the application of homœopathic thera-

peutics is, I shall select but a few of the worst cases among each class of animal ; and to begin with take the Bovines. Those who keep cows, whether for amusement or profit, or it may be for both reasons, hath either by experience or heresay learned sometimes of that very troublesome and too often fatal disease known as *milk fever*, or *parturient apoplexy*—amongst cow-herds it is frequently-designated "*drooping after calving*." Now it is a well-known fact that veterinary pathologists are very far from being unanimous as to the nature of the disease, indeed it would probably not be going too far to state that hardly two veterinary pathologists of any standing in the profession entertain identical opinions of the nature of parturient apoplexy ; therefore the suggestion at once presents itself to the intelligent homœopathist, how can it be expected that any success can follow treatment which relies first of all upon discovering the pathology of a case : here comes the advantage of a system which is guided by the totality of the symptoms for the selection of a drug ; if the pathologist does not know the pathology of the case before him how can he expect to prescribe for it, when he relies implicitly upon pathology. It would serve no purpose in this paper to enumerate the various pathological theories that have been advanced to account for the nature of *parturient apoplexy* ; suffice it to say they are numerous, a fact which in itself goes very far to show what a broken reed pathology—per se—is to trust to. During my

ten years of homœopathic practice I have enjoyed the opportunity of seeing and treating quite a number of cases of parturient apoplexy and I have yet to meet with my first case of disappointment and failure: this is a very strong assertion to make, and is one that would cause those who know most about the disease to accept it *cum grano salis*; nevertheless it is a fact, and it speaks volumes—not for my individual professional ability—but, for Hahnemann's system of drug selection. Had this been a strictly scientific essay that I was writing, to be perused by scientific men, I should have gone into the various symptoms, duration, complications and curative treatment of the disease: but as it is intended for the perusal of the lay public, I must ask to be excused from occupying so much space as such a dissertation would naturally involve; I therefore pass on to another form of disease which in like manner is only too well known to owners of dairy stock on account of the pecuniary loss it frequently inflicts, I refer to mammitis or inflammation of the udder, which not infrequently terminates—for want of proper treatment—in atrophy or wasting, induration and gangrene of the organ, and sometimes even the death of the animal. Though the disease may not resolve itself into such serious terminations as those indicated, it is very frequently the case that one quarter of the udder is lost for all practical milking purposes and the value of the cow proportionately diminished; there is, however,

really no reason why any of these casualties should be encountered, if only the cowherd is sufficiently experienced in, and alive to his duties, to discern when inflammation first attacks the organ; such remedies as *Phytolacca*, *Belladonna*, *Pulsatilla* and *Hydrastis*—according to the stage which the disease has attained—are usually found to be sufficient to effect a satisfactory cure. One case will be sufficient to illustrate the efficacy of our treatment, as it was one where the inflammatory process had reached such an advanced stage, one teat being quite indurated from which nothing could be extracted by manipulation, while the corresponding one only yielded pus, blood and milky serum; the swelling was considerable and the pain very acute over the whole gland: the cow was the property of a man who at the time was laid up with a fatal disease at a hospital, and the responsibility of managing the business and maintaining the family devolved on his wife; I was therefore the more anxious to make a rapid cure and if possible save the poor woman from the serious pecuniary loss which she was experiencing by the withdrawal of this cow's yield of milk from the daily service; my instructions were rigidly observed and in due course the cow was restored to health, even the indurated portion of the gland renewing its secretory function: the whole time during which the cow was under treatment not exceeding three weeks. It may be as well to explain, in order to prove the marvellous efficacy

of the treatment, that when a portion of the mammary gland becomes indurated, it is generally considered that so far as lacteal secretion is concerned that part is so altered by the organisation of inflammatory products as to be irrevocably destroyed; this theory however under homœopathic treatment does not always apply, as in the case under notice the inflammatory products were, without doubt resolved, and the organ restored to functional activity.

One other case of a cow and then I have done with *bovines*. This cow was one of a small dairy of seven, the property of a very poor widow woman, who was to all appearances none too well off, and seemed to experience no little difficulty in making both ends meet in matters monetary: the woman came to me in the greatest distress begging that if possible I would save her cow; the animal was old, and as is very frequently the case with free milkers, had a very impoverished appearance. I found that the digestive canal was the seat of danger, no fæces having passed for several days with the exception of occasionally some hard, black round bullets of excreta, an altogether abnormal condition of things in the cow; the external temperature was very low, as also was the internal on the evidence of the thermometer. The animal was the subject of occasional abdominal spasmodic pain, and the urinary secretion was almost entirely arrested, as I proved to my satisfaction by the use of

the catheter. One striking feature about the case was, that the abdomen was markedly retracted, while in ordinary cases of colic the abdomen is very much swollen ; this peculiar symptom at once directed my thoughts to the consideration of a certain remedy, and I discovered as I continued to compare the totality of the symptoms that I had a case for which *plumbum* should prove the curative agent, and so it did. I administered the powder in 15-grain doses of the third decimal attenuation, and had the satisfaction of seeing the cow recover thereunder.

And now we will pass on to review a few cases among the *equines*. The majority of horses that come under treatment in large cities and urban districts are the subjects of one or more of the many forms of lameness, and next to lameness, first in numerical importance among the diseases is colic, a sort of hybrid pathological designation, which is made to stand in ordinary stable parlance to describe every description of pain affecting the abdomen of the horse from whatever cause such pain may be due ; it no doubt originated from a spasmodic condition affecting that portion of the intestinal canal known as the colon, and when the pain really is located in that quarter the appellation is very appropriate ; but whereas the causes and precise seats of pain in the abdomen of the horse are numerous and varied, in an equally varied degree must the practitioner prescribe, if he is to successfully combat this many-sided form of disease. Unfortunately for horses and their

owners, practitioners are far too apt to generalise when prescribing for abdominal pain, instead of precisionising according to the totality of the symptoms presented, while stablemen, and indeed, many owners only too readily fall into the error of imagining that such a thing as a specific is in their possession for abdominal pain, as though there was only one cause and one remedy for the same, and for this reason many are the horses that are lost that might otherwise be saved for years of useful labour. The causes and the seats of lameness are so numerous that it would serve but little purpose to occupy space with an account of any particular cases, suffice it to say that while I do not by any means discard the use of the actual cautery in old standing chronic cases of lameness where the exuded inflammatory lymph has become formed material around the sheaths of tendons, at the same time I never resort to the operation if milder measures will suffice, more especially as the latter under many conditions are more effective and rapid in their results.

There is one form of disease which especially in racing and hunting stables has proved a veritable bugbear and has inflicted no end of pecuniary loss and mental disappointment on owners; I refer to so-called *roaring*; in stable parlance this term is applied to every horse which called upon to gallop, can be distinctly heard to make a rasping or whistling noise, which may in time develop into an absolute roar, in the act either of inspiration or of expiration,

or it may be of both acts according to the degree which the disease has attained. There are various causes for this condition of things, but from whatever cause it arises, there is no doubt that the horse, where required to put forth considerable physical exertion in its employment, is materially deteriorated in value inasmuch as, let the cause be what it may, the free ingress to and egress from the lungs of the requisite oxygen is in a greater or less degree interfered with. I do not propose to go into the various causes which may give rise to the production of abnormal noise during the respiratory act in the horse, but I may point out that where it assumes its worst form, and as understood by veterinary surgeons, it is denominated *roaring*. It is due to a wasting of the laryngeal muscles usually of the left or near side, which muscles serve to act upon that portion of the larynx, surgically designated the arytenoid cartilage; in consequence of this wasting (due to lack of nerve excitation) of the muscles, the cartilage loses its support and falls inwards, thus obstructing the free passage of air, hence the noise produced in the course of respiration; as there must be a cause for such wasting of the laryngeal muscle, I feel sure that the generally accepted reason, namely, paralysis of the recurrent nerve, is that cause; and I am confirmed in the belief, as I find a certain drug which by Hahnemann is credited with the power of acting destructively upon nerve-fibre, is the very remedy which is capable of alleviating this condition in the

horse, and I have reason to know from experience that the said drug is capable of producing a degenerative change in the nerve roots and fibres very similar to that which *post-mortem* examination reveals in the recurrent nerve in cases of horses that have been the subjects of roaring; furthermore, I have tested the value of this therapeutic theory and have invariably obtained successful results from its application to horses that have made a noise.

Success having thus followed the treatment of such an obstinate disease, one that has baffled the best efforts of the most noted practitioners of the allopathic school of veterinary medicine, no one will be surprised to learn that in the case of ordinary idiopathic disease an equally large proportion of successes follow the adoption of homœopathic practice among horses.

The same may be said of *dog practice*; those who keep and take an interest in dogs know that some practitioners make a special study of canine pathology; but even these gentlemen cannot always succeed, and I am somewhat proud of the fact that on a number of occasions I have been instrumental in applying homœopathic treatment to cases that these specialists have given up as incurable, and not only in applying the treatment, but in seeing success follow my efforts: to quote one instance only, which has already appeared in one or two journals, but being exceptionally interesting will well bear repetition, a St. Bernard dog of considerable value was

brought to me in a state of collapse ; the dog had been under treatment for four months, during which period he gradually went from bad to worse ; the most noticeable symptom, of which he was the subject, was a racking cough ; he had been under the care of two professional men and also the Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, but without the slightest benefit in either case, indeed, as already stated, the dog had according to his owner gradually got worse. On examination I found that the cough was in reality a secondary symptom, the primary cause of his illness being two tumours, one about the size of an ordinary hen's egg and the other about equal in measurement to a pigeon's egg, and in each case they were similarly shaped ; these tumours were suspended in the mesentery just below the liver : the dog was in a very emaciated condition ; refused absolutely every sort and description of food, but drank greedily and frequently, that is to say a little and often ; there were other symptoms, all of which when considered as a whole served to direct my attention to *arsenicum album* ; this drug I administered in the sixth decimal attenuation for a fortnight with the happiest results : up to this period there was no alteration in the size of the tumours, though the dog resumed his appetite, and in all respects showed signs of recovery to health : thenceward I administered the drug in the twelfth decimal attenuation, and in four days thereafter the tumours began to diminish in size, from which time the reduction

proceeded until at the expiration of six weeks neither tumour was palpably noticeable. This was a remarkable cure; a system which, without surgical aid, can bring about such a result has little to fear, when appropriately applied, from any disease. Before bringing this paper to a close, I desire to draw the attention of all owners, and especially breeders of dogs to an experiment I have been conducting for the past four years with a view to discover a preventive treatment against "*distemper*." This disease is such a terrible scourge in all kennels where breeding is carried on that I have long felt something ought to be found out to act as a prophylactic, and I believe I have succeeded; I have experimented on my own greyhounds—a very delicate and susceptible breed by the bye—and in no single instance has any one of the dogs operated on ever shown any sign of "*distemper*" nor any disease simulating "*distemper*." Moreover to fairly test the efficacy of the experiment, I exposed four puppies, that had been inoculated with the animal lymph which I rely upon some four months previously, to the risk of infection by putting them in the same kennel as six others which had not been inoculated and had fully developed "*distemper*" at the time; they were kept in this kennel for several days but not one of them took the disease or showed the slightest signs of illness; such a result cannot be considered other than eminently satisfactory: more recently I have inoculated some twenty young dogs of various breeds, and so far they

all appear to be protected, and judging from my experience I conclude they are ; this of course cannot be described as an instance of homœopathic treatment, but I merely mention it in passing, that those who read this tract may be assured that we endeavour to keep pace with the times, not only by curing disease on the best known principle, but by preventing it where possible.

It would have been easy to fill a large volume with detailed particulars of cases—really successful cases—of treatment on homœopathic principles, as well among pigs, goats, cats, and birds of various descriptions, as of others of those larger animals to which reference has shortly been made ; but the space at disposal does not permit. It has ever been my one great aim to work for the cause of homœopathy, not only for the immediate benefit of the class of patients which come more directly under personal care, but to show, if possible, by practice, that what "*the principle*" will do for the lower orders of animal, it may with good reason be anticipated to excel when brought to bear with higher refinement upon the human subject ; and it is most earnestly hoped by the writer that a stimulus will ere long be given to the spread of a more intelligent appreciation of the value of homœopathy, and thus render it the blessing to humanity at large as well as the various orders of animals it is intended to be, as I believe, providentially.



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