

HOMOEOPATHIC EQUIVALENTS OF ENDOCRINOLOGICAL REMEDIES IN PEDIATRICS*

Elizabeth Wright Hubbard, M.D.

At the risk of repeating a truism I must begin our brief consideration of the homoeopathic equivalents of endocrinological remedies with the statement that the most active force for the restoration of normal balance between the endocrine glands is the homoeopathic *simillimum*, whatever that may be, whether or no it has ever before been connected with gland function. Ordinary medicine endeavors to replace the lack of glandular activity by administering extracts of animal glands and this often means the continuation of such adjuvant treatment indefinitely. Although the symptoms may clear up there is no tendency to increase the activity of the deficient glands, indeed vitality which they have may be atrophied by such pandering to their weakness. The indicated remedy stimulates the vital force and tends to produce increasing and harmonious action of the glandular tissue.

To speak of any definite remedies smacks, as usual, of pathological prescribing and yet there are certain remedies whose frequency of indication is notable in certain syndromes. For instance, the infant who does not develop, who is late in walking, teething and talking suggests *Calcarea carb.*, *Natrum mur.*, *Calcarea phos.* or *Silica*. The symptoms in these little ones are mostly objective and require watching and deliberation. Often if the fundamental chronic remedies of the parents are known or can be ascertained, they illuminate the baby's case, as remedies run in families. Also, if the miasmatic trend of the family be known, the suitable nosode may open up the case.

Some fundamental pituitary difficulties cause dwarfism or gigantism. Dwarfs very often need *Med. or Syph.* and sometimes *Mercurius*, or if complicated with cretinism, *Baryta carb.*

*Read before I.H.A., Bureau of Obstetrics and Pediatrics, June 19, 1937.

Giants run to such remedies as *Phos.*, *Calc. phos.* or *Sulph.* The fat boy of the comics—*adiposa dolorosa*—with the piping voice needs *Graphites*, *Calc.*, or other remedies. In my practice recently a boy of nine years was brought to me for extreme weakness and breathlessness on any exertion and for a hysteric disposition. Short, fat, blonde, precocious, craving air, no physical signs except big tonsils and a very rapid heart. Frequent nose bleeds when washing the face, chilliness ; *Amm. carb.* 50 M., one dose. Within a week, instead of weeping from exhaustion from the least exercise, the boy was asking to play with his peers and after one repetition four months later was able to practise in the school scrub football team without undue acceleration of the pulse or fatigue. The parents came of a deeply psoric stock, the mother also sycotic, having needed *Graphites* and *Med.*

Thyroid difficulties are the most frequent. In the hyperthyroid cases homoeopathy is at its best. *Iodum*, *Nat. mur.*, *Spongia* and many others will remove the dangerous symptoms. In hypothyroidism *Baryta carb.*, *Calc. carb.* and *iodatum* and *Med.* shine. Some of our physicians prescribe *Thyroidinum* in potency. I have had little experience with it except in slowing the heart. *Fucus* is very popular among the German homoeopaths and *Lycopus* is to be considered. Sometimes in low thyroid conditions *Sulphur* will start the ball rolling.

A girl at puberty, sent by the teacher because of stupidity and poor coordination. Father abnormally stout, girl was overweight, excessive jaw, eyebrows meet in the middle, menses very scanty and black, skips months, frequent urging to urination with no results, stool in balls, bites nails, sick from candy which she craves, nightmare, fulness over the thyroid gland, basal metabolism—12, history of discharging left ear with excoriation and blisters suppressed. *Sulphur* 1 M., one dose. Within a week teacher reports increased tidiness, child more awake, studying much better and family report disposition at home entirely changed, now sunny where she was irritable and egotistic, which I had not known. *Calcarea* will probably follow.

Girl of six, stout, dry skin, Hutchinson's teeth, protruding ears, narrow high palate, history of psoriasis in the mother and

acute syphilis in the father. Basal metabolism—15. Pale, listless, peevish, picks nose, itching rectum, stool examination shows worms. *Cina* 1 M., one dose. Several worms passed, child eats better and is less anaemic. Eruption developed around the mouth with brownish crusts, cracks in the corners of the mouth. *Graphites* 20C, one dose. Face cleared, rash developed on the forearms, excoriating leucorrhoea (in a child of six). Teeth are black, child will not eat meat, oily perspiration, aggravation from dark until morning. *Merc. viv.* 10M., one dose. New teeth coming in sound. After some interval and an attack of chicken-pox gave this child *Syph.* 1 M., one dose, with great improvement. This case shows the necessity of shifting remedies in complicated cases. The child has gotten thinner, brighter, and more biddable. All her symptoms are much improved, basal metabolism—4.

Ovarian difficulties offer a famous field for homoeopathy and its success with climacteric symptoms obviates the need for corpus luteum or ovarian extract. *Apis*, *Lachesis*, *Sanguinaria*, *Sepia*, are sheet anchors here.

Boys with undescended testicles often respond to *Aurum* if the background suggests it; and there is no better gonadal stimulant than *Lycopodium*.

These fragmentary suggestions are merely to show that the indicated remedy profoundly affects the endocrines along with the whole constitution and to recommend its use instead of the substitutional methods of usual endocrinology.

New York, N. Y.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Grimmer. In rising to speak about the point that Dr. Hubbard mentioned about the shifting of remedies, is certain chronic cases I think it is justifiable and we have Hahnemann and Kent both to justify that point. In the mixture of miasms where one miasm is improved for a while under a deep remedy, it is usually psoric. Indeed, we sometimes find then the syphilitic or tubercular miasm coming up, which will require a chronic remedy of a different nature and that must be given for a while.

Dr. Kent speaks of that procedure in his *Philosophy on Chronic Disease*; and that is why we do sometimes meet cases that require a succession of remedies of an entirely different nature until the whole economy is brought into a state of harmony where one remedy is finally found that you can give through a series and cure that case.

Dr. Hubbard. I wonder if I might ask Dr. Grimmer if he thinks I would have been better off if I had started that girl with *Syphilinum*. It didn't occur to me though she had definitely inherited syphilis, but she did not have the symptoms then.

Dr. Grimmer. The result of the doctor's prescription is justified by her results. I thought strongly of *Syphilinum*, and you have done it.

Dr. Wilson. Did you not say that she had Hutchinson's teeth? That was enough. I surely would have given her *Syphilinum* right away, with Hutchinson's teeth.

Dr. Dixon. Speaking of the shifting of your remedies, it is interesting to read Burnett's old book, and know of the really national reputation that the man attained through alternations of *Bacillinum*, our *Tuberculinum*, and *Thuja* in those enlarged tonsils in children. I don't know whether he gave a single remedy or alternated them at the same time. I am in a quandary to tell from his case reports, but the man really did excellent work with either the combination or the alternation, or the repeating of first one and then the other of those two remedies in those cases. I find that a dose of *Tuberculinum*, followed with *Thuja* later on—I have never alternated them—but they clear up surprisingly large numbers of those tonsils in children.

Dr. Hayes. In regard to that point which Dr. Hubbard inquires about and Dr. Grimmer discussed, I think it is true that we must have order in our prescribing, and I think that the old rule to prescribe for the last symptoms first is, with possible exceptions, to be depended on. If we do that, I think we will find the condition improves. There are clear-cut indications for the next remedy and I think that is one proof that the method is justified.

Dr. Grimmer. There is a point I should like to inquire of the society. I heard it said by some very good men, and I have confirmed the observation by experience, that you will rarely cure any case of chronic disease with a nosode. You will have to give other remedies. I should like to hear what others have to say about that.

Dr. Charles Boericke. I should like to ask Dr. Hubbard if she has ever used endocrines in potency for these endocrinological cases. B. & T. put out a series of endocrines in potency of 6x., 30, and so forth.

Dr. Hubbard. With the exception of *Thyroidinum*, which I have used in the 200th and never with very pleasing results to me (although it has slowed the heart, but it always seemed rather mechanical). I never have used the others. Perhaps I should. I personally don't like to give *Diphtherinum* or to give some of those potentized things from diseases themselves. I don't know why, but I have an instinct I would rather give some remedy in nature in potentized form if I can, unless it is one of the great nosodes of the miasms.

I am very much interested in Dr. Grimmer's remark about not curing a case with a nosode. I was hastily trying to think if I had ever seen one I felt had been cured with a nosode and nothing else, either before or after. The proportion of chronic cases curable with one remedy anyway is relatively small, although sometimes there will be a brilliant one.

I wonder if there is any difference in the nature of the remedies and in the class of remedy they use. For instance, I am of the opinion that often you see a *Silica* case which is purely and clearly and totally *Silica* more than almost any other remedy. I have had some chronic cases that cleared up with *Silica* and nothing else and I don't know whether that is the case with elements in general rather than with the mixed salts or the more complicated remedies. I would be interested to hear what anybody would think about that.

Dr. Grimmer. I have cured some very chronic cases with *Sepia* and no other remedy.

Dr. Hubbard. But that is a complicated remedy chemically. I am interested in the elements as such, whether they are more searching.

Dr. Underhill, Jr. In my experience the nosodes are very essential many times in clearing the field, as Dr Grimmer says, for the remedial action of other drugs, but very seldom or practically never do you find that they actually complete the case.

Dr. Moore. I have had a case that might illustrate that. We frequently prescribe once, or I do, and never see the patient again. About two weeks before coming down here, I had a mother and daughter come in. The trouble was called rose fever, and they were given potentized timothy, and they came into report. They had both been relieved up-to-date and there was a little starting now again. Timothy was given again with absolutely no effect.

Dr. Wilson. Brother Chairman, I wonder why Dr. Moore gave timothy. It isn't in blossom now. They couldn't have been affected by timothy.

Dr. Moore. It runs in my mind it was timothy. It was at least the one that was in flower at the time they were in.

Dr. Wilson. I was about to say that was brought up once in a meeting years and years ago. Of course, timothy isn't in flower now.

Dr. Moore. I am sorry we have a botanist here with us. I thought I could get away with that.

Dr. Wilson. We do know they are using the potentized pollens of various things, ragweed, and so forth, and I have the potency of timothy myself. I have never had occasion to use it, but I just wondered why you used it then.

Dr. Moore. Whatever it was selected because it was in season at the time they were in. I remember that.

Dr. Allen : Not on totality of the symptoms ?

Dr. Moore : Not at all.

Dr. Hubbard : I wonder if Dr. Boericke would give an answer to his own question. I don't have it. Perhaps he has more experience.

Dr. Charles Boericke : My results have not been phenomenal by any means. I have used on occasions B. & T.'s preparation of Ovarian Extract in 6x. and 30th potency for the same indications that the orthodox school might give the hormone such as theelin or progonon. So far as I can say, I think the results are as good as one gets with substitution therapy from the orthodox basis, but I don't think that the results have been definitely curative such as we have looked for; in other words, it is exactly the same as any other type of substitution therapy, but, as it goes, I feel from my very brief experience with it, that the results are equal to the orthodox way of proceeding.

Dr. Underhill, Jr. : May I say one more word? I think the urge to experiment hits us all at some time during the course of our practice. A number of years ago I had a case that I had taken care of for eleven years, up to the time of the patient's death, and this was one of the worst cases of rheumatoid arthritis, barring that of my own father, that I have ever seen. This woman's knees were the largest I had ever yet seen and they were ankylosed, and her fingers and hands were terribly distorted.

I took a specimen of her blood and sent it to B. & T. to have it potentized, and ran it to 30, 200, 1M. potencies, and when I hopelessly fell down on some cases of arthritis, I tried that, but with no results whatever—nothing I could detect.

Well, I might say that finally the patient died and the family continued under my care. Her daughter is married and has a daughter around ten or twelve years old. One day she came in with the same kind of appearance of the skin that her mother had. Now, her mother had a peculiar appearance of the skin almost like a honeycomb tripe—ichthyosis. This was so strikingly similar to that of her mother's condition, and she began to complain of pains in the joints, that the temptation to try her

mother's potentized blood, on her, was too great for me and I gave it, and I got action. It flared her up terribly and laid her right up in bed, but I stuck to my guns and did nothing. I didn't dare repeat it and I didn't dare do anything else, and I let the case ride, so, after a terrific aggravation, she made a beautiful recovery and the ichthyosis has cleared up and never returned; but I have never dared give her another dose.

Her mother though dead—her mother's blood—still had power when it came to her own daughter. The relationship between mother and daughter there was what made it take hold, and not the fact of the arthritis.

Dr. Grimmer: It was more like an autogenous thing.

Dr. Underhill: Something on that order.

Dr. Hubbard: That case of ichthyosis makes me think that I have a young man that I have had in my practice for three years, who has one of the worst cases of ichthyosis you can imagine. He can never go in swimming because he is a sight from his wrist to his neck. Luckily, he has none on his hands and face. Otherwise he is an extremely husky boy of twenty-three, and I have given him his chronic remedy as it came out, which is *Phosphorus*. Strangely enough, you would never think of *Phosphorus* in ichthyosis, but that is what his remedy was and he is so much better, although he has had that all his life, from babyhood—it is so much better that he is now able to wear, if not the most modern bathing suit, at least some bathing suit, and feeling self-conscious.

Dr. Charles Boericke: It has come to my mind that last year I took the post-graduate course at Cleveland, and Dr. Jeremiah Simonson addressed us on pediatrics. You all know Dr. Simonson as one of our leading pediatric clinicians in the United States. Dr. Simonson uses homoeopathy consistently in the New York College in the pediatric wards. He does not perhaps use homoeopathy as we use it, but he uses low potency homoeopathy routinely. He made one rather dramatic statement. Somebody asked him what he considered to be perhaps the most valuable

homoeopathic medicine in pediatrics, and he said, "Unquestionably and without qualification *Bacillinum*."

Somebody asked, "What potency?"

He said, "One thousand," and he went on to say that all of those numerous antipsoric children, of which they have many, he routinely starts out from their clinical examination of tubercular diathesis, with four doses and four only, *Bacillinum* 1M. at two-week intervals. He said that, unfortunately, in a large institution like that, they cannot individualize, so it is necessary to put down routine orders for the internes to carry out, but when those children come in and are put in that category, that is the routine, not over four doses of *Bacillinum* 1M. at two-week intervals. He said the results have been so altogether amazing and startling that he never hoped to offer an explanation of it but that it does work.

Dr. Allen: I think we have all seen different new remedies, such as the endocrin products, come and go; but we know what our own will do and I guess the majority of us will stick to our own.

[Courtesy : The Homoeopathic Recorder, Nov., 1937]

