

A reminiscence from my Clinical diary.

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In November last a gentleman entered my clinic one morning carrying a boy, aged about 3 years, in his arms. He told me that his son had been suffering from an attack of diarrhoea for about 3 or 4 days. Questioned about the character and frequency of the motions, he said, that the boy usually woke up at the day break, and had a few motions in succession till about 11 O'clock when the urging would cease for the rest of the day and night. There was great rumbling in the abdomen and each evacuation, though scanty, was attended with much sputtering sound. I prescribed a few doses of *Nat. Sulph 30*, and I did not hear of him for a week or so.

After about a week the gentleman again turned up with his son to report that his son had been keeping well since taking the medicine; but due to some irregularities in diet the diarrhoea had again started for the last 2 or 3 days. The boy had had about 6—8 motions during the whole day and night. Regarding the character of the stool I was told that it was the same as on the previous occasion. I repeated *Nat. Sulph 30*, for two days but without much improvement.

On 7-12-33 I examined the child once more and found that his abdomen was slightly bloated and the tongue slightly furred. The father said that the patient passed one or two involuntary stools specially at night soiling the linen. There was great thirst and whenever a glass of water came in his way he was eager to drink it. The rumbling was still present, and it was specially marked before passing stool, which was profuse in quantity, yellowish in colour, but without any characteristic smell,

On the basis of those indications I prescribed *Phosphorus* 30 three times a day, for 2 days.

9. 12. 33. Reported no improvement. The frequency and consistency of the stool had practically remained the same as before. While I was entering the room to examine the boy a constant moaning sound reached my ears. I was told that the child was very fretful, and was whining all the time. He kept quiet for a minute or two, only when he was given something to eat. In my presence a small lump of sugar candy was given to him, and he instantly became quiet. The duration of that quietness, however, was very short, and lasted as long as that lump remained in his mouth. Moreover, I was a bit concerned to notice slight puffiness in the face, hands and feet. Thirst was still present. The boy had no covering over his body and on enquiry I was informed that he could not tolerate any covering and whenever he was covered he would scream, and immediately throw the coverings off, and would roll over the bare floor. In the circumstances, I could think of no better remedy than *Iodium 200*—of which one dose along with a few powders of *Sac. lac.* was administered. Regarding diet the patient was asked to take barley water, orange juice (if sweet.), and sugar candy water.

No report came for the next few days. On 14. 12. 33 the father of the patient came to report that his boy was better in all respects. The frequency of stool had become less, and the constant whining had altogether ceased. I ordered a few powders of *Sac. lac.* and directed him to report after 4 days when the powders were all exhausted.

On the second day of my giving him the medicine i.e. on 16. 12. 33 the gentleman surprised me with an unexpected visit and asked me to see the patient immediately reporting that his son had relapsed into the

former state. Besides, his urine had become scanty, and he felt no inclination for any kind of food. I examined the boy, but could not really ascertain the cause of the aggravation. However, I prescribed a few doses of *Apocynum lx in aqua dist.*

The conditions remained the same during the next 2 days without any signs of improvement. The puffiness of the face and the extremities had rather increased. Alarmed at the condition which was gradually developing the parents were seriously thinking of changing the system of treatment, and communicated their idea to me. Sitting by the side of the patient and watching his movements I felt somewhat diffident about my success. The more I thought about the case the more I grew perplexed. If I could give no relief to the patient I had no right to keep him under my treatment any longer. While arguing within myself in that fashion I saw the boy passing a copious quantity of stool and then drinking a large quantity of water. That peculiar thirst accompanying the other conditions was a sure pointer to *Acetic acid*. As a matter of fact I was getting the report of his thirst every time, but not until that very movement I could make an exact idea of the magnitude and intensity of his thirstiness. I requested the gentleman to try my medicines for about 3 days more assuring him that his boy during the time would not fare worse. Commending all my efforts to the Grace of the Almighty I poured two drops of *Acetic acid 30* in an ounce of *Aqua dist.*, and directed the patient to take it every 4 hours.

On the 3rd day I was informed that the patient had been satisfactorily progressing. Flow of urine had increased and the boy had had only 2 motions in course of the whole day and night. Thirst was not so much marked. A few *Sac. lac.* powders.

A week later the father of the patient greeted me with a smile reporting that his boy was free from all complaint. He was having normal urine and stool, and the puffiness had completely disappeared.

Manual of symptoms.

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Hahnemann says, "Symptoms are the out-cries of Nature in a diseased stage. Whenever we go to the bedside of a patient we notice in his physique and mentality a congregation of symptoms, both subjective and objective, which and which alone guide us to the proper selection of the remedy. However, we often notice such a peculiar symptom as it alone can help us a great deal in the proper selection, for instance, on entering the bed room of an acute patient, suppose, we find him lying on the right side for a long time. On enquiry, we learn that he cannot lie on the other side as it pains him much. Well, if we have a thorough grasp of our Materia Medica, this single symptom will call to our mind four remedies viz. *Kali c.*, *Phosphorous*, *Nat. m.*, and *Nat. s.*, consequently our work becomes comparatively easy and now we attempt to see if any of these four medicines suits him in all his generals and particulars. Now, during my earnest study of Materia Medica for the last thirteen years, I have compiled together several such symptoms from various authorities viz. Drs. Kent, Allen, Nash, Farrington, Jorset, etc. which I intend to enclose, herewith, in alphabetical order. Nothing will be written without any corroborative evidence or from