

No more doses were necessary to complete the cure.

These are oft-verified facts which can be tested by any doctor in his practice if he has a mind to do so.

Its power to stop hæmorrhage has been found to be so speedy and permanent that I am emboldened to call its action magical.

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## Homœopathy and Difficult and Backward Children.

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[ Translated by Dr. R. K. Mukerji, from  
l'Homœopathy Francaise. ]

A principle dominates the whole pedagogy.

"A child is essentially a being in the making, it requires its whole vital force to realise its normal evolution" (Van. Brieblet—Premiers Elements de pedagogy experimental 1913).

The vital force is unfortunately spent up and destroyed by the necessity which the child is under obligation to follow present-day programmes—and indeed often by a false idea of the parents of their duty and authority. Sometimes yielding to a base conception of pride they compel their child to begin its study at the age of five and even at four. The poor child follows from that age some "courses" and learns some "lessons". Sometimes acting from a contrary motive wishing to save their descendant, all fatigue they bring him up with indulgence and surround him with various precautions and thus they neglect their education.

Early education augments the fatigue-resisting ability of the child, diminishing its organic resistance. Begun

late, it yields mediocre results and the several wounds that the child gets in its self-conceit from its comrades, younger but more advanced, throw it into a deep hopelessness and lead the way to a remarkable state of psychic neurasthenia.

These results—equally bad—are well known to true educationists, to persons who know how to measure the task, to the effort possible in the child and to those who understand that education consists not only in the learning of numerous elements and in the teaching of different and several subjects to a child but indeed in guiding the child—“educere” in order that it may become a man which he ought to become by developing its faculties and placing at its disposal materials that it should make use of.

Each child possesses a potential asset—

It can only realise that asset, if it is properly guided and the useful guidance can only produce its full effect if the educationists know well the temperament and the character of the child.

Temperament is the aggregate of physical and biological, psychic and dynamic possibilities of each being. It is variable up to certain limits which are conditioned by the type to which the individual belongs.

Character manifests the will of the subject; it cannot be judged but by the observation of the actions and reactions of the subject.

Temperament and character are the two essential points that must be understood by the educationist, they are completed by the notion of the “nature” of the child that expresses habitual tendency of its reactions to a given motive.

A child may have excellent temperament and may be well endowed, may have a good nature but may not have any character; another may have a good character and

excellent nature but may be ill-served by its temperament whose precarious resources will never allow him to acquire the development which he might acquire.

As many are the different types, different characters, changeable natures, supple or rebellious, soft or brutal so many are the difficulties to be solved by the educationist, whose task would be particularly ungrateful and difficult, if he did not to help him an exact knowledge of psychological pedagogies whereof are furnished to him as much by professional educationists as by biologists, philosophers and doctors.

Doctors must play an important part in the teaching of the child. His work may be compared with that of a gardener who carefully attends to the growth of a tree or the development of a plant; he redresses the swervings; he puts a stop to excesses; corrects the deviation and definitely gives the growing being its physical balance.

He alone knows the apparent or hidden hereditary taints, he alone can appreciate the solidity or the debility of the young fragile being whose examination has been entrusted to him. Before resorting to ingenious American or Italian tests that enable to determine the degree of the psychological receptivity of the child, he may determine by an attentive observation the organic resistance of the patient and judge the limits of its fatigue-suffering powers. He can easily bring out endocrinological derhythms and prevent the effect of bad working of the thyroid and hypophysary glands. He can judge the nervousness of the child and prevent its neurotherapeutic tendencies. He may watch its circulation and appreciate its toxic quotient, he can foresee and prevent, because in this infantile stage the disease is nothing, if it is foreseen. Organic equilibrium is of the greatest importance and the doctor should try to maintain it before all.

The habitual therapeutical resources are very small. Without well known endocrinological syndroms, the doctor is habitually unarmed. No doubt he may intervene usefully by prescribing a regimen or proper hygienic treatment but too often his task is limited to ordering physical and intellectual rest and an open air treatment; he cannot help the educationist whose task becomes more and more difficult owing to the absence of the child due to certain reasons and the frequent stoppage of his study.

Only Homoeopathy can produce good results in such cases on the condition however that the remedies employed are exactly chosen.

Two important groups of patients should be considered.

1. Difficult children ( Already published ).
2. Backward children.

Let us study the second group here.

#### BACKWARD CHILDREN.

A child who cannot adapt himself to a cause of school training is called backward.

Its psychological development has not kept pace with his physical growth. Sometimes it cannot speak; cannot express itself; it can understand but cannot answer, its intellectual faculties are hardly developed. It imagines and it feels interested in things that it handles. Sometimes it expresses itself but defective mental co-ordination is evident, the most fantastic whims seem to prompt its actions, its humour, its attitude and its expression change every moment.

Whatever may be the degree of backwardness the attention is always defective, its educational output is almost nil. The child grows but does not develop; it belongs to the wild state, having nothing human but the form.

All the degrees may be considered and if we can adopt the subdivisions established by De SANCTIS we may describe :

- The Idiot
- The Imbecile
- The Mad ( Vesanique )
- The Epileptoid
- The Infantile ( L'Infantile )

Each of them represents different characters that have been studied by Ferrari.

The Idiot has obtuse senses. Its psychic torpor is extreme, it does not express its psychic state by shouts or gestures and other ordinary needs of manifestations, except when it is afraid and it is easily frightened. Its language is rudimentary. It has no attraction for collective games. It likes to remain alone and is voracious.

The imbecile has perceptions rapid but superficial. It cannot assimilate, but it imitates. Method is unknown to it and attention is very poor, because it is unstable. Only the presence of some objects and external manifestations can hold its attention for sometime. Vain and greedy, liar and defiant, it laughs at everything. It can be brought up but its academical output will remain always nil.

Le Vesanique ( mad ); its characteristic is frivolous fantasy, is extremely mobile. Its appearance is relatively good, intelligence is poor. Explosive laughter alternating with an expression of profound sadness. Contradiction personified. Sometimes silent or speaks in such a way that it can hardly be understood. Dislikes work, and requires to be constantly spurred on. Its education is made by skips.

Let us consider these three types : Idiot, Imbecile, Vesanique ( mad ). Open a Homœopathic Materia Medica

and read the article on Baryta Carb, we will find many analogous elements. .

Trouble of intelligence difficult comprehension. *Mental confusion, imbecile condition.*

*Slow in understanding, slow to retain, slow in moving.*  
Weak and *backward children.* Fears everybody strangers more.

Loss of memory. Forgetfulness of recommendations and rebukes in children. *Defect of attention and instability* which makes any education impossible.

#### OBJECTIVE SYMPTOMS.

Chronic Hypertrophy of amygdaliness with frequent inflammation and has tendency to suppuration.

Foetid sweat of feet.

Let us now turn back to Sanctis' classification.

The epileptoid. Normal or slow attention, incoherent memory, sensibility, emotions are extremely weak. The child is hard and does not manifest sufferings. It is hard to all, to its comrades and to its parents.

Brutal impulse, spirit of vengeance, egoism, voracity, dispo-mania vagrances, outburst of joy and sadness—alternating, without reason.

Incoherent in reasoning and actions, De SANCTIS has remarked that, that mentality affects all children who suffer from convulsions when young.

You will find now the particular signs of Stramonium.

*Extremely violent, nervous troubles ; agitation spasmodic movements, crying, anger. Absence of pain.*

Howlings, *need of beating, of biting,* tearing, wishes to escape, runs away.

Face—generally red and congested, explosive laughter, sardonical, fearful expression, *nocturnal terror.*

Easily frightened, starts up out of its sleep with wild

looks, cannot remain alone—desire of having some one  
always near him. Feels dark, fears darkness, wants light.

L'enfantile ( the infantile ). Mobile and slow attention, good memory, very little imagination, warm hearted, docile, timid generally torpid, or slow and indolent. Wise, very wise, easily exalts, but school production is nil. It is however curious, *collects stamps*, has an imitative spirit, but does not develop intellectually.

The Homoeopathic remedy which is well adapted in this case is *Calcarea Carbonica*.

*Feeble, slow and apathetic.*

Slow to understand, slow to execute. *All mental work exhausts him.* difficulty to fix its ideas. Perspiration of head and forehead.

Child with big head and a big belly. Acidity in the stomach. Better when constipated.

Weakness, oppression of the chest when walking, ascending the stair-case, does not play. 'Sage morbid', Morbid sage,

Objective symptoms.

Skin-pale, white or chalky.

Profuse sweating of head when sleeping at the least exercise, even mental.

( Great likeness of eggs. Milk disagrees. Eruptions from knees downward. Violent itching which cause secretion of watery fluid. Continuous eruptions, causing the colour of the parts black ).

In reality all the degrees exist in backwardness, and if the infantile type described by De SANCTIS from an educational point of view, corresponds to hypothyroidism, it corresponds so to *Calcarea Carbonica*, which will act not only on a gland whose function is affected but on the

general condition of the subject whose organic and nervous functions are profoundly altered.

There is one point which should be taken into account. No doubt Homœopathy has got some important medicines, Baryta Carb, Stramonium, Calcarea Carb, whose utility may not be denied and which act marvellously well in the cases which I have considered. But another possibility of the selection of remedies may be looked for in the notion of the cause of the general state of the child.

Syphilis is very often the real cause of infantile backwardness but intensive treatment gives very little result. Parasites disappear, only the toxic action persists and against it Homœopathy is well armed. Association of Syphilinum, Bar. Carb and Stram. helps to accelerate the actions of those two remedies and to get a rapid success. The determination of the constitution of the child always permits in the absence of all other test, to justify the application of Syphilinum.

But it is to a quite different point I wish to draw your attention. All of these boys have a common characteristic variability of humour, the succession of explosive laugh and deep sadness. You will very well recognise the signs, the characteristic symptoms of a well-known Homœopathic remedy—"Pulsatilla" whose indication is generally found in subjects impregnated with tubercular toxin, whose action is particularly seen on these toxins helping an organic draining of the tuberculous.

Now you have understood, its association with Cal. Carb and with a highly attenuated Tuberculine which modifying profoundly the ground, will help the intellectual and physical redressing of the subject.

Syphilis and Tuberculosis are two infections, that are never to be neglected, in infantile therapy.

The Homœopathic action of attenuated Syphilinum and

Tuberculinum is deprived of all toxicity and very often secures a good result.

*N. B.—The concluding portion of this article has been already published in June (1933) issue of the "Hahnemannian Gleanings".*

## Paralysis.

BY DR. B. N. NAG, (HOMŒOPATH).

It is known to us that injuries to one side of the brain cause paralysis to the opposite side of the body and face. Sometimes it occurs that paralysis affects merely a part of one side, by the symptoms it is very difficult to find out the portion which has been affected. It has been accurately demonstrated that the cortical matter of the brain is the seat of various centres which are connected and which cannot be definitely understood by the voluntary movements of the muscles of the body. A physician showed that if certain points of the cerebral function be stimulated by an extremely weak current, definite group of muscles on the opposite side of the body is thrown into action, when the strength of the current is increased the resulting movements are no longer limited but extend to a whole limb or the whole side of the body and when that current is much more stronger the whole side is affected and causes a general unconsciousness. Destruction of these definite areas causes paralysis of the corresponding group of muscles. Thus paralysis of one side of the body is caused by the destruction of the cortical motor centre on the opposite side of the brain.

Often and on it happens that one part of the head is being striken or hammered, paralysis also comes to mani-