

### Chronic Periodic Headache—Tuberculinum.

SAMUEL SWAN M. D.

Oscar H., age 55. At the age of six or seven years fell from a tree, and struck the right frontal protuberance, cutting gash. Recovered as boys generally do. When between nine and ten years of age he was attacked by a severe headache while at morning mass in the church. Soon, from the intensity of the pain, he became unconscious, and was taken home. Professors Nasse and Wurtze, of the University, were called, who, as he was afterwards informed, gave him large doses of quinine, and it was three weeks before he recovered and left his bed.

These attacks came on subsequently every year, either in May or June, and have continued to the present time. He has five times had an attack in the fall. The headaches continue, at each attack, to recur daily for ten or fifteen days, once to eighteen, and after that he would be well until the following year, with the five exceptions above noted. In 1849 he entered the German Hospital in London, and remained there through one attack, some ten or twelve days. He was given a bitter medicine, which he supposed was quinine.

The next attack was in Cracow, Austrian Poland, on which occasion he consulted the military physician, who gave him a brown mixture, a tablespoonful to be taken before every meal, and told him that in two days the pain would be gone for ever; and in consideration for so great a cure he was to pay the physician a florine (about half a dollar) for each tablespoonful he took. He took seven tablespoonfuls, and the pain ceased, and he paid seven florins, and offered all he had left—about one hundred and fifty florins—for the receipt; but the conscientious physician refused, saying that it would be stealing his money, as he would never have occasion to

use the medicine again. But he was mistaken, for the next year he was attacked in Paris, and consulted the celebrated Ricord, who examined his head a long time, and then said, "You can never be cured, but I would give a large sum for your head, just as it is."

His next attack was in Vienna, at which time he had a severe sore throat, with the tonsils greatly swollen. Consulted Professor Fischer who told him that if he would allow his tonsils to be removed it would cure him of his headache. This was done, but the headache continued. From that time till he came to America, in 1854, he had no more treatment, as it usually continued from ten to fifteen days, whether he took medicine or not. After being in this country two years without treatment, he consulted physicians in New Orleans, St. Louis, Memphis, Baton Rouge, Louisville, and Cincinnati, without the slightest effect. In the fall of 1875 he went to the Homœopathic Hospital at Ward's Island, where he remained till May, 1876, and at that time received from Dr. Talcott, the resident physician, *Arnica cm.* which caused severe aggravation, but the next day he was relieved, and in a few days was entirely free from pain. This was the first time, since his relief in Cracow, that the period was shortened. In October, 1877, he called on me. The symptoms were the same as he had always experienced, namely, the pain commences in the right frontal protuberance at 8 o'clock a.m., and continues till 2 p.m. About 12 or 1 he falls asleep (possibly unconscious), from the intensity of the pain, and on awaking is free from pain, and feels perfectly well until 8 a.m. next day. The attacks continue from ten to fifteen days, once to eighteen, and after that, as before stated, he would be free till the following year. At the time of his visit to me he received one dose of *Tuberculinum cm.* in the evening; in ten minutes had a

sharp aggravation, or rather a second attack on the same day, the pain passing from the right frontal protuberance back to the right occipital region. The pulse was much excited, and beat very strong. The next day he was much easier, and in five or six days it passed off entirely; during that time it was light, and continued about an hour each day.

March 21st, 1878. At 8 a.m. worse than ever before; with every pulsation a stab as if from a dagger in the right temple, the pain extending over the right side of the crown to the occiput and into the neck.

March 22nd. At 7 p.m. gave one dose of *Tuberculinum cum.*

March 26th. Entirely relieved.

April 1st. Thinking a pain was coming, took a dose of M M.

April 29th. Slight pain in right frontal protuberance, not unbearable, continued daily for three or four days, commencing at 11 o'clock; took powder of C M M.

May 20th. Similar attack; took one powder each day for three days.

July 9th. Headache appeared at 8 a.m. in right temple; took powder of C M M. and in an hour it was gone.

July 10th. The same.—No more sensation till Oct. 17th, when he had a slight prickling in right temple and frontal protuberance, making the head feel quite heavy; continued between an hour and a half.

Oct. 18th. Same.

Oct. 19th. Gave one powder of *Tuberculinum mmm.*

Oct. 31st. During three days had slight sensations in the part, but which ceased as soon as he took a powder.

June 30th, 1879. Mr. H. called today to say that since the last date he has had no headache; his head feels perfectly sound, and he considers himself entirely cured.

—*Hahnemannian Advocate.*