

## CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

*Coates Preston, M. D.*

**Taenia Solium.** Having, many years since, heard of pumpkin seeds as a remedy for tapeworm, and recently reading Prof. Hale's article in 'the Medical Investigator' of April last, on this subject, I resolved to test this remedy the first opportunity. Fortunately I had not long to wait.

77. Mrs. H., aged 56, a patient I had occasionally treated for the last few years for nervous dyspepsia and anorexia, came to my office some weeks since, complaining such of gastric trouble with great lassitude and want of appetite. She stated that she had been discharging worms which, from her description, answered well to the segments or links of the common tapeworm. I directed her to retain some of them for inspection, and on examination my supposition was fully confirmed. She had been discharging from six to twelve of these segments daily for last 10 weeks, measuring each about an inch in length and four lines in width.

I adhered strictly to Prof. Hale's prescription : One ounce of the peeled pumpkin seeds, broised thoroughly in a mortar, and saturated with milk, to be eaten in the evening after fasting through the day ; on the following day, at 7 a. m. 2 drachms of sulphuric ether, and one hour later an ounce of castor oil. In one hour after taking the oil, the parasite was expelled, measuring 25 feet in length and fully six lines in width ; and in addition there were 40 detached links measuring each about an inch in length, which would make the enormous aggregate of 26 feet. Having no microscope at hand, it was impossible

to decide whether or not the head was expelled, but as the terminal and tapered to a point as fine as a cambric needle, we feel quite satisfied that the expulsion was complete.

I have two cases of croup which, from the anxiety and alarm they caused me and the happy result of their treatment, seem to deserve mention.

78. A little boy of some of 3 years, a round plump, healthy little fellow, was seized with symptoms of this unwelcome melody some 12 hours previous to my being called ; the disease had begun violently and made a steady increase until that time, so that, from what I learned of the particular of the case and saw of his present surroundings, there was not the least hope to be given of a favourable result.

The respirations were audible even before I entered the door, and the labour to obtain breath was intense, all the attentions and efforts of the little fellow were required to keep him alive ; while his face looked blue and the perspiration stood like beads on his forehead. The cough, which continually annoyed him, was dry and hard ; no sign or looseness met the anxious ears of the listeners.

I gave the child up to die, in my own mind, but as the parents were confirmed Homoeopaths, I prescribed one dose five or six pellets of Kali Bich. 22, gave it at once on the tongue, and left a few powders of Sac. lae. to fill the interval until I should call again, which I expected to do soon, to find my arrival in a few minutes I found that the little fellow had been sleeping and on waking had alarmed the attendant by his violent struggles ; but at the time I saw him this lad subsided, my patient was materially relieved, which soon amounted to entire freedom of respiration ; and in two days, without further medicine, I had the pleasure of seeing my patient well without any expectoration or other unpleasant symptoms, save a slight cough.

79. Two days subsequently I was summoned to the case of a child labouring under the same disease ; it have been sick

some 14 or 15 hours. At 10 P. M., when I first saw it, the respirations were audible from the room beneath the one in which the patient, a child of some 7 or 8 months, was lying. It had a hoarse, barking cough, which only troubled it occasionally, and had a disposition to sleep during its quieter moments ; from the sound of the cough, and I admit a good deal from habit, I gave Spongia to be used every 3 hours, and left my patient with that feeling which must always result from having made careless prescription. On my morning call, at 9 A.M., the child was no better, yet his symptoms had not reached the severity which I had a right to expect they would have attained from my carelessness of the night before, and yet I was guilty of another inconsiderate prescription. It is not important to name the remedy then prescribed ; suffice it to say that the case reached its farthest limit of severity at about 4 P. M. when I made my second call for the day. Domestic remedies had in the meantime been resorted to, and onions, snuff, and sliced bacon were mingled together, and the babe enveloped in one supreme coat of grease ; he was struggling manfully for breath, *dosing occasionally for a few moments, awaking in fits of suffocation*, of which each one promised to be his last. On this particular account Tart. em. seemed to me the proper remedy, which was exhibited in the 200th, a single dose to be followed by Sec. Lac. every half hour. I had no idea that this case would recover ; but the similar was not discovered too late, for at 9 P. M. I communicated the self-evident fact to the attendants that our patient was free from danger ; and without more medicine he made a speedy recovery in two days.

[*Courtesy* : The Hahnemannian Monthly, 1867]

