

Aggravation when the eyes shut. Apis.

„ when the eyes are open and better when closed.—Tab.

CONCLUSION.

To conclude: It has not been our intention to give here a thorough study of vertigo, and their homeopathic treatment, it will be fastidious and of little use if we do so. The *Materia Medica* supplies us with a complete set of medicines of vertigo and up-till-now, the therapeutical studies that have been made along this are wanting in a sufficiently clinical basis. So it is almost impossible to have a clear conception after a study of the classical repertories. That is the reason why we have schematised a little arbitrarily this work, with the sole object of being practical and of preserving an unity with the clinic and pathology which is indispensable to all confereres who wish not only to be good Homeopaths but also expert clinicians.

Finding the curative Remedy by an Analytical Procedure Which Approximates in Accuracy the Analytical Work of the Chemist.*

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Give a chemist a solution of unknown metallic salts, and he will treat a portion of it with certain re-agents in order to precipitate one group of metals. Other portions, treated by other re-agents, will precipitate other groups. These precipitates are treated for the purpose of separating the different metals from one another until the unknown solution is resolved into all its component parts. This

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can be done because he understands the law of chemical attraction whereby elements form chemical unions, and because he knows how all the elements react to one another.

Chemistry is considered an exact science because two or more men utilizing the same degree of skill and care will arrive at identical results.

In medical science nothing could be more desirable than a method whereby the best therapeutic measures could be selected with equal exactness.

What makes such a thing possible is a definite law of relationship between human beings and the materials which have therapeutic value, just as there is a law of relationship between the elements in chemistry.

Biology demonstrates a physiological law which fulfills all the conditions for exact therapeutic selection.

Viewed broadly, all living things have a certain adaptability.

The cactus plant can be kept for months in a dry closet and yet retain vitality enough to root when put in favorable surroundings.

A variety of fish exists which dries up in the mud during the dry season and regains its activity with the return of water.

Man has a wide range of adaptability. He can travel from the torrid zone to the polar region, and his blood will register the same degree of temperature. He can accustom himself to poison so that what at first would have been a lethal amount causes him very little harm. He can be infected by injurious germs and develop a resistance against them so that they are destroyed and thrown out of the body. These and *thousands* of facts demonstrate the following law :

All life has power, within certain limits, to resist des-

tructive influences so as to maintain physical and functional integrity.

Each substance or condition which affects life causes a reaction different from that caused by every other substance or condition.

Here is a duplicate of what makes chemical analysis possible.

In the place of the law of chemical attraction is the law of vital reaction, and in the place of elements, each of which has its own kind of behavior toward the other elements, are the influences affecting life.

It is only necessary to study man in relation to this law to develop an exact method of therapeutics.

In illness the organism is in a state of reaction against some adverse condition. If the power of reaction is great enough, the individual regains perfect health; if insufficient, chronic illness or death results.

The *signs* of diseases, therefore, such as fever, pain, etc., are not merely evil things to be gotten rid of, but the results of nature's reaction, her attempts to cure, are to be studied so that nothing be done to hinder the reaction of which they are the result.

It is usual to consider the effect of an infection as disease, and as something altogether different in principle from the effect of a drug. But the reaction of the organism against each has an identical import. It is the recoil of the elastic force we call life back to its normal tension, and is a curative effort.

To select, in accord with the law of reaction, therapeutic measures for a case of illness, one should first remove, as far as possible, the causes of the condition.

Then, surround the patient with conditions such as heat, cold, moisture, etc., which are most favorable to the particular reaction nature is establishing; finally, select

the drug which causes the nearest similar reaction to that which is already occurring ; in other words, the drug that causes symptoms similar to those present in the patient.

From the standpoint of reason and logic this conclusion is inevitable. From the viewpoint of experience the results prove the method.

The principle is as simple as the words that express it, but the technique for selecting the curative remedy is as exacting as that employed by the chemist.

Accurate knowledge must be gained of two factors. One factor is the kind of reaction being established in the patient's organism, and the other is the kind of reaction caused by every medicinal substance. Most failures arise from inadequate knowledge of these two factors. We cannot always identify the drug that is causing a reaction by observing only the most obvious results of the reaction. Many drugs cause diarrhoea, but the presence of diarrhoea alone is not sufficient to determine which drug caused it.

Accompanying the principal effects of the reaction of a drug are alternations in sensation, conditions which aggravate and ameliorate other symptoms, *e. g.*, in Bryonia the reaction that causes the diarrhoea is worse in the morning, in hot weather, and from any motion.

In *Ars.* the diarrhoea is worse after eating or drinking and is accompanied by weakness, restlessness and thirst for small amounts at frequent intervals.

In *Salphur* the diarrhoea is offensive, comes on usually at five A. M., and the patient is apt to have colic before the stools.

Thus the factors which determine between one drug and another lie not in some specific result like diarrhoea, but in the sum total of functional changes and modalities which accompany the diarrhoea.

The diarrhoea itself is important as an indication only

if it is peculiar or different from that caused by other drugs. The more peculiar a symptom the more apt it is to characterize the reaction of some single drug, while the more common it is the more it characterizes the general reaction of a group of drugs.

When one is for some time under the influence of a poisonous drug, pathological changes occur in the tissues. The more profound the effect the nearer this change comes to complete death. Therefore, the pathological changes in a disease are the least useful indications for finding the curative remedy, as they represent not reaction, but the last result of reaction.

At best, the diagnostic and pathological findings can only suggest the type of reaction which is going on in the patient, and this in turn can only suggest a type or group of remedies.

You see it is not enough to be a good pathologist and diagnostician; one must observe every peculiar symptom that occurs in the sick and every change which occurs in relation to the body as a whole to its surroundings.

To make the analytical method *practical* certain definite rules must be followed, otherwise the points that determine the reaction picture will often be missed.

The investigation must be exact and searching along the following lines, and every point must be recorded.

First, the patient's own narrative, noting the symptoms exactly as they are given, and by questioning, bringing out all the conditions which aggravate or ameliorate the symptoms, such as position, motion, time of day, etc.

Note the character of sensations, their location, if they are constant or changeable, when they first appeared, and if there was any definite cause for the appearance of the illness or any of its manifestations.

Get, in chronological order, all the facts not only of the present illness, but of every sickness the patient has had.

Inquire minutely into heredity, locations affected, color of affected parts, secretions.

Having noted all symptoms and modalities belonging to every part of the body, take up the reactions of the body as a whole.

The questions should be put something like this :

"Do you, as a whole, regardless of any local symptoms, feel better or worse at any time in the twenty-four hours or at any season of the year ?

"From heat or cold, open air or close room, changes of weather, dry or wet weather, windy or stormy weather, bathing, after sleeping, from any position of the body, motion, jarring, pressure or touch ?

"Ability or inability to perspire, aggravation or amelioration from sweat ?

"Condition of appetite, cravings or aversions, relief or aggravations after eating ? Thirst or absence of thirst ?

"Character of menstruation ?

If worse before, during or after menses ?

"Acuteness of the senses in general ; sensitiveness to pain, to light, to sound. Character of sleep and dreams ; side of body affected ?

"And last, but not least, changes, in the mental state, such as irritability, restlessness, sadness, hurry, loquacity, indifference, suspicion, phobias, delusions, delirium, suicidal thoughts, etc."

Add to the foregoing everything which the physical examination, the microscope and other diagnostic procedures reveal, and the case is ready for analysis.

If one is familiar with the reaction phenomena of a large number of drugs, the data obtained as above are often sufficient to enable him to find the curative remedy. This

is possible in the same way that it is possible for the chemist to recognize some well known substance by its physical appearance alone.

To make the analysis select from the record the most striking symptoms and write from the repertory the list of drugs that cause it. Take the next most striking symptom and write the list of drugs common to both. Usually a third characteristic can be taken and the elimination carried still further. This will leave but a comparatively small group of drugs, among which the curative remedy can be found by comparing the symptoms of each with those of the patient.

A word as to peculiar symptoms : these are such as are not diagnostic. Thus, dryness of the mouth without thirst is peculiar. Movement of the alæ nasi is not unusual in pneumonia, but when occurring in other than respiratory conditions it is a striking characteristic. Marked indifference in one usually enthusiastic would be a useful mental characteristic in the analysis.

To illustrate the principal points and the method of analysis, a case is presented. The patient, a woman of 38. Heredity not significant, childhood normal and accompanied by usual children's diseases. First menstruation at 13. Menses always late and scanty. At 31 a persistent cough, cured by going to the mountains. At 36 she began to have lameness in the right shoulder. Afterwards other joints became affected and there was a well defined case of arthritis deformans, affecting principally hand, wrist and ankles.

Diagnosis based on characteristic tendency to dislocation because of wasting of the articular cartilages. Urinary and other findings not significant. Could use hands but little and could hobble with difficulty about half a block.

For analytical purposes the following facts were obtained :

1. Sensitive and repressed.
2. Diffident even before a child or her husband.
3. Menstruation always late and scanty.
4. Sensitive to cold.
5. Aggravation cold bath.
6. Craves sweets.
7. Aversion to fats.
8. Early waking (4 A. M.).
9. Better from exercise.
10. Position in sleep : on back with limbs stretched out.
11. Has lost flesh.
12. Cough seven years ago, which was worse open air.
13. Worse after midnight.
14. Loose cough.
15. Expectoration white, lumpy.
16. Parts affected : shoulders, hands, ankles, feet.
17. Soreness of parts affected.
18. Weakness of parts affected.
19. Has lived in basement (dampness).

Of these 19 facts those which are most characteristic and which typify the patient's reaction as a whole in contra-distinction to any organ or part are Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. Among symptoms of the highest value are those affecting the menstrual function, so "menstruation late and scanty" was taken as a starting point. Twenty-two remedies markedly affect the organism in that way, as follows : *Amm. carb.*, CAUST., *Cocc.*, CON., *Cup.*, DULC., *Ferrum*, GRAPH., *Hep.*, *Ign.*, KALI CARB., LACH., LYC., MAG. CARB., NAT. MUR., *Nux mos.*, *Phos.*, PULS., *Sabad.*, SEP., *Sil.*, SUL.

Forty-three remedies cause sensitiveness to a marked degree, of which 11 appear in the above list, namely :

Caust., *Cocc.*, *Kali carb.*, *Lach.*, *Lyc.*, NAT. MUR., *Phos.*, PULS., SEP., SIL., *Sul.*

If the curative remedy has been proven, it must be in this list. Comparing the remedies which cause the remaining symptoms with this list, the following appear: Desire for sweets, *Kali carb.*, LYC., Nat. mur. *Sep.*, SUL.

Aversion to fats : *Nat. mur.*, PULS., SEP., SUL.

Relief from motion : *Lyc.*, *Puls.*, SEP., *Sul.*

Sleeps on back : *Phos.*, PULS., *Sul.*

Sulphur leads all the other with Natrum mur., Pulsatilla and Sepia closely related. A study of the materia medica showed Sulphur to correspond more closely than any of the others, and it was given to the patient. The first prescription was the 1m of Boericke & Tafel, which was repeated after several weeks. As improvement ceased the higher dilutions of Skinner were used.

In a year, after five prescriptions had been made, the patient was dancing the tango, and in sixteen months was climbing hills and walking all around the country. The hands remained deformed, but the joints lost their soreness and the strength returned. Twice since there has been a slight relapse, one of which Sepia controlled and the other Hepar sulph.

This much belongs to the strong characteristics: the whole symptom picture; the pathogenesis—in fact, the complete red string of the remedy. With that red string you will be able to cure many complaints. Having a good portion of the general state of the remedy you must also know that the special symptoms are present, but you may have all the special symptoms without these grand, general features, and not succeed in curing your patient.—J. T. KENT, M.D., 1888.