

7. Rheumatoid pains are felt anywhere, hips, legs and joints.

8. Lassitude and languor commonly and mistakenly diagnosed as neurotic.

9. Sexual symptoms: Sensation of heat or cold, dryness or moisture, fornication in the perineum and external genitalia.

10. Symptoms may be acute or chronic and there may exist acute exacerbations. Formation of abscess may occur.

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### Case of achylasia of the Pharyngo-oesophageal sphincter.

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On April 10, 1933 I was called to see an old lady, 87 years of age, who had been in her usual health and had eaten a good breakfast and a good dinner. Soon after dinner she began to spit and cough up mucus, which she could not swallow. At tea time on attempting to swallow either liquid or solid she immediately gagged and brought up food and mucus. I saw her at 5.30 p. m. and found her sitting up in bed spitting mucus which was frothy, inodorous and tasteless. I tested her power to swallow and found that neither solid nor liquid food would pass beyond the level of the cricoid cartilage. There was desire for food but she could not swallow it. The voice was weak and thin, almost voiceless. She was given one dose of *Aconite 30* but this made no difference, so I directed her not to try to take any food during the night and left her some *Lachesis 30* in water of which she was to

take a teaspoonful every half hour till she was better. On calling the next morning I found her no better. She had been coughing and spitting up frothy mucus all night and was becoming exhausted. I tried to get her to swallow a little thin porridge for which she was hungry but each mouthful went no further than the upper oesophagus but returned immediately and painlessly. At no time was there any pain but continual rejection of frothy mucus, which collected with great rapidity. On this account she was given a dose of *Merc. 30* but it had no effect. After waiting awhile I placed a few globules of *Baryta carb. 30* under the tongue and told her not to attempt to swallow them but to let them dissolve in situ. Within 10 minutes her voice became clearer and the mucus ceased to accumulate so quickly. I left a powder of *Baryta carb. 30* with the direction that she was not to take it if she continued to improve. She said all her bones ached but she seemed well except for the oesophageal trouble. At 4.30 p. m. I saw her again. The improvement had been maintained. Very little mucus collected in the throat and she had ceased to be constantly spitting but there was still inability to swallow. She was given another dose of *Baryta carb. 30* and was told not to take food during the night. She had no more trouble after this second dose of *Baryta carb.*, slept all night and woke in the morning to eat a good breakfast for which she was quite ready. No more medicine was given or required. She has remained well since and the condition has not recurred. Hering gives prominently under *Baryta carb.* the symptom "Oesophageal spasm of old people". But the condition seems to be not a spasm but a paresis.