

## Syphilis : Its History, Symptoms and Homoeopathic Treatment.

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### MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT.

• *Precautions.* The best and most effective way of protecting one-self is to keep away from public women and thus save one-self and his wife and children from the terrible consequence. Society girls should beware of the consequence. Indiscriminate kissing is to be deprecated.

After doubtful intercourse the parts should be immediately washed with carbolic soap and hot water and then with 1/1000 Perchloride of Mercury lotion. To protect the parts being abraded, vaseline should be used freely, mustard oil is a disinfectant though very weak. The virus when once has entered into the system, no external application will do any good. Well selected potentised drugs will do world of good and cure ( Homœopathically ) the patient. Cauterisation to suppress the ulcer is of no good. The individual is subjected to untold sufferings. Mercurial applications in the form of ointment or in allopathic doses will produce Mercurio-syphilitic condition which is more difficult to manage than simple syphilis.

The patient as soon as he feels the preliminary symptoms such as irritation or itching at the part with hardness, general malaise, fever &c., should at once put himself under a qualified doctor. It is very unfortunate that to hide his sin he does not come forward for treatment at the earliest opportunity but treats himself with quack nostrums as long as he can. Considering the loathsomeness of the disease, the serious consequence and danger to which he has exposed himself and his family he should seek the best

advice possible. He should be very careful in not allowing any person to use any article that he uses nor to have any direct connection with any of his friends or relations who may imbibe the disease if by mere accident any secretion from the sore touches the mucous surfaces or any abraded surface.

*Management of the Patient.*—The patient should be advised perfect rest both in mind and body. Simple non-irritating food such as milk, slops, soft rice, green vegetables, mug and kalai ( urid ) dal, the watery portion and very less of the meat and fish.

Lean soup, half-boiled eggs and plain soup of Magur or Jeol ( singi ) fish can be given in some cases. Sarbat, ghole, juicy fruits can be given freely.

Rich indigestible food and alcohol, tea, coffee and aerated waters should be prohibited. Hot spices, chillies, garlics, asafoetida, zinger, asparagus &c., should not be allowed. Camphor and vinegar antidote homœopathic medicines.

Exposure to damp or cold is injurious.

*Case Taking.*—Take down the whole case in detail both the general and particulars. If the patient is a literate one direct him to put down his whole case in detail and then make your examination both subjective and objective and make additional notes as to hereditary ailment, previous history of life and illness, the nature of the treatment he had and with what result, the habits, mind, temperament, likes and dislikes, appetite, bowels and condition of internal organs, skins etc.

*The Tubercle.* The indurated spot at the site of abrasion is the first manifestation of syphilitic infection—cauterization of it was the principal treatment formerly adopted on the false idea that syphilitic virus remained confined at this point until the constitutional symptoms appeared,

This was useless and harmful. The classical Blackwash and heavy doses of mercury at this stage and continued long after delayed the appearance of second stage but when it did appear, as it always did at a later period, it was in a most virulent form. This was perhaps a combined effect of Syphilis and Mercury, termed as Mercurio-syphilitic condition.

The only external application necessary at this stage for the primary sore is to keep clean by washing the part with tepid water and soap. Saturate a lint with Calendula cerate and place between the folds of prepuce. When the genital is unusually swollen it is better to syringe into the prepuce hot Calendula lotion thrice daily. The primary sore has to be washed with Calendula lotion and Calendula cerate has to be applied.

*Internal Medication.* Mercury in potency is the principal remedy in the treatment of syphilis unless it has already been given by the allopathic physicians in crude form.

*The dose of Mercury.* The following quotation from Dr. Frost's annotations of late Dr. Berjeu's excellent treatise on venereal diseases will be illuminating. Referring to Dr. Jahr, Dr. Frost says ".....the principal remedy is Mercurius Solubilis, of which (as in a simple chancre) he recommends one half-a-grain of the first centesimal trituration to be given morning and evening. This remedy, he says, will undoubtedly prove most specifically curative as long as the chancre still presents its ash coloured, lardy appearance and will even surpass in curative power any other agent, in cases where the elevated ulcer has passed into the Hunterian form of chancre". He quotes Dr. Jahr "I use Mercury in all *Chancerous ulceration*. If resembling the simple or Hunterian Chancre, I employ Merc. Sol.; in the phagedenic form I prefer Merc-Corros. until an improve-

ment sets in, after which I continue the treatment with *Merc. Sol.* Regarding the dose: I never give, in urgent cases, lower than the second trituration of Mercury, in one-half-grain doses, morning and night, giving only one dose every morning on the third and fourth day and after this period one dose every other day".

The followings are from Arndt.

"The following quotations from the American edition of Cornil's work on syphilis, show us that large doses of mercury are no longer considered necessary in the treatment of syphilis even by the old school".

"Mercury does good in syphilis by facilitating the removal of the cell growths which cause the various phenomena of the disease, hence small doses are needed, as newly formed and immature tissues have less resistant power than normal structures. Hence, before the physiological effect of the metal is induced as is shown in the salivation and emaciation, it is able to produce its beneficial results".

Cornil says, "salivation is now considered useless" and Bartholow states, concerning the use of mercury in syphilis, "small doses should be given and continued until all traces of hardness disappear, *the important point is not to produce ptyalism*". Homœopathic physicians use larger doses of this drug in syphilis than in any other disease. Mueller uses Cinnabar in the 2x and 3x triturations; Mercurius Sol., *Merc. Cor.*, *Merc. præc. rub.* in the 1x and 2x trituration. Jahr uses *Merc. Sol.* in the first centesimal trituration, two doses daily of half a grain each. Vehsemeyer uses the second and third decimal trituration, two or three doses daily, increasing the dose from one to five grains each. Yeldham uses the first and second decimal triturations, two doses of half a grain each daily; Jahr endorses this prescription. Yeldham gives the second and

third decimal trituration, but in doses of five grains each three times a day and Bahr :—one grain of the first decimal every other day.

*Mercurius Protoiodide.* Helmuth uses this remedy in the early stage of the disease in two-grain doses of the first decimal trituration every night for a week. The next week, every other night, the third week every third night and then continues at intervals until the sore is healed, which takes place usually in about six or eight weeks.

"Twenty seven of my correspondents intimated the potencies which they employed ; of these fourteen used the crude material to the third decimal trituration ; seven used from the third decimal trituration to the thirtieth dilution ; and two used from the thirtieth to the one hundred thousandth. The high dilutionists claim to have excellent results in the treatment of syphilis." *We have also got very good results from a single dose of C. M.*

The following from Dr. Malcolm Macfarlan is a valuable contribution to our literature. "My experience with syphilis during the first few years ( 1862-7 ) of my practice was in the army and in army hospitals. I watched the treatment of two or three thousand cases with the Iodide of the Mercury and other Mercurial preparations. The secondary and tertiary conditions were treated by an occasional mercurial but mainly by the Iodide of Potassium with Sarsaparilla added. The wretched results following this routine system of medicine led me, after becoming acquainted with the use of homœopathic medicines in other troubles, to apply in venereal diseases. From 1867 to 1878 I rarely used anything but highly dynamized remedies and since then have occasionally used small but repeated doses of Iodide of Potass, low, when the patient

has been saturated with crude mercury, looking upon it mainly as an antidote to Mercury."

#### HOMŒOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS.

*Acid Nitric.* Is as important a remedy as mercury and used in several stages of syphilis. It is useful in chancre, with gonorrhœa and warts and phimosis. Chancreous ulcers—Ulcers are deep, ragged, fistulous, irregular and ragged with raised edges. The base is either lead coloured or like raw flesh. It bleeds freely when touched or washed. There is no healthy granulation in the centre but filled with flabby, unhealthy exuberant growth with thin offensive discharge. Stinging or splinter-like pain is characteristic. It is specially needed when the mercury has been used in excess.

"When under the administration of mercury, the chancre is slow in cicatrizing, or when ulcer exhibits a strong tendency to produce vegetation, Nitric acid should be administered in one drop doses (3rd) morning and evening. Nitric acid is also efficacious remedy against syphilitic ulcers, which have been for a long time fruitlessly treated by the large doses of mercury....." G. H. G. Jahr.

The 30th. potency is generally preferred but 200 and higher have also been found very satisfactory.

*Acid Phosphoric.* Chancres with raised edges, indolent ulcers with edges thick round, and prominent. There is absence of granulations or there may be pale, flabby granulations with corroding, itching herpes praeputialis and blisters on glans. Potency 3x or lower may be used.

*Aconite.* In violent inflammation of the penis with fever, restlessness and thirst, specially after the exhibition of Mercury. In cases of phimosis and paraphimosis, it will very much relieve the inflammation but it is by no

means a remedy of the specific poison. It is given in lower potency and repeated more frequently.

*Anantherum*. May be tried in low potency in chancre-like sores and scirrhous-like swellings of cervix. Swollen breasts with excoriated nipples; inflammation of glands with painful swellings and suppuration in different parts of the body.

• *Apis mellifica*. May be called for in cases of extensive cellular inflammation. The surrounding parts are oedematous and erysipelatous with burning and stinging pain. The whole body becomes suddenly puffed up. The 200th is preferred.

*Argentum nitricum*. Small ulcers on the prepuce covered with pus, gradually spreading, bowl shaped with a tallow like coating 30, 200 and higher are frequently used with advantage.

*Arsenicum album*. Is a remedy for the phagedenic variety. Black vesicles with burning pain, pimples with unbearable burning pain. Ulcers with high edges discharging black and coagulated blood. Glans blue-red, swollen and cracked. Genitals very painful, swollen, inflamed, threatening to gangrene. Chancreous ulcer is filled with unhealthy, exuberent, dark-red granulations with hard margins. The discharge is thin and offensive. The burning is characteristic as well as thirst for small quantity, restlessness, prostration and apprehension. When gangrene sets in the characteristic burning pain is absent; the appearance of the sore is livid or mottled with black slough.

The 6th and higher at some long intervals is found satisfactory.

*Asafoetida*--Needle like stitches in the penis. Drawing pain in glans. Ulcer with high and hard edges. Bluish ulcer sensitive to touch and easily bleeding. The discharge

is profuse, greenish, thin, offensive and even ichorous pus. Pain around the ulcers. Ulcers grow black.

*Calendula tincture*—*Calendula succus* and *Calendula*, *Hydrastis* and boric powder are the best to use as external applications.

*Carbo veg*—Syphilitic ulcers with high edges which become irritable from local treatment, margins sharp, ragged and under-mined. The discharge from the sore is thin, acrid and offensive. The ulcer is very painful and bleeds easily on touch. There are vesicles and pustules on prepuce. Burning pain is felt in ~~tabis~~ and in eruptions on the skin. Potency 30 or higher may be tried with advantage.

*Causticum*—Dr. Berjeau says, "Is very good for Chancres secreting an acrid, corrosive pus, or a watery greenish fluid, with complications with cutaneous affections, gout or scurvy." It acts better in higher potency but 6th is sometimes used with benefit.

*Cinnabaris*—Is a compound preparation of Mercury with Sulphur (Mercuris sulphide) and is very well indicated in syphilis. It is used when Mercurious solubilis fails to act although well indicated. Dr. Mc. Clelland has given a good account of it and the proper sphere of its action is clearly given which I have reproduced under mercury. The 3x, 6x, 30 are used.

*Corrallium rubrum*—Red, flat ulcers on glans and inner prepuce with yellow offensive ichorous discharge which can be easily cleaned. Ulcers are flat and extremely sensitive to touch, sometimes bleeding. Frænum painful as if pricked with needles. The potency 6 or 30 may be useful.

( To be Continued )