

OUR LITTLE PATIENTS*

Royal E.S. Hayes, M. D.

Conditions compel this offering to be mostly in the nature of a clinical object lesson.

A little girl of three with soft, curly hair, dark eyes and fair skin, one of those little things "too bright and good for this world", ill with pneumonia. She was shy of the doctor until too ill to notice, great accumulation of mucus and distressingly rapid breathing and rattling, 'accompanied by pronounced waving of the alae nasi. Ah! *Lycopodium!* Yes, but the point is that at that time all the writers knew about *Lycopodium* was that for excoriations a nice powder of the moss could be had at the drug stores. So the rattling went on faster and faster until by the third day the little life was duly snuffed out.

This tragedy was a thoughtful experience for the green young doctor for his supposed-to-be hardened scientific casing was expected to take him on his new career emotionally unscathed by such untoward events; but with several other like experiences that winter it proved to be too much to endure. So he looked about for something better than "depressants", supports and chest applications to work with, and as most of you know, found it. Why should not others seek the truth, even in unexpected places, and find it?

A recent scrap with a pneumonia illustrated the usual outcome with these conditions when met with the right kind of science. It was of an even more fatal type than the other, being complicated with a vicious mixture of miasms, or "infections", if one prefers the term.

*Read before I.H.A., Bureau of Obstetrics and Pediatrics, June 19, 1937.

Boy near 14, also one of those beautiful children whom it is so distressing to lose, was taken with influenza and grew rapidly ill. When first seen his pulse was 114 and temperature 105.6 per orem; dry mouth and throat; tongue, heavy white streaks on sides but not on edges, nosebleed when blowing nose, legs shaky on rising, tossing, sleepless, insistent, thirst, copious watery stools, thought he was downstairs, that there were babies in the bed, etc. *Hyoscyamus* was given but the condition grew worse (and by the way, *Hyos.* is a mean acting remedy in delirious conditions when it is not perfectly suitable). So the pre-daylight hours of the next morning found us facing a more serious condition. The boy was bleeding freely from the nose, dark blood, and his muscular energy was considerably reduced although the temperature was only 104 and pulse 116. There was yellowish or brownish mottling over the cheek bones and forehead, the sclera yellow, abdomen tympanitic, loquacious, the voice low, tongue tripping over the syllables; thought he was being crowned king to which he objected uneasily, muttering and chattering in sleep, a general low aspect although the temperature was 105 and pulse 112.

Crotalus borridus of course was given and the haemorrhage ceased. That evening the temperature was 105 and pulse 122 and the purging persisted, but there had been no more bleeding, but expectoration of a soft brick colour, thick, stringy, but no cough. To anxious inquiries the parents were told that the boy would have a better chance for now the disease was being localized, being thrown from the nerve centres into the lungs where it would be more easily managed; but that he would have to go through this pneumonia phase of the disease. This diagnosis and prognosis was in accordance with the too infrequently considered direction of physiological energy, that is, from within outward equilibrium.

As prophesied, the next day (May 19) found us with a new phase of the problem. The condition was still critical with temperature 103 but pulse 128, just at that fretting point which we have all seen when we wonder whether it is to go up and the patient out or come down and life be sustained. The

aspect was lower, more prostration and the muttering continued but a little cough had appeared, a little loose but no expectoration. Lung signs were positive in spots, more pronounced in the right apex, tubular breathing and flatness, bronchial in other areas. The talk was now interspersed with moans, voice weak and tremulous, anxious expression, waving alae nasi and complaints of "hollow stomach". *Sulphur* was of course given, May 20th.

That evening the pulse had dropped to 116, temperature 103, the diarrhoea had ceased and the boy was sleeping. Next morning the confusion and muttering had reappeared, also the diarrhoea, with constant thirst for cold, cough was weakening, oppression of breath compelling him to lie on the back some, but mostly he lay face down. Pulse 112, temperature 104.6. *Medorrhinum* 2M. was given, May 21. That evening his appearance was unmistakably better.

May 22, still critical but countenance distinctly brighter, loquacious; seeing many things, getting clothing off and sitting on edge of bed when not watched, shaking, slurred speech, wanted head rubbed; thirst; tongue dry and brown, but pulse only 110 and temperature 102. We suspected the remedy and knew he would recover but waited for the signs that would clinch the whole situation. Next morning pulse 65, temperature 97.8. Still very sick but still we waited.

Next day, May 24, weaker; settling down in bed, wanted to be left alone (the opposite of *Phos.*), seeking cool place for head, loose hacking cough, lying on back only, craving juicy and cold, temperature again above normal. *Phosphorus* 200 clipped together the scattering forces and all was well.

Here was a situation where the boasted modern science of medicine must have been useless. But even in these desperate conditions the certainty of natural law is demonstrated; but only by knowing what is determined in medicines and compared to what is reactible in disease. In the purely medical sphere science *a la mode* has nothing to offer that can compare to it. Why is it that after a century and a quarter of demonstration so little use is made of the reactions of vital energy? It is so plainly marked in

the individual expressions of our patients. Is it not the failure to look to that best criterion of scientific medicine itself, the immediate response to medicine? I think so. So our little patients as well as the older ones are still waiting for what might be virtually a medical millenium.

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DISCUSSION

Dr. Grimmer : The paper illustrates very forcefully what the difference between the two methods of treatment is. Dr. Hayes' plea is for law vs. chaos—and, of course, we all are familiar with those cases and to us it may not be so wonderful, and yet still every confirmation of this law in such cases as these toxic pneumonias is almost a miracle of healing. No matter how many times we see it or hear it, it always brings joy to our hearts to see them or to hear about them. It is worth while to study homoeopathy for that one reason if nothing else—the handling of pneumonia.

In the "old school" they readily admit that they have nothing. They are using certain serums, but they admit unless they get the serum that is applicable to the type and get it early, it is useless. Yet they will spend so much time and effort and money, when they must know that the homoeopaths are getting tremendously successful results. It only goes to show how much prejudice still rules the world. It would seem to me that any physician, regardless of his school, would want this thing, if it would cure patients suffering with pneumonia, and it does seem strange that they don't go into it more and investigate it.

Dr. Hayes : I might mention one thing that came to my notice. I received, I suppose in company with physicians all over the state, a circular from the State Board of Health recommending the use of serum in pneumonia, giving the different types and giving the statistics of following its use. Well, in studying those statistics, actually the mortality was higher than it was before. They were long statistics and yet they expected physicians to believe that circular.

Dr. Wilson : I was surprised to hear Dr. Grimmer say the "old school" had no remedy for pneumonia—why, they have a new one every little while. I saw one put out by one of the pharmaceutical houses, just recently, and they said they had reduced their mortality rate from 65 per cent down to 23, or something like that. Now, that is marvellous! (Laughter)

Dr. Grimmer : Answering Dr. Wilson, "old school's" remedy is like climate; just wait a minute, and you will have a change.

- [Courtesy : The Homoeopathic Recorder, Dec. 1937]



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