

## A CASE OF CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS\*

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The abundance of cases brought to the Children's Building of the Women's Homoeopathic Hospital occasionally gives me an unusual case. This is my excuse for reporting this particular case. The one outstanding feature in this case was its age, being four weeks old when admitted to my service.

On November 22, 1936, a white female infant was admitted to my service. The history is quoted from the interne's notes.

- C.C.**           Fever, constipation, stuporous.
- F.H.**           Mother and father in good health. Patient is the only child.
- P.P.H.**         Delivery at full term, instrumental, weighed about 7 pounds, breast fed and in good health up until two weeks ago.
- H.P.I.**         Mother developed a sore breast two weeks ago when the infant was put on a formula. A few days later it developed a fever, constipation and coryza. About three days before admission to the hospital, the infant acted as though stiff in the legs and neck.

**Physical Examination :** White female infant in fair state of nutrition, body flushed.

**HEAD :** The anterior fontanelle about an inch long and bulging, otherwise the head was nor-

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mal in size and shape. Pupils were dilated, reacted sluggishly to light. Ears, nose and mouth were negative. There is no definite pathology in the lungs.

HEART : Fair muscle tone.

ABDOMEN : Was somewhat distended and tympanitic. Constipation gave way to liquid stools. The skin was irregularly flushed.

REFLEXES : Kernig and Brudzinski were positive.

Further examination of the case made by myself revealed a very sick infant, semi-conscious with body rigid and slightly arched. Head was somewhat retracted. Fontanelle bulging, general cutaneous hyperaesthesia reflexes increased, also a positive Kernig and Babinski on both lower limbs. Occasionally projective vomiting. The temperature was characteristically irregular, the highest 104°. Tentatively we made a clinical diagnosis of meningitis. This infant was so very small and rigid that we could not do a successful lumbar tap as the fluid was too thick to pass through the small calibre needle so that I had to do a ventricular tap through the fontanelle, going through the brain into the ventricle. Now I obtained a heavy purulent milky fluid under pressure. I will append the laboratory report.

Dec. 2, 1936. 15 mills. of milky examined ; cell count 5,000 ; sugar, negative ; globulin, distinct trace ; differential, polymorphonuclears 86%, lymphocytes 14%. Smear shows numerous pus cells intra and extra cellular Gram Diplococci. Culture of fluid shows Meningococcus.—  
Hunter S. Cook, M.D., *Pathologist*.

The first prescription in this case was based on a general congested condition of the infant, high fever, dilated pupils, drowsiness, convulsive twitching, general hyperaesthesia. On these general symptoms *Belladonna* was prescribed. The active symptoms were ameliorated. The infant now was somewhat pale, lying on its left side with its head retracted, losing weight rapidly and presenting all the neurological findings of the former examination with no tendency to amelioration. Because of this

stand still state of a very serious case I prescribed *Amorphous Sulphur*, with a gradual clearing up of all the neurological findings. Several brain drainages were made for the pathologist to examine the condition of the fluid. The cell count gradually decreased, the pus cells cleared up so that on December 26, 1936, we had a sterile culture of the spinal fluid, also negative to the meningococcus. The temperature also had come down to normal. The chief symptoms at this time were extreme emaciation, spastic condition of the limbs and constant whining, particularly during the night. Here *Syphilinum* was prescribed. It produced a wonderful effect on this case. The whining and crying ceased at night, the infant began to gain weight slowly, all the pathological and neurological findings cleared up, the infant became hungry, had normal stools and slept well. A final ventricular tap, done on January 11, 1937, gave a normal cell count and normal spinal fluid findings. The exact report says : Cell count 7, globulin negative, culture sterile after 72 hours.—H. S. Cook, M.D., *Pathologist*.

The infant was then discharged, cured.

At the present writing this infant is seven months old, is in perfect health, above normal weight for its age ; there are no palsies or sequelae. The infant is happy and cheerful. This case is reported because of certain outstanding features.

1. Age of the patient, five weeks old, when the disease is almost always fatal.
2. Because of the perfect recovery ; no palsies or no sequelae of any kind.
3. Because two unusual remedies produced marked curative effects ; namely, *Amorphous Sulphur* and *Syphilinum*.
4. Because the case was cured by the strict homoeopathic law of cure.

*Philadelphia, Penna.*

[*Courtesy* : The Homoeopathic Recorder Sept., 1937]

