

The Materia Medica of Pain.

REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN JUNKERMANN, M.D.

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Colocynthis

A year or two ago I was called down south to see a couple of little children, particularly the baby. The little girl had diarrhea. They had been up to some resort at a lake the day before, and they had had peanuts, popcorn, crackerjack and a lot of other things absolutely unsuitable to a child's stomach.

The little girl, as I saw her lying there, had symptoms of tenseness, fingers going this way and that way, high fever, in other words, threatening convulsions. Under the circumstances, the diarrhea can be neglected. And taking into consideration the cerebral congestion belladonna was our remedy.

While I was prescribing for her I heard the toilet upstairs flush and down came the little brother into the room and flopped down on the floor holding his hands against his stomach. We had colic and diarrhea, and naturally our remedy was colocynthis in the case, which relieved him.

Mercurius Sulphuricus

The next day I was called to see the little sister. There were no convulsions; fever was gone, but they showed me the stool. It contained blood and mucus and had shreds in it. She was going every few minutes and straining vigorously; the colon was most acutely inflamed, and we had a condition that was in way alarming. Mercurius sulphuricus one thousandth grain in a glass of water was given, and she had one more stool that day, two that night and then recovery.

Gnaphalium

Another remedy, perhaps not all are familiar with it, but when you are called out in a case of atrocious sciatica, it will sometimes try your soul. The man is going to have relief, must have relief, and with a handy bottle of aspirin or a hypodermic of morphine in your pocket, it is sometimes a severe trial to ask him to give you a chance or to show such confidence in your prescribing that he will think you are giving him morphine and that he is surely going to get relief. In connection with this I want to mention above all one remedy, and that is gnaphalium. That is one of those one symptom remedies, like elematis. In atrocious sciatica associated with a numbness and tingling in the fingers, it will act like morphine.

Hepar, Thirtieth

The next remedy I will take up came to me under these circumstances. I was called to see a woman with a labial abscess. The pain became atrocious and I decided that I was going back that night and incise unless we got quick relief. I prescribed belladonna because of the throbbing pain. No relief at all. I picked up my Boericke and in leafing through came to hepar, and it said for labial abscess with intense pain, hepar thirtieth. That was definite enough. There was no guess work, no differentiation there. She got it. That night the pain was all gone and she was comfortable.

Hypericum

Another remedy I will mention is a remedy that I mention for this reason, because I have been mistaken. The time was when if a case came to me suffering from having had the teeth extracted, a good deal of pain, I always thought of arnica immediately and I used to be

disappointed when my cases didn't get the results. On further study I have found that hypericum, because of the injuries to the nerves intense pain, will give relief there very quickly and much more effectively.

Stramonium

Several years ago I was called upon one evening to see a man, a case of carcinoma of the bladder. They called upon me to give him some morphine so that they could control him. I found five men sitting around in the room taking care of him, neighbors of his. I found the man in bed. He was a very fine man in every way, of the best of character. He was sitting on the bed, joking and laughing when I came in. They had the lights on very bright; in other words, he had light and plenty of company, I noticed.

But he couldn't drink water. His son went over and got a piece of cotton and he sucked the cotton. That impressed me.

The next thing they told me was that the neighbor ladies had been in and that he shocked them with most indecent remarks, a thing absolutely foreign to that man's character, as everybody knew who had known him.

I have gotten ahead of my story. On my first visit I gave him one-quarter grain of morphine and returned to my office. Just as the office hours were over I received a telephone call and I went out and gave him another one. It had no effect whatever. I went back to the case. I didn't take the morphine back with me, left it in the office. I studied my case and observed that which I have just told you; in other words, we have a silly obscenity, must have light and company, can not drink water, and what more could one ask? He got the remedy and no more morphine and no five men to control him—stramonium, of course.

I have, for example, a girl. When she is down town with her mother and goes into the laboratory with her mother, her mother must stand in the doorway. She can't close the door. At night if she wakes up with the door closed she just goes into a hysterical attack until they get it open. The light is left on.

When you must have light and company, can not drink water, have silly delirium and obscenity, always think of stramonium.

Hyoscyamus

I might digress for a moment. About three years ago I was called one evening to see a patient. "Will you come out on Garfield Avenue to see a case of sleeping sickness?"

I had never seen a case of sleeping sickness in my life. My thought was, what am I going to do about this case. I got down Turners loose-leaf book and thought I would get the latest thing in it. It gave an excellent description of sleeping sickness and more or less a history of the case. He described the mutation and then came treatment, but nothing specific.

There had been five doctors on the case. The last man was a professor of neurology at the university here. They had all agreed on the diagnosis. His prescription was morphine to quiet the delirium. Of course, sleeping sickness is not one where the patient is quiet and stupid. There is more or less delirium. He also prescribed croton oil to keep the bowels open.

Well, I decided right then I would not treat sleeping sickness. I am going to treat a sick man; that is the thing we have been treating. We have been treating sick people. Not a man of you ever saw an abstract case of typhoid or pneumonia. They exist in the book

but you never saw it. The thing you treat is sick people. They may have pneumonia or something else.

On observation of this case I found my man lying there in a stupor, muttering some. You had to watch him for he might jump out of the window. Sometimes he would see things going up and down the walls. He was twitching. Shake him and he would and I could ask him a question and get a little bit out of him, but not very much. His fever was moderate. I shook him and hung an alarm clock in front of him and asked him what time it was; he couldn't see it.

We had non-suppurative cephalitis. The trouble was in the brain. What are we going to do for him? If you are going to be a prescriber, it is not a question of whether or not this one remedy comes to mind for a cough or one for this or that or the other thing, but does a group of remedies come to mind when a predominant symptom is mentioned.

In a case like this belladonna, baptisia, hyoscyamus and stramonium, come to your mind.

I have just recited a case of belladonna where you have high fever, and we can discard that. Baptisia—we are going to think of that in the case, because to all intents and purposes we might have a typhoid fever here—delirium. Hyoscyamus has the picking at the bed clothes, twitching, muttering, delirium, profanity, etc. Stramonium is a more active type with the silliness, not so toxic, must have light and company, with obscenity, etc. You compare and it is between baptisia, hyoscyamus and stramonium, with much preponderance in favor of hyoscyamus.

There should be no difficulty in either case in recognizing your remedy. Incidentally, this case of sleeping sickness got along very beautifully.

Ratanhia

And for my last remedy I think of one of the most important remedies we have. I have an office across the hall from a dentist. His sister is a graduate of a hospital here. That evening there was an old-time celebration. There was going to be a big celebration. It was in the fall. It was a cold, drizzly evening, not pleasant to be out. The sister brought over a friend of hers, a young, married woman. She stated that her menstruation was due that night, could feel it coming on, and whenever she had it she was flat on her back in bed, absolutely prostrated. "I want you to give me something so that I can go to the celebration to-night."

I told her that was quite a proposition. "What are your symptoms?"

"Cramping, cold sweat, vomiting and sometimes diarrhoea;" in other words, complete prostration is what she had.

I thought, this is some problem we are dealing with; and I said, "Perhaps if I were to take you home and put you to bed with a hot water bottle, I might do something for your case."

But no, she was going out; that was all there was to it and it was up to me to see what I could do. Under the circumstances with a nurse from an old school hospital there to see what I did, one who would be hypercritical of homœopathy, I stood on my toes about the case. I would likely have given nothing rather than to see homœopathy fail under such auspices. I went over the symptoms and could see only *ratanhia*. So *ratanhia* she got, third, to take every half hour, but I slipped over and told my friend the dentist who keeps a supply of Dr. Mile's Anti-Pain pills to take a couple of these along and

slip them to her if she had any pain. That was the extent of my confidence.

The next day I asked him, "Did you have any trouble?"

"Not a bit."

A few weeks later she came back and said, "I want some more of that medicine. I haven't had any trouble this time."

That gave me a tip on probably the most prominent remedy that I have ever found, for I have used that in dozens of cases since that time with almost no failure where the symptoms with any degree correspond.

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Disease is caused by a primary derangement of this vital force consequent upon the dynamic influence of some morbid agent which has the power of altering the harmonious working of the vital force.

Hahnemann says: "How the deranged vital force causes the organism to display morbid phenomena, that is, how the disease is produced it would be of no practical utility to the physician to know, and therefore it will for ever remain concealed from him. Only what is necessary for him to know of the disease and what is fully sufficient for enabling him to cure it, has the Lord of Life revealed to his senses."

Therefore it will be useless and altogether unnecessary to even try to explain how the dynamic vital force is deranged by the dynamic morbid force of some disease-producing agent. Knowing that the dynamic vital force is deranged and disease, therefore, produced by the action of a dynamic morbid force, does it not appeal to reason that the remedy which is capable of restoring order in the deranged organism must also be dynamic?—FREEMAN, M.D.