

Therapeutics of Nervous System.

BY DR. FORTIER-BERNOVILLE, M. D.

(Translated by Dr. R. K. Mukerji, from
L'Homœopathie Moderne)

TREATMENT OF VERTIGO.

The vertiginous syndrome may have different causes which we can classify thus :—

1. Vertigo caused by circulatory disturbances, by high blood-pressure, arterio-sclerosis or by cardiac weakness.
2. Vertigo caused by some nervous lesions in the case of paralysis in the diseases of the medulla or of the cerebrum or of the cerebellum.
3. Vertigo of toxic origin, in the course of some infectious diseases, results of ingestion of medicines or of toxic drugs, or even may be due to some functional, hepatic or digestive derangements.

PRINCIPAL REMEDIES.

First of all let us distinguish nine medicines that should be placed at the top of the list, Conium, Cocculus, Cyclamen, Bryonia, Nux Vomica, Arnica, Ferrum Metallicum, Borax and Theridion.

The first three whose caps are identical have some complementary relations.

Conium Metallicum. The most important of all. Vertigo when turning the head. Physical and mental weakness, tremors, palpitations. Vertigo aggravated when lying down and worse when turning the head. Sadness, sometimes walks like a drunken man. This medicine acts well on bachelors and on persons who have suppressed their sexual desire for a long time, a remedy of old maids (vieilles filles).

Acts also on pre-cancerous and on cancerous condition. Conium is, in fact, a great medicine of paralysis and in

these cases we may note an abolition of reflex or Romberg symptoms.

Cocculus Indica. Vertigo in carriage, when being jolted or carried. Railway vertigo, as well as in a coach as on the sea. Sea-sickness.

Vertigo with nausea and headache aggr. when waking up. Emptiness in the stomach, epigastric weakness. Prostration and weakness.

Suits both vertigo of toxic or infectious origin (hepatic and digestive intoxication) and nervous vertigo, with possible paralysis.

A prominent sign of *Cocculus* is—whatever the ailments may be, the intensity and frequency of cracking sound in the joint of the knee—at the least movement of that part.

Frequently there exists insomnia because the person has deprived himself for a long time and willingly of sleep and in the end cannot sleep any more.

General aggr. in open air, by touch, sometimes by noise, by smoking and specially in being jolted in a coach.

Cyclamen—Vertigo with obscured eye sight, giddiness, flaming sparks before the eyes, sensation of rounding a circle. Aggr. in open air, better inside the house and in hot room, somnolence, lassitude, morose condition.

General aggr. in open air in the evening, when standing, or sitting, and by cold water. Amel. in hot room and during the monthly flow.

The *Cyclamen* patient has pretty frequently digestive troubles. Salty taste, hiccough, appetite easily satisfied (Lyc.) after a few mouthfuls, dislikes meat and fats, pork specially. Coffee causes diarrhoea. This remedy covers also vertigo of hepato-digestive origin in persons subject to poisoning by food.

Let us now discuss *Bryonia* and *Nux Vom.* Both have

one very important common symptoms. Aggr. in the morning.

Bryonia.—Vertigo in the morning on coming down from the bed. Aggr. by the least movement and by opening the eyes, aggr. specially by movements of the head. The patient has to lie down and remain motionless.

Amel. or even total stop of vertigo when in absolute rest and when lying down.

Often nausea and fainting accompanying vertigo in the morning when getting up. There exists also a headache with a sensation of hammer blows, worse by the least movement of the head or of the eyes.

Digestive troubles often exist. The tongue is covered with yellow patches ; great thirst for cold water-drinks, a big glassful at long intervals, sensation of pressure in the stomach as if by a stone. The stomach is sensitive to touch and when feeling of the pit of the stomach.

Nux Vomica.—Vertigo with fainting, aggr. in the morning by exercise—physical or mental. Aggr. by stimulants—wine, alcohol, coffee. Aggr. by the perfume of flowers, after meals. Sleepiness after meals.

Insomnia at night and somnolence during the day. Aggr. by noise (Therid.). Vertigo with headache, headache is preceded by syncope. *Nux Vom* acts on vertigo of infectious and toxic origin on persons who have abused of stimulants and on persons of sedantary habits; It also acts on vertigo caused by ingestion of alcohol and coffee.

Two remedies of vertigo caused by circulatory troubles : Arnica and Fer. M.

Arnica.—Vertigo caused by cerebral troubles or after traumatism (shock in the head). Aggr. when closing the eyes. Head hot, feet cold (Bell). Ringing in the ears.

Arnica acts particularly on vertigo that precedes ictus apoplectic and subsequent hemiplegia. It may act in this

case as a preventive and for this reason it must be placed first in the treatment of vertigo. It is also a medicine for persons suffering from vertigo caused by traumatism or by a fall.

Ferrum Met. Vertigo when looking at a flowing water. Vertigo when passing over a bridge. Headache with throbbing on the temples. Sudden and violent palpitations. Aggr. by the least movement, habitual pallor (greenish) of the face with bloatedness and suddenly becoming flushed by the least emotion or by the least exercise.

Fer. M. is indicated in some vertigo with anæmia. There exists hypoglobulie in the blood with diminution not only of the hematies but also of hemoglobine. Pulse small and weak.

Two more medicines in cases of persistent vertigo with sensibility to noise.

Borax. Irresistible fear of forward movement. Child holds its nurse if she bends forward when carrying the child. Adults have vertigo when descending staircases or when swinging in a rocking-chair. The person is sensitive to the least noise. Tendency to aphthæ.

Theridion. Vertigo with great sensitiveness to noise affecting the teeth and the whole body. So the patient cannot bear even the crumpling papers and of certain cloths or the grating of fork on plates.

Vertigo is accompanied by headache with nausea and vomiting by the least movements, worse on closing the eyes. It is of advantage to compare on this point 'aggr. in closing the eyes'. Ther. with Apis, Lach., Arn. When there is vertigo with the eyes open but relieved by closing the eyes Tabacum is indicated.

(to be continued)