

Prophylaxis of Cholera.*

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BROTHER PRACTITIONERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

Allow me to speak something on the subject of Prophylaxis of cholera which is of the most vital importance to the populace in our poor country--India, where every year thousands of people die of Cholera. The discovery of a Cholera Prophylactic would confer greater benefit on the human race than even the discovery of Vaccination.

Beyond recommending the most vague generalities as quarantine, cleanliness and disinfectants etc., medical authorities are silent over the subject. We generally see in our villages many children as well as aged people wearing a copper pice with a hole made through it and tied round their waist by means of a thread. Such practice is highly recommended as a Prophylaxis of Cholera.

As far as I can ascertain there has not been a single case of Cholera among persons protected by the Copper pice. Such custom of wearing a copper plate upon the skin has also been recommended in Europe (*Practice of Medicine by P. Jousset, M. D. Page 257*). In Cholera Asia-tica however Cuprum Metallicum has been used more frequently than in any other disease. It is a fact that workers in Copper are never attacked with Cholera although exposed to the same influences as their neighbours. In Massachusetts a copper shop was situated near the Cholera Hospital in 1857 and yet not one of the workers were affected with the disease.

Dr. Burg ascertained by numerous experiments made in the Hospitals that the application of copper rings on

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the limbs is a sure means of causing the cramps in Cholera patients to remove immediately and often all other symptoms vanish at the same time. He also found that the workers in copper foundries (200 in number) escaped Cholera in 1832 and 1849. Hence Hahnemann's claim that Copper is the best Prophylactic (*Clinical therapeutics Vol. 11 page 229 by T. S. Hoyme*).

According to Hahnemann, Cuprum prepared after his method (by successive trituration and succussion) together with good and moderate diet and proper attention to cleanliness, is the most certain preventive and protective remedy ; those in health should take, once every week a small globule of it (Cuprum 30) in the morning and should not drink anything immediately afterwards but this should not be done until Cholera prevalent is in the locality or in the neighbourhood. The health of the individual will not be in the least disturbed by this dose.

Subsequently in a letter to the Editor of the *Bibl. Homœopathique*, he writes, "Cuprum, as a prophylactic against Cholera has generally shown itself efficacious. However, it has been employed, with success where its action has not been destroyed by gross dietetic faults or by the smell of camphor (which is its antidote)." In the same letter he further says "I have also advised the alternation of these two substances (Cuprum and Veratrum Alb.) from week to week as a preventive against the disease."

Dr. F. F. Quin, the greatest of English disciples of Hahnemann, in his *Treatment Homœopathique du cholera*, published in Paris in 1832 recommends the alternate use of Cuprum and Veratrum Alb from week to week as prophylactic against Cholera and says "that experience has shown that these substances have preserved numbers of persons exposed to Cholera." He adds that "this obser-

vation ought not to surprise us if we remember that Vaccine which is in reality a homœopathic preventive, guaranteed safety during a large number of years to those who were exposed to the Variolus epidemic." Dr. Quin advised that during the use of these Medicines it is necessary to abstain from wine, coffee, strong tea and spices which counteract their action.

Dr. Dudgeon in his "The homœopathic treatment and prevention of the Asiatic Cholera," published in London, 1847 says "it would be wrong to neglect the means which the genius Hahnemann and the labours of his disciples have put within our reach specially when the means are so simple and efficacious whilst the cure is so difficult and hazardous." "The true preservative however" he says are "Cuprum and Veratrum that were useful in actual character of the Epidemic."

Dr. F. Humphreys in his "The Cholera and Homœopathic treatment"—New York 1849 testifies to the efficacy of the alternative use of Cuprum and Veratrum Alb. as prophylactic and says "it is the general experience of Homœopathic Physicians that among those who took the medicine and were attacked by the disease showed itself in its mildest form, while those who had omitted this preventive treatment were attacked with great violence." He alludes to the practice of wearing a small piece of Copper upon the pit of the stomach that was used in Germany during Cholera with good result.

There seems to be an unanimity amongst Homœopathic Physicians to the prophylactic virtues of Cuprum in Cholera.

According to Dr. Constantine Hering "the surest preventive is Sulphur, put half a tea spoonful of flowers of Sulphur into each of your stockings and go about your

business ; never go out with an empty stomach, eat no bread no sour food."

This is not only a preventive in Cholera but also in many other epidemic diseases. Not one of the many thousands who have followed this, my advice, has not been attacked by Cholera (*Domestic Physician*, page 248).

We generally use Camphor when attending patients in Cholera. We believe the poisonous effect would be immediately neutralised thereby.

Editorial.

RECOGNITION OF THE SCIENCE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

In every country Homœopathy is being treated with contempt. It is known to every body that every orthodox practitioner is a hater or denouncer of homœopathy which has become the subject of unjust calumny, satire and criticism. The proof of the pudding is in the eating and as such innumerable marvellous cures effected by our tiny globules have silenced the tongue of our enemies and have been instrumental in disseminating its blessings amongst the people of our country. A new era of renaissance is now visible. The All powerful British Medical Association will shortly meet together to perform celebration of its Centenary at a huge assemblage when celebrated medical men from all parts of the world will be present. But no day was set apart for the discussion of Homœopathy. Dr. George Burford, of London felt humiliated at this omission and he saw Lord Dawson of Penn, Sir Thomas Horder and several other eminent medical men and entreated them to rectify the mistake done by the organisers. With a jubilant heart we inform our readers that the committee has, at last, consented to include homœopathy in the programme and that a lecture will