

QUIETING AN UNHAPPY HOUSE.

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A beautiful girl of 18, fairly educated and coming of a respectable family, was married to a promising youth of considerable wealth in Calcutta. For some years all went on smoothly, but of late, the girl having lost her mental balance, grew quarrelsome and vehement and made a very unquiet house. For a few months the amiable husband could somehow or other put up with the situation; but by and by it exceeded the maximum limit and the poor man took into his head for taking another wife, as the family and the neighbours were quite sure that the wife would ere long turn insane and so there was, as they thought, no chance of cure.

Before doing so the gentleman sent for her father who came and fully realised the situation. He is a lover of Homœopathy and understands its principles well so as to know that his daughter was mentally deranged. He knew me from before and intended to place her under my treatment. The good husband was most reluctant to marry another wife, but because he was under an impression (and the neighbours confirmed the idea) that there could be no cure of a mental malady, he was compelled to entertain the idea; so now he fully agreed to his father-in-law's proposal, if, in case, his good wife might be brought round.

Last November I was called in, the husband and the father broke their minds before me and after examining the case I was pretty sure that the girl would be quite cured in no time, and so I gave them an assurance to that effect. I took down the following notes.

"All along after marriage she was a loving wife, amiable and obedient, since last Magh, a change was marked in her, as she would often lose temper with her maid, and complained frequently to her husband about the misconducts and insubordination of the maid who was usually a good natured girl. Any how it was managed, and another maid, who

used to serve the eldest brother's wife, was given her by a mutual interchange. The change suited her well for a month or so, and then the something happened. In the meantime she grew more sullen and morose, and would often weep in silence for almost nothing. The family noticed all these and on an idea that her system might have been heated, some Kavirajee cooling oils were given her for use, and arrangements were made so that she might have a daily bath in the Ganges. It was found that she would take, during her bath, no less than 50 dips,—an indication that she really felt an extreme heat in her system. But things began to grow worse by and by, and she turned turbulent and vehement in her dealings with every member of the family irrespective of age, sex or position. Frequent weeping some days for hours together nobody knew why, the only reason which she would give was an intense head pain. Argument or reasoning with her was impossible, because any attempt to do so would make her all the more turbulent and abusing. She would hardly take her usual meals and began to lose flesh and get thinner and thinner day by day. Some cooling drinks were frequently given her, and though she liked them, those drinks seemed to bring in nasal catarrh and running of thin watery mucus."

"Inveterate constipation,—so much so that only one motion after 3 or 4 days, that was also quite insufficient. Menses almost suppressed for the last 3 or 4 months,—very scanty, only a show of menses and that was all, a thin leucorrhœic flow instead."

It should be remarked here that when I intended to examine her and note down the symptoms, the patient desired to take myself and her father to a solitary closet, so that she might give her symptoms rather freely. We followed her desire, but as a matter of fact she could give us none, save and except she frequently wept as if to mean that she had all along been neglected by all the members of the family, but as a matter of fact that was not the case. The whole family

was most affectionate towards her, even the servants were extremely sorry that such an amiable and affectionate girl would lose her brains this way, and all were anxious for her cure. I got all the above from her husband ; and then I asked a few direct questions to her to complete the image of Natrum Muriaticum. She said she must have to take a good deal of free salt along with her dishes ; she liked cold bath, liked lying to the right, wanted cold water on her head during her head pains, &c., &c.

24.11.29.—Natrum Mur.—1 M was given. On 4.12.29, she had a fever paroxysm for a few days coming at 9 or 10 A.M. with a bad shivering, intense thirst and headache, a perfect picture of Natrum mur. fever. The family got alarmed but the good old father quieted them down, saying that it was an old fever which had been rather suppressed and that it must come back, and did so to her welfare. Nothing more noteworthy uptill 25.12. when another dose of 2 M was given. Some days afterwards a regular menstrual flow came forth, and lasted for 10 or 12 days, and from this time forth her mind symptoms commenced to improve. The husband reported "Three-fourth calmed down, very many thanks, but would it last ?" It was a prophecy, it did not last, and after long watching and waiting, and observing, I had to give another dose of 5 M on 16.1.30, and something came out which none of us apprehended. It was an ugly type of scabies-in confluent groups, so as to be mistaken for an eczema, but its nature showed that it was scabies. As soon as they were out, she was found as amiable as ever, she herself wondered how she could be otherwise. The family, especially the husband and the father are highly thankful to me as they said for the fatherlike care I took of the diseased girl, whose future was just going to be doomed unless I took so much interest and eventually cured her.

I had to complete the case with a dose of Apis 1 M only the other day, for a few symptoms fitting the remedy.