

Arsenic album in Collapse

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A boy aged 10 months came under my treatment on 2nd March, 1933 for Lobar Pneumonia of the right side (the upper and the middle lobes) with Bronchitis on the left side. The temperature used to range between 102° and 104°. Respirations 50 and pulse 126 P. M. He was getting distension of abdomen almost every three hours which embarrassed the breathing and had to be relieved with Glycerine enema and he passed a big greenish stool each time the enema was given. He was treated for two days with Antiphlogistine and the usual allopathic drugs (stimulants and Expectorants), cold applications to the head etc. and adrenalin injections. On the 3rd evening he got worse and the temperature went up to 105°. Cold packs had to be changed every 15 minutes. This was done for over six hours to keep down the temperature to 103°.

On the 3rd at 1 A. M. in the night he showed symptoms of Collapse, extremities upto the elbows and the knees were cold, child restless, started twitchings of the hands, shoulders and legs, biting the gums, and tympanites was present.

At 2 A. M. difficult breathing commenced with thready pulse, and every hope of the child was given up. A camphor in oil injection was given as a last remedy. But sponging and cold to the head was continued. Early morning on the 4th, child continued in the same state almost comatose, would not suck milk and even water would dribble out when given. Twitchings increased and made the sight unbearable. Bromide & chloral were thought risky owing to weakness of heart.

At last I gave him Arsenic alb. 30 (a few pellets dissolved in an ounce of water), a tea-spoonful every 15

minutes. Sponging when the temperature was above 103°; and honey was given every hour. After a few doses of medicine the twitchings lessened but the temperature was stubborn and ranged between 103° and 105°6. The child got sleep for an hour or so. The whole day on the 4th and up to 5th evening Arsenic was continued with stoppages of 3 to 4 hours when symptoms were less acute. On the 5th one dose of Sulphur 30 was given.

There was a reaction with rise in temperature but on the 9th the crisis occurred with subnormal temperature. In the after-noon the fever went up to 105° again, the post critical rise as it is called. In the evening the temperature became subnormal and the child made an uninterrupted recovery.

Remarks:—Arsenic alb. practically saved the child. Hydropathy is very useful in such serious cases. Sponging, cold packs and cold applications to the head and on the navel help a great deal to support the strength of the patient. Honey given frequently is a great aid. Being a thick liquid it can be swallowed where liquids like milk and water are swallowed with difficulty as that required the finer movements of the muscles which semicomatose patients are unable to perform. Honey is an extremely useful concentrated nourishment. I should think it better than Brand's Essence of Chicken or Essence of Masur in the case of children specially. Sleep is another thing essential for recovery which is often neglected. It is essential that the sick child must sleep a few hours otherwise the chances of recovery are remote. Arsenic homeopathically is a great soother to the nervous system, a tonic to the circulatory organs and helps the temperature also. It is worth trying in the later stages of the disease when the above symptoms manifest themselves with great prostration in children.