

Records of Indian Drug-Provings.

TYPHO-FEBRINUM.

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INCIDENTS WHICH LED TO THE DISCOVERY OF TYPHO-FEBRINUM.

In my early days I took lively interest in assisting my mother who was a physician of no mean order. She used to distribute medicines *gratis* to our village people who daily thronged at her from far and near. I used to assist her generally in the preparations of medicines and distributing them amongst the village people, because according to the custom of our society, mother could not appear before those people. Sometimes it happened that infants having high fever, flatulence in spite of diarrhoea and with some alarming brain-symptoms, came under our treatment.

At first sight of these patients I was so moved that I went so far as to request my mother not to take them up. But my mother with her usual smile at her lips encouraged me by pointing out to a medicine. I asked her of what substance that particular medicine was made. "Of Porcupine's intestine, boy", she added rather a little loudly, in as much as she once told me this fact before but then I took very little interest in this. However, these little patients were given medicines with the instructions of making a paste of it with mother's milk and put it upon the tongue every three hours. This repeated two or three days generally, effected a cure or improved the case so much that the perfect cure followed in course of time.

My interest was roused when I heard of the Porcupine or hedge-hog. I heard of this wonderful creature but never saw it. A few days after, an incident occurred which fulfilled my expectation. Once in the very early morning hours I was roused from my sleep by my mother who asked me to hasten to the bamboo-grove where hedge-hog hunters have

been engaged in hunting them. Mother sent me with the peremptory orders that the hunted animals must first be shown to her before they were taken away. Accordingly several (perhaps nine if I remember aright) hunted ones were presented in our house. Wonderful creatures with sharp thorns all over the body! Of these creatures only one male of young age was selected by my mother and its abdomen was opened and $2\frac{1}{2}$ " of its small intestine, the last portion of it, was taken. The animals, all of them, were then allowed to be taken away. Then my mother's duty was to see it repeatedly for several days under a net and then it was a little fried on a pan and put into her box. She told me that this is a great medicine of cases which are generally called "Sannipatic Bikar" by our Kavirajes.

Now in my later years while proving several other drugs, one of my friends in course of conversations told me that entrails of Porcupine is a good medicine for Typhoid fever. These words recalled all my motherly skill and activities which I observed in my early days and I corrected him by saying that not the whole entrails, but $2\frac{1}{2}$ " of the last portion of the small intestine. He insisted me to prove it so that it might be a good indigenous medicine of Typhoid cases. I expressed my earnestness to prove it Homœopathically. He promised to give me the part required. A few days back in the month of Poush 1329 B.S., he supplied me with it and I proved it in the manner noted below :

In the month of Poush 1329 B.S., I prepared Typho-febrinum 200 and took 10 drops of 200th at a time in the morning. At 10 a.m., I felt some difficulty in breathing. Both the lungs seemed full of air and unable to admit more. A general uneasiness was being felt throughout the body. Towards afternoon this was felt in increased intensity. But after 8 p.m. all uneasiness was gone, and I fell asleep. On the day following a slight difficulty in breathing was felt.

On the 2nd Magh—I took 15 drops of Typho 200 thrice in water. To-day within two or three hours not only all

the symptoms returned with increased violence, but some mental symptoms also developed along with them. I was afraid of the result of such a perilous adventure. Difficulty in breathing was so very great that I was always apprehensive of the termination of breath at any moment. On the 2nd Magh uneasiness and difficult breathing were so very great that I was almost unable to put up with them. Now it was impossible for me to stand or sit on a chair. I lay down. Then it was 6-30 p.m.

Mental anxiety became so intense that even the contiguity of wife and children were repugnant to me. I felt no appetite and did not take any food that night. I slept for three hours and awoke at 9 p.m. When I felt my pulse I found it quick, full and bounding. The temperature was 101.5. Headache was severe and a flat rope seemed rapped round my head. My constant whining and anxious look were the source of immense anxiety to my family members. My wife insisted on administering suitable Homœopathic medicine but I prevented her saying that I myself would take it when necessary. For her satisfaction and to avoid further questioning I kept a phial of placebo with me. The night passed with much trouble and anxiety. Temperature oscillated between 101° and 102°.

3rd Magh—I took 5 minims of the same potency. Immediately after taking the medicine, the temperature was lessened by 1 degree. Sweat also appeared in small measures. But a few minutes after there was chill and the rising of temperature. Two hours after the temperature was found at 104°. Throughout the day the temperature ranged between 104° down to 102°. The cough without the least expectoration was troubling me all along. Then there was neither chill nor sweat. Only the body was unusually hot,—the face being the hottest. Throughout the day and night there was an expression of anxiety discernible upon my face. All night headache and cough added to it, fever did not fall down below 103°.

• 4th Magh—Cough was very troublesome, while coughing I felt a sort of stitch pain within the right lung, the lower lobe of which was first affected and the pain extended all through it afterwards. This happened within 9 a.m. The pain in the right lung made me impatient and the left lung was showing signs of affection. An allopath was called in, who examined my chest and declared that Pneumonia had set in with the affection of the lower lobe of the right lung and extended upwards. He apprehended that the rapid development clearly indicates that both lungs might be wholly affected in near future. The abdomen was greatly distended and offensive flatus were coming with force and noise. There were copious evacuations, altogether eleven times in 24 hours. The stool was watery and earthy blackish. Fever oscillated between 103° and 104° . Thirst was very slight. Three days passed in this way.

7th Magh—The condition same. Flatulence with evacuations for 10 to 12 times. The colour of the stool the same or greenish yellow. Lungs began to show signs of alarm. In the afternoon I felt a jerking sensation in the spinal column. This gradually extended downward through the spinal cord. This was a sure indication that the nerve-centres have been affected.

8th Magh—A dynamic state was becoming prominent, evacuations more watery, vertigo on raising the head. Getting up required a strong support. Temperature rose from 103.5° to 104° . Thirst increased. Pain in the chest, especially while coughing, as if every tissue was torn off. Unbearable pain in the head while coughing as though the head was torn asunder.

9th to 11th Magh—The condition same. There came out expectoration of watery light white colour, of a little saline test. Evacuations as before. Fever came down to 102° on the 11th but rose almost immediately to 104° . Up till now I was taking placbo to satisfy my family members. But despair had already taken possession of my soul and I thought

that there was little chance of escape from such a perilous situation. On the 11th Magh the allopath took away my blood for medical examination and declared on the next day that Typhoid germs have been found in the blood. This bad news though created a general confusion and dismay in my family, was a source of satisfaction to me in as much as my proving had been successful. The allopath strongly observed that it was a pure case of Typhoid with brain, lungs and abdominal complications, and that unless medicines were taken, the case would go from bad to worse, and asked my permission to prescribe medicines. I objected saying "Doctor, I have an implicit faith in homœopathic medicines and shall take them when necessary."

The allopath went away haughtily without any more word, and there were wailings and weepings in my family. I asked them not to be anxious but select medicine cool-headedly and speedy cure would follow. This had a desired effect and Rhus tox 30 was taken.

On the 12th Magh—Both my lungs were affected. I began seeing hallucinations. My consciousness was nearly gone. I had delirium from the 12th afternoon. After the cure was effected I came to learn from my wife that in delirious state I often said of houses taking fire and burning thatches tumbling down upon my head. This was so vivid in my mind that I put both my hands upon my head and shrank to one side of the bed under the quilt. Semi-conscious state often graced me and I gave out my symptoms during the interval and I heard afterwards that Baptisia was then tried and last of all Ocemum 30M which cured me in a few days.

SYMPTOMS RECORDED DURING THE COURSE OF PROVING.

MIND—Mental aberration, anxious mood, anticipating death in near future, caused by suffocation, taciturn mood, even wife and children seem repugnant. An inexplicable apprehension, as though a great adversity is hovering over

him and may overtake at any moment. Confusion of ideas, stupor, drowsiness, coma vigil, perfect coma, cannot recognise nurses, parents and attendants.

SENSORIUM—Excitement of brain and nervous system after which comatose state sets in, restless.

INNER HEAD—Headache all over but too acute at the sinciput. Gnawing and hammering pain in the head. Congestion in the brain, vertigo.

OUTER HEAD—Head seems to be bound up tight with a flat rope.

EYE—Pain in the eye-balls which seem to be attracted inward, pain on moving them. Partial paralysis of the ocular nerves, causing unusual delay in recognising familiar faces.

EAR—Eustacian tubes seem stuffed up with cotton, consequently hardness of hearing, roaring in ears as though amidst great storm.

NOSE—Sensation of coldness and occasional sneezing, sometimes thick mucus comes out through the left nostril, fan-like or wing-like flapping of the alæ nasi.

FACE—Flushed at the beginning but later on pale, yellowish. Eyes sunken, a dark aura round the eyes which seem lustreless. Photophobia. Cheeks flushed in the evening. Face very hot.

LOWER FACE—Pain during articulation, partial lock-jaw.

TEETH—Gums painful, full of dark blood oozing out on pressure, sordes on teeth, lips sore.

TONGUE—Pale with thick yellowish white coating down centre. Taste bitter in the morning. Nothing is tasteful to the tongue, which is swollen, cracked, dry and moist alternately.

MOUTH AND THROAT—Fetid odour from the mouth, uvula elongated, causing dry cough and hissing. Trachea seems closed, feeling of suffocation inducing sweat which comes out only partially. Epiglottis seems heavy and inflamed.

EATING AND DRINKING—Absolute aversion to eating

either solid or liquid, only desire for water which is taken in large quantity after a pretty long interval.

NAUSEA, VOMITING—Nauseating feeling but no vomit, only eructation occasionally appearing the nauseating tendency.

STOMACH—Unbearable sore feeling in the epigastrium, slow dull pain in the umbilicus, specially round the navel, as if in a ring and in the hypogastrium.

HYPOCHONDRIA—Pain in the liver on pressure, liver enlarged.

ABDOMEN—Dull pain in the umbilicus, abdomen distended, flatulence. Distressed feeling in the lower intestines, gnawing and cutting pain every now and then inducing groaning. Both ilia sensitive to pressure.

STOOL—Greenish, dark, yellowish with abundant mucus. Frequent, offensive, indigestible watery stool.

URINE—Scanty, dark, reddish. Slight burning sensation during micturition.

MALE SEXUAL ORGAN—Penis and testicles relaxed,

LARYNX—Epiglottis seems heavy and inflamed. Difficulty in swallowing and speaking.

BREATHING—Breathing difficulty with cough, expectoration of tough mucus after much coughing, suffocating spell. Respiration from 38 to 48. Pulse from 125 to 145 per minute. Weight and oppression in the chest. Respiration short and panting. Chest sore to touch, abdominal respiration.

COUGH—Uvula elongated inducing dry incessant cough every now and then. Tickling in throat, vomiting of white tenacious mucus during excessive coughing. Feeling of suffocation with great oppression causing the patient to sit up.

LUNGS—Right lung seems inflamed. Pain is first felt in the lowest point of the right lung but it soon spreads all through. The left lung is also affected with pain. Left lung seems stuffed with mucus. Signs of consolidation on both the lungs. Double pneumonia, fine mucous rales. Sibilant rales all over the affected area.

HEART, PULSE—Palpitation and quick pulse in the

beginning, but quick and feeble as the blood-pressure rose up very high, causing congestion in the brain, lungs, kidneys and liver. Quick and irregular pulse.

NECK, BACK—Very weak, even pillow seems insufficient to keep the neck straight. An additional pillow is required to keep it straight. Back seems heavy and painful. Hips very stiff. Lumber region painful, pain often extends to coccyx. Numbness about the dorsal vertebra.

UPPER LIMBS—Extremely weak, give way while walking. Pain and soreness in anterior and cramping sensation and sometimes actual cramping in the posterior portions of limbs. This cramping is of a drawing character.

LIMBS IN GENERAL—General aching in all the limbs.

NERVES—Very sensitive, restless in the evening. Paralytic sensation in the brain as well as in the left chest and lower limbs, especially left side.

SLEEP—Comatose sleep, sees fancies in vision as if he is being carried through the air, restless; pain and anguish disturb him and consequently cannot sleep in peace.

AGGRAVATION—Heat aggravates all symptoms, but cold application too for some time is unbearable. All symptoms especially suffocative sensations are aggravated after midnight and by lying down.

CHILL, FEVER, SWEAT—Fever ushers in with agonizing chill. Chill imperceptible when temperature rises, but chilly when exposed to the air. Heat predominates. Sweat unknown throughout. Temperature varies from 101° to 105° even more. Feet often cold up to the knee. Typhoid fever of cerebral type. Sensation as if sweat will break out but actually nothing at all. Sweat in the extremities or on the forehead.

SKIN—Very hot and burning. Rash appears at the end of the second week, dry skin, partial sweat.

RELATIONSHIP—Cognates: Bryonia, Baptisia, Rhus tox in the early stage; Ac. Mur, Lachesis. Opium, Arsenic and Carbo veg in the last stage. *(to be continued).*