

## CLINICAL CASES

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1. The Homoeopathic Law.
2. The characteristic symptoms.
3. The infinitesimal dose.

Many other cases on the record would have done just as well. These are taken only because they came first to hand, and also present a little variety.

(84) **Case 1. Caronic Dysentery.** A.B. aet. 51, bilious temperament : had been sick with the present affection 20 years. It resulted, as he believed, from a blow upon the left side of the abdomen. During this time it has been better and worse, and sometimes had seemed nearly well. For some months he had been growing worse, and during the last 5 weeks, very rapidly so. His allopathic attendant, who met me in consultation (the patient being a prominent man in the town where he lived, and his physician being, therefore, anxious to please him) had exhausted his anodynes and astringents, and advised the patient to make his will. The appearance of the patient justified his prognosis, as did also the symptoms.

Stools bloody ; small white particles like opaque frog spawn, mixed with brownish bloody fluid ; very frequent ; 25 to 50 in twenty four hours.

Before stool, violent, uncontrollable urging; cannot retain the stool. After stool, relief. Aggravations. Lying on the left side (stools and other symptoms) from warm food or drinks (symptoms of stomach) lying on the back. Ameliorations. Lying on the right side. After sleeping (general condition). From cold food or drinks (all the symptoms). Accompaniments. Tongue

dry, red, cracked ; burning in the stomach : distress in the stomach ; hot eructations like heartburn, all worse lying on the back or left side ; better by turning to the right side, when he spits up a little mucus. Occasional vomiting of food or mucus. Entire loss of appetite. Some desire for acids. Intense thirst for very cold drinks. Sleeplessness ; great debility.

All these symptoms are found under Phosphorus, and the most characteristic ones are found only there. After one dose of *Nux. v 200* to antidote the drugs he had taken, *Phos. 200* was given in water every three hours. As he resided some distance from me, I did not see him for three days and then found all the symptoms much improved. The stools were partly fecal. and only 8 to 12 in 24 hours. The thirst much less, and appetite improving. I gave no more medicine. Five days later there was no more blood, and 10 days after that 18 days from the time the will was made, he was discharged cured.

(85) Case 2. Vaginitis, etc. Mrs. C., age 27, mixed temperament. Had not been well since a fever two years ago, but has been much worse for six months. Miscarried about 7 years ago. Had visited a prominent gynecologist in Boston, who diagnosed inflammation of the uterus and right ovary. She was, however, so disgusted with him and his treatment, that she would not go again.

Sensation of weakness in the abdomen, and bearing down low in the pelvis. Relieved by pressing up on the vulva, by lying down on the back with knees flexed, by walking ; worse from standing reaching upward, riding, sitting long. Heat in the neck of the bladder during and after urination. Leucorrhœa whitish or brownish, thick, quite profuse ; mostly during urination. Menses normal. The chief complaint on the part of herself and husband, however, was on account of the following symptoms.

Great tenderness of the vulva and entrance of the vagina and for some distance internally, causing extreme pain during sexual intercourse, and great repugnance to it. Other symptoms were, much lassitude and debility ; mood depressed or indifferent ; feels

much worse in the morning and better in the afternoon. Aversion to cool air ; appetite poor. Much dull headache ; more in the morning. Alternation of constipation and diarrhoea. Much heat in the hands and feet, more towards night and after fatigue.

As the patient was living a very sedentary life, with rich and stimulating diet, she received *Nux. vom. 200*. This improved the general condition, and then for want of a better remedy, I gave *Sepia 200*. Of all the remedies then known to me this suited best. Two weeks after this remedy the lady reported to me, by letter, from Brookline, Massachusetts, her residence, that, though feeling generally well, "the local trouble is the same." I have suffered very much from a weak forcing across the lower part of the bowels, and there is great tenderness and irritation in the extreme lower part of the vagina, worse when passing urine. Leucorrhoea not constant, and at times nearly absent. Can walk a long distance with ease, but after sitting in the house all day feel much worse.

After considerable search I found the symptom in question, with some others belonging to the case, in the proving of *Coccus Casti*, in Metcfe's American Proving. I gave *Coccus c. 30*, one dose daily, for two weeks, when the report was that there was decided improvement. Under the use of S.L. the improvement continued, and four weeks later she wrote, "I am nearly well, and gaining very fast. Have gained seven pounds in 5 weeks. Dr. S.'s patients are miserable and discouraged. How thankful I am that I did not take treatment of him."

With some fluctuation and a repetition of the remedy, the case was entirely cured, with the exception of occasional leucorrhoea accompanied by slight return of the week feeling in the abdomen, but not of sufficient importance to cause her to continue the treatment longer.

**(86) Case 3. Asthenopia :** Mrs. S., widow, aged 32, had trouble with the eyes several months. Has terribly abused them by sewing, writing, reading in bed.

Trouble began in right eye, which is worse than the other. Feels as though the socket were empty, as though there were no eye there, and as though a cool wind were blowing out of the empty socket. Severe pains around and back of the eye.

Itching back of the eye. Flashes of light when closing the eyes. Mist before the eye like a veil or cloud. Worse from strong light, either natural or artificial. Great aggravation from using the eye, causing intense headache over the eyes. Desire to spasmodically close the eyes, which gives relief. Menses regular, accompanied by severe bearing down pain, and pain in the hips and back, with considerable sexual excitement *Platina 200*. This remedy was selected chiefly on account of the desire to spasmodically close the lids, which has seemed to be characteristic, and because a large number of the other symptoms also correspond. It had no positive effect, however. In three weeks she was no better, and had the following symptoms in addition: eyes feel swollen, and are swollen in the morning. Feels as though there would be constant lachrymation, but there is not. This led me to give *Crocus. 200*. In ten days more there was still no improvement, but there was now a new symptom revealed, which I believed to be truly characteristic, viz; Feeling of weight or heaviness of the upper lids, as though one could not raise them, worse in the morning. *Sepia 200* produced immediate and radical improvement, which continued about 50 days, when it became necessary to repeat it, and also again on account of renewed abuse of the eyes, 30 days later, when she got *Sepia 6 M*. She now continued to improve during nine months, when the same symptoms returned, with some addition. Using the eyes, causes nausea, heartburn, faintness at the stomach, causing a craving to eat between meals. The latter symptom reminds us at once of Sulphur, as well as the relapse. I thought it best, however, to give one dose of *Sepia 6 M*, and seven days later one of *Sulph. 6 M*, and this has completed the cure.

The sensation of a cold wind blowing out of the eye is very peculiar, but it belongs to eight remedies, to which we may now add *Sepia*.

(87) **Case 4. Chronic Cough :** At the meeting of the Maine Hom. Med. Soc., in 1868, Dr. Clark, of Portland, reported some interesting cases of croup cured by *Sanguinaria*, which he was led to select on account of the whistling character of the cough, or metallic sound, as though coughing through a metallic tube. I have had opportunity to confirm the same symptoms several times in chronic cough, of which the following case is an example.

A gentleman about 60 years of age, of full habit, ruddy complexion, full chest, has been afflicted many years with shortness of breath and cough. When taking cold the distress becomes severe, and the attack resembles croup. It is worse in cold weather, and one winter was spent at the South. Being a man of wealth, he would have continued to go South each winter, but prefers now to take *Sang.* and remain at home. I do not know how better to describe the cough than to call it wheezy-whistling, beginning with a wheeze, and ending with a whistle. Worse at night, and when lying with the head low. *Sang. 200* gives immediate relief in every attack and renders them less and less frequent.

[*Courtesy : The Hahnemannian Monthly, 1870.*]




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### CALCAREA SULPH AND BURNS

An application of Sixth Decimal trituration of *Calcarea Sulphuricum* incorporated in vaseline is the best ointment for burns. I wash the wound well with castile soap-suds, dry it by absorption, and apply the ointment. One heaped tablespoon of the trituration is mixed with one pound of vaseline.

*Fer. Phos* is given internally if there is fever.

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