

CLINICAL CASES

J.B. Bell, M.D.

Petroleum : I have had been some experience, recently, with Petroleum in Secondary Syphilis. (31) A lady contracted the disease from her husband. She came to me, with the characteristic eruption of brown spots on the arms, neck and chest, and also on the lower limbs. She had also falling off of the hair and rheumatic stiffness of the shoulders and ankels. She did not know the nature of her trouble, and I could not learn from her or husband that she had ever had any primary symptoms. Phytolacca 3, Rhus t. 200 and Merc. Sol. 2 produced no favourable change. Guided only by the clinical symptom in the Symptomen Codex, "brown spots on the wrist," and by the symptom in lips, "brown or yellow spots on the skin," I gave Petrol, 200 and produced a complete and radical cure.

Gelseminum : Febrile Conditions : Dr. Irving S. Hall.

(32) Mrs. M., age 74, Feb. 29, 1868. Saw the patient about 10 A.M. Yesterday, in the afternoon, was attacked with violent pain in the limbs, back and head. This morning, the same symptoms continue, after a restless night. Pulse rapid, occasionally intermitting. His intermission I should, however, add, is habitual with the patient. Tongue furred ; not much thirst; wants to be quiet and let alone ; does not want to talk or have persons about her in the room. This last symptom, especially in these attacks, is said to be a decided indication for Gels. I prepared the 80th potency of this in water, 2 teaspoonfuls to be taken every three hours. On seeing the patient next day, a favourable change was presented, and the violence of the fever destroyed.

in these sudden and often violent attacks of synochal fever, Gels, will at times be brought into comparison with Acon. This later drug is often given promiscuously (if I may be allowed the world), and without any regard to individualisation, simply because the patient has fever. In the pains in the limbs, back and head, these two remedies resemble each other, but beyond that the similarity ceases. With Acon. the thirst is prominent, the patient is anxious and restless, cannot be still. With Gels, the thirst is not prominent, and the patient wants to lie down, be quiet, and let alone.

This symptom of Gels., which I think we may term a characteristic, was first discovered by our colleague, Dr. J.B. Bell. He first observed it in himself, as a patient, and has since confirmed it by numerous cures.

Ipecac : Post-Partum Hæmorrhage : Dr. J.B. Bell.

(33) A recent case of post-partum hæmorrhage, has strongly confirmed my trust in the power of high potencies in such cases. A primi-para had tedious labour of 36 hours, terminated at last by instrumental delivery. The placenta was attached fully 3/4th of its surface, and was so firmly adherent, that it was only scratched away piece-meal with great difficulty. The hæmorrhage was frightful, and being very fluid and gushing, I gave Ipec. 2c. in water, every five minutes, applying also ice externally and internally. I requested also the attendance of my colleague, Dr. Thompson. The hæmorrhage ceased in about ten minutes, and never returned, although the uterus relaxed several times, and there must have been much of the placenta still adherent in pieces too small to be removed. Having seen ice used freely in the allopathic obstetric clinic at Vienna, without these beneficial results, and having used it myself in the earliest years of my practice, in conjunction with the low preparations, without permanent favourable results, I can but attribute this effect to the medicine. Acon. 200 removed, as it always does, all the sureness and lameness very rapidly, and the lady made a quick recovery.

Iris Versicolour : *Sciatica* ; Dr. Wm. E. Payne.

I have confirmed, in one case, the following symptoms furnished by our worthy colleague, Dr. Conrad Wesselhoeft, in his proving of the *Iris Versicolour*, *Viz.* : sudden shooting, burning aching pain from behind the trochanter, down the posterior part of the left thigh, producing lameness, and greatly aggravated by motion.

(34) The case was that of a widowed lady, about 42 years of age ; tall, light complexion and hair, and blue eyes ; and had been of about 3 weeks' duration. The pain was confined to the left leg, shooting, burning, laming, affecting the posterior femoral muscles, and shooting along the left sciatic nerve to the foot, and greatly aggravated by motion. These symptoms resembled so nearly those found in the recorded provings of the *Phytolacca decandra*, as I remembered them and having used this remedy successfully in two or three cases, which appeared to be very similar, I prescribed it with much confidence of success ; but it failed to affect the symptoms in the slightest degree. On reviewing the cases, and comparing it critically with the drug, I found the symptoms were not so well covered by the *Phytolacca* as I had supposed. The posterior muscles of the thigh and leg were affected, and the pain was burning as well as shooting and laming ; whereas, in the provings of *Phytolacca*, the pains have always been observed in the outer, or external part of the left thigh, as well as in the outer portions of the other limbs ; and though decidedly neuralgic, shooting along the nerves, yet they are aching and pressing, and not burning. But no other published remedy known to me seemed to cover the case so well as *Phytolacca*.

Some months previous to the occurrence of this case, in a conversation with Dr. Wesselhoeft on the proving of drugs, he remarked symptoms from the *Iris versicolour*, prominent among which was a painful affection of the left sciatic nerve, and kindly offered to furnish me a copy of his record, which he subsequently forwarded by mail. My failure brought to recollection

the conversation with Dr. W., and the preserved copy of his proving, and here I found the simillimum of the case. I gave a powder of sugar of milk moistened with the tincture, to be dissolved in 8 table-spoonfuls of water, a spoonful to be taken every six hours still better, then omit. I heard nothing more of the case for some two months, when I was informed by the patient that immediate and permanent relief followed the use of the medicine.

Gelsemium : *Catarrhx* : Dr. Wm. E. Payne, M.D.

I have cured with Gelsemium cases presenting the following symptoms : dryness of the pharyngeal cavity : soreness, and painful feeling of erosion, commencing at the superior portion of the right tonsil, extending upwards and forwards to the soft palate, into and along the right nostril, with smarting, itching, sneezing, and painful burning sensation on every inspiration of cold air, as if a stream of hot water were being forced through the nasal cavity of that side ; stoppage of the left nostril ; abundant secretion of transparent irritating mucus about the throat and nostril, rendering hawking and blowing the nose a very frequent necessity ; painful burning and itching of the palate ; heavy aching soreness in and around the teeth of the upper jaw, extending to the cheek bones and frontal sinuses ; continous aching in the right ear, increased to a shooting pain on swallowing ; pain in the back and head (worse in the right side of the head, mitigated by pressure ; sensitiveness to cold air, and great general fatigue.

(35) The above symptoms, which characterize one of the several forms which the colds of the season have asumed, occurred in the case of an individual who had been easily affected through life by sudden atmospheric changes, and generally in a similar way ; and notwithstanding the employment of a variety of remedies, some of which were selected with much care, the previous attacks had proved painful and persistent, involving in the progress of the disease, the bronchial ramifications, producing a hard and painful cough, which yielded at length, appa-

rently to the recuperative energies of the system, rather than to the curative powers of the remedies used.

My attention was called to Gelsemium in this case, by reading the following indications for its use in Raue's Pathology, on page 96 "disposed to catch cold from any change in the weather; sore throat in the upper part of the pharynx ; pain on swallowing, shooting up into the ear." Gentle perspiration and quiet sleep followed a single dose of 3x attenuation, and the crisis was reached in a few hours, which, in previous similar attacks, had been reached only after a period of several days, oftener prolonged to several weeks, when the extreme bronchial ramifications became involved. I have obtained like results in other cases, presenting characteristics of the above.

[Courtesy : Hahnemannian Monthly, 1869]



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