

A CASE OF MERCURIALISED SYPHILIS.

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.....Duftree, a half-sized young man of 32, came up to my office for the purpose of getting his case recorded and for a treatment that might cure him. He said he had been under the treatment of many Allopathic and Homœopathic physicians of the town, but none could bring him round. Be that as it may, I made the following records just in his language ; the following is a translation of his statement.

"I had always been an extreme debauch up to my 26th year, when I was brought to my senses by the pangs of disease as well as by the stings of my conscience. I found that I had been affected with a bad type of Syphilis. I was extremely anxious,—not on account of the painfulness of the disease, but about what my fellowmen and the members of my family would think of me. This anxious idea and a sense of myself being a sinner haunted me by day and by night. However, I had been to an Allopathic Physician of good repute, and broke my mind. He gave me some medicine for external application over the chancres and gave a few injections later. The external manifestations were no more, but I felt myself all the more miserable. Then, a few months after, I found that all the ulcers were there with more pain than formerly and to add to my difficulties, I had two painful buboes on both sides. I got fever as well,—sympathetic or otherwise I did not know. My friends advised me Kabiraji treatment this time, as my former physician said that no permanent cure could be expected in these cases,—but only few months' respite, each time, could be given, with the help of more and more injections. The Kabiraj, a good old man of long experience, promised permanent cure, if I agreed to a special treatment with mercury, and he said, quoting authorities and texts that mercury was the only help in this loathesome disease. He further said that this disease if left uncured may bring in Leprosy in near future.

I agreed to it and took a few doses of medicine ; to my surprise and dismay, I found one morning that I was ill of fever, my mouth was badly salivating,—so much so that not a moment's rest could be had. My whole system was upset and I came to know that I was mercurialised. Nothing could be swallowed, as the whole of my mouth, and gums, tongue, tonsil &c., were badly inflamed, tender and swollen. I did not know what to do. I suffered this way for 22 days, and then those troubles seemed to abate, and in course of a month, I found that I came to my former self, but emaciated to the extreme. In expectation of better days, I did not mind all these,—I then, by and by, realised that a few ailments, more troublesome and serious than what I wanted to avoid, were superimposed upon my self. I thanked my hard lot, and recently I was advised by somebody to try Homœopathy and I have come to you for the purpose. Many are the symptoms and troubles I have been suffering from, since then, which I am just going to give you in detail, but I crave your mercy to tell me if there is any permanent relief from all these, or I am doomed once for all and I am to suffer up to the last breath of my life. I can spend any amount if you please cure me and bring me relief * * * ”.

This was a doleful tale, and to tell the truth, the so called treatment followed up till now was worse than the disease itself. Of course, human beings are always liable to evil promptings of sense and therefore they fall an easy prey to varieties of filthy diseases, but there is always a law of cure for their rescue. Now, let us have the symptoms.

“I have no ease at any time throughout the day and night. The most troublesome period is the night, especially when I retire in bed. People have their rest and repose at night in bed, but, for myself, lots of times I have to leave the bed and walk about. I am quite unable to give you the reason why I am so much restless, save and except that crowds of thoughts overwhelm me at the time and I get perturbed and restless. I feel an extreme heat towards the upper portion

of my body, and I want to cool my head with cold water; but as soon as I would do so, the next morning I must have coryza with sneezing and feverishness, and so in order to avoid the greater evil, I walk about for the purpose of cooling my head. Profuse sweat of nasty offensive order comes off during night. The summer season is to me a severe trial. Though during winter I have to suffer so much from cold, coryza and cough, still I can anyhow wade through it, but I can hardly stand the heat of summer. Even and medium temperature is grateful to me, and I am brightened up in spring and autumn. There are numerous ulcers over the penis which are intensely painful—and I am unable to move offhand, and I have to take a good deal of care so that any portion of my cloth may not brush off the ulcers, so sensitive are they. Offensive smell is the bane of my life and the smell seems to haunt me day and night. All the way down from my lips to anus,—I mean, the whole alimentary canal feels raw, sore and sensitive. You can see there are deep ulcers upon my tongue and soft palate and they are very much sensitive and painful. I have a special liking for pungent and highly spiced things but they cannot be taken as they would irritate those ulcers so much that I must have to take cold water to allay the irritation, though cold is most unpleasant to me and my ulcers. Then again, a peculiar thing concerning my case is that I can do without a drop of water for all times, even in the hottest of summer. I think I do not want to have full plunge during my bath,—I take a small dip, which is only an apology for a bath. Another painful condition which I have been suffering from is that the skin round the organ and testes fearfully indurated, heavy and painful. Once or twice I had phymosis,—but relieved every time after a few days of itself.

“My mind is badly irritated, dejected and gloomy. I cannot think of bright side of things. The whole of my family having been rather indifferent, I have determined not to tease them in any way until, God willing, I am cured.”

Now, I made a careful study of the case. It was a clear case of Nitric acid, and I gave it in I M Potency. A slight aggravation of stitching pains in the ulcers showed the first impression and the dose was allowed to act for more than two months. Another dose of the same potency has been repeated more than 3 months back, and it appears to be still working. The condition of the patient is by far improved, especially his mental condition and the ulcers. The peculiar susceptibility to cold and coryza has not been touched, and I think Calc. carb may have to be used after Nitric acid finished its work,—in the same potency or any higher. Of course, the then condition and symptoms will decide whether Calcarea carb or any other medicine will be the proper remedy to come in, and it is too early to say anything definitely. I never think that this case will take less than a year for a complete cure, nay, it may take more time to bring the patient into the normal level. I cannot say whether any Sycotic symptom will appear or not, after the Syphilitic taint vanishes. It will then take a longer time, and the last fight with Psora will in that case be easier. The case is interesting.

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