

included in this remark of the author—we see that a “smaller proportion of coaguable matter” means a smaller proportion of albumen. Besides, our author says the serum is of less specific gravity than in health; but no diseased action of which we have any knowledge, will reduce the specific gravity of the serum below the healthy standard, excepting the loss of albumen. And, in addition to all else, we know that the blood cannot become “watery and impoverished” through diseased action, excepting by a loss of some portion of its albumen. The ingestion of too much watery food, or of too much fluids, would produce a similar result, without disease having had any agency, as a cause, in impoverishing the blood, but this would be only temporary, unless such matters were habitually used in place of proper food.

[*To be continued.*]

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#### INDICATIONS FOR DRUGS IN PULMONARY DISEASES.

It is our purpose to give in successive numbers of this journal, special indications for the more prominent drugs in Phthisis and other pulmonary diseases, drawing these indications entirely from our own experience in the treatment of such diseases, and the natural combinations of symptoms actually found occurring therein.

It has often seemed to us in studying our various

works upon Practice, no less than in examining the numerous domestic treatises, etc., that their authors have relied too much upon the symptoms found in our *Materia Medicas* under the many drugs whose symptoms are there recorded, and have themselves made an artificial combination of these, and given that as the picture of this or that drug, under the head of the various diseases, instead of taking such combination or the numerous combinations naturally occurring in disease, and presenting these in clear language and naming the remedy or remedies for each. Such a course is well calculated to confuse the student, and, indeed, the older practitioner. For in this way we will often look in vain, in such works, for that order and association of symptoms which we find in a given case at the bedside of the patient.

This error, if error it is, it will be our endeavor to avoid, and give the symptoms as we have frequently seen them associated, with more or less of the details of the cases treated, and the effects of the drugs administered.

There is one other point, also, of which we wish to speak, here, and to which we wish to call especial attention in advance, and that is the importance of the *location* of a symptom as an indication for the curative drug. Such has been our experience in the treatment of diseases of the respiratory organs, that we always regard it of the first importance, in aiding to select the proper remedy in a given case, to know the exact locality of the symptom, or

symptoms, for which we have to prescribe; whether it is through the upper, middle, or lower portion of the lung, *and in which lung the symptom exists, whether in the right or in the left one.* Why there is force in this we know not, nor is this essential, so long as we know the fact to exist and properly recognize it, as it is our intention to do in this journal.

We commence our work under this head with

ARSENICUM ALBUM.

One of the most important, if not the leading indication for Arsenicum, in Phthisis, is an acute pain, either sharp and fixed, or darting, in the apex and through the upper portion of the right lung. If called upon to fix the boundaries of this indication, we should confine it to the upper *third* of this lung. It might in some cases, extend to include the upper *half* of the lung, but the strength of the indication, we think, is certainly weakened, as the pain extends to, or occupies a point below a line which would divide the upper and middle thirds transversely. We can, perhaps, impress this indication upon the mind of the reader, and elucidate it in no other way so well as to give the case in detail, in which we first learned its great importance. This was that of a man aged about 50 years, who came to us for treatment in the second stage of Phthisis. His symptoms were as follows:

Very severe cough at various hours of the day and night, but always worse in the evening on going to bed, and in the morning on rising. Puru-

lent expectoration attended the cough, at least the sputa, which was profuse, was mostly yellow in color, but was mingled somewhat with frothy and whitish or transparent mucus. Dyspnea was a prominent symptom of his case, especially upon making much exertion, and respiration was always more difficult upon lying down. Chills and fever light, but he had profuse night-sweats. His general appearance was most decidedly that of a confirmed consumptive. Emaciation and debility had reached a point where they were becoming alarming. His only complaint of pain was *in the apex of the right lung*, that is, behind the right clavicle and extending downward into the lung, about to a level with the second rib. This was not so much a darting pain, but nevertheless was an acute or sharp pain. Upon auscultation we found sounds corresponding most markedly with those of *cavernous respiration*, in the region occupied by the pain. Indeed we have seldom heard these more distinctly. So distinct were they and so large a cavity was indicated by them, if they were really cavernous, that we concluded at one time in the course of the examination, to tell our patient we could not cure him. But upon further reflection, and for reasons which we purpose to give sometime in an article by itself, we doubted very much the existence of a cavity and gave him encouragement of a cure. Though we then regarded him, and now regard him, as at that time, most certainly, in the second stage of Phthisis, according to that classifi-

cation of the stages of this disease which divides these into three, and which we think manifestly the most proper.

We at that time knew nothing of the value of such a pain as this patient complained of, as an indication for the curative drug in such a case, but taking his general condition and all his other symptoms, *exclusive* of the pain, into consideration, we saw they called most decidedly for Arsenicum Album, which we gave in the 8<sup>m</sup> potency, knowing it must afford more or less relief from the other symptoms, and hoped it would relieve the pain as well, though we expected we should be obliged to give some other remedy to control the pain. The effect, however, of the Arsenicum was all that could have been desired in all respects. The pain was among the first symptoms to yield, and never again returned, while the patient recovered so rapidly that we discharged him cured in about three months from the time of commencing his case; although his disease had been serious, and daily getting worse for some eight or ten months previous to our first prescribing for him. We will also add that our patient never has had a return of his disease, notwithstanding he has endured as great abuses of his physical system as the strongest men could pass through, and is still alive.

Within the year following the cure of the above case, we cured a consumptive patient very promptly with Arsenicum, who complained of a sharp darting pain occupying a position anterior to the

vertebral border of the right scapula, and between this and the spine, though felt most severely near the superior angle of this bone. The pain was much aggravated by a full inspiration, was attended by a dry cough and oppressed respiration, and the patient had that peculiar paleness of the countenance together with other appearances and symptoms so indicative of Arsenicum. Since that time we have cured, with the same remedy, several patients more or less inclined to consumption, who complained of pain through the upper portion of the right lung. One case of this class that we cured, which was really Phthisis, and very instructive, will be found reported in the American Homœopathic Review, Vol. iv., page 81, 1863.

That Arsenicum will cure *all* patients of pain in the region named, even though tuberculous action be the cause, we do not claim; much less do we assert that it will cure such pain where the cause is other than tuberculous in character; still we do *always* unhesitatingly recommend its trial in all cases where pain in the superior lobe of the right lung is complained of, especially if it be attended by hurried respiration upon moderate exertion, or more difficult breathing upon lying down, dry cough, or cough attended by expectoration of frothy, glairy and transparent mucus, or yellow and grayish yellow sputa, with the cough aggravated in the evening on lying down, and in the morning on rising.

We even go much further in this direction with

this drug, and assert that it will cure some cases where actual cavities have resulted from ulceration of tubercles in the superior lobe of the right lung. We will give two or three cases in point. Nearly three years since, we were called in haste to a lady suffering from a severe pulmonary hæmorrhage. We found that she had suffered from several like hæmorrhages before, during the preceding two or three years. Her symptoms were a violent burning sensation through the upper third or half of the right lung, free expectoration of blood which was mingled considerably with purulent matter and frothy mucus, oppressed respiration which prevented her from lying down, etc. We prescribed Arsenicum 8<sup>m</sup>, which soon arrested the hæmorrhage. The next day we made a careful examination of her lungs, both by auscultation and percussion, and found unmistakable evidences of a cavity a little below the apex of the right lung, and which was certainly half to two-thirds as large as a hen's egg. Arsenic continued its favorable action several weeks, when our patient had so far recovered as to attend to her customary household duties. We, however, continued her treatment, though quite irregularly, for several months, and thereby learned an instructive lesson, showing the power this remedy had over her system. This was especially manifested by the fact that we had occasion, or thought we had, for prescribing other drugs three or four times, and did so, but without much effect, while she would always tell correctly when we gave her Ar-

senicum, and when not, speaking of this as the "medicine which relieved her so much," and this too when we gave her the 40<sup>m</sup> potency on two or three occasions, though she knew nothing of the names of any of the remedies she took. We last saw her this last summer, when she told us she had been better during the preceding year than for the previous eight or ten years.

Another and similar case was that of a man about 55 years of age who resides in a western city, and came to consult us one year ago this present January. He, also, had a cavity nearly as large as a hen's egg, in the upper portion of the right lung; the result of tuberculous ulceration. He had suffered from a cough, which was much of the time very severe, for the preceding fifteen or eighteen months. Expectoration, which was much of the time profuse, had passed through all the stages of transparent, whitish and frothy mucus, and then into the purulent, a large portion of which was grayish yellow at the time we saw him, and which all must concede to be the worst form of expectoration with which we have to deal. His cough was aggravated evenings on going to bed, and in the morning on rising, breathing shorter and quicker upon moderate exertion, and he had had more or less pain in the upper third of right lung. We prescribed Arsenicum 40<sup>m</sup>, in his case, but gave him no positive assurance of cure; telling him just what his condition was, and that his case was a doubtful one, though we would do all we could for

him. In just two weeks from the day of first prescribing for him, we received a letter bearing date January 28, the day preceding its receipt, in which he says:

"I am happy to report progress. I am much better than when at Buffalo. My cough is less, my expectoration is lighter and I feel much encouraged. I rest better nights, though I have had some little fever one or two nights during the past week or ten days. My appetite is *good*, and was it not for a *weakness* which I feel, particularly in my legs, I should think myself a man again."

This we knew to be too favorable a result in such a case, to have it continue uninterruptedly to a cure, though in two weeks he wrote again, "I am about 'so so,' perhaps some better, but my nose does *run* so badly, just as if I had taken a fresh cold all the time, [an Arsenic symptom] and still, of course, I cough considerable, but do not *raise* as much as formerly. My strength increases and I am feeling better." We allowed the Arsenicum to still continue its action, and from this time on, there was considerable *vascillation* in his symptoms from better to worse, as he would take cold, etc., then better again, until a very troublesome irritation of the throat made its appearance. This was a dry, hot, pungent soreness, or something like this, as he described it, and was, undoubtedly, the disease being driven out of the lung and settling here in a less vital point. It excited great tickling in the region of the throat-pit, and, of course, very severe coughing which was mostly dry, that is, without expectoration. For

this condition we administered Phosphorus 19<sup>m</sup>, which afforded considerable relief, but not permanent, and since that Belladonna 2<sup>m</sup>, which has given great relief. Recently he wrote us that he had recovered nearly his former strength and flesh, and if it were not for some remaining sensitiveness of the throat, and a moderate dry cough which this excited, he should consider himself a sound man again. Of course we regard his full recovery as certain, if he takes proper care of himself and continues the treatment.

We have another and still much worse case of this character which we will add to the foregoing, to show the power Arsenicum has over such cases, though in this instance a cure was not accomplished. This patient was a lady aged 28 years, to whom we were called the last of December, 1867. She had never been really robust, and had at this time been under the care of a physician for several months, and her case given up as a hopeless one, for the best of reasons as will be seen. Upon auscultation we found fully one-third, probably the entire superior lobe of the right lung gone, sloughed away by tuberculous ulceration, and thrown off in the expectoration. She, of course, had then, and had had for months, all those symptoms, such as chills, fever, night-sweats, diarrhoea, oppressed respiration, sometimes amounting to almost complete strangulation, great pain in the region of the ulceration, etc., which are common to such cases; and many of these symptoms in very great severity. We gave no encour-

agement whatever that anything could be done more than to give, perhaps, a little temporary relief, but were willing to try to accomplish this. Prescribed Arsenicum 40<sup>m</sup>, and we certainly think it no exaggeration to say that the effect was among the most remarkable we have ever witnessed from medicine, considering the great severity of the case. She soon commenced improving in all respects, and continued to improve, though not without interruptions, until about the middle of March, when she had gained so much strength and had so far recovered in other respects that we thought a full restoration to health very probable. But soon after this, a long period of wet weather, to which she was extremely sensitive, set in, and continued over two months, when her disease had become so aggravated and her system so exhausted that she could not be rallied again for any length of time, though she lived until fall.

Now, these cases are too numerous and of too marked a character, and the results too striking, to ascribe the latter to accident, or anything else but the specific action of the drug under consideration. Whether the curative action of Arsenicum, upon the right lung, is confined to the superior lobe of it, and this alone, without any control over the upper part of the middle lobe, we are not certain; therefore, have spoken of the indication being limited to the apex and upper portion of the lung.

We have further to add that we have also frequently seen a very favorable effect from Arsenicum

upon the *lower* portion of the *left* lung, but nothing yet so marked as what we have recorded as to its mate. This, we are well aware, brings us into direct opposition to the Comparative Materia Medica, and, of course, to Dr. Hering, upon this point. There it will be found that Arsenic is repeatedly and emphatically spoken of as acting upon the "lower right and upper left side" of parts or organs, in which indication, as we understand it, the lungs must be included; but our observation has been too extended, and results too decided and uniform, for us to be mistaken in this matter.

In regard to the frequency of the administration of the doses of this, no less than of all other drugs, no one can possibly be so good a judge as to when they should be repeated, as the physician at the bed side of his patient; provided, always, that he is properly informed in this department of his profession; still we will say that no physician should attempt to prescribe for such cases, at least, as we have cited in the foregoing, without thoroughly studying and *heeding* what Hahnemann says upon this subject, on page 204, of the *Organon*, and on page 153 of the first volume of his *Chronic Diseases*; and also what will be found upon this point in the detail of cases reported in Becker's little work upon *Consumption*. We can assure all, that if what is taught in the three volumes cited, is not heeded and acted upon, they will send many, if not all patients whose disease is of the severity of the cases we have given, to premature graves, instead of curing many of them as they might do by proper caution in this respect.

## FALSE PRETENCES.

Since the issue of our Prospectus we are in receipt of numerous letters covering high approval of our undertaking, and especially of our promised defence of "PURE HOMŒOPATHY." The writers of these letters are, many of them, very urgent upon this point, and upon the widespread necessity which exists that such correct views upon the point in question be as generally spread before the profession as possible. A single example of these is all we have room to insert; and we cite this as a sample of many. The writer is a practitioner in one of the largest western cities; and he says:

"The fact of the matter is, that Homœopathy, especially here in the west, is sadly degenerating. It is not uncommon for our physicians to combine three or four medicines, and all these in the crude form. The result has been a great mortality among patients thus treated, and the consequent loss of families who were firm adherents of our school."

That there are physicians in various parts of the country whose practice conforms to that which is above described, we are well aware; and that such have often called themselves Homœopaths is equally well known to us. Of course, none such have any claim to the name Homœopathist, as *their* practice belongs not to it, even in the most remote sense. The assumption of the name, therefore, by each and every of these practitioners, is either a designed fraud upon the public, or the result of ignorance as to what Homœopathy is, and of all the essential laws upon which it is founded.

## THE PHYSICAL EVILS OF ALCOHOL.

There can be no doubt that one of the greatest evils inflicted upon mankind, by the Allopathic branch of the medical profession, is the prevailing custom, established and fostered by all the influence of that school, of prescribing alcoholic stimulants, so almost universally, as remedial agents in disease. A few have seen something of the magnitude of this evil, and raised their voices against it; and *why should they not*, even though they have, as yet, been so powerless to accomplish any good? To say nothing of the almost certain prescription of ardent spirits for sick adults, whatever may be their disease, and the alarming evils that grow out of this, they see physicians commence this practice upon infants almost at birth, frequently giving these little creatures, what is, to them, enormous quantities of whisky, brandy, wine, etc., and follow this treatment through childhood and youth, whenever they are sick, until, when the victims arrive at that age that they can be reached by moral means, appetites have been formed, and all the moral barriers to the common use of spirituous liquors have been broken down; and this, too, at the worst of all possible places it could be done to leave life-long impressions, namely, at the very family altar itself.

If all this were necessary for the better control of disease, it might be tolerated as the least of two evils; but that it is not, that it is, indeed, *far worse*