

THE  
HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER.

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VOL. XI. PHILADELPHIA AND LANCASTER, JAN., 1896. NO. 1.

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EPIDEMIC AND ENDEMIC DISEASES.

TYPHOID FEVER (CONTINUED.)

I have not much more to say concerning this fever, for it is the *Etiology* alone which particularly interests me. Anatomical characteristics, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, etc.—all these will be found fully given by our various authors. I sometimes think that my mission is to show how many questions may be raised about these fevers which the combined wisdom of Europe and America is unable to answer. Rather a thankless task, yet I purpose going on with it if only to show how much we have still to learn.

I confess I should like to see this bacillus of Eberth, which is said to be the cause of typhoid fever; for nothing so impresses the mind as to see the thing about which we read. But I fear my curiosity will never be gratified. From the very first I entertained a strange prejudice against the germ theory, the reason for which I cannot explain, unless it be that I associated its advocates with the advocates and practicers of vivisection, which perhaps I should not have done. But, truly, it may be said that if the germ theory is going to be of as little use to mankind as the theories obtained by experiments on animals, then of course we can dispense with it very well. All these things may be of *scientific interest*; but as regards *therapeutic value*, we may write largely the word *Nil*. Take this very disease of typhoid fever. A bacillus has been discovered. Has this discovery led to the discovery of the antidote? What is the remedy recommended by Dr. Stevens, for example? His antidote is as follows: "*Quinine, Antifibrin, Phenacetin, Opium, Creasote, Bismuth, Nitrate of Silver, Calomel, Turpentine, Gallic acid, Strychnine, Digitalis, Musk, Bromide of Potassium, and Alcohol.*"

Not much connection here between the poison and its anti-

dote! But it may be said that I am doing Dr. Stevens an injustice in capitulating all these remedies which he has mentioned, because he does not intend to advise that all these remedies should be given to every patient, but that we should select from them according to the symptoms which each case presents. Well, this is true; but does not this long catalogue of drugs prove my assertion that the discovery of the bacillus of Eberth has done nothing whatever to furnish us with the appropriate germicide. There is evidently great vitality in the bacillus. When attacked only by the old-fashioned remedies, however heroic, it takes no notice of them. But when attacked by the medicine which Homœopathy has suggested, it yields to it. At all events such has been my experience.

Typhoid fever, unlike malarial, and many other fevers, is a preventable disease. Where there is perfect sanitation there can be no typhoid fever. It may be difficult to ensure this, but it is not quite impossible. At present persons in every grade of society are continually contracting the disease—none are exempt. What is most of all to be regretted is the ignorant treatment to which most of them are subjected. Light, in medicine, as well as in morals, has come into the world, but it would seem as if the people preferred darkness. \* \* \*

When I began writing these letters on fevers I remarked that the *Endemic* fevers were either *Malarial* or *Typhoid*. Upon further consideration, I must add to these two others, viz.: *Typhus* and *Relapsing* fevers.

#### Typhus Fever.

The *fons et origo* of typhus is difficult to find. As an infectious disease, spreading from patient to patient, it can be traced well enough; but how does it arise *de novo*? Guesses have been made concerning its origin, but no one seems to know for a certainty. It must be an *Endemic* disease, because only certain localities suffer from it. In England, so far as I know, it is confined to Liverpool and its adjacent town of Birkenhead, although, of course, the infection may sometimes be carried to other parts. If Liverpool be really the only centre, it is a singular fact. Some physicians endeavor to account for it by saying that there is much poverty and over-crowding in this town. But there is much poverty and over-crowding in many other towns. London, England, has an immense population of poor people, who also crowd together, yet in London I have never met with nor heard of any case of typhus. There must then be some other

cause. I have often thought that perhaps there is some peculiarity in the *soil* of Liverpool which gives it this unenviable distinction in typhus; but what the nature of the soil is I do not know. Independently of typhus fever, this town is a notoriously unhealthy one. The weekly bulletins of mortality show this. That there is a peculiar atmosphere in Liverpool I have myself experienced, and I am convinced that had I remained in the town I should not have lived to write this letter to-day. I cannot but think that this peculiarity arises from the nature of the ground there, especially in the absence of any other determined cause. If it is not so then I can form no other conjecture. It must also be borne in mind that Manchester and Preston, and I think I might include two or three more—all Lancashire towns—are pretty nearly as unhealthy as Liverpool. This gives additional weight to the theory that the Lancashire soil is peculiar.

Professor Roberts says: "The opinion is strongly held by some eminent observers that typhus fever may be developed *de novo* independently of any infection, in consequence of great over-crowding and destitution." Why, of course, if it ever was thus developed it may be so developed again. Now, if over-crowding and destitution were the sole causes of the origin of the typhus contagium, we should expect that this fever would be identical with *Relapsing* fever, for these are the very causes which produce the latter. But they are not identical diseases; therefore we naturally expect to find some *additional cause* in the case of typhus. If this cause is not to be found in some singularity of the soil about Liverpool then the problem still remains unsolved.

If I were going to speak of the symptoms attending typhus (which I am not) I could give a graphic account of them, having experienced them all myself. Many years ago, whilst looking after the practice of one of my friends in Birkenhead during his absence in Switzerland, I had to make daily visits to several patients with typhus fever. Before many days were over I fell a victim to the disease myself, but, strange to say, never suspected what ailed me until my friend, Dr. Craig, came to see me, and I had just consciousness enough left to notice that, after looking at the thorax, he said "typhus fever." I presume he saw the typhus rash.

As to treatment I have had no *Homœopathic* experience. I think it was the fashion at that time, in allopathic practice, to

give *Acetate of Ammonia*, and no doubt that was what I gave the patients committed to my care. I believe they all recovered; but for my own part I recovered without taking anything. I see that several medicines are mentioned by Dr. Hughes, as *Bell.*, *Hyos.*, *Bapt.*, *Opium*, *Acid phos.* and *Arsen.* The one I should be inclined to select myself would be *Phosphoric acid*. By the way, Dr. Hughes says that in 1864 "there were thirty cases of typhus treated at the London Homœopathic Hospital," of whom two only died. I presume that in 1864 the difference between typhus and typhoid had begun to be recognized, and this being the case it would have been interesting to know how the disease originated. Dr. Hughes does not tell us, but I think it would be safe to conclude that the disease was an importation.

I spoke just now of the high death-rate in Liverpool. Today's newspaper informs us that the rate for the first week in the present month of November was 37.6 per thousand! These figures tell their own tale. In London the average is about 20 per thousand.

#### Relapsing Fever.

Although there is much resemblance between this fever and typhus, yet they are not identical. According to the bacteriologists there are in relapsing fever certain organisms named *spirilla*, and these are supposed to produce the disease. In typhus it is admitted that no germ has hitherto been found.

The period of incubation is said to be from five to eight days, but during this period no microbe is to be found. And yet it is stated that this *spirilla* is the cause of the fever! Now, if this microbe is found in the blood "only during the paroxysms" of the fever how can it be the *cause* of the fever? If it were the *cause*, one would suppose that it would be found in the blood *before* the paroxysm. As it is not, then we may almost conclude that it is the *result* of the fever.

There is, however, one other hypothesis. These *spirilla* might originally be too small to be detected even by the microscope, and only after they have obtained their full growth, that is, when the paroxysm has come on, can they be discerned. Then during the paroxysm they may disappear and a fresh set may be arriving at maturity, to produce in due time another paroxysm. I make the bacteriologist a present of this argument in his favor. But, after all, fevers do occur when no microbe can be found at any stage of the disease, as in the case of typhus, *e.g.* Germ, or no germ, or, *propter hoc aut post hoc*, is of little consequence, but

what is of great consequence is to know that relapsing fever is the result of famine. In England and America we shall not often have to treat this fever. In Ireland, however, it has been better known, and should we be doomed to have "twenty years of resolute government" under my Lord Salisbury we may hear of it again. This Parthian shot by the way.

Now, if relapsing fever be the result of a famine in any country, and so appear in an *epidemic form*, may it not also appear as a *sporadic* disease? There may, in any country, be isolated instances of starvation and thus be isolated instances of relapsing fever, and I think I have met with such. The most striking case I am acquainted with occurred outside my own practice. I knew this gentleman very well. The fever from which he died was not the result of poverty, but from being unable to take sufficient food and even to assimilate that which he did take. I was not in London during his final illness, but the doctor who attended pronounced the disease to be *typhus* fever and gave a certificate to that effect. Now from what I know of this gentleman I feel convinced that it was not typhus fever from which he died, but relapsing fever, caused by inability to take nourishment.

With regard to the *treatment* of this fever, I will quote from Dr. Hughes: "Of the Homœopathic treatment we have three special sources of information. The first is an account given by Hahnemann himself of the fever he treated in Leipsic in 1814, which I must agree with Dr. Russell in considering to be of this variety. His main remedies were *Bryonia* and *Rhus*, each in the twelfth dilution; one or other being given according as the pains were relieved by rest or by motion. He treated 183 cases without a single death, while the mortality under the ordinary heroic treatment was considerable. The second is Dr. Kidd's experience in the fever which desolated Ireland in the year 1847. He treated at Bantry 111 cases, of which he considers 24 to have been instances of typhus and 87 of relapsing fever. He lost two cases only, which were presumably among the sufferers from typhus, so that his mortality was also *nil*. His chief remedy was *Bryonia*. Our third authority is Dr. Dyce Brown, who treated 50 cases in an epidemic in Aberdeen in 1871. He gave nearly all his patients *Baptisia* 1, and found it, by comparison with the natural history of the disease, materially to expedite the crisis. He also lost no case.

"It appears, therefore, that relapsing fever need never prove

fatal under Homœopathic treatment, and that *Bryonia*, *Rhus* and *Baptisia* are its chief remedies."

G. HERING.

*London, England.*

STORY OF THE PROVERS WHO ASSISTED  
HAHNEMANN.

By Thomas Lindsley Bradford, M. D.

JOHANN WILHELM WAHLE.\*

On the fourth of April, 1853, died in Rome, after a six months illness, Dr. Johann Wilhelm Wahle, a true friend and protector of the Homœopathic method of healing; the immediate cause of death being repeated strokes of apoplexy. While we are inclined to attribute his death (which occurred far too early for the interest of science) to the fact that his stout build of body could not acclimatize itself in Rome, we are not disposed in any way to doubt the assertion of the family who believe his death caused by persecution. It is well known that Wahle, I believe about the year 1848, in the time of the disturbances in Italy, was arrested and imprisoned for several days, during which time he was more than elsewhere exposed to the influence of the Italian climate.

The consciousness of his innocence, which, indeed, was also soon satisfactorily established, sustained him, and although the most just and honorable satisfaction was given him he could not in his acknowledged uprightness get over his grief for the bitterness of his disgrace, since he thought that his moral standing had been injured. His family think that ever since that time they have perceived in him traces of illness which, manifesting themselves more distinctly every year, caused an ever more eager wish to be delivered from it by returning to his German fatherland.

Whatever the cause the fact is undeniable, and we survivors can only lament Wahle's death without criticising the wise rulings of Providence.

Wahle was born in the year 1794, in Radisleben near Ballenstaedt, a little town in the Duchy of Anhalt-Bernburg. His father, who was at the same time shoemaker and farmer, had no

\* *Allg. hom. Zeit.*, Vol. xlv., p. 369.

other intention than to bring up his son to the same occupation. But the talents of the boy showed themselves so prominently that the pastor of the place himself took the trouble of instructing him in the Latin language. This had at least the effect that Wahle on his confirmation, when he had to choose his future career, did not enter his father's workshop, but went as an apprentice in Ballenstaedt, with a barber, and after serving his apprenticeship came in his journeyings, then customary with journeymen, to the city of Leipsic. When he had made himself well acquainted with the state of affairs there, being eager to enlarge his knowledge, he attended medical lectures from 1819 to 1823. Much of what he heard may not have suited him; at least we may think so from the fact that he desired to make Hahnemann's acquaintance. This occurred just at the time when owing to the death of Price Schwartzberg, under his treatment, the public judgment was not so favorable, and a beginner in medicine would easily have been excused if he had kept far from Hahnemann.

Nevertheless the impulse in Wahle to learn something better than his calling at that time was so strong, that in the year 1820 he made himself better acquainted with Hahnemann's system, soon after made his personal acquaintance, and faithfully supported him in his provings of medicines. But this intercourse did not last long, for Hahnemann soon accepted a call to Coethen and left Leipsic. After this Wahle joined some of the few beginners in Homœopathy who lived in a closely united circle (in *ecclesia pressa*), and he sought to continually enlarge his knowledge of this new doctrine, using all the leisure time at his disposal especially for the proving of medicines.

By this he acquired such a remarkable gift of observation that few could excel him therein, and his practiced eye together with his skillful use of Homœopathic medicines gave him the supereminence over many who mockingly looked down on him because they had regularly learned by rote the old conventional formulas of medicine. Despite of this they could not deprive him of the reputation of a very skillful practitioner. In time his position became even more difficult, his successful cures bordered on the fabulous and gained for him an ever increasing fame among patients far and near, as being a most successful healer. He therefore entirely gave up his former occupation and married. With the increase of his fame the attention of the medical police was also more pointedly drawn to him, for the authorities had

in no way ceased in the fury of their persecution of Homœopathy. They were indeed no more able to lay any impediments in the way of this new doctrine, and only indirectly sought to be rid of its adherents by an ever renewed edict against their dispensing their own medicines, raising thus as their breastwork the apothecary's privilege.

Still they did not despise any smaller aids in order to neutralize more and more the courage of Homœopathic physicians. To avoid the frequent oppressive measures on the part of the authorities, Wahle had gladly accepted the proposition of his friend Dr. Haubold to treat the more difficult cases which would excite the attention of the public, under his protection, as his assistant. In this way quiet action seemed for a time secured to him, but a new law expressly passed to affect the Homœopathic physicians soon destroyed this *modus vivendi*, for they were forbidden to employ an assistant who had not studied in Leipsic, who had not made clinical visits and passed the baccalaureate examination. With the Homœopaths this law was strictly enforced while other physicians, who were in a like case, received all manner of indulgences. Fortunately our friend Wahle had already received a doctor's diploma from Allentown in America, and his voluntary determination to leave Leipsic received a distinct direction through the mediation of the Royal Counsellor, Dr. Wolff, in Dresden. This physician had been asked by Dr. Braun whether he could recommend to him a good practicing Homœopathic physician for Rome, and he recommended Dr. Wahle, of Leipsic, as a man in every way desirable. Thus Wahle, in the year 1840, emigrated to Rome, and his removal was lamented by many whom he had restored to life and health, and who regretted the future loss of his services.

Our friend Wahle left Leipsic to his own advantage, for with all his industry and all the acknowledgment of his worth he would never at Leipsic have acquired so extensive a circle of usefulness as he found in Rome, where his extraordinary practical talents introduced him into the most cultivated circles in which he had access to the highest personages and received their confidence. Love for Homœopathy with him always advanced with equal steps with the love of diseased humanity, and the latter continually incited him to new investigations, whereby he was often enabled to make possible what had formerly seemed impossible, and more and more to prove the sufficiency of Homœopathy.

His reputation as an author is just as well established in Homœopathy as his fame as a successful practitioner had spread throughout the whole of Europe. With respect to this his articles on encephalitis and on croup should be mentioned, where the truth is given in a faithful and unvarnished manner. We have, indeed, no independent works from his hands, but the *Archiv* and the *Allgem. hom. Zeitung* contain many observations and relations of experience from his pen, among which the provings of Kreosote and Cimex lectularius deserve especial mention. Many other provings made on himself and on others with great circumspection and exactness were written out completely by him and only awaited the critical file to prepare them for the press, when death called him away from the completion of his work.

As a man, equally as a father of a numerous family, he stood worthy of honor. The great sympathy manifested when his death became known confirms the esteem, love and intense devotion which he enjoyed and which are the fairest laurel-wreath on his all too early grave. He is reaping the reward of the harvest cultivated with so much assiduity, and many tears of sadness and mourning on the part of his poor, now forsaken parents, flow at his departure from this life. (Signed) H.

De Veit Meyer says:\* Again one of the disciples of Hahnemann has gone to the eternal home. On April 9 of this year (1853) Dr. Wahle died in Rome where he had practiced his noble profession for the past ten years. His name and work are well known to all Homœopaths. He passed through the severe struggle which Homœopathy had to endure in its infancy. He came out of the conflict as a conqueror. After he had endured innumerable and varied discords and attacks in his native land, he repaired to Rome where he kindled a new torch, as a genuine Apostle of our doctrine.

Here also he waged a new warfare and achieved a new victory. Here he diligently sowed the new seed and reaped a delightful and rich harvest. With the same honesty of belief and with the same zeal he had formerly shown, he labored here in the seven-hilled city. His fame spread abroad and hundreds sought his help, which he distributed in unstinted measure but, alas, for only a short span of life. There now weep and mourn for him those whose sufferings filled his mind with tears and his heart with sorrow. We plainly saw what love and confidence he en-

\* *Hom. Vierteljahrsschrift*, Vol. iv., p. 239.

joyed. Actuated by a feeling of gratitude to Hahnemann he came to Leipsic to participate in the erection of a monument to his memory.

The report of his presence there was scarcely noised about when a great multitude of his former patients flocked to him for consultation. It was wonderful to see how he led back backsliders to Homœopathy by some significant word, or by reminding them of what he had done for them. He departed from Leipsic as reluctantly as from a place to which he would never return. He had scarcely arrived again at Rome when he was attacked by a disease which soon proved fatal. We mourn in him a valiant colleague, a profound thinker, a shrewd observer and a true friend. Would that it may be permitted us to rear an everlasting memorial to him by the publication of his highly important literary remains. And may we right soon be enabled to inscribe in the annals of Homœopathy a record of this stirring and fruitful life whose dissolution has afflicted us so grievously.

Farewell, dear friend, thou who didst present us with thy favor and love for a few moments of acquaintanceship! Rest from thy weary pilgrimage! Rest, yea, rest in peace! May the grave give to thee that peace of which so many of the sons of earth sought to deprive thee!

*Leipsic, April, 1853.*

In the *American Homœopathic Review* for January, 1860, is an article by Dr. Carroll Dunham upon Mezerium, in which he says: The late Dr. Wahle, of Rome, one of the most distinguished of Hahnemann's own pupils, and well known by his acquirements in the science of Materia Medica, considered the provings of Mezerium, which were first published in the fourth volume of the *Archiv*, to be both erroneous and defective.

It is no very uncommon thing to find a Homœopath who considers a portion or the whole of our Materia Medica defective. But the peculiarity which distinguished Wahle was this: whenever he saw an error or a defect, he thought it his duty rather to go to work and correct the error or supply the defect than simply to expose them and denounce the Materia Medica, taking credit meanwhile for his own acuteness. Accordingly he instituted a new proving of Mezerium.

Kleinert says: \* Wahle was an indefatigable Homœopathic worker, prover and exceedingly skillful connoisseur of remedies

\* "Geschichte der Homöopathie."

who began his career as a common barber, and died a renowned physician, in Rome, at a very early age.

He published no books, but was an extensive writer for the Homœopathic magazines.

Hughes says of him (Chronic Diseases, p. 328) in a foot note to *Arsenicum*: The remainder (of symptoms) are Hahnemann's, obtained in his later manner, and Wahle's (eighteen in all), a prover unnoticed in the preface, but whose name frequently occurs among the second series of the Master's followers.

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FRED. WALTHER.

Hering says: \* "Fred. Walther who went to parts unknown, proved with the class under the eyes of the Master.

No other data has been found.

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JULIUS WENZEL.

No data obtainable.

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W. E. WISLICENUS.

Of Wislicenus but little data can be found. Hartmann says: † Wislicenus who is still living at Eisenach (1848) also belonged to the Provers' Union. His retiring disposition, his quiet, friendly nature, united me to him all the more closely, as I found it in harmony with my own cheerful yet timid disposition, and because we almost always attended the same lectures, which increased our intimacy and allowed us to pursue our private studies together. We also engaged with each other in the proving of drugs, and endeavored to aid each other in selecting the most suitable expression for the sensations which we experienced, and we informed each other of the changes which occurred in our external appearance, in our dispositions and upon the surface of our bodies. Often have we been grieved and distressed by some drug symptoms observed upon ourselves which frequently made it necessary at the next proving to take a weaker dose, as Hahnemann had previously directed us, because he always

\* *Hahn. Monthly*, Vol. vii., p. 176.

† *N. W. Jour. Hom.*, Vol. iv., p. 188. *Méd. Couns.*, Vol. xi., p. 242. "Kleinert."

doubted regarding symptoms which disquieted us, whether they were the effect of the drug or of some particular disease.

In the *Allgemeine hom. Zeitung*, Vol. 69, p. 32, July 22, 1864, the following note appears: Wislicenus, Leipzig, July 22, 1864. On the 14th of the month died the last remaining scholar of Hahnemann, Dr. Wislicenus, Sen. at Eisenach. Peace be to his ashes.

Hering says: \* W. E. Wislicenus, from a learned family, favorably known both in Europe and America.

Lorbacher says: † Of Wislicenus the elder, all that we know is that he was a quiet, modest man of reserved disposition, which in later years increased as a sort of anthropophobia. Still, as a diligent and conscientious prover, he has earned a title to our gratitude.

Rapou says: ‡ At Eisenach in the Duchy of Weimar, long ago, there practiced one of the first practitioners and writers of our school, Doctor Wislicenus, who labored successfully to base the new method upon clinical experience; who has contributed many useful observations and excellent articles upon the blood, upon the treatment of syphilitic affections, which may be found in the first six volumes of the *Archiv*.

Ameke says that in 1821 Wislicenus made trials of Homœopathy in the Garrison Hospital at Berlin, under the control of military surgeons. The results were favorable. The military doctors took away the journal of the cases kept by Wislicenus under their superintendence, in order to read it at their leisure. In spite of his earnest entreaties they forgot to bring it back again. (Ameke, p. 312.)

This is all that the compiler has been able, after extended research to discover concerning the lives of these, the men who laid the foundation for the Homœopathic Materia Medica. It may be of interest to mention that quite a number of provings by them were published in the *Archiv* of Stapf, from 1825 to 1840.

\* *Hahn. Monthly*, Vol. vii. p., 196.

† *Brit. Jour. Hom.*, vol. xxxii, p. 456.

‡ Rapou, "Hist. de la doct. med. hom." Vol., 2. p., 549.

#### ITEMS FROM THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HAHNEMAN- NIAN ASSOCIATION.

The last meeting of the I. H. A. was held at Watch Hill, R. I., last June, and the proceedings make a handsome little octavo volume of three hundred and seventy-seven pages. In his address, President Baylies said of the duty of the members of the association:

"It is our part to teach humanity to man, to release him from traditional medical barbarism, to make him master of his own person, by so instructing him and the framers and ministers of our law that the absurd and cruel practice of contaminating his blood with one disease or complex of diseases, to protect him from another, shall be abolished; that he may accept the protective and recuperative action of the mild power of nature afforded under the Homœopathic law. To accomplish this great end, let us have unity and harmony. Let no selfish motive or private interest mar our devotion as brothers in our contest with the Gorgon medical error; and as members of this association let us have no enemies but the enemies of our cause; other associations who faithfully strive for this end are not enemies, but friends."

#### A Glorious Climate.

Corresponding Secretary W. P. Wesselhoeft, M. D., has been making a tour of the earth and contributed an interesting report of what he had seen. We clip the following from his report for the benefit of those interested in climates:

"Now that Alexandria can be reached in two weeks, Egypt, with its wonderful dry and exhilarating winter climate, must become a great resort for Americans who are financially able to avail themselves of its invigorating and rejuvenating air. I speak from personal observation when I say 'rejuvenating air.' Others as well as myself felt the influence very soon after our arrival in Cairo. We all felt the desire for physical activity, and the older members of our party observed that their breathing capacity was materially increased. I am troubled with short breathing when making an ascent, but I found little difficulty in ascending the pyramids, or even running distances that at home would seriously affect my breathing. Another peculiarity is the freedom from perspiration. At home a horseback ride makes it necessary for me to change my clothing if I would not