

the next visit he still showed no improvement. I made three prescriptions and the boy was no better. I was not tempted to give him toothache drops or anything of that kind, but I sent him back to the dentist and the dentist reported that there was nothing the matter with the boy's teeth, that he was all right. I went all over the case again, and decided that I did prescribe right; that there was something the matter with the boy or something the matter with the dentist; there was not any fault on the part of the doctor. I sent him to another dentist who was a friend, and told him the history of the case, and asked him to go over it carefully, and if there was the slightest suspicion of trouble in that tooth to take the filling out. He took the tooth out and found that the original filling had pressed on the pulp, the nerve pulp, that he had a very sensitive tooth and very sensitive nerve pulp. He sent the boy back with that report. I thought to myself I am going to learn something from this case, and am going to give him sac. lac., and I kept him on sac. lac. two weeks, and he recovered entirely. If I had expected to cure that child entirely with remedies I would have failed, and some other physician, who did not have as much faith in the remedies as I have, would have commenced to give him something to put him to sleep, and something to do this and something to do that. We must not expect to do everything with the remedies; we must always try to find the cause and remove that.

The next case that came also had a tooth filled recently but that was cured in two weeks with the first prescription, though the improvement was very gradual. The trouble was all on the left side. The lady had lachesis symptoms, with which you are all familiar. That was all that was necessary in her case, though I did not see the improvement for some days after I made the prescription. I had her case examined by the same dentist, and having faith in his judgment, allowed the fillings to remain and she was cured by

the remedy. The whole point is that we ought to have faith in our prescriptions before we make them, and then because we do not find the improvement, do not find fault with ourselves or our methods. Let us have faith in ourselves and in our remedies, and if they do not cure do not take the blame upon ourselves. Tell the patients that it is their fault if they do not get well; we then save our own reputations and we won't be tempted to use other means.

Dr. James—Sometimes in a case like that reported by Doctor Case, the sulphur may occasion the eruption to disappear, and then the old symptoms may return. Of course the proof of the pudding is the eating of it; consequently as the doctor succeeded with the sulphur it is all very well, but I am exceedingly careful when I meet with a case where an eruption comes out, I am careful how I make my next prescription. I am very unwilling to prescribe for an eruption on the skin following such a condition. I remember some years ago a case that had been for some years under the care of Doctor Lippe. He declared it to be cancerous ulceration at the pyloric end of the stomach, and the patient had an intense pain, some little vomiting of blood and occasionally of exceedingly acid fluid, and inability to take any kind of food except about five o'clock in the afternoon, when she would take a little toast and tea; then no more food until the next afternoon at five o'clock. Any departure from that rule was followed at once by intense suffering. Dr. Lippe being ill, and I having charge of his practice, the lady came to me for treatment. I gave her bichromate of potash, which relieved her very much. Of course I made a record of the case and left it there in the office, and Doctor Lippe kept up the treatment for seven or eight years longer. During all that time the pain was always kept under. He gave remedies as they were indicated, but always had to come back to bichromate of potash. Finally Doctor Lippe died, and then the patient came to me and asked me to take



charge of her, which I did. In the summer following Doctor Lippe's death, she came to me again and said that she was going to Europe and would I be willing to treat her across the water. The fact is, she was a German lady, and was born in Munich. She wanted to know if I would treat her in Munich, which I of course agreed to do, but I pointed out to her the long delays, especially in the winter season. She said she didn't care for that but must have that kind of treatment. She had immense suffering in Munich and I prescribed remedies that gave her more or less relief. Finally on a certain Thursday afternoon at four o'clock there came a letter to my office from her; it was in the winter time, and the letter was two weeks old. The suffering described in that letter was something frightful, and she absolutely refused to have any other treatment, or to have any physician in Munich. It ought to be said of her that she was a strict homœopathist and understands it. You cannot fool her with *sac. lac.*, and it is not worth while to do it, and she refused to have these physicians because she said they would not give her strictly homœopathic treatment, and they would not give potencies. She would not have palliative treatment, recognizing that her condition would be infinitely worse. That was her own argument. She wrote this letter to me and I was so distressed by it that, although it was two weeks old, I sat down and studied the case from four o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening. I came to the conclusion that *hydrastis* was the remedy, and went to the office and telegraphed a cable message, "*hydrastis*". It had only the one word, *hydrastis*, and my signature. She received that the next morning and took it to a pharmacist in Munich, who said that he knew about high potency homœopaths and knew of me, and he could put up the same kind of medicine. He did give her the thirtieth potency of *hydrastis*, and it gave immediate relief. She wrote a jubilant letter about the relief.

Then came another letter; an eruption had occurred on the right side of the body and was very severe indeed. The agony was something intense—pricking, stinging and itching as she described it. She said "I have been urged to put something upon this to relieve the itching, if nothing more, the ordinary baby powder, and she said I will not do so until I hear from you." I then wrote her a very strong letter protesting against it, and telling her that I feared to prescribe for the eruption, and predicting that if it were left alone it would gradually cease and that she would be free from pain, and true to the prediction, she did get over it. It got less and less—she wrote me every week, and finally it disappeared altogether, and the pain did not return for nine months. The next I heard of her she was in Paris. Then the pain came again, and she went back to Munich, and I gave her *arsenicum album*, and later *arsenicum rubrum*, and then yellow arsenic; the three arsenics, white, red and yellow, following one after the other, as they seemed to be indicated, sending her little vials of the medicine, as I knew that she was perfectly competent to be trusted with the medicine, relieved her absolutely. The eruption showed a disposition to come back; I warned her against prescribing or putting the slightest thing on it, even soap and water, thinking of a possible repression. The result was that the eruption died away of itself. The next I heard of her she came into my office smiling about a year ago, offered both her hands to me and declared that she was perfectly well. She is now in Philadelphia, and, as far as I know—I have heard of her within a few weeks, she has had no return of it.

Now, there is a case where I think I could have kept her permanently sick if I had prescribed any remedy for that eruption. I don't know that there is any parallelism between that patient and that of Doctor Case, but it seems to me there is enough to warrant a suggestion at least, that it is at all



events a risk to give a prescription for an eruption that comes as a result of a fine homœopathic prescription.

Dr. Allen — I don't think it ever should be done.

Dr. Custis — I should like to make one exception. If, after prescribing, the eruption appears, and by examination of the history of the case you can satisfy yourself as to the remedy that would have been called for in the beginning, you are justified in giving it. I have had some cases of this kind particularly one where a lady who had been suffering from chronic rheumatism for a considerable time, was totally unable to walk. I prescribed for her and, after a time, an eruption appeared. Upon question I found that she had had that eruption or a similar one in the beginning of the disease, which had evidently on that occasion been suppressed. I was satisfied in my own mind that if she had had tellurium as the first prescription, she would not have had this long train of symptoms. I did prescribe tellurium, and she was able to look after and run after a child in two weeks. If you can satisfy yourself of the remedy that would have been called for in the beginning of the case, you are justified in prescribing it in a case where an eruption appears.

Dr. James — As long as Doctor Custis has spoken of a tooth case, I would like to tell a tooth case I had. I don't know whether it is really pertinent to Doctor Case's paper, but he gives the suggestion, and so I would like to tell it. I think it is a striking thing.

A gentleman, sixty-six years of age, who did not believe in homœopathy, and never had tried it, or certainly never anything like true homœopathy, went into his dining room in the middle of April when a cold snap came on, after fires had been banished for the season, and felt a chill. He had on the left side of his upper jaw the first molar tooth in a disordered shape, and the chilliness caused him to take a cold. The cold located itself at the apex of this tooth and inflammation with intense pain set in and a terrific abscess. This

abscess gave him excruciating agony. His gums swelled up, the hard palate swelled, and the outside of the face on the left side swelled enormously. Then he went to his dentist, and this dentist, instead of going to the root of the difficulty, which was the root of the tooth, concluded the thing to do was to lance. He did not seem to know where to lance, but he could lance, and, as there was a swelling, he plunged into that. The old gentleman told it very graphically; how he had gashed and gashed and gashed, thrusting the lance into the gum a distance anterior to this first molar tooth. Great quantities of dark blood came out; in fact, it was black, and came in strings, and the pain of the tooth was supplemented by the terrific pain of this gashing, as he called it, which did no good. Then the dentist gashed some more. This time he selected the median line of the hard palate, and there he gashed, and gashed and gashed, and this time he let out such a quantity of blood as to get scared. He communicated his fright to the patient, and the patient immediately became very much excited about it and went home. Then, when he got home, suffering terribly, he refused to see a physician, although his wife importuned him to have one. His physician was a celebrated allopathic one of Philadelphia. She wished him to have a homœopathist, but he would not have *any* physician. His servant however, offered him a glass of "salts" in water and he took it without hesitation. Immediately cholera morbus set in, with vomiting and purging, high fever, redness of the face and the top of his head, with severe indescribable pain there. Then he consented to see me. I came in and found first this cholera morbus condition. Not much account was made of the tooth by him because the pain had subsided, a very dangerous symptom. Then he consented to take medicine from me. Seeing the condition of cholera morbus I prescribed arsenic with immediate relief of the vomiting, and relief of the abdominal symptoms generally. Then I



saw his face was beginning to swell up again, but there was no pain, and I thought that very dangerous. The next thing I knew he began to twitch. These twitches began in the arms: then the muscular system began to twitch all over. He very soon was in an awful condition of convulsions—the convulsions of lock-jaw—with complete consciousness, and his face swelled more. I asked to examine his tooth, and I found it slightly loose; I gave it a twist with my finger and thumb, and burst the abscess. Immediately a profusion of pus flowed down on all sides around the tooth, and hung in drops from its crown. I then asked him to have the tooth out. He would not have it; he said it was necessary to fasten the plate of some false teeth. I felt that it was absolutely necessary to have this tooth out. The absence of pain had frightened me very considerably, and my fright was developing into a full fledged panic when I saw the convulsions, for I realized that I was dealing with impending lock-jaw. He began to strangle; he declared there were wheels going around in his throat, all the time he was conscious. After an hour of hard talking, I induced him to see a dentist. Meanwhile I had spoken to the dentist, and when his consent was secured, within twenty minutes the dentist was there and talking to him. He finally interested the patient for he is a highly intellectual man and likes scientific subjects. The dentist began to describe to him a scientific way of pulling a tooth out, showed him how to put on the forceps, and said you just twist this way and that, and the tooth comes out, and there is not much pain with it. I warned the dentist that he didn't dare give any kind of anæsthetic, even nitrous oxide. Then the gentleman said, "well, you may pull it out," and the dentist said, "I *have* done so." "How," said he, "I didn't know it." Said the dentist, "here is the tooth." The patient was so benumbed that he didn't realize when that tooth was pulled; the dentist describing the thing and suiting the action to the word right along had drawn the

tooth. The pus rushed out of the antrum immediately, but still the convulsions kept up, and the case was getting rapidly desperate. With the help of Doctor Knerr's Repertory, which I consider a great book, I selected Valeriana for these two symptoms; *convulsions with full consciousness; convulsions of the extremities, in which he is perfectly conscious, able to use these extremities for any service that he wishes to put them to; has full command of his will power over his muscles to reach anything, or lift himself up from the pillow, but the instant that the will is taken off from the muscles, these convulsions return with great violence.* I gave him Valeriana officinalis in the hundred thousandth potency, putting it in water so that he should have some four or five doses. In three hours his convulsions were much worse; then I knew I had selected the right remedy and that there was aggravation. In twelve hours the convulsions had ceased entirely. From that time he made a rapid recovery, and finally became practically well. Meanwhile he had a brother who is a medical man, who became highly indignant because he had a homœopathic physician, although it was a matter of his own life. This brother is an invalid, is under the care of an allopathic physician, and the latter laughed at the case, sneered at the prognosis and sneered at me, suggesting that I was not fit to be a practising physician.

*Second Day — Afternoon Session.*

President Fincke—I wish to announce the appointment of Doctors Clark, Powel and Wesselhœft, a committee of three, for the purpose of considering the question of establishing a journal of the International Hahnemannian Association.

Dr. Clark—The auditing committee are glad to report that the Treasurer's account is found correct. Report accepted.

The Treasurer's report was then accepted.