

Thomas M. Dillingham

1891 - Bright's disease cured with Pyrogen

"A young German woman was admitted to the wards of the Hahnemann Hospital, January 2d, 1890, suffering with Bright's disease. She had previously been in one of the city hospitals where she got no relief and, applying to Dr. W. G. Fralick, was advised to look for help in the "Hahnemann," where she was admitted on the above date, and remained until March 1st, when she was discharged somewhat improved. My term of service began March 1st, and on the 14th I was asked by the house physician as to the advisability of admitting an incurable case of Bright's Disease which had already been two months in the hospital as a free patient. The woman declared she could only be comfortable or helped in the "Hahnemann" and begged so earnestly to be saved from the Mt. Sinai Hospital, where she would otherwise be forced to go, that we readmitted her.

An examination of the urine showed an enormous amount of albumen and a variety of casts. Feet and legs terribly swollen, so that she could not wear her own shoes, with much puffiness of the face. The most characteristic conditions were a throbbing headache < by motion and light. Abnormal brightness of the eyes, with greatly dilated pupils.

Belladonna had been given her and was followed by such relief of her condition that she was discharged on March 1st, as previously stated. She now received it again in a very high potency and after two weeks was so much improved that she was again discharged. The "Hahnemann" is not designed as a retreat for incurables, although no one is ever turned away. When the woman left the hospital I promised to continue the care of her case, and she reported at my office once each week.

By the 31st of May she was in a desperate condition. Too sick to work; she had long since lost her position as "sales-woman" and her poor relatives could no longer support her. I applied to the lady managers of the hospital for a free bed where the woman could stay until better or relieved by death from her pitiable condition and it was most cheerfully granted.

With more than previous interest in the case I made a thorough examination as to the cause of her trouble, and learned it dated from a large abscess, the result of a lanced and badly cared for felon on the thumb of left hand. She was sick for weeks with this abscess and had what the doctors told her was blood poisoning. Soon after this the swelling of her feet and face commenced.

Up to this time I had not had occasion to use Pyrogen, but concluded that here was a suitable case in all respects to give it a trial. Her condition and symptoms were about as follows: I made no note of them, fully expected the woman would die at this time, but determined to give her all possible relief, and constantly declared I was going to win the case. Feet, legs and genitals seriously swollen. Frightful throbbing headache, which was better from a tight band constantly worn about her head. Relief from heat. She was very fond of the hot bath, which I forbade as soon as I learned of it being taken. The headaches had most terrible aggravations lasting two to four days. During this aggravation she could neither lie in bed nor sit up, but was in constant motion, groaning and crying piteously for help. She was indeed a pitiable object. Swollen face, projecting eyes, legs swollen to the utmost extent of the skin. The urine was loaded with albumen and casts frequent, but never numerous.

It was a desperate chance; but, having with great care prescribed with only very temporary and unsatisfactory results, I was determined to make no change in the remedy, dose or habit of life. I was absent from the city from July 15th to September 15th, receiving regular reports from the house physician as to this case. I have every reason to believe he faithfully followed my directions. Only once during the last stay in the hospital did the woman lose her courage

and declared in her sleepless and persistent distress that I must give her something to stop the pain which she could no longer endure. I was forced to order her to leave the hospital or obey me. This was in June, and soon after it she began to mend. In September, on my return to town, she was much better, and begged me to allow her to return to Germany to her father, a poor German peddler. She, however, remained until October 20th, when I discharged her as cured. I have heard from her twice since in reply to packages of "no medicine," with which I kept her supplied. In the last letter she thanked me for the medicine, but was so well that she did not think she required it.

The most touching incident connected with this case was on the day of her departure, when she knelt in the center of the ward and offered a prayer, the like of which the nurses declared they had never heard. She was a Jewess.

NOTE. - The excruciating, bursting, throbbing headache with intense restlessness, moving and crying, slightly ameliorated by a tight compress. The headaches were accompanied often with profuse bleeding at the nose and nausea and vomiting, which I have omitted to mention in the proper place.

This is the only case in which I have used Pyrogen, but I feel that it cured that desperate case and that Swan's cmm. will become an invaluable remedy when we know how to use it. My reasons for using it were purely empirical.

Dr. Bell cured a case of blood poisoning with it, and was so impressed with its power and use that, on my departure for Europe three years ago, he gave me a vial, with an urgent request to use it if I wounded myself while dissecting in Leipsic. It has proved a life saver in several cases of malignant typhoid fever, and I think it advisable for our Bureau of Materia Medica to have it proved as early as possible."

(Thomas M. Dillingham, M. D., Bright's disease cured with one dose of Pyrogen CMM. (Swan), Proceedings of the International Hahnemannian Association 1891, p. 144-146)