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1874 - On Characteristic Symptoms

*"Cum igitur animum ad Medicinam applicuerim, nihil quod novum vel inauditum est; sed tantum ea quae cum praxi optime conveniunt, certa et indubitata ratione demonstrare aut ex ipsa humanae naturae conditione deducere, intendi."*¹

I. Those so-called characteristic symptoms of the sick and corresponding symptoms of the remedies, to which the practitioners of homoeopathy attach the greatest importance, show more plainly than anything else the essential antagonism between this and every other system of medical treatment. They may be said to take the place of the "indications" of the allopaths, and, without displacing the "totality of the symptoms" for our own school, they may be deemed the sine qua non of that totality and the natural leaders of all other symptoms. These "Characteristics" may be prominent among the painful and pronounced conditions of the patient, and equally prominent in the pathogenesis of the corresponding remedy. Or they may be comparatively obscure, discernible only by minute and careful examination of the sick, and their counterparts in the *Materia Medica* found only by a correspondingly careful and sometimes much more laborious research. But in the latter case, as well as in the former, such discovery and consequent complete adaptation of the medicine to the patient is absolutely essential to any radical cure. And the failure to make such cures - unfortunately far more common now than when homoeopathy was in its infancy - is mostly due to the fact that in such hurried and superficial examination of the sick as is the general rule now, rather than the exception, these sometimes obscure but always indispensable conditions are apt to be overlooked, or, if noted, fail to be provided for in the hasty and imperfect study of the *Materia Medica* which follows, - such study as is but too customary, especially with those who have constant recourse to repertories.

II. Oftentimes those symptoms which are really characteristic in the sick, from having no apparently direct relation to the pathology of the case are passed over as of little consequence, although recognized as peculiar. In other instances they are neglected because their counterparts are not readily discoverable in the *Materia Medica*. But the more singular and unusual these particular symptoms are in the sick, so much the more fundamental and important may be their relation to the whole case. While the rarer and more obscure these particular symptoms are in the sick, so much the more difficult will it be to find their analogues in the *Materia Medica*; and this from the very obvious reason, that the dynamic influences which cause natural diseases are necessarily similar in their operation to those which cause artificial or pathogenetic diseases. Thus it happens that the obscure, apparently unimportant and sometimes seemingly trifling symptoms which are really characteristic of the sick in any given case, are quite sure to be equally obscure and apparently unimportant, or even trifling in the pathogenesis of the corresponding remedy. On the other hand, it may be that symptoms well known and prominent in the pathogenesis of a medicine shall escape observation in the sick, either from want of careful attention or from not thinking of the particular remedy in such connection.

A good illustration of this may be seen in a case of profuse hemorrhage after abortion at three months, that came under my care when a student. The flow resisted every remedy which I could find indicated for such a difficulty; finally I introduced the tampon as a last resort, remaining with the patient during the night to watch the result. For some hours the application seemed to do very well, and I began to flatter myself that the danger was past. But about three a. m., the flow returned with redoubled violence, and I then remembered that a similar

aggravation had previously occurred at the same time in the morning. I immediately gave Nux vomica, which otherwise I should never have thought of for hemorrhage, and had no further trouble with the case, except being annoyed by my patient's wondering why I had not given her the right remedy before. And I think I have since seen this remarkable experience of mine with Nux vomica (which I have before reported in another paper), corroborated by that of some other physician; but where or by whom, I cannot now recall.

III. Another important consideration which should be borne in mind in the study of Characteristics is, that they do not always all appear where they might be expected. Many cases of ague I have cured with the one hundred-thousandth potency of Eupatorium perfoliatum, but never, until quite recently, did I, although always on the *qui vive*, meet with a case in which the chill was preceded by a strongly marked or even particularly noticeable thirst. This symptom, from the study of Drs. Williamson and Jeanes' original provings and clinical experience, I had accustomed myself to regard as decidedly characteristic of Eupatorium perfoliatum. "Raging thirst before the chill." ² "Thirst several hours before the chill." ³ The case in question was that of a lad who had been subject to chills for a couple of years; the disorder being from time to time suppressed by quinine, but always quickly returning. A boy aet. 8, chill daily, sometimes every other day, at 2 p. M., but not always at the same hour; is cold for an hour and a half, for a part of that time he actually shakes; *thirsty before the chill; vomiting as the chill passes off*, of food (his appetite was good all the time, and he had dined). Wants to be warmly covered when in the chill. Pain in the pit of the stomach, at the back of the neck, and between the shoulders. Thirst with the chill, more than with the fever. Stretches and yawns. Fever for three hours, followed by perspiration. Sweats till midnight; *cold perspiration at night*. This case reminded me so strongly of the Eupatorium perfoliatum, that I determined to give the one hundred-thousandth; but on reaching my office I could find of this preparation only some pellets in a vial formerly belonging to my buggy-case, and of whose present efficacy I had some doubt. But being so sure of the remedy, I decided to use these pellets, in order to ascertain if they were still good. The lad received two or three doses, had a slight chill the next day, and none afterwards. Thus I at the same time determined the continued efficacy of my highly-prized ^{cm} potency of Eupatorium perfoliatum, and made a very gratifying cure.

Speaking of these old cases of chills reminds me of one or two clinical observations of my own, which may be useful to others. Nearly all these old subjects of ague are *coffee-drinkers*, and I tell them they never can be cured till they give up coffee. The old-school physicians do not seem to have observed this, and I have been surprised to find some homoeopaths even who overlook the fact that the constant use of this beverage in ague-districts in a remarkable manner tends to predispose people to this disorder when they are free from it, and to keep it up in spite of all medication when they have it. The majority of these cases of ague have already been plentifully and vainly drugged with quinine, and it has seemed to me that some of our homoeopathic remedies acted more favorably when thus following quinine, just as Kali jodatatum will cure cases of syphilis that have been mercurialized, and no others. At any rate the Eupatorium perfoliatum, which can hardly be termed an anti-psoric, acts like a charm in the very highest potencies in those cases of ague to which it is homoeopathic. We must not, however, expect to find all the characteristic symptoms even of the right remedy in any given case; for since different temperaments and constitutions are variously affected by different degrees of the morbid influence received, the usually resulting symptoms must be various in kind, different in intensity, and in particular instances may be altogether hindered from appearing.

In transcribing my notes of this case, I have been led to compare the rendering of Eupatorium perfoliatum in the new edition of Bönninghausen's Essay on Intermittent Fever. ⁴ The "General Fever Symptoms," page 28, are but indifferently given, far less accurately and

forcibly than in Dr. Lippe's Text-Book, and in a manner still more inferior to the graphic picture in the Symptomen Codex. But what authority can the American editor have had for omitting the original pathogenetic and clinical symptom; "coldness during nocturnal perspiration" ⁵ which Dr. Lippe retains, and which I have most certainly verified in the above case - and for substituting, "pungent heat attending the sweat at night," as if that were the only, or even the most prominent symptom connected with the nocturnal perspiration? Unfortunately this is not the only evidence which this remedy affords of the haste or want of competent attention displayed in the preparation of this translation "with the addition of New Remedies." On referring to Part II., "Repertory," page 118, under the head of "Thirst before the Chill," we find Arsen., Cinchon. and Pulsat. set down in large capitals; Arnic., Cina, Nux vom. and Sulphur, in italics; while Eupat. perf., which is well known to have this symptom at least as prominently as any other, serves but to eke out the baker's dozen of those deemed worthy of mention in common type only. Turning to page 120, "Vomiting," we find Eupat. perf. again in the smallest letter, and no mention made of it under "Bitter Vomiting;" when, in point of fact, its symptoms, "*Retching and vomiting of bile*," "Vomiting at the conclusion of the chill," and "Vomiting of bile," are unsurpassed in pathogenetic and clinical prominence and importance by similar symptoms of any other remedies. Nor may it be replied that the work is purely pathogenetic and not clinical also, or therapeutic, as its very title indicates, in the broader sense of the term. Such a suggestion, if offered, would be easily and entirely refuted by a careful perusal of the author's Preface to the second edition. This neglect to mark up the "new remedies" in a repertory where the greatest stress is laid upon type-distinctions, while it may evince a becoming modesty on the part of the translator, also shows that neither the "sanction" nor the "kind assistance" of Dr. C. Hering, can have compensated for his own incompetence as regards "the addition of New Remedies" to Bönninghausen's Homoeopathic Therapeia; at the same time that it renders the work itself a *misleading guide*, by preventing these "new remedies" (some of which are more than twenty years old) from assuming, in the estimation of the student, that comparative importance which is their just due. Superficial and incomplete medical books, poor as they are, are often "better than nothing;" but incorrect and therefore misleading works on Therapeutics are always worse than none at all.

IV. Characteristic symptoms, when once well established, may serve to enlarge the sphere of usefulness of the remedies to which they belong, either by encouraging their employment in some cases, where the accompanying symptoms were unknown or not known to correspond; or in others, where they have not hitherto been recognized as applicable to those particular forms of disease. As practice is more intelligible than precept, we will illustrate each of these two classes by an appropriate example.

Miss Alice B., aet. 11, black hair and eyes, had long been subject to attacks of ague, for which quinine had been successfully given, without, however, preventing the recurrence of the paroxysm with every new provocation. Chill every other day, at about 11 A. M., she shivers awhile, then shakes for twenty minutes. Headache. Hands first cold. Nausea as the chill goes off; *Nausea all the time*. No thirst with the chill. Chill followed by fever. Thirst with the heat. Perspiration when the fever passes off. Found her covered up on the sofa, shaking with the chill, when I visited her July 26th, 1873. I gave her blank powders to take during the P. M., and one powder of Ipecac. ^{1m} (Fincke), to take at bedtime, telling her I would come before it would be necessary for her to take anything next day. Was sent for before breakfast in the morning; found her still in bed; she had passed a comfortable night, but had just been vomiting. Satisfied that this was the effect of the Ipecac. ^{1m}, I gave her only a blank powder in water, to take a teaspoonful every hour, and promised to call in the evening. After tea I walked down toward her father's residence and found her out at play. Nearly a year has now elapsed and she has had no chill since; but once in a while when her sister (in loco parentis)

finds her complaining of headache, etc., as formerly before the chill, she sends for a few powders and the danger is avoided.

Comparing this patient's case with the "General Fever Symptoms" of the New Edition of Bönninghausen already referred to, it would seem that the well known *nausea* characteristic of Ipecac. had sufficed to determine the choice of the right remedy, even without the concurrence of the other conditions. In this apparent opposition I notice particularly the "chill with thirst," "chill mostly with thirst," and "heat generally without thirst,"⁶ of this book; my patient having thirst with the fever but not with the chill. On consulting other books on Materia Medica, I find the same apparent antagonism with authorities in regard to this remedy, chargeable of course to the author, that his translator has fallen into with respect to Eupatorium. And the same antagonism extends also to the first edition of the author's own work, the following being all the thirst symptoms which it gives for Ipecac.: "Slight and short chills; then heat, only in the head, with thirst." "Intermittent fevers; slight chills are followed by much heat with thirst, without any subsequent sweats." "Intermittent fevers (consequent upon the abuse of cinchona); slight chilliness without thirst; afterwards violent heat with thirst."⁷

In the *Materia Medica Pura*, Hahnemann gives of his own a single thirst symptom of Ipecac. in fever: "Shuddering (at four o'clock P. m.), afterwards chilliness with coldness without thirst"; and the following, furnished him by "other provers": "Feeling of heat in the afternoon and evening, almost like a burning in the head, forehead and cheeks, without thirst."⁸ These two symptoms may also be found in the *Symptomen Codex*. Dr. Lippe, in his *Text-Book*, is in accord with the first edition of Boenninghausen on intermittent fever, and, consequently, in antagonism with the second. "Intermittent fever; slight chills are followed by much heat, with thirst and no subsequent perspiration." "(Intermittent fever) consequent upon the abuse of quinine, slight chilliness without thirst, afterwards violent heat with thirst," etc.⁹

The symptom, "chill with thirst," which Dr. Lippe gives before the intermittent fever symptoms of Ipecac., seems to have had for its source the second of those quoted from the *Materia Medica Pura*, and to have been the basis of those just cited from this new edition of Bönninghausen on Fever, in which the learned author gives, so far as thirst is concerned, indications for Ipecac. exactly opposite to those detailed in the first edition.

In the Allentown translation of Jahr's *Manual* we read: "*Thirst during the chill*, or the coldness only." "Light, short chills, succeeded by heat (frequently only in the head), with thirst and perspiration afterwards."¹⁰ These are the only thirst symptoms from Ipecac. in this work.

Dr. Curie gives but one of these in his later version: "thirst during the shivering or coldness."¹¹ Teste gives as an indication for Ipecac., "according to Hahnemann, certain quotidian intermittents, with absence of thirst during the heat, and nocturnal paroxysms, cannot be cured as effectually with any (other) medicine as with Ipecac."¹²

We have thus taken pains to trace the thirst symptoms of Ipecac. in intermittent fever for two distinct reasons: first, to show the danger of relying exclusively upon condensed monographs. If Boenninghausen was right in his first edition he would appear to be wrong in the second, where, in fact, he seems to have the weight of authority against him. In truth he was both right and wrong in both cases; for in both he should have set down both forms of symptoms, in order that the student who relied upon this "Therapeia of intermittent and other fevers," might not be effectually diverted by it from the right remedy. If his later experience with Ipecac. inclined him to write, "chill with thirst," and "heat mostly (meistens) without thirst," he should not have forgotten the still-existing reasons which led him in the former edition to give "slight chilliness without thirst; afterwards violent heat with thirst," as indications for the same remedy. Our second reason for this exposition is to show how the translator of this new edition has missed a most important opportunity for rendering his author's work still more

valuable, by giving both classes of opposite symptoms in this and similar cases. By not doing so in the present instance, he has left a rendering of Ipecac., which, so far as it may be relied upon to give the sphere of action, "general fever symptoms" and characteristic indications of this remedy for intermittent fevers in this country, is simply misleading. While the one great indication for Ipecac., especially in "intermittent fevers, *where nausea and vomiting predominate*" which, it is believed, will almost invariably be present when this remedy is required in such disorders, and which we have quoted from the first edition, is altogether omitted in the second.

In regard to this matter of opposite symptoms, a single remark may be hazarded; that they should never be considered as necessarily counterindicative. There is an alternate action of the vital forces in health which may often be imitated in disease. There is also a similar alternate action of many drugs in pathogenesis, in all of them for aught we know, and a corresponding alternation of action will therefore be equally possible in their therapeutic use. The rational grounds for this doctrine have already been fully explained in our discussion of "The Dose" question.* The case just cited, cured by Ipecac., shows how an important and well established characteristic symptom may lead to the use of a remedy where the other symptoms are not all known to correspond, or where some of them may appear exactly opposite.

An excellent illustration of the very important principle here involved, may be found in a case of headache reported by Dr. Lippe in the Medical Investigator, Nov., 1873, p. 607, in which he says: "Had I decided upon a choice of remedies by mechanically setting opposite each symptom the corresponding medicines, my choice being governed by the rule of majorities, I would not have chosen Glonoine, which did not correspond (as far as we are yet in possession of its provings - almost all with crude or large doses) with the majority of the symptoms." The patient in question "had her hair cut off to within two inches of the scalp, because the heaviness and heat of it had almost distracted her." "She was found lying very quiet in bed, in a dark room; the least motion makes the pain worse." "*Bellad.* would suggest itself as *the* remedy; but *Bellad.* has the characteristic symptom that the headache is much increased by uncovering the head (by having the hair cut), and is generally relieved by sitting up." The great characteristic symptom, *amelioration of the headache by uncovering it*, is to be found under Glonoine, which also has the very important symptom of the case, when he rises his knees break down on account of the severe headache.¹⁴ She could not rise, because her headache was so severe that it caused such weakness of her limbs that she could not stand on them. "This case was promptly cured by twelve doses of Glonoinum ^{cm}, a few pellets dissolved in half a tumbler full of water, and of this a teaspoonful given every two hours for a dose."

So far we have tried to give an idea of Dr. Lippe's report of the case, but necessarily omitting the mass of the symptoms. The whole case, like all those reported by this very eminent physician and master of the Materia Medica, deserves to be carefully studied. I will venture a single remark in conclusion: In congestive headaches really suitable respectively to *Bellad.* and *Glonoine*, and in many respects apparently similar, those curable by *Bellad.* are sure to be relieved by sitting up and are worse by lying down; while those curable by *Glonoine* may be relieved by lying down; but further experience is needed in this latter respect.

Let us now present a case in which a well-known characteristic symptom led to the successful employment of a remedy in a form of disease to which it had not been supposed to be particularly adapted.

Mrs. H. E., aet. 34, was affected with what was called sciatica; the difficulty began about a year previous; pain in the left lower limb; worse inside the thigh and in the calf of the leg; pain like the toothache; a neuralgic pain which makes her feel faint; no swelling or other

perceptible change in the appearance of the limb. The limb is very painful at night; in her present state she cannot bear her weight upon it at all; she cannot sit, has to lie down on the sofa, her husband bringing her down stairs in his arms in the morning and carrying her back at night. The whole leg is tender to the touch; she cannot bear to have it hang down, as when sitting in a chair, but must lie at full length; pain greatly aggravated by the slightest motion. There is much stiffness but not so much pain when she is still; she is much worse from the least movement. The use of the limb was entirely lost, and she expected nothing less than that the trouble would terminate in paralysis, which was not unknown in her family. This case was curiously complicated with a pregnancy and a miscarriage at six months. The affection of the limb began some two or three months previous to the pregnancy, and, as she believed, was very little affected by it, except in the following particulars: Six weeks previous to the miscarriage actually occurring, she began to flow abundantly, and so continued, from *placenta praevia*, till the child was removed through an opening in the placenta. The subsequent hemorrhage was also severe, by which, of course, she was much reduced. But singular to relate, her leg troubled her very little while thus flowing before the miscarriage, and none at all during the subsequent hemorrhage. But as she recovered from this the pain returned in her limb and grew worse for several weeks, till she was reduced to the helpless condition just described, at which time, February 3rd, she first came under my care. The most remarkable symptom of her disease was the excessive sensibility to increased pain from motion. And so plain were the indications for the medicine, that I preferred not to visit her, the old-school physician having just been dismissed. I sent her, therefore, some powders of Bryonia³⁰. In a week her husband said: "*My wife complains of feeling better.*" In three weeks she was able to walk down stairs; in two more she walked down town without injury; and she is now in better health than for years before. This lady received nothing but the thirtieth of Bryonia, of which she took two or three powders daily; and the cure, which attracted great attention, was thought the more remarkable from my merely sending the medicine without deeming it necessary to go even once where an eminent allopath had so signally failed.

V. But the most infallible characteristic symptoms are those that appear *in groups*. And it is believed that whenever a real characteristic symptom of a particular remedy presents itself, however obscurely, other indications for the same remedy may also be found present in greater or less abundance. And this is the very function and highest use of the recognized characteristics, to lead us to inquire if the remedies they suggest are not the very ones most truly indicated by the accompanying symptoms. But when an actual group appears of what may be termed the characteristics of a particular remedy, the case is decided at once; for "In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word (or thing) shall be established."

Last year, Mrs. R. T., a young married woman, had at the third month a miscarriage of her first conception. She was away from home at the time and I did not see her. This year, May 13th, her husband called me to prescribe for her, threatened with a similar misfortune at about the fifth month. For some reason not set down or now remembered, I gave her Arnica, and she promptly recovered. Calling again on the 3rd of June, I found the symptoms much more serious than before. She had been flowing for several days; the bearing-down pains were quite severe and kept her awake the greater part of the previous night; she complained very much of suffering from pain in the small of her back. Her mother told me (afterwards) that the mischief was brought on by her taking a long walk in the wet grass and getting her feet wet. I knew she had been working too hard, and believed she had strained herself, and that a commencing prolapsus uteri formed a considerable part of her trouble, since walking about renewed the pains. For this reason I decided to give her Helonias, yet with no hope of arresting the miscarriage, for the hemorrhage had been so long-continued, and the pains had become so strong that she seemed to be already in labor, and was no longer able to be up. I

put a small quantity of the mother tincture in water, directed her husband to give her, with his own hand, a tablespoonful every hour, and charged her to keep perfectly still in bed. This prescription in a couple of days removed the whole difficulty; cured the mother and saved the child.¹⁵ Those who will refer to Helonias in the third (1873) edition of Dr. Hale's New Remedies, "Characteristics," will find there recited all the symptoms and conditions of this patient, although the remedy was in the first place suggested to my mind for the threatening prolapsus, rather than for the impending abortion, which I had no expectation of preventing.

Mrs. A., aet. 30, had been in indifferent health for a couple of years, mainly in consequence of living in a damp house in an ague neighborhood, and having had chills several times; which latter, as I have remarked in numerous other cases, had caused such deterioration of the blood as predisposed to hemorrhages. Her menses were very profuse, actual floodings, with large, coagulated, conical clots, which, at first sight of one of them, made me suspect an abortion; but when the attendant said there had been *nine of them*, I gave up that idea. Sabina made a change for the better from the very first dose. There were no more clots; she quickly recovered; received afterwards some constitutional remedies, Sepia principally, and the next year gave birth to a healthy child with no trouble to herself. Here the characteristic group for Sabina would be: Profuse menses, an actual and dangerous uterine hemorrhage, and the formation of numerous large clots.

Mrs. B., aet. 40, had always been subject to profuse menstruation; never had any children; was a large, fleshy, flabby, bloated-looking woman, with a very sallow complexion, inclined to be (and formerly had been) dropsical from excessive loss of blood. Profuse menstruation, which seems to her to be principally "water and clots;" she says there is no outward flow when she lies still, but the clots pass out of the uterus when she gets up, and also water; she feels so full in the uterus that she must rise to get rid of the clots. She received Sabina, which did not arrest the flooding. At my second visit in the P. M., after giving the Sabina in the A. M., she seemed better, and I believed the Sabina was the right remedy. But she *flowed fearfully during the night*; when I saw her in the morning she was no longer able to rise to get rid of the clots; the flow still continued; she was very low, scarcely able to speak aloud, and in a most critical condition. I gave her the *Ustilago maidis*, in the mother tincture, mixed with water; this remedy, which she ought to have received the day before, saved her. From the moment of commencing with the Ustilago she improved; but she had been so reduced by the enormous loss of blood, that it was two or three weeks before she was able to sit up a little. For prudential reasons I kept her in bed till after the time of her next monthly period, and a week or two longer; but the menses returned no more. And now, after the lapse of six months, it may suffice to say that she has continued to improve in health, and is thankful to believe that her old difficulty has left her for good. Turning to Ustilago in Hale's "Characteristics of New Remedies," you will find among numerous other symptoms of this patient: "*Menorrhagia at the climacteric period; Active and constant flowing, with frequent clots.*" The knowledge of either Helonias or Ustilago to be gleaned from this book, as utilized in a single case such as I have cited, will many times repay the cost of the whole work.

Wm. J., a colored man, aet. 50, had been a night watchman in a mill for some years, and, like many others thus engaged, had gotten into the habit of taking very little sleep by day. He was also a great consumer of tobacco, both in chewing and in smoking. Having lost his situation by the closure of the mill, in the effort to support his family after a long season of involuntary idleness he undertook to chop wood at some place two miles from home. This was in March; the weather was very severe; he was much exposed, and in order to get any thing done at so great a distance it was necessary to start very early in the morning. Then after working till dark in the afternoon, he had his long walk home, and after supper, instead of going to rest from the labors of such a day, he would work till near midnight, making birch brooms to increase his scanty earnings. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that he was seized

with a hemiplegia of the left side; he could not raise his arm, and could scarcely hobble across the room. I ordered him to omit coffee, stop his tobacco, and keep very still, and gave him the mother tincture of Nux vom. in water, strong enough for him to taste it. With this he recovered; but from some imprudent exertion he very soon had a relapse and was worse than before. This time he was frightened enough to keep quiet, and in a few weeks he was able to work again, having received nothing but the tincture of Nux vom. as above, a dose four times a day. Here the bad effects of the excessive use of tobacco and of the loss of sleep unite with the *left side* paralysis to make up a group strongly characteristic of Nux vom., which, accordingly, for this poor man wrought a most gratifying cure. In a similar partial *left side* paralysis, to which another patient of mine, an over-worked mother and sewing woman, is subject, aggravated always by mental distress or excitement, I have found the same remedy very efficacious, although it could not restore to the chronically affected side and limbs the vigor they had in former years.

Having given several cases illustrating the characteristics of remedies administered in the very lowest homoeopathic preparations, I will conclude this paper with one in which *the very highest potency* hitherto known was employed with equally prompt and manifest success. Mrs. R., aet. 40, had been for several years subject to the attack of Hay Asthma, which very punctually made its appearance about the first of May. Last year she first came under my care, having been brought to death's door and her life despaired of under the influence of powerful drugs. By the aid of the two-hundredth of two or three remedies, which seemed successively indicated in her then condition, she was promptly relieved, and recovered in a short time. This year, in anticipation of her danger, and as being particularly suited to her state, on the 13th of April I gave her a few powders of Arsen. 30, which seemed to have kept back the asthma till about the end of the first week in June. Then she sent for me, from some distance in the country, but on the very day after I had gone to attend the meeting of the American Institute at Niagara. Being informed of my absence, she declared she would sooner die than have any of the other physicians, "for," she said, "they would kill her anyhow." So she waited and suffered, receiving some help, however, from a few powders of mine which she found in the house. As soon as possible on the morning of my return I visited her; found her suffering with profound nervous debility; she could neither lie down nor sit up with comfort, from the great distress of breathing incident to her complaint, but was most *relieved by walking out in the open air*, although scarcely able to stand when supported on either side. From protracted suffering, loss of sleep and inability to take food, she was completely worn out. I gave her at once one dose of Nux vom. of the *millionth potency* (a blank powder dissolved in water to take during the day), and another powder of the Nux vom. ^{mmm} (1000000th) to take at bed-time; she declared she felt better before I left the house. When I came the next day she stirred round and got me a lunch, to show how smart she was, and the week following she walked four miles to town, without feeling the worse for it the next day. Seldom have I witnessed a more decided and powerful action of any medicine than this, which, by making a prompt and perfect cure proved itself to have been, even in the *millionth* potency, exactly homoeopathic to the whole case.

And lest any should suppose that this lady recovered without aid from actual medicine, I will relate another case showing the still more active operation of pellets from the same tiny vial of the millionth potency of Nux vom. Mrs. P., a lady who in consequence of "spinal weakness" and general debility had for a long time suffered from constipation and difficult evacuation of scybalous stools at long intervals, took at bed-time a few of these pellets. The next morning her husband informed me that very much to her surprise she had had a stool more prompt, natural and easy than she had known for years before. After two or three days she took another dose of the same medicine, which with equal promptness followed the next morning by a similar discharge. A third dose of Nux vom. ^{mmm}, taken of her own accord

and too soon after the second, brought her into the following condition: "*Awoke at four A. M., with much suffering, and was attacked with a watery diarrhoea with severe tenesmus, not relieved after stool, and much burning at the anus.*" These were her own words; she had never been subject to diarrhoea, was in her usual health when she took the Nux vom., and was perfectly satisfied that this medicine alone caused this attack, which kept her in bed a whole day. I directed her to inhale the vapor of Camphor once an hour, and this gradually removed the whole difficulty, so that she was about again the next day. Subsequently this lady found that by taking a dose of Nux. vom. ^{mmm} twice a week, her bowels would be kept in a very natural condition, a condition unknown to her for fifteen years previous."

Notes

¹ A very free adaptation and translation of the motto: When, therefore, I gave my mind to medical studies, I did not intend anything new or unheard of, but only to show by certain and indubitable reasoning, or to deduce from the very condition of human nature itself, those things which belong to the best practice.

² Symptomen Codex, Vol. I., p. 699.

³ Ibid, pp. 699, 700.

⁴ Bönninghausen's Homoeopathic Therapeia of Intermittent and other Fevers. Translated with the Addition of the New Remedies, by A. Korndoerfer, M. D., Boericke & Tafel, 1873.

⁵ Ibid. page 28. - In "The Characteristics of the New Remedies," third edition, 1873, Dr. E. M. Hale likewise gives: "Ague and Fever, with nocturnal sweat with chilliness from motion or removal of the covering." In this connection it is interesting to note the sum total of this invaluable remedy as stated in "The outlines of Materia Medica; Regional Symptomatology, and a Clinical Dictionary. By Henry Buck, M. R.C. S., member of the British Homoeopathic Society, London, 1865: EUPATORIUM. *Vegetable Antimony*. Has been used for some kinds of remittent fever, or those resembling typhoid; also for a peculiar eruption about the scrotum and thighs. It was proposed as a substitute for bark." But this must not be taken for a fair sample of what is really a very elaborate work; which, however, is as little known in this country as, from it, the Eupatorium would seem to be in England.

⁶ "Frost mit Durst. - Frost meistens mit Durst. - Die Hitze ist meistens ohne Durst." Versuch einer Homöopathischen Therapie der Wechsel- und anderer Fieber zunächst für angehende Homöopathiker, herausgegeben von C. v. Bönninghausen. Febris infinitas causas pro suis proximis agnoscit. Boerhave. Aphor. 583. - Zweite vermehrte und gänzlich umgearbeitete Auflage, I. Theil. Die Pyrexie. Leipzig, 1864.

⁷ Bönninghausen's Essay on the homoeopathic treatment of intermittent fevers. Translated and edited by C. J. Hempel, M.D. - Quisquis experimentis in se credere debet. Celsus, IV. New York: Wm. Radde, 1845.

⁸ Materia Medica Pura. By Samuel Hahnemann. N. Y. Wm. Radde, 1846: - Vol. III. p. 9.

⁹ Text-Book of Materia Medica. By A. Lippe, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica at the Homoeopathic College of Pennsylvania. Phila.: A. J. Tafel, 1866.

¹⁰ G. H. G. Jahr's Manual of Homoeopathic Medicine. Translated from the German by the authority of the North American Academy of Homoeopathic Healing Art, with an introduction and some additions by C. Hering, M.D. - Allentown, Pa., 1835. This first American edition of a Homoeopathic Materia Medica, was translated and edited by several persons. - The Repertory to it, said by Dr. Lippe, Phila. Journ. of Hom. Vol. I., p. 431, and by Dr. F. R. McManus, of Baltimore, to be "the best published in the English language," was the work of Dr. A. Bauer.

¹¹ Manual of Homoeopathic Medicine, by G. H. G. Jahr. Translated by P. F. Curie, M.D. Second edition, London, 1847.

¹² The Homoeopathic Materia Medica, arranged systematically and practically by A. Teste, Phila., 1854. p. 364.

¹³ Hahnemannian Monthly, Vol. VIII., pp. 393, 449.

¹⁴ Amerikanische Arzneiprüfungen, p. 130.

¹⁵ Since born in good order and well-conditioned.

(On Characteristic Symptoms, by J. H. P. Frost, M.D., The Hahnemannian Monthly vol. 10 (1874-1875), p. 97-106, 145-151)