

Frederica E. Gladwin



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1900 - A Proving of Ergot

"May 5, 1895, Mrs. B., a large, light-complexioned Swiss, took Ergot with suicidal intent.

For the first few days there was a passive, uterine hemorrhage, with intense burning in the abdomen, after which the hemorrhages became profuse, were bright red, came in gushes, were worse from motion and were hot like steaming hot water; a cessation of the hemorrhage for a few hours was followed by large, dark clots and hemorrhage again the next day. Since then menses have delayed from three weeks to three months, and when they did appear were very profuse, like hemorrhages.

For a long time after the first hemorrhages had ceased there continued an olive green leucorrhoea which left a stain upon the clothing which looked, after washing, like indelible ink.

Shortly after taking the Ergot she had what she called weak spells, which lasted for an hour and a half to two hours. They came suddenly, with the sensation as though the heart stopped beating and there was something heavy in the chest; then followed roaring in head, dimness of vision, 'ears shut up,' and rapid, oppressed breathing. All through the spell fingers were spread wide apart and partly flexed; there were cramps in the feet, numbness and stiffness all over, coldness, could not swallow, felt as though something had closed in the throat; she was conscious, and thought herself dying. The spell ended with violent nausea and vomiting, which started a profuse hemorrhage followed by labor pains. During the spell a circle, the circumference of which began at the wing of the nose on one side and extended around under the chin to opposite wing, was dead white, with a greenish tint; the lips were pale; a line one-sixteenth of an inch wide along the outer edge of vermilion border was dead white. These spells occurred frequently, the cramps becoming more marked until, on May 13th, eight days after taking the Ergot, the patient recognized them as spasms.

The spasms began with chilliness, then yawning, tingling in fingers, nausea, jaws locked so firmly that teeth upon upper jaw overlapped nearly to gums upon lower jaw, an impossibility at other times. A piece of the front tooth was broken off. The fingers were clenched, feet drawn under; sensation of hard pressure in suprasternal fossa; numbness all over. Spasms were tonic throughout. She lay on the floor rigid, was perfectly conscious through it all, knew her husband thought her dead, and she feared they would bury her alive; wondered why her teeth didn't ache, as there were at other times very sensitive. She tried to speak but could not, she tried to move but could not. Spasm lasted a half hour, after which she complained of being very tired. A half hour after spasm teeth began to ache. During spasm face was pale, with blueness about the mouth. She explained that it felt as though someone were pulling the strings in her just as she had seen her little boy pull the strings in a chicken's claw.

Spasms became less general, had them frequently in hands and arms, or feet, legs and hips, beginning in feet and going up. As they became less general, spasms in uterus became more

marked; exertion like a long walk would bring a general spasm again. Even yet she complains of frequent numbness in arms and fingers, and cramps in fingers.

A few hours after first general spasm she had an attack of nosebleed; blood was bright red, profuse, hot; she said it came so fast that it went down her throat, and kept coming up a long time afterward. Internal burning was a marked symptom - 'Burning on the inside, would like to put ice in, but icy coldness on the outside;' goose flesh, cold perspiration on scalp; felt as though hair was standing up; wrapped up and sat with feet in oven, but could not get warm externally, though felt as if she was burning up internally.

Sleepless and restless all night; sensation of pins and needles sticking into her; couldn't lie in bed because it was so soft it jarred if she moved and jarring caused pain. She went from bed to floor, then to chair, then to floor in next room, then sat on stairs, then went back to floor on her own room, then downstairs; could not keep still. Restlessness has been marked all through the provings.

Nausea for six days after the Ergot; could retain nothing eaten; even water came up at once; much soreness in abdomen, with sensation of pins and needles pressing outwards.

Skin flushed; if scratches ever so lightly every finger-mark turns slowly white; in a minute or two it turns greenish-white; in ten or fifteen minutes flush returns.

Face changes color, red, blue, white, spotted red and white. Patient became much emaciated everywhere except abdomen, which remains very large.

A year after taking the Ergot menses delayed seven weeks, when she discharged a sac about the size of a bantam's egg, which contained only a watery fluid; at that time had a profuse, offensive, dark flow, with clots.

Two years after the Ergot she gave birth to a boy. A month before the birth violent labor pains set in; could hardly bear them they were so severe, especially in the sacral region; the membrane ruptured, and a quantity of amniotic fluid escaped, so that the abdomen decreased very much in size; the fluid escaped with every pain; os slightly dilated. Patient remained in bed two days, when the pains had entirely ceased excepting a throbbing in sacral region. She went about her work again. Abdomen steadily increased in size until it became very distended. In a month labor pains again began. They came on in the afternoon and lasted until 3 A. M., then ceased, returned at 11 A. M., violent and frequent; seemed more like spasms than labor pains; after a while grew less frequent and less severe. Examination showed os completely dilated and membranes protruding. On account of the great distension of the uterus, I ruptured the membranes, when the pains became stronger and more frequent for awhile; at about 4 P. M., they ceased entirely. I then introduced the forceps and took the child, a good-sized boy, measuring seventeen inches around the shoulders. He was so nearly dead that it took twenty minutes by the watch to induce him to breathe, and it was ten minutes longer before he made any kind of a sound. The placenta came with a pain; flow was profuse but no hemorrhage, and the patient made an ordinarily rapid recovery.

Three years after the Ergot the patient had what seemed to be an attack of cholera morbus. There was burning. The attack came suddenly, great prostration, rapid emaciation, anxious expression on face, eyes sunken; restlessness; great thirst, but a drink of water came up as soon it was down; worse at night, and pain with stool. She improved slowly upon Ars. until I found her one day with coverings pulled up to knees and her feet pressed against the iron bedstead. She apologized, saying they felt so burning hot she had to put them upon something cold. Examination showed the feet and legs to be icy cold. Then I remembered that she had had a similar attack about a month after taking the Ergot. I gave *Secale m.* and a marked and rapidly improvement followed.

She used to be a Pulsatilla patient, but since the Ergot she has developed a most violent temper; at times she becomes furiously angry at the merest trifle, wants to swear. her temper frightens herself; she fears she will injure someone in them.

Has spells of great restlessness and anguish at night; sees people in the room, scolds them, says they are cause of all her trouble; goes to them to shake them and then discovers no one is there; she walks the floor; there is great tingling of arms and fingers; picks up sewing-machine and walks around the room with it because she must have something pulling upon her arms; she cannot keep still, much less stay in bed. Something tells her to take her little boy and go to the cemetery and kill him and then kill herself; she argues with herself that it would be wrong, but the other voice tells her she must do it. During the argument it seems to her that to kill herself and child would be the right thing to do. With the daylight, these mental symptoms disappear, and then she is depressed and worried for fear she will kill her child in some of the spells; fears she will become insane; says I would pity her if I could only know how real those things are in those spells and how awful they are.

This last winter she had an abortion of two months; took cold, suppressed the flow, and had puerperal fever, during which many of her old Ergot symptoms reappeared.

The baby born two years after the Ergot is a fat, rugged-looking little fellow, but is quickly prostrated when ill; he has dilated pupils; jerking of muscles in sleep; starts at sudden or loud sounds. When sick is always taken suddenly, has burning fever and usually bright red cheeks; starts out of sleep and cries out as though frightened. When teething had tonic spasms, which closely resembled his mother's. One night, when about eight months old, had an attack of metallic, mirthless laughter, which lasted half an hour continuously, and sounded like an adult laugh. It left the baby much prostrated; it was a week before he was himself again. When a year and a half old he had an attack of diarrhoea; stool was offensive, excoriating, worse at night; great restlessness; thirst, drinks a swallow or two, but it comes up immediately; anxious expression on the face. Sent Ars. at midnight and saw him twelve hours afterwards. Stools had ceased since the medicine. He had emaciated during the night; was pale, had dark rings around the eyes, anxious expression upon the face even when asleep, and the skin was cold. There was great restlessness; could not keep still a minute; his mother was walking the floor with him, and he was constantly changing his position in her arms; he would put his head upon one of her shoulders, then upon the other; then back again; then he would lie down in her arms, then up again with his head on her shoulder; not still a minute in any place if awake. He was so exhausted that he would fall asleep only to waken in about two minutes and go through it all again. His mother said he had been like that since the night before. His hands were blue and looked as though they had been soaked in indigo water. Gave Secale m. He soon was asleep and slept ten minutes, wakened, asked for a drink, which he retained; slept again a half hour; the anxious expression left the face and he made rapid recovery.

In going over these cases we find that the symptoms come suddenly; there are sudden fevers, sudden attacks of spasms, sudden hemorrhages; patient is worse at night; worse from a jar. We find constrictions and we find tonic spasms of the flexor muscles. There is great internal burning with external coldness.

Ergot, as brought out in these cases, reminds us very much of Belladonna in the character of the symptoms, and in the fact that the group of symptoms come suddenly, but it has a much slower pace than Bell. The patient had taken Ergot three days before ill enough to send for the doctor. In Bell. we find a well person suddenly sick; in Ergot we find a sick person in whom the groups of symptoms come suddenly.

The nausea and vomiting with the uterine hemorrhage was just as pronounced as Ipecacuanha, but the hemorrhage itself was more like Belladonna.

Ergot reminds us of Arsenicum in the restlessness, anxiety, nightly aggravation and burning fever, but its fever comes suddenly. Like Ars., it has the burning thirst and takes small drinks of water, which are immediately ejected. It has the internal burning, but Ergot has external icy coldness with the burning, and wants to put its cold feet upon cold things to cool off. In Ergot the spasms are tonic and much more marked than in Ars.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Campbell: That is a valuable paper and a grand proving.

Dr. Loos: I have heard that case several times and I have always wished it was in our books for reference.

Dr. Morgan: The child being so affected always was an interesting part of it.

Dr. Gladwin: The child always appeared to be a Belladonna child, but always had to have Secale. Another thing I noticed with the remedy was that when she first took it she had such crude symptoms, but later as the remedy was wearing away the mental symptoms appeared.

Dr. Campbell: How did you dare to let her alone so long?

Dr. Gladwin: I had tried to antidote it but was not successful.

Dr. Campbell: It corroborates the symptoms of a patient of mine, mortification of the entire legs; the condition came on suddenly with severe vomiting and involuntary stool and with anxious face. It transformed the disposition of that patient from a mild woman to one most excitable.

Dr. Carleton: A great long series of questions occurred to me, which I almost fear to fire at the doctor. What was the temper of this woman before the catastrophe?

Dr. Gladwin: She was a Pulsatilla patient; seven or eight months before that she had had a little daughter; had had many miscarriages; never a living child until this one. She had engaged a midwife to take care of her during confinement, but when sent for the midwife would not come, and when I saw her she had been having labor pains for two days; the pains were becoming weaker and weaker and at longer intervals, and dilatation had hardly commenced; she was all tired out and crying; I gave her a dose of Pulsatilla, which started the pains up; there was rapid dilatation and the child was born without any trouble at all. That was about seven months before the taking of the Ergot.

Dr. Carleton: How old a woman was she? Do you think she wanted these miscarriages?

Dr. Gladwin: I did not think so, because I thought the miscarriages due to a sycotic history; the little girl had ophthalmia neonatorum.

Dr. Carleton: Did you know the husband; do you think the husband wanted children?

Dr. Gladwin: I think they both wanted children, because they had adopted a little boy; they seemed to have a strong affection for the adopted boy and the little girl.

Dr. Carleton: She drank her Ergot in a cup of coffee?

Dr. Gladwin: Yes; she had had a little trouble with her husband and took the Ergot in a fit of despondency which followed; and, oh yes, I forgot to mention it, she thought she was about five months pregnant; examination showed the uterus about two inches within the vagina; it had that conical shape you find in a normal uterus, but after she had taken the Ergot and the symptoms came out the uterus assumed that rounded shape that we find in a gravid uterus.

Dr. Carleton: Did you have an opportunity of examining a few drops of the Ergot?

Dr. Gladwin: I saw the bottle; seven months before it had been ordered by the midwife.

Dr. Carleton: Did you taste or smell to see if Ergot was there?

Dr. Gladwin: The bottle was labelled Ergot. I never taste or smell of any drug if I can help it.

Dr. Carleton: The Ergot had stood there all these months? Was it the ordinary tincture of Ergot?

Chairman: The fluid extract is usually used.

Dr. Carleton: What quantity was there in the bottle?

Dr. Gladwin: I do not think the woman knew how much there was. As I remember it was a two ounce bottle, none had been taken from it previously.

Dr. Carleton: She drank this in a cup of coffee; how could she get it all in a coffee cup?

Dr. Gladwin: The woman said she put it all in.

Dr. Carleton: I have one woman that attempted to frighten her husband terribly and did something similar of that, and I discovered in the spittoon nearby most of the offending drug. All the same she had an emetic and had to vomit. Now the question arises, where that Ergot was bought? Another thing, was there no action upon the blood vessels?

Dr. Gladwin: Not unless you could call that flushing of skin a vascular effect.

Dr. Close: And the haemorrhages.

Dr. Gladwin: Yes, the haemorrhages. The violent symptoms did not appear in this case until three days after she had taken the drug, and she didn't confess what she had done until two days later. She was ashamed to tell.

Dr. Carleton: In the course of your management of the case, you did not give her any Ignatia?

Dr. Gladwin: No, sir. It did not look to me like an Ignatia picture.

Dr. Carleton: An Old School physician, one of the real old school type, will give a teaspoonful, and in acute cases a tablespoonful of Ergot, will he not?

Dr. Morgan: I have myself given a full teaspoonful of Ergot.

Chairman: It is routine practice in the Dublin Hospital to give an ounce. I think, after every case, except the primiparae.

Dr. Carleton: And if you have a haemorrhage, you get a tumblerful in time.

Dr. Morgan: There is one thought that calls forth an observation with me. I noticed that early in the case Ergot appeared to be the remedy that was indicated, a peculiar fact that might be construed as an argument in favor of the susceptibility to Ergot from the beginning.

Dr. Gladwin: I do not know very much about Ergot, and I have often wondered if that amount of Ergot was sufficient to poison one who was not susceptible to it. We know that if a Rhus tox. person, or any remedy person, takes his particular remedy, or comes in contact with it, he will take up a proving of that remedy.

Dr. Morgan: It is my opinion that another patient might have taken that without even feeling any effect from it, but this woman was susceptible, and her child was susceptible, too, to Secale, so she was badly poisoned from a small dose.

Dr. Close: The crude was diluted to a considerable extent by the hot coffee, and its activity as a proving agent increased by that means.

Dr. Gladwin: She did not get any real constitutional effect until several days after taking it.

Chairman: Did you use a high potency of Secale? Say, within the first two or three weeks, perhaps?

Dr. Gladwin: No; I did not give Secale for some time, but she improved each time she did receive it.

Dr. Close: It would be interesting to know what a dose of Secale high, in the early stages, would have done.

Chairman: I have had similar experience, though not so severe. A woman took an amount of Ergot, probably one or two ounces, for the purpose of producing a miscarriage; she brought on a miscarriage and also several constitutional symptoms. I gave Secale high as soon as I found out what had been done; she responded immediately and made a most excellent recovery, thereby clearing up some constitutional symptoms which had been present before.

Dr. Loos: Dr. Carleton, you spoke of the drug not being good for a while. Has old Secale ever been proved?

Dr. Carleton: I doubt if it has; it is a well-known fact that it deteriorates rapidly.

Dr. Loos: You do not get the crude symptoms, but would you get the finer symptoms?

Dr. Carleton: I should reason that way.

Dr. Campbell: Dr. Gladwin, have you compared your symptoms with the symptoms in the Materia Medica?

Dr. Gladwin: Quite a number of the symptoms there are not in the Materia Medica; I am still watching the case.

Dr. Campbell: Let us hear further from it them.

Dr. Gladwin: It seems to me, as I have gone over the case, that Belladonna, Arsenicum and Ipecacuanha ought to be antidotes to Ergot.

Dr. Carleton: Yet Belladonna acts on one set of muscular fibres and Ergot on the other.

Dr. Campbell: You want to notice the mental state of the child.

Dr. Gladwin: He is excitable and strikes at the other children; hurts the dog and cat for the pleasure of it.

Dr. Campbell: You will balance your treatment between Belladonna and Ergot in that child, I expect.

Dr. Gladwin: Belladonna often controls his little acute attacks, would that not mean that Ergot is a chronic of Belladonna?

Dr. Carleton: I must confess I am a little sceptical about that proving.

Dr. Gladwin: How would you account for it?

Dr. Carleton: I think a good talk with her husband, and a little mental suggestion, would have straightened her out.

Dr. Gladwin: The misunderstanding with her husband was soon corrected, yet she did not improve.

I must still hold this to be a Secale picture. The patient knew nothing of the pace nor the symptoms of Secale, yet the pace of her sickness and many of the symptoms agree with the proving found in the Materia Medica.

The Materia Medica does not describe a Secale uterine hemorrhage as bright red, sudden, profuse, yet I have seen this verified at the bedside on several occasions. The awful restlessness and the sudden burning fevers have also been verified, yet you will not find them mentioned in the Materia Medica.

Dr. Campbell: Where did you notice the subjective sensation of constriction?

Dr. Gladwin: Around the throat, 'a feeling as if the throat would shut up.' Also about chest." (Frederica. E. Gladwin, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa., A Proving of Ergot, Journal of Homoeopathics vol. 4 (1900), p. 381-391)

1900 - Two Hepar Cases

"Each of the two following cases shows a picture in Hepar life that I have not seen elsewhere. The case of ecchymosis had been presented at the clinics of the two most prominent Homoeopathic Hospitals in Philadelphia, and in both instances the clinician called in the other physicians in the building and held a discussion in regard to the diagnosis of the case. The child did not improve in either instance, therefore I concluded they were not familiar with this image of Hepar also.

Alba H. E., age, 5 years.

Oct. 7, 1899. Ecchymosed spots upon legs since vaccination, five weeks ago; at first they came below the knee only, but now they have appeared above the knee, and upon the hands. Child seems well all day until 5 P. M., when suddenly, there comes upon the leg a swollen spot, about six inches long and three inches wide, which itches, and is sore to touch. During attack, child walks bent with hands resting upon knees, seems sick all over, and soon gives up and goes to bed. She is restless at night, and cries out in sleep. In the morning several ecchymosed spots, varying in size from one-eighth of an inch to an inch in diameter, have appeared upon the site of the swelling, after which the child seems better again until the next

attack. The ecchymosed spots remain three or four days, then fade away. The child received Hepar 55m.

Dec. 28. Only one attack after medicine until now, when the spots are beginning to return. She received another dose of Hepar 55m and there has been no return since."

Mr. K., age, 35 years.

While in my office one evening in February, 1900, for medicine for herself, Mrs. K. remarked that she was much worried about her husband, who would have to undergo an operation. As Mr. K. was a patient of mine, I thought to save myself future trouble I had better investigate the case at once.

My 'tell me about' brought out the fact that a cavity in a tooth had been filled; the tooth had never ached till the night following the operation. The patient supposed all newly filled teeth ached, so endured it, but the next night the pain was more severe. Therefore, upon the following morning, he went to the dentist, who examined the tooth, but could find nothing wrong, and asked him to try it another day; that night the pain was worse, and the next morning found him again at the dentist's, who again examined the filling and again asked him to wait another day as he could find nothing wrong. That night the patient was furious with the pain! The next morning he again visited the dentist; this time he insisted that the filling be removed, wrong or right. The filling seemed all right, but as soon as it was removed the pain ceased. The pain was at all times ameliorated by warm applications. In a few days a hard lump appeared upon the jaw, which grew to the size of a shell-bark. It seemed to be fastened to the bone, but was free from the skin; it was sore to the touch, and wherever touched a pain shot from it up into the tooth.

Again he visited the dentist, who made an examination and informed him that it was a bony tumor, and nothing could be done for it excepting an operation. I told Mrs. K. that if that was true we would perform the operation with sugar pill's, and sent Hepar 55m.

In a week's time, she reported 'tumor' smaller, but toothache had returned. I told her that if Mr. K. would have a little patience, the medicine which brought back the pain would cure it. Next report showed tumor and toothache all gone. There had be no return of either since, but Mr. K's astonishment that sugar pills in the stomach could cure 'a bony tumor on the jaw' hasn't in the least abated, and every customer that dares complain of any physical ill in his store has to listen to the wonder of it."

(Frederica. E. Gladwin, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa., Two Hepar Cases, Journal of Homoeopathics vol. 4 (1900), p. 379-381)

**1907 - The Meeting of the State Homoeopathic Society in the
Materia Medica Woods**

"The State Homoeopathic Society being wearied by its annual repetition of city meetings, decided to celebrate its two hundredth anniversary by convening in the Materia Medica Woods.

When the day arrived, absent minded Dr. Rhus Tox. climbed upon a stone wall and immediately forgot why he climbed there. Dr. Ranunculus Bulbosus who could never stand changes of temperature, donned her yellow picture hat and sat protected in the grass at his feet. A little farther on at the edge of the woods stood the changeable Dr. Pulsatilla, guarded by Dr. Lycopodium, her knight good and true, while old Dr. Silicea, well wrapped to keep himself warm, leaned against the wall nearby and all awaited with different degrees of patience, the train which should bring their medical brethren to this their first convention in the Materia Medica Woods.

At length the whistle sounded. Dr. Rhus Tox. stiffly climbed from his elevated position, placed his hands upon his back and with a wry face, slowly assumed an erect posture and hobbled off toward the station. Dr. Ranunculus Bulbosus who hated to move and couldn't even bear to change her position, carefully readjusted her hat and sat still in the grass awaiting the appearance of the crowd. Dr. Pulsatilla started for the station, then changed her mind and went back, then changed her mind again and started on. Then she began to cry for no reason at all and didn't know what to do until Dr. Lycopodium took off his hat - Dr. Lycopodium always felt better from uncovering his head - and offered her his right arm and led her forward to meet the oncoming friends.

Dr. Silicea had been a stone cutter in his early days, but the work didn't agree with him so he studied medicine. He was a queer old fellow, always chilly and the changes of the weather always found him complaining. He had a habit, with reason, of washing his feet at every opportunity and he was noted for going into fits at the new of the moon. Dr. Silicea didn't care to move so remained with Dr. Ranunculus Bulbosus.

The train stopped and doctors by the hundred alighted. Dr. Rhus Tox. soon found his old classmate and chum, Dr. Bryonia and they walked together from the station. Dr. Rhus Tox. grew better every step of the way but with every step, Dr. Bryonia grew worse. Dr. Rhus Tox. gradually lost the stiffness from his lumbar region and Dr. Bryonia just as gradually developed a stiffness in the lumbar region until by the time they reached the woods, Dr. Bryonia could hardly move for the pain and stiffness and Dr. Rhus Tox. was as lively and limber as any young graduate. Dr. Rhus Tox. soon found a mossy bank for Dr. Bryonia to recline upon while he himself sat upon the swinging branch of a tree where he could keep himself in motion as he talked and so prevent the stiffness returning to his muscles.

The assembly having reached the woods, Dr. Rhododendron, the weather prophet, perched himself upon the highest crag he could find to watch for storms. Dr. Rhododendron considered himself authority upon the weather. He could predict the approach of a storm long before anyone else suspected it. Everyone was hungry by the time the woods were reached, so it was agreed to dine first and have the feast of reason afterward.

Dr. Plumbum was willing to assist in spreading the table but Dr. Sepia who had taken charge, noticed his wrist drop and was afraid he would break the dishes so ordered him to go and rest. Dr. Hydrophobinum was asked to take a bucket and go and hunt for a spring of water but such a look of horror came over his face at the thought of water that Dr. Natrum Muriaticum went instead. Dr. Natrum Muriaticum's extreme thirst would make him find water if anyone could. Hearing a blood curdling shriek as he was starting out with the bucket, Dr. Natrum Muriaticum followed the sound and found that Dr. Bufo's little boy had discovered the spring for him but had fallen in a fit.

Dr. Lachesis was so hungry she couldn't wait for dinner so offered to prepare the oysters thinking to help herself while so doing. Dr. Lachesis was such an inveterate talker that Dr. Sepia didn't want to be bothered with her so told her that handling oysters would ruin her dinner gown. Dr. Lachesis insisted that all of her gowns should be made décolleté for she could never understand why fashion should dictate those suffocating high collars. Dr. Sulphur was more hungry than Dr. Lachesis, so he said he would open the oysters, for nothing could hurt his clothes and Dr. Sepia agreed that his clothes were too dirty already to be injured by added dirt. Dr. Carbo Vegetabilis disliked work but even if she had enjoyed it, she was too timid to offer her assistance so she sat upon a pile of brushwood and fanned herself. Dr. Calcarea Carbonica, fair, fat and full of anxiety lest the dinner be delayed, hurried up to help, but her exertion immediately brought on palpitation, and a profuse perspiration started out all over her so that she had to stop and quiet herself.

Dr. Capsicum who was very fond of coffee even though it did nauseate him, took the mill and began to grind the coffee which Dr. Angustura had brought. Dr. Arsenicum, too restless to keep still and glad of a chance to get warm, hastened to build the fire. Dr. Nux Vomica, who never was quite happy unless he was angry about something, looked upon the coffee making with disapproval. He preferred brandy, but Drs. Hyoscyamus and Rhus Tox. belonging to the Temperance Fraternity were opposed to alcoholics of all kinds and insisted that none be allowed at the meeting. Dr. Calendula the specialist in lacerated wounds, thought they were paying altogether too much attention to the dinner. He was never hungry but things tasted all right when he did eat them.

The dinner was finally announced. It was in the nature of a collation, each bringing what food he most enjoyed and such a collection never appeared at table before. Dr. Calcarea had brought a basket of boiled eggs and raw potatoes and wheat. Dr. Calcarea was one of the originators of the raw vegetable diet fad. She even approved of chalk and coal at times. Dr. Mezereum and Dr. Sanicula had brought a nice fat ham but insisted upon eating all of the fat themselves. Dr. Natrum Muriaticum contributed fish. Dr. Antimonium Crudum, he of "ecstatic love in the moon light" fame, brought pickled cucumbers. Dr. Allium Cepa brought onions and Dr. Hepar Sulphur furnished the vinegar and Dr. Natrum Muriaticum furnished the salt for them. Dr. Belladonna was exceedingly fond of lemonade and as Dr. Arsenicum had brought some lemons, he hunted up Dr. Argentum Nitricum who had the reputation of being such an inveterate sugar eater that he was always making himself sick by it. Sure enough, Dr. Argentum Nitricum had brought a bag of sugar so Dr. Belladonna made the lemonade. Dr. Alumina brought rice but didn't stop to cook it. She was one of the raw diet converts. Dr. Pulsatilla's appetite was so indistinct that she didn't quite know what she did want, so brought nothing at all. Dr. Chamomilla brought sauerkraut and then lost his temper when someone told him he would have the colic if he ate of it. Dr. Magnesia Carbonica brought meat sandwiches and Dr. Ignatia brought cheese sandwiches. No one living outside of the Materia Medica world will ever know all that was upon that table. An outsider might even wonder why that pile of slate pencils lay beside Dr. Nitric Acid's plate. Just after everyone was seated at the table Drs. Calcarea and Phosphorus came bringing the cans of ice cream that had been forgotten.

It was amusing to note how in seating themselves at the table, like had attracted like. At the end of the table sat Dr. Symphytum the noted army surgeon. He really is not so warlike as his name sounds but he knows all about bruises, sprains, gunshot wounds and fractures, and he can make broken bones grow together when they don't want to. At his right, sat Little Dr. Calcarea Phosphorica. Dr. Calcarea Phosphorica had rachitis as a child which, being improperly treated, left her with a lateral curvature of the spine, in fact it left all of her bones curved also, but in spite of her deformity, she is a successful specialist in bone troubles. She can stop the suppuration of bones and joints and it is said that she can make fractures unite after everyone else has failed in the attempt. Next to Dr. Calcarea Phosphorica, were the noted surgeons Drs. Hepar and Silicea. It is said that they can remove foreign bodies from the patient without the use of the knife. Next to Dr. Phosphorus, the great necrosis specialist, were Drs. Arsenicum and Mercurius, who worked along the same line. Dr. Hypericum sat beside Dr. Ledum and discussed punctured wounds, though Dr. Hypericum's province was in wounds where the nerves had been lacerated. Dr. Sulphur, the philosopher, is consulting physician for almost everybody. If anyone has a case that doesn't improve as it should, Dr. Sulphur is called in to help. It is really wonderful how he can help almost everybody. He sat at the table with his grandson, Dr. Nux Vomica, on one side of him and his grand-father, Dr. Psorinum, on the other, forming quite a family party. These three were much interested in diseases that had been suppressed by drugs. Drs. Allium Cepa, Euphrasia and Merc. Cor. attracted much attention by their tears. Drs. Euphrasia and Mercurius Corrosivus's eyes were

red from them but they were not tears of grief, for Drs. Allium Cepa, Euphrasia and Mercurius Corrosivus were only eye specialists who had taken cold. Drs. Lachesis, Lycopodium, Mercurius Jodatus Ruber and Mercurius Jodatus Flavus, the throat specialists sat together and discussed the merits of sore throats that began on the left side or on the right. Drs. Tellurium and Pulsatilla, ear specialists, talked about acrid and bland discharges from the ears. Over-worked Dr. Digitalis, the noted heart specialist, had been so extremely busy that he had feared until just before the train started that he would be unable to attend but there he was with his friends, Dr. Cactus, the grand and Dr. Kalmia Latifolia and Dr. Spigelia, and all the lesser heart specialists sat near and listened to the words of the big four. Dr. Rhus Tox. left his friend, Dr. Bryonia, for a while and engaged his enemies, Dr. Anacardium and Dr. Croton Tiglium, the skin specialists, in a heated discussion in regard to the proper treatment of vesicular eruptions. Dr. Agaricus and Dr. Actea Racemosa, nerve specialists, discussed chorea with Dr. Cicuta, who sometimes treated chorea, though he preferred epilepsy. The alienists, Drs. Stramonium, Hyoscyamus and Belladonna, knowing so well the success of homoeopathy in mental diseases, discussed the advisability of urging the society to demand of the state a few more homoeopathic insane asylums. Dr. Stannum and Dr. Tuberculinum, lung specialists, agreed that there was altogether too much emphasis placed upon the open air treatment for consumptives. Homoeopathy was the proper weapon with which to fight the great white plague and there was every reason why there should be homoeopathic hospitals for the consumptives. On either side of Drs. Sepia and Kreosotum were grouped the specialists in women's diseases and on either side of Drs. Cannabis Sativa, Nitric Acid and Thuja were the specialists in men's diseases and so on all down the tables, those in sympathy with each other were gathered together while here and there was a general practitioner, the good old family doctor, who listened to all the woes of all of his patients and cured them whatever the trouble. Just as all were seated, in rushed Dr. Aconite, full of feverish anxiety, and threw himself into a seat beside Dr. Spongia. He had just come from a violent case of croup and wanted to talk it over.

In the midst of the dinner, Dr. Colocynthis, who had been exceedingly angry about something a short time before, became doubled up with colic, and Dr. Cuprum assisted him from the table. Just as everything was quiet again, Dr. Drosera, who had difficulty in swallowing, was unfortunate enough to have some bread crumbs catch in his throat, after which he kept up an incessant hacking cough, which ended in vomiting.

When dinner was over, Dr. Phosphorus, the toastmaster, arose and called upon Dr. Lachesis to answer the toast "To the Ladies." Dr. Lachesis was a proud woman, but was fond of talking. She usually went from one subject to another with great rapidity, but for once she kept to her subject. She said she thought women should go into the professions, but they should never marry. If women never married, they would never have cause for jealousy, and much unnecessary sadness would be left out of their lives, etc. Dr. Phosphorus then called upon Dr. Chamomilla to answer the toast "To the Children." Dr. Chamomilla said he didn't agree with Dr. Lachesis, for if the women didn't marry there would be no dear little spunky babies that made you walk the floor all night with them, when they had the colic. The first sad chord was struck when Dr. Ignatia was called upon to answer for "The Absent Members." Dr. Ignatia was highly sensitive and conscientious and when she spoke of those who would never again meet with the State Society, Dr. Natrum Muriaticum, Dr. Pulsatilla and several others had to get their handkerchiefs to wipe away their tears.

I would like to tell you how Dr. Sulphur responded to the toast, "The Passing of the General Practitioner," and how Dr. Chininum Sulphuricum responded to "Homoeopathy." I would like to tell you about Dr. Malandrinum's paper on vaccination and the discussion it brought forth. I would like to tell about all the other papers that were read at that meeting, but time forbids.

Therefore, I will leave you to meet again next year in the Materia Medica Woods of Pennsylvania.”

(F. E. Gladwin, M. D. Philadelphia, Pa., The Meeting of the State Homoeopathic Society in the Materia Medica Woods, The North American Journal of Homoeopathy vol. 55 (1907), p. 680-685. Read before the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.)

1911 - The Patient - Mercurius cyanatus

“There are scattered through the Materia Medica remedies whose names appear almost synonymous with disease names. On hearing of Spongia, who does not think of croup? The thought flies instantly from Cactus grandiflora and Digitalis to heart troubles; from Belladonna to scarlet fever, and so on. In the same way, Mercurius cyanatus suggests diphtheria. This is not fair to the remedies, for each remedy has an individuality of its own, just as each patient has his own individuality. No one sick-making cause can imitate, by its own characteristic symptoms, the individuality of the remedy; but it can cause, in the patient, symptoms other than its own, which do resemble the individuality of the remedy; therefore we should not think of remedy and disease, but of remedy and patient.

There has been no real proving of MERCURIUS CYANATUS, but from poisoning cases and clinical cases there have been gathered symptoms which show his strong personality. Indeed, he has proven himself one of those strong characters who are a tower of strength in the hour of need. When we do need him, we are like the little lame boy who, looking across from where he was sitting in a Chicago department store, observed a toy locomotive standing upon a toy track and said, “I need an engine and a railroad very much, and I need them right this minute.” When we need MERCURIUS CYANATUS, we need him very much, and we need him on the minute, for he often works down in the borderland.

His individuality is expressed in his

Excitement and anger.

Restless, sleepless nights.

Loquacity and delirium.

Lack of vital heat.

Extreme prostration.

Faintness and cyanosis.

Sensation of coldness; his skin is icy cold; hands and feet are cold. General debility; he is too weak to stand.

Face pale and wan.

Aversion to food; aversion to soups and hot drinks; they taste too salt.

Taste bitter.

Saliva profuse, and has what is known as the mercurial odor.

Intense, burning thirst, but drinks are soon vomited.

Vomiting frequent after drinking.

Nausea constant.

MERCURIUS CYANATUS expresses himself in the character of his ulcers:

Ulcers, many and spreading.

- Sometimes begin as blisters.
- May be round or irregular.
- Surrounded by bright red, and have a grayish base or are covered with a grayish coating.
- Scattered along the edge of the tongue and inside of the cheeks.

Throat is sore (pharynx).

- Swallowing difficult.

Gums swollen and painful.

- Covered with a thick adhesive, whitish coating.
- Have a violet border.

He is hemorrhagic, bleeding from nose, bowels and stomach.

Hemorrhoidal tumors, small, around the anus.

Rectum, frequent urging to stool.

- Diarrhoea.
- Tenesmus before and during evacuation.
- Stool liquid, slimy, bloody.
- Obstinate constipation.

Retention or complete suppression of urine.

- Urine highly albuminous.

Extremities, slight spasms.

Heart, strong palpitation or a weak heart-beat.

- Pulse weak and slow.

These complete the picture of MERCURIUS CYANATUS. What is the diagnosis?

In looking through the books we find that it has been needed by patients during Bright's disease, malignant dysentery, diphtheria, follicular tonsillitis, ulceration of the tonsils. We know that whatever the disease may be, the MERCURIUS CYANATUS patient will be cured by MERC. CY. As an illustration, I will cite a case:

Mrs. E., aged 28 years. Light hair, blue eyes, well developed; had been a physical culture teacher and a fairly healthy girl until the time of her marriage, about seven months previously. From the time of her marriage she began to emaciate; didn't feel well; had a profuse leucorrhoea. For the first time in her life she submitted to Old School treatment. Her physician removed, surgically, small growths from about the anus, which he told her were hemorrhoids. A small, sore spot within the vulva he diagnosed an abrasion. This was followed by a smooth eruption, small spots so thickly scattered all over her that she asked if they were measles. The eruption itched over the pubis only. With the eruption were pain and stiffness in the large joints. Following the eruption, round, sore spots, the size of her thumb-nail, resembling denuded spots, appeared upon the back of the tongue, which had been thickly coated yellow. Tiny round ulcers upon the tonsils followed the sore tongue; these were cauterized with nitrate of silver, and a gargle was used. While the ulcers were upon the tonsils, a row of white spots appeared upon the mucous membrane edge of the uvula which itched intensely. These were suppressed by mercurial ointment. Following the disappearance of the ulcers from the tonsils, small, round ulcers appeared upon the uvula and velum. At this time, three months

after the ulcers first appeared and seven months from the time she began to be ill, she returned to her father's home and consulted her old physician. I found her

Emaciated, pale and wan.

Throat -

- Swallowing difficult because painful.

- Pain, aggravated by sweet things. Aggravated by sour things. Aggravated by coughing. Aggravated morning and evening. Wakened her during the night.

Ulcers, round, thickly studded the uvula and velum, and extended between the jaws and across the mucous membrane of the cheeks nearly to the corners of the mouth, like a string of beads.

- Those upon the velum were shallow, with lardaceous bases.

- Those in the cheeks were deep and partly covered by thick, dirty white coating, and were surrounded by a ring of deep red, which spread out, growing fainter until it blended with the color of the membrane lining of the cheeks.

- Very sensitive, bleeding if touched; were round or nearly so and spread until the edges united with the ulcer next in line.

- Round, on a swollen base, appeared upon the border of the tongue about one half inch on each side of center of tip.

Gums were swollen, violet in color and nearly covered with an adherent exudation, yellowish white, through which the violet of the gums could be seen.

- There was an oozing of blood from the gums.

- Spots of dried blood were upon the exudation and between and upon the teeth.

Cheeks swollen.

Teeth slightly loosened and pus exuded from between teeth and gums.

Saliva profuse, bloody, flows from mouth during sleep, and stains light brown. Microscopical examination showed motile spirochetes in abundance.

Breath, odor strongly mercurial and penetrating; could detect it upon entering the house.

Intense retching was followed by a flow of stringy, bloody saliva until a lump of clotted blood and mucus was ejected.

Pain along dental nerves; worse at night.

- Amelioration, listening to soft music. Amelioration if her mother gently rubbed her hands and arms in a downward direction.

Extremities.

- Pains in the long bones.

- Stiffness in large joints.

Sleepless, restless, full of anxiety at night; nervous, jerking of arms at night, quieted by mother sitting beside her and gently rubbing arms and hands.

- Could sleep after 5:30 A.M. and after a warm drink.

Weakness intense.

Thirst intense.

“Fainted” one day at stool.

- Moaned constantly.

- Twitching of arms and legs.

- Eyes staring.

- She regained consciousness when they placed her full length upon the floor.

Constipation obstinate, stool streaked with blood.

Abdomen distended and heavy.

Leucorrhoea yellow, profuse.

Chilliness, coldness, wanted something warm to the face; wanted to be well covered.

MERCURIUS CYANATUS 10m. One dose was given.

For twenty-four hours the patient was much worse, then improvement began. All of the symptoms disappeared under three doses, the second, given one month after the first and the third, three and one-half months after the first. Three and one-half months after the first dose an ulcer appeared upon the tonsil where the first ulcer was cauterized. This lone last ulcer disappeared under the third dose of the remedy. By this time she had regained her flesh and looked and felt better than at any time since her marriage. Two months after the first dose, Wasserman’s “Blood Test” showed only faintly positive.

Not all of these symptoms have been brought out in MERCURIUS CYANATUS proving, but the patient had the general weakness, the coldness, the restlessness, the hemorrhagic condition, the restless, sleepless nights, the thirst, etc., of the remedy; she also had the characteristic ulcers and gums. She was steadily growing worse until she received MERCURIUS CYANATUS 10m. There was an aggravation for the first twenty-four hours; then the patient improved steadily under its influence. It is but fair to the remedy to consider the case a verification of its work in the field of a dreaded chronic miasm.

The prescription was made for the patient, not for the disease. The case illustrates the deep, long action of the single dose of the high potency of the remedy. It also illustrates the power of the high potency of the remedy, prescribed homoeopathically, to make the patient appear decidedly worse before it makes him feel better. It demonstrates the success of the homoeopathic remedy after months of failure with crude drugs, internally and externally.”

(Frederica E. Gladwin, M.D., H.M., Philadelphia, Pa., *The Patient: Mercurius cyanatus*, *The Homoeopathician* vol. 1, No. 2, February 1912, p. 77-79. Presented, together with the paper on Stramonium (printed in the January HOMOEOPATHICIAN) in the *Materia Medica* Section of the International Congress at London, 1911.)

1912 - Homoeopathic Prescriptions for Chickens

ROUGH FEATHERS

“Mrs. A. - used to hatch incubator chicks by the hundred, and before she gave them homoeopathic remedies she lost them. One day she said to me:

What is the matter with those chicks? Their feathers point every way; they look greasy, and every bit of dust that comes their way sticks to them; they have a watery stool which is offensive.

They certainly were a disreputable looking lot of chickens. SULPH. 200 was given them.

About six weeks later I passed that way, and saw a flock of overgrown chicks, whose feathers were so full and glossy, and they looked so pretty and healthy that I expressed my admiration

of them. Mrs. A. said: Those are the greasy, dirty, scrawny chickens that we gave SULPH. 200 to the last time you were out.

GAPES

At the age of five weeks, many of Mrs. A's chickens died of "the gaps." They would yawn until they fell over and died. Mrs. A. said to her daughter:

If SULPH. will cure men of lice why won't it cure chickens of gape-worms.

Mrs. A. was so anxious to make the test that she would not permit any one to remove the worms from the chickens' throats, but administered SULPH. 200 instead.

The chicks stopped yawning, even those that lay on the ground gasping and exhausted, recovered.

Mrs. A. had a neighbor half of whose flock had gaped themselves to death, and the rest were trying to do the same. Mrs. A. was so delighted with her discovery that she went over and gave SULPH. 200 to the surviving half and saved them.

WHITE DIARRHOEA

Mrs. A. lost many chicks from diarrhoea, which made its appearance when they were five days old. Out of six brooders she would gather up about twenty-five dead ones each day, which soon depopulated the brooders. She disinfected brooders and incubators in vain. She dosed the chicks with all the remedies suggested by the chicken-feed dealers and veterinarians, and still she lost them just the same. She used to say:

Doctor, if you would only put your mind to it you would find me a remedy that would save these chicks.

So one day I watched them a while and found:
Stool was watery, straining during and after stool.
Protrusion of rectum during and after stool.

MERC. SOL. was given and Mrs. A. lost fewer chickens, but she still lost some.

The next year when the white diarrhoea appeared, MERC. SOL. did no good, and again Mrs. A. appealed to the doctor and the doctor remembered that the chickens had been taken from the warm incubators and placed in the brooders, which were not so warm. Adding this thought to the symptoms already obtained, she suggested DULC., which was given in the two hundredth potency and a larger percentage was saved than the previous year; but the next year DULC. was of little use.

Then Mrs. A. remembered how useful SULPH. had been with the dirty chick and the gape chick, and concluded that, as they would need SULPH. when they come to the gape age, the probabilities were that they were Sulphur chickens from the time they were hatched. Since that time she has made it a practice to give them SULPH. 200 when a day or two old. Then if she discovers one little chick with symptoms of white diarrhoea, at the age of five days, she gives them all SULPH. 200 again and now she loses almost no chickens.

WEAK FEET

One day Mrs. A. said:

There are five chickens that have always walked on their legs with their claws turned in, what shall I give them?

After receiving PHOS. 200 these five chicks found that they could walk on their claws the same as the other chicks and did so. Mrs. A. told me afterward that she had about forty

guineas that had the same trouble. All of those that received PHOS. 200, when the trouble was only in their legs and claws, got well; but those that received it after the trouble had advanced up into the body, and one side had become useless, died.”

(Frederica E. Gladwin, M.D., H.M., Philadelphia, Pa., Homoeopathic Prescriptions for Chickens, The Homoeopathician vol. 1, (1912), p. 124-125)