

Herbert M. Maynard

1920 - Clinical Cases

"(1) Corporal L., Australian Engineers, was wounded at Boullecourt, 15/5/1917, and entered hospital two days later with a compound fracture of the left humerus and of the metatarsal bones of the right foot, and eleven pieces of shrapnel of various sizes scattered through his legs and back.

After removal of most of this iron and the application of the necessary splints he got along very well for two days, then developed a temperature of 106° and a general septic condition.

He was intensely restless at first, much worse after midnight, would start up in a fright, said he was double and smooth and was going to die. Desired a little water to drink every few minutes, and would not eat. Later he became stupid; had involuntary evacuations and cold sweat of the legs, and his wounds became extremely offensive in spite of careful dressings. After Arsenicum album 1m. in water every hour for one night, he became rational, asked for some food and ate it. Slept most of the day and made a good recovery without further medication.

(2) Bombardier Perry, after months of trench fighting developed pneumonia, and while waiting to be carried to hospital, was bitten on the middle finger of the right hand by a rat.

When first examined he had consolidation of the lower lobe of the right lung, coarse rales in patches in the left, and his hand and arm nearly to the shoulder was tremendously swollen and black. His expectoration was scanty; very dark and offensive. He was restless, thirsty, had repeated chills and severe pain in the head and arm, which was only made bearable by keeping it immersed in a hot bath.

Though several incisions were made in the hand, at no time was any particular relief experienced and very little pus was found. Whatever discharge occurred was thin, bloody and dark, of a bad odor.

After Arsenicum album 1m. he had his first good sleep, his temperature gradually came down and his recovery was in every way satisfactory.

(3) Mrs. L. While out riding in evening was suddenly taken with abdominal pain and collapse, which was relieved by some hot drink prescribed by a physician, and the patient was told to go home, take a big dose of physic and stay in bed next day.

At midnight I found the patient with a temperature of 96.5°, pulse of 50, and distended abdomen, which was sensitive all over; perhaps a little more so in the lower right quadrant. She had vomited greenish fluid twice, and had had several greenish stools attended with a good deal of griping and much flatulence. She was intensely irritable - nothing could be done quickly enough for her, and she could not bear the pain. After two doses of Chamomilla 1m., ten minutes apart, she went to sleep and slept four hours.

At 8 a. m., she had very little pain, her temperature was 98°, and pulse 60, but her right rectus was rigid, and as soon as it was possible I removed a large highly inflamed appendix, gangrenous for nearly an inch at the tip but not perforated - and her recovery was uneventful

Where extensive adhesions have formed in acute appendicitis and rupture has occurred into this pocket it is not uncommon for a temporary relief of the pain to occur - but in this case there were few adhesions and the appendix was not ruptured.

(4) Mrs. S., following induced abortion of twins at fifth month, developed a septic condition with high temperature, chills and sweat. For a period of a week she had so-called regular treatment - douches, Fowler's Solution, curettage, etc. She steadily became worse - developed cough with bloody expectoration and consolidation in spots in both lungs. Her lochia was thin, not much odor, the uterus was still up nearly to the umbilicus.

Every two or four days she would have a hard chill followed by fever and profuse sweat. Thirst constantly for ice water not only during all stages of the paroxysm, but other times, and ravenous appetite. Lying on the left side would start her coughing at once, and any exertion caused profuse sweating.

Phosphorus 50m. cleared up the lungs, stopped the chills and fever, but after the temperature had been normal of nearly ten days her joints became stiff, starting first in the shoulders, then knees, and she became nearly helpless. The pain was seldom very severe, but the limbs were very sore to pressure, and she wanted to be turned often and to be kept very warm. Pyrogen 50m. cleared up the case promptly."

(Herbert M. Maynard, M. D., Boston, Mass., Clinical Cases. Read before the annual convention of the International Hahnemannian Association, Cleveland, Ohio, June, 1920. The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 35 (1920), p. 438-440)