

EARLY EXPERIENCES WITH BACILLINUM OR TUBERCULINUM.

By W. Younan, M.B., C.M. (Edin.)

(In Calcutta Journal of Medicine.)

About the year of my conversion to Homeopathy I hailed with delight the appearance of a new book by Dr. James Compton Burnett, of London, entitled "New Cure of Consumption with its own Virus." The impatience with which I waited for its receipt was only natural, considering the subject matter of the work and the promises for good that it contained. For who could be indifferent to the sufferings of thousands of consumptive humanity when medical science had proclaimed a "new cure of consumption," that fearful disease before which physicians had so often stood with bowed heads and folded hands.

The book arrived in time, and the eagerness with which I devoured its contents ensured my happy digestion of it. To secure a sufficient supply of the virus, which could not then be locally obtained, I wrote to Dr. Burnett for the same, and he directed Mr. Heath, Homeopathic Chemist of Ebury Street, London, to send me half an ounce of Bacillinum C. (one hundredth potency) in small globules, the very thing the doctor had been using himself. My satisfaction at having been so armed was immense, and I set about looking for cases to try the new remedy upon.

Some two or three months after there came under my care a young lady, fifteen years of age, suffering from continued fever of a remittent type. No impression could I make upon the course of the fever, which had already run into the third week with persistent high temperatures. One element of gravity seriously complicated the case: the heart was damaged from early childhood by a sharp attack of rheumatic fever, and there was present a loud mitral "bruit." At this stage typhoid symptoms supervened with an alarming diarrhoea and an incessant cough, which was short and dry. An allopathic physician, a mutual friend, examined the case with me, and gave a very unfavorable prognosis, the state of the heart arresting his attention particularly. The ordinary typhoid remedies had been given in vain, and I was resigning myself for the worst, when suddenly

a very bad fit of coughing suggested to me the possibility of the whole being latently tubercular. For I had repeatedly examined the chest for physical signs and could find none. What a straw is to a drowning man, so was the tubercular inspiration in favor of the administration of Bacillinum C. to me. Two globules were administered at my morning visit, and I left in fear and trembling for the possible loss of most valuable time. Imagine my surprise and delight, however, when on visiting the patient in the evening I found that the fever had been less high during the day, the number of stools diminished and the cough less frequent and troublesome. For the following days a placebo was prescribed, and I had the supreme satisfaction to note how slowly and yet surely the patient went into convalescence. A second dose of Bacillinum was not necessary. The young lady went up country for a change, and when some months after she returned to town, looking greatly improved, I made an examination of the heart and was surprised to find the mitral insufficiency less pronounced. I lost sight of her for over a year, when one day being called to attend her sister I found my interesting patient had just returned from school up country, where she had enjoyed the best of health. I questioned her as to the heart, and she informed me that that organ had given her less and less trouble as her general health had improved. A final examination conclusively showed me what I had never dared to expect: a complete restoration of the heart. Not a trace of the once too evident mitral bruit could be detected, and I have since learnt to believe in the curability of organic valvular disease of the heart. I have lately heard that the young lady remains in good health.

Not long after my experience with the case related above I attended the two youngest children of a family living in one of the healthiest localities in town. Both of them came down with continued fever, which, in the third week of its course, developed typhoid symptoms, those of the lungs and bronchial tubes being specially marked. Rhus tox., Arsenicum, Phosphorus and Sulphur had failed to benefit, and both the doctor and the patient were in a bad way. I well remember being called out one night to one of these children, as the mother had