

GELSEMIUM-HEADACHE.

[ADOPTED FROM DR. BERLIN IN GUBEN.]

Miss von P., about 36 years old, has been suffering ever since spring from a chronic headache, which last week came every day. It begins in the morning as a pressure in the occiput and neck, then gradually draws up over the head until it reaches the forehead and remains fixed over the eyes. Here the patient feels the pain pressing like a hundredweight. At the same time her head has a benumbed feeling and she is often incapacitated from thinking. The head is hot, the face red, and this the more according to the violence of the pain. The appetite is changeable; the patient also suffers from venous congestions of the abdomen and from hæmorrhoids, which, however, cause her no trouble. During the headache there are frequent visual disturbances, everything before her eyes becoming black, and for a time she sees nothing at all. Toward evening the pains gradually cease. Since last September she has suffered much from cold feet. In the course of the summer she had repeatedly taken allopathic medicines, including *quinine*, *Phosphoric acid* and *Migrainein*. These remedies had occasionally brought some slight temporary relief, but the next day the pain returned all the same. The general health had always been disturbed for some days by these remedies; there appeared great weariness, buzzing of the ears, lack of appetite, nausea, etc., so that not much good resulted from the use of these remedies, and the patient finally altogether dispensed with the taking of allopathic medicines. She had before this learned to know the efficacy of homoeopathic remedies, and accordingly she then came to me for help. On the 4th of September, 1897, in accordance with her symptoms, I gave the patient *Gelsemium* D. 3, giving daily four doses of five drops each. To remove at the same time the coldness of the feet, I ordered her to take warm foot-baths, and foot steam-baths of fifteen to twenty minutes' duration, and cold foot-baths for one to two minutes. When her feet were cold, a hot application, when they were hot, a cold foot-bath, once a day.

On the 11th of November the lady consulted me again on account of some other ailment, stating that as soon as she had taken the *Gelsemium* her headache was ameliorated, and on the third day had entirely disappeared and had not since returned.

Gelsemium, or the yellow jessamine, is

a North American climber and occupies a prominent place among the more recent homoeopathic remedies. The headache to which it corresponds is especially of the hyperæmic kind, *i. e.*, they are due to *supertension of blood* in the brain; I shall not here decide whether this hyperæmia is of the active or passive kind. In headache we may compare this remedy with *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, *Cimicifuga*, *Glonoin*, *Nuxvom.*, *Sanguinaria*, *Iris versic.*, etc. All these remedies have the peculiarity, that they cause congestion of blood to the head.

LET HIM GET WELL.

Dr. W. W. Keene, of Philadelphia, in discussing appendicitis at the Denver meeting of the A. M. A., concluded his remarks as follows:

"I protest against the use of opium, except in rare cases, as it has a tendency to mask the symptoms of the disease and leads the patient to the grave. I protest against the argument of Dr. Niles, that every case ought to be operated upon and the appendix is never to be left. Out of 300 post-mortems on as many bodies it was found that 100 of the individuals had had appendicitis at some time in their lives and had all recovered from the disease. They all died of some other disease. I challenge the assertion that through surgical operations all but two per cent. of cases can be saved. I challenge any operator in the room to take 200 well persons and operate upon them without killing more than two per cent. We all fail, gentlemen. I do not know why, but we all fail. I do not believe in operating on all cases of appendicitis. I'd rather have a live man with an appendix than a dead one without one. (Applause.) I do not believe with the witty Frenchman that no case is complete without a post-mortem. (Laughter.) If the patient is no worse after forty-eight hours of observation, let him alone; let him get well."

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