

GELSEMIUM.

A USEFUL REMEDY.

Since the Eclectic school of physicians have brought this drug into prominence it has been used by all classes of doctors. As a matter of course, the Homœopaths use it according to a fixed law, and not at random, as do the other schools.

It is a good remedy for the effects of great fright or fear. Threatened abortion from fright. This fright is not what we would call a scare, but a something that has made a deep impression on the mind. She is awe-stricken through hearing of some accident. Excitement, coupled with fear, is an indication for Gelsemium.

An actor has what is known as stage-fright. Clergymen often find Gelsemium a useful medicine before ascending the pulpit. They have emotional excitement, and this may bring on a relaxed condition of the rectum, stammering speech, etc.

In headaches we find it a most useful remedy. The pain starts in the nape of the neck, passes over the head and finally settles over one eye. Dull, heavy ache, with heavy, drooping eyelids. In what is known as sun-pain is a most useful drug. The patient will tell you that the headache begins on arising in the morning and keeps getting worse as the sun gets higher and higher, and that the pain gradually leaves as the sun goes down in the evening. They will often tell you that they have a feeling as if a hand were around the head.

In the first stage of cold in the head Gelsemium is a very useful medicine. There is fever and chilliness, chills run up and down the back, with a desire on the part of the patient to hug the fire. Much sneezing and a watery, acrid discharge from the nose. In post-diphtheritic paralysis it is often the only remedy. Aphonia from a paresis of the muscles.

In intermittent fever our remedy is much used and with success, too. The chill runs up and down the back. Aching all over the body. The patient cannot stand light and noise. If a child, it wishes to be held during the chill that it may not shake so. In the fevers of the west Gelsemium is an exceedingly useful medicine. A great many physicians use the mother tincture in these cases. I never do, and agree with Dr. Fisher in his great work on the diseases of children, where he says the same. He acknowledges of having used the crude drug, but found better results from the

attenuations, especially in intermittent fevers of children. The doctor advocates the 30x; I generally use the 3x.

IN REMITTENT FEVER.

About three weeks ago I was called by telephone to a neighboring village to see a six-year-old girl with what looked like remittent fever. The pulse was about one hundred and ten, and the temperature one hundred and three degrees Fahrenheit. The mother says that at times the temperature is one hundred and four degrees. The little girl lay very quiet, shaded her eyes with both hands, and often cried because the other children were making so much noise. The tongue was heavily coated and the bowels quite torpid. The face looked stupid; she was quiet and listless when let alone; ate but little and only drank water when asked to do so. I forgot to mention, when speaking of the bowels, that she often passed large quantities of colorless urine. She had been sick for only about three days when I saw her. After a careful weighing of all the circumstances and conditions it was decided to try Gelsemium, and the result proved that the choice had been a good one. In a few days the fever went down, and the child was up and around in less than two weeks. The parents, who had never before employed an Homœopathic physician, were somewhat astonished to see such quick results. They thought the child needed Morphia to force sleep, and half a dozen other drugs in order to hold the fever in check. They were surprised when no Morphia, no Quinine, and no cathartics were given. No Homœopathic physician had ever entered the threshold of their home, and they looked with suspicion at the little bottle of Gelsemium. Their belief in the saving grace of Allopathy received a violent shock.—H. A.

Colchicum has a special affinity for fibrous tissues, and hence is an excellent remedy in rheumatism. The best results have been secured with the lower potencies, although some grand cures have been noted with the higher. It resembles Pulsatilla in its rapidly changing pains and in the time of aggravation, which is in the evening. A patient when Colchicum is called for is irritable, the very slightest pains appear unbearable, and the external impressions, such as noise, light and strong odors, are annoying. The urine under Colchicum is dark red and scanty, which is exactly the condition found in rheumatism.—Medical Visitor.