

HOMŒOPATHY IN INSANITY.

FROM ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT C. E. WALTON IN THE CLINIQUE.

Study Homœopathy so as to determine for yourselves whether or not it be a species of quackery, whether its practitioners are knaves, and its followers people with feeble intellect.

Study the cures that are made and strive to imitate them; the nearer you imitate them the more you will appreciate the fact that it is not faith alone that cures infants, animals, and the insane; not faith alone that reduces the mortality of our foundlings, our epizootics and our lunatics.

Pardon me if I task your patience to the extent of listening to a few cases illustrative of what Homœopathy can do for the insane. I find them recounted by Dr. Cooley, of Plainfield, N. J., in one of the journals for 1899.

A lady of forty-five had suffered from several attacks of insanity. She had been taking three remedies in alternation during the day with an additional remedy at night. The case was peculiar, in that she would be seized with irresistible inclination to talk, which came on at noon and continued two hours, and again at midnight for the same length of time. Stramonium was selected from among the remedies she was taking, and it cured her in a few days. This was six years ago, and she has had no return.

A clergyman, aged forty-five years, had been under old school treatment, and was thought by his physicians to have paresis. He had taken \$34 worth of drugs in the past three months. He could not sleep even under narcotics; was emaciated and so weak that he could scarcely speak, and could walk about the house with great difficulty. The tongue was heavily coated, appetite gone. He suffered from pains running up the back into the head; was utterly depressed and helpless. The reflexes were exaggerated. He was extremely nervous and all his troubles were aggravated by noise. *Nux vomica* made a new man of him in eight weeks.

A man, aged sixty, had melancholia sixteen years previously, and was in the Middletown Asylum several months. Recently he was attacked with acute bronchitis. When the bronchitis abated the melancholia returned accompanied with an irresistible impulse to suicide.

Respiration was rather labored with large mucous rales. A paroxysm of coughing was followed by a paroxysm of suicidal mania. Three powders of *Hepar sulphur* cured the whole case in two weeks.

A woman, age forty-two, had been failing for a year. Black specks floating before her eyes for two years. Finally financial troubles affected her mind to such an extent the family physician sent her to Brookside. She was obstinate and fault-finding. Was sure she must go to the poorhouse, that her life was wrecked and she would never amount to anything again. A few powders of *Aurum met.* cured the case in two weeks, the black specks also disappearing, and she returned home in six weeks.

A woman, age seventy-two, had been troubled with sleeplessness for a number of years and had taken codeine tablets every night. She had suffered with hepatitis for many months and finally her mind gave way. She slept little and talked constantly day and night, when awake, about hell and the bottomless pit. Was most wretched, complaining and moaning constantly that she did not want to go to hell, but God told her she must. She had many delusions about herself and her family. She was scarcely more than a skeleton and could sit up only ten minutes at a time without complete exhaustion. She had no teeth, and as she did not care for soups, feeding was a difficult problem. Under *Stramonium* she had gradually gained in flesh and strength, and her mind is completely restored. She is now able to sit up the greater part of the day, walk out and take drives of an hour. Duration of treatment nine months.

A woman, age-thirty eight, had been doing work as a missionary in North Carolina nursing the sick. A year ago she had bleeding piles and used ointment which stopped the bleeding, but her health failed and her mind became much confused, could not remember how to perform the simplest household duties. She was afraid she would be arrested and worried constantly about it. Her physician had given her *Belladonna* the day before being admitted. The bleeding piles returned in a day or two, followed by coldness of arms and shoulders during the night with much perspiration. This was succeeded in a few days by severe chill, fever and sweat every other day with