

POINTERS ON IPECACUANHA.

The red string symptom or keynote of Ipecacuanha is a constant desire to vomit, a constant nausea. Remember this one great characteristic. No matter where, when and under what conditions it is found; no matter what the name of the disease, when this symptom is prominent, think of Ipecacuanha. As a matter of course, the more symptoms in a given case calling for the remedy, the better. The tongue is generally clean in these cases don't forget this.

The gastric symptoms are the most prominent. Much nausea and vomiting; disgust for all food; there is no relief obtained from the vomiting. Now, there is a remedy that comes in here, and from which we must be able to differentiate Ipecacuanha, namely, Antimonium Crudum. With one remedy the tongue is clean, but in Ant. Crud. it is thickly coated white. The stools of Ipecacuanha are green, very green, bloody or fermented, and there is pain about the umbilical region. In coughs and in asthmatic troubles, Ipecacuanha is frequently indicated. There are suffocative attacks of breathing; the respiration is oppressed; it is quick, anxious, deep. There are coarse rales all over the chest with violent paroxysms of coughing and retching. There is great dyspnoea, and the countenance looks pale and anxious as if to say to the physician: "Cannot you help me?" Cough with every breath. Here we must differentiate our remedy from Antimonium Tartaric. With the latter remedy we find fine rales and but little cough. The chest is full of mucus, but they cannot cough it up. The dyspnoea is worse than under Ipecacuanha.

In threatened abortion I always have Ipecacuanha in my mind. There is in these cases a sharp or pinching pain around the umbilicus. This pain descends to the uterus. The woman has nausea and discharge of bright red blood. Do not forget this flow of bright blood. Whether in abortion, after labor, or menorrhagia or other causes, bright red blood from the uterus indicates Ipecacuanha. When menstruation is too early and too profuse, think of this remedy. Ipecacuanha is an interesting remedy and one that the true Homœopathic physician values highly.

A man of thirty years called at my office a few months ago, with what his doctor called "chronic dyspepsia." He

had taken Bismuth, Pepsin, Quinine, Iron, Strychnia and cathartics till he had become disgusted with healing art in general and his doctor in particular. The moment I saw the long, lean, haggard and worn-out form of the individual, Ipecacuanha came to my mind. I had read, I don't know where, that where this medicine was indicated the patient often had a drawn, nauseated expression about the mouth. This man had that. He spit several times while relating his troubles. Ipecacuanha cured him in about two weeks. In intermittent fevers it finds a most prominent place. In his "Forty Years' Practice," Jahr places Ipecacuanha at the head of the list of remedies in the treatment of intermittent fever, and recommends its administration by commencing the treatment of every case with Ipecacuanha, 30x. He says: "I almost always commence the treatment with Ipecac., 30x, unless some other remedy is distinctly indicated. I give a few globules in water, a teaspoonful every three hours, beginning immediately after the chill. By pursuing this course I have cured many cases of this fever by the first prescription, thus saving myself a good deal of necessary seeking and comparing. If it does not help altogether, it changes the character of the fever so that Arnica, Arsenicum, Ignatia or Nux Vomica will complete the cure." A goodly number of other Homœopathic authors give this very same advice. I, too, have often acted on this teaching, and with success. The great French physician, Dr. Charge, speaks thus of this routine habit of prescribing Ipecacuanha: "I have known practitioners, highly commendable in other respects, who always begin with Ipecacuanha under the pretense that after it the case was better outlined, and the choice of the true specific was consequently easier. This is simply an encouragement to indolence. Ipecac. presents itself to us with so clearly defined features that it is impossible, with a little attention, not to recognize at once the cases which call for it."

Miss A. S., aged forty years, black hair and eyes, had long been subject to attacks of ague. She had taken much Quinine, but the chills would return at stated intervals. She has chills every other day. Chill begins in her hands, as she says, then comes violent headache. As the headache goes off she is attacked with violent nausea. Nausea all the time. No thirst with the chill,