PERITONITIS PUERPERALIS.

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(Read before the Philadelphia County Homœopathic Medical Society.)

Before Hahnemann laid the foundation of a Healing Art under the unerring guidance of the Law of the Similars this disease was universally treated by means of the antiphlogistic system; the results were a very great mortality, especially in the lying-in hospitals, where a peculiar miasm was developed aiding in the spreading of the disease. It is not the object of this short paper to dwell on the diagnosis of this disease peculiar to women in childbed, but we confine this paper to the consideration of its successful treatment by means of the Homœopathic Healing Art. The therapeutic records will show how the early pioneers of our school combated this disease successfully, and their experiences will also aid us in showing under what characteristic circumstances various remedies were applied homœopathically to reëstablish the impaired functions and restore them to their normal conditions.

We find in the *Hygeia*, 19, 103 (Bosch), a case.—A woman, 28 years old, had been delivered by forceps on account of a placenta prævia. On the third day she had a violent chill, high fever, with hard frequent pulse, hot skin, great thirst, dry very little coated tongue, violent headache, wild staring eyes, suppressed lochiæ, no milk in the flabby mammæ, in the distended abdomen severe pains worse from the slightest touch. Aconite 2 dissolved in water was given every half an hour, which for two days improved her condition, then came dysenteric evacuations and, under the effect of Belladonna, she recovered in a few days.

Diez reports a case of a very sensitive person who was attacked on the 8th day after her confinement from copiously drinking cold water; dry heat, with continuous cutting and constricting pains in the abdomen, tension and great sensitiveness of the abdomen to the touch; frequent and every ¼ to ½ hour returning diarrhœa, pressing and stupefying headache; frequent, hard pulse; great thirst; tongue coated, white and dry; nausea; the scanty lochial discharge ceased; the secretion of the milk was sustained by the frequent application of the infant to the breast. Aconite 4 every three hours for 24 hours removed all the inflammatory symptoms and restored the lochial discharge; the remaining colicky pains in the abdomen yielded in 24 hours to two doses of Chamomilla 4.

Diez reports another case. A woman, aged 28 years, of good

constitution, of phlegmatic temperament, fourteen days after a good confinement began to complain, after some puerperal rash had continued for some days, of a diminution of the milk secretion, the scanty lochiæ had ceased altogether, repeated daily violent chills lasting for hours followed by fever and profuse perspiration, pulse hard and frequent, want of appetite, great thirst, taste bitter, tongue dry, coated white, frequent nausea, constipation, pain in the abdomen, especially in the region of the navel, first colicky, contracting, remittent, in the last 12 hours continuous stinging and burning, abdomen expanded and very sensitive to the least contact, headache, sleeplessness, red rash over the whole body except the abdomen. Ordered Aconite 3, first every 4 hours, later every 6 hours. Great improvement on the next day, left her bed on the third day.

Schroen, *Hyg.* 5, 99, reports a case. Pain, stinging, cutting, in the bloated abdomen, aggravated by pressure and by motion, milk and lochial secretions diminished, headache, eyes glistening, much thirst, pulse not very full but frequent, hot skin, great restlessness, anxiety with fear of death, sleeplessness with delirium on the 4th day of confinement; was relieved by Aconite in a few days.

Buerkner, in Hirsche's *Deitschrift*, 3, 68, relates: A woman 20 years of age had her second child, which died on the 4th day of erysipelas neonatorum, was attacked by a violent peritonitis on the 8th day of her confinement, the lochiæ still normal, the milk secretion diminished. The very violent fever soon assumed a nervous character. In the beginning it seemed as if the peritoneum was mostly affected, but after Belladonna had relieved the symptoms it appeared that the seat of the disease was in the uterus; the degree of its severity was manifested by increasing chills of which the unconscious person suffered several times during the day and which severe chills threw her violently about in her bed. Face not much red, perceptibly livid and bluish, skin dry, sometimes burning hot and again more cool, tympanitis, no stool nor urine, lochiæ thin and ichorous. Arsenic and Secale corn. failed to relieve, but Lachesis 6 given every 2 hours caused perspiration and secretions of urine averting the impending danger.

All these cases were reported some fifty years ago. A summing up of the indications of symptoms of various remedies for the cure of febris puerperalis at that time, 1836, is as instructive as it is interesting. Aconite was recommended at the beginning of the disease; it relieves the inflammatory symp-

toms, but if nervous symptoms predominate, there is no better remedy than Nigella (Caraway seed). Chamomilla was indicated if there were present great excitement of the nervous system, restlessness, pulsating pressure in the head, especially in the forehead, dyspnœa, mammæ wilted, secretion of milk suppressed, greenish-watery diarrhœa, colic, periodical discharge of clotted blood per vaginam, labor-like pain in the uterus, thirst, and coldness of the limbs.

Pulsatilla, especially if there are present overexcitability of the nervous system, countenance showing great depression from pain, suddenly suppressed lochiæ, sensation of burning and fulness in the genitals, anxious flushes of heat, nightly anxiety, palpitation of the heart and thirst, often useful if Chamomile tea has been given; very characteristic symptoms are especially great thirst, fearful tearful disposition, paralytic heaviness in the limbs, painfulness of the joints, great sensitiveness of the abdominal walls and labor-like pains in the abdomen, suppressed lochiæ, watery diarrhœa, strangury or discharge of clear or darkened urine in drops, tearing and stinging in the abdomen, putrid taste in the mouth, giddiness with loss of sight, evening aggravation.

Rhus tox. is sometimes indicated, especially if the whole nervous system is excited and if the least anger aggravates the excitement, trembling of the limbs, fainting attacks, great anxiety, generally evening fever and aggravation of the pains, drowsiness, delirium, rash or blister-like eruptions, severe stinging headache, great thirst, tearing pains in the abdomen, inflammation of the uterus, the almost white lochiæ become again bloody, suppressed secretion of the milk.

Arnica is indicated if there have been bruises of the genitals or if there are splits in the uterus.

Bryonia was indicated where there was present hot red face, lowspiritedness, stitches in the forehead, tongue dry and yellow-coated, lost taste, biting sensation on the tongue, stitches in the regions of the ovaries, lochiæ suppressed, constipation, pulse hard and small, chilliness during the heat and cutting pains in the side much aggravated on motion.

Ignatia, when the disease has been caused by fright, grief or from the abuse of coffee.

Nux vom. especially when the disease has been caused by anger, cold, abuse of spirituous liquors, coffee or Chamomile tea. The lochiæ are suppressed, heat in the genitals, tension in the chest, cutting pain in the region of the navel with bitter eructations, nausea and vomiting, burning in the abdomen, dry

hot skin, pulse hard, anxiety and fear of death, short dry cough with soreness in the chest.

Belladonna, one of our most valuable remedies in this disease, chilliness and coldness of some parts of the body, especially in the extremities, burning heat and redness of the head, abdomen painful, periodical pressing down (bearing down) in the pelvis and rectum, discharge of putrid clots of blood par vaginam, pain in the forehead, double vision, delirium vision of fire, cloudiness of sight, small loose stools, cough with short rattling breathing.

Hyoscyamus, frequent discharge of clotted blood accompanied by partial convulsions.

Platina, when there are present copious thick discharges of blood with painful bearing down in the pelvis and pain in the small of the back, almost continuous internal chilliness, headache in the forehead worse from motion, anxiety, burning heat of the face.

Zinc, if there is also present nymphomania, suppression of the lochiæ and milk secretions, great sensitiveness of the external and internal genitals.

Since these cases of cure and the indications for remedies were published fifty years ago, our literature has not added as much clinical experience in the treatment of puerperal fever as might be expected, and we have added such valuable remedies to our Materia Medica holding a great many similar symptoms as often characterize that disease; we will only mention here Apis mel. and Tilia europæa. Apis causes and cures so many abdominal symptoms, has such a decided effect on the ovaries and the uterus, that we may expect it to be called for frequently. Tilia has caused and has cured that characteristic symptom of tenderness and soreness of the abdomen when accompanied with profuse hot perspiration which gives no relief, a very different perspiration as we find to be very characteristic of Mercurius (clammy, greasy, cold) and in the peculiarity of the invariably present perspiration (under Tilia) it has a very similar tenderness and soreness of the abdomen as is so well-known to be characteristic of Pulsatilla.

There are no statistics presentable at present showing definitely the results of the prevalent treatment of this disease and the superiority of the homœopathic treatment.

During thirty years of a large obstetrical practice not more than three cases occurred in my immediate practice, and they were all caused by the contagium brought into the sick room by nurses who had just come from cases of puerperal fever,

which had terminated fatally—all under the ordinary prevailing allopathic treatment. I found no difficulty in *curing* these cases. In 1846 I cured two cases given up by the old-school physicians. The much more frequent occurrence of puerperal fever under allopathic treatment can very easily be accounted for. The homœopathic treatment of the pregnant woman begins as soon as she complains during pregnancy of abnormal conditions, and, if the similar remedy is carefully administered, these abnormal conditions and the sick woman are cured, preparing her for a normal delivery, and, if during childbirth abnormal conditions take place, if the labor is abnormal or if hæmorrhages set in, even when convulsions supervene, our rich Materia Medica can be searched for the similar remedy without resorting to the invariably injurious administration of Ergot of Rye or Chloroform or to the forcible delivery by forceps; and such women so carefully treated are entitled to a speedy recovery and are exempt from the frequently occurring disorders in child-bed, and harms which follow them for a long time afterwards. The great superiority of the homœopathic healing art over the time-honored allopathic treatment of diseases will become apparent especially in the treatment of women in general, and of puerperal fever especially, as that disease is seldom successfully treated by allopathists; a large majority of their cases end fatally, while under homœopathic treatment the results are absolutely reversed.

Miscellaneous Contributions.

SOME INTERESTING PLEURAL AFFECTIONS.

TRANSLATED BY S. LILIENTHAL, M.D., NEW YORK CITY.

A Rare Form of Pleuritis.—Dr. Tenneson, physician at the Hospital St. Antoine, published in the *Journal de Médecine de Paris*, February, 1886, the following interesting case:

A man of 40 years, who had always enjoyed good health, was, without known cause, suddenly attacked with chills, stitching pains in the side, dyspnœa and cough; he kept on working for ten days, though feeling unwell; kept his bed for three weeks, but as he steadily grew weaker, entered the hospital. The diagnosis was: acute left-sided pleuritis; and as the exudation was moderate and the general state of the patient relatively good, a thoracocentesis was not yet indicated, but as after a week no absorption took place, though he had less fever,