

LECTURE XVII.

LET US now proceed to study the action of Arsenic under the categories which we have adopted for other drugs.

1. CEPHALIC GROUP.

From numberless cases of poisoning as well as from Hahnemann's very systematic provings, we learn that Arsenic exercises a very powerful influence upon the brain. Many of our provers have experienced a dull, heavy, aching, stupefying pain in the head as one of the effects of Arsenic. These different headaches may be classed as follows:

Dull pains in the head, as from a cold, with inability to collect one's thoughts, ill-humor;

Heavy pain, as if the brain were oppressed by a load, with buzzing in the ears; this form of headache might likewise result from a cold, from some violent nervous or bilious derangement;

Throbbing headache, the beating being felt immediately above the root of the nose, or in one side of the head;

Tensive pain, or a painful tightness of the head, such as might result from rheumatic exposure, or from a derangement of the biliary secretions;

Hemicrania, or semi-lateral headache, is one of those distressing affections to which Arsenic is eminently adapted as a curative agent. In this affection the pains are throbbing, heavy and stupefying, tensive; the scalp may feel excessively sore, tender to the least contact. Contact may make the pain worse. Light and noise may be intolerable. The paroxysms recur at more or less regular intervals. These periodical paroxysms of hemicrania may be accompanied with an indescribable feeling of nausea, retching and vomiting of bile, and a most distressing dizziness or vertigo. If these headaches should be traceable to a suppression of intermittent fever paroxysms with large doses of Quinine, we may regard this circumstance as an additional indication for Arsenic.

In general we say that the Arsenic-hemicrania is depending upon deep-seated derangements of the biliary functions. The brain experiences the effects of this derangement; the liver, which is the instrument or organ by means of which the brain carries on the secretory functions of this important gland, may be comparatively free from pain.

Such a case of headache occurred in my own practice. A lady of about fifty years had been attended by me for several years for the most distressing attacks of headache without any benefit. The attacks came on every fortnight or sometimes every month. During the attack she was almost stupid, senseless, unable to speak. Noise and light were intolerable. She vomited yellow and green bile. Her complexion was very sallow, and during the vomiting it deepened to a cherry-brown. No medical treatment afforded the least relief. Nothing seemed to ease

her but a tablespoonful of a mixture of Aloes which she kept for that purpose. As soon as the bowels began to be moved, the pains gradually abated, leaving her completely prostrated. This lady never complained of any pain anywhere except in the head.

Last year the patient died in this city of cancer. It was one of the most remarkable cases of cancerous dyscrasia that could well be seen. The breast, the inguinal glands, the mesenteric glands, the spleen, lungs and liver were all involved in the cancerous degeneration. The liver especially was most remarkably diseased, studded with cirrus degenerations having a grayish-greenish appearance, here and there interspersed with a black-looking and brownish-red substance. The whole organ was much paler than in its natural condition, except around the sores, which were surrounded with rose-colored borders. This cancerous disease had undoubtedly been creeping on for years, and was the cause of her agonizing headaches. These headaches left her after the disease had passed into the ulcerative stage.

If you should ask me: why should the brain be made to suffer in this way from a disease which seems to involve the liver? The answer is very simple. We know that there exists a system of mutual responsibility, as it were, between the brain and the organs which are depending upon it for the energy required in the performance of their functions. The liver is one of these organs. In the case of this lady, the cancerous miasm which the brain was unable to expel or neutralize, reacted upon the central organ of life, thus making it share the burthen of the non-performance of its own mission of supreme preserver and provider of vitality.

In *Rheumatic* or *Arthritic Hemicrania*, where similar phenomena of distress in the head, vertigo and vomiting occur, Arsenic may likewise prove useful. You will not forget, Gentlemen, that constipation is no counter-indication to Arsenic. Remember the extraordinary powers which Arsenic possesses, of prostrating the functions of the liver and of depriving the intestinal muscular fibres of the required stimulus to perform the peristaltic motion.

Another distressing affection where Arsenic exercises wonderful healing powers, is,

Delirium Tremens. If your patient looks sallow, livid, the skin feels dry, inclining to coldness, the pulse is small, irritated, irregular, and the patient requests you to remove the vermin that are crawling on his bed, or is troubled with ugly phantoms, dogs, cats, mice, and the like, you will find a chief remedy in Arsenic. There are cases of poisoning, where Arsenic has induced all the symptoms of intoxication.

In one case, reported by Christison, there was at first some vomiting, afterwards little else but faintness, sickness at the stomach, a sullen expression, and a general appearance which led those around him to believe him intoxicated.

Add to these symptoms the peculiar weakness and irregularity of the pulse, and the visual phantasmata, and we have a tolerably accurate description of the Arsenic-delirium tremens.

From the symptoms which Arsenic has developed in a few cases of poisoning, we have a right to infer that this agent may affect the brain fatally, through the intermediate agency of the ganglionic system. A case is reported in Rankin's Half-Yearly Abstract, strongly confirmatory of the specific relation of Arsenic to the central nervous mass, the brain.

Harriet T., aged nineteen, a robust and healthy girl, took on Tuesday night, Sept. 1st, about two ounces of fly-water, containing two and a-half grains of Arsenic. It rendered her restless during the night, producing watchfulness and slight pain in the stomach. Next morning she became sick and very thirsty, and the tenderness and pain in the stomach had increased. In the course of the day the sickness became worse, she was repeatedly purged, her countenance looked pinched, and the extremities became cold. On Wednesday night she rallied and became more comfortable and cheerful, but was still thirsty. On Thursday morning she was worse, cold and drowsy, and she was sent to the London Hospital; her countenance was then pale and anxious, extremities cold and bedewed with a cold, clammy sweat; pulse hardly perceptible, and she lay in a state of incipient coma. She then sank, and died in about thirty-six hours after the administration of the poison. The body was examined twenty-one hours after death, and from the appearances present, Dr. Letheby was led to conclude that death resulted purely from coma, as neither the symptoms during life, nor the state of the stomach after death, would allow him to attribute it to the effects of gastro-enteritis.

A post-mortem examination showed that the brain was much congested, and the several ventricles filled with half-coagulated blood. The lungs looked natural; the heart was flabby, and distended with dark, jelly-like blood; hemorrhagic spots were seen on the endocardial membrane, especially where it covers the auriculoventricular valves. The abdominal and pelvic viscera were congested, the stomach was pale and empty, and along the pylorus it had assumed a gamboge tint; Arsenic was found in its tissues.

This case is looked upon as a proof that patients under the effects of a poisonous dose of Arsenic, may die of *coma*. The case before us, if viewed as an aggregate of symptoms, may undoubtedly be looked upon as a case of

Cerebral Apoplexy. Both the symptoms exhibited during the lifetime of the patient, and the post-mortem appearances justify this view of the case. There seems no doubt that the post-mortem changes in this case were the result of a direct or sympathetic action of Arsenic upon the brain. The stomach in the present case was found pale and empty. May not the cerebral hemorrhage have been occasioned by the fact that the vascular life of the stomach had been destroyed by the poison? The brain, in its capacity of supreme preserver of life, and supreme distributor of the vital fluid among the different organs and tissues,

each according to its measure, sends blood to the stomach, but the vessels refuse to receive and circulate this fluid; hence it returns to the brain, as it were, reacts upon the brain, causes plethora, coma, apoplexy, death. In a case of cerebral apoplexy I should not consider Arsenic indicated, unless symptoms of severe gastric irritation had preceded the attack; symptoms justifying the belief that the nervous life of the stomach had become extinct previous to the symptoms of apoplexy setting in.

2. NERVOUS GROUP.

Among the effects of Arsenic upon the nervous system, one of the principal symptoms is

Debility, excessive Prostration, Fainting or Syncope.

Many patients who have poisoned themselves with Arsenic have scarcely experienced any other pain than prostration.

A girl fourteen years of age, took about ninety grains of arsenious acid, and died in five hours, having vomited once or twice; she complained of some little pain in the belly, and was affected towards the close with great faintness and weakness. The stomach and intestines were healthy.

A stout middle-aged man swallowed a large quantity of Arsenic in fragments, and died in a few hours; he experienced nothing but feebleness and great tendency to fainting. The stomach and intestines were not in the slightest degree affected during life, and no morbid appearance could be discovered in them after death.

In cases of *Debility*, more particularly when accompanied by emaciation, which is another characteristic effect of Arsenic, neuralgic pains in the limbs, loss of appetite, coldness and dryness of the skin, irregularity, smallness and increased frequency of the pulse. Arsenic will prove one of our main therapeutic resources. We might designate such a group of symptoms as a state of *Marasmus, Wasting of the fatty tissue, Nervous Consumption.*

We have historical proofs that Arsenic produces a condition of the body resembling marasmus. We find the following case, reported by Renault, in Orfila's General Toxicology.

Two chambermaids were living with the same master; one of them conceived such an inveterate jealousy against the other, that she resolved on her destruction. She determined to use Arsenic for this purpose, of which she put every day a small quantity into her broth. A few moments after dinner the food and the poison were both vomited, before the latter had sufficient time to act upon the stomach, so as to produce any serious accidents. Nevertheless, as the same thing was repeated every day for the space of six weeks, the stomach, in the end, acquired an excessive degree of sensibility; she felt severe pains in the bowels, and wasted to an extreme degree of leanness; a spitting of blood succeeded; the general sensitiveness of the system increased to such a degree that a simple

current of air was sufficient to produce spasms and convulsions. At length, when her stomach could no longer bear any thing, she went into the country, where her health was gradually restored. Another attempt at poisoning was afterwards made upon her, which led to the discovery of the crime.

We are sometimes called upon to prescribe for a form of *Dyspepsia* which might likewise be designated as chronic gastroenteritis, and one of the most prominent symptoms of which is general emaciation. The stomach in such cases is very irritable; the patient is unable to retain any food on his stomach; the bowels incline to be loose, with more or less frequent urging to stool; the pulse is feeble, accelerated, inclining to irregularity in the number of the beats; the skin may be dry and abnormally cool, although fever-flashes preceded by creeping chills or shiverings may trouble the patient. For such a group of symptoms, Arsenic is a main remedy.

Marasmus may be the result of rheumatic exposure. It may be characterized by slight symptoms of hectic fever which manifest themselves towards evening or in the night. The patient complains of excessive prostration, asthmatic oppression, palpitation of the heart, lowness of spirits, and very often of paroxysms of acute pain in the limbs. The middle or higher attenuations of Arsenic are eminently adapted to this condition; they may be given in alternation with Aconite from the third to the twelfth.

Marasmus senilis, if not an incurable malady, may find in Arsenic its chief remedy. In this disease, the tissues of the stomach dwindle away, and it is the atrophied condition of this organ that gives rise to the general wasting of the body. We know of no agent that exercises the specific power of affecting the vegetative life of the stomach in the manner in which it is affected in *marasmus senilis*, as certainly and thoroughly as Arsenic. Hence we depend upon this agent as our main stay in this affection. In

Marasmus or Atrophy of Children, Arsenic is likewise a principal curative agent. Children at the breast are liable to this affection. They lose their appetite, they vomit up every thing that is taken into the stomach; they dwindle down to mere skeletons, look old; the skin assumes a sallow, dingy appearance, is dry as parchment; slimy diarrhea sets in, hectic fever with regular evening-exacerbations creeps along, the inside of the hands and the soles of the feet become burning hot while the rest of the body remains cold, the little patient gradually sinks into a soporous condition, the pulse becomes filiform and so rapid that it can no longer be counted, and death finally closes the scene. What would we be able to accomplish in this disease without Arsenic? Give it from the sixth to the twelfth potency, and you may be able to save a life which under any other treatment might be sacrificed.

In *Atrophia nervosa*, *tabes nervosa*, or *nervous consumption*, Arsenic will do capital service. The derangements of the chylo-poietic system which characterize this disease, especially during the first stage point to Arsenic. What are these derangements? Loss of appetite, a feeling of *malaise* and oppression after eating,

nausea and vomiting of food, mucus and bile. The bowels become irregular, with alternate diarrhea and constipation. The patients emaciate, lose their strength, become irritable and feel unrefreshed by sleep. The subsequent development of the disease still points to Arsenic; the evening fever, the burning heat in the hands and on the soles of the feet, the increased frequency of the pulse, the partial sweats, the scanty secretion of a red-looking urine with a thin and opalescent layer of fat diffused over its surface: all these abnormal conditions point to Arsenic.

In nervous consumption, patients often complain of weariness, aching and sore pains, and contractive rigidity of the joints. A case is reported in the first volume of Frank's Magazine, where the poisonous effects of Arsenic continued for months, developing a condition of the system closely bordering upon nervous consumption.

A man, aged fifty-five years, of robust constitution, took five or six spoonfuls of gruel in which six grains of Arsenic had been mixed for homicidal purposes. In a few minutes he was attacked with *violent burning in the fauces and esophagus* down to the stomach, and *violent vomiting of the ingesta*, about forty times in five hours. He drank two quarts of sweet milk, but continued for a week to suffer with *violent burning pains in the stomach and bowels, nausea and vomiting*. He obtained relief by drinking copious quantities of cold water and milk; but he suffered ever since *with acidity of the stomach, and vomiting even* after light meals, He felt better for a while, but on the first of November, about four months after the first attack, he was suddenly seized without any perceptible cause with *shivering heat, increased thirst, headache at irregular periods, generally at night, emaciation, sinking of strength*; after more than ordinary exertions his feet felt weak, he complained of *pains in the joints, trembling of the hands and weak eyes*. The temperature of the skin was rather *increased*, the tongue clean, *pulse accelerated*, the region of the stomach *painful to pressure*, the muscles of the extremities *sensitive*, the general functions of the reproductive system not materially impaired.

This case of poisoning portrays a group of symptoms delineating nervous marasmus. The middle potencies of Arsenic may prove useful in such a case.

The distressing affection which is so well known under the name of *Atrophy of the Spinal Marrow*, or *Dorsal Consumption*, likewise pertains in a measure to the therapeutic domain of Arsenic. Pathologists distinguish three stages of this disease, the stages of irritation, that of paralysis, and lastly the stage where the symptoms of hectic fever are fully developed. The symptoms which characterize these three stages respectively, indicate Arsenic as one of the curative agents in this disease.

In the irritative stage, debility and a feeling of exhaustion after the least bodily effort, are prominent symptoms. Another prominent symptom in this stage is the excessive irritability of the sexual organs and a corresponding desire for

gratification. Unnatural self gratifications and sexual excesses generally constitute one of the chief causes of this disease. The patients experience a sensation as if hot water were poured down their backs; they also complain of a feeling as if ants were crawling over their backs. The lower extremities become emaciated, and the spinous processes of the vertebrae are distinctly seen.

In the second stage, the symptoms of palsy become more apparent; the urinary bladder is paralyzed; the bowels are either bound in consequence of paralysis of the rectum, or else the feces pass off involuntarily. The emaciation increases, the functions of the special senses become impaired; the sense of vision often becomes extinct.

In the third stage, the symptoms of hectic fever are fully established, with colliquative sweats, bedsores which speedily become gangrenous, complete paralysis of the lower extremities.

Arsenic may not be able to cure this malady, but it may do much to retard its development and to mitigate the dreadful sufferings of the patient. Other medicines, and more particularly Aconite and Cinchona or Quinine may prove indispensable in connection with Arsenic.

"We may range in this category a disease to which children are liable, I mean

Atrophia meseraica, or Mesenteric Ganglionitis, Mesenteric Consumption.

In this disease the mesenteric glands seem to constitute the battleground where the vital forces and the forces of disease meet in fierce conflict. We might look upon the so-called infantile remittent fever as an acute form of mesenteric ganglionitis. In this acute form which, under suitable treatment, may run a course of from two to three weeks, the inflammation of the mesenteric glands is recognized by a stinging, sometimes colicky, evanescent pain deep in the abdominal cavity. This pain is accompanied by fever, first slight chills towards evening, and afterwards heat, with circumscribed redness of the cheeks, irritated pulse, violent thirst, and comparatively clean tongue. In this acute form of the disease Arsenic is not indicated at the outset, but may have to be used in proportion as the symptoms of gastric derangement, the loss of appetite, diarrhea, and the febrile symptoms become more fully established.

In the chronic form of mesenteric ganglionitis, Arsenic is indispensable in connection with Aconite, Iodine, Mercury and other agents. It is more particularly indicated by complete loss of appetite, tympanitic distention of the abdomen, alternate constipation and diarrhea, discharges of a frothy or yellowish substance looking like stirred eggs and excoriating the anus. The evacuations may vary in character, and may, in the same individual, assume a variety of forms. The muscles become flabby, the emaciation goes on increasingly, the eyes lose their brilliancy, they look dull, are surrounded with blue margins, the skin feels dry and cold, especially on the extremities, the pulse becomes small, filiform, empty. Here Arsenic is in its place, even if the glands have already begun to suppurate and the signs of hectic fever are fully established. In this disease I prefer the third up to the sixth potency of this agent.

For the

Marasmus of drunkards, Arsenic in conjunction with Nux vomica, may be prescribed with tolerable confidence.

Among the other nervous affections, to which Arsenic is homoeopathic, we distinguish

Tremors or Trembling of the limbs. In some cases of poisoning Arsenic first develops symptoms of gastro-enteritis, and afterwards marked symptoms of nervous disturbance, particularly trembling of the limbs. For this trembling, when accompanied by signs of acute gastric irritation, or when succeeding severe inflammation of the intestines, Arsenic will prove useful.

Mercurial Tremors, attended with salivation, sallow complexion, constipation, emaciation, night-sweats, loss of appetite, may be treated with the low triturations of Arsenic.

Chorea has been successfully treated with Arsenic. If Arsenic is possessed of such extraordinary powers of causing tremors, twitchings, spasms and convulsions, we may surely expect good effects from its use in *chorea*. In a disease of this kind, Arsenic should not be prescribed unless the accompanying constitutional symptoms, such as gastric irritations, irregular bowels, loss of appetite, sallow complexion, dry and cold skin, irregular, irritated, feeble pulse, hypochondriac depression of spirits justify the use of this agent.

The curative virtues of Arsenic in certain forms of chorea may be inferred from the following highly interesting case of poisoning which occurred in England some time ago.

The family in which the fatal accident occurred, consisted of six individuals and a maid servant, the mother, three boys and two girls. The manufacture of certain mineral colors was carried on at their premises. Arsenic was employed as one of the ingredients. Both the factory and the dwelling-house were supplied with water from the same well. It appears that Arsenic, a quantity of which had been thrown into the drain of the factory, had become mixed up through some derangement in the pipes, with the water in the well, and that the poisoning had been occasioned by the use of this water.

Mr. Bickersteth, the surgeon, was first called to "West Derby, where the family resided, on Monday, February 16th, and found the mother in a dying state; unconscious, surface cold; the arms being in continued motion about her head. She died in a few hours, but before death consciousness returned for a short time. He was told that the youngest son had died a week previous, as it was supposed, from hydrocephalus. The symptoms, however, of both mother and child, appeared to have been bilious vomiting and purging, with great thirst and head-affections. On this visit the rest of the family looked rather ill, but did not make any complaint. Two days after, Feb. 18th, Mr. Bickersteth was again sent for. The eldest son and one of the daughters were then suffering from bilious vomiting and purging, with great thirst, not, however, accompanied by pains or

tenderness in any part. The daughter felt some curious sensations in her lower limbs; in both the pulse was very quiet.

Upon analyzing the water from the well, it was found to contain four-tenths of a grain of Arsenic to the pint.

The following day, February 19th, the eldest son was better, and so was his uncle, who had only been there one day, and was seized after taking tea in the house. The two daughters, and the youngest son were now suffering. There was great restlessness, indisposition to answer questions, *numbness of the lower extremities, whilst the arms were in continual motion in the air, as if picking at something above the head*; the skin was hot, but not dry, and did not exhibit any discoloration; the tongue was dry and brown, and there was great thirst; the throat seemed dry, and the breathing was quick and audible; the pulse was very quick, 125 or 130, but not hard. The girls did not complain of pain on pressing the abdomen, but the youngest son slightly moved when this was done, though he said it gave him no pain. They had all uncomfortable feelings which they could not describe, but were at this time conscious.

On the following day they were much worse. The breathing and pulse very rapid; *the tongue and lips dry, cracked, and covered with blood and sordes*. The eldest girl was unconscious, throwing her arms, legs and body about in every manner. The other two exhibited the same symptoms as yesterday in an increased degree. Consciousness was fast departing.

On Saturday, 21st, the youngest boy died, the peculiar movement of the arms continuing up to the time of his death. The two girls died likewise. One of the servant-girls was likewise taken sick, but recovered after having exhibited symptoms of a purely nervous character. The workmen, with one exception, were not sufferers.

A post-mortem examination of the youngest son, twenty-four hours after death, revealed the following appearances:

There were no peculiar appearances noticed on the skin, and the muscles of the trunk were of their usual color.

The lungs were adherent on both sides by old adhesions posteriorly; both were congested with bloody serum, especially the right. The bronchi were *red and injected*, and covered with red mucus.

The heart and pericardium were both healthy-looking; the blood in the body was dark and fluid generally, though there were coagula in the heart.

The trachea and epiglottis presented marks of inflammation.

The liver was slightly enlarged, presented exteriorly many yellowish-green patches, and was internally of a uniform slate or ash-color. Its consistence was normal; and the bile in the gallbladder was copious and dark.

The esophagus was healthy-looking. The stomach was contracted, contained some greenish fluid and mucus, but with the exception of punctiform and ramified redness at the splenic and pyloric ends, presented no unusual

appearance. The rugae were red and vascular; the mucous membrane was not softened or ulcerated.

The commencement of the duodenum was red like the stomach. A few patches of redness existed in the jejunum, and the lower part of the ileum was discolored for about twelve inches, where the solitary glands appeared unusually large and numerous.

The coecum was dark-colored and congested. The rectum and colon were also discolored here and there, but no ulceration or softening had occurred. The intestines contained a large amount of feces. Spleen and kidneys were healthy.

Head: sinuses and veins congested; about a tablespoonful of serum existed at the base of the brain, and the same quantity in the ventricles; no softening or formation of false membrane was observed.

This case is reported in full in the North-American Homoeopathic Journal. The post-mortem appearances are important, inasmuch as they illustrate the power of Arsenic, to induce inflammatory conditions in the respiratory organs, and in the intestinal mucous membrane. The peculiar movements of the arms may lead us to prescribe Arsenic in chorea, accompanied by, or depending upon cerebral or deep-seated pulmonary disease. In idiopathic chorea, not induced by a sympathetic irritation transmitted from the diseased respiratory or cerebral organs, Arsenic may prove unavailing.

In *Epilepsy*, Arsenic may prove very useful. Christison reports the case of five individuals who partook of a dish poisoned with Arsenic, and they were all violently seized with the usual inflammatory symptoms. But, farther, one had an epileptic fit on the first day, which recurred on the second; and he had besides frequent twitches of the muscles of the trunk, a feeling of numbness in one side, and heat and tingling of the feet and hands. Another had tremors of the right arm and legs on the first day, and several *epileptic fits* in the course of the night. During the next fifteen days he had a paroxysm every evening about the same hour; which returned after an intermission of eight days, and frequently for several months afterwards.

"We would recommend Arsenic in *Ganglionic Epilepsy*, as some pathologists term it, depending upon irritation of some one of the abdominal ganglia, more particularly of the superior and inferior meseric plexuses. In this form of epilepsy the patients complain from time to time of a mixed pain, at times gnawing, at other constrictive, burning or stitching. This pain precedes the paroxysms for a longer or less period of time. Evanescent symptoms of jaundice sometimes show themselves during the paroxysm. Accessory symptoms will of course facilitate the choice of a remedial agent. A leading indication for Arsenic is the periodicity of the paroxysms. Accompanying systems of mental derangement, particularly hypochondria, idiocy or imbecility, likewise indicate Arsenic.

In *Cerebral Epilepsy*, when the paroxysms occur suddenly,

.without any premonitory signs showing that the irritation was transmitted to the brain from some point in the peripheral nervous system, Arsenic may likewise be useful. If the paroxysms depend upon, or are accompanied by cerebral disorganizations, suppuration, exostosis, adhesions of meningeal membranes, etc., no curative treatment can be instituted; all we can expect to do is, to palliate the symptoms, for which purpose Arsenic may prove useful.

Ganglionic epilepsy is a curable disease, and is fortunately the most common form of this distressing malady. Dr. Schroen reports the following case, where Arsenic effected a cure, and where the paroxysms came on at irregular periods.

A robust man of thirty-four years had been subject for two years past to paroxysms of a burning pain in the stomach, accompanied by pressure in the spine, ascending like warm air behind the ears and to the face. He felt dizzy, fell down unconscious, in which condition he remained for ten to fifteen minutes, when the pain left him, but stupor remained. Between the paroxysms he had no pain in the head except in the occiput, and frequent attacks of burning pain in the spine; in the morning he complained of a sweetish taste in the mouth; he had burning in the stomach after eating heavy food; there was burning at the anus, and in the urethra when urinating. He had frequent cramps in the calves. He had had an itch suppressed by ointment. He took eight doses of Arsenic 6, and was cured.

May we expect good effects from Arsenic in

Convulsions? In the cases of poisoning where Arsenic has caused convulsions, we find that they are depending, as it were, upon some previous violent irritation of the stomach and bowels. In Frank's Physiological Magazine the following cure is related, a report of which we extract from the North American Homoeopathic Journal, as aptly illustrating our doctrine:

"A melancholic lad, aged eighteen, swallowed a large quantity of Arsenic, and was soon attacked with great anxiety and a cold sweat; these disappeared in a quarter of hour, and he remained well all day. In the evening, a similar attack occurred and disappeared as quickly. During the night he was seized with severe colicky pains, followed by vomiting and diarrhea; he had violent pains about the navel, his face was pale, sunken and covered with a cold sweat; pulse contracted, frequent and irregular, *convulsions* and other nervous symptoms ensued; he gradually recovered, but for more than a year he suffered with *spasms*, which seemed to commence in the abdomen; with attacks of idiocy and melancholy, and various other nervous affections."

In this case the convulsions and spasms seem to have depended upon the previous gastric irritation. It should likewise be observed that the convulsions were preceded by the breaking out of a cold sweat, paleness, and collapse of the features, and a contracted, frequent and irregular pulse.

In another case, likewise to be found in Frank's Magazine, where two boys of thirteen and ten, and a girl of fourteen years had been poisoned, two of the children were likewise seized with the most violent spasms, and lay exhausted,

stiff, and with their bodies bent backwards. Their hands and faces cold, and covered with cold sweats before the convulsions set in; the little patients were attacked with the most excruciating pains in the stomach.

We infer from these and similar cases, that the convulsions which Arsenic is capable of curing, must be depending upon some intestinal irritation. They may either be symptomatic of acute pain in the bowels caused by some irritating substance, such as bile or even worms, and more especially tape-worm; or they may result sympathetically, in consequence of the violent irritation which a violent attack of acute and perhaps malignant form of gastro-enteritis may transmit to the brain. The condition of the pulse, the general state of collapse, the cold and clammy skin, must, of course, justify the use of Arsenic.

Paralysis is curable by Arsenic, In many cases of poisoning, the extremities have become totally paralyzed. In other cases, the paralysis is partial, the hands, arms, or only the forearms, have been affected.

In most of the cases of paralysis caused by Arsenic, the paralyzed limb experienced painful cramps previous to the paralysis setting in.

Charles Wilson, a Swedish sailor, had poisoned himself with Arsenic by mistake. The poison was promptly counteracted, and for seven days he felt perfectly well. He was then attacked at night with a *violent cramp* in the index-finger of the right hand, successively invading the other fingers, and lastly the thumb, then attacking the other hand in the same manner, and finally the feet, the pain in the hand subsiding as the feet became affected. After a sound sleep he awoke with the affected parts perfectly *paralyzed*. This paralysis was accompanied with a feeling of heat and numbness, which invaded the upper extremities from the tips of the fingers to a point about three inches below the elbow, and the legs from the toes to a point a little below the knee. He also had lancinating pains in these parts, regularly commencing about five o'clock in the afternoon, and continuing until midnight.

The patient was unable to feed himself or stand alone. He was treated in the N. Y. Hospital during a period of seven months and a half with the Sulphate of Quinine, Strychnine and Electricity, when he began to improve. He had had no pain for some time save on the approach of stormy weather, when peculiar painful sensations were perceived in the fingers.

Doctor H. P. Perkins accidentally poisoned himself with 127 grains of Arsenic on July 24th, 1852. After having suffered severely from cramps, constipation and gastritis until May, 1854, he lost the entire use of his feet, legs, arms and hands. He experienced severe neuralgic pains in the paralyzed parts, which continued for two years and a half. The neuralgic pains were confined to the arms, below the elbows, and to the legs, below the hips. They were never darting in their character, but always steadily increasing to their climax and then gradually decreasing. Cold air or water would always bring them on; they were worst between half-past nine in the morning and eight o'clock at night.

The paralysis was of both motion and sensation, but he remained acutely sensitive in the paralyzed parts to cold.

In his case, sensation was not entirely destroyed. Boiling water poured on the parts that were paralyzed, could not be felt, but ice water gave him great pain, particularly when neuralgic pains were present.

There was also a remarkable chilliness down the spine.

No fever at any time, no chills, but cold sweats, with excessive thirst; chronic cold sweats about the legs and arms for six weeks; would wet the sheets with the sweats.

Excessive sensitiveness to cold; when asleep, the slightest draught of air, even over his face, would wake him; the opening and shutting of the door would chill him disagreeably.

The cramps were worst in the calves of the legs and in the thighs, but slight in the arms and hands; the muscles could be seen working; the pains of the cramps were so severe that he could not help screaming out. The cramps were most severe from six until nine in the morning; then every half hour or hour during the afternoon; from eight in the evening to next morning he would have no cramps.

The neuralgia did not come on until the cramps ceased; it was most severe in the same muscles in which the cramps had been.

The paralysis did not set in, until just before the cramps left him.

The neuralgic pains did not leave him, until the paralysis began to leave him.

Under the use of the galvanic battery the pains would leave him one hour earlier, and commence one hour later; he could bear the shock so strong that it would knock a boy down.

The feet were entirely paralyzed, also the legs and hands; he could move some of the muscles of the thighs and hips^ the upper arms could be moved; he could not feel a pin run into the flesh to the bone; but the slightest cold application could be felt.

We learn from these and a number of similar cases, that paralysis caused by Arsenic, is distinguished by the following characteristic features:

1. It always commences at the extremities;
2. It may be confined to the feet, to the hands, or even to the fingers;
3. It has been known to creep progressively from the hand over the whole arm;
4. It appears to attack more frequently the nerves of motion than those of sensation. Both these forms are sometimes found associated. An aesthesia may alone be present.
5. The paralysis is preceded by cramps in the paralyzed part;
6. The paralyzed part may be affected with aching or lancinating neuralgic pains.

Paralysis of this kind may occur as a natural disease in consequence of over-work or rheumatic exposure.

The arsenical-paralysis may be accompanied by contraction of the paralyzed limbs or rigidity of the joints. Christison informs us that instead of being palsied, the limbs may be rigidly bent, and cannot be extended. In a case related by Berndt, arising from the Arseniate of Potash, the paralytic affection consisted in the loss of sensation and motion in the hands, loss of motion in the feet, with *contraction* of the knee joints.

This symptom is well worthy of your notice. Paralysis with contraction may arise from rheumatic exposure, or from the retrocession of some psoric eruption either in consequence of impaired innervation or after the use of some astringent wash or ointment.

In a case of this kind, some physicians may feel disposed to give high potencies; others may prefer the largest doses of the lower preparations that it may be safe to administer. Cases may occur where either method may be justifiable.

According to Hahnemann, the pains in the paralyzed part may be of a burning character; these pains may exist without the paralysis, and, although exhibiting a preference for the extremities, they may also invade the spinal column.

Neuralgic Pains may yield to Arsenic. The cases of poisoning which I have related, inform us that these pains may be of a lancinating, aching and burning kind. These pains are particularly felt in the extremities, except the burning pains which may also be felt in the region of the spine. These pains may be caused by exposure, in which case they are not necessarily accompanied by the ordinary signs of rheumatic inflammation. There may also be numbness and formication during a paroxysm of the pains. Remember that periodicity in the paroxysms is a characteristic indication for Arsenic. Excessive sensitiveness to a draught of air is likewise characteristic of Arsenic. In a case of poisoning which I have related to you, this sensitiveness was so excessive that the least exposure to a current of air would throw the patient into spasms. The breaking out of cold sweat on the affected part toward the close of a paroxysm would constitute additional proof for the homoeopathicity of Arsenic. You recollect that in the case of Dr. Perkins these cold sweats broke out for about six weeks on the legs and arms in such profusion that the sheets became wet with the sweats.

Neuralgia of the Face may yield to Arsenic. In a case of poisoning reported by Christison, the patient complained of acute pains in the muscles of the face. There was occasional loss of sense. The conjunctiva was injected. In neuralgia of the face depending upon carious teeth, or caused by rheumatic exposure attended with sore throat, swelling of the sublingual and submaxillary glands, soreness of the nose, edema of the face and head, and consensual symptoms of gastric irritation, nausea, retching or vomiting, Arsenic may do good service.

In these nervous affections, the presence of an uncontrollable restlessness in the affected part is an additional indication for Arsenic; it may be accompanied by anxiety and by apprehensions of a vague character.

These pains may occur at night, in regular paroxysms in the extremities as well as in the back. They seem to be seated in the bones, hard, aching, laming pains—so called *bone paitis*, or *dolores osteocopi*, attended with excessive nervousness and restlessness. These pains may occur during the progress of syphilitic disease, in which case the mercurial preparations and the mercurial iodides are capital remedies. If these should fail, Arsenic may be given in low doses. This agent may also prove useful, if these bone-pains are the result of mercurial poisoning.

Old-School physicians have been in the habit of employing Arsenic for neuralgia. Dierbach relates an interesting case managed by Dr. Hanselman, where a man of fifty-nine years, who had been reduced to a skeleton by unceasing tortures especially at night, was freed from his sufferings and regained constitutional vigor by the use of Arsenic. Every time he had an attack of neuralgia, the Arsenic was resorted to with success; nothing else seemed of any avail.

In Bouchardat's *Annuaire* a case is related by Boudin, where a soldier who had been wounded in the cheek and forehead, took twelve grains of Arsenic in the space of three months. At first the pains were intermitting; afterwards they became continuous and intolerable. The least emotion, a change of weather made them worse. His teeth and hair fell out, his visual power became affected, he lost his sleep, he became emaciated. The patient, after having been treated in vain by the first physicians of Paris, finally took Arsenic in doses of one-fifteenth of a grain three times a day, for three months more or less. He was entirely cured and continued to enjoy perfect health when the case was reported, about a year after. It is very probable that a cure might have been effected in this and similar cases by means of much smaller doses.

In some forms of *Spinal Irritation* Arsenic may effect a cure. The following case of cure illustrates in a very striking manner the law of specific homoeopathy in general, and the curative virtues of Arsenic in the cases to which it is specifically adapted.

A robust farmer who had been sick for four years and a half, consulted Dr. Schubert on the 12th of January, 1821. He was subject to paroxysms which came on every three or four days, and were characterized by the following symptoms: Loss of appetite, qualmishness and nausea; periodical pressure in the stomach, increasing as the paroxysms became more violent; always coming on after eating, and sometimes when the stomach is empty; little sleep; this lasted two days; on the third day he felt a pressure near the vertebral column, on the right side, a few inches below the scapula; a qualmish feeling and pressure in the stomach; on the fourth day this sensation rose to a point between the apex of scapula and the column, where it changed to a burning pain as from a hot coal, made worse by the least contact and moderated by gentle exercise; he had frequent startings during sleep; the parts from the left hypochondrium across the stomach were numb; immediately after rising he experienced frequent urging to stool preceded by pinching in the bowels, and followed by burning and sore pain in the anus. The discharges were yellowish and watery, and then became slimy and scanty.

Excessive prostration, depression of spirits, fretfulness. The attack was caused by a cold. On a summer's evening he had been sitting on a cold stone; the same evening he felt drawing and tensive pains in the small of the back, and next evening a paroxysm such as described came on. One dose of Arsenic stopped it; in three months there was a slight return; another dose cured him.