

Dorothy Shepherd

Homoeopathy in Epidemic Diseases

Leseprobe

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CHOLERA

CHOLERA is one of the most dreaded and most serious epidemic infectious diseases, with an extremely rapid onset and a high mortality rate. Like many other things it has travelled from East to West, hence its name Asiatic cholera. It was reported by travellers as having occurred in the delta of the Ganges by 1629. Nearly 200 years later, in 1827, it spread from Calcutta and China and to Muscat in Arabia, across Asia Minor to the Georgian frontier into Russia, and on from there to Poland and Austria, and gradually it appeared in Hamburg, Germany, and thence to Sunderland in England; always near shipping places and ports. There were various outbreaks in London in the 1830s, and again later the great epidemic of 1854. Always fresh epidemics appeared throughout the next twenty years or more, with high fatalities in its train. For example during Lent 1932, 20,000 people were carried off by it in Paris in one month. It broke out in New York several times about the middle of the century and after.

The mortality of cholera is always around the 50-60 per cent of cases attacked, even now, a hundred years later, the fatality rate is over 40 per cent, nearer 50-55 per cent under prevailing orthodox treatment. How different it is with Homoeopathic treatment, let the following figures tell their own tale.

During an epidemic in New York the death rate under Homoeopathic treatment was 5 per cent. The average death rate of patients treated Homoeopathically both in Europe and America was 9 per cent—both in private and hospital practice.

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CHOLERA

In Vienna in 1836, the practice of Homoeopathy was forbidden, but cholera was raging so violently in that city that permission was obtained to open an Homoeopathic Cholera Hospital, where the results were so favourable, that two thirds of the patients treated there survived, while two thirds of those treated in other hospitals died. At this startling result, the then Austrian Minister of Interior repealed the law relating to the practice of Homoeopathy in Austria.

In Rheims came the report that of 1,270 patients treated, only 108 died, while the allopathic mortality rate in Russia was between 60-70 per cent. No wonder that after this astounding denouement of allopathic failure, the Homoeopathic physicians flourished in Russia for several decades. *And* one Homoeopathic doctor in the South of France had a mortality rate of 5-7 per cent while the allopathic death rate in the rest of France was 50 per cent.

Cholera was raging in London in 1854, and twenty-five beds were devoted to the treatment of cholera patients in the London Homoeopathic Hospital, with the satisfying result that only 16 per cent of cases died, while fatality rate of Chelsea under orthodox treatment was 54 per cent. Unfortunately the results have never been published in orthodox medical books. Indeed, one medical body had the following resolution put in its minutes of a meeting that the returns of the results of the Homoeopathic prescribing would give an "unjustifiable sanction to an empirical practice, alike opposed to the maintenance of truth and to the progress of science". Such is the stubbornness of official medicine.

Dr. Rubini had remarkable results in the Naples epidemic of 1854-55. He treated 225 cases of cholera without a single death in Albergo and 166 soldiers of a

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Swiss regiment stationed there with the same success. The medicine he found most useful was "*Spirits of Camphor*".

And this brings me to say a little about the three classic remedies for the treatment of this disease which may break out at any time if there are years of famine and distress.

They are *Camphor*, *Cuprum* and *Veratrum Alb.*

CAMPHOR symptoms are: extreme icy coldness of the skin, with sudden and absolute prostration of vital force; *face*, livid, purple, icy cold—hippocratic facies, upper lip drawn up exposing the teeth, mouth foaming, eyes sunken and fixed, sudden shrinking of strength and collapse; absent or painless stool. Although the body is icy, the patient will *not* be covered up. *Camphor* and collapse are synonymous.

VERATRUM is similar, but there is cold sweat on the forehead and a violent thirst for quantities of ice cold water, and acid drinks. A craving for fruits. Excessive vomiting and purging. As if cold water in the veins.

CUPRUM : Spasmodic, cramping pains. Nausea. Vomiting relieved by drinking cold water. Craves cold drinks. Black painful bloody stools, with weakness and cramp in abdomen. Cramps starting in fingers and toes.

Thus we can summarise these three great remedies for the treatment of cholera—designated by the founder of Homoeopathy—Samuel Hahnemann—and proved through the years by his faithful followers.

CAMPHOR in early stages, when there is collapse, coldness and sudden prostration.

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CUPRUM when there is excessive cramps, not only in abdomen, but beginning and continuing in fingers and toes.

VERATRUM ALB.—excessive cold sweat, and excessive vomiting and purging.



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