

Acute Muscular Rheumatism with Pleurisy:

TREATED WITH IODIDE OF POTASSIUM,
WHICH CAUSED PETECHIÆ OF THE
FAUCES, PALATE, AND POSTERIOR
WALL OF THE PHARYNX.

BY MISS LOUISA SYMONDS, M.R.B.N.A.

ON the morning of *March 27th*, B. A. H. arose apparently in her usual health, taking a cold bath, but within twenty minutes was seized with severe pains commencing in the left intercostal muscles, also the left deltoid, but very soon the principal pain was located in the rectus abdominus and external oblique. I was nursing another member of her family, so had the advantage of seeing this case from its commencement.

The pain came on in paroxysms, lasting about ten minutes at a time, but in the intervals the patient told those attending her she was better. From 9 a.m. to noon intense pain continued at intervals. Mustard and linseed poultices were placed over the umbilical and hypogastric regions, and frequently changed. By noon patient was collapsed, pulse almost imperceptible, extremities cold, the whole body was covered with a cold perspiration; hot bottles were placed at the feet and sulphuric ether given hypodermically. Face wore an anxious expression: knees were drawn up, and a goitre, which is generally the size of a hen's egg, became as large as that of an ostrich's. Slight vomit of returned food. Bowels were involuntarily moved in the bed; fæces dark, but of putty consistency. Spiritus ætheris nitrosi \mathfrak{z} i., brandy \mathfrak{z} ss., given every hour. 1 p.m., tinct. opii \mathfrak{m} x. given and continued every four hours for twenty-four. Brand's essence of beef dissolved and added to a teaspoonful of brandy given every hour for six hours. Pain less severe, but poultices continued; these were covered with jaconet, but not fastened on, as pressure could not be borne. Milk \mathfrak{z} ii., soda-water \mathfrak{z} i., given but vomited during the night; seven tablespoonfuls of Brand's essence taken and retained, brandy \mathfrak{z} i. Slept an hour. Temperature 99.2° , pulse 86, respirations 20.

March 28th.—Patient was placed between blankets, dressed in a woollen nightgown, and the whole body was wrapped in cotton wool as she complained of rheumatic pains flying about in different muscles. The bed was moved that the light through the windows might fall sideways. Temperature 101° , pulse 106, respirations 20. Very little sleep the next twenty-four hours. Milk \mathfrak{z} ii. every two hours, given and retained. Muscular pains continued, but not so intense. Poultices placed over the abdomen, when pain was more extreme.

March 30th.—31st.—Milk \mathfrak{z} iv., soda water \mathfrak{z} i., brandy \mathfrak{z} i., every hour. 1.30 p.m.: salicin grs. xx. every hour, commenced and continued almost without intermission until 7 a.m. the following morning, when three hundred grains had been taken, and patient could neither see nor hear. Temperature had now fallen to 100° , respirations 20, pulse 100. Very little perspiration at this time, although later there was sudamina. Urine was frequently and freely passed, of a very light colour during the next twenty-four hours; throughout the remainder of the illness it was quite normal. Glycerine enema given; slight action of pea-soup consistency. Knees for the first time laid flat on the bed. Very little sleep.

April 1st.—Acute muscular pains had now given place to a feeling of intense tenderness only. Temperature 102° , pulse 110. Slight cough with a little expectoration. Patient complained of slight pain at base of left pleura close to the diaphragm. Pleurisy was suspected. Potass. iodid. gr. v. every four hours was ordered. Sleep never lasted more than thirty minutes.

April 2nd.—Rheumatic pains returning in the deltoid, the surface was well washed with very hot water, and Elliman's embrocation warmed and placed on a piece of lint, which was covered with jaconet, applied for thirty minutes, then replaced by lint soaked in linseed oil; this treatment was repeated on several occasions and eased the pain considerably.

April 5th.—The cotton wool, which had been changed every day and gradually lessened, was discontinued. Natural action of the bowels for the first time. Solid food commenced. There was a consciousness of considerable tenderness still on movement. Mustard poultices were frequently placed over the pleuræ, followed by lint soaked in linseed oil.

April 6th.—Although patient was undoubtedly improving she had what at first was termed a slightly relaxed throat, but later on there was petechiæ of the fauces and posterior wall of the pharynx, which caused great discomfort. Honey and borax was ordered to be painted on, with no effect.

April 13th.—An iodide of potassium rash appeared on the back and shoulders, so drug was stopped. From this date the abnormal condition of the fauces quickly disappeared, that there can be no doubt the purpuric condition was the result of treatment. Patient from this time slowly recovered.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



THE second Class in connection with Schools of Method will be held by Mrs. Eva McLaren, on Thursday, June 13th, at 3 o'clock, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., at which it is hoped there will be a good attendance.

WE hope that the Editorial in this week's issue will be thoughtfully considered by each one of our readers, for

it discusses a matter the importance of which cannot be over-estimated by those who have the true welfare of the Royal British Nurses' Association at heart.

WE believe the majority of Nurses will agree with us that no more fatal suggestion could

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