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This address of the president of the International Hahnemannian Association in 1928, McLaren, illustrates with several impressive anecdotes the homeopathic practice in the early years of homeopathy in North America. It is also reported how the clinical symptom "Water is vomited as soon as it becomes warm in the stomach." was observed by Adolph Lippe and afterwards integrated into the materia medica of phosphorus.

D. C. McLaren

## A CHAPTER OF REMINISCENCES

Address of the President of the International Hahnemannian Association, 1928.

These reminiscences go back to the Civil War when Grant's army was surrounding Vicksburg. A young army surgeon was present one evening with a group of officers in the General's tent when the big black cigars for which U. S. Grant was famed, were passed around, and the young man tried his luck with one of them. It required neither long nor vigorous smoking to produce a prompt though involuntary proving of *Tabacum*, and he was forced to seek relief elsewhere.

The young surgeon was the late Dr. H. C. Allen, and this account was given me by himself. He may have proved other remedies later, but never any quite so quickly and effectually as this one. I fancy he was strictly a non-smoker all his life after. Following the war he lived for some time in Brantford, Ontario, and married there. My first acquaintance with him occurred in 1866 and came about as follows:

Homeopathy had only been known in America for about thirty years, but already had created such a wave of popular enthusiasm that no less than two life insurance companies were launched on the basis of insuring strictly homeopathic lives at lower premium rates than others—a quixotic project foredoomed to failure, for one very important reason, viz:—the scarcity of homeopathic physicians at that time. To illustrate, when old Dr. Fisher of Montreal, an eccentric character who used to attend the I. H. A. meetings pretty regularly in the last century, but without offering to become a member, retired from active practice, the homeopathic adherents in Montreal, feeling the need of a qualified homeopathic physician, actually "called," as it were, the late Dr. Wanless from London, Ont., and guaranteed him an income of three thousand a year to settle in Montreal.

Dr. H. C. Allen in those early days was representing the Albany Homeopathic Life Insurance Co. and in that capacity called upon and insured my father, then living in Guelph, Ont. Father was greatly interested and became a life-long lay homeopath, and this virtually determined the choice of a profession of his son. From that time on we were more or less in touch with H. C. Allen as long as he lived. I recall visiting with him at Detroit in 1878 and again at Ann Arbor in 1886, besides meeting him frequently at the annual meetings of the I. H. A.

It was therefore quite natural that after graduating in medicine at McGill in the spring of 1880, and betaking myself to old Hahnemann in Philadelphia the fall of that year, to be provided by Dr. H. C. Allen with a letter of introduction to Dr. Ad. Lippe, the last prominent survivor of the original Germans who brought homeopathy to America.

To my great regret, Constantine Hering had passed away not long before my arrival in Philadelphia, and the best I could do was to borrow notes of his lectures taken by an older man, and copy them.

Some one in Montreal also gave me a letter to John Wanamaker which I soon presented. While waiting in his outer office the clerk said, "Here is a gentleman you ought to know," and forthwith introduced me to Dr. Walter M. James, and we became fast friends. His first question was significant, "What kind of a homeopath are you going to be?" And then in the course of a conversation as we walked down the Chestnut Street gave me enlightenment on the subject.

Later in the winter I spent several evenings in his office while he filled a pocket case for me with Jenichen's potencies, which remains in good order to this day. Doing so he explained he was only passing on the good work begun by Ad. Lippe, who, years before, when teaching materia medica in the college, used to tell the graduating class to come around to his office, and he would give them enough remedies to make them "independent of the shops."

It was not long before I had occasion to present my letter to Adolph Lippe and get his treatment for a severe attack of bronchitis. After it was over he told me the remedies used and thus the indications became indelibly impressed on my memory.

On one occasion Lippe related to me how he discovered the now classic symptom of *Phosphorus*, "Water is vomited as soon as it becomes warm in the stomach." It was a case of typhoid fever in which the other symptoms pointed to *Phosphorus*, but this new and unknown symptom was perplexing; however, there was nothing for it but to use the remedy best indicated and a dose of *Phos.* 19M was given. The attending priest upbraided Lippe for taking such chances with human life! But the remedy turned the tide, cured the case and firmly established the symptom where it belongs, as many have verified in practice.

I once asked Lippe's advice about a case of morning diarrhea. "Oh," he said, "you have come across one of those cases; there is an epidemic of them in Philadelphia, and the remedy is *Natrum sulphuricum*." He gave me a graft of the CM potency which cured the case, and the potency is still in my pocket case.

Later in the spring I took a troublesome case to Lippe's office, and for once the old Doctor consulted his books before prescribing and gave *Pulsatilla*. That taught me a valuable lesson: not to be above verifying one's work as one goes along, even in the patient's presence. If so great a physician and excellent prescriber as Ad. Lippe found it necessary, much more should the young prescriber not hesitate to do so.

The following authentic anecdote about Dr. Ad. Lippe is well worth recording. He had made a remarkable cure of a well known society lady in Philadelphia who had been the rounds of the allopaths before coming to him. Shortly after, at a social gathering, he was accosted by several of these allopaths, who in a friendly way wanted to know how he had cured the lady in question. "Oh, I just gave her iron," said Lippe. "But we had all given her various iron preparations without result," they replied. "Yes," said Lippe, "but you gave her a crowbar and I gave her a cambric needle!"

Here is another bona fide occurrence: Lippe was such a strict and unswerving homeopath that he had trained most of his families to the same spirit of exactness. It happened that a case of gall-stone colic occurred in one of his staunchest families. The doctor arrived and prescribed *Lycopodium*, a single powder. The relief was so magical and the patient fell into such a sound, refreshing sleep, that they were convinced, and nothing could alter their conviction, that he must have given morphine, and forthwith changed their doctor!

Lippe was in poor health that winter and Walter M. James was in charge of his practice and

doing his work. One frequently met Dr. E. J. Lee along with Dr. James in Lippe's office. Dr. Lee was busy at that time establishing the Homeopathic Physician, of which he was editor for several years until his death, after which W. M. James took hold of it. As a magazine it certainly did splendid work for homeopathy and published from time to time such valuable supplements as Lee's *Cough Repertory*; Hering's *Typhoid Fever*, edited by P. P. Wells; two repertories by Jefferson Guernsey, *Hemorrhoids*, and *Desires and Aversions*.

Lippe was, himself, an earnest contributor to its pages in the early years, but no doubt his fighting spirit and strong convictions made more enemies than friends. His controversy with Dr. Swan of New York, of high potency fame, caused some stir in the early years of this society. Lippe denounced Swan's isopathy, so called, e. g., *Syphilinum* for syphilis, etc. But one can hardly suppose Swan was so very crude in his thinking as to suggest such procedure as a general rule, though evidently Lippe took it that way. Many of us know by experience that there is a good deal of truth in Swan's ideas.

There is nothing so nearly a specific for the effects of poison ivy as our high potencies of *Rhus tox.*; even a good many allopaths are using it in some form for that purpose. I have also seen some remarkable results from *Variolinum* in smallpox, sometimes aborting and curing a case overnight, but more frequently driving the eruption so rapidly through all its stages that the scales are falling off in 48 hours, naturally with far less systemic disturbance than in the ordinary course.

Dr. Constantine Lippe was practicing in New York at that time, and I had the pleasure of meeting him once or twice. His health had been injured in the Civil War and he predeceased his father by a few years. He lived long enough, however, to furnish us with a fairly good repertory, almost forgotten now when we have so much better ones.

At old Hahnemann College that winter Dr. E. A. Farrington was the chief tower of strength, and his lecture room was always full to the doors. His rich soft mellifluous voice lent a charm to the great fund of information he continually poured forth.

Dr. Aug. Korndoerfer was an able teacher of clinical medicine and a good prescriber but he had one fault: when the symptoms of a case were presented to the class he would say, "Now, who guesses *Nux*?" or, "Who guesses *China*?" This created a wrong impression, as if guess work could have any place in homeopathic prescribing. He really meant to say "What remedies have you in mind for this set of symptoms?" It was just a careless form of speech to encourage the students in the all important work of taking the case and finding the remedy.

Dr. Clarence Bartlett was quiz master to the class, and needless to say he was exceedingly efficient.

Dr. R. McClathin, familiarly known as "Bob," occupied the chair of practice. He was a bluff, jolly, agreeable fellow and very popular; a thorough *bon vivant* and it was enough to make one's mouth water to hear him tell of the first shad of the season! His treatment of pneumonia was a gem in its way—true, a diamond in the rough that needed a good deal of cutting—"for broncho-pneumonia give *Phosphorus* and for pleuro-pneumonia give *Bryonia*."

It remains to speak of James T. Kent, that giant of American homeopathy; though known to many of you better than to the writer. His colossal works, the repertory and lectures, besides other writings, have given him well deserved fame. It was my pleasure to meet him at the Syracuse and Richfield Springs gatherings of the I. H. A.

About 1894 or 1895 he honored me with an invitation to come to Philadelphia as his assistant in establishing a post graduate school there, but as I had my hands full nursing an infant practice in Ottawa, nothing came of it. No doubt, had things been different, a period of association with a man like Kent would have been of inestimable benefit.

In conclusion let me record an anecdote of two Canadian homeopaths, both former members of this society. My old confrere, Dr. A. Quackenbush, in his young days suffered greatly from abscesses caused by the itch. Almost in despair he was directed to Dr. Tyrrell in Toronto, who cured him so completely that Quackenbush decided to study homeopathy. Years later when Quackenbush was practicing at Belleville, Ont., he made a remarkable cure of a sick child back in the country near there. Some months later Dr. Tyrrell was there on a visit, and as they were driving along a country road, they came to a farm house in front of which were clustered about a dozen children. Quackenbush said to Tyrrell, "See if you can pick out the child I was telling you about." In a moment, without hesitation, Dr. Tyrrell pointed out the right one. "How do you know?" said Quackenbush. "Oh, easy," said Tyrrell, "that's the only healthy child in the lot."

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