

HOMEOPATHY AND INFLUENZA

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Should a deadly influenza virus once again stalk the earth, would homeopathy be able to offer any protection in this age of high-powered technology and modern chemicals? Well, how did homeopathy fair through the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918. My thanks to Julian Winston, author of *The Faces of Homeopathy: An Illustrated History of the First 200 Years*, for sending me these dramatic references of the time in history when homeopathic doctors rose so successfully to the challenge of the most appalling influenza epidemic in history, and they did so without the fear and uncertainty that paralyzed their allopathic colleagues. The following are excerpts which appeared in the American Institute of *Homeopathy in 1920* They are the personal accounts of some of the homeopathic doctors who not only lived through that terrible time - but so did their patients.

Dr. T.A. McCann, from Dayton, Ohio, at the 77th Annual Convention of the American Institute of Homeopathy in Washington, D C., in 1921 reported that 24,000 cases of flu were treated allopathically which had a mortality rate of 28.2%, while 26,000 cases of flu treated homeopathically had a mortality rate of only 1.05%.

In a plant of 8,000 workers we had only one death. The patients were not drugged to death Gelsemium was practically the only remedy used. We used no Aspirin and no vaccines - Frank Wieland, M.D., Chicago, Illinois.

Absence of the customary drugging was also an element of the remarkable success in this plant. - Burton Haseltine, M.D., Chicago, Illinois.

There is one drug which directly or indirectly was the cause of the loss of more lives than was influenza itself. You all know that drug. It claims to be Salicylic acid. Aspirin's history has been printed. Today you don't know what the sedative action of Salicylic acid is. It did harm in two ways. Its indirect action came through the fact that Aspirin was taken until prostration resulted and the patient developed pneumonia - Frank L. Newton, M. D., Massachusetts.

I did not lose a single case of influenza; my death rate in the pneumonias was 2.1%. The salicylates, including Aspirin and Quinine, were almost the sole stand-bys of the old school and it was a common thing to hear them speaking of losing 60% of their pneumonias - Dudley A Williams, M. D., Providence, R.I.

Three hundred and fifty cases and lost one, a neglected pneumonia that came to me after she had taken one hundred grains of Aspirin in twenty-four hours. - Cora Smith King, M.D. ,Washington, D. C.

My low death rate at Camp Lee was due entirely to the fact that I avoided the use of Aspirin absolutely. I was complimented by the chief medical officer as having the lowest death rate in the hospital. After the medical chief had noted the effect of Aspirin on the blood and the results which I was having in using Homeopathy he discouraged the use of Aspirin and the death ate came down very rapidly after that

ruling - Carleton A Harkness, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.

In Hahnemann Hospital of San Francisco, homeopathic remedies acted in a curative way while, with some other forms of treatment, the result was only palliative. - Laura A Hurd, M. D., San Francisco, California.

Fifteen hundred cases were reported at the Homeopathic Medical Society of the District of Columbia with but fifteen deaths. Recoveries in the National Homeopathic Hospital were 100% -E.F. Sappington, M.D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I attended over one hundred cases without any fatalities!! I never deviated from the homeopathic remedy. I never gave Aspirin. One case that was loaded with Aspirin before I saw him, referred to me from an old school physician, died. This epidemic should encourage us to renewed faith in Homeopathy. - G H. Wright, M. D., Glen, Maryland.

The German Aspirin has killed more people than the German bullets killed - C.J. Loizeaux, M.D., Des Moines, Iowa.

I remember Acetanilid in the epidemic of 1889 and its fatalities,, In this epidemic I knew that Aspirin and the coal tar products would kill more people than the disease itself and it has so proved. One old school physician told me that he had gotten wise to the fact that Aspirin was killing his patients and that he had stopped using it and was relying on homeopathic and eclectic remedies. - E.B. Finney, M. D., Lincoln, Nebraska

Thirty physicians in Connecticut responded to my request for data They reported 6,602 cases with 55 deaths, which is less than 1%. In the transport service I had 81 cases on the way over! All recovered and were landed Every man received homeopathic treatment. One ship lost 31 on the way - H. R. Roberts, M. D., Derby, Connecticut.

Homeopathy saved patients with influenza and pneumonia. Ill luck always followed the coal tar derivatives, Aspirin especially. W. H. Hanchett, M.D. , Omaha, Nebraska.

Through the International Hahnemannian Association I have collected over 17,000 cases of influenza with a mortality of 4% G. B. Stearns, M. D., New York.

I had 300 cases and one death; one good homeopathic doctor had 275 cases and no deaths. I am health officer of my city. One old school man had 294 cases and reported 15 deaths. Aspirin and Iodized lime were the remedies used by the old school - H. H. Crum, M. D., Ithaca, New York.

I treated 455 cases of influenza and 26 cases of pneumonia with no deaths Remedies: Gelsemium, Bryonia, Apis, etc . - T. G. Barnhill, M.D., Findlay, Ohio.

The importance of homeopathic remedies has been emphasized; 24 out of 42 cases who used vaccines had influenza and there were 8 cases of pneumonia - so vaccines as a prophylactic failed. - W. L. Love, M. D., Brooklyn, New York.

Eleven men reported 3,600 cases with 6 deaths My records show 750 cases with one death. Gelsemium, Bryonia and Eupatorium were the remedies chiefly - F.A. Swartwout, M D., Washington, D.C.

The more Aspirin, Codeine, Dobell's solution and other extra homeopathic remedies used, the slower the recovery - James W. Ward, M. D. ,San Francisco, California.

The mortality rate in a camp for pneumonia was 25 8% The lieutenant in charge was persuaded to discontinue Aspirin, Digitalis, and Quinine and the mortality dropped speedily to 15% with no medicine whatever. This was in one ward. Whereupon it was ordered in other wards and the mortality dropped to 15% with no medicine - W. A Pearson, M. D., Philadelphia, Penn.

I treated 618 cases and had 5 deaths! Three of these had had allopathic treatment. - R. S. Paris, M.D. ,Richmond, Virginia.

One physician in a Pittsburgh hospital asked a nurse if she knew anything better than what he was doing, because he was losing many cases "Yes, Doctor, stop Aspirin and go down to a homeopathic pharmacy, and get homeopathic remedies!" The Doctor replied, "But that is Homeopathy" "I know it, but the homeopathic doctors for whom I have nursed have not lost a single case." - W. F. Edmundson, M. D ., Pittsburgh, Penn.

It is a rare thing for pneumonia to develop if a good homeopathic physician is called during the first 24 hours of an attack of influenza. An appalling death rate comes from the baneful results of large doses of Aspirin, salicylates and opium preparations! - A! H. Grimmer, M.D., Chicago, Illinois.

Murphy, of Lansing, Michigan, treated 325 cases of influenza in a camp where the mortality had been 20%, while the mortality under his homeopathic treatment was less than 3%. - W.H. Wilson, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.

I have treated 1,000 cases of influenza. I have records to show my work I have no losses. Please give all credit to Homeopathy and none to the Scotch-Irish- American. - T, A McCann, M.D., Dayton, Ohio.

In the month of October, 1918, I treated, in round numbers, 200 cases of influenza without a death. - W. Andrews, M. D., Mannington, West Virginia.

Dr. M. I Bogey of Portsmouth, N. H., treated 331 cases of influenza with 2 deaths. Dr G. G. Bascom of Lake Wilson, Minn.300 cases with no deaths - E. C. Price, M. D., Baltimore, Maryland.

The word Homeopathy stands for so much that is good and true and useful in the medicinal therapy of the year of our Lord 1919 - O, S., Haines, M. D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I have treated 261 cases of influenza , No deaths - A B. Hawes, M. D., Bridgewater,

South Dakota.

In one month treated 65 cases in influenza with one death and that in a tubercular case. - F. C. Thornhill, M. D., Alma, Michigan.

One of the principal druggists of Montreal told Dr. T. A. McCann that they had lost 900 patients from influenza. Being asked what drug they used most he replied that Aspirin was used more than all other drugs combined. The directions were to take a 5-grain tablet every three hours, but more took ten grains every three hours. Comment is unnecessary. Seventy-six cases developed in the Children's Home without any complicating pneumonia death. Most of the cases were Bryonia and Gelsemium, which seemed to be successful in carrying them through to complete recovery - J.G. Dillon, M. D., Fargo, North Dakota.

It has been my experience that Gelsemium was most always the first remedy and served the purpose well in early conditions - Hooker, M. D., Hartford, Connecticut.

I had a package handed to me containing 1,000 Aspirin tablets, which was 994 too many. I think I gave about a half dozen. I could find no place for it. My remedies were few, I almost invariably gave Gelsemium and Bryonia. I hardly ever lost a case if I got there first, unless the patient had been sent to a drug store and bought Aspirin, in which event I was likely to have a case of pneumonia on my hands - J. P. Huff, M.D., Olive Branch, Kentucky.

Aspirin and the other coal tar products are condemned as causing great numbers of unnecessary deaths. The omnipresent Aspirin is the most pernicious drug of all. It beguiles by its quick action of relief of pain, a relief which is but meretricious. In several cases Aspirin weakened the heart, depressed the vital forces, increased the mortality in mild cases and made convalescence slower. In all cases it made the symptoms worse and renders immeasurably more difficult the selection of the curative remedy. Apparently Aspirin bears no curative relation to any disease and it ought to be prohibited - Guy Beckly Stearns, M. D., New York City, New York.

One thousand eclectic physicians were asked to name the remedies most useful in influenza and in pneumonia. Over 75% named Aconite and Bryonia in pneumonia - Loyd Brothers, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Experimental research conducted in the Hygienic Laboratory Washington, D. C., failed to show any evidence in favor of vaccine in pneumonia. Imagine such a confession relative to our own well-tried remedies, Gelsemium, Rhus Tox, Eupatorium, etc., whose indications are fixed, definite, unchangeable and permanent - Homeopathic Recorder, October, 1920.

In the Public Health service in New Mexico among the Mexican population chiefly *Veratrum viride*, Gelsemium and Bryonia were introduced and excellent results followed their use in influenza. No cases died under homeopathic medication - C. E. Fisher, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.

The reason why children fared better than adults in the influenza epidemic were, first

they were seen earlier by the physician; second, they were not drugged with "sure cures;" third, they were not filled up with Aspirin; fourth, they were put to bed; and fifth, they were given the proper remedy and had a fine chance - J. P. Cobb, M. D., Chicago.

All of the people under my care who died of influenza had of their own accord taken Aspirin before I saw them, — W. P. Best, M., D., Indianapolis, Indiana. There may be some hearts that can withstand Aspirin; there maybe some hearts that can withstand influenza; but there are no hearts that can withstand both Aspirin and influenza. - Dr Taylor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Gelsemium does not depress the heart and is superior to Aspirin and other coal tar derivatives in all particulars for La Grippe. J. A. Munk, M. D., Los Angeles, California.

Many patients had been advised to take Aspirin as prophylactic against influenza and influenza pneumonia One lady had taken 240 grains in 48 hours She was sent to the hospital diagnosed as scarlet fever because of the red spots on her body Many cases who came to the hospital (Haynes Memorial) were filled up with Aspirin, Codeine, Morphine and Digitalis Men in government work praised our hospital for its homeopathic treatment in influenza,, They do not all agree, however, but they have a feeling in Boston that we have a wonderful treatment for influenza,, - Samuel Clement, M. D. U, Boston, Massachusetts.

During the "flu" period almost every victim got his Aspirin Almost everybody believed in it because it relieved his distress and "couldn't do him any harm" The result was that thousands died who might have lived had they been willing to bear discomfort for a little while They died like flies around a plate of poison although "science" did all that could be done to "save" them - F. Stevens, D, St Louis, Missouri.

We treated over 300 cases of influenza among the members of the Student Army Training Corps with no deaths Gelsemium, Bryonia and Fertum phosphoricum were the leading remedies. Only in those cases having had Aspirin was convalescence delayed and pneumonia produced - B. Stouffer, D., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In some 150 cases treated in the first "Flu" epidemic Gelsemium and Bryonia were the chief remedies Very few had pneumonia, none that I treated from the beginning! Only one died under my care, a man of sixty, having had asthma and brought into our Minnesota climate in the midst of a severe winter, a truly septic pneumonia. — Wm. E. Leonard, M. D., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I treated approximately 50 cases of influenza, had two pneumonias, one in a pregnant woman. All recovered Remedies Gelsemium, Bryonia and Rhus, chiefly - Wm Boericke, M. D., San Francisco, California.

I treated over 100 cases of influenza and pneumonia, lost two cases, one who had taken Aspirin for a week when pneumonia developed before I was called; the other a very malignant case with very high temperature from the onset Remedies: Gelsemium, Eupatorium, Bryonia, etc. - C. P. Bryant, M. D., Seattle, Washington.

I treated approximately 500 cases which included much pneumonia, lost two cases; never used Aspirin nor permitted it to be used. Chief drugs used were Belladonna, Gelsemium, Sticta for the throat symptoms, Mercurius, Natrum muriaticum and Kali muriaticum - A. B. Palmer, M. D., Seattle, Washington. While this is but a small sampling of the experiences of some of the homeopathic doctors throughout the United States during the Spanish flu, we know from history that it was quite typical of the experience of countless other homeopathic doctors all over the world. From England comes this wonderful account of British homeopath, Doctor Dorothy Shepherd when she wrote about the success of homeopathy in acute epidemics: And what about influenza? We have mild epidemics of it every year, and every thirty years or so a virulent type of influenza arrives and sweeps over the four quarters of the globe, ravaging and killing people by the thousands. The last epidemic, still within living memory, was of course in 1918, when many people among the war-wearied populations of the world were carried off. I do not know whether records are available of the mortality rate of influenza under homeopathic regime. I can only testify from personal experience to the invaluable help which homeopathic remedies gave me in treating the many cases of influenza under my care at the time. One treated over 100, nearer 150 cases; both rich and poor, young and old, male and female; and the results were astonishing. The cases were not picked ones; some were seriously ill when first seen, with high temperatures and bronchial involvement, some had it more mildly, and yet the temperatures in nearly all cases came down in twenty-four to forty-eight hours. They were kept strictly in bed for a week after the temperature was normal, kept on dilute fruit juice, no milk, no tea was allowed. And there was not a single death in the whole of this series and no subsequent complications.

The amazing and most outstanding aspect of these reported cases is the fact that these homeopathic Doctors recognized the fatal effects of aspirin in treating viral infections - fifteen years before viruses were discovered and 45 years before the connection between aspirin and Reye's syndrome was known. These homeopaths were not hog-tied by the lack of a diagnosis during that epidemic. They did not stand helplessly at the bedside and scratch their heads wondering what manner of evil disease their patients were dying from and what they could possibly do about it. They didn't need to "name the disease" in order to save their patients. They simply followed good homeopathic practice. They took detailed and accurate cases, and prescribed the indicated homeopathic remedy for the case presented to them at the moment, and then they allowed the remedy and the patient's own vital force to do the rest.