

NOTES OF CASES OF CHOLERA TREATED BY SULPHUROUS ACID.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I beg to annex notes of a few cases of cholera successfully treated by sulphurous acid gas, and hope that they will find a space in your monthly periodical.

I beg to remain,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant.
T. NARRAIN SAWMY NAIDOO,
Hospital Assistant.

CUTTACK, 9th May 1877.

CASE I.—9th September 1876.—Veerunah, aged 20, reported at about 11 P.M. as having been purged frequently from 4 P.M.; evacuations very loose and watery, no bile, rice water in appearance; no vomiting; urine suppressed; pulse quite imperceptible; skin cold, and bathed in cold sweat; voice husky; extremities cold and pinched; passing evacuations almost involuntarily; cramps both in extremities and abdomen; vomited thin watery fluid on admission.

The attack commenced when the lad was at the river, washing, about 3 P.M., so 8 hours have elapsed from the commencement of the attack, to the commencement of the treatment.

To have sulphurous acid gas inhalations steadily and continuously.

12 o'clock mid-night.—There was no decided change for the better, except that the cramps were not much complained of, pulse now perceptible (small and weak).

1 o'clock a.m.—Relieved from the cramps, but otherwise much the same.

2 a.m.—There was some return of heat in the body, but the extremities still remain cold; pulse gradually gaining.

7 a.m.—Motions are less frequent; extremities still remain cold; evacuations slightly brown. To have brandy and water, arrowroot, congee, and sulphur burning to be continued.

2 p.m.—Suddenly became very cold after a good sweat, brandy to be freely given.

℞ Ol Terebinthinæ ... ʒss.
Misturæ Gummi Acaciæ ... ʒj.
m To be given every 2 hours.

Took one dose of the mixture, and vomited it again soon after. Continue sulphurous acid gas inhalations and brandy.

6 p.m.—Less purged; skin warm again; pulse gaining.

11th.—Passed a small quantity of urine this morning. 5 a.m. evacuations slightly tinged green. Continue all.

12th.—Passed urine again freely in the afternoon yesterday, and had simple diarrhœa.

℞ Mixturæ Cretæ ... ʒi.
Tinct. Catechu ... ʒss. ℞ Ft. Haust.
To be given now and repeated as required.

13th.—Took one dose of the mixture. Diarrhœa better.

14th.—No diarrhœa. Still weak.

Treatment, Nihil.

15th.—Well.

This case was not reported till very late, 8 hours having elapsed, and the lad was in a very precarious and almost hopeless state; the sulphurous acid gas generated by burning sulphur as directed by Surgeon-Major C. R. G. Parker, acted, I have no doubt, by eliminating the poison from the system. Brandy was latterly freely given; its use was demanded as the vital powers were much reduced by the depressing effects of the choleraic poison.

CASE No. 2.—Shaikh Meerah, aged about 60, an old pensioner of the 12th Regiment, M.N. I., residing in the Regimental lines.

27th April 1877, 11 p.m.—Purging began at 8 P.M., five evacuations up to 10-30 P.M., congee-water in appearance; vomited twice; no urine with the last two motions; cramps in legs, and restlessness; pulse very small and frequent; extremities and skin of natural temperature; voice husky. To have sulphurous acid gas inhalations.

28th, 1 a.m.—No return of vomiting or purging; cramps still complained of occasionally, and he in the intervals keeps dozing.

5-30 a.m.—Passed urine scantily at 2 and 3 A.M.; no vomiting or purging; skin of natural temperature; nose rather cold, but cramps are still complained of. To continue sulphur burning.

10-30 a.m.—No more vomiting or purging; pulse small and frequent; cramps ceased since 7 A.M.

4 p.m.—Feels much easier and stronger, but pulse remains rather weak and small yet; no evacuations; passed urine again at 11 A.M. and at 1 P.M.

29th, 5-30 a.m.—Passed urine three times freely; bowels have been once opened scantily during the night; though the volume of the pulse is better; he is still weak, but otherwise well.

CASE No. 3.—Hazeerah Bee, aged 30, wife of a Sepoy of the 12th Regiment, N. I., in the Regimental lines

1st May 1877, 1 p.m.—Attack began at 10 A.M., purged five times, and vomited twice, evacuations watery and consisting of undigested food; no urine with the last two motions; cramps in the extremities; pulse almost imperceptible; voice husky; skin cold, and bathed in cold sweat.

This person was at a marriage feast the previous day and night, and was apparently quite well in the morning.

1-30 p.m.—Had another watery but scanty motion; no urine with it; vomited some watery fluid, together with some undigested rice.

2 p.m.—Skin warmer; pulse small and weak; cramps somewhat relieved.

2-45 p.m.—Suddenly collapsed again; pulse almost thready; skin bathed in cold sweat; cramps returned.

4 p.m.—No improvement except that the pulse is again a little better.

5 p.m.—Skin warm again; pulse better in volume, small and frequent; irritability of stomach however continues.

7 p.m.—Passed urine rather scantily in her bed clothes.

10 p.m.—Vomited a little; no cramps, but restless.

2nd, 4 a.m.—Irritability of stomach continues, bringing up the small quantity of fluid which she takes; passed urine again just now, about half a pint; skin of natural heat; pulse better in volume.

5-30 a.m.—Pulse stronger, and skin warm; stomach is still a little irritable.

℞ Acidi Hydrocyanici dil miii
Aquæ. ʒi. m. Ft. Haust.

To be given now, and repeated if necessary. Sinapism to epigastrium. To have chicken broth.

4 p.m.—Passed urine twice since this morning; pulse stronger, slow and full; irritability of stomach continues; vomited small quantities of chicken broth which she had taken; bowels opened once, brownish in colour.

3rd, 5-30 a.m.—Complains of cough with scanty thick mucous expectoration; pulse and skin natural.

To have Pulv. Doveri gr. v. every 4 hours.

5 p.m.—No more vomiting; cough slightly better; bowels opened twice, rather scanty and brown in colour; pulse full and slow.

4th.—Well.

Medical News.

Deaths in Calcutta for June and Madras for March 1877.

(Those for Bombay for March not received.)

Population.	Calcutta for June.		Madras for March.	
	Registered.	Annual ratio per 1,000 of population.	Registered.	Annual ratio per 1,000 of population.
429,535	397,552			
Cholera ...	38	0.78	650	19.6
Small-Pox ...	6	0.16	1,738	52.4
Fevers ...	235	6.50	552	16.6
Bowel Complaints ...	87	2.40	1,030	31.0
All other Diseases ...	360	10.03	1,054	31.7
Total ...	716	19.87	5,024	151.3