

A Mirror of Hospital Practice

THREE CASES OF PLAGUE TREATED WITH 'BAYER 205'

By B. R. RANGANATHA RAO, L.M.P.

Sub-Assistant Surgeon, L. F. Dispensary, Vadigenhalli

MAJOR G. W. VINCENT, I.M.D., retired, reported four cases of plague successfully treated with 'Bayer 205' in the *Indian Medical Gazette* for March 1931. I tried the remedy in the three following cases. The cases occurred in the middle of an epidemic.

Case 1.—S., aged 30 years, a Hindu female; ill for three days. I saw her on 31st January, 1932. Temperature—103°F., pulse 135, easily compressible. Low muttering delirium; perspiration on the head and face. There was a tender enlarged bubo in the left groin; she was given 0.9 gramme of 'Bayer 205' in 10 c.cm. of distilled water. The temperature came down to 100°F. next morning and was normal by the same evening. The patient was well and walking about in a week, the bubo having disappeared on the sixth day of her illness.

Case 2.—P., aged 32 years, a Hindu female, illness of five days; she was taken ill on 17th February, 1932, and I saw the patient on the 22nd February. Temperature—102.5°F., pulse 130, and soft, semi-comatose, breathing laboured, lying in her bed with the right thigh semi-flexed. The eyes were much congested; she could be raised only after much shouting and had a bubo in the right groin which was very painful and tender. She was given one intravenous injection of 0.9 gramme of 'Bayer 205' in 10 c.cm. of distilled water. The temperature came down to 99°F. within thirty-six hours, the glands subsided, and the patient was attending to her usual work within a week.

Case 3.—C., a Hindu female, aged 26 years. I saw her on 2nd March, 1932, at 3 p.m. on the fourth day of her illness. Temperature—104.5°F. Pulse rapid and weak about 145 per minute. Unconscious and no food was given for 24 hours; eyes blood-shot, with left side of the neck swollen and tender below the left ear, where there were two buboes, each about the size of a seed of a jack fruit, and very tender. Breathing was rapid, the patient very restless and rolling in the bed. She was given intravenously 0.9 gramme of 'Bayer 205' in 10 c.cm. of distilled water. She was given a soap water enema for her five days constipation. There was no improvement on the 3rd; but on the 4th March, 1932, she was conscious and had no fever, the tenderness in the glands had decreased; but she complained of pain when swallowing food. On the 7th March, 1932, the glands had subsided and she took ten more days to recover sufficiently to walk about.

All the three cases were uninoculated against plague.

The only other treatment given was application of belladonna pigment to the buboes and stimulants internally.

The number of cases treated by me is small, but taken in conjunction with Dr. Vincent's four cases and those of Dr. Dyce Sharp, reported in the February 1926 number of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, there seems to be no doubt of the good results from the use of 'Bayer 205' in bubonic plague.

A CASE OF DYSPHAGIA DUE TO ROUND WORMS

By Y. SURYANARAYANA ROW, L.M.P. & L.T.M.

Government Royapuram Hospital, Madras

A YOUNG man, aged about 18 years, was brought to me in February 1928 complaining that he had lost the power of swallowing either solids or liquids for the past three days. Except this there was no other sign or symptom.

On examination I found the patient weak and exhausted, having been starving for the previous three days. Pulse and respirations were normal except the former was a little feeble on account of his weak state. Nothing abnormal could be found in heart and lungs. He had been constipated for the previous six days. The patient was quite conscious and the power of speech was normal though feeble.

I poured about a dessert-spoonful of chloroform water into his mouth and asked him to swallow. In spite of any amount of persuasion on my part and repeated trial on his part, he could not swallow this small quantity of liquid and after some ineffectual attempts, the fluid came out of the corners of the mouth. Much less could he swallow any solids. Then I tried to pass a stomach tube to see whether the patient had any obstruction in the œsophagus due to a foreign body, growth, or stricture. On account of the restlessness and non-co-operation on the part of the patient, I could not pass the tube. I put the patient under chloroform anæsthesia and then passed the stomach tube easily. I found the stomach quite empty and I washed it out with weak sodium bicarbonate solution and in the end put in one ounce of magnesium sulphate in solution and kept the patient at rest. In about three hours I was informed that the patient had three loose watery motions in one of which he passed one round worm. Considering that round worms might have probably been the cause of his present trouble, I gave five grains of santonin the same night followed by castor oil, one ounce, the next morning. All these were administered through the stomach tube, as well as feeds of milk at intervals. The next day the patient passed thirty-two round worms and after that the power of deglutition slowly returned. He was then able to take only fluids in sips and not more than a dessert-spoonful each time. The third day he passed another lot of round worms about fifty-four in number and continued to pass them for a week until the total came up to one hundred and forty-eight. After that he did not pass any more worms, though I repeated the administration of santonin a second time. By the end of one week his power of deglutition was quite normal. It was only during the first four days that he had to be fed through the stomach tube. He made an uneventful recovery afterwards.

Undoubtedly the cause of obstruction was the round worms either from their