

George Royal

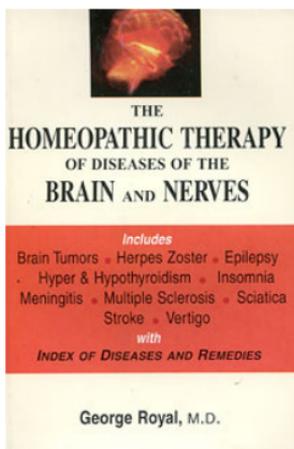
The Homoeopathic Therapy of Diseases of the Brain and Nerves

Reading excerpt

[The Homoeopathic Therapy of Diseases of the Brain and Nerves](#)

of [George Royal](#)

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HOMEOPATHIC THERAPY OF DISEASES OF THE BRAIN AND NERVES

CHAPTER I.

THE NEURALGIAS

To facilitate the selection of the indicated homeopathic remedy, let us divide the neuralgias into two general classes—the exogenous and endogenous. We base this classification upon the etiological factors. The causes of the exogenous neuralgias are traumatism; worry; such drugs as quinine, mercury, lead, copper, ergot, alcohol, nicotine, etc., etc.; and such diseases as malarial fever, grippe, typhoid, dysentery, ptomaine poisoning, "colds," etc.

The endogenous neuralgias are found in patients who have an inherited constitutional tendency to such conditions as tuberculosis, gout, and the graver neuroses.

Our exogenous class include the pure uncomplicated neuralgias—*i.e.*, irritation of healthy nerve tissues. It is often stated that if this is true, any one remedy, capable of irritating brain or nerve tissues, would cure all cases of brain or nerve irritation. The statement is made on the assumption that we are treating nerve irritation and that all individuals respond alike to the same stimulus. But every graduate of homeopathy who has attended the clinics of the department of materia medica

and therapeutics knows that such an assumption is irrational, false, and that action upon it is often futile and in many cases positively injurious to the patient.

SUBDIVISIONS.

Partly because most of our text books are still publishing our symptomatologies in the schema form and partly because we have different tissues in different parts and sections of the brain and nervous system, we will follow the schema form.

CEPHALALGIA—HEADACHE.

Definition—Forty-seven years ago cephalalgia was defined by our professors as follows: "Every kind of headache, whether symptomatic or idiopathic, is a cephalalgia. It is ordinarily symptomatic and has to be treated accordingly." Professor Lilienthal then made two divisions: neuralgia of the external head-muscles; and neuralgia of the brain substance—internal head. We are going to define cephalalgia as *irritation of the brain mass tissues*.

Etiology—The causes of cephalalgia should be divided into two general classes. Direct, exogenous; and reflex, endogenous. As direct causes should be mentioned traumatism and such agents and substances as act primarily upon the brain tissues, *e.g.*, excitement, shock; glonoine, belladonna; agents which in the beginning produce a simple irritation, but which, if continued, may cause inflammation or functional changes and even structural changes.

Pathology—There are no structural changes, hence no pathology.

Diagnosis.—This is not difficult. If the first attack, an accurate account of what has taken place during the

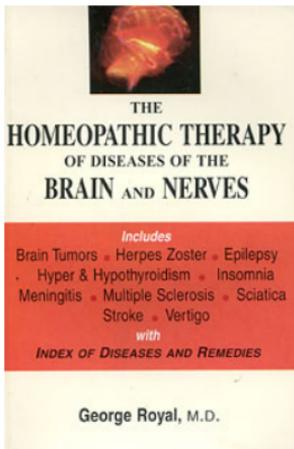
preceding 48 to 72 hours. If there have been previous attacks, a detailed account of each of such attacks and of the interval between. These will determine in the majority of cases coming under the head of direct cephalalgia.

It may be, in fact often is, difficult to differentiate between the direct and reflex. And still more, between many forms of reflex, to differentiate one from another, *i.e.*, whether reflex from stomach, sexual organs, blood, etc., etc. And yet a correct differential diagnosis between them is a very important, if not the most important, essential in selecting the indicated remedy.

Prognosis—Good for the direct variety. For this class you can promise a rapid and complete cure in nearly every case. The few exceptions will be those unavoidable cases of worry and shock, also those patients who prefer the headaches to giving up their tea, tobacco, alcohol and other stimulants and also excesses of various kinds. We feel sure that the number of this last class is decreasing and will continue to do so still more rapidly as the education of the people by the public schools becomes more and more effective.

Symptoms—**Their** name is legion, limited only by the patient's vocabulary and this includes every adjective in the English language. For the correctness of the above statement the reader is referred to his own experience, to any or all our text books, but especially to King and Underwood on Headache.

The *modalities* are nearly as numerous as the sensations and form an even more important essential of the symptoms. There is no condition from which we humans suffer whose symptoms are harder to group and whose rank is harder to determine than the one under consideration. Instead of enumerating the long list of symptoms and



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