

Lippe Case from IHA

It was on a hot August morning, on one of these hot summer days, so very enjoyable in the City of Brotherly Love, in 1853, that a gentleman summoned me to go with him and see his very sick wife. While we were walking to the hotel where she was, the husband informed me that they had left New York in the night, had intended to go to Washington, that his wife sickened as they approached Philadelphia, that he had to take her to the hotel, but that he had to take the next train for Washington, as he had to go there unavoidably on very important business; that he was, much against his wish, compelled to ask me to attend his wife and do everything I found necessary to be done. When we reached the sick-room we found the lady in spasms, such as we had never read of, or seen before or since. When she heard water poured out, or when water was offered her, or if a looking-glass was presented to her she suddenly jumped to her feet, the muscles of the body were rigid, the spine was rigid and stiff, but her arms, hands and facial muscles were convulsed, she groaned and upon being approached she attempted to scratch and bite the person coming near her, the eyes were wide open, her look was savage. The attacks lasted from two to five minutes, then she gradually relaxed all the muscles and assumed a horizontal position. Upon close interrogation I learned that her spasms were preceded by an ineffectual and extremely painful desire to pass urine (strangury).

This information made the choice of the remedy very easy. Gave her a dose of XXXXX, (Jenichen) on her tongue. The spasm became less frequent and less severe all day, but in the night she became worse again; she had not passed any urine all day. A second dose of XXXXX had the desired effect, she passed urine freely and gradually fully recovered under careful nursing. She received no more medicine. During her convalescence I learned the cause of her malady. Preparations were made by her and her husband to go to Washington and as she had walked that day much more than she was in the habit of doing, her feet were swollen and intensely sore in the evening. By advice of a friend she applied oil of turpentine to her feet with the results here stated.