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Narrating patient histories in Hippocratic medicine.

The example of the wife of Theodorus

Epidemics 7.25 (Jouanna 67.5-68.10=5.394-8)

<p>1 Καὶ ἡ Θεοδώρου σφόδρα ἐν πυρετῶ, αἰμορραγίης γενομένης, χειμῶνος. Λήξαντος δὲ τοῦ πυρετοῦ περὶ δευτέρην, οὐ πολὺ ὕστερον, πλευροῦ δεξιοῦ ὡς ἀπὸ ὕστερέων βάρους· καὶ πρῶτον δὲ ἐγεγόνει, καὶ τὰς ἐχομένας ἢ ὀδύνη κατὰ στήθος δεινὴ καὶ πλευρὸν δεξιὸν· πυριωμένη, ἐχάλασε.</p>	<p>The wife of Theodorus, greatly in fever, 1 hemorrhage having occurred, in winter. The fever abated the second day; shortly afterwards she had heaviness of the right side, as from the womb. This was the first time it 5 had happened, and on succeeding days the pain in the chest was terrible. With fomentations on the right side she improved.</p>
<p>Τεταρταίη, τὰ ἀλγήματα, τὸ πνεῦμα πυκνότερον· ἀρτηρίη μόλις ἀναπνεοῦση ὑπεσύριζε· κλισίη ὑπτίη, ἐπιστρέφεσθαι χαλεπῶς· ἐς νύκτα ὀξύτερος ὁ πυρετός, καὶ λῆρος βραχὺς ἐγένετο. 3 Πέμπτη πρῶτῃ, ἐδόκει ἡπιώτερος εἶναι· ἰδρώτιον ἀπὸ μετώπου κατεχύθη ὀλίγον πρῶτον, ἔπειτα πολὺν χρόνον ἐς ὅλον τὸ σῶμα καὶ πόδας· μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα ἐδόκει αὐτῇ κεχαλακέναι τὸ πῦρ· ἦν δὲ πρὸς χεῖρα ψυχρότερον τὸ σῶμα· αἱ δὲ ἐν κροτάφοισι καὶ μᾶλλον ἐπήδων· καὶ πνεῦμα πυκνότερον· καὶ ὑπελήρει ἄλλοτε καὶ ἄλλοτε· καὶ πάντ' ἐπὶ τὸ χειρὸν. 4 Γλῶσσα διὰ τέλος λευκὴ λίην· ἢ τε βῆξ οὐκ ἐνῆν, ὅτι μὴ τριταίη καὶ πεμπταίη ὀλίγον χρόνον· δίψα οὐκ ἐνῆν, πτυσμὸς δὲ ἦν· ὑποταίη καὶ πεμπταίη ὀλίγον χρόνον· δίψα οὐκ ἐνῆν· πτυσμὸς δὲ ἦν.</p>	<p>On the fourth day, the pains; the breathing quicker. Her trachea whistled as she breathed 10 with difficulty. She lay on her back; difficulty turning over. Towards night the fever grew more acute. There was, briefly, delirious talk. Early on the fifth day the fever seemed more mild. Sweat poured from her forehead, 15 briefly at first, then for a long period over her whole body and feet. After this she thought the burning had grown less, and her body was cooler to the touch, but the vessels at the temples jumped more, her breath was more 20 rapid, she talked deliriously from time to time, and all signs changed for the worse. Throughout, the tongue was extremely white; there was no cough except on the third and fifth day for a short time. There was no thirst, 25</p>

ὑποχόνδριον δεξιὸν σφόδρα ἐπήρθη περὶ τὴν πέμπτην, μετὰ δὲ μαλθακώτερον.

Ἵποχώρησις τριταίῃ ἀπὸ βαλανίου κόπρου ὀλίγης, πέμπτη πάλιν ὑγρὸν ὀλίγον· κοιλίη δὲ λαπαρή· οὖρα στρυφνὰ, ὀποειδέα. Ὄμματα ὡς κοπιώσης· χαλεπῶς ἀνέβλεπε καὶ περιέφερε. 5 Πέμπτη ἐς νύκτα χαλεπῶς, καὶ λῆρος. Ἐκτη πάλιν τὴν αὐτὴν ὥρην περὶ πλήθουσιν ἀγορὴν ἰδρῶς πούλως κατεχεῖτο· ἀπὸ μετώπου ἤρχετο ἐς ὅλον τὸ σῶμα πολὺν χρόνον· ἐμφρόνως διετίθετο τὰ ἐωυτῆς. Πρὸς μέσον δ' ἡμέρης σφόδρα ἐλήρει, καὶ τὰ τῆς καταψύξις ὅμοια· βαρύτερα δὲ τὰ κατὰ τὸν χρῶτα πάντα. Πρὸς δὲ τὴν ἐσπέρην ἡ κνήμη αὐτῆς ἐκ τῆς κλίνης κατερρῦη· καὶ τῷ παιδί παραλόγως ἠπειλήσε τε καὶ πάλιν ἐσιώπησε καὶ ἐς ἡσυχίην μετέβαλε.

Περὶ δὲ τὸν πρῶτον ὕπνον δίψα πολλή· μανίη· καὶ ἀνεκάθιζε καὶ τοῖσι παρεοῦσιν ἐλοιδορεῖτο καὶ πάλιν ἀπεσιώπησε καὶ ἐν ἡσυχίῃ ἦν· καὶ ἐδόκει τὴν ἐπίλοιπον νύκτα κεκοματίσθαι· τοὺς δ' ὀφθαλμοὺς οὐ ξυνηῆγεν. 6 Ἐπὶ δ' ἡμέρην ὑπεκρίνετο τὰ πλεῖστα νεύμασιν, ἀτρεμίζουσα τὸ σῶμα καὶ κατανοέουσα ἐπιεικέως· πάλιν δὲ ἰδρῶς τὴν αὐτὴν ὥρην· ὁμοίως οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ κατηφεῖς, ἐς τὸ κάτω βλέφαρον μᾶλλον ἐγκείμενοι, ἀτενίζοντες <ὡς> κεκαρωμένῳ· τὰ λευκὰ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν ὡχρὰ καὶ νεκρώδεα· καὶ τὸ πᾶν χρῶμα ὡχρὸν καὶ μελανέον· τῇ χειρὶ τὰ

but expectoration. The right hypochondrium was much swollen on the **fifth day** but afterwards softer.

Some solid excrement **on the third day** after a suppository. **On the fifth again**, a little 30 liquid. The belly soft. Urine astringent, like fig juice. The eyes as of one who is weary. She had difficulty seeing things and looking about. **On the fifth day towards night**, difficulty and delirious talk. **On the sixth**, 35 again, at the same hour that of the filling of the marketplace, much sweat poured from her. It went from the forehead to the whole body for a long time. She conducted herself rationally. **Towards midday**, however, she 40 talked very deliriously, the chilling was similar but she had greater heaviness all over the body. **Towards evening** her lower leg slipped out of bed, she threatened her child irrationally and again fell silent, changed into 45 quiescence.

About the first sleep, thirst. Much delirium: she sat up and rebuked those who were there. Again she felt silent and remained quiescent. She seemed to be in a coma **the rest of the night**. She did not close her eyes. **Towards** 50 **day** she answered mostly with nods, her body unmoving, reasonably alert. Again the sweat at the same hour. The eyes similarly downcast, leaning more on the lower lid, staring, torpid, the whites of the eyes 55 yellowish and corpselike. Her whole color yellowish and dark. Mostly reaching with her

<p>πολλά πρὸς τοῖχον ἢ πρὸς ἱμάτιον· οἱ ψόφοι πινούση ἐγίνοντο ἀπεπύτιζε καὶ ἄνω ἐς τὴν ῥῖνα ἐφόρει· καὶ ἐκροκυδολόγει καὶ ξυνεκάλυπτε τὸ πρόσωπον· μετὰ δὲ τὸν ἰδρῶτα, χεῖρες ὡσπερ κρυστάλλιναι· ὁ ἰδρῶς παρηκολούθει ψυχρός· σῶμα πρὸς χεῖρᾶ ψυχρόν· ἀνεπήδα· ἐκεκράγει· ἐμαίνετο· πνεῦμα πολὺ· τρομῶδης χεῖρας ἐγίνετο· ὑπὸ δὲ τὸν θάνατον σπασμῶδης. 7 Ἑβδομαίη ἐτελεύτησεν. Ἐνούρησε τῇ ἕκτῃ ἐν νυκτὶ ὀλίγον· τὸ οὐρεόμενον τῷ κάρφει εἴλκετο, γλίσχρον, γονοειδές. Ἄγρυπνος ἀπάσας. Μετὰ τὴν ἕκτην οὖρον ὕφαιμον.</p>	<p>hand towards the wall or the bedclothes. The gurgling occurred when she drank, and she spurted it out and brought it up through her nose. She plucked at the blankets, and kept her face covered up. After the sweats her hands were like ice. Cold sweat persisted. Body cold to the touch. She jumped up, cried out, raved. Breathing very rapid. She developed trembling in the hands. At the point of death she twitched. She died on the seventh day. She urinated a little in her bed on the sixth day in the night. The urine was picked up on a twig, sticky, like semen. Sleepless all nights. After the sixth day bloody urine.</p>
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