

Penny Chalmers / THREE POEMS

REMEDIES

step forth

as
Personalities

they confront us in our patients
they haunt us in 'bus and tram

creatures of temperament, vivid
sensitive to meteoric conditions
human intercourse
and environment

we realize their terrors, real or imaginary —
their strange obsessions
& in measure we apply them with success to
persons of like
idiosyncracies &
distresses

very vivid
their power to help

experienced
one regards with something like affection

allies

MERCURIES

Head in a vice : growing larger

Sparks from eyes
 black bugs before the sight
 the fire dazzles

Feathers coming out of corners of eyes.

 A weight hanging from nose.

A wedge driven into ear
 roaring
Ice in ear : cold water running

Teeth loose, fixed in a mass of pap.

Gums a bright red margin.

Worm rising in throat

 the loaded tongue
 swollen & furry, white fur, so soft
 on the margin that it shows the imprint
 of teeth in scallops

Stammering on account of the trembling of mouth & tongue.

 talk hurried

 “an apple core sticks in my throat”

Black Letter Symptoms

 Apprehension in the blood
 creeping chilly

PHOSPHORUS

tall slender phthisical persons

who like to be magnetized

born sick

grown up

emaciating waxy weak empty gone

delicate eyelash

worse from mental exertion, from noise

worse in the dark : worse alone

better for eating : better for sleeping

deaf to the human voice

apathy : friends and, even, children

Phos. is a bleeder

Phos. may come in for softening of the brain

fatty degeneration

faces in the corner

in a whisper, huskily:

“I bathe with my eyes closed”