

LECTURES
ON
HOMOEOPATHIC
MATERIA MEDICA

TOGETHER WITH KENT'S 'NEW REMEDIES'
INCORPORATED AND ARRANGED IN
ALPHABETICAL ORDER

BY
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LECTURES ON HOMOEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

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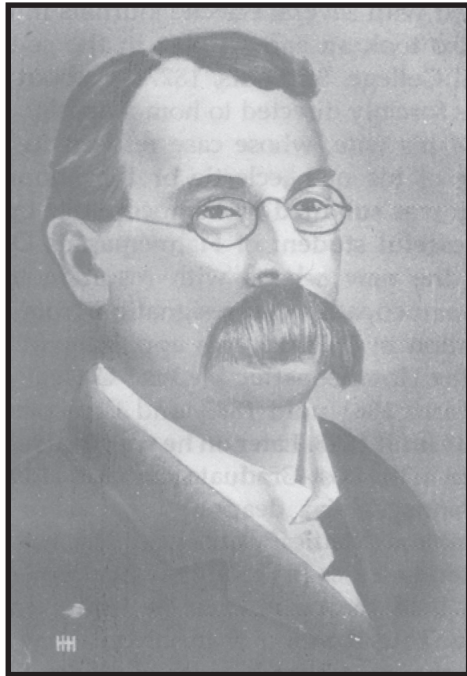
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LIFE SKETCH OF DR. JAMES TYLER KENT

James Tyler Kent, A.M., Chicago, Illinois, Professor of Materia Medica in Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago physician and author of several valuable medical works, is a native of the town of Woodhull, Steuben county, New York, born in 1849, son of Stephen Kent and Caroline Tyler, his wife. His elementary and secondary education was acquired in Franklin Academy, Prattsburg, and his higher education in Madison (now Colgate) University, Hamilton, New York, where he came to his degree, Ph.D., in 1868; A. M., 1870. He was educated in medicine in the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating there in 1871, and the Homoeopathic Medical College of Missouri, St. Louis, where he was awarded the diploma of that institution in 1889. Dr. Kent began his professional career in St. Louis as a physician of the

eclectic school at the same time being actively connected with several eclectic journals in the capacity of writer and also took an earnest part in the councils of the Eclectic National College, St. Louis, 1877-78, about which time his attention was forcibly directed to homoeopathy, through the serious illness of his wife, whose case refused to yield to the treatment either of his own eclectic or the allopathic school practitioners, but was subdued by homoeopathic treatment. He then became a careful student of Hahnemann's Organon and other works of the new school, with result in his complete conversion to homoeopathy, his resignation from the Eclectic Medical Association in 1879 and his appointment to the chair of Anatomy in the Homoeopathic Medical College of Missouri, which he held from 1881 until 1883, and Professor of Materia Medica from 1883 until 1888. Later on he was dean and professor of Materia Medica in the Post-Graduate School of Homoeopathics, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; dean and professor of materia medica in Dunham Medical College, Chicago; dean and professor of materia medica in Hering Medical College, Chicago; and in 1905 he held the same chair in Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago. Thus for more than thirty-five years Dr. Kent had been a conspicuous figure in medical circles, and for more than twenty-five years in teaching and practice under the law of Similia; and he is looked upon as one of the ablest teachers and exponents of the homoeopathic school in America. His contributions to the literature of the profession are known by their strength rather than their length, and include, more prominently, his "Repertory", "Homoeopathic Philosophy" and "Lectures on Materia Medica". Among the various professional associations of which he was a member, the more prominent of them were the Illinois State Homoeopathic Medical Society, the American Institute of Homoeopathy and the International Hahnemannian Association, besides which he held a honorary corresponding membership in the British Homoeopathic Medical Society.

Kent died, on June 6, 1916 at Stevensville, Montana.

INTRODUCTION

I have been asked to write an introduction to this great monumental work on the Homoeopathic Materia Medica. A work like this which has stood the test of time and has been valued as a priceless treasure by the numerous students of homoeopathy all over the world needs no introduction.

The Homoeopathic Materia Medica is a very fascinating and yet an exasperating subject. Its simplicity, its vastness and its apparent similarity of symptoms in different drugs throw a tremendous challenge to the beginners. Kent said that there is no royal road to a perfect understanding of Materia Medica. It is at its worst a tedious drudgery. One can realise its vast extent by reading 138 printed pages on Sulphur in the Encyclopedia or 90 pages on Lachesis of Hering's Guiding Symptoms. It requires tremendous study, experience and insight to see some order in the maze of such a collection of symptoms.

Our Materia Medica is a record of actual occurrences, of events that really took place, of the results that were unquestionably produced upon healthy subjects.

Right from Hahnemann onwards, the records of provings prepared in schematic form were presented as Materia Medica. Before Kent, the best writers and teachers of materia medica were Hering, Dunham and Farrington. The materia medica was presented as a list of symptoms arranged according to hahnemann's schema. It was obvious that it was not possible to memorise the symptoms. Kent held that materia medica can be learnt and not memorised. Of course it required a careful and diligent study. His emphasis was on the understanding of each remedy in its entirety and not on the memorising of unrelated symptoms.

In this direction Dr. Allen made an effort and tried to present remedies as distinctive individual entities so that a student could be saved from being lost in the maze of symptoms. It must be understood that the list of symptoms of a particular drug can never be exhausted. Human memory has a limited scope and even if one does remember all the symptoms, it is difficult to apply this knowledge for the relief of patient unless he knows the individual characteristics of a particular drug. All the same, the listing of symptoms has to be done as that is the ultimate charter of our applied materia medica.

Because of the complexity and uniqueness of Materia Medica, a large number of books were written on it. No other system of therapeutics possesses such a large number of books on materia medica. Each author tried to present the drugs as he understood them, according to his own experiences and his own genius. It was bound to happen. The facts are the same to the eye of every reader. But where one mind may see only confusion and a maze of unconnected words, another may discern order and light and the outline of a definite and consecutive chain of pathological processes, and consequently a clear indication for the use of drugs in treatment of the sick.

"The significance of a fact is measured by the capacity of the observer". Every teacher or student of Materia Medica sees the same facts in the drugs but in his evaluation and experience he emphasises certain aspects which may be completely ignored by another person. This is why the richness of our materia medica is increased by contributions different authors.

Kent, like Hahnemann, was endowed with a keen analytical intellect coupled with a highly artistic temperament. His genius could see unity in diversity; an order and light in on apparent confusion of jumbled up symptoms. He was a strange mixture of an artist and a scientist. It is with a stroke of his rich imagination that he conceived a novel idea of presenting the drugs of our materia medica as individual pictures. In his lectures he was able to present well-defined but colourful pictures of each drug. This was a very bold and a great step forward in the development of our materia medica. Kent gave his lectures in a colloquial, semi-clinical form with the result that anybody who listened to his lectures was spell-bound and carried an indelible impression of the drug. He was able

to create a continuity of a symptom-picture from all the disjointed symptoms listed in the other standard books.

So far the efforts at curing patients depended on one's ability in hunting through the mass of symptoms—the similar symptoms present in a particular case of sickness. The idea of evaluation of symptoms was still nebulous. Hahnemann had pointed out, as a guidance, the importance of rare, strange and peculiar symptoms. Kent was the first to see clearly how to present our materia medica to the beginners; how to lay down precise guidelines regarding the hierarchy of evaluations of different kinds of symptoms. One can see in his efforts at studying and teaching the materia medica a gradual progress and evaluation from one stage to a higher one. I am sure that thinking along these lines later on helped him in the making of his greatest work *i.e.* his Repertory. His comprehension of evaluation later on helped him to plan his Repertory. We can see in all his works a gradual progress and maturity. I can say that his Repertory came into being because of his being a serious and unusual student and teacher of Homoeopathic Materia Medica.

Many people have asked why it is that a number of symptoms present in his materia medica are not listed in his repertory. That is a very relevant question. Here one must understand the man, as Kent was. While making his repertory, he tabulated the rubrics and included the remedies as a true scientist—a person uninfluenced by his won prejudices or intuitive impressions. He rejected what was not known or proved definitely. Here he followed the great Hering. In his materia medica he could afford to give a little flight to his imagination and intuition. Here he could guide his students in placing together disjointed symptoms in one string by analogy based on his experiences. Here he was closer to Boenninghausen.

Every good teacher of Homoeopathic Materia Medica followed the great guide or source-material, the Hering's Guiding Symptoms. Kent was no exception. Farrington and Allen had done the same. The latter's characteristics are taken out of this great book and I say, very often haphazardly. Kent was able to see things deeper. Hence what he expressed and how he expressed had his own peculiar imprint enriched by experiences at the bed-side. Anybody who has gone through

Kent's lectures on Fluoric acid and Iodine and a few others will notice that in no other materia medica one can find such a beautiful picture. The symptoms that have been given there in that manner could not have been collected by anybody else. He was the one who could see a running red strand through all the symptoms and give us a living picture as if in flesh and blood.

Like me there are many people who could not have cured many difficult and chronic cases unless guided and inspired by his lectures. In the early days of my practice I cured a difficult case of Fluoric acid and I confirmed every word that Kent had written. No other book could guide me to this remedy. It appears, therefore, that Kent was endowed with an exceptional intuition and he could see what others did not. He could apply the existing knowledge of the drugs with uncanny foresight with the result that he gave more than he took, and our materia medica is richer by his experiences.

I can cite one small example of his special contribution. While studying Bromium I could hardly find any author mentioning it aggravated by being over-heated. Hering's Guiding Symptoms had mentioned this against a number of symptoms, and hence emphasised it in his materia medica. No one had done the same (neither Farrington nor Allen had mentioned it). This particular modality of Bromium was seen to be running through the entire picture. This symptom was incorporated in the repertory also giving it a second grade in evaluation. Yet, there are symptoms in the materia medica which could not find a place in the repertory as they did not stand the rigorous standards set out by Kent himself. That is why he refused to include Boger's additions in his repertory.

The publishers (Messrs B. Jain Publishers) of the present edition of Kent's Lectures have done a yeoman's service in publishing books on homoeopathy. In publishing the lectures they have included remedies from Kent's New Remedies. This is indeed a great advantage to the students as they find the remedies at one place and at much lesser cost. The greatest advantage however is that while many remedies in the New Remedies have been neglected as fewer people had access to them, now many more people will study them and apply them more effectively than has been the case in the past. Keeping the New Remedies in a hotch-potch of lesser writings, these

have been neglected and people have not paid proper attention to them. However, I must sound a warning to all the serious students. Many of the "New Remedies" are not proved at all. Dr. Sherwood in the Preface to the New Remedies has mentioned that Kent had published the provings in various journals and the book is the result of his experiences. Let us be honest to Kent's memory and admit that he never published this book in his life-time. His friends and followers published it. Very few of the remedies were thoroughly proved or confirmed, whereas others were merely made up according to a certain pattern. I stumbled upon this pattern while I was making my additions to Kent's repertory for the preparation of my Card Repertory. For example, the symptoms of remedies like Aurum sulph., Barium sulph., Kali silicatum, Natrum silicatum have been synthesised from Kent's repertory. If we examine Aurum and Sulph in various rubrics in the Kent's repertory and wherever these exist together in a particular rubric, has been ascribed to the chemical compound Aur. sulph. So the symptoms of the remedies like this are compounded from their chemical components. Moreover, the description of these symptoms as given is entirely different from the description of drugs given by Kent elsewhere. (I think Kent must have written down the symptoms from his repertory as a sort of rough guiding indications for clinical experimentation in the absence of proper provings or pathogenetic symptoms of these apparently deep-acting constitutional remedies. The publishers of Kent's New Remedies might have considered them as proved remedies and hence included them with other remedies. I hope the readers will follow only what Kent himself intended to do and not more than that). On the other hand there are some new remedies like Cenchrus which have been wonderfully well proved by Kent and his associates and the symptom-picture given is most dependable. Same is the case with Vespa vulgaris and Wyethia. These remedies should be prescribed often enough. The publishers are to be congratulated that they have undertaken to bring all these remedies under one cover and hence conferred a boon to the young students and scholars alike.

One can only imagine the plight of homoeopathic students, before books like Kent's Materia Medica appeared. The subject which should have been most entertaining and out of sheer

necessity the most useful, remained a jumble of symptoms. Such an array of symptoms was more frightening than inspiring, with the result that they could scarcely make an effort to comprehend or unravel the beautiful mysteries of this branch of homoeopathic medicine. All the succeeding generations of homoeopaths cannot realise the immensity of the benefit conferred by the genius of Kent.

His method of narrating drugs is popularly known as 'Picture method'. His able and faithful student from Britain, Dr. Tyler, was another writer who gave us 'Drug Pictures' of homoeopathic medicines. It is no wonder that this book too has carved an important niche in our literature. Dr. Kent's lectures appeared first in his journal known as Journal of Homoeopathics as early as 1899. Later on they were collected together in book form. Prof. Kent at that time was Professor of Materia Medica and Homoeopathics in the Philadelphia Post-Graduate School of Homoeopathics. The Journal of Homoeopathics was edited by Kent himself. It must be mentioned that before Kent embraced the homoeopathic system of medicine, he was an active worker, writer and speaker for the Eclectic National Medical Association. His earlier training stood him in good stead for giving his best talents to the homoeopathic literature. If we scan through early American literature, we find that Kent did not develop his method of teaching and writing materia medica all of a sudden. In his case too his methods developed slowly and gradually. For example, his description of drugs published earlier in the journals like Medical Advance is entirely different; the arrangement of the symptoms is more similar to other writers, although one gets glimpses of his future approach to the subject. He was a prolific contributor to the contemporary journals on the subject. He was a prolific contributor to the contemporary journals on the subject of materia medica and homoeopathic philosophy. One does wonder at the wide range of his genius. At one time he was a professor of anatomy. To jump from a subject like this to homoeopathic philosophy means a great elasticity and versatility of his genius.

Although Kent's novel method of presenting materia medica was found to be very effective, he himself advised the students not to depend entirely on the drug pictures. They must go back to the larger textbooks giving the symptoms of the drugs.

More than that they must go to the repertories also for constant reference and comparative study. The materia medica and repertory go hand in hand and nobody can master either of the subjects without referring to the other. It has been found that great repertorians were also the masters of materia medica. Of course no repertory can be made or improved without constant study of our materia medicas. It is a hard and laborious study but the rewards are none the less as sweet.

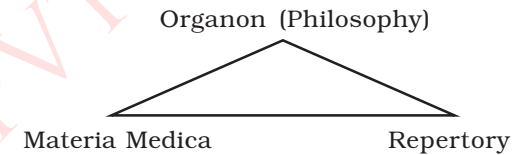
The student can at least make an effort at emulating this great teacher. He was a thorough student. Whatever he undertook, he undertook with zeal and with all his heart and soul, with the result that whatever he produced, whatever he wrote, had the imprint of genius.

Like Hering and some of the great men of homoeopathy, Kent was converted to homoeopathy in spite of himself. His first wife was seriously ill. No amount of eclectic and allopathic treatment helped her. She entreated her husband to seek medical advice and help from a known homoeopath in their neighbourhood. To satisfy her whim he called Dr. Phelan, the homoeopath. He watched him, with possibly contemptuous amusement, taking the case-history and later his giving her some globules to be dissolved in water and taken according to his directions until she fell asleep. Mrs. Kent had been suffering from sleeplessness for days and nothing had helped her the least in giving her some sleep. Kent chuckled within himself when Dr. Phelan mentioned about her getting sleep from the medicated water. He, however, fulfilled his part of the contract by giving her the first dose. The second dose to be given to her was delayed because Dr. Kent became absorbed in his books. When he remembered about the dose, he found her fast asleep. This was the first time that she had fallen into such a natural and sound sleep. This incident started his thinking. Under the care of Dr. Phelan, Mrs. Kent made a steady progress from the next day onwards. This was enough for Kent to throw himself heart and soul into the study of the homoeopathic science.

Later on Kent's first wife died and, like Hahnemann, he married another lady, a doctor who had come to see him as a patient. She was converted to homoeopathy and during his later years helped him in his great books : Homoeopathic Materia Medica, Homoeopathic Philosophy and Repertory. As in the case of Hahnemann, Kent's last few years were the

most fruitful from every point of view.

Kent's Repertory is considered to be his greatest contribution. That was the result of years of most painstaking search and research and has not been surpassed so far. Materia Medica, Philosophy and Repertory are so closely interwoven into one another that no homoeopathic doctor can aspire to do anything worthwhile without the constant study of each of these disciplines and without constant reference to them.



Kent made original contributions to all the three. It is most befitting to his memory that we continue further from where he ended because that is what he would have wished the future generations to do.

DR. JUGAL KISHORE
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86, Golf Links
New Delhi
February 25, 1971.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

The course of lectures on the Homoeopathic Materia Medica was delivered at the Post-Graduate School of Homoeopathics. Some of them have appeared in the Journal of Homoeopathics, but for this work they have been extensively revised. Owing to the strong appeals of students, though against the author's inclination, the colloquial style has been permitted to stand. The lectures are presented in the simple form to explain the author's plan of studying each remedy. The speech of laymen presents all sickness to the physician's mind, hence the Materia Medica must be reduced from technicalities to simple speech. No two remedies are studied exactly alike. Each has its own requirement in order to bring before the mind what is characteristic. Not all of the Materia Medica has been brought out, but the leading and fully proved remedies such as have strong characteristics have been presented for the purpose of showing how the Materia Medica must be evolved and used. There are other methods of studying a remedy, but this seems to the author the most natural way of giving to the student lasting idea of the nature of each remedy. It may be that it seems so because it is the only way the author could ever do it. The numerous repetitions of characteristic symptoms may subject the work to criticism, but experience has shown that it is the only way of giving the beginner a lasting grasp of the remedy.

Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura*, Hering's *Guiding Symptoms*, and the *Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica* have been the works that have given the most help in these studies.

They are not offered as being complete digests of the various remedies, but simply as the examinations of some of the most salient points. A complete digest would be endless. If some of the younger practitioners and students of the Materia Medica shall meet the assistance in this work they have been looking

for, it is all that can be expected. There is no royal road to a perfect understanding of the Materia Medica. It is tedious and drudgery at best, but no more so than any great science. Because of its greatness many will fail to undertake it even when it is for the saving of life and lessening of suffering, yet many will not decline to offer their services to the people knowing full well and confessing ignorance openly that the methods they offer are inadequate, useless, and often destructive. Some profess not to believe in this careful way of analyzing the symptomatology, but if some easy method is offered for a pretended mastery of it they wildly embrace it only to return to their primitive repulsive mental aversion crying out "sour grapes."

The Materia Medica can be learned by careful study and by using it. It can be understood but not memorized. All who would memorize the Materia Medica must ignominiously fail. To be constantly at hand, it must be constantly and correctly used. The continuous study of the Materia Medica by the aid of a full repertory for comparison is the only means of continuing in a good working knowledge. To learn the Materia Medica, one must master Hahnemann's *Organon*, after which the symptomatology and the *Organon* go "hand in hand". The *Organon*, the symptomatology and a full repertory must be the constant reference books, if careful homoeopathic prescribing is to be attained and maintained.

All who wish to make a more extensive examination of the reason for the methods used in the work are referred to the chapter on VALUE OF SYMPTOMS in the Lectures on HOMOEOPATHIC PHILOSOPHY.

October 29, 1904
108, N. State St., Chicago

JAMES TYLER KENT

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HOMŒOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

ABROTANUM

This very valuable remedy should be more frequently used. It is indicated in such conditions as are cured by *Bryonia* and *Rhus tox.*, but its symptoms mark out its own individual cases. Rheumatic conditions with heart irritation; epistaxis; bloody urine; anxiety and trembling, when there has been a history of diarrhoea. A suddenly checked diarrhoea will be followed by the above symptoms in a case requiring Abrot. A suddenly suppressed rheumatism of any joint followed by violent cardiac symptoms; it is much like *Ledum*, *Aurum* and *Kalmia*.

In marasmus of children it is a very useful remedy and not unfrequently indicated. The emaciation begins *in the lower limbs and gradually spreads upward*, so that the face is the last affected; that is the opposite of *Lycopodium*, *Natrum mur.* and *Psorinum*.

It has cured pleurisy after *Bryonia*, which seemed indicated, had failed. A woman lying in bed with dyspnoea, anxiety, cold sweat and pain in the heart was surrounded by friends to see her die. It was learned that she had suffered for many months with a rheumatism in one knee, that she had used crutches to get about the house, and that she had recently been speedily cured (?) by a strong liniment only a few days before this attack. Abrot. restored her to health promptly.

It has caused and cured burning ulcerative pains in the stomach with suspicious vomiting.

Metastasis is a marked feature in Abrot. The changing of one so-called disease into another always calls attention to Abrotanum. Inflammation of the parotid (mumps) changing to testes or mammae is generally cured by *Carbo v.* or *Pulsatilla*, but Abrot. has cured when these remedies have failed.

A suddenly checked diarrhoea followed by piles and acute rheumatism, with bleedings, as mentioned above, is further argument in favor of this idea.

The Abrot. patient is sensitive to cold air and cold damp weather. He suffers much from backaches, and his symptoms are worse during the night,

In boys it cures hydrocele. In infants it cures bleeding from the navel.

There is either diarrhoea or constipation; with the latter he is rheumatic, with the former he is at his best, as when the diarrhoea slacks up he is full of suffering. The diarrhoea is his great relief, like *Natrum sulph.* and *Zincum*.

Sharp pains here and there, but especially in ovaries and joints.

ACETIC ACID

This remedy is useful in complaints of pale, sickly people. Patients who have been weak for many years, who have inherited phthisis. Emaciation, weakness, anaemia, loss of appetite, burning thirst and copious pale urine are a combination calling for Acetic acid. Sensation of heat with pulsation coming and going, like orgasms; chlorosis in young girls; dropsical conditions in general; bad effects from stings and bites, have been cured by this remedy. Vinegar is an old remedy for bad effects from chloroform. It is useful in the hæmorrhagic constipation. Bleeding from various mucous membranes, nose, stomach, rectum, lungs and from ulcers. Sensitive to cold.

Confusion of mind; does not know her own children; forgets what has recently happened; attacks of anguish; constantly borrows trouble; thinks something is going to happen; peevishness, complaining.

Fainting spells in weak, anæmic subjects; headaches; face pale and waxy; epistaxis; one cheek pale and the other red; diphtheria in throat or larynx, unquenchable thirst; sensitive stomach; vomiting blood, and all food taken; ulceration of stomach; hot, sour eructations; frothy vomiting; gnawing pain; distension of stomach, with a constant commotion; burning in stomach and abdomen, ameliorated by lying on the stomach.

In the abdomen there is great pain, distension, flatulence or dropsy, sore to touch; diarrhoea, thin, bloody or pure blood; profuse bleeding from piles; chronic diarrhoea.

Copious watery urine. It has cured diabetes, with sugar in the urine or without, where there is great thirst, weakness and pallor and loss of flesh.

Weakness with seminal losses; relaxed genitals and swollen feet.

Uterine hæmorrhage; copious menses, or watery menstrual flow; scanty menses with chlorosis.

Weakness of larynx; croup; diphtheria. It has cured many cases of laryngeal diphtheria; hoarseness, with pale mucous membranes; chronic dry, hacking cough in sickly, pale persons, such as have inherited phthisis, with œdema of extremities, diarrhoea and dyspnoea, or night sweats; hæmorrhage from the lungs; burning in chest and stomach; rattling in chest; chronic bronchitis.

Weakness and lameness in extremities, with swelling, rheumatic or œdematous; dropsy of limbs, with diarrhœa.

It is a deep-acting, constitutional remedy, and when well studied will be very useful. *All substances abused as food become great remedies*, such as vinegar, coffee, common salt, etc. We should look to them oftener than we do for the stubborn chronic cases.

ACONITUM NAPELLUS

Aconite is a short-acting remedy. Its symptoms do not last long. It is a violent poison in large doses, either destroying life or passing away in its effects quite soon, so that if the patient recovers, the recovery is not delayed. There are no chronic diseases following it. Like a great storm, it comes and sweeps over and passes away. By a little meditation we will discover what kind of sickness all this is like, and what kind of a patient is most likely to have that short, sudden sickness. If we think a moment from experience and homœopathic observation, we will remember that vigorous, plethoric individuals, when they take cold, come down violently, whereas feeble people, sickly people, come down and recover slowly from acute diseases, and do not become so violently and so suddenly sick. From this, and from examining the sudden effects of Aconite, it will be easy to see that persons who come down with Aconite sicknesses are plethoric individuals. Strong, robust people, rugged children and infants become sick, not a very slight cold, or from slight exposure, but from more violent exposure. From being exposed with deficient clothing; from sudden, violent changes; from prolonged exposure to the cold, north, dry wind. A vigorous person caught out with thin clothing, or remaining out in the cold, dry air of mid-winter, with its sudden, violent changes, comes down even before night with violent symptoms. This is the class of patients, the plethoric and vigorous, who have a strong heart, active brain, vigorous circulation, and come down suddenly from violent exposure, that need Aconite.

Aconite has in its nature none of the results usually following inflammation. The storm is over so quickly that it seems mostly to conform to the earlier condition. In these vigorous patients sudden congestions are likely to be thrown off by good reaction. The patient seems to be threatened with a sudden and violent death, but recovery is quick. So, as was observed by Dunham, it is a great storm and soon over. Dunham's discussion of this remedy in his *Materia Medica* is very poetical and well worth reading.

Attacks come on suddenly from exposure to a dry, cold wind. In plethoric children we have an illustration of that in the sudden congestion of the brain with intense fever, or with convulsions. We get illustrations of its suddenness

and violence in any organ of the body, the brain, the lungs, the liver, the blood, the kidneys. It is suited to the complaints that come on *suddenly from the very cold weather* of winter, or from the *intensely hot weather* of summer. It has the lung and brain complaints of winter, and the bowel inflammations and stomach disorders of summer. We know how these plethoric individuals become suddenly overheated and become violently sick. Their sudden attacks are frightful to look upon, All these inflammatory conditions are attended with great excitement of the circulation, violent action of the heart, a tremendous turmoil of the brain, a violent shock with intense fear.

The mind symptoms that are nearly always associated with Aconite conditions stand out in bold relief. The patient feels the violence of his sickness, for he is under great nervous irritation and excitement. Fear is depicted upon his countenance, and the heart's action is so overwhelming the first thing he thinks of is that he must die; this must mean death, which he fears. It stands out upon his countenance. He says: "Doctor, there is no use; I am going to die." Many times he actually predicts the moment or *the hour of his death*. If a clock is in the room, he may say that when the hour hand reaches a certain point he will be a corpse. *When we see this intense fear, this awful anxiety, great restlessness, the violence and the suddenness of these attacks*, we have a case, perhaps, that is dying from the poison of Aconite, or one who needs Aconite. One who has a sickness resembling the poison of Aconite needs the smallest possible dose of Aconite. It is a very short-acting medicine, and that must be remembered.

It hardly matters what part of the body we are considering we will find inflammatory conditions. But regardless of the region or the locality of the inflammation, that which I have described is the appearance of the patient. Such are the symptoms that will stand out, that you will observe first—the appearance of the fact, the mind symptoms, the restlessness, the intensity. Now, there are many little mental symptoms that are of much less importance than this fear, this anxiety, symptoms that will be masked by these marked symptoms that indicate the patient. He has lost all affection for his friends. He does not care what becomes of them, he has not the slightest interest in them. It sometimes may be a state of indifference.

What I have brought out will enable one to readily see that this picture does not belong to all the remedies in the *Materia Medica*. In fact, it belongs only to Aconite. No matter what remedy you compare this with, you would find it only under Aconite. You will find *some* of the features in the text under other remedies, but those which I have mentioned collectively will be found only under Aconite. Take the mental symptoms, intensity marks every one of them. If it is a delirium, it is an intense delirium, *with excitement, with fear, with anxiety*. Patients in delirium, with excitement and fear, will weep, as in great torment. *Great excitement, fear,*

fear of death. You wonder what she is weeping about. There are all sorts of moods intermingled also with the fear of Aconite. There is moaning and irritability, anger, throwing things away, all attended with *the violence and anxiety.* These features that I described as uppermost are intermingled with all the other symptoms.

“*Screams with pain.*” The pains are like knives, they are stinging, cutting, stabbing. The intensity of the Aconite suffering is wonderful, so that if the nerves take on neuralgic pains *the pains are intense.* It is the feeling that some awful thing must be upon him or he could not have such dreadful suffering. It says in the text, “predicts the day of his death.” This to a great extent is the result of the awfulness that seems to be overwhelming him. And this mental picture is always present, in pneumonia, in inflammatory conditions of any part of the body, in inflammation of the kidneys, of the liver, of the bowels, etc.

Dizziness prevails throughout all this symptom picture. “Vertigo, turning and whirling.” A woman out shopping runs up suddenly against a dog and becomes violently dizzy, she cannot even get to her carriage. “Vertigo that comes on from fear, from sudden fear, and the fear of the fright remains.” There is a remnant of that fear left, but it will lead you on more strongly towards *Opium.* “*Complaints from fear.* inflammation of the brain from fear, dizziness from fear.” *Even congestion of parts as a result of fear.* A turmoil in the whole sensorium. Things go round and round.

The *headaches* can hardly be described, they come with such violence. Tearing burning in the brain, in the scalp, attended *with fear, with fever, with anguish;* headache from taking cold, from suppressing catarrh in the nose. Catarrh stops suddenly in plethoric people, from exposure, from riding in the dry, cold wind such as we have in this northern climate in winter. “Violent headache over the eyes. Congestion of the brain, with congestive headache, *with anxiety, with hot face.*”

The symptoms that would lead you to give Aconite for affections of the eye are numerous. Eyes take on sudden inflammation. Congestion of the eye. Blood red appearance of the eye. Sudden inflammation of all the tissues; conjunctivitis, etc., from *taking cold, from exposure to dry, cold winds.*

There is a teaching that has long prevailed: give Aconite for the first stage of an inflammation. It is not good teaching, although it is recommended in all of our books. It does not say for what kind of a constitution, or how it comes about. Do not practice that way. Get all the elements for an Aconite case, if possible, or give a better remedy. Another practice has prevailed, viz., giving Aconite for fever. Aconite was the fever remedy of many of our early routinists, but it is a bad practice.

Aconite has an inflammation of the eyes that comes on so suddenly that

one wonders how that inflammation came in so short a time. The eyes take on great swelling without any discharge, or only very watery mucus. The sudden inflammations that come on with thick discharges would never be Aconite. Aconite has no results of inflammation. Those conditions that are about to take on the results of inflammation will always indicate some other remedy. You are not to think of Aconite in fever unless the Aconite patient is present. With the Aconite fever there will be sensitiveness to light. “Great restlessness with fever.” Eyes staring, with pupils contracted, “violent aching and inflammation of the deep structures of the ball.” Give Aconite only when the symptoms agree. An inflammation that is about to run a prolonged course, to take on suppuration, or if it is mucous membrane to take on discharge of pus, will never show you the symptoms of Aconite. Never give Aconite in blood poisoning, such as we find in scarlet fever, in typhoid fever, etc. We find nothing of the violent symptoms of Aconite in such conditions. The nervous irritation is never present, but the opposite, the stupor, the laziness, the purple skin—whereas Aconite is bright red. Never give Aconite for any form of zymosis, for it has no zymotic history. There should be no thought of Aconite in the slow coming, continued fever. Aconite has no symptoms like the slow types of continued fevers. The Aconite fever is generally one short, sharp attack of fever. It is in no way related to an intermittent fever, as it has no such symptoms. You might find something that would deceive you in one attack of intermittent fever, but the very fact that there was a second one would shut out Aconite. Some remedies have periodicity or waves, Aconite has no such condition. The most violent attack of fever will subside in a night if Aconite is the remedy. If it is not it is a pity that you made a mistake in giving it, for it will sometimes do mischief. All things that exist in a sickness must be taken into account, not only what the remedy does cover, but what it does not cover.

Aconite has inflammation of the eyes, with burning and sudden swelling; the lids swell so rapidly that they cannot be opened except with great difficulty, and when they are forced open by seizing the margins of the lids with a pair of forceps drops of hot water will fall out, but no pus. This comes on rapidly from taking cold. Whenever there are inflammations or the mucous surfaces bloody water is apt to flow. Suddenly the blood vessels become engorged and ooze, the blood vessels rupture and the capillaries ooze.

Inflammation of the *ear* comes on just as suddenly. “Throbbing, intense, cutting pains in the ear.” The child comes home after being out in the cold north wind, and is not sufficiently clad, and now it screams and puts its hand to the ear. The attack comes on early in the evening, after being out in the daytime. Fever and anxiety; child must be carried. The suffering is intense. Noise intolerable. Music goes through every limb, so intense is the sense of

hearing. Everywhere in the body will we find that same intense condition of the nerves. Wherever there are complaints they are intense, violent, and the patient is always in a state of anxiety and irritability. “Stinging, burning, rending, tearing, cutting pains in the ear.”

Coryza if attended with violent headache, coming on in the night after exposure and taking cold during the day, suddenly, this short-acting, very quick-acting remedy will be indicated. The coryza that comes on from *Carbo veg.* comes on several days after the exposure. The coryza that comes on from *Sulphur* also develops several days after the exposure. The *Carbo veg.* patient becomes overheated and takes cold by keeping on his overcoat when he comes into your office. In Aconite he goes out in cold air with his light clothing, and comes down, if he is a plethoric individual, before midnight.

But especially is it often indicated in the coryza of the rosy, chubby, plethoric baby. Not in the sickly or pale ones. These sickly ones will come down later; their vital activities are so reduced that their complaints do not come on sometimes for two or three days. So that if you take a sickly one and a vigorous one in the same family and expose them both one will have croup tonight and need Aconite, and the other will have it the next morning and need *Hepar*.

The symptoms likely to occur with coryza are nosebleed, headache, anxiety and fear. The anxious expression is one of the first things observed in the Aconite sufferer. The Aconite pneumonia will often show itself on the face. Look at the face; there is great anxiety. It shows much of the proving of Aconite. You know there is much in the expression of the face that will enable one to read all that is going on in the body; it tells the story. The pleasures and sadness, and the distress of the human family, much of which you can generalize, and see at a glance that some great thing has happened. You have only to guess once or twice before you hit it. Here you have the anxiety.

“One cheek red and the other pale” is in a good many remedies, but the anxious expression, and the fear, and the heat, and the restlessness, and the suddenness with which it comes on in a plethoric individual—yesterday it was very dry and windy—and you will at once place this one symptom with Aconite. But it might be one of several other remedies, were other conditions present. “Neuralgic pains in the face, like hot wires running along either side of the face.” The individual rides in the cold, raw wind, and his face was exposed to the cold wind. He becomes numb, then pain sets in, intense pain. He cries out and shrieks with the knife-like cutting pains. Aconite will relieve. “Crawling, creeping like ants”; Aconite has that sensation along the course of the nerves. It has a sensation like ice water poured along the course of the nerves. Sciatica when the sensation is felt down the nerve like ice water. “Creeping, tingling and crawling in the face, with or without pain.” There is

intense heat, intense fever in the face. The side of the face laid on will often break into a sweat, and if the patient turns over, that side will at once become dry, and the other side will at once break out in a sweat.

Oh, what a comforting remedy it is for *toothache*. It has been so useful in toothache that nearly every old lady nowadays knows enough to put a drop of Aconite on a bit of cotton and put it in the old hollow tooth. It will quite often palliate. A dose of Aconite will act much better. But the violence of the toothache; again the same old story, from the dry, cold winds, plethoric individuals, with hollow teeth, pain intense, cutting, shooting pains in the teeth. Sometimes these pains are in sound teeth and affect the whole row of teeth. Violent pains from exposure, such as riding in the wind. The pains are relieved and go away speedily after a dose of Aconite.

Disturbances of taste, disordered stomach. *Everything tastes bitter*, except water; and, oh, how the Aconite patient longs for water. It seems almost impossible for him to get water enough and it agrees well.

Burning is a symptom that runs all through the remedy, you will find it descriptive of all the pains. Burning in the head, burning along the course of nerves, burning in the spine, burning in fever sometimes burning as if covered with pepper.

Aconite is a very useful medicine in inflammation of the *throat*, when there is burning, smarting, dryness, great redness of the tonsils, or the fauces, the whole throat. Sometimes the soft palate is greatly swollen. A high grade of inflammation, acute inflammation of all that can be seen and called throat. But that alone would not indicate Aconite. It cures that kind of case, it cures inflammation of the throat, but every homœopathic physician knows that forty or fifty remedies could be selected just as well as Aconite from all that I have said. I have only mentioned a nondescript case. No homœopathic physician could prescribe upon that kind of evidence. But you note the kind of throat every physician must ask himself the question: “What would make that kind of a throat an Aconite case?” And then the question would come up, could he not prescribe for it as well if he had not seen the throat? The throat does not do much towards representing, to an *intelligent physician*, the patient. If it was necessary to represent to the mind of the physician the inflamed part itself, how would he treat the liver? He cannot see it. How would he prescribe for the stomach? He cannot see it. We are then compelled to fall back upon that which represents to the intelligent physician the very nature of the patient himself, and then at once we will see the reason for some of these things. If you present the Aconite patient well before the mind you can prescribe. It would be well to see anything that is visible. If you could see the liver, I would say look at it. If you could see the heart, I would say examine it.

What is it in this throat that really represents the patient? Of course, any soreness of the throat makes it difficult to swallow. I mean to infer that there is nothing in the soreness to represent to the physician the Aconite patient. If that individual were a plethoric individual, if he had been riding in a cold, raw wind a good part of the day, and he had wakened in the night with a violent burning, tearing sore throat, and he could not swallow, and the fever came on high, and he had thirst for cold water and he could not get enough of it, he was in *an anxious, feverish state*, you have then a *patient* to prescribe for. Many times will patients become intelligent enough under your observation to write just what some member of the family acts like. You know just what the patient looks like. The black man will sometimes give the best kind of a description, better than the Vassar girl, who writes us: "Doctor, will you please send the medicine; I have looked into the throat and it is red."

With the stomach symptoms what an anxious patient we have! The pains are dreadful. Burning pains, tearing pains, with anxiety, with restlessness, with fever, coming on from taking cold—not from overeating, but from taking cold, which has settled in the stomach, from exposure to an ice bath, or in a very hot summer from intense heat, associated with an irritable brain in vigorous children. Vomiting and retching, tearing, as it were, the very inside out by the awful retching. The vomiting of blood, bright red blood. This is descriptive of the general stomach trouble. During this febrile state he craves bitter things, wine and beer, and brandy, but they will come up as soon as they reach the stomach. He craves pungent things, nothing tastes hither enough. "If he could only get something bitter." And yet his food tastes bitter, everything he eats tastes bitter, everything except water.

The word in the text is a clinical word; it says "gastric catarrhs". It is a very sharp, acute inflammation of the stomach. Retching, vomiting, of bile, vomiting of blood. Ineffectual urging to vomit; when there is nothing in the stomach. With it there will be *anxiety, restlessness, fear of death*. The fear depicted upon the countenance makes an awful expression.

Aconite is a useful medicine in inflammation of the liver, when it comes suddenly. It is not very useful in repeated attacks, but in the first attack. Violent inflammation of the liver, with violent tearing pains and much burning. Then comes the restlessness, the awful *tortures of anxiety, moving constantly, fear of death, red face, glassy eyes, great thirst*. "Anxious restlessness" covers nearly all of these things.

In the abdomen there are shooting pains, burning, stinging pains, after exposure to cold, becoming chilled. We will soon come to think that it does not make much difference where the disorder occurs, we must have the Aconite patient. We also have inflammatory troubles of all the viscera of the abdomen. It may be a violent catarrhal inflammation. It may be a catarrhal condition of

the lower portion of the colon, or a catarrhal condition of the rectum, when we will have a dysentery. In dysentery, that which is found in the commode is almost pure blood, blood and a little slime. It seems impossible for him to leave the commode. Vomiting a little blood and passing bloody mucus from the rectum. Always they will predict they will die tonight, or in a few hours. They look as if they realized the sensation of death. The whole body is in a state of anguish, but the tenesmus and cramp, the urging to stool are simply terrible. It has a watery diarrhoea, but that is not a very important symptom, although it is doubly marked in Hering. But when pure blood is passed, and mucus, with tenesmus, or when a little green mucus is passed by infants with summer troubles, pure blood or grass-green discharges with fever coming on suddenly, in bright, rosy little ones, think of Aconite. Most of the bowel troubles come on from intense heat, in the children. The infant takes on inflammation of the liver from the heat, and the stool becomes white like milk, of putty consistency. The child becomes yellow and screams with pain.

It is useful in urinary troubles, bladder and kidney troubles. Inflammatory conditions, and with bloody urine. Scanty urine, suppressed urine, or retained urine. Retention from shock. This retention from shock makes it one of our best remedies for retention in the new-born. The infant just born into the world has undergone a shock. At your next visit the nurse says, "The child has not passed urine." The functions of that little one are not yet established, because of the great shock the little one has gone through.

Inflammation of the bladder, with cutting, tearing pains. Burning pains with burning urine. Urine is hot, dark, colored red; red and clear, or bloody. Retention from cold, especially in children, with crying and restlessness. With inflammatory conditions of the bladder, either in adults or in infants, there will be all the mental states representing the Aconite patient.

Aconite cures most violent cases of orchitis, which come on suddenly. Orchitis from cold, from being chilled, in plethoric men. But in the common orchitis from suppressed gonorrhoeal discharges Aconite is useless.

The woman is a natural Aconite patient, with her sympathetic natural sensitiveness. She usually takes on complaints from nervous shock, from fear, and she naturally takes on complaints from causes other than those from which men take on sickness. It is very seldom that fear will give a man inflammation, but fear is a common cause of inflammation of the uterus, and of the ovaries, in plethoric, vigorous, excitable women. Fear will often cause abortion, but when Aconite is given early enough it will check the abortion that comes from fear. We will have the stitching, burning, tearing pains of Aconite sometimes following fear or sudden emotion. Sometimes a pregnant woman will say, "Doctor, there is no use your planning for my confinement. I know I am going to die in that confinement." If there is any one thing that is

a really strong symptom to prescribe on it is that. A dose of Aconite, and then change the subject, she goes away, and in a few days you ask her about that fear and she says, "Oh, never mind that." Many little things like that can be singled out. But that state of fear is a very peculiar thing, and really represents the whole nature and being of the woman. She predicts the day of her death. The reason that Aconite is so often the infant's remedy is because the infant is so often made sick from fright.

"Inflammation of the genitals in plethoric women." Aconite is more frequently indicated in women and children than in men. Sensitive, vigorous, excitable women. It is indicated in men in inflammatory conditions from becoming chilled in dry, cold air, and it is wonderful how you can convince a patient who needs Aconite what wonderful things there are in Homœopathy by showing him how rapidly, with Aconite, you can put him in a sweat and break up a sharp fever when that is a recent and single attack.

"After tedious and difficult parturition. Violent after-pains. Shooting, tearing after-pains, with febrile conditions." Uterine hæmorrhage with bright red blood and fear of death. It is wonderful what Aconite will do in some cases arising from taking cold in the puerperal state, but do not mix that up with puerperal fever. The first is a simple form, non-septic; perhaps the breast is involved, with soreness in the breast, suppression of the milk and febrile conditions; but if there is suppression of the lochia do not give Aconite.

New-born children, with difficulty of breathing, after the use of forceps, or from a tedious labor; the child is breathless, there is difficulty with the heart, and in a few hours fever comes on. Aconite is a very simple remedy. The retention of urine in the infant is so commonly an Aconite condition that you will hardly ever need to use any other medicine. The little one cannot yet talk, it cannot manifest very much, and, to a certain extent, the practitioner is compelled to be somewhat routine in these affairs, and the routine practitioners have been more or less successful with Aconite for the retention of the urine. Again, it is true that in many cases of retention of the urine in the mother, it will disappear after a dose of *Causticum*.

Aconite is a great routine croup remedy, one that is misused; but it is indicated in all those cases of croup which come on suddenly in plethoric children, from exposure to dry, cold wind, having been out in the cold wind with the mother during the day. The child is put to bed and rouses up from the first sleep, perhaps at 9 or 10 or 11 o'clock, grasps the throat, coughs violently, a croupy, choking cough, with hoarse bark. Hardly any other remedy can correspond to that rapidity of action, taking cold in the daytime and developing itself so suddenly. Croup that comes on from exposure today, and does not develop until tomorrow morning or tomorrow evening, may correspond to quite a number of other remedies, but especially *Hepar*, which

is slower in its pace. And it is more suitable in children somewhat run down and subject to frequent attacks of croup. *Spongia* is also similar, but it lacks many of the elements more likely to occur in run-down children, those always taking cold. It would be a difficult matter to distinguish between the appearance of the Aconite and the *Spongia* croup so far as the croup is concerned, because both have all the anxious appearance found in croup. The Aconite croup is a violent croup, inflammation of the larynx, and, at the same time, spasms of the larynx coming on with great rapidity. The *Spongia* croup is less inflammatory, the inflammation grows with the spasms; but while *Spongia* may rouse up at 11 o'clock at night, suffocating and choking, it has not the intense febrile excitement that belongs to Aconite, nor the anguish, although it has all the dryness that is found in Aconite. Aconite conditions are dry as a usual thing, or there is only a little watery discharge. *Spongia* is entirely dry; if there is an inflamed mucous membrane, it is dry. We have in the croup symptoms in Aconite: Larynx sensitive to touch. "Croup, waking in first sleep, after exposure to dry, cold winds."

Aconite is full of disturbances of respiration, dyspnoea from contraction of the smaller bronchial tubes, which we find resembles asthma. It is indicated in that dyspnoea that belongs to capillary bronchitis, in that dyspnoea that belongs to cardiac excitement in plethoric persons, from taking cold, becoming exposed or from shock. Dyspnoea from fear, such as occurs in nervous women, excitable, easily affected, nervous, plethoric women. Breathing short, labored, anxious, quick. It is an asthmatic dyspnoea and there is usually dryness of the mucous membranes of the small bronchial tubes.

"Sits up straight and can hardly breathe." Aconite has such a sudden violent cardiac irritation, pulse fluttering, weak, full and bounding; sits up in bed, grasps the throat, wants everything thrown off; before midnight, a hot skin, great thirst, great fear—everything is associated together.

"Anguish with dyspnoea. Sudden attacks of pain in the heart, with dyspnoea." All go together. "Great suffocation." From this fear and from anxiety he breaks out in profuse sweat; he is drenched with sweat—and yet his skin is hot. When this anxiety passes off he becomes hot. So there is heat and sweat with this awful anxiety. Pulse like a thread.

"Better during expiration." The spasm of the larynx often comes on during inspiration. "Worse during inspiration. Constant short, dry cough. Difficult breathing. Breathes only with the diaphragm. Chest troubles, such as pneumonia." Aconite produces a very rapid inflammation of the viscera of the chest, of the pleura, of the lungs, of the mucous membrane lining the air passages. In pneumonia we have this dyspnoea, the suddenness with which it comes on. If it spreads rapidly it may go into pneumonia. Inflammation runs so high that the mucous membrane oozes blood, cherry red, or the mucus

that comes up is white and heavily streaked with bright red blood. You go to the bedside of broncho-pneumonia and you will find in the pan mucus streaked with bright red blood. Now, take the violence with which that comes on, the restlessness and anxiety of the individual—he predicts the hour of his death—that would be the case with the Aconite patient. In the case of pneumonia where the lung is involved, it is likely to be the upper half of the left lung when Aconite is indicated. Sometimes the whole mucous membrane, the visible throat, the larynx, trachea, the bronchial tubes, will all ooze blood, sometimes a mouthful of blood, so violent is the inflammation. In these chest troubles there is much pain. Shooting, burning, tearing pains, and the patient is compelled to lie in a somewhat elevated position, on the back. Cannot lie upon either side, but upon the back. Lying on the side increases the pain. The dry cold winds. Sudden shocks, in persons of good, strong, vigorous circulation. The hæmoptysis that is spoken of is not such as occurs in phthisis, but is involuntary; the blood comes up with a slight cough. Some one might be deceived to give it in such cases in broken down constitutions in sickly patients; but it is not to be administered in such cases, we have much better remedies. The patient does not always become a pneumonia patient, but inflammation of the small air passages may be all that is present.

“Dry cough, vomiting and retching, intense fever, spitting of blood.” No expectoration except a little watery mucus and blood. It occurs a good deal in this way. Dry cough, sensation of dryness of the whole chest, sensation of dryness in the larynx and throat. Pours down great quantities of cold water, and once in a while after a violent coughing spell he gets up a little blood. But the expectoration is generally mucus.

Pneumonia is generally attended with an expectoration looking like iron rust, as if iron rust had been mixed in with it. Such medicines as *Bryonia* and *Rhus tox.* and a few others have that expectoration as a common feature, as natural to the remedies themselves, but Aconite is the cherry red, bright red expectoration. Its hæmorrhages are bright red, and sometimes copious.

All these coughs in pneumonia, in croup, and chest troubles come on suddenly, and if he goes to sleep he will have spasm of the larynx, with dryness of the larynx. He goes to sleep and the larynx becomes dry, and he wakes up and grasps his larynx; he thinks he is going to choke. All these come on from cold winds. Vigorous persons get into a draft and get a chill that will bring on Aconite symptoms.

Aconite has in all inflamed parts a sensation as if hot steam were rushing into the parts, as if warm blood were rushing into the parts, or “flushes of heat in the parts.” Along nerves, a sensation of heat, or sensation of cold.

The pulse in the highest form of the fever is full and bounding; strong,

vigorous pulse. When the attack is first coming on and the awful anxiety and nerve tension are present the pulse is very small, but after the heart's action is well established, then the pulse becomes stronger.

“Tearing pains down the spine. Painful, stiff neck. Crawling in the spine like insects.” That is a peculiar feature, this crawling sensation; it comes from cold, from being suddenly chilled.

“Trembling of the hands” associated with these sudden acute attacks. “Creeping pains in the fingers” associated with these sudden acute inflammatory attacks. “Cold as ice. Feet cold as ice. Hot palms.” Hot hands and cold feet are sometimes present. Rheumatic conditions of the joints. Those that come on as a first attack. Not old rheumatic and gouty attacks, but those that come on as acute rheumatism, those that come on from sudden exposure to cold, from long rides in a dry, cold wind. They also are attended with fever, with anxious restlessness, with a critical State of mind so often described.

“Trembling, tingling, convulsions of the muscles.” But the nerves are full of Aconite symptoms and Aconite sufferings. Aconite is a wonderful remedy for neuritis in plethoric persons. Numbness along the course of the nerves, from cold, from exposure. Numbness and tingling, along the course of the nerves, especially those that run close to the surface. “Inflammation of the nerve sheaths. Nervous excitability. Excessive restlessness.”

Sulphur has a strong relation to Aconite. It has many Aconite symptoms. In many of the old chronic cases where *Sulphur* would be used in strong, vigorous constitutions Aconite will be suitable for a sudden attack, and *Sulphur* for the chronic. In sudden attacks that Aconite conforms to, that is the whole attack, there may be left in that constitution a tendency to return of a similar attack. Aconite has no power over that tendency, but *Sulphur* has. Of course, most of the symptoms must agree, but it will seem to you frequently where Aconite has been suitable in the acute disease that *Sulphur* symptoms will follow, and many times a very violent attack leaves a weakness in the constitution which Aconite has no power to contend with. It has no power to keep off recurrent attacks. It does all that it is capable of doing, and that is the end of it. But it is not so with *Sulphur*.

After Aconite follow well *Arnica* and *Belladonna*. Sometimes it is true it will appear to you that Aconite is capable of coping with all there is in the disease. But there seems to be a lingering something that holds on, and such medicines as *Arn.* and *Bell.*, and *Ip.* and *Bry.*, do have to come in to finish up the attack—or sometimes *Sulphur*. Very commonly *Silica* So we have to study the relations of medicines.

If you have administered Aconite in too many doses, or given it too strong, and your patient is slow in recovering from the attack, or your patient

has taken Aconite himself unwisely, then *Coffea* or *Nux* will often put the patient into a better condition.

ACTÆA RACEMOSA (BLACK COHOSH)

This remedy has been only meagerly proved, yet there are a few useful points in it. From its proving we can perceive that it is similar to diseased states in the human family, and especially in women, namely, hysterical and rheumatic conditions. The patient is always chilly, easily affected by cold, sensitive to cold and damp weather, which rouses the rheumatic state and develops a state of rheumatism not only in the muscles and joints all over the body, but also along the course of nerves. In the general nervous disturbance there is a lack of will balance, or great disturbance in the voluntary system, which is the underlying feature of hysteria, the symptoms are intermingled with rheumatism. With the pains we have soreness all over the body. Trembling, numbness, jerking of muscles. Inability to exercise the will over the muscles of the body, turmoil in the voluntary system, with stiffness.

Tendency to take cold and thereby she takes on sensitiveness in the glands and larger organs, such as the liver and uterus. Complaints in these organs come on from cold damp weather (*Dulcamara*) and from being chilled. The patient is sensitive to cold in all parts except the head, and is aggravated from becoming cold both in parts of the body and in general. The headaches, however, are better in the open air and from cold, which is an exception and a particular, for the *general* feature is aggravation from cold.

There is a terrible mental state that alternates with physical states. It is an overwhelming sadness or gloominess, she is bowed down with sorrow. Sits and mopes in great sadness, like *Psorinum* and *Pulsatilla*. This may pass off instantly, or be brought on and aggravated from motion, from fear, from excitement, from taking cold. Very commonly there is *muscular soreness, a bruised feeling all over*, with drawing and jerking. This will let up very suddenly and leave a nervous, hysterical girl in a state of sadness, and she will sit and say nothing. When questioned perhaps she will break into tears or express in various ways the overwhelming sadness. With the headache there is marked sadness. Changeable moods. The physical and the mental are all the time changing. Other symptoms alternate and change. The jerking has made physicians see the resemblance to chorea in these hysterio-rheumatic constitutions. The rheumatism will change in a day into chorea, and again the choreic movements will keep on with the soreness throughout the muscles of the body. The jerking and soreness and numbness often keep on together.

There are certain features about the chorea that should be noted. Jerking of the muscles when in a state of emotion or from becoming chilled. If any part of the body is pressed upon jerking of the muscles of that part will take place. One of these nervous, rheumatic, hysterical subjects may not have chorea constantly, but as soon as she retires at night the *whole of the side lain on will commence to jerk and prevent her from going to sleep*. If she turns on the back the muscles of the back and shoulders will jerk and prevent sleep. She turns over on the other side, but after a little while the muscles pressed on commence to jerk. All this time she has become so restless and nervous that she is driven to distraction. The mind is full of all sorts of imaginations, and the body is full of all sorts of uneasiness, because she can find no place to rest upon. Sometimes the muscles are so sore that they cannot be lain upon for any length of time; sometimes it is a numbness, sometimes a jerking. These things are queer, but they belong to the patient, affecting not one part, but the whole economy.

Full of fear, anguish and restlessness. Fear of death, excitement, suspicious. "Will not even take the medicine because there is something wrong about it." It has a mania such as occurs in nervous, hysterical women, and it has cured puerperal mania. Puerperal mania from taking cold during or soon after confinement. The remedy belongs especially to women, because its symptoms are so commonly associated with the affections of women. Mental states following the disappearance of rheumatism is a strong feature. The rheumatism gets better, but the mental state becomes worse. Sometimes the rheumatism disappears in short order and the mind is not disturbed, but then it is because a diarrhœa has come on, with great soreness and aching in the bowels, or because a flow from the uterus has given relief. There must be some relief or a disturbance will take place like Abrotanum. Some flow must be established, and hence the menstrual flow or diarrhœa gives relief; otherwise the mind takes on trouble, the patient becomes gloomy, or has a low form of mental excitement. One of the symptoms is quite descriptive of this sadness I have referred to: "Sensation as if a black cloud had settled all over her," while at the same time it weighed like "lead upon the head." This is entirely figurative. It can all be expressed in the word "sadness." We will find "melancholy," "gloominess," "low spirited," etc., running all through our text, but the word "sadness" is just as broad as any of them.

The headaches are rheumatic. "Sore, bruised feeling all over the head. Bruised sensation in the occiput. Sore, bruised feeling in the top of the head, as if the top of the head would fly off." "As if cold air was blowing upon the brain." Yet most of these headaches are better by being in the cold air. "Headache brought on from catching cold, from the weather changes, cold, damp weather." There are many headaches. Pressing headache. Many of the

headaches are intense, and described as if a bolt were extending down into the back of the neck. Soreness in the back of the neck. Pain in the back of the neck. Hysterical girls; *they have much pain in the back of the neck*. With the headache the eyeballs are very sore, “painful to turn in any direction.” “Pain in the eyes, bruised pain in the head.”

“Soreness in the abdomen; sore and bruised. Alternate diarrhœa and constipation. Alternation of diarrhœa and physical complaints.”

We pass now to the female genitalia, which form a center for a great deal of trouble in the remedy. A routine saying about Actæa is that it makes confinement easy. That is not a legitimate saying concerning any remedy, and such expressions encourage routine practice. It is true that when this remedy has been given to pregnant women in accordance with its symptoms it has proved capable of making confinement easy. But the way it has been given has been the routine practice of giving it in the tincture or in the 2nd or 3rd, until the patient was under its influence even when it was not indicated, as it was not similar to the case. But the homœopathic physician never practices in this way. A remedy fits a general condition when the symptoms of that general condition are found in the remedy. Remember that it does so because *all the symptoms agree*.

“Pain in the uterine region, darting from side to side. Bearing down and pressing out.” These bearing down sensations, taken with all the other states that relate to the patient in general, show that it is a very useful remedy in *prolapsus of the uterus*. It has the relaxation of the parts. Do not suppose that our remedies are not sufficient to cure these conditions, *when these symptoms agree*. It is true that remedies will cure prolapsus when the symptoms agree, and at *no other time*. If it fits the patient in general, these bearing down sensations will go away, the patient will be made comfortable, and an examination will finally show that the parts are in normal condition. You cannot prescribe for the prolapsus; you must prescribe for the woman. You cannot prescribe for one symptom, because there are probably fifty remedies that have that symptom.

There are menstrual disorders in these hysterical rheumatic constitutions. Irregularity of the menstrual flow. It may be copious, suppressed or scanty. Severe pain all through the flow. *The more the flow the greater the pain*. That is very peculiar. Generally the flow will relieve pain, but with this remedy the *pain is during the flow*. Generally the most severe and most painful attack is at the beginning of the flow, and with some women again just after the flow has ceased. Each woman is a law unto herself. In this remedy the sufferings are *during the menstrual flow as a rule*. The most severe mental symptoms, the most severe rheumatic symptoms, the most extreme jerking and cramping of the limbs and sleeplessness are during the menstrual flow.

During menses, epileptic spasms. All sorts of sufferings in the nerves. Soreness along the course of the nerves, soreness in the muscles or joints during the flow. Increase of mental symptoms. Cold and chilly, must be wrapped up. “Rheumatism. Dysmenorrhœa.” “Soreness in the uterus and ovarian region. Lame, bruised feeling all over; painful menstruation,” and some one has named that rheumatic dysmenorrhœa, not a bad name.

Many symptoms during pregnancy. It cures all sorts of conditions in this kind of constitution, these nervous, rheumatic, fidgety women with jerking in the muscles. So markedly do her troubles alternate with each other that alternation is in the nature of her case. You will commonly find that all the rest of her troubles have passed away, and that now nausea has come on. In all the years past she has had a hysterical constitution, but now, when she is pregnant she has nausea all the time. You will find when one set of symptoms becomes extremely severe others have temporarily subsided, and so they change about like *Pulsatilla*. But the symptoms have to be taken collectively to get at the image of the patient. A woman will come to you with one group of symptoms today and may come back to you with an entirely different group in a couple of weeks. These are very troublesome cases to prescribe for, and you have sometimes to take the symptoms a dozen times and put them all together as if she had left them all in one day, and so make your prescription. A hysterical patient is difficult to manage because of this changing of symptoms, and also because she has a tendency to deceive the doctor.

“Shivering in the first stage of labor. Hysterical manifestations through labor.” Pains have all ceased or are irregular, so that they do no good. No dilatation has taken place. But when the regular pains come on we have some important symptoms. A pain comes on and it seems to be about to finish satisfactorily; it has been regular and prolonged until about two-thirds through, and all at once she screams out and grasps her hip—the pain has left the uterus and gone to the hip, causing a cramp in the hip, and she has to be rubbed and turned over. This medicine will regulate the pains, and when the next pain comes it will hold on to the end. So impressionable is this woman during confinement that if she is subjected to any emotion—such as having an emotional story told in the room—or if anything excitable occurs, the pain will stop. If she has passed through the labor and the lochia has been established, from such a cause the lochia will stop, as if she had taken cold, and she will have cramps and troublesome after-pains, the milk will be suppressed, she will feel sore and bruised all over, and have fever. This remedy should be compared with *Caulophyllum*, which has the following symptoms; Weakness in the reproductive system of the woman.

From weakness she is sterile, or she aborts in the early months of

gestation. During parturition the contractions of the uterus are too feeble to expel the contents, and they are only tormenting. Labor-like pains during menstruation with drawing pains in the thighs and legs, and even the feet and toes. Uterine hæmorrhage from inertia of the uterus. Relaxation of muscles and ligaments. Heaviness, and even prolapsus. Subinvolution. Excoriating leucorrhœa. Menses too soon or too late. She is sensitive to cold and wants warm clothing—quite unlike *Pulsatilla*. She is hysterical, like *Ignatia*. She is fretful and apprehensive. She is rheumatic, like *Actæa*, only the small joints are most likely to be affected. Later she suffers from after-pains, and they are felt in the inguinal region. Rheumatic stiffness of the back and very sensitive spine. She is sleepless, restless and withal very excitable. This remedy has cured chorea at puberty when menstruation was late.

You need not be surprised that such an emotional subject has a fluttering, quick pulse, and irregular action of the heart, but many of the most marked hysterical features are present without any disturbances whatever in the action of the heart. “A feeling in the region of the heart as if the heart were sore, and as if it were enlarged.”

“Back of head and neck sore.” *The head is drawn back from contraction of the muscles at the nape. Violent aching down the back.* Rheumatism in the back. Impossible to lie upon the back because of the contraction of the muscles of the back. Impossible to lie upon the side of the body because of the contraction and jerking of the muscles. “Numbness of the limbs. Trembling. Soreness.”

The symptoms of the nerves are simply a reiteration of what I have said. “Hysterical spasms. Convulsions. Trembling of the legs; hardly able to walk.” The numbness is such as is associated with paralysis. Paralytic weakness.

The best effects have resulted from the 30th, 200th, 1000th and still higher potencies, and from the use of medicine in single doses.

It is similar in some of its conditions to the Blue Cohosh. Compare it with *Puls.*, *Sepia*, *Natr. mur.*, *Lit. t.*, *Caulophyllum* and *Ign.*

ÆSCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM

A peculiar kind of *plethora* is found running through this remedy, a vascular fulness which affects the extremities and the whole body, and there are symptoms showing that the brain is similarly affected.

The conditions of *Æsculus* are *worse during sleep*, hence symptoms are observed on waking. He wakes up with confusion of mind, looks all around the room in confusion, bewildered, does not know the people, wonders where he is and what is the meaning of the things he sees. It is especially useful in

children that rouse up in sleep frightened and in confusion, like *Lycopodium*. The remedy produces great *sadness, irritability*, loss of memory and aversion to work. There are times when there is a sense of bodily congestion, *fulness of the veins*, and then these symptoms are most marked. It is a *general venous stasis*, and is sometimes worse in sleep, worse from lying, better from bodily exertion. The symptoms pass away after considerable exertion; moving about, doing something, keeping busy relieves. You will find it useful in persons who suffer from palpitation when the pulsation extends to the extremities and the throbbing of the heart in sleep can be heard; an audible palpitation.

Now, as the mental symptoms are the most important in a proving, so are the mental symptoms in sickness the most important. Hahnemann directs us to pay most attention to the symptoms of the mind, because the symptoms of the mind constitute the man himself. The highest and innermost symptoms are the most important, and these are the mind symptoms. *Æsculus* has not been brought out in the finest detail, but we have the key to it. Extreme irritability is the very general state from which ramify a great many mental symptoms. Irritability and mental depression run through a great many remedies, and form the centre around which revolve all the mental symptoms in some cases. The reason that these are more interior than some other symptoms of the mind is that these relate to the affections themselves. The mental symptoms can be classified in a remedy. The things that relate to the memory are not so important as the things that relate to the intelligence and the things that relate to the intelligence are not so important as the things that relate to the affections or desires and aversions. We see in a state of irritability that the patient is not irritable while doing the things that he desires to do; if he wants to be talked to, for instance, you do not discover his irritability while talking to him. You never discover he is irritable if you do the things he wants you to do. But just as soon as you do something he does not want, this irritability or disturbance of the will is brought on, and this is the very innermost of the man's state. That which he wishes belongs to that which he wills, and the things that relate to what he wills are the most important things in every proving. You may say that an individual is sad, but he is sad because he lacks something that he wants; he desires something which he has not and becomes sad for it; sadness may go on to such an extent that the mind is in confusion.

Confusion of mind and vertigo. Make this distinction, vertigo is not a confusion of the intelligence. You have only to meditate upon it a moment and you will see that it is not. Confusion of the mind is a disturbance of the intellect, not a disturbance of the sensorium; you will make a distinction between staggering when walking and a period of disturbance of the mind, with inability to think clearly. Vertigo is a sensation of rolling, and belongs to the sensorium. A great mistake has been made in some of our repertories, in

that confusions of mind are placed with vertigo under sensorium. These things must be thought out carefully, so that we are clear in our own minds as to what symptoms mean when they are given to us by patients. A patient may state that when walking in the street he is dizzy, or that it appears as though everything interiorly were turning around, yet he may be perfectly able to add up a column of figures; his mind may be clear. If we ourselves are perfectly clear as to the meaning of these expressions, we will commonly glean the meaning of the patient. It is important to record the language of the patient, yet often a patient will say something which you can see he does not mean at all, and it then becomes necessary to put in a parenthesis what he really means. For instance, a patient says: "I have such a pain in my chest," with the hand on the abdomen, or a woman when menstruating will say the pain is in the stomach when you know it is in the uterus. Patients must be questioned oftentimes as to their statements, or requested to place the hand upon the painful part. In the same way, therefore, patients talk about dizziness when they are not dizzy at all, but feel a confusion of mind, or they speak of confusion of mind when they mean that they stagger in the street.

It is in the nature of this remedy to have *flying pains* all over the body, like *Pulsatilla* and *Kali carb.* flitting, sharp, shooting, tearing pains, flying from one part to another; they seem at times to be scarcely more than skin deep. Sometimes they fly along the course of the nerves.

This remedy is full of *headache*. It has also dull aching pain, when it seems that the brain would be pressed out. But especially are these pains felt in the *back of the head, as if the head would be crushed*; hard aching pains, violent aching pains, fulness of the brain. "Dull frontal headache, from right to left, with constrictive feeling of skin of forehead." Fulness of the head, with dull, heavy pains, aching in the forehead; pain over the right eye. "Neuralgic pains in the right supraorbital region." "Shooting in left parietal bone, later in right." Formication of the scalp. If you examine the skin you will find formication, tickling and shooting and itching all over the body, so what there is in the scalp is only what belongs to the remedy in all parts.

Æsculus is a wonderful *eye* remedy, especially when the eyes have "hæmorrhoids." Does that convey any idea to you? By that I mean particularly enlarged blood vessels. *Great redness of the eyes, with lachrymation, burning eyeballs and vascular appearance.* This increased determination of blood is more or less painful; the eyeballs feel sore and ache; sharp, shooting pains in eyes. In almost every rubric of Æsculus we shall find stitching and shooting; little twinges; wandering pains with fulness; almost every kind of disturbance will intensify the fulness. Fulness of the hands and feet, not the fulness that pits upon pressure, that we call œdema, but a tenseness. Medicines having much trouble with the veins are often dis-

turbed by hot bathing, weakness after a hot bath, weakness in warm weather, aversion to heat and desire for cold. It is the state of *Pulsatilla*. The *Pulsatilla* veins contract in cold weather, and the shrivelling up makes the patient feel better, but the veins fill and become engorged in the warm air and after a hot bath. A tepid bath sometimes makes a *Pulsatilla* patient feel better, but a Turkish bath is generally distressing. Many of the complaints of Æsculus are of this sort; Æsculus often feels better in cold air. The symptoms of Æsculus are often brought out by temperature, especially the little stinging pains. It is characteristic of these superficial pains that they are nearly always ameliorated by heat, while the deeper affections are oftentimes ameliorated from cold. Now, in *Pulsatilla*, the stinging pains of the scalp and those over the body, here and there, are often ameliorated by the local application of heat, while the patient himself wants to be in the cold; in the same way Æsculus stinging pains are better from heat, while the patient is often better from cold, although at times he is aggravated from cold, damp weather in rheumatic and venous conditions. Again, in *Secale*, we see that the little sharp pains that follow the course of the nerves are better from heat, but the patient himself wants to be in the cold air, or to be uncovered, except the spot of pain, which he wants kept warm. We notice the same thing running through *Camphor*; during the twinges of pain he wants the windows closed and wants hot applications; but as soon as the pain is over he wants the windows up and desires to be uncovered so that he can breathe. These are general things, things that are to be observed in Analyzing symptoms.

Æsculus then is a venous remedy, engorged and full, sometimes to bursting. Now, there is another feature I want to bring out. You will notice where congestion takes place that it is *purple* or blue in color. This remedy produces inflammation of the throat, the characteristic being that it is very dark. It has the tendency to produce varicose veins and ulceration, and round about these we have marked duskiness. Æsculus cures varicose leg ulcers *with a purplish areola*. When we study the hæmorrhoidal state we see *the tumor is purple*, looking almost as if it would slough. The remedy is not active in its inflammatory state, *it is sluggish and passive*. Certain remedies produce a slight inflammation with a high degree of redness, everything is violent and rapid, but in this medicine things are slow; the activities are reduced, the heart is laboring and the veins are congested.

"Eructations: sour, greasy, bitter." "Desire to vomit." "*Heart-burn and gulping up of food after eating.*" It has a great *disturbance of digestion*, and we can see by these symptoms that we must class it with *Phosphorus* and *Ferrum*. As soon as the patient has swallowed the food, or a little while after, it becomes sour and he eructates it, until after a while he has emptied the stomach of its contents. Such is the state of *Phosphorus, Ferrum, Arsenicum*,

Æsculus and a few other medicines. Æsculus has also a state of congestion and ulceration of the stomach. "Constant distress and burning in the stomach. inclination to vomit." Such a state as this might be present in ulceration of the stomach.

The *abdomen* is full of trouble. If we read the symptoms of the right hypochondrium, of the abdomen and of the rectum, we shall see from the study of these that there must be a marked portal stasis. Digestion is slow, the bowels are constipated and there is protrusion of the rectum when at stool. It has most troublesome *hæmorrhoids* with *fulness of the right hypochondrium*. The liver is full of suffering. After eating there is distress in the bowels and rectum. Sticking, jaggings, burning pains, as if the rectum were *full of sticks*. Great suffering with blind hæmorrhoids. The hæmorrhoidal veins are all distended and ulcerate. The stool becomes jammed into the rectum, against these distended veins, and then ulceration takes place with bleeding and great suffering. This remedy is often supposed to be suitable to hæmorrhoids that do not bleed, but it cures bleeding piles also. We find in the text over two pages devoted to the symptoms of the rectum. Great soreness; much pain; urging to stool; dark stool followed by white one, showing the liver engorgement. Chronic constipation.

The *back* is the seat of much trouble, especially low down in the back, through the sacrum and hips; although there is also aching all along the back and pain in the back of the neck. It is a very common thing for patients suffering from hæmorrhoids to have pain in the back of the neck and base of the brain, basilar headaches, and when these hæmorrhoidal patients undertake to walk they have pain and aching across the sacrum into the hips. *This pain through the sacrum and into the hips, when walking, is a striking feature of Æsculus*, so striking that you may expect it to be present even when there are no hæmorrhoids.

Constant dull backache; walking is almost impossible; scarcely able to rise or walk after sitting. You will see one suffering from the Æsculus backache, on attempting to rise from sitting, make many painful efforts before he finally succeeds. This is found in *Sulphur, Petroleum* and is also cured by *Agaricus*.

Æsculus is indicated oftentimes in the *troubles of women*, with great dragging pain in the pelvis. Many a time has Æsculus cured the dragging-down pain of the pelvis with copious leucorrhœa and *pressing pain in the hips when walking*. The woman feels that the uterus is engorged. She says that the lower part of the abdomen feels full, both before and during menstruation. There is much suffering at this time with pains in the hips. "Uterine soreness, with throbbing in the hypogastrium." "Old cases of leucorrhœa, discharge of a dark yellow color, thick and sticky." "Leucorrhœa, with lameness in the back across sacroiliac articulations." During

pregnancy there are many complaints, with soreness and fulness and uneasy consciousness of the uterus and pain across the back when walking.

Æsculus is full of *gouty sufferings*; gout in all the joints, gouty rheumatic affections, neuralgic affections. Especially is this rheumatic tendency found from the elbows to the hands, in the forearm and hands. Rending, tearing pains, flying hither and thither without any particular order, relieved by heat. Varicose veins of the thighs and legs have been cured by Æsculus (*Fluoric acid*). This varicose tendency in the body we have already seen is a striking feature of Æsculus. After the sore throat has passed away, engorged veins are left, which Æsculus sometimes cures. After eye troubles have been cured, varicose veins remain in the eye. With rheumatic complaints there are varicose veins. It is one of the most frequently indicated remedies in the hæmorrhoidal constitution, as it used to be called.

ÆTHUSA CYNAPIUM

Before Æthusa was known a certain class of cases of cholera infantum, and vomiting and diarrhœa in children, all resulted fatally, because there was no remedy that looked like such serious cases. Death is stamped on the face from the beginning, and if there are any remedies in the book that save life this is one of them. It applies to the cases that come on very suddenly in hot weather in infancy, with extreme prostration. The mother does not suspect the child is sick until she takes it from the crib; only a few hours before it was well; but when cholera infantum is prevalent in hot weather, this little one fills its stomach with milk and almost before it has had time to coagulate or form into curds the milk comes up partly in curds and partly liquid, and accompanying the vomiting there is a thin, yellow greenish, slimy stool. The child has the appearance as if it were dying, pale hippocratic face, there is a whitish-blue pallor around the lips, the eyes are sunken and there is a sunken condition around the nose. The mother is astonished and sends for the doctor hurriedly. The child sinks into an exhausted sleep. It wakes up and again fills the stomach with milk which comes up again in a few minutes, partly in curd and partly liquid, and again there is the awful exhaustion, deathly appearance and prolonged sleep. Without Æthusa, in two or three days the undertaker gets that child. That is pretty nearly the whole story of Æthusa.

It has delirium, it has excitement, it has mental disturbances of various kinds, but they are acute and accompany the brain troubles. A certain class of infants come down sick in the hot weather, in the hot nights, and they get brain trouble, and from that time the stomach quits business, the bowels become relaxed, and everything put into the stomach either comes up or

goes right through. This occurs especially in those infants that have been fed as the ordinary everyday mother feeds her baby, and how is that? Every time it cries she puts it to the breast or feeds it. Well, now; let us think a bit. Every doctor ought to think a little, once in a while. Now meditate a trifle as to whether that is a wise or foolish thing to do. It takes about two hours or two hours and a half for the ordinary baby's stomach to transact good wholesome business in digesting the milk taken, and it ought to have a rest of half an hour or so, and when we get up to three hours and the baby cries then it is probably hungry and will be glad to take some more and digest it. Any shorter interval of feeding than that is bad practice. It would be just the same thing if the child should take half a teacupful of milk and let it partly digest, and in a little while take a little more, and then later add a little more. It commences to spit up its food and it is sour, and the very first spell of hot weather that comes brings on head trouble. Only the toughest children will stand this bad method. I have watched these children and seen them stand it until the summer. The doctor must put his foot down, and put it down violently, and make them see he means it. The old woman comes in and says: "That doctor does not know anything" and the baby must be fed. Now Æthusa suits improperly fed babies. It is at the head of the list of medicines for that condition; that is, when digestion has absolutely ceased from brain trouble. So far as busy doctors have discovered the call for this remedy, it has been mostly among babies, but adults sometimes take on an Æthusa state, when digestion has absolutely ceased from brain trouble and from excitement. It has cured dyspepsia from constant feeding, in those nibblers, those hungry fellows who are always eating, always nibbling, always taking crackers in their pockets until there comes a time when the stomach ceases to act. It also suits cases of indigestion from head troubles, with hot head, vomiting, exhaustion, sweat and long sleep.

Æthusa has convulsions in children. Sometimes the brain trouble does not affect the stomach, but the child goes into convulsions, with clammy hands, deathly countenance, and the sweat, exhaustion and sleep. "Convulsions, great weakness and prostration, with sleepiness. Dosing of the child after vomiting and after stool, with convulsions."

In the Æthusa patient there is much in the face and aspect to indicate a remedy; so much can be seen and comes within the observation, and so little questioning is necessary, that a sort of snap-shot prescribing can be done, but it is not to be recommended. A busy physician, one who really and truly studies his *Materia Medica*, and has learned the principles, will in time do a great deal of what seems to be snap-shot prescribing, but he really does not so, because he puts together many things that outsiders would not think of. Æthusa then shows itself upon the surface, whereas in many remedies there

is nothing seen upon the surface, because they manifest themselves in inner or deeper sensations. Let me lay a case before you to illustrate this. For instance, take a robust looking fellow, who declares himself fairly well, out to lunch with you. You have noticed for some time that his nose is all the time peeling off; at once there is a star. He never talks about his health. Pretty soon, while lunching, the door slams and he jumps. That is the second point. Then he tells you how much he eats, how well it affects him, how good he feels after eating, and you have noticed yourself that he eats a good deal. You have not said one word about his health to him. You have not asked him to tell you any symptoms. Finally you shove the pitcher of milk over to him, and he says, "Oh, I can't drink milk; if I take milk it gives me diarrhœa; I never think of taking it." Who could not prescribe for that fellow without taking him into the office? Who would think of anything but *Natrum carb.* for such a case? Sometimes you can find out the whole story by getting a stubborn patient to go and dine with you.

AGARICUS MUSCARIUS

The most striking things running through this medicine are twitchings and tremblings. Jerkings of the muscles and trembling of the limbs; quivering and tremors, everywhere these two features are present in all parts of the body and limbs. The twitching of the muscles becomes so extensive that it is a well-developed case of chorea. It has in its nature all that is found in chorea and has cured many cases. This is a general belonging to all parts, to all muscles. Throughout the body there is a sensation of creeping and crawling. It is hardly confined to the skin, it is felt as if in the flesh, a sensation as if of ants. Itching of the skin all over which changes place from scratching. No place is exempt from this. There are strange sensations here and there upon the skin or in parts, cold sensations, sensations of cold needles and of hot needles; stinging and burning where the circulation is feeble, about the ears, nose, back of hands and fingers and toes, red spots with itching and burning as if frostbitten. It is a great remedy for chilblains. The patient is extremely nervous and sensitive to cold. Itching, pricking, tingling, etc., come on from mental exertion and are relieved from physical exertion. All the symptoms of *Agaricus* are also aggravated after sexual intercourse, especially in the symptoms of the spinal cord. It is useful for the symptoms which come on after coition in young, nervous married women, hysterical fainting after coition.

The *mental* symptoms are such as you would expect. Great changeability, irritability, mental depression and complaints which come on from overexertion of the mind and prolonged study. The brain seems to be developed tardily.

