CHOUDHURI N. M., A study on Materia Medica (cda1)

CHOUDHURI N. M.

Preface to the second edition

The First Edition of "A *study on Materia Medica*" is exhausted and a Second Edition of the book has taken the place of the First.

We are enjoined to do the best we can according to the light that is thrown on us.

Judging from this standard; I feel that the First Edition has been a success.

In accordance with the newer light and the fresher revelations to the soul, the New Edition of the book has been so reformed and altered that it might as well have been a different book with a new nomenclature.

It is a great improvement on the First, inasmuch as it covers a vastly bigger field and embodies the experience of the last twenty years of my practice.

The remedies have been arranged in alphabetical order, and great endeavour has been made to rectify many of the defects of the previous Edition.

Almost all the known remedies have been embodied in this volume with the exceptions of a few, a very few minor ones of empirical and unauthenticated nature.

In my capacity as the Principal of the Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College I have to deal very largely with *Materia Medica*, and this treatise, properly speaking, is the outcome of the lectures delivered to the students.

It has therefore done its day's work in the propagation of the principle of " *Similia*".

I too have been amply repaid for the night after night of toil by the satisfaction it has already afforded me, that though the way has been long and dreary, it has been traversed in the wake of the immortals - of my loving preceptors here as well as abroad, whose standard it has been my good fortune to carry in the field of their glory.

A short and a concise *Repertory* has been affixed to help in the study of the *Materia Medica*.

The method followed has been the usual one of the organs in order of their natural arrangement.

Kent, Kneer, Lippe, Boenninghausen, Boericke.

Conant and other popular authors have been consulted.

A great deal of unnecessary and unauthenticated matter has been left out, to make the Repertory portion useful and easy of reference.

The reason why a Repertory has been added to this volume is because practical Homoeopathy is identical with Repertory practice.

Negligence and inaptitude in handling Repertory are frequently the causes of unsuccess of many amongst us.

The proper understanding and management of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica is a stupendous task.

As has been mentioned repeatedly, it is a philosophy and a science combined in one.

It needs the best brain, the coolest judgment, and an untiring and endless endeavour to master it even partially, and Repertory forms a valuable aid in achieving this object.

It has been my utmost endeavour, in this volume, to so elucidate this complex subject as to bring it within the compass of the commonest intelligence, to ingrain and imprint the knowledge of the remedies in the heart of every homoeopath, to impress on the serious nature of this study, and finally to point out the proper method of study that helps essentially in the real understanding and absorption of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to express my heart-felt thanks to some of my colleagues for the valuable service rendered by them, chief among whom must be mentioned the names of Doctors K.M. Banerij, J.N. Hazra, and M.N. Banerjee.

To Dr. K.M. Banerij is due great credit for many of the practical suggestions I received from him.

Drs. J.N. Hazra and M.N. Banerjee have great claim on me for the untiring devotion, zeal and earnestness with which they have served me during these tedious months of hard mental labour.

CALCUTTA *The 1st June, 1929.* N.M. CHOUDHURI

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Preface to the first edition

THIS work on *Materia Medica*, the result of years of patient labour, has its origin in my by-gone student-days, when, as an alumni of the Hering Medical College, that fountain, since dried up, of true and pure Homoeopathy, I used to sit at the feet of apostles like Doctors Allen, Taylor, Tom Hagen and Farrington.

The principle of differentiation and assimilation then inculcated in me by these expounders has been given the greatest importance in this work.

I will consider myself satisfied and my duty fulfilled, if I in my turn can impress on students and practitioners on this side of the hemisphere the essential importance of this most pivotal principle of this true science of the Healing Art.

To the teachings of those Masters of the West I have added many important practical hints from my preceptor Dr. P.C. Majumdar, with whom I had the good fortune to spend a few years of my early career.

I have further enriched this volume with the experiences of our Eastern Masters such as Doctors B.L. Bhaduri, Salzer and M.L. Sarkar.

I have not only clothed many of the abstract principles of the *Organon* in flesh and blood but given them rich and attractive apparel in the form of illustrations and anecdotes to make them interesting and impressive.

I must acknowledge my obligation to the following authors, whom I consulted often and from whom I picked up many valuable information. - Doctors H.C. Allen, T.F. Allen, J.H. Clarke, H.N. Guernsey, J.B. Bell, C.M. Conant, N.B. Bose, E.M. Hales, J.T. Kent, E.B. Nash, Samuel Lillienthal, P.C. Majumdar, Salzer, Constantine Hering and E.A. Farrington.

I have also taken many hints from the American Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia.

In this connection I like to add that my heart-felt obligation is due to Kali Pada Pathak, but for whom this book would never have seen light and to whose whole-hearted devotion, sincere love and patient helpfulness I owe not only this treatise on Materia Medica but a great part of my personal comfort and a big share of my energy.

Finally, let me mention that I cherish no anxiety about the future of this volume, for a fate worse than what has been predicted by a great friend and sincere well-wisher of mine, "It will at least be popular amongst vermin if not amongst human being," can never befall this volume.

CALCUTTA *The 1st December, 1916.* N.M. CHOUDHURI

Materia medica

Abies canadensis

Our **Abies can.**, a remarkable remedy in the treatment of chronic gastric affections and uterine disorders, is prepared from the fresh bark and young buds of the Canada Pitch.

It is called Hemlock Spruce and it belongs to the natural order of Coniferae.

It produces a kind of catarrhal condition of the stomach.

Although imperfectly proved, we have records of numerous instances of cures effected with this remedy.

These patients suffer from great debility and there is a strong desire to lie down and rest most of the time.

A sort of languor is to be found in **Gelsemium** also.

It is easy, however, to differentiate between the two remedies.

In **Abies can.** it is debility pure and simple due to mal-assimilation of food whereas in **Gelsemium** it is only a muscular debility and a want of tone in the muscular system.

The most prominent symptoms to guide us in our selection of **Abies can.** are to be found in the gastric region.

Canine hunger is present most of the time.

It is a cruel hunger that gnaws in the stomach causing a sort of fainting feeling at the epigastrium.

In his hunger he does not know how much he eats and very often there is excessive loading of the stomach which causes distension of stomach and abdomen with severe palpitation of the heart.

It is also applicable in uterine displacements.

The patient complains of a sore feeling at fundus of uterus and relief is obtained by pressure.

Chilliness, prostration and the peculiar cravings when associated with the above mentioned gastric symptoms will make its application almost a certainly.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Abies nigra

Abies nigra, called the Black or Double Spruce, is prepared from the gum of the plant, a native of the northern part of North America.

It is undoubtedly a grand remedy in dyspepsia especially of the aged, habituated to excesses of tobacco and tea.

They are generally low-spirited and dull and have wakeful nights.

This remedy has a symptom which has been verified repeatedly and which can be described as the most characteristic indication of Abies Nigra.

This keynote symptom consists of a sensation of a lump in the cardiac end of the stomach.

The patient describes this as a feeling as though he had swallowed some indigestible substance which had stuck in his stomach.

It is like a continual distressing constriction just above the pit of stomach, as if everything was knotted up and this would neither go down nor come up.

Sometimes it is described as a sensation of hard-boiled egg lodging in the stomach.

Severe pain in stomach is felt after eating.

Symptoms like these are to be encountered daily and a few doses of.

Abies nigra will nip the trouble in the bud.

In this connection we may compare Abies Nigra with **Bryonia, Calcarea carb, China, Lactic Acid, Nux vom., Natrum mur.** and **Zincum**.

Abrotanum

Artemisia Abrotanum is prepared from the fresh leaves and stems of Lady's Love.

I have used this remedy with great success in cases of marasmus of infants.

They look puny, wrinkled, cross and depressed.

The emaciation is more marked in the lower limbs.

Malnutrition is evident from progressive atrophy inspite of ravenous hunger.

The prostration is so great that they cannot even hold up their heads.

They are very subject to alternate diarrhoea and constipation.

Protruding hemorrhoidal tumours with a burning pain when touched, oozing of blood and moisture from the navel, distension of abdomen, constant pain in stomach making the child irritable and ugly, a sort of hectic fever with painful inflammatory rheumatic swellings in different parts of the body, flabbiness of skin hanging in folds are symptoms to be always encountered in an Abrotanum baby.

Abrotanum, however, is not our only remedy for marasmus of children.

AEthusa, Antim. crud., Baryta carb., Calcarea carb., Cina, Iodium, Natrum mur., Petroleum, Sarsaparilla, Silicea and **Sulphur** are important remedies to be remembered in this connection.

In **AEthusa** with the emaciation we have immoderate vomiting of milk immediately after nursing.

The same emaciation, the same want of power to hold the head up are present but the great intolerance of milk should always be our guide in its selection.

In **Antimonium crudum** we have the vomiting of food and drink, we have the watery diarrhoea, but the ugliness and peevishness of the child, the want of animal heat and the heavy milky or the milk-white coating of the tongue should help us in our selection.

Baryta carb. is indicated when in addition to the general emaciation we have the immature and dwarfed mental condition of the child to think of.

A general tendency towards swelling of cervical and other glands is also to be noticed in this remedy.

In **Calcarea carb.** the emaciation is more marked in tissues other than adipose.

The muscles and the bones suffer before the fatty tissues are affected.

There is a general deceptive appearance of plumpness about this child.

Profuse sweat especially in the head, crusta lactea, engorgement of glands, especially the mesenteric, sour pungent clayey diarrhoea and great craving for eggs are prominent symptoms.

Cina is inferior the none in marasmus but the itching of the anus, the wetting of the bed, and presence of worms in the stools, the beastly temper, the constant picking of the nose and a strong desire on the part of the child to be constantly rocked are guiding indications.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Iodium is indicated when the hunger is excessive and the child wants to eat constantly.
In addition to this we have swelling and induration of the mesenteric glands.

Natrum mur., a great remedy at all times, is particularly indicated in marasmus when atrophy is more marked in the throat and neck of children.
The mapped tongue, herpes labialis, marked repugnance to bread, sadness, profuse sweating, palpitation and constipation are sure indications for **Natrum mur**.

Petroleum is indicated in marasmus when the patient is subject to a peculiar type of diarrhoea, harassing all day long but mostly absent at night time.
The other prominent symptoms are a marked odour of garlic in the breath and faeces of the patient, aversion to fresh air, a marked tendency for eczema, excoriating cracks and bleeding rhagades.

We use **Phosphorus** in children growing over-tall but slender The pot-belliedness, the pale waxy countenance, the delicate eyelashes and soft hair, a frequent tendency for diarrhoea where stools pour away like water from a hydrant, the great tendency for affection of bones, the strong craving for cold iced drinks are symptoms too definite to be misleading.

Sarsaparilla is generally called for in very pronounced cases of marasmus where the disease is fully developed.
The emaciation is extreme, the face looks shrivelled, the skin lies into folds, eruptions are prone to appear on tongue and roof of mouth.
Offensive sweat about genitals, restlessness before passing of urine, passing of great quantity of sand in the urine are also characteristic of this remedy.

Silicea is indicated in nervous, irritable, timid children who though wasting everywhere present an exceedingly large head.
Malnutrition is marked everywhere in **Silicea**.
A great aversion to mother's milk is also noticed.

Sulphur though coming last in this list is not second in importance to any.
In fact it is used oftener than many of the other remedies mentioned in this list.
No body can mistake a Sulphur baby.
There is nothing inviting about him.
The skin is dry, harsh and wrinkled giving the child an old man look.
Eczema, itch, eruptions, enlargement of the glands, obstinate constipation and persistent diarrhoea, a never-to-be-forgotten nauseous smell, dirt and filth speak of an ugliness that is only to be encountered in **Sulphur**.

Absinthium

This drug is prepared from the Common Wormwood, a plant very well known because of the famous liquor extracted from it.
The tincture is made from the chopped leaves and blossoms of this plant, macerated in two parts by its weight of alcohol.

Many symptoms of this remedy have been obtained from persons indulging too freely in this deleterious drink.
This liquor is consumed very extensively in Switzerland and France.
In the latter country the consumption of **Absinth** has assumed such proportions that it has been truly esteemed a grave national evil.
The symptoms of over-indulgence are muscular quiverings, emaciation, melancholy look, giddiness, tingling in the ears, hallucinations of sight and hearing, loss of brain power and eventual idiocy.

In homoeopathic therapeutics this remedy is used extensively in epileptiform seizures.
A large number of fits occur in the same day in rapid succession.
Trembling, tremor and terrific hallucination precede the attack and it is mostly followed by motor and sensory paralysis.
An obtuse state of the mind prevails after the attack is over.

In delirium calling for **Absinth** we notice great restlessness as manifested by a desire to walk about; they cannot stop in one place because of the terrible visions that come to them.
In the typhoid state it is prescribed for sleeplessness when sleeplessness is suspected to be due to congestion of the base of the brain.

We must not forget the vertigo of **Absinthium**.
It is characterized by a tendency to fall backwards.
It is also accompanied by general constipation and spasmodic twitching of the facial muscles.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Acalypha indica

Acalypha Indica is a common weed growing in the East Indies.
It belongs to the natural order of Euphorbiaceae.
This drug has a marked action on the respiratory organs.
This is one more of our new remedies which I cannot, for sake of decency, overlook.
I have used this remedy with great satisfaction in hemoptysis of phthisis.
There is dullness of chest on percussion.
Patients complaining of severe pain in chest, progressive emaciation, night sweat, evening rise of temperature, all indicating a serious stage, have been helped by the administration of **Acalypha**.
The cough of **Acalypha** is dry and hard and each time it is followed by hemoptysis.
The blood ejected is bright red in the morning, dark and clotted in the afternoon.
We also have a spluttering diarrhoea with forcible expulsion of noisy flatus in this remedy.
Rectal haemorrhage, too, is not uncommon.
It belongs to the same category as **Hamamelis, Ipecac, Millefolium, Phosphorus** and **Aconite**.
This remedy was first proved by Dr. P.C. Mozumdar of Calcutta.

Aceticum acidum

ACETIC ACID

It is common vinegar.
It produces a sort of anaemia with debility, loss of flesh, cough, dropsical swelling and haemorrhage and is, therefore, a very remarkable therapeutic agent in many cachectic conditions arising from cancer, phthisis, fever, diphtheria, croup and diabetes.
The patient presents a pitiable condition.
He is pale, waxen, and emaciated.
Wasting is excessive and progressive.
Thirst is very intense.
Nausea, retching and sour rising are frequent symptoms.
It has been known to palliate intense gnawing, ulcerative pains of cancer in the stomach with great burning and profuse diarrhoea.
Dropsical swellings common in the later stages of the above complaints also find in **Acetic acid** a great help.
We have haemorrhage from every outlet of the body.
These are all very serious symptoms but they come well under the influence of **Acetic acid**.

Aconitum napellus

ACONITE NAPELLUS

This is a very strong poiWolfsbane.
It grows over bare rocks in various parts of Europe and Asia.
The tincture is prepared from the whole plant when beginning to flower.
It was introduced into our Materia Medica by Hahnemann.
No single word expresses the general character of **Aconite** better than "tension".
Every fiber of the **Aconite** patient is an illustration of this condition.
The great anxiety, fear and restlessness illustrate his emotional tension.
His intellectual tension is evidenced by the great acuteness of all his senses.
His senses of smell, sight, touch and hearing become exceedingly active, which it will not take long for the most casual observer to find out.
His pulse is another proof of his acute, over-sensitive and highly-strung condition.
It is full, hard and bounding.
Another important point that should not escape our attention is the intensity, the acuteness and rapidity of all the symptoms of **Aconite**; for example, the fever, for which **Aconite** is the remedy, is rapid in its onset, intense in its

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

character and overwhelming in its nature.
It runs up to an extreme temperature of 104° or 105° in a very short while and his internal turmoil manifests itself by the intense agonising restlessness, the great but inexplicable anxiety, apprehension and fear.

The appearance of the **Aconite** patient during fever is very characteristic.
We notice redness and heat of one and coldness with paleness of the other cheek.
Sometimes the face looks red while lying down but becomes deathly pale on rising up, and he becomes faint or giddy and falls over.
This is accompanied with vanishing of sight and unconsciousness.
The heat is dry and burning in character and is accompanied by intense and excessive thirst.
Water tastes very sweet and he drinks large quantities at a time.
During sweat he wants to be covered up.
The sweat is warm and profuse and is over the entire body.
The aetiology of the **Aconite** fever is very important and should be borne in mind.
The ailment is the result of an exposure to dry cold wind while in perspiration or getting wet.

Aconite is very rich in mental symptoms.
He is impatient and his impatience makes him restless.
He throws himself about and constantly changes his position.
The true reason of this restlessness is to be found in a state of internal turmoil and anxiety and agony; that is why he cannot continue long at one thing or at one space.
He moans and laments he screams and shouts not knowing what to do and how to find consolation.
Fear is a prominent factor in his life and this fear is mostly about the safety of his own life.
He fears to go out where there is an excitement or any congregation of people.
At times this fear assumes the aspect of clairvoyance and he predicts the time of his death.
He also seems to be conscious of things that are happening far away.

He is extremely sensitive mentally and physically.
He gets vexed at trifles and takes things seriously even when meant in joke.
Physically this sensitiveness is manifested by his extreme susceptibility to pain.
He makes a bad patient.
He makes mountain of a molehill.
Even when the pains are slight and bearable, due to his extreme susceptibility he exaggerates them to such an extent that his own imagination of the enormity of his complaint overpowers him.

The **Aconite** patient is also inclined to be hysterical.
We notice great variation of mood and temperament.
He is cheerful this minute, he weeps the next.
He is sad and taciturn now, he is gay and loquacious the next moment.
The expression of his face is anxious and one of extreme fear.
It is also livid, at times getting almost blackish.
A great victim to giddiness on rising from a recumbent posture, his red face gets deathly pale and he becomes dizzy and falls.

Congestion being an integral part of **Aconite,** our patient is a martyr to severe throbbing headaches with great fullness and heavy feeling in the brain; he feels as if everything is about to be pushed out of the forehead.
The carotids throb and the head feels hot while the rest of the body becomes cold.
Neuralgia of the Trigeminus with fiery red face, restlessness and anguish is a frequent occurrence.

Aconite has strong action over mucous membranes where it causes severe inflammation.
In the eyes we use it in conjunctivitis, sclerotitis and ophthalmia, when symptoms are over-acute, pain extra-severe, and redness and photophobia are extreme.
Chemosis, hyperaemia, heat, dryness, profuse lachrymation and copious inflammatory discharges from the nose are common.
We also notice fluent coryza, roaring in the ears and frequent sneezing, the effect of exposure to a draft of dry cold wind.
If not checked in time it travels downwards and the inflammatory process may give rise to serious type of laryngitis.
Hoarseness, rattling, suffocative spasms, husky voice, crowing croupy cough, dryness in the wind pipe, wheezing sawing breath, indicate serious complications.
It may also extend to the respiratory tract and we may have a serious case of bronchitis or pneumonia to deal with.
Tightness of the chest, a sense of oppression and a feeling of great weight ought to put us on our guard.
Severe stitching pain lancinating through the chest, difficult breathing, violent chill, blood-streaked sputa should draw our

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

attention at once to **Aconite**.

Together with **Spongia** and **Causticum, Aconite** forms an important trio for such affections of the respiratory troubles as cough and croup.

The cough is more of a croupy nature.

It is dry, hoarse and suffocating.

Sometimes we hear a ringing, whistling sound on expiration.

The child grasps its throat with every attempt at coughing.

In this connection we may compare it with **Hepar sulph.** and **Sambucus**.

The former remedy should be given when the cough is aggravated towards morning and on uncovering.

There is regular rattling of mucus in throat as in **Antim. tart.**

In the latter remedy nervous symptoms such as spasms of the glottis are noticed.

The breathing is more of a wheezing crowing character; the trouble is almost worse after midnight and on lying with head low.

The patient can inspire better; expiration is hard and difficult.

In pleurisy we may think of **Aconite** in the very first stage before exudation has set in.

Sharp stitches are felt on chest with chill and fever.

It is specially indicated when the trouble has arisen from exposure or a checked perspiration.

Right here we will also speak of **Aconite** in pneumonia.

It is used in the first stage when symptoms of engorgement of lungs are very prominent.

The cough is hard, dry and painful.

The expectoration is blood-streaked.

The mental phenomena, so characteristic of **Aconite** are ever present.

Aconite is an important remedy in many affections of the heart, such as neuralgia, hypertrophy, pericarditis, angina pectoris and many other varieties of inflammatory processes.

Violent hyperaemia with severe anxiety about the praecordia, stitches at the heart, numbness in the left arm and tingling in the fingers, quick pulse and fainting are important indications calling for **Aconite**.

We use **Aconite** very extensively in diarrhoea, specially of infants, during summer.

The stools are green like chopped herbs.

It is attended with colic that forces them double.

Aconite is still our remedy when this green stool turns bloody and there are intense urging and other inflammatory symptoms, such as high fever, intense pain, distended abdomen, etc.

It is one more of our hemorrhagic remedies but the hemorrhage that we find under **Aconite** is active hemorrhage - the blood passed being pure and profuse.

We use it in menorrhagia, metrorrhagia, hemoptysis, epistaxis, hematemesis and hematuria when accompanied with the moral symptoms stated above.

Pregnancy and parturition call for **Aconite** in impending cases of abortion when induced by fright and vexation.

The labor pains of **Aconite** are very violent and distressing; progress is slow, the contraction being insufficient.

The patient red, thirsty and sweating, keeps shrieking on account of the overwhelming but ineffectual pain.

It is called for even in convulsions due to excessive cerebral congestion.

Milk fever and other varieties of child bed fevers can be helped with **Aconite**, provided we have frequent tense hard pulse, fearful, wild, staring, glittering eyes, dry tongue and great thirst.

We will now discuss the indications of **Aconite** in febrile affections.

It is a remedy par excellence in the treatment of fevers, especially in fevers of inflammatory types.

The heat is very great with agonized, tossing about.

It is generally a dry radiating heat.

The thirst is great.

Chilliness is experienced on slightest movement.

The patient shudders on lying down.

With the chill we also have internal heat, anxiety and red cheeks.

Sometimes the redness in only to be seen in one cheek only.

Aconite is very useful in cholera, both in the congestive stage and in the stage of collapse.

The violence of the attack and the mental symptoms should be powerful factors in our decision.

It is recommended even as a preventive measure during severe epidemics of cholera, when the atmosphere gets surcharged with fear and anxiety, every body dreading to be the next victim.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Sulphur is the chronic of **Aconite**; where **Aconite** partially helps, **Sulphur** finishes the cure.

Cimicifuga racemosa

ACTAEA RACEMOSA

This is also called the Black Cohosh or Cimicifuga Racemosa.
Its main sphere of action lies in the female sexual system especially upon the uterus and ovaries.
It works on the muscular system as well, as we will find out in a short while.
It is most useful in difficult labor due to rigidity of os as in **Caulophyllum** but the extreme severity of pain - pain that brings on fainting is the differentiating feature.
The patient in the first stage of labor suffers from fits of shivering, a sort of nervous chill, shaking her through and through.
Given during the last month, it shortens labor.
Also it is a protection against false labor pains and prevents sickness of pregnancy and after pains.
The symptom to indicate it in the last condition has been very aptly described by Dr. Lippe as a sensation as if the recently delivered uterus becomes actually jammed in the pelvis with great pain.
It is also a great remedy for uterine neuralgia, the pain shifting from side to side.
There is also a bearing down sensation as if everything is being pressed out and this sensation is somewhat relieved by the patient lying down.
The mense may be either profuse or scanty although it is generally scanty and during each menstrual period the patient suffers from strong labor-like pains.
During menses the patient becomes hysterical or suffers from epileptic spasms.
The mental symptoms, of which there are a great variety and which we will discuss presently, undergo strange aberrations and aggravations during this period.
In this connection we may as well mention that it is a great remedy for reflex pain; we use it in sharp lancinating electric like pains in various parts of the body when in sympathy with ovarian irritation or due to reflex from uterus.

As may be easily imagined this patient is sad and morose.
There is a great abundance of sighing as in **Ignatia**.
Mental depressions sometimes take the form of suicidal mania.
She is constantly afraid of becoming crazy and we notice that she has to exert great control to prevent her from committing suicide.

This depression is so great that everything in **Actaea** looks covered with a death-like pall.
She feels as if a heavy black cloud has settled over her and enveloped her head, so that all were darkness and confusion.
This intensified gloom often leads to real mania, of which she is so constantly afraid, and we find her imagine all sorts of strange things.
She imagines strange objects about her bed and sees rats and sheep roaming everywhere.
At times there is the illusion of a mouse running from under her chair.
She avoids company and wanders on from place to place evading questions asked.
The again we find her suffering from a great fear, as if everybody around her would conspire and kill her.
She gets so suspicious of everybody and everything that she would not take medicine if she knew she was taking it.

It is a great remedy for headache but the headache is of uterine origin; due to great rush of blood to head, the brain feels too large for the cranium.
This congestion to head is the effect of suppression of uterine discharges or suddenly ceasing of neuralgic pains.
It is felt even in the eye-balls and is increased by the slightest movement of head or eye-balls.
This headache is better in open air.
We have also neuralgic pains affecting malar bones and ciliary neuralgia under **Actaea**.
The pain extends from the temple to the eye-ball and is so severe as to drive her almost crazy.

Now we will discuss its application in rheumatism.
There is general aching all over the limbs and the muscular soreness is excessive.
We think of it in stiffness in joints, experienced early in the morning as if he had walked hard the day before.
Actaea Racemosa is particularly applicable in rheumatism affecting the bellies of the muscles.
We also have sensitiveness of spine with a feeling of great weight in the lumbar and sacral regions.

It has been recommended in incipient tuberculosis when the peculiar **"Actaea cough"** is present.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

It is mostly a nocturnal cough and although dry there is at times an expectoration of a viscid stringy mucus.
The cough becomes particularly harassing when he attempts to speak.
There is also a persistent diarrhoea which unless checked at the proper moment, will lead the patient on to a maze of suffering, ending ultimately in tuberculosis of lungs.

Actaea spicata

This is a rheumatic remedy and it has special affinity for smaller joints, particularly the wrist.
The patient goes out feeling well but after a slight exercise the joints start aching and swell compelling him to hurry home in disgust.
Affected joints are swollen and motion is rendered absolutely impossible.
In the affected limb great weakness is felt as if paralysed.
Extreme tenderness to touch, nocturnal aggravation, weakness and tingling are some of the cardinal symptoms.
It bears great resemblance to **Viola odorata, Caulophyllum, Sabina, Colc.** and **Sticta** in rheumatism.
It is particularly suited to old people.
The aggravation is noticed from motion and change of weather.

Adonis vernalis

It is a popular home remedy for heart troubles and it is of the same type as **Convallaria** and **Digitalis.**
It is reputed to be serviceable in cases of endocarditis, valvulitis and other heart affections secondary to Bright's disease.
The symptoms are, rapid and feeble action of the heart, dropsy, irregular and intermittent pulse, oedema of the legs, ascites and dyspnoea.
Hale reports of a beautiful cure in a labourer suffering from chronic valvular disease of the heart with dilatation under the action of **Adonis**.
The heart became diminished in size, the congestion of the lungs disappeared, the oedema of the legs vanished, the palpitation of the heart and the dyspnoea stopped.
This drug has not been proved in its potency.

Aesculus hippocastanum

AEsculus is the common horse chestnut, a native of Asia but cultivated extensively in Europe and America.
It was proved by Dr. Cooly of the New York State.
It is one our of great hemorrhoidal remedies.
Its efficacy in the treatment of this trouble is indisputable.
The action of **AEsculus** is mostly centred on the rectum and the rectal mucous membranes.
It causes great plethora in that neighbourhood.
This plethora leads to a sensation of fullness which is one of our keynote symptoms of this remedy.
Another very noted symptom of **AEsculus** is dryness - a dryness that renders defaecation extremely painful and it is this dryness that is mainly responsible for the splinter-like pain so characteristic of the remedy.
Extreme heat, a sense of constriction, a feeling of thickening of the rectal mucous lining obstructing defaecation, intense unallayed pain are sure indications of **AEsculus**.
Sometimes we have a real blockage of the rectum due to the presence of innumerable hemorrhoidal knobs.
When to such a condition is added the difficult task of a passage of a large hard, dry, knotted stool, the agony becomes simply indescribable.
A portion of the anus protrudes and with it a bundle of piles looking like a bunch of grapes.
Another great characteristic symptom of this remedy is lumbo-sacral backache.
The patient feels as if his back is almost breaking and no position relieves.
It feels almost like a knife sawing up and down along the passage.
AEsculus has been known to bring immediate and instantaneous relief, in such cases.
Pain and lameness in each sacro-iliac symphisis, paralytic feeling in arm, feet and spine, fullness in various parts of the body, as if containing an undue amount of blood, heaviness and lameness are indications that will rarely betray any confidence reposed on **AEsculus**.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

It may be compared with **Carbo veg., Lachesis** and **Muriatic acid** in respect of the bluish colour of the piles.

Aethusa cynapium

AEthusa is prepared from a very common weed of Europe known as the Fools Parsley.

It is a great friend of the children as it helps us to cure many of their ailments.

I would like to give it a very important place amongst the remedies we use to check vomiting of milk in infants.

This intolerance of milk is due to a peculiar gastric irritation frequently met with in children during dentition.

As soon as the child drinks its milk, up it comes with great gush and in big quantity.

If the milk is kept down for a little while it is vomited out in the form of big, thick, greenish curds.

It thus resembles **Ant. crud., Nat. mur., Silicea, Sulphur** and **Valeriana**; but the utter prostration, great sleepiness, the peculiar woe-begone, anxious, pain-stricken, drawn look of **AEthusa** speak in language too plain for even a beginner to make a mistake.

These children are too weak to stand and even when held up, their heads droop down as in **Abrotanum**.

After the exertion of vomiting, the child falls into a sort of helpless slumber from which it wakes up, crying with violent hunger, to eat and to vomit again.

Very often this is complicated with diarrhoea of a light yellow bilious colour.

If this is not checked by the timely administration of **AEthusa**, it may run on to cholera infantum and hydrocephalus.

AEthusa is equally great in convulsions in which the thumbs are clenched and the eyes are turned downward.

The appearance of the patient is very striking.

His eyes look sunken with a peculiar pearly whiteness of all that portion of the face bounded by the upper lip and two distinct lines drawn from two orifices of the nose to the angles of the mouth.

This is called **Linea nasalis**.

This is more characteristic of **AEthusa** than any other remedy that I know of.

Dr. Clarke recommends it highly in patients suffering from want of the power of concentration.

He mentions of a young undergraduate in whom with **AEthusa** he helped to bring back his long-lost power of concentration.

AEthusa is wanting in thirst like **Pulsatilla** and **Apis**.

Agaricus muscarius

Agaricus Muscarius belongs to the natural order of Fungi.

I am afraid I shall not be far wrong in according **Agaricus** an important place in our Materia Medica.

Owing to present-day allurements and excesses, hundreds of our young men fall easy victims to drink and debauchery, and stand in need of remedies like **Agaricus**.

After a whole night of debauch, our victim wakes up the next morning with a big and swollen head.

Confused ideas, great giddiness, irritability of temper, depression of spirit, disinclination for exertion of any kind are accompanying symptoms.

A few drops of **Agaricus** will soothe his over-excited brain and nerves, and herald a normal functioning of all the organs, rendered topsy-turvy, by his night's intemperance.

It is also very useful in headaches of those who are subject to chorea, or who readily become delirious in fever or with pain.

It is very helpful in vertigo arising out of the above mentioned causes.

The patient feels a great weight in his head and constantly feels like falling backward.

We notice a great tenderness, soreness and aching in the lumbar and sacral regions.

Symptoms of chorea varying from simple involuntary motions to a regular dancing of the whole body, are also very common, but what characterises these involuntary movements in **Agaricus**, is that they are only present while the patient is awake, ceasing during sleep.

Great sexual excitement both in the male and in the female is also noticeable.

Great desire for an embrace, voluptuousness and a marked debility after coitus are important indication of **Agaricus**.

Locomotor ataxia finds in **Agaricus** a ready remedy.

There is the uncertainty of the gait, the patient stumbling over everything in his way.

The symptom that makes **Agaricus** very efficacious in such complaints is a terrible pan in the heels, as if they have been bitten.

Another characteristic indication of this remedy is that the parts pain, as if touched or pierced by needles of ice.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

On the skin we find many miliary eruptions, the parts looking red and swollen with intense burning as in frost-bite. It is very rich in mental symptoms.

The patient sings and talks but does not answer questions.

There is a lascivious desire to kiss.

Great loquacity convulsive movements of the facial and cervical muscles of the right side, bringing the head down to the shoulder are symptoms that indicate **Agaricus** in delirium, insanity, idiocy, softening of the brain and various kindred ailments.

Agave americana

It is also called the American Aloe.

The tincture is prepared from fresh chopped leaves.

This remedy has not been given a thorough scientific proving but as it is reputed to have a great curative value in hydrophobia, it will not do to leave it out of our Materia Medica.

We have a nice instance of a cure of hydrophobia with **Agave** reported in "The Homoeopathic Recorder."

A boy developed symptoms of hydrophobia four months after the bite.

Quarrelsomeness, inability to swallow, desire to bite anybody near about, were symptoms that were thoroughly relieved by the boy partaking in crude juice of the plant that was simply thrown at him.

Since then it has been used in similar instances on similar symptoms and numerous cures have been recorded as effected by **Agave**.

Agnus castus

The tincture is prepared from the berries of the Chaste tree, a plant growing extensively on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Its chief action is felt over the sexual sphere and the nervous system.

It belongs to the same category as **Selenium, Staphysagria** and **Acid phos**, although properly speaking it typifies a condition more desperate than that presented by any one of those remedies.

We think of **Agnus** when the sexual life is entirely annihilated, due to abuses and excesses of former years.

The sexual desire is very much lessened, at times it is almost lost.

The penis is so relaxed that voluptuous fancies excite no erection.

The testes get cold and the spermatic fluid is absolutely thin.

We should think of this remedy in impotence particularly brought about by frequent attacks of gonorrhoea.

A short comparison of **Agnus castus** with **Caladium, Conium, Lycopodium, Phosphorus, Sulphur** and **Thuja** will not be out of place here.

We think of **Caladium** in impotence where voluptuous excitement is present but not attended with proper erections.

Conium and **Phosphorus** are remedies in impotence, the result of undue continence.

Lycopodium and **Sulphur** are similar to **Agnus** in respect of coldness of the sexual parts and smallness of the sexual organ.

We should think of **Thuja** in impotence after gonorrhoea same as **Agnus**.

Agnus is equally applicable in hysterical women suffering from maniacal lasciviousness, although generally it is oftener indicated in cold women suffering from sterility and entire loss of sexual desire.

The sexual parts are extremely relaxed and we have a transparent leucorrhoeal discharge passing imperceptibly from the relaxed parts.

This decay of one's sexual life is further portrayed in his premature old age, melancholy apathetic indifferent look, loss of power of sight and a constant fear of death.

This fear of death is not as in Aconite, due to some catastrophe immediately impending but to a vague and remote apprehension of approaching end.

Agnus patients suffer from illusion of smell.

They complain of an imaginary odour as of herring or musk always sticking to their nose.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Ailanthus glandulosa

The common name of this plant is the Tree of Heaven.
It is a native of China.
It is cultivated very extensively in the United States as a shade tree.
It is better that we should know something about this remedy.
It is very helpful in some of those obstinate cases of malignant sorethroat accompanying scarlatina, measles and other eruptive diseases.
It was in such a case that I first tried **Ailanthus**.
The result exceeded my most sanguine expectations.
The fever was very high and the patient was in a state of stuporous delirium.
His whole body was covered with a sort of a dark miliary rash.
The inside of his throat was swollen and livid.
The tonsils looked immensely large and were studded with ever so many angry-looking ulcers discharging a sort of a fetid ichorous humour.
The tongue looked equally bad - it was cracked, dry and parched.
The teeth were covered with a brown sordes.
The cellular tissues around the neck were infiltrated.
Through the nostrils there flew a thin ichorous bloody discharge.
All symptoms pointed towards a fatal end.
His prostration very marked from the beginning progressed with leaps and bounds.
This sudden and great fall in vital force, so characteristic of **Ailanthus**, first drew my attention to it and as it covered most of the symptoms of the patient, it was administered.
The cure was speedy and marvellous.
It may be very aptly compared with **Apis, Carbolic acid, Crotalus, Lachesis, Lycopodium, Merc. cyan., Nitric acid** and **Phytolacca** - remedies equally adapted to those serious types of malignant sorethroat and diphtheria.
Apis is generally applicable in those forms of throat complaints where the disease starting, as it does so insidiously, without much pain and inconvenience is not thought of seriously in the beginning.
It is a right-sided remedy and the right tonsils are studded with deep, gray looking ulcerations exuding a scanty and putrid discharge.
OEdema of throat and uvula is a marked feature of this remedy.
Fetidity of breath, thirstlessness, painful and scanty micturition, intense sense of suffocation and a very high fever are characteristic indications of **Apis**.
Carbolic acid, like **Apis**, is marked by an absence of pain but unlike **Apis** we have a low adynamic fever.
The stench from the mouth is almost unbearable, and we have an extensive area of glandular involvement.
Crotalus is mostly adapted to cases marked with a persistent haemorrhage from the orifices of the mouth and nose.
Gangrenous destruction of tissues of the fauces and tonsils, great thirst, excessive prostration, are prominent indications of **Crotalus**.
Lachesis has marked asthenia from the start.
It is a leftsided remedy as most of its complaints start from that side.
It is the very reverse of **Apis** inasmuch as we have intense pain accompanying an apparently small amount of inflammation.
Deep redness of fauces, constant desire to put the tongue out of the mouth which trembles like that of a snake, infiltration of the cellular tissue about the neck, cardiac debility, aggravation from hot and relief from cold drinks are the cardinal symptoms of **Lachesis**.
Lycopodium is eminently a right-sided remedy with a desire for warm drinks which are grateful to the throat.
Tendency to cellular paralysis, dropping of lower jaw, rapid rattling breathing, brownish redness of fauces and aggravation from sleep are the cardinal symptoms of this remedy.
Merc. cyanatus is particularly adapted to throat troubles of putrid and adynamic character.
The fetor oris is most marked.
The tenderness of the salivary glands is great.
The nasal cavities, mouth, fauces, pharynx and larynx are covered by dark, grey or thick greenish leathery exudations.
Profuse epistaxis, incessant salivation and abundant perspiration are highly characteristic of **Merc. cyan.**

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Nitric acid is mostly indicated in nasal diphtheria.
There is chilliness with aversion to heat.
Nose-bleed, distress and uneasiness in stomach with total rejection of all food, stinging splinter-like pains, excessive salivation are most marked in **Nitric acid**.

Phytolacca is indicated when we have a feeling in throat as if it were a large empty cavern.
Aggravation from hot fluids, pains in head, neck and limbs, difficulty of swallowing, each attempt being followed by sharp shooting into ears, are important landmarks of this remedy.

Aletris farinosa

The tincture is prepared from the Star Grass.
It is said to be a very bitter substance.

It is generally indicated in anaemic patients, especially in females suffering from protracted ailments or defective nutrition.
Great debility is characteristic of this remedy.
The patient is tired all the time and suffers from prolapsus, leucorrhoea, sterility and rectal discomfort.
Great weariness of mind and body, anorexia, nausea and a sensation of weight in uterine region are important indications of **Aletris**.

It is reputed to be as good a remedy for constipation as **Alumina** - an inveterate constipation due to complete atony of rectum.
Defecation is accompanied by terrible pain.

Allium cepa

The tincture is prepared from the common red onion.
It is one of our great catarrhal remedies.
We have catarrh of the eyes, nose, throat and even of the bronchial tubes.
This catarrhal inflammation of the mucous membrane leads to increased secretion.
Thus we have profuse watery and acrid discharge from the eyes, nose and throat with violent sneezing.
Due to a similar inflammation in the larynx the voice gets set and the cough becomes incessant.
The cough is associated with intense pain in the throat.
The patient grasps his throat every time he coughs as if to save it from being torn to pieces.

Thread-like pains are very characteristic of **Cepa**.
Such a pain in any part of the body ought to remind us of this remedy.
We use it in paronychia when red streaks run up the arms and is accompanied with a thread-like pain.
Cepa patients are always better in a cold room and open air.
Other similar catarrhal remedies are **Euphrasia, Arum trif., Arsenic**, etc.

Allium sativum

ALLIUM SATIVA

It is the garlic of our everyday use and is adapted to high livers and fleshy people who consume an enormous quantity of food and suffer from indigestion as a result of their gluttony.
Their bowels are apt to be disturbed by the slightest deviation in diet.
The least change in their usual manner of living increases the dyspepsia.
Heartburn, belching, copious flow of saliva after eating, wind colic, great distension and pressure in epigastrium and transverse colon are important symptoms.

These people, as is very often the case with high livers, are martyrs to rheumatism.
The pain, however, is mostly in hip, as well as in iliac muscles.

Its cough is very similar to that of **Capsicum** in as much as it is associated with very fetid breath.
It is aggravated after smoking.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Aloe socotrina

ALOES SOCOTRINA

To write a Materia Medica without **Aloes** is to write a novel without a hero.

Its importance and usefulness become evident as soon as we launch in our business of curing the sick.

Its chief and the most important action is seen in the large intestines.

Taken in a big dose it increases the intestinal secretion and its peristaltic action.

It also produces sensation of heat, fullness, heaviness and throbbing in the rectum.

In the homoeopathic therapeutics, **Aloes** justly assumes an important place in the treatment of diarrhoea.

I would like to give it the very first place in those peculiar cases where the **Aloes** characteristics are present.

As homoeopaths we have got no surer guide and no simpler process than to be guided by those characteristics. They are :-

Firstly, a great feeling of weakness and loss of power of sphincter ani.

This leads to a sensation of insecurity in the rectum.

They are afraid to pass flatus for fear stool will escape.

In this **Aloes** resembles **Oleander, Phosphorous, China, Hyosc, Opium** and **Acid phos.**

The urging for stool is great; he runs for the bath room, but unfortunately even before he gets to it, his clothes are all soiled.

Secondly, a great feeling of fullness and weight in the pelvis as though the rectum were full of faecal matter which would fall out if not for the extreme caution.

Thirdly, loud rumbling and gurgling in the abdomen as though water were running out of bottle.

This symptom when present in dysentery becomes a great characteristic.

Fourthly, the aggravation of the condition after each meal as in **Arsenic, China, Lycopodium, Podophyllum, Thromb, Croton tig.** and **Ferrum**.

Aloes causes great portal congestions and as is usually the case in all such remedies we notice a great depression, lassitude and languor clouding their mental atmosphere.

They are fleshy and phlegmatic, highly dissatisfied and angry about themselves.

They consider life as almost a burden and carry on their existence in a sad dispirited sort of way.

They are inclined to suffer from congestion of the head and hence a dull frontal headache with heaviness of the eyes is common.

Sometimes the headache alternates with lumbago.

They suffer from pain deep in the orbits and have yellow vision.

The congestion of the portal system referred to above gives them a sensation of constant fullness and heaviness in the abdomen.

Rumbling in the abdomen, constant discharge of flatus, a feeling of weakness in the abdomen as if diarrhoea would set in, great cutting, griping pain in the right and lower portion of abdomen, a sensation of plug between symphisis pubis and os coccyx, urging to stool, constant bearing down in rectum are symptoms that ought to be very carefully remembered.

The character of the **Aloes** stool also is equally striking.

It is mostly transparent, jelly-like in dysentery and yellow semi-liquid faecal in diarrhoea.

This diarrhoea is always worse while walking or standing and is often followed by great prostration and fainting spells.

The hemorrhoids of **Aloes**, the result of the same portal congestions, protrude like a bunch of grapes.

Constant backache, the same bearing down sensation in the rectum, the sensation of fullness described above should be our important landmarks in the selection of the remedy.

The hemorrhoids are mostly moist due to constant mucous secretion from the anus.

They are very tender, sore, hot, itchy and are generally relieved by washing it with cold water.

In this connection we may think of **Bromium** and **Mur. acid**, two remedies equally great in hemorrhoids.

It differs from the former in the fact that **Bromium** piles are relieved by application of saliva and from **Mur. acid** by its relief from application of **warm** water.

The constipation of **Aloes** is equally prominent because of the same want of confidence in the sphincter ani.

I remember quite vividly a case of a little boy about five years old that was brought to our college clinic years ago, when I was a student in the Hering Medical College of Chicago.

He used to soil his clothes at all odd times with hard lumpy stools, which his mother ascribed to sheer wickedness on his part.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

When cane failed and the trouble grew worse, he was brought to the clinic.
A few doses of **Aloes** put an end to all his unintentional villainy.

Aloes is a deeply anti-psoric remedy and it is of special use in chronic cases when the above symptoms are well marked.

Alumen

This is our common Potash Alum.
The trituration is prepared from pure crystals.
It is a great astringent and is in great use amongst our people for common sore-throat on account of its astringent properties.
This remedy is not in very great demand, but when the demand comes it is almost invaluable.

I shall give one or two leading characteristics of this remedy; one is found in its stools.
The evacuations are exceedingly hard and knotty like stones, and they happen at very long intervals - say once or twice a week.
These hard lumps, as they pass, leave the rectum intensely sore and tender, and it pains for a long time afterwards.
Such inveterate constipation is also to be met with in **Ammon carb, Antimonium crud, Bryonia, Lach., Plumbum, Sepia** and **Sulphur**.

The second characteristic of this remedy is found in its peculiar haemorrhage of a large mass of coagulated blood, putrid, disintegrated and of a dark colour, so often seen in the latter stages of typhus.

The **Alum.** patient is very sensitive to cold.
We find aggravation during sleep, and on turning on the right side.

These patients are predisposed to tonsillitis and various forms of affections and inflammations of the buccal cavity.
It is particularly indicated in chronic sore throat and pharyngitis.
The veins about the fauces are distended.
The relaxed and the ulcerated condition of the throat and spasmodic constriction in oesophagus make swallowing very difficult.
The voice is entirely lost.

Alumina

Alumina is prepared from Oxide of Aluminium, a kind of clay, white in color, soft to touch, inodorous, tasteless and insoluble in water.
It was introduced into our Materia Medica by Hahnemann.

This great anti-psoric is best suited to old and emaciated constitutions and to young girls at puberty suffering from chlorosis, also to weak undeveloped infants raised on artificial food and lacking in strength and vitality.

The characteristics of **Alumina** that appeal to me as being of predominant importance are paralysis of the involuntary muscles and depletion of life-force in many of the organs of the human system.
This is seen in the atony of the intestinal tract that gives rise to a peculiar constipation for which **Alumina** is famous; it is a constipation in which the patient loses all desires for stool and every ability to pass it out.
It is indeed a job with these patients to get a stool.
They grasp the seat of the closet tightly and strain hard and strain continually till they succeed in getting rid of a few hard knotty laurel-berry balls covered with mucus as in **Graphites**.
Even when the stools are soft like clay the same exertions and the same straining are necessary.
There are remedies like **Anacardium, Platinum, Silicea** and **Veratrum** where we find a similar state of affairs, but they differ in other characteristic points.
Sometimes the **Alumina** patient has to stand up to be able to defecate.
In this **Alumina** resembles **Causticum**.
The **Alumina** constipation is very often to be met with in women during pregnancy, in old people and also in bottlefed babies.

A further illustration of the paralytic action of **Alumina** is seen in the loss of power of the internal rectus muscle causing squint.

Alumina is just as good a remedy for ptosis as **Gelsemium** and **Causticum**.
This property of **Alumina** to cause paralysis and also to cure it makes it an admirable remedy in the treatment of that

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

dreaded disease, locomotor ataxia.

Boenninghausen cured four such cases with **Alumina** on the following symptoms : - Formication, inability to walk in the dark or with eyes closed, sensation as if there is a cobweb on the face or as though the face were covered up with the white of an egg, pain in the spine as if hot iron were thrust into it and numbness of the heel when stepping.

Leucorrhoea, to which our **Alumina** patient is a constant subject, is another illustration of the depletion of the vital force.

It is acrid and so profuse that it runs down the thigh clear to the heels.

They are very afraid to go out into society and amongst friends for fear of this exhausting continual and debilitating leucorrhoea.

The leucorrhoeal discharge is transparent, ropy and tenacious.

Mentally they are low-spirited, melancholy and lachrymose.

They are constantly troubled with an apprehension as if they will go crazy.

A suicidal trait is sometimes noticed specially when they see blood or knife or something of that sort.

Lassitude, languor, indifference are constantly present.

They are very slow in accomplishing anything; time moves on very slowly with them - half a day seems like half a month.

They suffer from an abnormal craving for all kinds of absurd things such as chalks, charcoal, mud, etc.

They suffer from disorder of digestion as a result of which they are constantly belching.

Alumina is considered a very valuable remedy in typhoid fever.

We use it when the patient passes clots of solid blood that look like little pieces of liver.

Potatoes disagree.

Another symptom the result of great exhaustion and of profound prostration is involuntary spasdomic twitching of the lower jaw.

The upper lip is covered with numerous little blisters and is dry and cracked.

The teeth are covered with sordes.

The urine is passed with great deal of difficulty.

All symptoms of Alumina are worse at new moon and full moon.

Ambra grisea

Ambergris is a fat-like substance found in the intestines and among the excreta of the spermwhale.

A remedy so useful as this should hardly be over looked.

The red strand of this remedy is found in its bashfulness, embarrassment and nervousness.

It is thus like **Cepa** another remedy great in bashfulness.

All his troubles are aggravated when he gets upset and nothing upsets him more than company.

He cannot pass stools when somebody is present.

The cough also starts troubling him when he goes among strangers or gets excited in any other way.

The **Ambra grisea** cough is very peculiar and should be specially remembered.

It is a cough that is followed by eructations of wind.

Only a few remedies such as **Sulph. acid, Arnica, Sanguinaria** and **Veratrum** can come up to it when this symptom is concerned.

It is spasmodic in nature and is worse from talking, and writing.

Ambra grisea has a marked action over the female genital organs.

During menses the leg becomes quite blue from distended varices and also painful.

As in **Bovista** we find a slight show of blood between periods.

Every little accident or a little over exertion such as straining at stool or indulging in walk little longer than usual brings it on.

In this it is very similar to **Calc. carb.**

Another point of semblance between these two remedies consists in a sensation of coldness felt mostly in the abdomen.

The leucorrhoea of Ambra grisea is thick and bluish white in color.

It occurs only at night as in **Causticum, Mercurius** and **Nitric acid.**

Ambra grisea is a good remedy for sleeplessness due to nervousness and business embarrassment.

He feels sleepy but as soon as his head touches the pillow he wakes up.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Ammonium benzoicum

The is the benzoate of Ammonia, a salt extremely useful in albuminuria complicated with gout.
The appearance is particularly characteristic; the eyelids are swollen and the face is bloated.
The urine which is smoky and scanty is full of albumen.
Its other indications are pain across sacrum with urgency to stool, sensation of internal soreness on pressure in the region of right kidney and gout with fluid in large toe joints.

Ammonium carbonicum

It is called the sal volatile or smelling salt.
It is particularly adapted to stout, plethoric women addicted to sedentary habits and constantly tired though doing nothing.
Ammon. carb. acts very strongly on the blood.
It generally leads to a dissolution of red blood corpuscles due to poor oxygenation.
Hence, gangrenous ulcerations, flabbiness of the muscles, spongy consistency of the gums and other similar changes of tissues are very common in this remedy.
Due to degeneration of blood tissue, the haemorrhage to which these patients are frequent subjects, is characterised by dark, strumous clotted blood.
They are, due to the very same reason, constantly chilly and are averse to fresh and open air.
Washing, wet applications, cold wet weather aggravate all their complaints.
Mentally these patients are very restless and lethargic and they get more so during a wet stormy weather.
A symptom to which they are constantly subject, is a sensation of oppressive fullness near the bridge of the nose as if everything inside would burst.
All the head troubles are particularly located in this region.
The headache may be pulsating beating pressing but it is always located in the forehead.
Ammon. carb. acts on the mucous membrane as well.
Hence it is such an important remedy in nasal catarrh.
We particularly think of it in coryza in hysterical females.
The symptom that is considered most characteristic is the stoppage of the nose mostly at night times.
The patient must open his mouth and breathe through it, as breathing through the nose is apparently impossible; hence it is such an important remedy in snuffles of children.
On the throat its action is no less marked.
It is applicable in ordinary sore throat as well as in putrid sore throat of scarlatina and diphtheria.
The tonsils are enlarged and highly inflamed and look almost bluish.
Gangrenous ulceration of the tonsils is not uncommon.
The stoppage of the nostrils leads to frequent waking up and is a source of great uneasiness and discomfort to the patient.
We have also involvement of the neighbouring glands and there is great swelling of the neck.
The cervical lymphatics as well as the parotid glands are engorged.
Great burning is felt in the throat and in oesophagus as from alcohol.
This picture is very similar to that of **Lachesis** but the difference consists in that **Ammonium carb.** is a right sided remedy whereas in Lachesis the left side is affected.
The sensitiveness of **Lachesis** is also wanting.
The cough of **Ammonium carb.** is dry and tickling, almost always associated with hoarseness and great deal of oppression due to accumulation of mucus in the chest.
The cough is always aggravated at 3 o'clock in the morning.
Great tickling is felt in the larynx and throat as from a feather, and the patient is disturbed with a constant titillating cough which at times becomes almost asthmatic, due to great rattling as in emphysema.
In fact, it is a great remedy in emphysema.
The peculiar ashy paleness of the lips, the shortness of breath and palpitation after every excitement, somnolence - all pointing to carbolic acid poisoning of the blood - are very characteristic of **Ammonium carb.** and will lead to great relief of suffering if applied in proper potency and in right time.
Now we shall discuss its actions in the female sexual organs.
It is indeed a capital remedy in many of the affections of the females pertaining to those organs.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

First of all we should think of it in hysteria, when it is due to unnatural excitement of the sexual organs especially of the clitoris.
The course is generally anticipated by six days.
The blood, as is everywhere the case in **Ammonium carb.** is blackish and clotted.
It is also extremely acid os as to make the thighs sore.
The leucorrhoeal discharge also is excoriating and leads to ulceration in vulva.
It is extremely profuse and sets up irritation, itching, burning and consequent swelling of the pudenda.
The patient suffers from all sorts of aches and pains, particularly toothache and colic during catamenia.

They are particularly exhausted during the menstrual period.

They complain of great fatigue, especially of the thighs, and they yawn and stretch with chilliness.
A very important symptom of **Ammonium carb.** and one that is particularly characteristic of this remedy is the cholera-like diarrhoea at the commencement of catamenia.

It is extensively used in whitlow and panaritium.

The finger is extremely inflamed and deep seated periosteal pain is felt and red streaks run up to the axilla from the inflamed area.
We also have inflammation and pain in the ball of the great toe which looks red and swollen.

Lastly, we shall examine its action on the skin.

It is a great remedy for malignant scarlatina, but the rash is unlike the rasn of **Belladonna**, a miliary rash.
It is accompanied with putrid sore throat, somnolence, palpitation, parotitis, involuntary defecation and stertorous breathing.

It is inimical to **Lachesis** and is antidotal to **Rhus** poisoning and stings of insects.

Ammonium causticum

It is the hydrate of Ammonia, or in other words Ammonia.

This powerful drug is a strong cardiac stimulant.
It is caustic in nature and produces burning in throat, gullet and rectum.
It strongly affects the mucous membrane causing oedema and ulceration.

It is one of our best remedies in aphonia.

Its strongest indication is the burning rawness in the throat.
Spasm of the glottis, suffocation, pain in oesophagus are its characteristic indications.
Great exhaustion and muscular debility prevail.

Ammonium muriaticum

It is otherwise called Sal ???ammoniac.

The very first thing that strikes us about the **Ammon mur.** patient is the ugly want of proportion between the upper and lower limbs.
Above the waist line he is corpulent, fleshy and very coarse, while the legs are disproportionately thin.

This remedy has a very strong action over the mucous membrane of the human system.

Its action on the nasal mucous membrane is manifested by a watery acrid coryza.
The discharge is very profuse and it corrodes the inside of the nose as well as the upper lip.
The nose gets quite blocked at night time.
In this respect it is in no way inferior to **Aconite, Allium cepa, Arsen., Arum triph, Euph**, and **Sabadilla**.
In the mouth and throat we find an extra accumulation of viscid saliva which is difficult to throw out.
The cough of this remedy is peculiar in as much as the cough excites the salivary glands and while coughing the mouth fills up with saliva.
I do not know of any other remedy with a similar cough.

Ammon mur. has a very important action over the tendons and fibrous tissues about the joints.

The patient complains of a peculiar tense contracting pain.
On this indication we use this remedy in old chronic sprains and also in rheumatic and other troubles when there is noticed a peculiar tension and a sense of contraction in tendons and fibrous tissues of any of our joints.
It has helped in many cases of lameness due to contraction of the hamstrings muscles.

I have not yet touched upon the symptom that I consider most important in **Ammon mur.**

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

It is seen in its action over the female genital organs.
The menses come on too early with a severe tense contracting pain in the groin so much so that the patient walks bent.
The menstrual time is at all times an ugly time with our patient.
It is accompanied with diarrhoea and vomiting.
Sometimes the stools are bloody.
The menses flow more profusely at night time.
In this respect it is very similar to **Bovista** and **Magnesia carb**, in both of which remedies we find a profuse flow at night when lying down - very little during the course of the day when the patient is on her feet walking about.

Cyclamen has a similar symptom viz., menses flow less when moving about.

Lilium tig., on the other hand, has exactly the opposite symptom - the menses flowing only when she is moving about, ceasing when lying down.

As regards diarrhoea, we can compare **Ammon mur.** with **Ammon carb.**
In the latter remedy it has not only diarrhoea, but symptoms very similar to cholera appear during the menstrual period - and it is further associated with a great aching of the thighs, fatigue, sadness, yawning, toothache and a great chilliness.
For menses during day time only we should compare it with **Causticum** and **Pulsat. Phel.** has menses in the evening only.
Sepia and **Carbo animalis** are to be thought of in menses appearing an the day, specially in the hours of morning.

It is also indicated in leucorrhoea when it is of an albuminous nature following every urination.

The constipation in **Ammonium mur.** is an important feature of the remedy.
The stools are hard requiring great exertion in expelling and they crumble as soon as they come near the verge of the anus.
As a consequence these patients suffer a great deal from piles and we notice great burning in the rectum, during and after such painful acts of defecation.

I must mention, before closing, one more important symptom noted under this remedy.
It is a sensation of icy coldness on the back between the shoulder blades, not relieved by warm clothing; I further like to emphasize that the symptom that strikes me as being the most characteristic is the contractive tensive pain - a symptom that makes it applicable in any disease when present.

Amygdalus communis

AMYGDALA AMARA

Amygdala amara is prepared from bitter almonds.
It is very akin to Hydrocyanic Acid, consequently many of its symptoms are similar to those of Hydrocyanic Acid.
The glossy brilliance of the eyes, the dark red colour of the faces, difficulty in swallowing and jerky speech are common to both the remedies.

This remedy has been used with great success in diphtheria and tonsillitis.
Dr. Farrington reports of a case of diphtheria where **Amygdala** was of incalculable value and he prescribed it on the indication of a deep dark glossy redness of the whole fauces with sharp shooting pains on each attempt at swallowing.
Prostration is also very marked.

Amylenum nitrosum

It is a yellowish etherial liquid having the odor of over ripe pears and an aromatic taste.
One part by weight of this substance is dissolved in nine parts by weight of alcohol.

The Allopaths use it in all conditions where blood vessels are spasmodically contracted as in angina pectoris, epilepsy and asthma, in the form of an inhalation of 2 to 5 minims on a handkerchief.
Within a very short time of such inhalation, the patient experiences a "sensation of heat, fullness, throbbing of the face and head, immediately followed by an indescribable and most distressing commotion within the chest, the heart beating fast and furiously and the breathing being panting and hurried."
The relief following due to relaxation of the spasm and contraction is immediate and complete.

Our principle of Similia is more than verified in the case of this remedy.
When the above symptoms are present due to some diseased condition we prescribe **Amyl nitrate** irrespective of any disease by name.
Our application, however, in those troubles are based on the following indications : - Praecordial anxiety, cardiac oppression, stitching pains and a feeling of constriction in the cardiac region, great dilatation of carotids, fluttering of the heart at

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

the slightest excitement, tremulousness of hands and stiffness and numbness of fingers and profound and repeated yawning.

This remedy is very similar in its action to **Glonoin** and **Belladonna** as it causes an intense surging of blood to head and face.

To make way for this great rush of blood, the arteries dilate.

The red strand of this remedy is found in the blushings and flushings to which these patients are frequently subject.

At the least excitement the face looks flushed and pulsation is felt over the entire body.

The heart's action becomes intensified and almost tumultuous.

Intense throbbing of the carotids is also noticed.

Praecordial anxiety, oppression, sensation of swelling of the front of chest, great craving for fresh air, a bursting out feeling in ears, sensation of constriction in throat and heart, tremor, are a few of its trustworthy symptoms.

Two other peculiar symptoms are a constant smacking of lips as if in the act of tasting and a constant movement of the lower jaw as in chewing.

Anacardium orientale

ANACARDIUM ORIENTALIS

This medicine is prepared from the crushed seeds of the marking nut.

It was introduced into our Materia Medica by the master himself.

Its importance and usefulness will be apparent after we make a study of it and learn to use it in the proper manner.

It has a few very characteristic symptoms which we will do well to remember : -

1. Sudden loss of memory for which it is a remedy par excellence.

Everything is forgotten; confusion reigns supreme; they do not seem to be fit for business any more.

2. They suffer from a very peculiar and contradictory state of mind such as laughing at serious matters and serious over trifling things.

We also notice an irresistible desire to curse and swear in persons never addicted to such habits.

They also suffer from fixed ideas such as the following : - As if their mind and body are separate; as if they are double; as if a demon sits on their neck; as if they have two wills, one commanding them to do certain things, the other hindering them from doing it; as if some one is pursuing them.

They suspect everybody and everything around them.

They are also subject to illusions of hearing and smell.

3. A peculiar sensation of a hook or a pin on the surface of the body as also a sensation of a plug causing a pressing penetrating pain are very characteristic of **Anacardium**.

These sensations whenever present and in whatever ailment will make it a first rate remedy.

It is a remedy for bad effects of strenuous mental exercise and over wrought mental state due to prolonged application.

The mind is in a state of fatigue and the slightest mental exercise brings on a dull headache as of a pressure with a plug on upper border of right orbit extending into brain.

The strangest part of this headache is relief after eating.

Great disinclination for walk and aggravation from motion characterise this headache.

We also think of it in headache of gastric origin *i.e.* , in headaches of dyspeptics who suffer from constant fullness and distension of abdomen with hypochondriacal humour.

Anacardium although a great remedy for dyspepsia is much neglected.

Nux vom. is used in great many cases where **Anacardium** should be thought of.

Such a mistake is due to great similarity between the two remedies.

In both of them we notice ineffectual desire for stool.

In **Nux** it is due to an irregularity of peristalsis whereas under **Anacardium** it is the effect of a paralytic condition of the rectum.

Further in **Anacardium** this desire for stool is produced by a sense of a lump or a plug in anus, which he tries to get rid of.

These two remedies differ in the fact that the **Anacardium** patient is almost always better after eating, where-as **Nux** is always worse after eating.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Anacardium patient feels an uneasiness when the stomach is empty.
It is a sort of an all-gone feeling experienced as soon as the stomach gets empty and is always better by eating.

The action of **Anacardium** on the skin is quite prominent and should be carefully noted.

It produces eruptions that are umbilicated.
They may occur in the face as well as other parts of the body.
They are extremely irritable.
The itchiness is so great that the patient very frequently brings on bleeding by excessive scratching; even then no relief is found.

It is also used in spinal affections when the following symptoms are present : A great tired feeling of all the limbs, incomplete palsy of the voluntary muscles, trembling, cramps in calves when walking, stiffness and lassitude in knees as if paralysed and a sensation of bandage in the legs.

Angustura vera

The tincture is prepared from the bark of a plant known as Galipea Cusparia, a native of Venezuela.
It belongs to the natural order of Rutaceae.
Its action is centred principally on spinal motor nerves and mucous membranes, hence it makes an admirable remedy in rheumatic affections and paralytic complaints.
Fatigue of arms on movement bordering almost on paralysis and cracking in joints are some of the symptoms to indicate it in the above complaints and therefore it should be studied in close comparison with **Bryonia** and **Rhus tox.**

One grand characteristic of **Angustura** is the strong craving for coffee.
It is at times almost irresistible; also aversion to meat especially pork, is very marked.
We further notice a great desire for warm drinks.

The second characteristic point is the over-sensitiveness.
It is present everywhere and we will have ample illustrations of this later on.
This sensitiveness makes itself manifest even in the mental condition of the patient; the slightest offence, a mere trifle, irritates him.

Here we have a remedy that resembles **Nux** and **Ruta** to a great extent.
Its similarity to the former remedy consists mainly in the mental condition of the patient, for in **Angustura** we have to deal with a patient just as irritable and oversensitive as **Nux vomica**.
He is always in ill-humour and discontented, but what enables us to discriminate is the pusillanimity of the **Angustura** patient.
He is more of the nature of a coward.
He wants the tenacity, obstinacy and the overbearing self-confidence of **Nux vomica**.

It resembles **Ruta** in its action over the muscles and the bones.
We notice a sort of a bruised sore feeling as after a blow.
The muscles and the joints too, feel sore and tense.
It has special affinity for the long bones such as the humerus, femur, tibia, etc.
We think about **Angustura** specially in carious affections of these bones and in exostosis and necrosis of lower jaw.
The carious ulcers pierce the bones down to the marrow and we find little chips of dead bones thrown out occasionally.

Another complaint, for which **Angustura** is specially needed is tetanus, either traumatic or otherwise.
It is indicated when there are twitching or jerking of muscles, excitability to touch and noise, wasting of the soft parts and catalepsy.

Angustura like **Ambra grisea** is a remedy in which cough is followed by hiccough and belching.
This remedy was proved by Hahnemann.

Anthracinum

Anthracinum, a nosode is the alcoholic extract of the anthrax poison extracted from the spleen of cattle infected with the disease Dr. G.A. Waber used this remedy very extensively in the cattle plague and he cured every case with it.

Also, men poisoned by the contagion were benefited by it.
Anthracinum is the homoeopath's knife that helps him to tide over many a difficult case, called surgical.
Cases of carbuncles, malignant pustules, septic wounds, gangrenous degenerations, where the most up-to-date surgeon feels

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

his limitation, have been cured without number by the administration of this remedy.

But there, as elsewhere, the same law of **Similia Similibus Curantur** holds good.

The characteristic symptoms are : - A horrible burning pain; presence of sepsis as indicated by rapid loss of strength, sinking pulse, delirium, fainting, and sloughing; red lines from the area of infection marking out the course of the lymphatics; induration of the cellular tissue; rapid spread of infiltration and oedema of the cellular tissue; abundant ichorous offensive pus; gangrenous ichor of horrible smell; dark brown redness in face; loss of appetite; excessive thirst with inability to swallow; increased salivation and offensive odor from the mouth.

I remember with pride how on these symptoms after **Arsenic** and **Lachesis** had failed, I saved a man's arm from amputation.

His troubles started with an ordinary felon.

Alarming symptoms very soon made their appearance and his whole hand from the elbow joint to the finger tip became one huge mass of swelling.

Amputation was the only thing they thought that might possibly save the man's life.

Under the action of **Anthracinum** within an incredibly short time the swelling got dispersed, the pains vanished, the sloughing stopped and he became his old self minus the loss of half of his big finger which had sloughed off before he came to the homoeopath.

Antimonium arsenicosum

ANTIMONIUM ARSENICUM

It is the Arsenite of Antimony and had been advocated greatly in emphysema characterized by excessive dyspnoea and cough.

After pneumonia and pleurisy when all the acute symptoms have subsided and only dyspnoea remains a few doses of **Antimonium ars.**, will be very helpful.

This drug has not been verified often.

With time and experience I feel sure, it will be more and more popular.

Antimonium crudum

Antimonium crudum, the sulphide of antimony, a great antipsoric is prepared from black antimony, a mineral found in various places of Europe.

It is an acquisition to the homoeopathic Materia Medica and every homoeopath is proud of it.

In all ages and climes, in every stage of life beginning from the puny little baby to the decrepit old man, **Antimonium crudum** finds lot to do.

Its field of action is immense and great and when prescribed on proper indications its effects are nothing short of the marvellous.

Mentally, these patients are very morose, downhearted and gloomy.

We notice almost a loathing of life in these patients.

Often in their sadness and desperation they are driven to commit suicide especially by drowning themselves.

Very often this sadness, intermingled with a strange amativeness, sentimentality and emotion, plays an active part in their make up.

Ecstatic fancies, exalted ideas of love and friendship make them act very foolishly at times.

An irresistible desire to talk in rhymes and verses, especially in the moon light when their ecstatic fancies are fumed to flame is a guiding characteristic of **Antimonium crudum**.

Fretfulness plays no mean part in their behaviour.

We find them extremely ugly and impatient and in cases of children it becomes extremely difficult to distinguish it from **Chamomilla**.

The baby whines and cries and nothing pleases him.

He does not wish to speak or being spoken to.

He would rather be left alone.

Every attempt to pacify him, each offer of friendship, are spurned away.

The gastric symptoms of **Antimonium crudum** are perhaps most marked of all its symptoms.

Great uneasiness prevails in the whole of the digestive tract beginning from the tongue down to the rectum.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

In the first place the tongue is absolutely covered with white fur so much so that it looks almost white washed.
Sometimes, though we find this coating of white interrupted with little tinges of yellow we must not be misled.
The other symptoms of nausea, vomiting, impaired appetite, colic, looseness of the bowels and ptyalism should rivet our attention on **Antimonium crudum**.
This indigestion in **Antimonium crudum** is the result of indulgence in bad sour wine, pastries, fat food and other varieties of indigestible articles.
The vomiting is frequent and constant and the patient brings up large quantities of food eaten in a sort of half digested acid state.
The patient belches incessantly and it is accompanied with the taste of what has been eaten.
Violent cutting colic in abdomen with a feeling of oppression coming from stomach, indisposition to work, diarrhoea the effect of his gluttony, protrusion of rectum with the loose bowels are symptoms too prominent to lead us astray.

Haemorrhoidal complaints due to constant over-indulgence is not an infrequent occurrence in the life of the **Antimonium crudum** patient.

The pile is a mucous pile.
There is a constant oozing of mucus from the rectum, staining the linen yellow and emitting a sort of disgusting odor.

There is another constitutional peculiarity which we should closely observe.

Horny structures of the human system are defective in their growth in this remedy.
The nails are brittle and they crack and crumble easily.
There is also noticed a tendency towards callositis, corns and other horny excrescences on the body, especially on the soles of the feet and palms of hands.
Skin also is unhealthy as in **Silicea, Hep. sulph.**, and **Graphites**.
Cracks and fissures especially in the commissures of the body are very common.

Eruptions of **Antimonium crudum** are thick and scabby.

Honey colored fluid sometimes looking almost greenish oozes through cracked crust of many of these eruptions.
Tetters, fistulas, ulcers, deep spongy sores, warts and pustules looking like varicella are numerous.
Yellow crusted eruption on cheek, cracking of the nostrils, are common in **Antimonium crudum**.

The action of **Antimonium crudum** on the female genital organs should not be overlooked.

It is useful in prolapsus uteri with tenderness over ovarian region when such has been brought about by indiscriminate bathing in cold water during catamenia.
The leucorrhoeal discharge containing little pieces of lumpy substance is extremely acrid and causes a smarting sensation along the thighs.
It acts admirably in over-excitement of the sexual organs giving rise to conditions of nymphomania due to suppression of catamenia from cold bathing.

Antimonium crudum is thought of in the vomiting of curdled milk in children.

In this respect it is like **AEthusa** from which it differs in its want of sleepiness and prostration.

Antimonium tartaricum

It is a salt well known by the name of Tartar Emetic.

It i commonly prepared by boiling together in water Antimonium Oxide and acid potassium tartrate (cream of tartar) and obtaining the resulting double tartar by crystallization.
It is a colorless transparent substance of a sweetish metallic taste.
It becomes opaque white on being exposed to air.
One part by weight of this substance is dissolved in 99 parts by weight of distilled water.

It is a cardiac depressant and it stimulates secretion.

It causes intense nausea and vomiting.
It is also a powerful irritant when applied to the skin where it produces an eruption which though papular at first turns soon into a pustular kind.

In **Antimonium tartaricum** we have an excellent remedy as every homoeopath will testify.

Its range of action as has been hinted before is extensive and very often the relief obtained by it is instantaneous and astonishing.
At times when a cure is not possible and relief is all that is expected, **Antimonium tartaricum** will bring the desired relief.

Very recently I was called in to do my last service to an old lady writhing in the agony of death.

Aged and decrepit, she was in the last stage of phthisis.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Her pale blue face was covered with cold perspiration.
The excessive accumulation of phlegm in the throat, which she was too weak to expel, was making a coarse rattling sound choking her almost every minute, drowsiness was great, amounting almost to coma.
The hands of death were too tight on her for human skill to relieve.
The indicated remedy did what it was possible to do, that is, made her expectorate the phlegm and relieved the choking and the rattling sound.
The last few moments were passed in peace and quiet.
The remedy was **Antim. tart.**

Antimonium tartaricum, like **Apis, Belladonna** and **Sulphur** is extremely useful in cases of suppressed eruptions when the bad effect of such suppression show itself in cerebral symptoms.
In measles scarlatina and pox when the rash does not appear after a primary show and the patient gets drowsy and delirious, and looks bluish and purple, twitches and starts, and when respiratory symptoms become visible.
Antimonium tartaricum will frequently restore the eruptions and cure the case.

Antim. tart. is a splendid remedy for bronchitis and pneumonia when we notice loud rattling of mucus in chest.
We use it also in threatened paralysis of lungs.
A few other remedies that should be thought of in this connection are **Ipecac, Kali hydriodicum** and **Carbo veg.**

Ipecac frequently precedes **Antim tart.**
Loud rales are heard.
Very little phlegm is raised on coughing, though each attempt is attended with gagging.

In **Kali hydriod.** there is great rattling of mucus in chest accompanied with oedema of lungs.
The little sputa that is raised, is greenish and frothy.

In **Carbo veg.** the rattling is accompanied with symptoms of collapse, such as cold breath coldness of the hands and cold sweat.

It is equally invaluable in cough and pertusis.
Attacks recur more when the patient is asleep and the cough is provoked every time the child gets angry.
This symptom can be considered a characteristic symptom.
There is quite a lot of orthopnoea as is evident by constant dilatation of nostrils and rapid movement of thorax.
The patient wants to be supported in bed in a sitting posture.
Such oppression of breathing is generally relieved by expectoration of phlegm.
It also relieves asphyxia from mechanical causes as in drowning.

The cough is also provoked by crying, eating and drinking.
Sometimes the fit is so severe and the cough so uninterrupted that we have vomiting of bloody, frothy masses.
The patient springs up in bed and clings to those around him.
Another important symptom is gaping and coughing consecutively.
In addition to all these the most important thing for every homoeopath to remember is that there is great accumulation of phlegm in the chest and in the bronchial tubes but that the expulsive power is feeble and wanting.
Every time the patient coughs there appears to be a large collection of mucus in the bronchial tubes and that, volumes would be expectorated but nothing or little comes up.

It is helpful in certain varieties of gastric derangement especially in dyspepsia.
We notice a great disgust for food and constant nausea and relief is only obtained after vomiting.
Desire for acids, fruits and cold drinks are equally characteristic.
Now this vomiting in **Antimonium tartaricum** is as severe as in **Ipecac**.
He vomits until he faints and each attempt is attended with drowsiness and prostration.
It is a long continued and tormenting nausea frequently reminding one of **Ipecac**, but it wants the gagging of the latter remedy.
With this vomiting we notice a great praecordial anxiety, pressure and distension in hypochondriac region.
The patient breaks out into cold sweat while vomiting.
All these indications lead one to believe that it will make an excellent remedy in cholera morbus which indeed it is.
Sharp cutting colic before stool, burning at anus after each stool, tenesmus during and after loose stools, drowsiness and coma, profuse perspiration leading on to collapse, hardly perceptible thread like pulse and ever increasing prostration, make it a capital remedy in that complaint.
In this connection we will look into the tongue of **Antimonium tartaricum**.
It is a tongue that has a coating of white fur but the papillae are red and prominent and edges are characterised by a band of red all around it.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

At times it has a red band running longitudinally along the centre of the tongue.
The tongue is dry, sometimes ulcerated and has the imprint of teeth on its borders.

Antimonium tartaricum as has been hinted before produces pustules very similar to those of small pox and hence according to our principle of Similia, it makes an admirable remedy in that complaint.

It is particularly adaptable to that stage and condition where after one batch drying up, a fresh lot makes its appearance and as some get dry, others mature.
Intense backache, the teasing rattling cough, the persistent headache make its indication a certainty.

Antimonium tartaricum is a sycotic remedy; we have warts behind the glans penis, a symptom that has been verified frequently by many eminent physicians.

It is also used in secondary orchitis the effect of checked gonorrhoea and as such should be compared with **Pulsatilla**.

The mental symptoms of **Antimonium tartaricum** are characterized by bad humour, apathy and indifference.
If it is a child, it whines and cries and nothing can be done to please him.
It is, therefore, very much like **Cina, Ant. crud.** and **Chamomilla**.

Apis mellifica

This medicine is prepared from the poison of the honey bee.
It was first introduced into our Materia Medica by Dr. Humphreys of New York.
The preparation is very simple.
Live bees are put into a bottle and shaken violently.
Upon them is poured five times their weight of dilute alcohol.
After saturation and shaking the tincture is poured off and strained.

Apis acts on cellular tissue and causes oedema of skin and mucous membranes.

Erysipelatous inflammations, dropsical effusions, acute inflammation of parenchymatous tissues are some of the pathological conditions of this remedy.
This inflammation of **Apis** is asthenic in character.
It lacks the virulent tension of remedies like **Belladonna** and **Aconite**.
The inflamed area is pale and oedematous and more inclined to gangrenous degenerations.

I have to confess that years ago, while a little boy, I unwittingly became a subject of verification of **Apis** toxicology.

At the advice of a mischievous friend, for the sake of fun, which I had in abundance, I innocently threw a stone at a bee-hive.
The fun commenced immediately after in the shape of hundred stings in different parts of my body.
The whole body became swollen and oedematous with a rosy pinkish hue of the skin.
The stinging, burning, lancinating pain became unbearable and fever soon supervened.
The swelling of some parts of the body underwent resolution in a short while, but others progressed on to phlegmonous erysipelas.

Now I will enumerate the most important characteristic symptoms of **Apis** in order of their importance.

The first and the foremost is the pale waxy oedematous swelling due to accumulation of serum in cellular tissue.
The swelling has a red rosy hue.
Such serous accumulation may also happen in the various cavities of our body, such as the synovial cavity, the ventricles of the brain, and the hollow space of the abdomen.
It thus becomes a splendid remedy in synovitis, hydrocephalus, ascites, dropsy and hydrothorax; of course, in all these troubles the characteristic symptoms of the remedy must be present to make the prescription an infallible one.

The next great characteristic of the remedy is the extreme sensitiveness to touch.

This is almost an universal symptom in **Apis**.
We notice it in every ailment where **Apis** is indicated.
Thus in cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery, because of the extreme sensitiveness, the patient would not tolerate any pressure on the abdomen.
In rheumatic and gouty complaints a similar dread of touch is noticed; even the hair is too sore to be touched.
A similar tenderness noticed in uterine and ovarian regions is a further illustration of our point.

A burning, stinging, sore pain, suddenly migrating from one part of the body to another, occupies the third place.

The shrill piercing sudden cry in meningitis, the occasional shrieks that break through the monotony of the stuporous delirium, point to the existence of such a fleeting stinging pain.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

Extreme but rapid prostration as shown by trembling, a deathly faint feeling, loss of consciousness, premonition of approaching death, slow beat of heart and imperceptibility of pulse are a few more features of **Apis**.

With regard to the burning it resembles **Arsenicum**, but the burning of **Apis**, unlike that of **Arsenic**, is always relieved by application of cold.

The restlessness of **Apis** is merely a fidgetiness due perhaps to a general nervous feeling.

Apis is a right-sided remedy; either most of their complaints are on that side or they start from the right side and travel to the left.

Apis is further thirstless.

Mentally **Apis** is somewhat like our **Pulsatilla** patient.

She is tearful and lachrymose.

Dread of death, apathy, jealousy, awkwardness and impaired memory are a few other traits of her mental sphere.

The dread of death takes the form of apprehensiveness.

Apathy is almost as prominent in **Apis** as in **Lili. tigrinum** and **Sepia**.

The patient lies in bed absolutely indifferent as to what is happening around.

Sometimes this indifference is merely the fore-runner of unconsciousness and a soporous condition.

He lies in bed absolutely languid and listless, complains of nothing and mutters away all the time by himself.

Jealousy in **Apis** is as marked as in **Lachesis**.

All her ideas and actions are centred around this.

This frequently leads her on to suspect everybody and she keeps on entertaining ideas of being poisoned.

The natural pose of her mind, thus lost, brings on a terrible awkwardness.

She drops everything out of her hand and breaks them.

Impatience gradually makes itself manifest and she gets extremely restless, constantly changing about from one kind of work to another.

In **Apis** we have quite a lot of congestion to head and face in consequence of which a general aching through the brain is complained of.

This violent congestion may lead to meningitis and meningeal irritations.

The gradual increase in torpor, the sudden shrill cries, squinting, grinding of teeth, boring of the head in pillow, ought to keep us on our guard and warn us of the terrible breakers ahead.

A few doses of **Apis** in this condition may clear up the whole case.

Other symptoms indicating **Apis** are twitching of one side of the body, the other side remaining in a state of semi-paralysis; scantiness of urine; turning up of the big toe; offensive odor from the mouth; thirstlessness or extreme thirst and soreness of the tongue.

These symptoms remind one of **Belladonna, Bryonia** and **Helleborus**, but a little care on our part enables us to differentiate between them easily.

In **Belladonna** the skin is hot and the face is red, whereas in **Apis** paleness and oedematous conditions prevail.

The congestion of **Belladonna** is violent as evidenced by the throbbing of the carotids and the injected condition of the eyes.

True, the jerkings and twitchings are present in both remedies and cerebral cries are common but the adynamia of **Apis** is absolutely wanting in the great violence and tension of the other.

In **Apis** the twitchings and tremblings are more of a nature of nervous fidgetiness.

Bryonia resembles **Apis** in the suppression of eruptions bringing on this cerebral effusion.

The patient is certainly drowsy but it lacks the total involvement of the sensorium as in **Apis** and **Helleborus**.

The face is dark red showing a tolerable amount of congestion.

The thirst in **Bryonia** is indeed very great and each movement speaks of great bodily aches and pains.

Helleborus, a great remedy in meningitis, is indicated when the mental torpor is complete.

The nervous fidgetiness of **Apis** and the irritation of **Bryonia** give way to entire and complete torpor.

The wrinkled forehead, dilated pupils, the dropping of the lower jaw and automatic motion of one arm and one leg, the suppression of urine, the chewing motion of the mouth, the dark shooty nostrils, the constant picking of nose, lips and bed clothes make confusion impossible even to the merest novice.

Apis is very useful in intermittent fever when the characteristic at 3 p.m. chill is present.

Here let me caution my readers against a very common mistake.

Inspite of general thirstlessness in **Apis**, the patient at this stage complains of great thirst and a general feeling of oppression in chest.

In the following two stages of heat and sweat, thirst is characteristically absent although the feeling of oppression

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.

continues.

After the stage of chill is over, the patient breaks out in profuse urticaria, and falls into a sort of dull slumber.

Apis is also very serviceable in fevers of cerebral and exanthematic forms, that is, in fevers complicated with suppression of eruptions.

These are cases that generally prove very trying.

The brain, as a result of such suppression, soon becomes cloudy.

Delirium, not of an active type, soon appears.

Violence is not a feature with these patients; they are in a state of stupor and they mutter constantly.

Their tongue, ulcerated, cracked and blistered, trembles as soon as it is protruded.

The prostration is so great that they frequently slide down in bed.

Tenderness and bloated condition of abdomen, foul smelling diarrhoea, incontinence of urine, moist cough, a pale waxy colour of the skin, great sleepiness with occasional piercing shrill cries, are a few more important symptoms.

© Copyright 2000, Archibel S.A.