

BABY THERAPEUTICS

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When visiting a sick baby, nothing that is going to help you select the remedy must be overlooked. In order that the symptomatology of the following medicines may be applied, it is necessary to ascertain the kind of a child you are about to examine.

Is it a fair, fat, flabby ; or dark, thin, scrawny ; or big head, big belly, thin neck and extremities ; or does it like to be washed, in cold or warm water ? Does it have diarrhoea ; character, aggravation ? Does it have thirst and how much ? Does it have fever, and when ? Appearance of the face. Appearance of the skin. Character of urine. Appearance of the tongue and mouth. Mental condition. Sweat, when and where ; amount. Family history.

When this examination is on paper, unless you are quite certain of the remedy, do not prescribe until you think you are ; wait until you find the remedy, and then wait for it to act.

The mental symptoms of children are about the most "come-at-able" of all they present ; as from them and the objective symptoms, we are compelled to select the remedy.

Gastro-intestinal complaints make the bulk of baby ills. An occasional well defined meningitis is met, but by far the greatest number of cases of brain disorders are occasioned, or preceded by some long drawn-out gastro-intestinal ailment, or perhaps whooping cough.

First among the baby remedies we find.

AETHUSA

Mentally : bad humour, restlessness, irritability. Child lies unconscious, pupils dilated, staring eyes.

Face : The drawn line from the nose to the corner of the mouth, giving an expression of anxiety and pain, in also an emphasized symptom.

Stomach : The violent vomiting of curdled milk as soon as taken, with drowsiness after, is the characteristic.

Stools : Not very peculiar ; are bright yellow, greenish, watery and slimy ; violent tenesmus. Child also drowsy after the stool.

ANTIM. CRUD.

The mental group is more marked than with *Aethusa*. The child may be delirious, drowsy, with nausea, hot and red face (*ethusa* : pale and drawn), suffering, pulse irregular ; feverish heat, cross when washed in cold water, better washed in warm water. Peevish and fretful, does not want to be touched or looked at (resembling *Ant. t.*, *Cina*, *Iod.*, *Sil.*).

Stomach : Belching, vomiting of mucus and bile, renewed after taking food or drink (*Ars.*). Stomach weak and easily disturbed. Milky tongue. Stool watery with little hard lumps, or containing undigested food. Quite different to *Aethusa*.

ANITIM. TART.

Mentally is like *Ant. c.* Child will not allow himself to be touched without whining or crying, Face is pale and sunken (*Ant. c.* hot and red). Tongue covered with a thick white pasty coat, red in streaks, very red and dry in middle (*Ant. c.*, thick and white). *Ant. c.* has no thirst ; *Ant. t.* entire absence of thirst or thirst for cold drinks.

Stomach : Vomiting is forcible, long-lasting until becomes faint, followed by languor and drowsiness much like *Aethusa*. Sweat on forehead. Desire for cooling things.

Stools : Watery, slimy, bloody, offensive, not like either *Ant. t.* or *Aethusa*. Before stool, cutting colic.

ARSENIC

Arsenic is the best defined mentally. The great anguish and restlessness—captious, self-willed and tearful child that wants to be carried (*Cham*)—differs much from the *Antimonies* and *Silica*, in that they are less restless than *Arsenic*. The *Antimonies* and *Silica* will lie quiet in the mother's arms, but let any one come near, speak to or touch them, and the cry begins.

Face is pale, as in *Aeth.* and *Ant.t.*, (*Ant.c.* face is red and hot.)

Stomach : *Arsenic* vomit everything (*Ant.c.*) water, milk, food. *Aeth.* Vomits curdled milk ; *Ant.c.*, mucus and bile ; *Ant.t.*, everything forcibly.

Stool : *Arsenic* makes the anus sore. Black, acrid, slimy, green mucus, in fact, all kinds. Offensive. Somewhat like *Ant.t.*, not at all like *Ant.c.*, which is watery and lumpy. Slightly like *Aeth.* which is greenish, watery and slimy. None have the excoriation, so far, save *Arsenicum*.

BARYTA CARB.

The poor unfortunate : big head, and mental weakness ; big belly, thin legs, enlarged *lymphatics* ; all making a child that does not want to play, but sits in the corner watching the others.

The face is sad and sorrowful.

There is a sensation of hunger, but the appetite is bad. No vomiting. Abdomen distended and hard.

Burning and soreness around the anus as if excoriated (like *Ars.*). Frequent passage of blood with distended abdomen.

There is scarcely any comparison with the preceding remedies. In disposition it is the opposite of *Ars.*, nor in peevishness does it reach the degree of the *Antimonies*.

BENZOIC ACID

Benzoic acid stands almost alone. The child wants to be nursed in the arms. Will not be laid in the cradle or bed.

The stools are a dirty gray colour, like soap suds, and of a horrible odour.

The urine dark and strong. intensified. There is much exhaustion, cold sweat upon the forehead, like *Verat. alb.*

CALCAREA CARB

Mentally is peevish and irritable ; profuse sweats upon the head when sleeping or rising. Head large ; fontanelles open.

Abdomen hard and distended ; otherwise emaciated, with good appetite.

Stomach : Sour vomiting, or regurgitation, particularly of sour food milk, etc.

Urination painful and difficult, urine clear (*Benz. ac.—dark*), having a peculiar strong, pungent, fetid odour (*Benz.*).

Stool less characteristic : When the foregoing group of symptoms are present the stool is secondary.

CALCAREA PHOS.

The child is anxious, peevish, fretful, wishes to be at home and when at home to go out ; goes from place to place. This suggests *Arsenic* in nearly every particular, but as we proceed the difference is apparent. Abdomen has pinching, sharp, colic followed by diarrhoea. Aching soreness, relieved by passing flatus. Oozing of a bloody fluid from the navel of infants.

Stomach : There is oft and easy vomiting ; vomiting when hawking phlegm.

Stool : Diarrhoea during dentition with much flatus. Stools green and loose (sometimes slimy, a little like *Arg. n.*).

SILICIEA

The resemblance to Calcrea is marked in many particulars. The child is obstinate and head strong ; cries when kindly spoken to (*Calc.*, simply peevish and irritable.).

Both *Silicea* and *Calcarea* are indicated in the troubles of dentition. Both have large heads and open fontanelles. Both have profuse perspiration on the head. *Calcarea* particularly upon the forehead, *Silicea* upon the whole head, and sour. Both have hard and distended abdomens. With *Silicea*, it is hot.

The *Silicea* child wants to be wrapped warmly, the *Calc.* inclines to be uncovered. *Silicea* in this respect resembles *Arsenic.* Both have thirst. *Calcarea* wants cold drinks more at night. *Silicea* is averse to warm cooked food, prefers cold things. *Silicea* is averse to mother's milk and vomits when taking it, probably because it is warm.

Silicea has nausea and vomiting of what is drunk, worse in morning. *Calcarea* has canine hunger in the morning.

Stool : As in *Calcarea*, the stool is of many kinds and not characteristic.

The constipation of *Silicea* is characteristic.

The stool is hard and after partial expulsion slips back.

Silicea does not present the urinary symptoms of *Calcarea*, and in this particular is easy of differentiation.

CHAMOMILLA

Mentally is a howler and hustler ; howls if not carried (*Ars.*) : whining restlessness (also *Ars.*). Wants this, then that, which is refused when offered, a peculiar cussedness that is found under *Cina*, *Dulc.*, *Rheum* and *Staph.*; but the points of difference are many, especially with the mental symptoms. *Cham.* has redness of the cheeks or of one cheek only. *Cina*, paleness of the face, particularly around the nose and mouth and sickly appearance around the eyes. *Cham.* is generally covered with a rash, red and itching ; heat rash. *Staph.* stops short of the ailments of children ; *Cham.* can't endure being spoken to like the *Antimonies* and *Silicea*.

Cham. has no characteristic vomiting although there is vomiting of sour food and slimy mucus. The tongue is coated thick yellow or white.

Dulcamara and *Chamomilla* both have aggravation from taking cold, and *Dulcamara* also asks for one thing or the other and rejects when offered. The stools are quite different, and *Dulcamara* has dry heat of the skin, where as *Cham.* has moist hot skin.

Stomach symptoms are not marked.

Stool, green mucus ; mixed green and white mucus chopped, white and yellow mucus ; hot, small ; frequent ; smelling like bad eggs. *Colic* before and during stools, relief after.

Ars. and *Arg.n.*, have green mucus stools ; the *Ars.* ex-coriates, the *Arg.* is accompanied by much noisy flatus.

CINA

Under *Cham.*, *Cina* is compared. Child does not want to be touched (*Ant. c.* and *t.*, *Sil.*) can't bear you to come near it (*Ant. c.* and *t.*, *Sil.*). Desires things which are rejected (*Cham.*, *Cina*, *Dulc.*, *Rheum*, *Staph.*). Not pleased or satisfied with anything, uneasy and distressed all the time.

Abdomen swollen, hard, as under *Calcareae*, *Sil.* Face pale (*Aeth.*, *Ant. t.*, hot and red, *Ant. c.*, *Cham.*) particularly around the nose and mouth.

Disposition to pick or bore the finger in the nose is characteristic ; but still more so is the white, turbid urine ; white jelly-like urine (*Benz. ac.*, dark and strong ; *Cal.*, strong, pungent, fetid odour, but clear.)

Sleep is restless, wakes frequently, or frequently changes position, waking, crying ; kicks off. Will not sleep without rocking ; grinds the teeth.

Stools : Involuntary, greenish, slimy or white, mucus with colic before the stools.

CHINA

China is the "won't-do-it "child. Stubborn, disobedient, longing for dainties.

Face pale or at times red. Restless at night ; resembles *Arsenicum*, as does the thirst, which is for small quantities. The abdomen is distended (*Calc.*, *Sil.*) tympanitic from flatus, large quantities of which is emitted.

Stool is yellow and watery ; undigested, painless ; involuntary ; after eating ; at night ; from fruit ; after severe disease ; loss of fluids. Colic returns every afternoon but not so severe as *Arsenicum*.

Great weakness ; inclined to sweat ; night-sweats (*Psor*).

Tongue coated white or yellow like *Chamomilla*.

GRAPHITES

Mentally is something like Cinch. The child is impudent, teasing, laughing at reprimands. Otherwise they are wide apart.

They both have distended bellies. Graphites thirst is for drink to cool one's self internally ; Cinch., wants little and often.

They both are weak, but Graph. inclines to stretch but is unable to satisfy it.

Stools : Stool of Graphites is brown fluid, mixed with undigested substance, of an atrocious odour (*Psor.*), a dark brown fluid stool, smelling like rotten eggs.

Graphites has taste as of rotten eggs in the morning ; *Psor.* has eructations smelling like rotten eggs.

Both Graphites and *Psorinum* are scabby, mangy ; but the *Psor.* baby is debilitated, sweats profusely from the least exertion and night as does *Cinch*.

RHEUM

Rheum asks for different things, impetuously and with crying; dislikes even its favourite things. *Rheum* is the sour baby, in more ways than one. The baby smells sour, so does the stool, which is otherwise not very characteristic. There is colic and tenesmus after stool. *Hepar* has a sour stool, light yellow, fecal, papescent, undigested, painless.

MAGNESIA CARB

Magnesia carb. has sour stool like the scum of a frog pond. Bloody mucus, tenemus during and after. Sour, green, bloody slimy stool, with tenesmus even after the stool.

Rheum wants various kinds of food which becomes repugnant as soon as a little is eaten.

CAPSICUM

Capsicum child is clumsy, awkward, especially with headache. Awakens with fright, screams and remains full of fear. *Capsicum* resembles *Lyc.*, which also wakens cross, kicks, scolds or wakes terrified, as if dreaming.

Stramonium also wakes screaming, seems frightened. knows no one, shrinks away or jumps out of bed. Clings to those near.

Stool : The stool of *Capsicum* is dysenteric, not diarrhoeic. It is mucus ; bloody ; thin, adhesive, slimy mucus ; mixed with black blood.

Aggravations after drinking ; by currents of air. Cutting colic before and during the stool, with tenesmus and burning at anus after.

Thirst, but drink causes shuddering. Tenesmus of the bladder strangury.

The stools and concomitants of *Lyc.*, and *Stram*, are so different in character and aggravations that no mistake can be made.

COFFEA

Coffea child cries and laughs while the tears are rolling down its cheeks. Cries and laughs alternatively. Wide awake, no inclination to sleep. *Cypripedium* is wide awake and playful.

Stool . *Coffea* stool is liquid, fecal and offensive.

ZINCUM

The *Zinc.* child is cross towards evening. Brain affected.

The stool is dry, hard insufficient ; expelled with much pressure (brain disease) ; involuntarily ; pitch-like (*Nux. v.*).

Face is alternatively pale and red, in brain affections ; waxy, white, or yellow, in typhus.

Cold sweat upon the forehead as with *Calc. Verat. a.*, *Ipec.*, *Tabac.*, *Benz. ac.*

CUPRUM

Cross and irritable ; changeable mood (coffea), or indifferent and dull, in brain affections.

Summer complaints of children where the brain is affected.

Diarrhoea squirts out, as does *Crot. t.*, which is sudden and gamboge, which squirts after a somewhat prolonged pressure, or *Phos*, which pours out like a hydrant ; with *Cuprum* there is much wind passed as with *Art. n.* and *Aloe*.

The sleep of *Cuprum* may be heavy or comatose or sleepy with inability to sleep.

CAUSTICUM

Child is timorous, fears to go to bed alone.

Stool is knotty like sheep's dung, or liquid, fecal, white mucus. Aggravation by cold air striking the abdomen (see *Capsicum*) ; after fresh meat. After stool, nausea, salt, waterbrash. Aversion to sweet things (*Op.*, *Ag. n.*). Fresh meat causes nausea and waterbrash. Smoked meat agrees (*Calc. phos.*). Enuresis ; involuntary urine when coughing or walking.

PULSATILLA

Child is peevish, changeable, pale, chilly. Stomach vomits after being chilled or deranged by fruits, pastries etc. So far not very unlike *Arsenic*.

Stool is watery, only, or usually, during the night ; sometimes involuntary. Greenish yellow, slimy, very changeable, stools like bile preceded by rumbling in the abdomen.

The dysenteric stool of mucus after dysentery.

The dysenteric stools are clear, yellow, red or green, slime with tenesmus. Discharge of blood and mucus during stool. Face pale, fainty.

Thirst rare, but when does drink takes little and often it provokes inclination to vomit.

Pulsatilla has many symptoms like *Ars.* but often, not intense.

The *chill*, stomach, stool and thirst are quite like *Ars.* but *Ars.* has much pain with the diarrhoea. *Pulsatilla* does not. *Ars.* is always thirsty, *Pulsatilla* may be. *Pulsatilla* diarrhoea during the night ; *Ars.* after midnight, eating and drinking.

ACONITE

The child has spells of rage ; ailments following anger and chargin.

These spells of rage are characteristic of *Aconite*.

Child's fever, is red, hot restless, cross.

Thirst continuous and for great quantities.

Stools at first are frequent, scanty, loose, with straining ; small brown, painful ; at last bloody dysentery.

They are like chopped herbs.

Inflammatory diarrhoea or dysentery during hot days and cold nights.

FERRUM PHOS

This metal has the mental condition not particularly defined. The skin is not and dry. Great thirst for much water.

Stools are frequent, green, watery or hashed, mixed with mucus, straining at stool, also retching. Child rolls its head moans, eyes half open ; face pinched, urine scanty, pulse and respiration accelerated; startling in sleep ; stools contain undigested food. Stools may be of pure blood, bloody mucus or bloody scum ; yellowish or whitish-brown, with blood ; like bloody fish brine. Green watery, or green mucus with blood, no pain ; blood dark or light.

Sudden, deathly sickness at the stomach ; after eating, nausea and vomiting ; sour setting the teeth on edge.

Complaints during dentition.

The aggravation of bloody serious stools is from midnight until morning.

Retention of urine with fever in little children.

Nose bleed of bright blood in summer complaints.

MAGNESIA PHOS

Magnesia phos., another of the tissue remedies, occupies a considerable place in children's troubles, and is destined to climb still higher.

The colic of children has been relieved many times ; it is spasmodic, intermittent colic, relieved by bending double and by heat and also eructations. There may or may not be diarrhoea. *Dr. H.C. Allen*, in the *September Advance*, gives the complaints of teething children, and specially "spasms during dentition, without febrile symptoms," whereas *Belladonna* is hot, hot skin, hot head, rapid pulse.

I think I have recently seen *Magnesia phos.* relieve spasm when there was fever present, the bloated abdomen with spasms leading to the selection.

