

REVIEWS AND ABSTRACTS

International press abstracts

Ledum palustre

Philippe Dutron

A complete description of this medicine is presented: punctured wounds, wounds from splinters, whitlow with pain better from cold water or cold applications, inflammation of face or eyes, inflammation from bites of insects, bites of snakes or cats, ecchymosis of eye lids. *Ledum* follows *Arnica* well in haematomas. Rheumatic pains migrate from lower limbs to upper limbs; they are better from very cold water and worse from motion. The patient is chilly, but does not tolerate a warm bed.

Ledum has a lot of mind symptoms: taciturn, reserved, discontented, misanthropic, industrious, passionate, violent, and quarrelsome, or inconstant, irresolute, cowardly and full of scruples. His sleep is restless: he talks during his sleep, and dreams of often changing places, of misfortunes, of ghosts, of spectres, of death.

Two other articles in same issue discuss this medicine: a clinical case from Dr Eric Vanden Eynde and another clinical case from Dr Maryvonne Cousin.

Revue Belge d'Homoeopathie 2005;3:58-66.

Argentum metallicum and Argentum nitricum

Philippe Colin

A comparison between these two medicines based on Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*, TF Allen's *Encyclopedia* and Constantin Hering's *Guiding Symptoms*. The description of these medicines at the mental level is very different in Hahnemann and in Hering's *Guiding Symptoms*: in particular, Hahnemann does not mention the phobic character of *Argentum nitricum*. *Argentum metallicum* may be discouraged or cheerful, whereas *Argentum nitricum* is apathetic, hypochondriacal, and does not undertake anything from fear of failure; he is anxious and therefore walks quickly. *Argentum metallicum* has a lot of upper respiratory tract and lung allergic symptoms, whereas *Argentum nitricum* has more infectious symptoms. However, both have chronic rhinitis with bleeding crusts.

Argentum metallicum has a specific action on cartilage, *Argentum nitricum* has more neurological symptoms in limbs (ataxia, sciatica, chorea).

L'Homéopathie Européenne 2005;5:16-22.

Veratrum album

Richard Sprigg

Two clinical cases illustrate this article: a 49 year-old woman and a 9 year-old boy, both with allergic rhinitis.

The author stresses the psychological symptoms which suggest this medicine: mainly when a patient is sidelined, feel humiliated or despised. We may think of this remedy in victims of divorce, redundancy, unemployment, or of racism. These patients can be aggressive, excited, insolent, scornful, or untruthful. They can also waste their money, kiss everyone. They may display lipothymia with cold sweats, especially women during the menses. They like honey, fruit, salt. The main clinical indications are: acute gastroenteritis, dysmenorrhoea, hypertension, knee pains and anxiety.

L'Homéopathie Européenne, 2005;6:12-16.

Moderate alcoholism: prevalence, definition, diagnosis

Michel Guermonprez

In the introduction, the main symptoms of alcoholism are described: reddish face, trembling of hands, hoarse voice, and cerebellar symptoms.

Then some remedies which can help alcoholic patients are described: *Sulphur*, *Nux vomica*, *Lachesis*, *Phosphorus*, *Arsenicum album*, *Aurum*, *Lycopodium*, *Sepia*, *Mercurius solubilis*, *Silicea*, and *Luesinum*.

Some complementary remedies are also discussed: *Ethylicum*, *Spiritus glandium quercus*, *Capsicum*, *Carduus marianus* and *Kalium bichromicum* (beer drinkers), *Iris versicolor*, *Sanguinaria* and *Sulphuricum acidum*. Neurological symptoms should make one consider *Zincum metallicum*, *Absinthium* (epilepsy or marked tremor), *Conium*, *Agaricus* (shaking, neuropathies), or

Ranunculus bulbosus (neuralgias). Some mental features of alcoholism can correspond to *Gelsemium* (anxiety), *Staphysagria* (indignation), *Veratrum album* (euphoria), *Asarum* (hyperaesthesia, feeling of being 'spaced out'), and *Fluoricum acidum* (hypomania, instability, sometimes depravity).

L'Homéopathie Européenne 2005;7:5-11.

The fear of being forsaken in dogs: about *Stramonium*

Didier Notre-Dame

The author is a veterinarian; initially he starts by describing fear of abandonment in dogs. They become hyperactive, and they listen for noises which indicate the return of their master. Then, they bite and eat everything which carries the odour of their owner, and bark in distress. Three clinical cases of this sort of trouble cured by *Stramonium* 15 CH illustrate this article.

Finally, the author describes the theme of *Stramonium*: longing for light and company, for fighting against a feeling of disharmony. Such patients have problems in estimating barriers, differences, and places to stay. They refuse to recognise the realities of the world.

L'Homéopathie Européenne 2005;7:16-20.

Three clinical cases

Joëlle Grégoire

Platinum metallicum: A woman with paralysis of the leg from periradicular fibrosis after radiotherapy. She was haughty, had an aversion to children and was full of hatred for men. The remedy was *Platina* 200 K, which transformed her life; her leg began to tingle, she started walking again with her husband and she changed her wardrobe.

Vipera berus: A 36 year-old woman, who had hemorrhagic rectocolitis following her divorce. She had a dark purple left hand (angioma), and heaviness in the thighs improved by raising her legs. She dreamt of her children being in danger. The remedy was *Vipera* 200 K, then 10,000 K. Her diarrhoea eased, she felt stronger and reconciled with her body.

Pyrogen: A 25 year-old woman had a 50% third degree burn. She had dreams of becoming huge, she felt rotten, broken, and had lymphoedema with horrible scars. *Pyrogenium* 200 K, then 10,000 K improved her psychological state and her lymphoedema.

Cahiers du Groupement Hahnemannien 2005; 7-8:304-309.

Plutonium nitricum

Ramon Frendo

The author describes two clinical cases helped by this new remedy.

- (1) A 59 year-old woman became depressed after surgery for cancer of the lower eyelid. She had the delusion of seeing from above; she was afraid of others, had dreams about sharks. She thought the world is bad, and wanted to return to the heights, to the light.
- (2) A 39 year-old woman with anorexia nervosa. She hated her mother but could not leave her. She also had dreams of seeing from above a man in black and children without faces, also dreams of sharks.

The materia medica of this remedy is described: these patients have a lot of fears (ghosts, cancer, storm, thieves) and delusions (of being immaterial, or old for example). The patient wants to have penetrating sight, which sets him above others, to know if others are good or bad, and to have the power to rescue children or to fight against evil.

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French-language journals reviewed by Ph. Colin

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Hydrohysteretic phenomena of 'extremely diluted solutions' induced by mechanical treatments. A calorimetric and conductometric study at 25 °C

V Elia, M Marchese, M Montanino et al

The purpose of this study was to obtain information about the influence of successive dilutions and succussions on the water structure. 'extremely diluted solutions' (EDS) are solutions obtained through the iteration of two processes: 1:100 dilution and succussion. These two processes are iterated until extreme dilutions are reached, so that the chemical composition of the end solution is identical to that of the solvent. We measured the heats of mixing of basic solutions with such EDS and their electrical conductivity comparing with the analogous heats of mixing and electrical conductivity of the untreated solvent. The measurements were carried out as a function of the age of the samples. We found some relevant exothermic excess heat of mixing, higher electrical conductivity than those of the untreated solvent, also in function of time. The measurements show a good linear correlation between the two independent physico-chemical parameters, underlining

a single cause for the behaviour of the extremely diluted solutions. The slopes of the linear trends depend on the age of the EDS. Such a phenomenon could depend on the variation of the shape of molecular aggregates, that characterize the two different supramolecular structures of the water at different ages. This behaviour could provide an important support in understanding the nature of the phenomena described here. A really intriguing phenomenon is the evolution of some physicochemical properties with time. This hints at a trigger effect on the formation of molecules aggregates, as a consequence of the succussion procedure. Here we thus show that successive dilutions and succussions can permanently alter the physico-chemical properties of the aqueous solvent the amount of which depend on the age of the samples.

Journal of Solution Chemistry 2005;34(8):947-960.

The structure of liquid water; novel insights from materials research; potential relevance to homeopathy

Rustum Roy, William A Tiller, Iris Bell, M Richard Hoover

One must begin by distinguishing the different uses of the term 'structure of water' as used by materials scientists, from that used by chemists. The authors present the materials science perspective because they are interested only in the condensed liquid phase. Essentially all previous literature on the structure of water has been dominated by chemists who equate the term 'structure' with the identification of the molecular species present in the water as vapour or as liquid, at its surface, or in some specific environment. Several dozens of such molecular species have been identified, calculated or inferred: i.e. the size and shape of the building blocks of this condensed matter are known.

What is very little known, is the materials scientist's approach to the structure of condensed matter: i.e. the arrangement of these building blocks in 3-D space. The authors systematically bring various well-known principles and phenomena from materials research to bear on the topic.

The most telling argument is the core paradigm of materials science, that properties of a phase are determined by structure, not by composition. Hence the single argument used against homeopathy, that because there are no molecules of the remedy left in the final product it cannot be different, is completely negated.

The very well known changes of the physical properties of water with temperature are extraordinarily anomalous, and they cannot be accounted for by any cause other than changes of structure, and several of them even below 50 °C. This again fits our model of multiple structural changes, not unlike the multiple structures of the solid phases of water (ice). Arguments are provided by analogy with other phases, especially SiO₂ with its close similarity to OH₂, and from the nearly ubiquitous structural heterogeneity in similar covalently bonded elements and their compounds which form glassy materials, showing the existence of multiple liquid structures of fixed composition. Very useful lessons can be learned from the enormous literature on SiO₂ and silicate minerals and glasses, and they are slowly being re-discovered. The phase diagrams and crystal chemistry of such systems are of direct relevance to the highly anomalous property-temperature relations in water which have baffled chemists for 100 years.

Materials Research Innovations Online 9.4: December 2005 <http://www.matrice-technology.com/mri/abstract.php?pid=388> and *Mat Res Innovat.* 2005;9: 557-608.

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