

## PSORINUM

*James B. Bell, M.D.*

I can think of no way in which to serve you better than by calling your attention to this remedy. It would be interesting also to trace its history in the *Materia Medica*, but time has not permitted me to do so. I first became well acquainted with its properties by studying the symptoms as given in Lippe's Text Book, and soon after I became convinced of its great value in clinical observation. Some might, and do object to remedies which may be supposed to be isopathic, but there is not the slightest reason for believing that the contagious products of disease are of that character, when homoeopathically potentized. Others object to drugs of filthy origin. They hold up their hands in holy horror at all such "excrescences of Homoeopathy." They might as well turn up their classic noses at the golden corn and mellow pumpkins of our autumnal fields; the rich product of fragrant animal manures, and much nearer their origin, than is the potentized homoeopathic remedy. But after all, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," and I am not going to lose my pumpkin pie because its genealogical tree has its roots in a barn-yard. Psorinum resembles closely Carbo veg., Chin., and Phos. acid. It is most frequently required, in general practice, for debility and loss of appetite, when existing independently and without any apparent cause. The distinguishing characteristic of the debility is a tendency to perspiration on exertion and at night. This may exist alone, as in the following case :

(28) "Mr. P., age about 50, has always been allopathic, until I cured his horse of a violent cholera morbus with *Crot. tig.*, 200. Complains of nothing but weakness. Has been deeply engrossed in care several months in building a fine store. He

now has no appetite, and the least exertion, e.g., walking, puts him into perspiration. Thinks he wants a "tonic". Psor. 400 produced a rapid and perfect cure.

This symptom may also accompany others, as in the following case :

(29) Mr. H., a young man of 21, was obliged one day to run until entirely exhausted, in pursuit of a runaway horse. Although strong and well before, he now became weak, perspiring easily, and had severe pains in the right side, aggravated by motion, laughing, coughing. We find these symptoms also in the proving of Psor., and after Rhus. 200 and Bry. 200 had failed, Psor. 400 produced a rapid cure.

These symptoms of debility and loss of appetite are very frequently met with during convalescence from acute disease. I will give one example.

(30) Miss. C., a young lady of culture, had a mild, typhoid fever. When convalescing well, I left her with the injunction to report any want of progress. It was about a week before her sister reported "stationary, no appetite". Psor. 400 produced an immediate change, and a reversion to health.

These cases are given as examples of the three conditions of debility which will most frequently require this remedy. A great many more might be given, but these are enough to illustrate the subject. The profuse night sweats of Phthisis are often greatly relieved by Psor. and the appetite and strength improved, but its great field is debility independent of any organic disease, or resulting from acute disease.

"One other symptom, not found in Lippe, but mentioned by Dr. P.P. Wells, of Brooklyn, has also been strikingly confirmed by clinical observation. That symptom is, very offensive stools, smelling like rotten eggs. This symptom is, met with mostly in children, in their first or second summer. The stool is usually a dark-brown, thin fluid, but it may also be green mucus, or bloody mucus. Psor. will produce a favourable change whenever this

characteristic smell is met with, removing the obstinacy of the case, and either completing the cure, or rendering it easy to complete with other remedies. After Psor., the remedy most frequently required is China.

Dr. Williams had used Psorinum in both high and low potencies, from the 3x to the 200. In the debility following acute diseases, the 200 had succeeded better than the low attenuations ; but in tinea capitis, and in other eruptions, the high potencies seemed to effect, while the low preparations did well.

[*Courtesy* : The Hahnemannian Monthly. 1869]



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