

Sulphur.

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WHAT IS THE TEMPERAMENT OF A SULPHUR PATIENT?

Light complexion, easily angered, people who have a harsh dirty skin and who are afraid of water ; children,—look tired, dirty and old, “use their sleeves both for handkerchief and looking glass”; the patient is coarse in fibre and dirty in habits and walks stooped from weakness of the spine.

TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF SULPHUR.

1. Dirty and poor habits of body.
2. Aversion to water and washing.
3. Sinking at stomach at 11 a.m.
4. “Cat-nap” sleep.
5. Heat on top of the head, and burning of palms and soles.
6. Defective reaction,—carefully chosen remedies fail to act.
7. Walks stooping.
8. Drinks much, eats little.
9. Morning diarrhoea, driving him out of bed.
10. Great nocturnal aggravation.

WHAT ARE THE MENTAL SYMPTOMS OF THE DRUG?

Irritable, chronic constitutional grumbler, a “ragged philosopher”,—life having been a failure. Religious melancholia, dresses up in rags and imagines that they are the finest silk ; anxious about his own salvation, but indifferent to that of others.

In the pathogenesis of Sulphur are recorded, both qualitative and quantitative alterations of the excretions.

The leading symptoms of this remedy referring to air-passages are :

1. Dryness of the larynx with rough, hoarse voice and much mucus in the chest.

2. Nightly suffocative attacks from dryness; hence a desire to have more air; wants doors and windows open.
3. Dry choking cough with pain and stitches in the chest or head, or with much rattling of mucus.
4. Cough excited by tickling in the larynx; from dryness or from accumulation of mucus in the bronchi.
5. Dry cough, mostly in the evening or at night, when lying down.
6. Tightness of the chest and frequent paroxysms of suffocation, chiefly at night.
7. Expectoration of greenish lumps of sweetish taste; of bloody pus, of dark blood, of yellow mucus; usually sourish, sometimes putrid, flat sweetish or salty taste.
8. Profuse expectoration during the day, with dry cough at night and during the day, followed by abundant expectoration of thick, white, yellowish, or greenish mucus, sometimes of foul odor.
9. Stagnation of mucosities in the bronchi, or profuse expectoration; or distressing expectoration of viscid, white mucus, and sometimes bloody sputa.
10. Loose cough with mucous rales, or dry with hoarseness and burning in the throat.

The cough of Sulphur, however, is usually dry, distressing, with a sensation of inhaled dust or smoke, and difficult breathing. But the cough sometimes is followed by a profuse expectoration, which relieves momentarily, and is composed of a purulent or greenish sputum of sweetish taste, emitting a foul odor. The final expectoration of viscid, amber color mucus, mixed with saliva, pre-eminently indicates Sulphur in asthmatic attacks. And the purulent fetid sputa, with dryness and burning of the mucous surfaces, are symptoms often present in the advanced period of phthisis, with advanced lesions. (Phthisis ulcerosa).

A careful analysis of the various syndromes considered above, plainly shows that Sulphur is a remedy capable of meeting many of the symptoms of gastric disorder chiefly

due to insufficient secretion; and to corroborate this assertion. I close this section of my study with a brief resume of the corresponding pathogenic effects of this drug:

1. Difficult digestion.
2. Anorexia or bulimia.
3. Malacia. Pica. Fickle appetite.
4. Craving for liquor, beer, sweets or food.
5. Aversion to meat, to milk, to fat, to sour things.
6. Intense thirst, especially for beer.
7. Taste sour or bitter, insipid, foul when awakening in A.M.
8. Tongue thickly coated. Fetid breath. Acidity and fermentation.
9. Pyrosis. Eructations, sour, bitter, gaseous.
10. Regurgitations (acid, mucus, fermented food.)
Hiccough.
11. Nausea and vomiting, in the morning on walking.
12. Vomiting of fermented food, mucus, pituita or bile.
13. Vomiting of slimy substances, or watery transparent fluid in A.M.
14. Gastrorrhœa. Hematemesis. Melena.
15. Diarrhœa. Constipation. Both alternately.
16. Abdominal plethora. Portal obstruction. Hemorrhoids.
17. Slow digestion. Abdominal distention. Palpitations.
18. Flatulence. Difficult breathing. Colic after eating or drinking.
19. Rolling, rumbling, splashing sounds.
20. Vertigo. Ringing in the ears. Headache.
21. Distention of the stomach. Full after eating.
22. Weight and fulness of the stomach after meals.
23. Epigastric distress (empty faint feeling at 11 A.M.)
24. Tension and sensitiveness in the epigastrium.
25. Dull pain in the epigastrium, after eating or from pressure.
26. Pressure, as from stone, after eating.
27. Pains,—burning, aching, gnawing, constrictive.

28. Spasmodic contractions (cardia and pylorus).
29. Painful sensitiveness of the stomach and abdomen.
30. Swelling and hardness of the liver.
31. Impaired general nutrition.
32. Progressive emaciation. Irritability. Apathy.
33. Debility. Despondency. No ambition.
34. Hypochondriasis. Fixed ideas. Paroxysms of anxiety.
35. Disturbed sleep. Somnolence or insomnia.
36. Urine scanty, sub-acid, rich in indican.
37. Urine fetid, with a greasy surface and pellicles.
38. Skin flabby, dry, scurfy, emitting an offensive odor.

These are the chief symptoms usually observed in connection with digestive troubles due to defective or insufficient secretion.

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