

## HOW DO YOU APPROACH THE MATERIA MEDICA TO FIND THE SIMILIMUM ?

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There are various methods of approach to the *Materia Medica*, used by various physicians. Our advice would be to procure a copy of either Kent's or Boger's revised Boenninghausen Repertory, using this as basis.

In your examination of the patient, if properly done, you will learn what is individualistically characteristic of your patient, *i.e.*, rare, strange and peculiar, and his most important symptom or symptoms. You then pick out these and take them to the rubric or rubrics covering them, in the Repertory of your choice and there you will find a list of remedies covering these symptoms, thus saving yourself the trouble of having to wade through the entire *Materia Medica*. Each additional symptom, or symptom qualifier, is apt to reduce the number of remedies which must be compared. For example : Mr. A. comes to you with lumbago. You turn to your Repertory, to the section labeled back, then to pain in the lumbar region. There you will find the 600 more remedies of the *Materia Medica* reduced to 200. Yet some maze ! Now here comes the part that shows the importance of having your symptoms qualified. You find your patient is worse mornings in bed. This reduces your list to 26, which is some better. But your patient volunteers : "I must sit up before I can turn over in bed". Your Repertory says—Nux, and Nux only. Now you take the patient's symptoms and compare them with the provings of Nux and the chances are 100 to 1 that Nux covers the entire case. Again, suppose Mr. B. comes in with a bad case of vascular erysipelas. You turn to your Repertory to the section labeled

skin, then to the rubric marked *crispelas*, then to the subrubric marked vesicular and there you will find, instead of over 600 remedies with which to compare, but 45. But you learned that your patient had a yellow stool which cuts that list down to 17. You learned that stool was watery, which in turn cuts that list to 14. You further learned that the stool was forcibly expelled. Coming out like a shot which further cuts your list down to 10. Then the patient finally volunteered, "My diarrhoea is always worse immediately after eating or drinking". That at once puts the characteristic mark or stamp of *Croton tiglium* on the case. By comparing your collected data from and of the patient with the proving of *Crot. tig.* the chances are 100 to 1 that you will not have to change your prescription.

So you see how this method makes your approach to the *Materia Medica* more easy and a time saver. With all these advantages and labour saving devices there is no excuse for our not being able to do equally as good work as our masters before us. They had none of these advantages. Try to learn to find the characteristics, the rare, strange and peculiar symptoms, the mark or stamp of each individual drug, not for prescribing purposes but for references.

*[Courtesy : Homoeopathic Recorder, 1930]*



## A PROVING OF GLONOINE AND AN EXPERIMENT

How did our great *Materia Medica* grow in the earlier years ? Were there any specialised "Scientific" provers employed ? Were there any "Research Centres" where the provers and their guides were on salaries ?

Actually, the conditions set by our present day "leaders" for conducting provings are quite different from those of the yester years. No worthwhile proving *can* be done now.

Note carefully the following experiment of Glonoine in the year 1886. "These provings of Glonoine were made while the several physicians were in attendance at the recent meeting of the Central New York Medical Society from medicine furnished by C.W. Boice M.D., of Auburn, N.Y-Editor-Hahnemanian Monthly".

I think the qualifications expected of provers were different. I am detailing below, what I think were their strong points :

1. They were all extremely enthusiastic Homoeopathic doctors or patients with courage or conviction.
2. They did all the experiments only for love of the Science, nor for any other gain.
3. They had insense desire and curiosity to learn and try out new drugs.
4. No single, out of the way symptom was overlooked, even an inexplicable point was noted carefully. Most of them developed into keen observers.
5. As they did all this for their own satisfaction, there was no chance for untruth or exaggeration.

Would our present day "Research Centres" have ever thought of a proving like the one of Glonoine, described below ?—S.P. K.

**1st Proving : Dr. P.O.C. Benson, M.D.**

A single dose was taken, while at a meeting of the New York Central Homoeopathic Medical Society, Syracuse, N.Y., March 12, 1868.

Almost immediately after taking the medicine, I felt a pricking on the tongue, and in the fauces, with beating and throbbing in the vertex and through the temples, and slightly in the occiput. These sensations come in paroxysms and are worse on movement.

Later—Pain over the nose and in the petrous portion of the temporal bone of the right side. Slight pain in the stomach, and sweat in the palms of the hands.

In connection with the above, I would also state, that at that time I was suffering very severely, and had been, for nearly a week, with acute rheumatism of the left knee, so much so that it was with difficulty I could walk. I had taken Aconite, Bryonia and Rhus, without any benefit, and had concluded that I was doomed to another siege such as I had endured the winter previous when I suffered for some five or six weeks with the same disease, and tried nearly every remedy in our *Materia Medica* having any bearing on the case. The characteristics were : acute pain, worse on movement, which seemed to be deep in the joint without much heat or swelling ; sometimes, however, it would suddenly commence to twinge or prick, while at rest, very much like the prickling in the fauces mentioned before, through very much worse, so that, for instance, if I were seated at the table at a meal, I would be obliged to rise and straighten the limb, when it would pass away. This latter symptom, however, I had not yet experienced in this attack. It came on at a later period in the previous attack, but I have every reason to believe that it would have been developed in this, had it continued, as every other symptom was similar.

After taking the Glonoine, the pain commenced to pass away, and by evening, I could raise the knee as well as ever. A circumstance occurred that night, which showed how complete was the cure. When I returned home, I found that word had been:

left for me to go about two miles in the country. The roads were badly drifted, and the rains of a few days before had made the banks so soft that they would not support a horse, so that I concluded to try it afoot, and walked the whole distance, or nearly four miles, partly in the rain. From this I suffered no inconvenience, nor have I felt any return of the disease to this day. I am so confident that the cure was due to the Glonoine, that if I am ever troubled in a like manner again, I shall take that medicine at once.

**2nd Proving : Dr. T. Dwight Stow, M.D.**

March 12 : At 10 A.M. took of the 1st centesimal dilution, 3 drops, on white or pulverized sugar. At that time I had no symptoms—was in health. Within 3/5 minutes felt a beating, pressing dull and hammering pain under the vertex ; heat and redness of the face ; sinking beating in the aorta, directly behind the umbilicus ; dull beating in the “left parietal region. All of the pains are aggravated by shaking the head ; stooping ; on first motion after rising ; on walking, standing, and turning round. Stinging in the tongue, near the centre and tip. One or two heavy long but easy eructations. After 20 minutes, sensible increase of frequency of pulse, with flushing of the face ; great heat of the face. When rising, blindness, giddiness, and nausea. On attempting to read, in the standing position, darkness before the eyes, fainting, and nausea ; rumbling and bursting of flatus in middle and lower abdomen ; sense of weakness and apathy. At 8 P.M., tremor, sopor and lassitude. March 13 : slight headache on rising : feeling of emptiness in the cranium ; weak and tremulous ; have voided much rather pale urine, since noon yesterday ; urine yellow and frothy, voided painlessly ; headache increases after passage of urine. At 2 P.M., feel tired and sleepy.

March 14 : A lady acquaintance, Mrs. M.M., with dark brown hair and black eyes, about five feet four inches in height ; thin but quite active and strong ; took one large drop of the 1st centesimal of Glonoine, the same as given to several physicians

by Dr. Boyce. In five minutes she experienced a sensation of fullness in the vertex and forehead, with feeling or fullness throughout the body, chest and abdomen ; sensation of whirling ; of confused vision ; of dancing before the eyes ; sleepiness ; thumping and beating in the vertex ; face alternately flushed and pale ; palpitation of the heart. Later, her extremities feel bloated ; she feels qualmish, with increase of headache. Feels better in the open air. When asked, a day or two afterwards, how she felt, she said, that at one time she was "frightened for fear she had been poisoned ; but that no one would catch her taking any more".

### **3rd Proving : Dr. W.L. Fiske, M.D.**

Took, March 12, 1868, two drops of Glonoine, *lc.* Throbbing in both temporal regions ; increased perceptibly by motion ; sore feeling of the eyes, upon motion ; faint feeling in epigastrium, with sensation of incarcerated flatus ; constriction at top of larynx ; throbbing of brain from within outward ; hot flushes over whole body, with feeling, as though surface would break out in perspiration the last symptom continuing for hours.

### **4th Proving : Dr. William A. Hewley, M.D.**

March 12, 1868 : Being in usual good health, I took about 11 A.M. two drops of the *lc.* attenuation of Glonoine. In about two minutes I experienced throbbing, hammering sensation on each side of the head, near the vertex, and across in the region of the coronal suture, aggravated by motion, and by looking up ; feeling of heat in the face, as if sitting by a hot stove ; sweat on the hands. The throbbing in the head continued about one hour and a half ; the other symptoms till I went to sleep at night.

### **5th Proving : Dr. A.E. Wallace, M.D.**

After taking two drops of *lc.* feeling of fullness and compression in occiput ; throbbing through the temples, and mostly upon the right side ; shocks about the heart, with pricking pain in the hands and arms ; intense pain in the right temple ; feeling as if perspiration would break out all over ; sharp stitches in the heart ;

pulse 100, after 3 minutes ; vertigo, with dimness of vision ; face feels hot, full and bloated ; can count the pulse by the heart-shocks ; drawing through the shoulders ; respiration burried ; feeling of fullness through the chest ; feel sleepy. Belching of wind from the stomach, with feeling of pressure at pit of stomach ; feeling of tightness about the lower part of chest ; feeling of heat at pit of stomach.

Feeling of soreness and looseness in brain.

**6th Proving** : Dr. R.E. Belding, M.D.

March 12, 1868 : 10:47 A.M.—Took two drops of the 2nd c. dilution. In 3 minutes, much fullness in the head, with a throbbing in both sides of the head, pricking sensation on the left side of the tongue, near the tip. In 10 minutes, the same throbbing, with almost a twitching in the integuments of the head, in the same place as before mentioned ; worse after getting up walking across the room, and sitting down again. A marked enlargement of the temporal veins, with flushed face. This I have noticed on many provers. All the symptoms passed away on eating dinner.

**7th Proving** : Dr. D.J. Chafee, M.D.

Pressure in vertex and occiput. Pressure and fullness in forehead and over the orbits ; beating over the orbits. Faint feeling at pit of stomach, that is hard to describe. Sinking feeling head and chest ; like that from working in a very hot room until nearly exhausted. Head and the stomach feel as if I had been out in the hot sun and without dinner. Taking a long breath does not relieve ; and moving the head aggravates. Rising up makes beating in the forehead worse. Eyes feel sore on being moved. Pain, coming and going, in left parietal region. The sinking at stomach comes in paroxysms. Pulsation in left temple ; confused feeling ; cannot collect my thoughts. Pulse 83 and hard. The left elbow feels weak and aches. The left knee feels weak and aches. Read felt best when the hat was off, for two days. On the second day, the brain felt sore ; the jarring of the ears made it worse.

63. Wm. L., aet 20, has been subject, for several years, to headache. The pain principally occupied the region over the eyes. Generally, only one side at a time was painful. The pain was constant, whilst present, and not paroxysmal. This pain had, for several years, been present at irregular intervals. It was sure to come on as soon as the warm weather came, in the spring, and lasted until the cold weather, in the fall. Every day, as soon as the sun had risen, the pain commenced, and increased as the sun rose, and attained its greatest intensity whilst the sun was hottest, gradually subsiding as it went down.

When first brought to my notice, in May last, the pain had become more intense than ever before. Mr. L., had been obliged to give up study, and remain at home. The rays of the sun on his head were not to be borne, and his head would not allow the hat to touch it. This last symptom was also always present. The pressure or weight of the hat could not be borne for a moment.

Of course, with this condition, he could enjoy nothing—the night being the only time when he was free from pain. At last was denied him, and the pain remained, to some extent, as long as he was awake.

On comparison of symptoms, no remedy had all the conditions as well as Glonoine—especially the aggravation from the touch or weight of the hat, and the increase of pain from the sun. Having no Glonoine except the 1 dil and not wishing to give this before diluting higher, it was thought best to test the preparation. I had, and in order to do this, three powders of sugar were saturated with the 1st dil. Two students of medicine, and the writer, took each a powder. Almost at once, the writer's head began to throb and for an hour, all the arteries in the head became as distinct as though they had been dissected out and were on exhibition. The head was full of blood; motion increased the throbbing and pain. This condition lasted all day. Bryonia was taken, but did not relieve the distress. No other symptoms were present.

On one of the students, a pain was produced over the eyes of the same character as that reported by the patient under consideration. The next day this same student took some pellets of Glonoine 200, which produced this same pain again. The other student experienced no distinct pain in the head, but felt an indescribable pressure in the head, compelling him to suspend business, for some minutes only. There was no doubt of the power of this preparation of Glonoine.

Next day the patient was given several doses of the 3rd. dil. with no result. After waiting several days, with no relief, he received a powder of Glonoine 200, which was dissolved in four tablespoonfuls [of water, of which he took a table spoonful every six hours. After the second spoonful, his head became intensely painful ; and after the third and fourth, he became almost frantic. The pain lasted, intense, all night, which it had never done before. However, when the morning came and the sun rose, he was surprised that the pain did not increase ; on the contrary, it decreased, and lost from this time all its severity. It gradually lessened and finally ceased altogether ; and all through the hottest weather of the season, his head has been entirely free from pain.

64. Mr. E.L.S. was taken suddenly, with a violent throbbing in the egigastrium, accompanied with a sense of sinking or faintness. He was compelled to avoid all quick motion and keep away from all business excitement ; quick walking put him out of breath, when he had to sit down.

One of the provers of Glonoine, at Syracuse, complained of a throbbing in the epigastrium, closely resembling this complained by Mr. S.

He received Glonoine 3d., which soon relieved him, and he resumed his business in a few days.

*[Courtesy : The Hahnemannian Monthly, 1868]*

