

Miasms and the Remedies to meet them.

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ARSENICUM ALBUM. { Anti-psoric
&
Anti-syptic

Arsenicum Album is a medicine of wide range and vast possibilities in relation to the chronic miasms. There are elements of all the miasms in it, though its anti-psoric nature is most profound. It is a deep acting anti-psoric, but very superficial in its anti-syptic action. The anti-syphilitic nature is very faint; so that it is not reckoned at all as an anti-syphilitic remedy.

The *mental* feature is perfectly psoric,—*anxiety, restlessness and fear of death*. Psora makes the mind terribly restless, and the restlessness is due to anxiety and fear, sadness and dissatisfaction. The mind cannot rest upon anything or any body, the prostration comes in afterwards and as a result of too much restlessness. The Arsenicum patient is sometimes found to be so much prostrated that he cannot move, but still he is full of anguish,—thus showing that he is *mentally* restless. He is perhaps compelled to be at rest *physically*,—because he has not the strength to move, yet he is *mentally* not at all at rest. So, if a proper study of this remedy is made, it will be seen that towards the end there is a period of calm, i.e. of an *apparent* restfulness, which is only another side of same coin. The patient is unable to be restless now and so he is *apparently* calm.

The element of *fear* makes the condition most pitiable, full of fears and the patient therefore wants company in order to drive away the fear. Dreads solitude, and wants company, for he cannot remain alone. Kali has an aversion to solitude, whereas Arsenicum album strongly wants

company, otherwise he cannot shake off his fears. Always *apprehensive*.

Arsenicum mind very often slides down to *insanity*, for it is only a question of degree. On account of his fears and anxieties, he may very often do insane acts. From ordinary fears and anxieties of an acute nature, a deep chronic condition of absolute hopelessness may come up, in which he may commit suicide and do things which no ordinary sane man would do. During this insane condition, he is a do-nothing fellow, with hardly any inclination to do anything, apparently calm and tranquil, moping and brooding in a remote corner of his room.

Arsenic patient is always *cold and freezing*. The patient, as a whole man, is chilly, though he wants cold washing over the head only. He is sensitive to cold, cold air, just like a China patient, but he wants cold in the head, unlike China. Phosphorus wants cold in the head as well as in the stomach, but he is chilly like Ars. and China. These are the peculiarities which ought to be remembered. Psoria cannot tolerate cold in the head and wants fur a cap even in summer; Nux vomica and Silicea must keep the head warm and cannot stand cold at all. Mentally, each of these remedies has an individuality of its own. China, Ars. and Phos. may come in order, they are complementary in pairs.

Arsenicum patient is a fastidious patient to deal with. He is badly sensitive both in his mind as well as his body. He has an intense thirst, but he takes only a sip; again, if the water is warm, he may tolerate it and keep it in the stomach so long as it is warm, but as soon as it gets cold, it is ejected. Cold drinks are vomited then and there immediately after it is taken. Phosphorus wants cold water and cooling drinks in the stomach, and would keep them there so long they are cold; but they would be

ejected as soon as they warm up. Sometimes it is very difficult to distinguish between Ars. and Phos., and it is well that they are complementary.

Ars. has many other complementaries, as Pyrogen, Carbo veg, Natrum Sulph, Nitric ac., Thuja etc., of which Natrum Sulph, Nitric ac. and Thuja being miasmatic complementaries need special notice. In the sycotic field of action, Thuja is deeper than Ars., and Ars. follows Nitric ac. when prostration increases and fear of death with restlessness becomes a prominent feature. The other two, viz, Natrum Sulph. and Thuja come in most cases of Sycotic manifestations like Asthma, Humid cough, Small pox etc. when the acute condition is allayed with Ars. and some deeper and more permanent hit is needed in order to eradicate the miasmatic tendency to further attacks. Ars. acts in Sycotic cases as Aconite does in Psoric ones, though apparently well indicated.

Keynotes for Homoeopathic Remedies in Surgery*

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PRE-OPERATIVE PRESCRIBING

It is claimed, and there is evidence to support the claim, that phosphorus given in a single dose of high potency the day before an abdominal operation, will prevent nausea and other distress after operation. Arnica has been used for the same purpose. Staphisagria, given before the incision for circumcision, allays the pain following incision and prevents inflammation.

Such generalising as the above is in accord with good

* Through the courtesy of the writer,