

Report on Staphysagria Workshop Bangalore, Feb 8-10

ABSTRACT: Institutes of merit can spread right teaching and right learning to a large section of Homoeopaths. About IASH: IASH was registered as a trust in the year 2000, comprising of ten like-minded trustees who were associated over a long time in Bangalore as a study group. IASH adopted as its visions the tri-coordinate care of patient, learner and self. IASH has been conducting weekly meetings, regular seminars and workshops for practioners, UG & PG students under guidance of the faculty at ICR. Currently IASH has two managing trustees, Dr Ms Delna Tarapore and Dr Ramdas assisted by other trustees Doctors Deepak, Latha, Mukram, Amrutha, Savitha, Jayalakshmy, Smita and Babitha IASH is supported by the faculty from MLDMHI, Mumbai. The MLDMHI Trust set up two charitable clinics in and around villages of Bangalore managed by IASH in the year 2006/2007.



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Institute of Advanced Studies in Homoeopathy (IASH), Bangalore conducted a 3 day workshop on Materia Medica as a part of their year long systematic study of Homoeopathy. We were 20 participants with various levels of experience. Our facilitator was Dr Bipin S Jain, Director of Malad PG Centre, Dr M L Dhawale Trust.

We were given extensive preparatory work... classifying and evaluating the symptoms of *Staphysagria* from the source books (which many of us opened for the first time!), synthesizing them and trying to evolve an image of the remedy. Then we had to analyze the cases sent and give detailed reasons for choice of the prescription.

Dr Bipin emphasized the importance of learning a remedy through the source books as they represent how symptoms are received. The material available in subsequent Materia Medicas, were generally made after analysis, evaluation and synthesis of the proving symptoms. So these should be taken up at later stage after learning the primary understanding of the remedy; thus we are

able to evolve a remedy picture by synthesizing all relevant information.

Each day of the workshop was a huge learning process. The emphasis on the location of the physician in the case taking, the process of identifying the core/central thread of the case, the deconstruction of the symptoms into various classifications towards a logical buildup of the totality of the patient and the conceptual image of the remedy were unique.

It was interesting to note that the popular image of *Staph* for A/F suppressed anger and humiliation did not carry as much weightage in Allen's Encyclopedia. The picture that emerged was the inherent hypersensitivity, responding to perceived anger and humiliation by sadness, withdrawal and even depression along with fretfulness, peevishness and irritability. The low self esteem and inability for sustained efforts and tendency of aggression inwards of *Staph* revealed very few expressions. I wish to share a few paper cases of the workshop; in all these *Staph*.

CASE 1

Male 37, suffering from IBS and recurring joint pains with no swelling/numbness but stiffness and inability to work and insomnia. He was depressed, irritable, anxious with low self esteem. A hypochondriac with persistent sibling rivalry, sadness, hypersensitive to humiliation; felt he was never appreciated by his parents. All his aggression was turned inwards and gratification through the sexual sphere was persistent since childhood. *Staph* helped much.

CASE 2

Male 46, suffering from urticaria: burning >meditation, epigastric heaviness and burning <outside food, >ginger lemon with inability to tolerate hunger. Irritable, frustrated, and anxious about health, had poor concentration and low sexual desire.

At work, despite being meticulous, was always preoccupied with others teasing him and unable to defend himself. At home too, even though humiliated by wife, never expressed his anger, tried to adjust but would become irritable and unable to concentrate at work.

CASE 3

Male 34, had bilateral calcaneal spur pain since 12 yrs < rest, > pressure heat, exercise. Rt knee pain <extension, descending, left leg hyperpigmented keloid <touch, >scratching, uric acid 8.3mg/dl, ambithermal and craved salads. Though a Brahmin and aspiring to have an independent business, he bailed out FIL's barber shop's failing business by hard work and turned it around. Sympathetic and helpful, brought in relatives for work, even helped one set up shop which failed, lent money to some needy relatives who did not repay him....never confronted any of them about it... though felt hurt. All his repression was directed towards his children...he was very strict with them and made sure that they studied well and would not have to be like him.

CASE 4

Male 18, presented with recurring upper respiratory illness < cold, physical exertion. Had a femi-

nine voice. He was behind in his studies- had failed SSC twice, ambitionless and desired to play cricket all the time. He was shy, never went to social functions and interacted only with a known set of friends. If anyone yelled at him he would get irritated, feel insulted, would return home and watch TV

CASE 5

Female 25, face- suppurating acne, scarring since puberty, < menses before. Fungus since 10 yrs. PMS-severe breast pain <jar, heavy head, pain in extremities and weepiness <alone when, post menstrual pains. She was lean, chilly, constipated, hair graying and a recent bald patch on the occiput. P/H kidney stones, repeated UTI since childhood. She and her sisters were gagged and beaten up often by F and PGF (upto puberty). This led to poor concentration in studies and very low self esteem. She hardly made friends, had a constant fear and did not sleep well. She used to write poetry or draw when she was sad. She wanted to pursue a career in fine arts but instead worked at an office and gave the money home. She had several boyfriends but would never commit either physically or for marriage for fear of being excommunicated by family. When she was angry she would tremble, ears would block, would become weak and make her point. These outbursts would make her better. She had dreams of a dead BF; seeing dead flesh of Father and uncle; fantasizing running thru a rainbow; a desert, black storm, a lone hut with her in it. The core in this case was not love but hopes, periodically accumulating insults and outbursts that helped, coupled with sensitivity.

Staphs can be easily compared with some other remedies which also have hypersensitiveness, suppressed anger and humiliation and inwardness in a similar high degree.

COMPARISION WITH OTHER REMIDIES

Carc is refined, taking up a challenge and proving it. Anger and humiliation are sublimed and channelised with total obedience and commitment at own cost. Just as in cancer the tumour is made

of unlived vital energy, because to live it would have been bad

Natrum's energy levels are very high and sustained. Their one pointed devotion to whatever their passion- be it relationships or issues can even drive them to totally cut off from sources of suppressed humiliation and anger and seek to renew that passion elsewhere.

Magnesium's are also devoted to their issues and relationships but never display it, constantly giving and strive for recognition for their efforts that in their perception has never been there.

Lachesis has high energy levels and their overriding survival instinct in the face of perceived threat

of humiliation turns into anger and jealousy, which is openly displayed, often violently even from a very young age.

CONCLUSION

The three days just whizzed by despite a lot of hard work, thanks to the easy camaraderie of the group, the humane and inclusive approach of the facilitator that helped made this journey of learning very memorable.

We, at South India are indeed fortunate to have a group like IASH. I urge all you serious students of Hahnemann, to participate in this journey of our divine healing science with more awareness and empathy, not only towards the patients but also towards ourselves.

Psorinum Revisited

ABSTRACT: "Keep it simple", was the call of Sunil Gavaskar to the Indian speedsters at the fast-paced WACA pitch at Perth on the occasion when Indian cricket team made history. Well, this platform was a different one and the call came from Dr G Janardhan Reddy, a retired Professor of Materia Medica and ex-Principal of JSPS Hom Med College, Hyderabad before retiring as Addl Director, Dept AYUSH, Government of AP. He exhorted Homoeopaths, to keep the Homoeopathic prescription simple and not let unfounded thoughts come in the way of arriving at the best possible remedy for the patient in their presence.

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His suggestion to find the right remedy was to have a better understanding of the "Rogue's gallery", our Honorable Materia Medica so termed by none other than the Master of Philosophy, Robert Close. Dr Reddy suggested that one needs to comprehend the emotive nature, likes and dislikes of each drug and as homoeopaths, we need to hone the innate intellectual capacity to identify the same so that prescription of drugs becomes that much simpler. He took the example of an intellectual, Shri P V Narasimha Rao whose emotive plane matched with *Lycopodium* while the desires of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee coincided with *Antimonium-*

crudum and the aristocratic and fastidiousness of Smt Gandhi, could'nt take away one symptom from *Arsenicum-album*.

Dr Janardhan Reddy gave a treatise on *Psorinum* and allied remedies at the Bulchand Shyamdas Dayal Hall of The Andhra Pradesh Homoeopathic Association. Prof Reddy thanked the family of Shri Veni Bhushan in whose memory this 4th oration was being held on 27th January 2008. He said that the honest, sincere and diligent individual with much concern for the poor and suffering and who lost his life due to mental depression is a huge loss. He paid a rich homage for his soul.

GIST OF THE PROFESSOR'S SPEECH

Just as eruption of the earth's crust is *Sulphur*, so is *Psorinum* an eruption on the human skin. *Psorinum* as the nosode has the unique capability of energizing the human immune complex to the required level to eradicate disease. If wellbeing is not in sight after the indicated remedy fails to enthuse the vital force's response, it is the time for *Psorinum*. If an indicated remedy's action has to be accentuated, it is *Psorinum's* call. It is the first nosode to come to a prescriber's mind if the miasm Psora is at the helm of affairs. If the function of certain organ is being corrected to normal levels and the miasm Psora holds sway, *Psorinum* tonic will do the trick. The hydra-headed miasmatic disease Psora is the root cause on which several derangements develop and this nosode is needed to achieve equilibrium.

Sulphur is the remedy which comes first to mind whenever a patient with skin complaint is encountered, and *Psorinum* is not given its due. It is similar to *Sulphur* in the sense that the volcanous eruptions of the skin are equal in response. If a constitution is disturbed because of inappropriate prescription of *Sulphur*, *Psorinum* brings back the normalcy. They also have the dirty, carrion-like odour of discharges.

A characteristic *Psorinum* is irritable in nature. It differs from the *Natrum-mur* as irritability is the psyche of the personality, *Nux-vomica* has the tendency to get angry while *Sulphur* is aggressive. *Tuberculinum*, does not find a match for his intellectual capacity and becomes bored and aggressive.

Psorinum is irritable but also timid and apprehensive in taking up challenges; cringes on responsibility and stays away from tasks. If *Psorinum* does not help, then better to give *Tuberculinum*, its complementary which follow each other well. But *Tuberculinum* is different in temperament- lack of challenges can bore him as the cosmopolitan nature is not amenable to discipline, he is always changeable and variable and cannot find solace and is always lost. For intelligent professionals who

fail to find themselves grounded inspite of their potential, *Tuberculinum* points them towards salvation.

Psorinum does not like to dwell in solitude and likes to have company. *Argentum-nitricum* needs company too because the anxiety and anticipatory phobia always seeks consolation because of fear and insecurity and apprehension of something bad going to happen. The shyness and timidity of *Pulsatilla* compels her to have company of people around who would run the errands for her even for the routine affairs. She likes to depend on people. The sycophancy of *Lycopodium* wants company of people around to extol his intellect and greatness. The aristocratic *Arsenic-alb* needs company to help the person in his neatness, elegance while following the dictatorial commands.

The anxiety and insecurity may be similar to *Argentum-nitricum* but in *Psorinum* it extends to desolation. Anxiety whether he would ever achieve salvation or not is paramount. *Psorinum* is so depressed that even on waking up, anxiety is absorbing not the case with *Sulphur* where he wakes up singing. Abandons hope easily. Apart from being fearful, *Psorinum* has evil forebodings similar to *Medorrhinum* where a feeling that something bad is going to happen to a member of the family is overwhelming. *Carcinosin* too has the anticipation of ailments but that comes out of his vagabond attitude when he forebodes of illnesses.

Psorinum is not the person to get anything done. It is similar to *Sepia*, *Tub* and *Sulphur* again. *Sulphur* expresses regardlessness! *Tub* expresses in his restless and wants to get away. *Sepia* has the habit of nagging and giving vent to ones' feelings while being ungrateful to the help received.

Psorinum conforms to illnesses arising out of grief and shock. *Ignatia* has long-concentrated grief which is the cause for her sorrow, while the irritable nature of *Natrum-mur* does not leave her with many friends to absorb her shock, thus leading to grief and other ailments arising from the predicament. *Aurum-met* has complaints from grief too. This remedy has the restlessness, apprehension and