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Lachesis, a study

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PHARMACOGNOSY

This remedy is prepared from the venom of *Lachesis muta*, the dreaded surucucu snake of South America. This deadly brute, locally known as the bushmaster, may measure up to 12 feet in length. Its body is patterned with orange and black lozenges and may be as thick as a man's thigh. Its rainbow coloured head is armed with fangs an inch to two inches long; these hollow teeth, like hypodermic needles, are attached at the front of the upper jaw in a hinge-like manner and fold back along the roof of the mouth when not in use. If a fang is injured it is shed and a new one grows in its place.

This reptile is the largest of the pit vipers, a family which includes the rattle snake and the copperhead. It lives in humid forests, especially near rivers. Its young hatch from eggs, whereas all the other New World pit vipers bring forth their young fully formed. Its bite is particularly deadly, causing quick death from massive thrombosis if a vein is pierced or death in a matter of hours from vasomotor paralysis. More delayed death may result from secondary hæmorrhage, from hæmoptysis or from sepsis. Against its virulent poison antiserum is seldom effective.

Strong poison makes good medicine, when suitably potentized and appropriately prescribed. *Lachesis* venom is no exception, being a remedy of very wide usefulness.

Interestingly enough there are a number of correspondences between the character and behaviour of snakes in general, and this one in particular, and the characteristics of the *Lachesis* "subject".

Unlike the general run of snakes the bushmaster is an aggressive brute and will attack, even human beings, without provocation. "Lurking in the grass, it waits patiently for someone to approach, then darts like lightning at its prey".

The *Lachesis* subject has been described as "given to fault-finding and reproach; also to cavilling and quarrelling".

The expression of the reptile with its thin unsmiling lips and glazed unwinking eye is anything but attractive. Indeed with its evil-looking forked tongue constantly flickering in and out the impression given is one of repulsion and even threat. The thin taut lips conceal the venom sacs; the eyelids being fused together, form a translucent covering for the cornea; and the whole flattened head conveys an air of balefulness that is not belied by the beast's behaviour. It is essentially concerned with its own appetites and ruthless in the pursuit of its prey.

The *Lachesis* mentality is egocentric in a marked degree, unable to laugh with those who laugh or weep with those who weep. The *Lachesis* subject may shed tears, but they will be those of self-pity, not of sympathy with others.

The excessively active tongue is a marked feature of the snake, albeit this organ is not used for speech but is "an efficient odour detecting device". Unable

to hear their fleeing victim they "rely on their darting tongue to literally taste their way along the fresh trail until they overtake the dying animal".

The *Lachesis* subject also possesses an extremely active tongue, pouring forth a flow of words in veritable spate, and darting from subject to subject with bewildering rapidity. Incidentally, our particular snake is not as silent as most of its kind and is described by one writer as "waiting for whatever may come along, singing cucucucucu to itself." This, for a snake, is quite unusual loquacity.

Complaints of a sensation of tightness or constriction are common with the *Lachesis* subject, especially in the region of the throat. Moreover the *Lachesis* fear has been described as "a stupefied, venostatic, congested fear—a restrained fear such as is depicted in the facial expression of Laocoon and his sons in the deadly coils of the constricting serpents". In other words, fear is felt as strangulation—the icy clutch of fear.

The snake is limbless, arms and legs being replaced by endless pairs of ribs, up to 400 in some reptiles. It swallows its victims whole and to this end has discarded any constriction at neck or waist, the better to facilitate the inward or downward progress of the meal. This is accomplished by a steady left-right, left-right movement of the ribs, leading off with a forward movement of the left mandible.

Notably the *Lachesis* subject strongly resents anything tight round neck or waist and is frequently aware of a fulness in the throat accompanied by a constant desire to swallow. Moreover, there is relief from swallowing solids when the throat is sore, but not from swallowing liquids.

Curiously enough there is a left-sided laterality about the symptoms of the *Lachesis* subject and a tendency for symptoms to spread from left to right.

The movement of the snake is peculiarly fascinating. It does not hop, skip or jump, but just flows through the undergrowth—"that rivulet of pure silver"—streaming sinuously with amazing speed.

Relief from "flow" is characteristic of *Lachesis*. The inward anxiety and pent up emotion finds expression in the spate-like flow of speech. Whereas rest, inaction, warmth and sleep all diminish circulatory flow and aggravate the sufferings of the *Lachesis* patient in consequence, activity, cool fresh air and taking food all improve the flow of blood and afford a measure of relief. Active flow of discharges will have the same effect.

One last feature. The snake has no proper ear but is highly equipped with the sense of touch and acutely aware of any vibration.

In the *Lachesis* subject all the senses are intensified and there is a special sensitivity to noise, the equivalent in the human to the sensitivity to vibration in the snake.

These parallels and correspondences are sufficiently numerous and striking to deserve mention, as well as being an aid to the understanding and memorizing of the materia medica picture of the remedy.

PHARMACOLOGY

The venom of *Lachesis muta* contains a full range of potent enzymes, proteolytic, cytolytic, neurotoxic and coagulant. One or more of these effects may predominate. The blood is attacked primarily, while the nervous system is at first aroused and excited.

The main affinities therefore are with the blood, causing disintegration of red cells, lowered coagulability, after initial tendency to thrombosis, and impaired

resistance to infection with associated liability to gangrene and necrosis. Also with the central nervous system, with ensuing delirium, coma and paralysis of vital centres. Also with the cardiovascular system as evidenced by hypotension, cold sweats and collapse.

In the actual region of the bite the effects are extreme swelling of the part, purple or black discoloration, formation of blood blisters and terrible pain.

PHYSIOGNOMY

The *Lachesis* patient is usually either a dark, spare over-active person or a redhead with freckles.

The complexion tends to be pale, the nose bulbous and dull red, but lacking the varicosities associated with *Carbo vegetabilis* and *Thuja*. But the face or indeed any affected part may acquire a purplish and bloated or red, congested, swollen appearance and be hot to the touch.

The expression is apt to be anxious, suspicious, even furtive, and the eyes wide as if with fear.

Speech, as mentioned already, is either a torrential logorrhœic spate, or may be slow and hesitant from obvious difficulty in pursuing a connected train of thought.

Other physical signs that may be present are a shiny tongue with a "varnished" look, spontaneous bruising, purplish discoloration and foul-smelling discharges.

A tremulous type of delirium may be observed, accompanied by constrictive spasms and much clutching at the throat.

PSYCHOLOGY

The emotional features of the *Lachesis* subject are very characteristic. It is suggested that they derive from "a state of anxiety, restlessness and hypersensitivity due to the threat of an eruption of repressed emotionality and sexuality".

Typically an unstable, unattractive, egocentric individual, full of schemes and projects, but seldom seeing anything through to completion.

Liable to be self-conscious, selfish, conceited, jealous, even suspicious without cause. There is often an urge to confess to crimes never committed, presumably from a desire for notice or notoriety resulting from self-importance.

Unbearable anguish and anxiety may assail, especially on first waking from sleep. Although wide awake and alert in the evening, during the night becomes melancholy and depressed, and is even more so after the night's sleep.

There are tendencies to apprehensive irritability, alternations of gloom and fury, taciturnity with confusion of time sense.

Great sensitivity to all stimuli, but especially to touch and noise. Whilst quite slight pressure is resented, quite firm pressure may be tolerated. Noise is intolerable, even noise at a distance. May in fact "hear noises" or become paranoid, or show manic-depressive tendencies.

A peculiar fear is "of someone lurking behind" (the snake lurking in the grass) which results in an unwillingness to turn the back towards anyone or to sit in the forward seats on a bus.

An odd sensation may be as if "the bed was swaying from side to side", reminiscent of the undulatory movements of the serpent either on the ground or when preparing to strike.

Other features recorded include: "sees the blackest side of everything", "puts the worst possible interpretation on the most innocent facts", "apt to lay plans to hurt people and hatch evil plots", "in a constant hurry and flap; must do everything quickly", "no sense of duty, insensitiveness of conscience".

This is a somewhat staggering list, but obviously in the *Lachesis* subject there is a great tendency to emotional instability and oversensitivity which may reveal itself in various ways.

PHYSIOLOGY

The circulation is extremely labile, probably due to hypersensitivity of vasomotor control, and is subject to easy fluctuations with the combination of cold extremities and a hot head, or a sensation of waves of heat coursing through the body (the weaving and waving undulations of the serpent in motion).

In the realm of appetite there is often a desire for wine or for milk, both of which may disagree. There may be a strong dislike of bread which can scarcely be swallowed. The appetite is frequently capricious and there is a tendency to wolf the meal with resultant bloating and belching.

Thirst may be insatiable and there is intolerance for hot fluids.

Sweats may be profuse and afford relief in fevers.

Sleep is noteworthy, being liable to disturbance by suffocative attacks and horrific dreams. The night is dreaded because of the suffering it brings. Sleep is feared because of waking feeling worse than before going to sleep and generally confused and disorientated.

Modalities are of considerable moment. There is susceptibility to either extreme of temperature, but especially to heat. The subject feels oppressed in a hot room and must have air; may even faint in a hot bath.

Aggravation is caused by hot sun, hot winds, going from a cold to a warmer climate, from change to warmer weather in the spring, in cloudy weather, before a thunderstorm, from getting wet and if exposed to draughts. One is reminded of the snake which seeks to retire to a nice, cool, dark, dry hole and avoid the winter.

Other aggravating factors are touch, constriction, lying on the left side, the onset of night, and the waking from sleep. This harks back to the horror of the struggle to escape from the old skin as the new-born snake comes awake after its long night of hibernation.

There is an aggravation before the menstrual period with relief when the flow starts. Puberty and the menopause are also times of aggravation.

Incidentally, emotional stress may precipitate an aggravation in association with circulatory disturbance as evidenced by icy cold extremities, feeble pulse, rush of blood to the head, profuse sweats and air hunger.

Factors which tend to afford relief are open air, cold drinks, free discharges, eating (but not to repletion) and active movement.

PATHOLOGY

Many of the *Lachesis* symptoms are psychosomatic in origin. Complaints are often left-sided or, having started on the left, tend to spread to the right side. The left is, of course, the shield side, denoting the awareness of danger and the need for protection, in this case from the threat of emotional upsurge from the unconscious into disruptive psychosomatic disturbance.

In the abdomen many symptoms are on the right side, especially in the right

lower quadrant, but it must be remembered in this connection that the gut in the embryo is a left-sided organ and only swings over to the right on its mesenteric pedicle at a later stage.

Pains tend to be hammering, throbbing or bursting in type, due to circulatory disorder, irrespective of site. The pain is often associated with excessive exhaustion, as is also the case with *Arsenicum album* and *Phosphorus*, presumably the result of a sudden severe hypoxia of the tissues.

Easy bleeding is common, or periodic hæmorrhage; the blood tends to be dark and non-coagulating with little black flecks floating about in it.

Serious disturbances on the metabolic plane lead to irregularities of blood and tissue fluid distribution and this in turn gives rise to independent vegetative activity of bacterial life. Hence the tendency to inflammations, congestive states, septic processes, blood decomposition, hæmorrhages and purpura.

Head Region. Vertigo is apt to occur in the daytime and is aggravated by closing the eyes and when walking. It is relieved by lying down.

A throbbing headache above the left eye may extend to the root of the nose; it is worse after sleep and during the morning and is relieved by warmth, by lying down and by free nasal discharges or after a nose-bleed.

A neuralgic type of headache occurs in the occipital region as the result of exposure to cold or to draughts; it is accompanied by great soreness to touch, even the pressure of the pillow being resented; the scalp also is so tender that the sufferer is unable to use a comb.

A rush of blood to the head may give distress, especially at the menopause. Head pains, moreover, are liable to shoot downwards to the eyes, or from the zygoma to the ear, or down the nape to the shoulders.

A headache is also described resulting from exposure to direct sun, associated with pallor and relieved in the open air.

Eyes. Intense photophobia is accompanied by pain, itching, stinging and sensitivity to touch. In spite of this there is a desire to rub the eyes.

Clarity of vision may be affected by weakness of the ocular muscles, especially after diphtheria.

Hæmorrhages may occur, either subconjunctival or intraocular. The eyes may feel "pulled backwards". There may be a marked awareness of muscæ volitantes before the eyes.

Ears. A great variety of ear noises may be complained of, especially on the left side. Also the ears feel stuffed up, a sensation of "fulness". Pain in the ear is often a concomitant of sore throat.

Respiratory System. Nocturnal rhinorrhœa may be troublesome, associated with much sneezing and at times a sensation of nasal blockage, especially in the morning. There is a tendency to epistaxis, which affords relief to symptoms.

Throat symptoms are specially prominent. Morning hoarseness may be very persistent. Pain in the throat occurs without associated inflammation. There is a constant tickle in the throat, or a feeling as if a fishbone were lodged there.

Quite common is a distressing sensation of choking as if caused by a lump which cannot be swallowed or by a definite constriction. This is aggravated by attempting a dry swallow, or by drinking hot fluids, also by exertion, especially that of using the arms above shoulder level. Curiously enough the sensation is

eased when swallowing solids (reminiscent of the snake which swallows its meal whole).

Another characteristic is an unusual sensitiveness of the throat, even on the surface, so that a tight collar is unbearable.

Ulceration may occur in the fauces with dark purplish or greyish discoloration. The ulcer tends to be deep, spreading and hæmorrhagic. The lesion tends to start on the left side and later spread to the right.

Associated with the sense of constriction in throat or in the chest is a frequent desire to take a deep breath and breathing may almost seem to be arrested on falling asleep.

A sharp pain may be felt in the left chest, associated with the sensation of constriction. Asthmatic attacks may occur, relieved by the expectoration of watery sputum.

Alimentary System. The tongue is apt to be tremulous and may be deflected to the left on protrusion. There is much tenacious saliva. There may be a feeling as if "the mucous membranes of the roof of the mouth were peeled off". The tongue is dry and red, with at times a brown streak down the centre.

Bloating is common, necessitating loosening the clothes round the waist. Intestinal pain is relieved by the passage of a stool.

There may be much ineffectual urging to stool, associated with throbbing pain or a sensation of pressure, or of a plug, in the rectum.

Piles tend to bleed or become strangulated and are aggravated by straining at stool. Spasm of the anal sphincter adds to the difficulty of defæcation. Stools are apt to be extremely offensive.

The remedy is also associated with enlargement of the liver which is soft, and stabbing pains may be felt in the organ.

Special mention should be made of the remedy in connection with septic conditions in the abdomen. The picture here is as follows:

There is a dry brown tongue, thick difficult speech, and the tongue is tremulous and protruded with difficulty. Thirst is acute. The belly is extremely distended and drum-like and excessively tender, the least touch being resented, even the pressure of the bed-covers or of a forearm laid across the abdomen. There is a horrible sensation as if the contents of the abdomen were being twisted into a ball and something would give way and burst.

With an appendix abscess or other right-sided abscess pain tends to start in the cæcal region and extend to the thigh and sacrum on the right side.

With gall-bladder infections the pain spreads across into the region of the stomach.

The face appears dusky, the body feels hot but the extremities are cold. There is a sensation of suffocation and a craving for air. Pus, if present, is very foul; and wounds tend to slough and ooze and show but little, if any, sign of healing.

Cardiovascular System. Hypotension is common, accompanied by attacks of dizziness associated with pallor. Syncopal episodes are associated with cardiac pain or accompanied by nausea and vertigo.

Hard thumping palpitations are associated with the sense of tightness in the chest; these are aggravated by lying on the left side and may interfere with sleep.

Hot flushes alternate with chills down the spine and are associated with surges of heat to face and head.

Spasmodic feelings of oppression in the precordium are associated with a weak, rapid, possibly irregular pulse. Odd sensations are described, as if "the heart was suspended by a thread and every fresh beat would tear it away", or as if "the heart was several sizes too large".

States of venous stasis lead to hypoxia of tissues, thrombosis, embolism or thrombophlebitis. Blood dyscrasias are also related to the remedy, such as leukæmia and agranulocytosis.

Urinary System. Frequency of urination occurs in the daytime with great variation in the amount passed. Violent pain may occur in the urethra. There may be a sensation of "a ball rolling round inside the bladder".

Nephritis may occur with dark, albuminous urine.

Genital System. This is an important sphere for the remedy, especially in connection with menopausal disturbances such as hot flushes, floodings, melancholy and listlessness. Uterine cramps may occur and profuse sweats.

A thin pale leucorrhœa may be present. Left-sided ovarian pain may be complained of. Pelvic pain occurs before the onset of menstruation, but is relieved when the flow starts.

Nervous System. Muscle spasms may be triggered off by quite light touch. Again, tremors and weaknesses may produce a picture of pseudo-paresis. The remedy may be called for in relation to petit mal or grand mal, especially when the seizures occur in sleep. It may be of value in left-sided sciatica.

Locomotor System. Pains in the neck muscles force the sufferer to hold the head erect. Low back pain is accompanied by a feeling as if the back was "dislocated" and the pain is associated with great weakness, fatigue and trembling.

Severe pain in the region of the coccyx is made worse on rising from the sitting posture.

Skin. Erythematous eruptions tend to become dark bluish in colour. Ulcers are extremely sensitive with foul discharge and bluish discoloration of the surrounding skin. There is a tendency to gangrenous necrosis and pain may be severe. Warmth gives some relief.

Wounds are very sensitive, bleed profusely and persistently, the blood being dark and non-coagulating. Hæmolytic icterus may be present.

POSODOGY

The remedy is of special value in relation to throat affections and menopausal disorders. It has been used for the effects of alcoholism. The presence of the typical characteristics will point to its use in a great variety of indispositions.

The remedy is followed well by *Iodium*, *Kali bichromicum*, *Lycopodium* and *Nitricum acidum*.

An aggravation can be countered by *Belladonna*.

Lac caninum, a study

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PHARMACOGNOSY

This remedy is prepared from bitch's milk. The dog and the serpent were formerly associated in the sphere of healing, and the milk of the bitch was used medicinally in ancient times, mostly in connection with uterine troubles. It was also credited with the power to counteract poison.

PHARMACOLOGY

From available provings it would appear that the potentized substance has an affinity with the tissues of the pharynx, leading to severe types of inflammation with exudation. There is also an affinity with the nervous system resulting on the one hand in neuralgic type pains and on the other in aberrations of thought and sensation.

PHYSIOGNOMY

There are no very characteristic physical features related to the remedy. It may be considered when faced with a child who cries and screams all the time or with an adult subject to bouts of rage and a penchant for cursing and swearing.

PSYCHOLOGY

It is in the mental and emotional sphere that the remedy presents several well-marked features. Moreover, these disturbances of the psyche tend to be severe, prolonged and distressing.

The sufferer is typically hopeless, despondent, says "there is nothing to live for", but nevertheless carries on with the chores. There is aversion from solitude and a plethora of fears and weird imaginings—fear of snakes, fear of falling downstairs, fear of disease, fear of death with anxious distraught mien.

Delusions or hallucinations abound—"sees spiders or snakes"; imagines all sorts of horrid sights and fears will see them in reality.

Curiously enough is not afraid in the dark; "sees things" only in the light and is apt to look under tables, bed, chairs.

Is extremely forgetful, absentminded and irresolute, apt to make purchases and walk away without them. Mistakes are made in writing; concentration is difficult and there is a tendency to suddenly lose the train of thought—a symptom shared with *Nux moschata*.

A peculiar sense of unreality may be present, or a delusion that "she is a loathsome mass of disease" or "infested with snakes". Another odd symptom is undue sensitivity of the surface of the body so that no contact can be tolerated between one part of the body and another, even the fingers are held widely apart.

As is the case with *Lachesis*, there may be complaint of a floating sensation, as if "walking on air" or, when lying down, seems "not to be in contact with the

bed". Moreover, as with *Lachesis*, there is hypersensitivity to touch and even the pressure of the bed-covers is resented.

There may be a distressing feeling as if "the heart would stop beating and respiration would be arrested".

PHYSIOLOGY

Appetite is unusually ravenous, canine hunger—as hungry after a meal as before it. There is distaste for sweet things and desire for pepper and for milk. There may also be intolerance for milk. Thirst is considerable.

Sleep is apt to be uneasy and restless, with inability to get comfortable in any position. May finally fall asleep in the prone posture; may dream of snakes or of urinating.

Sweats may be profuse and leave a brown stain on the linen.

Modalities may afford a lead to the choice of the remedy. There is marked aggravation from cold air, also symptoms tend to be worse at night, after sleep, from movement, from extension, and from touch. An aggravation may occur on alternate days, or in the morning one day and in the evening on the following day.

Relief is experienced from warmth, when at rest, when lying down, by flexion, and in the open air.

PATHOLOGY

Symptoms often alternate and show irregularity. Unlike the left-sided *Lachesis* this tends to be a right-sided remedy, or the symptoms may shuttle from right to left and back again. This rather unique characteristic is a strong indication for employing *Lac caninum*.

An extreme degree of restlessness is accompanied by undue prostration.

Head region. Headache is severe, frontal, unilateral or alternating from side to side, or it may start in the occipital region and extend forwards to settle over one or other eye. The headache is aggravated by looking upward, by the use of the eyes for reading or close work, by noise or a lot of talk.

Headache above the eyes brought on by the impact of cold air is relieved in a warm room.

Dandruff may be excessive and extremely sensitive sores may occur on the scalp.

Eyes. The eyes are very sensitive to cold air. Upper lids may seem heavy—can hardly keep the eyes open. Vision may be obscured as if a film were before the eyes, or, when reading, the page appears to be covered with pale spots of red, yellow, green and other colours. A pricking sensation may be felt in the eyeballs. The remedy may be called for in such conditions as acute conjunctivitis, corneal ulcer or sty on lids.

Ears. Severe pain in the right ear tends to be worse at night. The voice seems to reverberate in the ear or sounds seem far off.

Respiratory System. Coryza may present a blocked nostril on one side associated with fluent discharge from the other nostril. Chronic rhinitis may occur with profuse discharge at night staining the pillow greenish yellow. The condition may progress to a frank ozæna.

Severe inflammatory lesions of the throat are associated with extreme sensitivity of both the internal and external throat. The throat feels as if it were closing up and the mouth is held open "lest he choke". The whole throat feels tight or stiff. Swallowing may be almost impossible despite a great desire to swallow. The throat feels dry as if scalded.

As with *Hepar sulph.*, *Kali bich.* and *Phytolacca*, the pain tends to extend from the throat into the ear. Unlike the pain of *Lachesis* which is relieved by taking solids, the reverse is the case in this remedy. It is worse, too, on empty swallow, but better by taking either cold or warm drinks.

As with *Ignatia*, there is often a sensation of a "lump stuck in the throat", relieved somewhat by swallowing, but only pro tenu.

The appearance of the throat is shiny, almost glazed, very red or showing white silvery shiny patches of exudate, like china. The remedy has proved its value in diphtheria, and also in relation to diphtheritic paralysis of the soft palate with regurgitation of fluids through the nose.

The throat symptoms appear first on one side, probably the right, clear up on that side, then appear on the opposite side; may indeed alternate in this way back and forth from side to side.

A sore throat may be a concomitant of menstruation.

Alimentary System. Cracks occur at the corners of the mouth and ulcers inside the mouth with a putrid taste. The teeth are very sensitive to cold water.

The tongue may be coated white, and white or glazed patches be seen on the buccal mucosa.

Nausea with headache may be present on waking and continue all morning. A variety of pains and discomforts may occur in the belly, notably acute pain in the left groin, which is relieved by the passage of a stool.

Frequent urge to stool associated with tenesmus on passing stool which though soft tends to adhere to the anal verge. Constipation may occur before and after menstruation and quite loose stools during the period.

Lymphatic and Glandular System. Engorgement of breasts is associated with a lumpy condition of the organ and great sensitivity to least jar or jolt, so that the breasts must be supported with the hands when going up or down stairs.

The breasts tend to become painful at the menstrual period. Acute mastitis in nursing mothers and irregularities in lactation are indications for the employment of the remedy.

The remedy may also be indicated in connection with throat infections.

Urinary System. Frequency of urination may be complicated by the fact that delay in emptying the bladder when full may give rise to severe pain. Further, even after emptying the organ the sensation of a full bladder may persist: likewise the desire to pass water remains. Polyuria and nocturia may both occur.

Genital System. A variety of ovarian and uterine pains are described, with a tendency to spread across the lower abdomen or down into the thigh. Vulval itching or hypersensitivity may cause distress. Uterine hæmorrhage may occur, the blood being bright in colour, stringy and tending to flow in gushes.

Dysmenorrhœa may be of membranous type and may be associated with pain in the left groin, or a bursting sensation in the pelvis. A curious symptom is the escape of gas per vaginam.

Locomotor System. Intense unbearable aching in the spine extends from the base of the skull to the coccyx and the whole spine is very sensitive to touch and pressure. The pain is worse when at rest or when stooping forwards, but is relieved by leaning backwards.

Pain is felt in the limbs, especially in the wrists and knees. It is sharp in nature or as if bruised and accompanied by stiffness and lameness. The pain is apt to shift from side to side, or fly from joint to joint. Cold gives relief.

Skin. Ulcers have a red, dry, glazed look. Hyperæsthesia is widespread. Formication may be present in neck and shoulder regions. Herpetic eruptions have been observed in the axilla, especially on the right side.

POSOLOGY

The remedy has been used with success in diphtheria, both curatively and as a prophylactic. It may be indicated also when there is a past history of diphtheria or severe throat infection.

It is of proven value in drying up lactation, where this is desirable.

It is described as a deep and long-acting remedy. A single dose often suffices.





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