

## Mica.

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### *Chemistry.*

Mica (Ger. Glimmer)—Under this term are included several species of minerals distinguished by their splendid or silvery lusture and by the facility with which they split into thin laminae which are flexible and more or less elastic.

All the micas are complex silicates containing Aluminium and Potassium generally with Magnesium but rarely with Calcium. These minerals may be divided into two groups—Alkali micas (e. g. Potash Mica) and Ferro-magnesium mica.

In India, the chief mica mining districts are those of Hazaribagh in Behar and of Nellore in Madras. The research work has been carried with Mica obtained from Behar and only the fine white variety has been taken. Its chemical composition is represented by  $H_2 K Al_3 (SiO_4)_3$ .

### *Materia Medica.*

INTRODUCTORY :—It is a slow but deep-acting remedy for chronic complaints of Skin, Mucous membrane, Nerves and Brain. It acts powerfully upon the vegetative sphere affecting more specially the organic substances of the body. It stimulates the activity of Pigment cells of the body and hence causes disappearance of white patches on the skin. It produces inflammation about any fibrous nidus and suppurates it out. Acts upon constitutions that are sluggish and inflames fibrous deposits about embedded missiles. Imperfect assimilation and consequent defective nutrition is the keynote of its action. Lack of vital heat with susceptibility to cold. It has an astringent action and produces local contractions, hence a feeling of

constriction is a marked symptom. Large doses produce nausea, vomiting and gastric and abdominal pains. It causes anaesthesia, numbness of the skin and pain in the limbs.

*Mind.*—

A hopeless attitude regarding cure. Fear of being detected. Desponding, melancholy, tired of life; irritable and peevish. Exceedingly mentally depressed condition which affects the desire for food and powers of assimilation and hence vitality and resistance to the infection may further suffer. Compunctions of conscience about trifles.

*Head.*—

Congestion of brain. Headache extending from the nape of the neck to the vertex and thence to the eyes, which seem to be protruded. Headache of constricting, bursting, tearing, pressing or jerking character. Aggravation in night or morning. Worse from noise and strong light. Painful itching eruptions on the head.

*Eyes.*—

Pain, redness, lachrymation photophobia and dim vision. conjunctivitis, keratitis.

*Ears.*—

Foetid discharges from the ear, Lobes of ears much thickened. Deafness.

*Nose.*—

Acrid coryza. Thickening of the nasal mucosa and cartilage, sore, ulcerated and scurfy nostrils. Chronic nasal catarrh.

*Face.*—

Swelling or erythema of face. Reddish or bronzed erythematous slightly raised patches. Skin of face thicke-

ned and its folds deepened. The whole face is broadened assuming a leonine aspect.

*Mouth.*—

Pyorrhœa, teeth loose, offensive odour from mouth and profuse ptyalism. Unpleasant taste. Ulceration of tongue. Lips cicatrized and stenosed.

*Throat.*—

Thick mucous in the throat. Laryngitis, Pharyngitis, Sore throat. Mucous membrane swollen and congested. Fixation of vocal cords causing aphonia.

*Stomach and Abdomen.*—

Appetite either lost or ravenous. Thirst excessive. Desire for sweets and cold food. Aversion to meat and potato. Squeezing in the pit of the stomach, specially, after meals. Dyspepsia and flatulence. Retraction of abdomen. Soreness in the region of the liver. Jaundice.

*Rectum.*—

Constriction in anus during stool, Ineffectual urging. Constipation. Hæmorrhoids. chronic diarrhœa.

*Urine.*—

Constant desire to urinate, nocturnal enuresis.

*Sexual organs ( Male ).*—

Frequent nocturnal emissions. Sexual erethism.

*Sexual organs ( Female ).*—

Profuse milky acrid leucorrhœa, Itching of vulva and vagina. Metrorrhagia. Sore nipples.

*Respiratory.*—

Respiratory catarrh. Soreness and weakness in the chest. Feeling of irritation and rawness. Dry hacking spasmodic cough. Aggravation morning and evening. Expectoration thick, tenacious and profuse. Bronchorrhœa

with offensive expectoration. Sticking pain in chest and sides.

*Heart.*—

Enfeeblement of the heart. Tachycardia on least exertion. Weak slow irregular Pulse is a general characteristic.

*Sleep.*—

Sleepy but cannot sleep. Insomnia, anxious dreams. Dreams of falling from height. Frequent starts in sleep.

*Extremities.*—

Paralytic drawing pain in the limbs along the course of the nerves. Nerve trunks are thickened and tender. Weakness and wasting of muscles especially of fore-arm. Contraction of fingers. Claw hand. Perforative ulcers of foot.

*Skin and Lymphatics.*—

Rough dry skin. Over-granulations (Proud flesh). Bullae on limbs and trunk (Lepra nodes). Patches of anaesthesia. Yellowish itchy spots on the back and extensor aspects of limbs. Necrosis or interstitial absorption of bone from gangrene or suppuration. Eczematous or Herpetic eruptions. Swollen sub-maxillary, parotid, inguinal and axillary glands.

*Fever.*—

Subnormal temperature of body. Periodic attacks of fever with night sweats. Fever worse at night with violent heat in head.

*Modalities.*—

Aggravation in the morning and night. Better on wrapping up. Worse with strong light and noise.

*Therapeutic Notes.*—

It is almost a specific for Leucoderma and Leprosy (in

all its stages ), and that a large number of patients ( some of them being almost hopeless cases ) have been cured with it. It should be mentioned in this connection that Hoang Nan, Chaunügra, Vinca minor, Calotropis and Arsenicum Sulphuratum Rubrum etc. have also been used in some cases along with Mica as intercurrent remedies.

It has also been used in some forms of eczema and obstinate skin diseases and the results obtained are fairly good.

A case of a boy, aged 18 who was declared as an insane, was rapidly brought round by Mica 30 in less than 2 months.

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Very nearly related to the subject of antidotes is that of prophylactic remedies, and they are to be judged by the same natural laws. The object of these medicines is to destroy, in advance, in the living organism the disposition to contract a contagious disease. It is known that during the prevalence of even the most malignant and undoubtedly contagious disease there are always some persons unaffected, and the opinion is rational that they are guarded by their want of susceptibility. Experience has shown that in order to produce this condition artificially, only those remedies are efficacious which have the power to cure the disease in question, and to produce a reaction in the organism which is directed against the disease and its influences. Therefore if we will protect the unaffected members of a household in which, for example, a variety of nervous (typhoid) fever exists, we can do it with certainty only by administering that remedy which is truly homœopathic to the symptoms of those who are sick, while all other remedies which may be indicated in nervous fever are entirely useless.—BOENNINGHAUSEN'S *Aphorisms of Hippocrates*.