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The Miasms and the Remedies to meet them.

(Continued from page 55.)

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AGARICUS MUSC. { *Mainly,—Sycotic.*
Tubercular.

Agaricus comes from a fungus and is fitted to the "Hydrogenoid Constitution." It is a spinal remedy, so that almost all the symptoms arise from the spine-irritation. The Hydrogenoid constitution supplies the field for the cropping up of its symptoms. Nervous symptoms are prominent,—mainly twittings, more of it,—later on.

More stress must be laid on its mental side, regarding specially non-development of the mind. On account of the miasmatic condition of the child, its development is stunted and delayed,—by and by leading to idiocy and imbecility. The miasm which is at the base of this remedy is generally deep, very deep, & unless cured at the start, may bring about dangerous consequences and fatal predicaments,—incurable ultimates, in after-life. In this remedy, it is the mind that is first stunted or "thrown back", the development is so slow. The child is slow, very slow, in all the transitions, from the first dentition to his pre-pubic period. During the early life, the child is slow to learn talking & walking,—not due to any defect in bone development as in Calcarea, but to a mental defect, as in Baryta Carb. Both are chilly, but Baryta has more troubles with his glands, as Agaricus has with his nervous system. Children who cannot learn, cannot remember, make mistakes in writing and spelling and cannot grasp ideas,—very slow to comprehend, are special subjects of this remedy. Sometimes silly things are done by the patient, and just

opposite of what he is asked to do, so foolish he appears to be. He makes silly talks and foolish talks, does not seem to apprehend what he says or does; makes aimless funny gestures, whistles, sings songs and makes verses, quite irrespective of what is going on at the moment. Baryta Carb has a shyness as he hides himself behind a wall or a screen, when a stranger happens to enter his room, which is not seen in this remedy.

If a picture of his mind is to be formed, it must be said that he seems to oscillate between hilarity and indifference, though sometimes awfully obstinate and self-willed. Towards the evening and night, he seems rather jolly and cheered up so that he is poetic and romantic, but in the morning he appears dull and tired. This is characteristic and important. I cured a case of right-sided paralysis with this remedy guided by the above symptom and nervous twitchings in the facial muscles. There was an inveterate constipation which was cured as well.

Then, the nervous and spinal symptoms are very much important. These symptoms generally lead the prescriber to use it in other disease symptoms. The most important symptoms under this head are the twitchings, tremblings and formication. Throughout the whole system is felt the peculiar crawling, as if swarms of ants are upon the skin. *Secale* has this but it is full of burning and so feels relief in open air. *Apis* has also stinging and burning, but both of these remedies are intensely hot-blooded. *Agaricus* has also stinging and burning like *Apis* but in *Agaricus* the sensation of stinging and burning is more confined to the chilblains, and the general feeling is crawling or formication. The peculiarity of this itching and crawling is that they aggravate or come on,—when the mind is exerted but are relieved when the patient is engaged in physical exertion.

The nervousness of the *Agaricus* patient is expressed in other ways, viz., clumsy motion of the hands and fingers, owing to inco-ordination of brain and spinal cord. The patient

cannot co-ordinate the movements of his muscles, and hence he drops things when handling them. Apis also has this symptom, but constitutionally they are wide off, as Apis is always hot and Agaricus is chilly.

The spinal symptoms of twitchings and jerkings are to be specially noted in connection with this remedy, because in many disease-conditions, these twitching and jerkings are sometimes the only pointers to the remedy. The peculiarities of its nervous symptoms are that they aggravate in the morning, relieved towards evening and during night, and entirely cease during sleep. Another aggravating circumstance is the sexual intercourse. Coition aggravates. In fact, all spinal remedies have aggravation after coition, as Kali carb., China, Nux vomica, Phos. ac, Selenium &c. Mind and the nervous system are in a fret and in disorder, in the morning and after sexual impulse, especially after coition.

Mr. P. S. Stanon, a Railway Guard, had been suffering from epileptic convulsions on and off for a long time. When the interval between two convulsions became shorter and shorter, the family got alarmed, especially because all efforts to cure, even to relieve, having proved fruitless in the Railway Hospital. The case came into our hands at last,—we watched and watched. We searched in vain for the constitutional symptoms, for neither the patient himself nor his good wife could give any. At last we observed the nervous twitchings almost over his whole system, especially over the facial muscles and we gave Hyoscyamus, which did nothing; we thought it to have been too superficial to do any good. We then thought of Agaricus which was given first in 200 th. and then 1000th and finally 5000th, which completely cured the case. Not only the epileptic fits were no more, but the patient was wholly cured and became a well man. The nervous twitchings, jerkings and quiverings led me several times to the remedy in other conditions as well. So I take them to be a key-note symptom.

Another symptom which is found in the eyes is also very

important,—of course not so very important as the above, but may be highly corroborating, if found along with the nervous twitchings. I mean, the oscillating condition of the eye-balls during the spasms or convulsions,—clonic or tonic. The balls move to and fro, left to right, and right to left, though the patient tries hard to stop it. This symptom led me to give *Cicuta* in a convulsion during dentition, though I never used this remedy (*Agaricus*) guided by this symptom,—the thing is, that I did not find any occasion for using it. I think *Agaricus* may be fairly used after *Cicuta*, if the latter remedy does not succeed or cannot finish cure. Of course, this oscillation of the eyeballs is also included within the nervous group of symptoms, namely, twitchings, jerkings, quiverings, creeping and crawling,—the only difference being in the regularity or synchronousness with which the balls are found to move.

It cannot be expected that such a nervous remedy should have healthy way of defecation and micturation. The main point regarding the former is the intense tenesmus after stool as in *Merc.* and pains in the rectum and anus after stool, as in Nitric acid. Urine dribbles and feels cold as it passes through the canal. Nitric acid has it also, but Nitric acid urine smells strongly and is offensive. A very strong urgency to stool and urine is also marked. A very peculiar feature of *Agaricus* is that though urine is cold on passing along the canal, the semen is felt hot, burning hot, when ejected during coition. No pleasure in coition, rather it is painful, and the pair suffer all the more after the act, though there is violent desire before, in both. All the discharges in the male or in the female are acrid and excoriating. A gleet sycotic discharge in the male hangs on and on for a long time, with itching, crawling and burning in the urethra. Females have excoriating leucorrhoea associated with bearing down pains, as if whole contents of the abdomen will fall down upon the ground. This symptom is found under various remedies, especially *Sepia*, *Lilium tig.*, *Palsatilla*, *Bell.*,

Lac. caninum, Kreosotum, Natr. Carb, Borax and others. The symptoms of the female generative organs are aggravated during the monthly period, but the reflex symptoms, viz., of the heart and rectum are generally worse towards the close.

I have relieved many cases and cured some of them, when impending phthisical symptoms are forthcoming or have just come. In this condition, frequent fits of coughing ending in sneezing are noteworthy. The special symptom is emaciation,—consumptive thinning away. Purulent sputum, slow fever, night sweats and other accompanying fearful symptoms have been and are relieved, and sometimes cured. It has more often happened that cases relieved and by far improved in these circumstances with the help of Sanguinaria Canadensis, Calcareo Carb, Spongia, Stannum, Kali Carb,—even Bacillinum, are not fully cured, and the patients are going down and down with emaciation,—a gradual wasting away, when this remedy comes to their rescue as a final stroke or as an interpolation in course of the use of other symptomatic remedy. The wasting or emaciation appears to be the special feature that is taken hold of and cured by this remedy. Many times I have seen it to act more deeply than the deepest acting remedies of our Materia Medica. I would like to mention that (1) fitful coughing ending in sneezing, worse in the morning and when lying on the back and (2) emaciation though eating well and living well, after the alarming symptoms of the disease are cured by other remedies, are special indications for this remedy to be used in this condition.

Spinal irritation and paralysis are its important sphere. Paralysis of the limbs, especially the lower, in the weaklings and in the pregnant women during the earlier months if attended with all the above nervous symptoms is cured. The whole patient must fit in with the feature of the remedy. Spinal remedies are specially required for paralytic weakness. The irritation of the spine is shown even in acute typhoid

condition and delirium in which the patient wants to get out of bed.

I have very recently cured a case of spinal irritation and palpitation. The patient—a middle aged physician, hard working and thoughtful, had a sudden break-down of his health and got awful palpitation. The gentleman sought relief of his palpitation and soreness felt very deep in his spine. He could not bend. If he would, in his unguarded moments, on came as if in a rush, the violent and painful symptoms of tingling, crawling, creeping &c., over the whole back, which was felt so tight all over, as if the spine would break. The heart symptoms were more of jerking nature, purring, thrilling and trembling, attended with palpitation,—aggravated on a sudden noise, unexpected news, lying on the back and to the left. The patient was chilly. I gave him *Agaricus* low—30 and 200, during the first few months and rose to 1 M and he was fully cured.

Dr. Kent has mentioned about the “sensations of cold needles and hot needles,” which I had not the opportunity of verifying ; but sometimes the nervous symptoms of crawling, twitching &c., are non-descript, in the sense that many other sensations are mixed along with them. The burning and stinging as in *Apis* I have frequently verified.

This remedy is frequently used in that peculiarly obstinate disease,—Chorea. Along with the involuntary movements of the limbs there must be twitching of the facial muscles, especially of the eyelids, the movements cease during sleep. I have cured many patients of the tremour of their hands.

I have so long put off description of a very important use of this remedy which I give below. Though this is nowhere put down in the text, except in Dr. Farrington's *Materia Medica* from which I got the hint before I could make any use of the remedy in the line. It is to avoid impending imbecility after a long-lasting acute disease,—say, Small-pox, Typhoid fever and the like. The patient got cured of the

acute disease and so far his physic is concerned,—no apperant abnormality, but his mind is unable to regain its former conditions and is gradually going down to imbecility. In such a circumstance, if there are nervous twitching &c. as stated above, the remedy may be given with confidence. I never used lower than 1 M in this condition, but 200 may commence action.

This remedy, in fact, all special remedies as Zincum Meta, Zincum Picricum etc. are aggravated by wine or any stimulant.

The miasmatic condition in this remedy is generally inherited and not acquired. But where the gleetty Sycotic discharge is still existing or re-establishes after administration of the remedy, there is a strong reason to suppose that the Sycotic miasm is self-acquired. I have seen purest of men to have been sometimes the fit patients of this remedy and I have been able to cure them. In early life, this remedy is generally over looked and zig-zag cures are frequently made with the help of other remedies in the line.

I think it should properly be studied with Tarentula, Mygale and other spider poisons, though it is the deepest of the group.

To entitle one to the high distinction of being styled a homœopathician, something more is requisite than the bare acknowledgment of a sort of general belief in the Law of Similars, for that idea was distinctly announced by the so-called "Father of Physic" and has been repeated at intervals all along down the obscure pathway of medical history; in fact, most intelligent alloëopathic physicians today, while oblivious to the existence of anything like a universal law of cure, frankly admit the occasional efficacy of the "similar remedy", at least when administered in "appreciable doses", which, to the serious detriment of our cause, is about as much as some of those who masquerade under our flag are inclined to do.—A. R. MORGAN., M. D., 1895.