

Hydrocyanic acid

Roger Morrison, MD

Excerpted from Dr. Morrison's new book *Carbon*

Abstract: Dr. Morrison presents the materia medica of Hydrocyanic acid, the key components of which include: collapse, fear, betrayal, desire for company, distress during cardiac symptoms, confusion, aggression, cyanosis, spasms, tetany

Keywords: Hydrocyanicum acidum, materia medica.

Hydrogen cyanide was discovered in 1782 by Scheele, who extracted this compound from the dye, Prussian Blue. (Thus the relationship with blue produced the name "cyanic" from the Greek "kyanos" which means simply, "blue." From this same root, we have the word cyanosis). At room temperature, hydrogen cyanide is a colorless, highly volatile liquid which boils at 26° Celsius (79° Fahrenheit). While it has many useful chemical properties, hydrogen cyanide is one of the most dangerous substances known to man. It inhibits cellular metabolism by poisoning cytochrome oxidase and other metabolic pathways. Sixty-nine percent of all hydrogen cyanide produced is used industrially in the preparation of acrylonitrile and acrylic fibres, synthetic rubber and plastics. Cyanides are also employed as fumigants (nine percent of all produced), in case hardening of iron and steel, and in electroplating. These innocent uses belie its truly infamous history and its less savory present-day employment.

Mining

Vast amounts of cyanide are used annually in mining operations. A typical mine will use twenty tons of cyanide monthly – thousands of tons over the life of a mine. The hazard of bringing the cyanide to the mining site alone is very considerable and indeed trucking and rail accidents have occurred. The mines use cyanide to extract the precious metals. Cyanide binds selectively with silver, gold and copper and helps to extract them from ores. The cyanide is then cleaved from the precious metal and the residue solution is dumped – usually into depleted mine shafts. From the mine shafts,

the cyanide often finds its way into ground waters. Alternatively, the residue is held in reservoirs – the number of large scale leaks into streams and then rivers in the past decades is in the hundreds (utterly destroying habitats). Cyanide is also a powerful solvent that breaks down heavy metals – such as mercury, cadmium, chromium and lead – that end up in the reservoirs or shafts. Mixes of cyanide with other metals and chemicals can be just as toxic as cyanide itself, but they are not routinely monitored or carefully regulated. About thirteen percent of all cyanides produced are used for gold extraction.

Natural History

Hydrogen cyanide is found naturally in bitter almonds, the kernels of apricots, cherries and plums, in peach-flower, nectarine and laurocerasus leaves (*Laurocerasus* is one of our most famous remedies for cyanosis), in the bark of the cherry-laurel, in sudangrass and sorgum. The poison was used in "essence of bitter almonds" and "cherry-laurel water" since Egyptian times. It is reported that the Egyptian priests used it to poison initiates who had divulged occult secrets. Thus its use for murder extends back into antiquity.

Agent for Murder

Hydrogen cyanide is sometimes listed as a chemical warfare agent though there are only unconfirmed reports that hydrogen cyanide was used by Iraq in the war against Iran and against the Kurds in northern Iraq during the 1980s. It is of little value as a chemical warfare agent because of its great volatility; that is, it evaporates too rapidly. Hydrocyanic acid

was initially used as a fumigant, killing insects and rodents. By placing the articles requiring fumigation in closed chambers and inserting the volatized gas into the chamber, vermicide was completed.

In the 1920s, searching for a more humane method of executing condemned criminals, hydrogen cyanide or "gas chambers" were created. It is the usual method for carrying out execution in five states, notably California. The most important route of poisoning is through inhalation (though gaseous and liquid hydrogen cyanide, as well as cyanide salts in solution, can also be taken up through the skin). The initial symptoms are restlessness and increased respiratory rate, giddiness, headache, palpitations and respiratory difficulty. These are later followed by vomiting, a variety of convulsive symptoms, respiratory failure and unconsciousness. If the poisoning occurs rapidly with extremely high concentrations in the air, there is no time for symptoms to develop and exposed persons may collapse suddenly and die.

Contrary to the hopes of the inventors of this system, death is apparently neither rapid nor painless. A review of 113 execution records at California's San Quentin prison showed an average time to unconsciousness was reached after nearly four minutes of asphyxia, agonizing spasms and chest pains. Major motor seizures (which indicate unconsciousness) are rarely described in these records. Medical observers note "gasping," "grimacing," "twitching," "writhing," and "violent head movements" frequently. Howard Brodie, veteran journalist for *Life Magazine* described the execution of Aaron Mitchell in 1967: "As the gas hit him, his head immediately fell to his chest. Then his head came up and he looked directly into the window. For nearly seven minutes he sat up that way, with his chest heaving, saliva bubbling between his lips. He tucked his thumbs into his fists, and finally his head fell again. I believe he was aware many minutes. He appeared to be in great anguish ..." (The official time for consciousness from Aaron Mitchell's record was five minutes). California's first gas-chamber victim (as lip-read by a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 10, 1938) pronounced with his last words: "Too slow."

From here the history of hydrogen cyanide brings us to perhaps the lowest moment of human moral history – the Nazi concentration camps. Hans Stark, a registrar of new arrivals, Auschwitz, describes the procedure: "At another, later gassing – also in autumn 1941 – Grabner ordered me to pour Zyklon B into the opening because only one medical orderly had shown up. During a gassing, Zyklon B had to be poured through both openings of the gas-chamber room at the same time. This gassing was also a transport of 200-250 Jews, once again men, women and

children. As the Zyklon B – as already mentioned – was in granular form, it trickled down over the people as it was being poured in. They then started to cry out terribly for they now knew what was happening to them. I did not look through the opening because it had to be closed as soon as the Zyklon B had been poured in. After a few minutes there was silence. After some time had passed, it may have been ten to fifteen minutes, the gas chamber was opened. The dead lay higgledy-piggledy all over the place. It was a dreadful sight." Of the estimated six million deaths during the holocaust probably less than one third were due to hydrogen cyanide. Researching these statistics is a seriously depressing activity.

Toxicity

The lowest concentrations of cyanide gas (20-40 ppm) produce dysphoria and panic, nausea or vomiting, vertigo, headache, tachypnea and tachycardia. A few prisoners appear to stop breathing and slump the head forward in the first thirty seconds – the "apoplectic form" of cyanide poisoning. Most exhibit signs of global dysautonomia, with hyperventilation, alkalosis with tetany, salivation, retching and incapacitation; the heart rate may drop to the point that the individual "dims out" in the first one to two minutes, sometimes to recover in a state of asphyxiation.

Richard Traystman, M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins Medical School, has written: "During this time (several minutes of hypoxia), a person will remain conscious and immediately may suffer extreme pain throughout his arms, shoulders, back and chest. The sensation may be similar to pain felt by a person during a massive heart attack. In some, the tetany is probably painful as carpal-pedal spasms were noted in the records. To this must be added the well-documented terror associated with asphyxiation."

Cardiac arrhythmias are frequent. Although technically flawed, the Masson execution EKG is consistent with other reports of the cardiac effects of cyanide; anticipatory tachycardia is fleeting followed by bradycardia. By inference from comments on other standard report forms, bradycardia may be quite profound and rapid [15 seconds - 2 minutes], but is sometimes transient. Arrhythmias, heightened T waves, loss of P waves and decreased myocardial contractility are apparent. Electromechanical dissociation may have occurred in the two most recent cases accounting for the fact that when the EKG monitor rather than a stethoscope was used to determine death, survival was apparently lengthened by several minutes.

The most important toxic effect of hydrogen cya-

nide is by inhibiting the metal-containing enzymes. One such enzyme is cytochromoxidase, containing iron. This enzyme system is responsible for the energy-providing processes in the cell where oxygen is utilized, i.e., cell respiration. When cell respiration ceases, it is no longer possible to maintain normal cell functions, which can lead to cell mortality.

Common Name: Hydrogen cyanide. Prussic acid. Zyklon-B. Ittner's acid.

Scientific Name: Hydrocyanic acid.

CAS: 74-90-8 EINECS: 200-821-6

MW: 27.03 MP: -13.4° BP: 25.6°

VP: 400@10° SG: .699(liquid)

Formula: HCN.

Structure: This compound is a single carbon atom triple-bonded to a nitrogen atom with a single hydrogen atom occupying the final carbon bonding site. The nitrile (cyanide) ion acts in almost every way like a halogen. In fact, it has been called the "false halogen." Thus we can relate the cyanide salts to the other halogens.

Group: Nitrile (cyanides).

Proving: Proved first by Jorg (also written Joerg) in 1825. This proving (and all the subsequent twenty or more other provings) was made by ingesting or inhaling the unpotentized substance. A recent proving of *Hydrocyanic Acid* was made in Brazil by Rogerio Rodriguez of the Sociedade Gaúcha de Homeopatia, in potentized form. Some of the new symptoms appear in the Millenium edition of the *Complete Repertory*.

Abbreviation: Hydr-Ac.

Homeopathic Picture

Hydrocyanic Acid has been used most extensively in cardiac conditions. Schmidt recommended it in angina, cardiopulmonary collapse and cyanosis. These characteristics are well documented in the toxicity noted in the introductory paragraphs. Also notable use has been made of the remedy in convulsions, tetany, respiratory infections, pertussis and cholera.

D. Collins of New Zealand has presented a fascinating case of a woman with debilitating weakness who was cured with *Hydrocyanic Acid*. A startling aspect of the case centered around the woman's firm conviction that she had been a Jewish victim of the Nazi gas chambers. Collins noted that it is not necessary to believe in past-life memories to make use of the patient's imagery relating to cyanide gas in prescribing.

As mentioned above, nitriles are identical to the halogens (the cyanide ion is termed the "false halogen") in their actions chemically. Thus we can suppose that the halogen theme of betrayal will be

reflected in the nitrile group. Here the betrayal is closest to the Iodine feeling of being stabbed in the back; that is, the betrayal is of a life and death nature. The Cyanide group brings with it the feeling of murder, betrayal and tremendous fear. The first compensation is to cling to those around him. If this proves ineffective, or if the perceived threat comes from those near to him, he combats the threat with anger and abusiveness, biting, struggling and violence. If this is ineffective, he gives in, loses hope, loses touch with reality or becomes suicidal.

Though the patient may act rather cheerful, the mental state of *Hydrocyanic Acid* is centered upon fear. Schmidt called it "a great frightener, fear of everything." A type of agoraphobia is seen. Especially famous is the fear of cars approaching him on the street – even though he knows logically that the vehicle is far away, he must run across the street. There is fear of death, dreams of dead bodies, fear of houses collapsing upon him and fear to go to sleep. The patient feels a strong sense of imminent threat. The threat causes a strong desire for company and a fear to be left alone. Thus the patient falls into a relieving fantasy that he is with friends – he reaches out to them and calls them by name.

Especially noted during angina or heart symptoms, there is great distress or even anguish. The patient may shriek out in pain and fear. With this apprehension may also be the typical organic chemical confusion. When this is extreme, the patient is lost and disoriented. There can be difficulty of thinking and absent-mindedness, forgetting of appointments. To understand the state we can reflect upon the consciousness of a condemned prisoner; strapped in a chair, left alone in a dismal room, knowing that death is seconds away. He may call out for help, weep violently, rant or bite at those confining him.

Mental

Fear of death.

Fear of approaching cars. Fear to fall asleep.

Delusion he is surrounded by his friends.

General

Cyanosis is the hallmark of the remedy.

Great weakness or faintness. Sudden attacks of weakness. Collapse.

Complete anesthesia.

Coldness; aggravation from cold and amelioration warm applications.

Convulsions: In children. During sleep. From injuries. In uremia.

Hysterical convulsions.

Eyes turned upward and to the right side during convulsion.

Tetany. Tetanic spasms.

Ailments from shock or injury. Sunstroke.

Head

Vertigo and falling.

Face and lips cyanotic. Or flushed, red face.

Puffy or bloated face.

Jaw clenched and painful. Bruxism.

Froth from mouth or excessive salivation.

Paralysis or protrusion of tongue – especially in brain affections. (Pladijs)

Cherry red coloration of mucus membranes. (toxic symptom = t)

Eyes

Paralysis of eyelids; half-open lids.

Pupils dilated and at times poorly reactive to light.

Transient blindness.

Hemianopsia. (toxic symptom)

Optic atrophy (Leber's type). (t)

Throat

Unable to hold up head; head feels too heavy.

Goitre (emphasizing the relationship to other halogens). (t)

Gastrointestinal

Cramping or neuralgic pains in stomach.

Better: Heat.

Vomiting of food at onset of convulsion.

Gurgling of liquids as they roll down the esophagus.

Cramping in abdomen.

Worse: Before stool. While eating. (Ronhaar)

Respiration

Rapid or gasping respiration.

Asthma. Respiratory arrest.

Dry, irritating, tickling cough.

Pertussis.

Constriction in the throat. Scraping of mucus in larynx.

Chest

Angina with constriction, excruciating pain, fear and dyspnea.

Pain extending to left arm.

Worse: Coition or exertion – even walking.

Palpitations: Violent.

Worse: Angina. Motions.

Bradycardia marked.

Extremities

Opisthotonus.

Clenching of thumbs (*Cuprum*).

Hyper-reflexia. (t)

Painful spasms of the hands or feet. Twitching.

Paralysis beginning in lower extremities and moving upward.

Hemiplegia. (t)

Numbness or other paresthesias of extremities. (t)

Clinical

Angina. Anxiety. Arrhythmia. Asthma. Cerebral vascular accidents. Cholera. Chronic fatigue syndrome. Congestive heart failure. Convulsions.

Gastritis. Head trauma. Headache. Pertussis. Phobia. Vertigo.

Miasm: Possibly Syphilitic.

Cases

M. Cash

A farmer, aged 45, had sunstroke three years ago, since which he can bear no thought or worry: "a feeling as if cloud were going over the brain." Face red and bloated; eyes nearly closed, and cannot bear the light: congestion of conjunctivae; heavy and sleepy all day. Abdomen full and flatulent after meals. [Cured] after twelve days treatment by *Hydrocyanic Acid 3x*.

Stonham

H. C. F. aged 73, had rheumatic fever many years ago, and much worry and anxiety from business losses in late middle life. He consulted me in January, 1899, for attacks of angina, which would come from excitement or anger, or from sitting or standing in cold air, and involved the cardiac region and back, the pain sometimes extending down the left arm. The pain came on gradually, attained a maximum, when it was like a hot iron going through him, and then subsided. Relief was obtained from simply standing still in an upright position and lying down. The heart was enlarged; apex beat a little outside the nipple line. A faint systolic murmur at apex; loud systolic and diastolic murmurs over base and second right costal cartilage; a water-hammer pulse and visible pulsation in the carotids, especially on the right side, where the artery was thickened and dilated. *Cuprum arsenicosum 6x* given night and morning completely cured the attacks of pain, and he went on very well for three years till the winter of 1901-2, when he began to be more breathless, being often obliged to stop in the middle of anything he was doing, and I was sent for to see him on January 19. The heart was beating very irregularly, there was slight edema of the feet, the breathing not much embarrassed when I saw him, though attacks of dyspnoea were complained of, but unaccompanied by pain, and the bases of the lungs were clear. I ordered *Cuprum arsenicosum 6x*. On January 20 he felt better.

January 21. I was sent for urgently, as the patient was thought to be much worse. He was found sitting upright in a chair rather cyanosed and gasping for breath. The breathing was then, and for several following days, of an exaggerated Cheyne-Stokes' character. There would be an interval of from 20-30 seconds, in which no respiratory movement could be observed, and in which the patient would begin to doze; he would then suddenly wake up with a sense of impending suffocation, each breath becoming more and more struggling and gasping till all the accessory muscles of inspiration were brought into play to their fullest extent, the eyes staring, the patient often rising to the standing position, supported by his nurses, and then the violence of the respiratory efforts would gradually subside till they again became imperceptible and ceased altogether for another 20 to 30 seconds. This kind of respiration continued day and night and prevented him from getting any sleep beyond the few seconds between the respiratory exacerbations, when he dropped off from sheer exhaustion. He was given hypodermic injections of strychnine of 1/100 gr. every three hours.

January 22. No better. A specimen of urine taken was found to contain a large quantity of albumen, but the proportion of urea (viz., 3%) was good, and the total quantity of urine equaled about 20 ounces in the 24 hours. The injections of strychnine were continued, though they had only a temporary effect for a short time following each injection. The character of the breathing remained the same and no sleep had been obtained through the night. Pulse was very irregular and at times flickering. I thought he would not live through the night. Liquid nourishment taken frequently in small quantities.

At midnight of January 23-24, I was sent for and found him apparently in extremis. The pulse could scarcely be felt. The breathing continued of the same character, but not quite so violent as strength was giving out.

January 24. The next morning he was much the same as on the previous day before the collapse in the night. It seemed impossible that he could hold out much longer. The feet and legs were very edematous, the urine high-coloured, albuminous, but of about the same quantity and still containing plenty of urea; there was ptosis of the left upper eyelid. Liquid nourishment taken by teaspoonfuls frequently. Remembering the powerful influence hydrocyanic acid has on the respiratory functions, I decided to try its effect, and he was given Hydrocyanic Acid 2x m iv. every hour. Oxygen continued.

January 25. A little better. Some short snatches of sleep had been procured, and the breathing was not so distressing. It was during periods of diminution in the violence of the respiratory paroxysms that the sleep had been obtained, but the character of the breathing persisted during sleep.

January 26. A good deal better. Pulse improved. Breathing not so distressing. Again some short sleeps. Urine when examined found not to contain any albumen and the quantity a little increased. Taking food better. Continue *Hydrocyanic Acid* 2x.

January 27. Breathing improving and more sleep, but not more than half an hour at the time. Woke from his last sleep very cyanosed and with feeble pulse. A single hypodermic injection of *Lachesis* 30 given. Continue *Hydrocyanic Acid* 2x. m iv. every hour.

January 28. Much better. The breathing much more natural. The tongue which had been dry and much furred was clearing and he began to take bread and butter. Continue *Hydrocyanic Acid* 2x.

He continued to improve in every way and to gain strength so that at the end of a month he could get out of bed and amuse himself with reading. He has good nights and a good appetite. [Patient also received *Strophanthus* and *Strychninum arsenicum* during the convalescence. RM]

Payne

A case of hysteria.

The patient, a lady of 23 years, had been ill a long time, the attacks lasting as long as nine months, and had endured a severe surgical operation, under the supposition that she was laboring under pressure upon the brain from exostosis under the right frontal protuberance. The doctor at last found her lying in an apparently unconscious state, the limbs and jaws rigid, the forearms bent on the arms, which were pressed firmly against the sides; the eyes fixed and drawn somewhat upward and to the right; the eyeballs slightly sensitive to touch; a constant succession of tears were rolling down the cheeks; the beats of the heart were very irregular and feeble. She would occasionally utter a groan or sigh, and press her hand forcibly over the region of the heart, as if suffering pain there; at these times the limbs would become more relaxed, and she would frequently raise herself in bed and gaze vacantly about the room for a minute; then, if not restrained, she would throw herself forcibly upon the pillow again, or fling herself from one side of the bed to the other. Her husband was frequently obliged to exercise great

force to prevent her from injuring herself; if any means were used to extend the contracted arms, or to open the clenched teeth, she would exert greater force to prevent it. This lasted some 24 hours, and then tonic contractions ceased. She now became very busy in packing and folding her bed clothes, and placing them under her head or elsewhere about the bed, at the same time guarding them with watchful eyes, allowing no one to touch or take them. If this were attempted, she would strike with her full strength. She seemed to notice no person in the room, unless they interfered with her plans, but if any one entered the door, she would seize a pillow or anything within reach and throw it forcibly at the intruder. At other times, she would fix her eyes on a particular spot on the wall, or on a picture, or follow an imaginary figure or object with her eyes, as if watching its motions. She was frequently talking, laughing loudly, or scolding vehemently; she would imagine herself surrounded by many friends, shaking hands with them, and calling them by name, as they appeared before her. She asked no questions and would return no answers. During this time, which lasted four days before relief was given, she took no nourishment voluntarily, and only such as could be put into her mouth, after forcibly prying open the clenched teeth. The pressing of the hand over the heart, and the repeated groans while doing so, led me to think she was suffering sharp pains, probably of a stitching character, in that locality. The irregularity and feebleness of the heart's action drew my attention to *Hydrocyanic Acid*, which was given in the 30th potency with the most favorable results.

[Comment: The marked suspicion and striking at those who attempted to touch her demonstrates the sensation that anyone could betray or attack her. The destructiveness indicates the Syphilitic miasm. RM]

D. Collins

Female, 43 years.

The patient and her husband came together into my practice room, and upon seeing her I assumed that she was the patient, as she looked so very ill. She had very short, sparse hair, like someone whose hair is growing back after chemotherapy. She wore dark glasses, as the light was too bright for her eyes. She was thin and pale, with bluish lips and icy cold bluish hands. But it turned out that she was not the patient after all – she had simply come to accompany her husband. Still, she launched into her story when she saw my mistake, saying that everyone seemed to assume that she was dying, from the way she looked. She was already under homeopathic treatment elsewhere, but was making no progress. She had been

very ill all her life, had been to multiple specialists, who could not help her either, and had finally told her that they thought she was just a hypochondriac. She was personally convinced that her problems stemmed from a past life, and she wanted to visit my husband, a past-life regression therapist.

Under regression (a light form of trance, not hypnosis), she experienced several different lives. It was during the second session that the source of her present problems was tracked down, the first session often being one in which the client establishes a feeling of safety with the therapist. She experienced herself as a “he”, a six year-old Polish boy named Jarich. “He” found himself in a train, all jammed in with other people in terrible distress and discomfort. Going back in time he was at the family home, where his parents were engaged in heated discussions about whether or not to flee, and to where. They were rounded up and pushed into a train with uncertain destiny. On disembarking from the train he was momentarily blinded by very bright lights, especially disorienting after all the time in the darkness. He lost his parents in the chaos, only clinging to his teddy bear. He was hustled along in a group, and finally told to undress to take a shower. Many naked people were jammed together into a large room, and then they started to scream and to tumble down on top of him. Being shorter than most, he was one of the last to breathe in the deadly fumes of the gas, Zyclon B (cyanide). He died in terror and pain.

The healing part of the session comes not merely by relieving the trauma, but by being able to understand it in its context in order to be able to release it. The person is encouraged to round off any unfinished business on earth, and is then free to go to a place of “oversight,” from where he can gain understanding and healing. “He” realized that he had been a Jewish boy, dying in the gas chambers of Auschwitz during the Holocaust. When asked if this short life had any connection with the complaints of our patient in this life, the answer came: “the gas, the gas.” The gas (Zyclon B) turned out to be already available as a homeopathic remedy, *Hydrocyanic Acid*.

One dose of this remedy in C30 potency brought about dramatic changes in the woman. She started to gain weight, which had previously been impossible. Her hair began to grow back, and soon she had a full head of hair, as well as a great increase in energy. She used to be so exhausted that she could do little more than the daily chores around the house, needing frequent rests. Even short trips in the car would leave her drained. We made a list of the many complaints that she had had throughout her life and watched them gradually decrease in the course of continued treatment.

"I have been sick my whole life. I've had breathing problems, asthma and a blocked nose. My digestion didn't work at all, I had a nervous, over-reactive stomach. I am allergic to almost any kind of food - it is easier to ask me what I CAN eat than what I can't eat. My esophagus has always been too narrow and has always caused problems with swallowing. Almost anything I eat makes me bloated, sometimes even drinking plain water does the same thing. At four years of age my tonsils were removed, as they were always swollen and infected, but I was still sick. At seven years I had a kidney inflammation with blood in my urine. After that it became difficult for me to concentrate and to learn at school. I've had a lot of very high fevers, but I never wanted to stay in bed; I was too restless. My ears were always cracking, making a rushing sound and I couldn't hear properly. I felt like I always had the 'flu.' I got a very enlarged gland on the right side of my neck. My eyes were always sore and itchy and irritated, with sticky mucus. My thyroid got swollen and lumpy. On the right side of my neck one artery is thick and swollen, making it difficult to turn my head properly. I seem to be allergic to all sorts of chemical things, like the smell of turpentine, paint fumes, or gas smells. I can sniff out the tiniest gas leak long before anybody else notices it.

"I was sent to a health farm for sick children, but my parents didn't tell me beforehand. They just brought me there and left me, and I felt so abandoned.

"As a child I used to play 'concentration camp' even though I didn't know the word. I would dress my doll in as many layers of clothing as possible, to make sure that 'she' would be ready to flee, able to survive even the worst times. I used to dream about being in a place full of soldiers, and singing songs to make them like me. I get 'flash-backs' about being pushed up against the bare, stinking buttocks of people, and being disgusted by the smell. I have always had a 'thing' with the Jewish people and the Hebrew language. (Even though there are very few Jews in her part of Holland and she herself is Protestant.) It is as though I would be able to understand the language if I could just hear it a bit better. Every year on Memorial Day in Holland (May 5th), I make a special commemoration. My parents don't do this, for them it is just a vacation. But I have always wanted it to be a day of silence and respect. My parents don't understand my fascination with the second World War - I have always wanted to read everything about it. If I was well enough and had the money, I would go on vacation to Israel, not for the fun, but because I need to be there."

Slowly but surely her complaints began to ease. Her eyes (diagnosed as M. Sjogren), began to produce tears, and became less irritated and crusty. She

could gradually eat more and more different foods without suffering the consequences of palpitations and indigestion. Her breathing became easier, her nose unblocked. Her hair continued to grow. She felt that she was becoming psychologically more stable, able to undertake more now that she had more energy. She had enough energy to finally make her trip to Israel, and said that it was like "coming home" to be around so many Jews. She was good at monitoring her own needs, and knew when to ask for another dose - when her back became tense, as though she would bend over backwards (opisthotonus). At these times her circulation would slow down as well, and she would have a hot head and icy cold feet, and low blood pressure. During these times she was also especially sensitive to the smell of any gas - it would make her nauseous.

At a certain point there seemed to be a need for *Ignatia* instead of *Hydrocyanic Acid*. She was weepy and depressed, saying "I feel like I always want to call out to my mother, and she isn't there. I feel like a small child who is abandoned." This was possibly triggered by the fact that I was moving from Holland to New Zealand. It could have inadvertently been re-stimulating her feelings of abandonment as a child in this lifetime, away from home in the health farm for children. This feeling in turn echoes back to the extreme abandonment of the little Jarich, wrenched from his parents in the concentration camp. *Ignatia* helped her through this feeling, although on looking back I wonder if *Hydrocyanic Acid* might have done the same thing. It is interesting to note (for those who claim that any "collapse remedy" like *Arsenicum album* or *Carbo vegetabilis* would have worked), that she had previously been treated with *Arsenicum* and many other such remedies, to no avail at all.

[Comment: The image of a disoriented, abandoned, isolated and terrified child points toward an organic compound. The emaciation, exhaustion and the chemical sensitivity also reinforce this conclusion. The images of brutality, intentional extermination, difficulty swallowing and the respiratory troubles with blueness all point toward the syphilitic miasm and toward a cyanide remedy. RM]

Roger Morrison, MD is a founding member of the Hahnemann Medical Clinic and a faculty member of the Hahnemann College of Homeopathy (Albany, California). He has lectured extensively throughout the United States and Europe. He studied homeopathy extensively with George Vithoulkas in the United States and Greece. Dr. Morrison is also the author of "Desktop Guide to Keynotes and Confirmatory Symptoms" and "Desktop Guide to Physical Pathology."

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