

Argentum - The Precious Noble Metal

with special reference to *Argentum-Nitricum*



ABSTRACT: Silver as an important group of remedies in MM.....Silver in parlance, history, essentials, properties, hazards.....Silver nitrate as a substance and a remedy.....Analogical relation..... Themes..... Monogram.....Miasmatic correlation.....Evolutionary, personality study.....Remedy Relations.

Dr AJIT KULKARNI MD (HOM)

Director, Homoeopathic Research Institute, Satara
38, Bhawani Peth, Satara (MS), India
Phone-02162-234842 Email: dr_ajitkulkarni@rediffmail.com

1. A. THE WORD

The Anglo-Saxon word "siolfur" meaning "silver". The origin of the symbol Ag comes from the Latin word "argentum" meaning "silver".

1. B. SILVER IN PHRASES: SOME EXAMPLES

'Silver lining': Some basis for hope or some comforting aspect in midst of despair or misfortune
Silver medal': A medal given as an award to a person coming second in competition.
'Silver tongued' / Speech is 'silver': Persuasive, eloquent.

1. C. HISTORIC TALE

In the 4th century BC, the army of Alexander the Great, conquered Persia and Phoenicia and invaded India where the Greek army was struck by an outbreak of a mysterious gastrointestinal disease and the soldiers demanded to be sent home. Interestingly, the Greek military commanders were victim to the disease far less frequently than their soldiers, although they shared all the burdens of camp life with the soldiers.

More than two hundred years had passed before scientists found an explanation of it. The soldiers drank from tin cups and their superiors from silver ones. It was proved that silver dissolves in water forming a colloid solution that kills pathogenic bacteria and although the solubility of silver in water is low, it is quite enough for disinfection.

This explains why silver has been used in making

domestic utensils, water vessels, dinner dishes, etc.

1. D. THE ESSENTIALS

NAME: Silver

SYMBOL: Ag ATOMIC NUMBER: 47 GROUP NUMBER: 11
GROUP NAME: Coinage metal PERIODIC NUMBER: 5
ATOMIC WEIGHT: 107.8682 (2) g

1. E. DESCRIPTION

Silver is available in - crystals, flakes, wire, foil, "evaporation slugs", granule, needles, powder, tube, mesh, bars, nanosized activated powder, rod, shot and wool, small and large samples of silver foil, sheet, wire, insulated wire etc.

Besides gold, silver is the most bendable of all metals. It is rare and expensive, although less than gold. Man learned to separate silver from lead as early as 3000 BC. Pure silver has a brilliant white metallic luster. It is little harder than gold and is ductile and malleable, has the highest electrical and thermal conductivity and possesses the lowest contact resistance.

Silver is stable in pure air and water, but tarnishes when exposed to ozone, hydrogen sulphide, or air containing sulphur. This is why silver objects need regular cleaning.

Silver is mined in ores including argentite, lead, lead-zinc, copper and gold found in Mexico, Peru and the USA. Plants can absorb silver. Fungi and green algae may obtain a silver content of 200 ppm (dry mass). Fish contain 11 ppm of silver.

Silver is widely distributed in all tissues of human beings in the range of 0.002-0.008 ug/gm wet/weight. Mean blood concentration 0.008 ± 0.0002 ug/gm. Cow's milk contains 0.02 ± 0.54 mg/lit.

1. F. USES

Sterling silver is used for jewellery, silverware etc where appearance is paramount.

Photography. Dental alloys. Making solder and brazing alloys. Making electrical contacts

Making high capacity silver-zinc and silver-cadmium batteries.

Silver paints are used for making printed circuits.

Used in mirror production and may be deposited on glass or metals by chemical deposition, electro deposition, or by evaporation. When freshly deposited, it is the best reflector of visible light known, but rapidly tarnishes and loses much of its reflectance.

Catalyst in oxidation reactions. Other applications are in dentistry and in high-capacity zinc long-life batteries. A reagent in analytical chemistry and as an antiseptic.

Silver is applied in water purification for swimming pool as it is a bactericide.

Silver iodide, AgI, is used for causing clouds to produce rain.

Silver chloride has interestingly optical properties as it can be made transparent; it is like cement for glass.

For coinage.

For decoration and preservation of food.

1. G. ABUNDANCES

Source	ppb by weight	ppb by atoms
Universe	0.6	0.007
Sun	1	0.01
Meteorite (carbonaceous)	140	20
Crystal rocks	80	20
Sea water	0.1	0.0057
Stream	0.3	0.003

1. H. HAZARDS AND RISKS

Silver is toxic to lower organisms. More so with silver salts which irritate the skin and mucous membrane. Silver salts in small amounts may cause death if ingested and may be carcinogenic.

EYE CONTACT: May cause severe corneal injury. Severe burns, with permanent blindness.

SKIN CONTACT: May cause skin irritation. Repeated and prolonged contact with skin may cause allergic dermatitis. On contact with the skin, the small silver nitrate crystals slowly react and this creates typical black spots (silver stains) that cannot be washed away.

INHALATION HAZARDS: Exposure to high concentrations of vapors may cause dizziness, breathing difficulty, headaches or respiratory irritation. Extremely high concentrations may cause drowsiness, staggering, confusion, unconsciousness, coma or death. Aspiration of material into lungs if swallowed or if vomiting occurs, can cause chemical pneumonitis which can be fatal.

INGESTION HAZARDS: Moderately toxic. May cause stomach discomfort, nausea, vomiting, pain, diarrhea and narcosis. Silver itself is not toxic but most of its salts are poisonous and may be carcinogenic.

TARGET ORGANS ON CHRONIC OVEREXPOSURE: Kidney damage, Lung damage, Liver damage, Anemia, Brain damage, Cardiac abnormalities.

2 A REMEDIES OF SILVER IN HOMOEOPATHY

- 1 *Argentum-metallicum*
- 2 *Argentum-fluoride*
- 3 *Argentum-muriaticum*
- 4 *Argentum-bromide*
- 5 *Argentum-iodatum*
- 6 *Argentum-oxydatum*
- 7 *Argentum-sulphuricum*
- 8 *Argentum-selenide*
- 9 *Argentum-telluride*
- 10 *Argentum-nitricum*

2. B. INTRODUCTION: SILVER NITRATE

Silver nitrate (AgNO₃) powder and paste are used for setting up thief traps. On contact with the skin,

its small nitrate crystals slowly react and creates typical black spots (silver stains) that cannot be washed away. Due to the reactivity of the powder, certain health risk is connected with its use (eg if the powder on fingers is rubbed in the eyes).

Prolonged contact with silver nitrate causes a second degree chemical burn, characterized by the darkening of the tissues (a sign of tissue necrosis) as well as the leathery appearance of surrounding skin. If penetrates tissue layers at a slower rate and adverse effects of contacts are often not immediately noticed. Several days after, dead tissue layers begin to slough off and raw layers of the dermis and flesh are partially exposed.

Silver nitrate is used to remove warts and verrucae on the hands and feet.

Silver nitrate is available in pencil form.

Action as an antibiotic comes from the fact that it is a non-selective toxic "biocide."

2 C TOXICOLOGICAL ACTION

"Silver Nitrate combines with the albumen of the tissues and is a limited escharotic. It excites superficial inflammation, and stains the part black under the influence of light.

In small doses it increases secretion, stimulates the heart, promotes nutrition, and acts as a nerve tonic.

Its continued administration produces gastrointestinal catarrh, waste of tissue, uremia, albuminuria, fatty degeneration of the heart, liver and kidneys, hemorrhages, fluidity of the blood, a slate-colored line along the gums, and a similar discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes, with centric impairment of the nervous system, causing paralysis on a large scale, loss of coordination, convulsions, and finally death by paralysis of respiration. These symptoms are collectively termed Argyria. Large doses produce violent gastro-enteritis and ulcer of the stomach, from thrombosis of its veins."

2 D ANALOGICAL RELATIONSHIP: SOME EXAMPLES

S: Highest electrical conductivity.

A: Life of an electrical type. Charged emotions. Impulsive, impatient. Used in treatment of epilepsy. Electric like shooting pains. Acts on nerve fibers

causing unsteadiness or shakiness in feeling or gait, incoordination and imbalance. Stormy weather aggravation.

S: Highest thermal conductivity.

A: Easily angered, excitable, impulsive, hurried.

S: Silver is well known for glittering and shining.

A: Famous in society for their art/ performance as a singer, actor, scientist, fiction story writer etc. and also for their eccentricity.

S: Ductile and malleable.

A: Credulous, superstitious and easily moulded as no rational identity. Sensitive, gentle, timid. Profound nervous breakdown.

S: Used for jewellery, silverware etc. for appearance.

A: Need for 'show' and 'attract'. Tries desperately to keep up the show of distinction.

S: Lowest contact resistant.

A: Timid approach to life. A shirker, an escapist. Doesn't accept the challenges. Forsaken.

S: When exposed losses its glitter/ shine and gets darker.

A: Negative side, loses his control, fear of failure.

S: Effects of poisoning:

- ♦ Eye contact = severe burns, with permanent blindness.
- ♦ Skin contact = severe irritation and burn.
- ♦ Repeated exposure to dust or fumes = eyes, nails, inner nose, throat, body organs and skin turns blue-grey colour.
- ♦ Ingestion = violent abdominal pains, vomiting and diarrhoea.

A: Similar conditions are covered in pathogenesis.

S: Silver word is used for 'silver tongue'; Speech is 'silver.'

A: Good as an orator or a singer.

S: Every cloud has a silver line. Silver represents 'hope'.

A: A person is ambitious, knowledge seeker and creative.

S: White luster metal.

A: White swelling: fungus articulosus, hydrops, articulari, tumor, albus genu.

S. **Reactivity**: Extremely reactive compound. When mixed with ammonia compounds, silver nitrate can form azides which are powerful explosives.

A: Quick-witted. 3 I's: Impulsive. Irritable. Impatient. Eccentric, whimsical.

3 A THEMES

The Theme of Kineticism

Agility	Momentum
Potential to Kinetic	Can't coordinate
Roaming	Vagrant

Blocked Exits expressed as

Crowds	Closed places
Bridges	Tunnels
High places	Aeroplanes

Precipice

All Exits are blocked; there is no way out of the situation."

Trapped state of the mind expressed as **Hurried**
Apprehensive

Time passes slowly

< Suspense

Trapped state of the mind, expressed as **Space**

Inaccurate Judge of distances

Expanded, enlarged feeling

Tightness Can't look down or up

3 B MONOGRAM: ARGENTUM-NITRICUM

Agile. Ulcerative. Epileptic. Degenerant. Sclerotic. Catarrhal. Syco-Syphilitic. Cancerous.

Hemorrhagic. Neuralgic. Anxious. Hysterical. Confused. Neurotic. Hurried. Tense.

We take only Degenerant and Sclerotic as examples.

(1) DEGENERATION

Fatty: of liver, kidneys, glands (*Vanad*).

Pigmentary: abdomen, retina.

Softening: brain, stomach.

Gangrenous tendency in stomach.

Atherosclerosis.

Thickening [eyelids, cornea, skin (like *Bar-c*, *Arg-met*)].

Melan (tongue, vomit, stool, skin).

Melanotic cancer.

Degenerations find fulfillment in *Aur-m*, *Bar-m*, *Caust*, and *Nat-m*.

(2) SCLEROSIS

Disseminated. Multiple.

Amyotrophic.

Cerebral (also softening).

Posterior spinal (locomotor ataxia).

Lateral spinal sclerosis (spastic paraplegia); after epilepsy.

3 C MIASMATIC CLEAVAGE

Arg-nit covers all 4 miasms in its pathogenesis.

The evolution PSORA → SYCOSIS → TUBERCLE → SYPHILITIC (end stage) is exhibited in *Arg-nit* through functional and structural disturbances of a progressive character. We take for instance 'inflammation' for the sake of categorization. The first action on mucous membranes of simple inflammation suggest PSORA; the phagocytic fight, however failing, and the progression developing into inflammation with congestion; producing thick, tenacious, greenish discharges point towards SYCOTIC taint; the suppurative inflammation of intensity and destruction more of borderline type (eg purulent ophthalmia) and in vital organs like liver, brain, kidneys etc. indicate TUBERCULAR miasmatic expression. The progression resulting in irreparable damage of vital tissues suggest the syphilitic expression.

The most central action of *Arg-nit* over CNS in general again point towards SYPHILITIC character, as also the action on blood: destruction of RBC's; hemolytic anemia etc.

4 A EVOLUTION OF ARGENTUM-NITRICUM

(1) MOTHER'S STATE DURING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY

If the mother has sustained the fright or the threatening situation where the 'trapped' feeling is marked, this paves the fertile ground for the state of a baby of *Arg-nit*.

The mother who experiences an intense anticipation of delivery, the tedious and sudden 'show' which makes the panicky situation, the premature delivery where the situation is to go for caesarean, a sort of life and death issue, threatening, terrifying

situation; the blocked exit, the narrow space and the trapped state both for mother and the infant- all these are major issues in the evolution of *Arg-nit* at the time of birth.

(2) INFANT STAGE

Born premature, with perverted nutrition and assimilation, leading to the typology of puny, oldish looking, mummy like; dried up; dwarfish; stunted; wrinkled skin; history of hypoxia soon after birth to develop variable clinical conditions of cerebral palsy, mental retardness, spasticity, epilepsy, microcephaly, autism, ADHD, etc characterize the infantile stage.

The hereditary stock of syco-syphilitic nature being transmitted from previous generation is responsible for the onward march of journey in the subsequent stages of life. The first expression is revealed through 'ophtahlmia neonatrum' where discharge is muco-purulent, yellow, bland and scanty.

Gastro-Intestinal Tract is the main butt; The lack of digestive enzymes like peptides, amylase etc cause recurrent metoriorism, tympanitis, incarcerated flatulence and loud burping. There are often gastric crises due to trapped gas in the abdomen and infant cries for long unless there is deflation. The sensitive and vulnerable abdomen, the defective absorbent system can't digest proteins, starch and fats.

One more feature is the inability to thrive; weight remains as it is or increases very gradually. The glucose metabolism is the chief locus and overfeeding the child with sugar, milk, chocolate, and rich food further disturbs the system; recurrent chronic diarrhoea, lactose intolerance diarrhea further drain the system. These recurrent manifestations are more of Syctic origin with a tinge of Tubercle.

The infant however is sharp, responsive and active, the eyes bright and alert to surroundings.

(3) CHILDHOOD

There are two distinct phases - delayed milestones or precocious development.

The child is born timid and has multiple fears. Fear to strangers a dependent child who does not leave

the parents. At every step of crossing roads, ascending stairs, to play games like roller-coaster, giant wheel, dashing cars, columbus etc. the child is very apprehensive. The child is scared of everything and always seeks company.

A brilliant and curious child, but timid, a backbencher, a coward, always on the run, restless and hurried. There is rich vocabulary but defective pronunciation. It all creates humor in others. The child thus learns the art of being witty. The child is famous for his silver tongue. He often wins the heart of others by his acting, mimicry and wittiness. He is overprotected and this adds to his nature of dependency.

The parents' strict behaviour, high expectations and punishments add fuel- to make the child more diffident.

(4) ADOLESCENCE

Sharp intellect coupled with timidity and diffidence - this combination makes the system to take on the route of eccentricity. Whatever may be the energy, depleted or full, it has to be channelized into a rational way. But *Arg-nit* cannot channelize it properly and it goes weird and bizarre. This starts expressing in adolescence phase in terms of bizarre, eccentric ideas and behaviour. He adopts something unusual. Wearing of unconventional dress, full of odd colour combinations, unusual hair styles are some of the examples. This makes him funny and awkward. He is appreciated for his intelligence and novel ideas and also mocked at for his whimsical behaviour. Singing, acting, art, science, literature are his favorite subjects. He is often a singer on the gathering day of the school or college and if trained well his performance is excellent.

He is creative, a performer in his own way and vivacious too. 'Jack of everything but Master of nothing' is an appropriate phrase for *Arg-nit*. He is not for focus and concentration. He is dispersed more and above all he is incoordinated.

A big incidence of insult or failure in performance can have long impressions in an already diffident state. Imaginations and fantasies and not sticking to the realism characterize this phase.

(5) ADULT

The problem of tuning the energy to the demands takes its toll. He can't keep the energy 'potential', it has to be forced into 'kinetic' form; hence he becomes the candidate of category of 'anti-rest' personality. Neither can he accomplish the task due to lack of perseverance, nor has the capacity to take work from others. Rarely may he manifest himself as a dictatorial, but this is more due to emotional overtone than with substantial judgment.

The pattern of energy of *Arg-nit* is of the sort of a pendulum in motion. It moves in two poles- the phase of excitability and the phase of depression and can't tune with the dimensions of time and space. The energy often goes in a wrong direction and hence *Arg-nit* represents incoordination, irrationality and perversion. He has hidden irrational motives for his actions. He has strange notions, ideas, impulses and fears. May be a liar, or a superstitious person. A cynic, loath to give credit, plays down others' claims or succor received. Has a queerest objection or arguments against whatever was proposed; ever ready with (unconvincing) explanations. He may have an artistic temperament, a musical bent, yet not of a benevolent kind (and yet may not perhaps be a cynic, may be officious, altruism does not contraindicate); perhaps also a person with understanding winning over passion or sentiment, and having a courage of conviction; lastly, deceitful; an "oh no" chronic liar.

The strong emotion which *Arg-nit* exhibits is anxiety. The typical energy of putting everything in 'motion' allows anxiety to take on various forms: agitational, anticipatory, depressive etc. in almost all areas of life: social, familial and work. The anxiety takes on the form of an alarming situation. At the base of the anxiety is the cowardice which snatches *Argentum* from the rich resource of courage. He tries to keep up the show of distinction but the efforts end futile. With fears, anxieties and worries, he goes into a confused state of the mind, loses the rationality and becomes even crazy. Imaginations run riot, various illusions and delusions subsequently get developed.

The mental state of *Arg-nit* can be better understood if we consider the state of a 'trapped' person. The person feels that all exits are blocked (eg claustrophobia), there is no way out of the situation (problem with space). The person becomes impatient to get over the situation. Thus, any suspense or waiting intensifies the anxiety and the person develops the feeling that 'time passes too slowly' (problem with time) urging him to walk rapidly. The person, thus, develops problem with both time and space.

(6) OLD AGE

Uncoordinated and uncontrolled energy goes deep into the economy in the decrepit, wrecked senile state. The pathologies, more of degeneration and destruction, are more manifested at the central nervous system, the spine, the nerves, the neuro-musculatures, the cardiovascular system, the blood and the blood vessels but little. Brain deterioration / degeneration; GPI (general paresis, dementia paralytica). Post-apoplectic dementia, staggering gait, slurred speech, malignancies etc. are some of the clinical conditions confronted.

At the mind level depression and neurasthenia; of the overwrought, overtired, over-shocked; after fright or grief, over-eating, alcoholism or sex-excesses. Brain fag with tremulous weakness, confusion; failing memory; hypochondriasis; tormented by a forsaken feeling, or as if surrounded by unfriendly people.

An imbecility; does foolish things. Paranoid, schizoid or obsessive states; preceded by attacks of strange ideas and emotions (more at night); incoherent, ill-assorted and disquieting thoughts running riot at night in bed (like *Graph, Sil*). Bouts of depression and suicidal mania (*Aur, continuous*). Cyclothymic imbalance. Mental deterioration of paranoiac type (*Agar, Stry-p, Zinc-p*); after apoplexy; this usually comes very late (later than in the metal), of disposition and behaviour comes earlier; indicative of a syphilitic trait. Confusion, vanishing of thoughts, failure of senses, with stupefaction, even loss of identity (thrombotic).

4. B. RELATIONS

(I) "*Arg-n* is an offspring of *Med* and *Sulph*" The reasons for understanding the above statement: See

the marked resemblances between *Arg-nit*, *Med* and *Sulph*.

Medorrhinum CHARACTERS

Acts on nerves-solar plexus, neuro-musculature, glands and liver.

Hurried, time passes too slowly. Nervous, restless and tense. Confused.

Impatient, insanity, irritable, selfish, forgetful.

Anxious, panicky, anticipatory anxiety, hallucination about things, timid.

Fear of night, darkness, evil, insanity, misfortune. Subsequent depressions, attacks of desentio, black

out, vanishing of senses, loss of personal identity.

CHILDREN: Pale, puny, scrawny, dwarfed.

PHYSICALS

Fits at every menstrual period.

Craving-sweets, salt, stimulants.

MODALITIES

< heat of sun, room, wet or dry weather, sleep: during and after, emotions - bad news, sweets.

> open air.

Sulphur

PHYSICALS

Warm-blooded constitution.

A/F suppressed catarrhs and eruptions.

Burning - palms and soles. Restless legs at night.

Offensive, purulent discharges.

Too light, frequent waking, frightful and agitated sleep.

CHILDREN

Defective assimilation, hungry yet emaciated, old looking.

MODALITIES

< Sweets, night, alcohol, becoming heated, looking down.

> Open air, motion, and walking.

ACTION

Mind, nutrition, absorption, GIT, respiratory tract, nerves, solar plexus, blood, glands and skin etc. Left side.

MIND

Nervous, Quick-tempered, forgetful, selfish, irritable, depressed, impatient about trifles, quarrel-

some.

Impulsive tendency to suicide by drowning or jumping from window.

Anxiety - prevents sleep, from pressure on chest, waking at night, about friends.

Fear - ghost, poverty, robbers, starving.

To further understand this relation, the following three statements are to be understood.

· *Arg-n* is an intensified, sycotic *Sulph*.

· *Med* is a sycotic and intensified *Sulph*.

· Hence *Arg-nit* is an intensified, Sycotic *Med*.

Sulph may be useful after *Med*. *Med* is (like X-ray) a sycotic and intensified *Sulph* because they share warm blooded; burning of palms and soles; restless legs in bed; wants sweets; AF suppressed catarrhs and eruptions.

Med is tense, has anticipatory anxiety and panic, and it also has craving for sweets and salt and also warm bloodedness like *Arg-nit*.

Thus, the concept of *Arg-nit* as offspring of *Medo* (as a father) and *Sulph* (as a mother) has been evolved and presented.

(2) FURTHER RELATIONS

CLOSE-UPS: *Chel* (in liver), *Ran-b* (in chest), *Dios* (in heart).

NEAREST ANALOGUES: *Calc*, *Caust*, *Con*, *Lac*, *Lyc*, *Puls*.

SYMBIOTICS: *Ars*, *Calc*, *Glon*, *kali-i*, *Lach*, *Lyc*, *Med*, *Merc*, *Nat-m*, *Nit-ac*, *Puls*, *Syph*, *Sulph*.

PRECEDE WELL: *Ars*, *Bry*, *Caust*, *Gels*, *Glon*, *Nux-v*, *Ran-b*, *Spig*, *Spong*, *Verat-a*.

COUNTERPARTS: *Calc*, *Caust*, *Chel*, *Ign*, *Kali-c*, *Lach*, *Lyc*.

FOLLOW WELL: *Bar-m*, *Cal-c*, *Kali-c*, *Lyc*, *Merc*, *Nat-m*, *Puls*, *Sel*, *Sep*, *Sulph*.

ACUTES: *Ambr*, *Ant-c*, *Ars*, *Bry*, *Cact*, *Cham*, *Chel*, *Colch*, *Coloc*, *Dios*, *Gels*, *Glon*, *Lach*, *Merc*, *Naja*, *Puls*, *Ran-b*, *Rhus-t*, *Sep*.

SIMILARS: *Aeth*, *Arg-m*, *Cup-m*, *Dys*, *Lach*, *Lol*, *Nit-ac*, *Onos*, *Plb*, *Psor*, *Puls*, *Tarax*, *Zinc*.

Arg-n, *Caust*, *Con*, *Lyc*: a collateral quartet.

Is a mild snake (ie *Lach* etc); it is *Lach* of *Nat-m* people; *Arg-n* walks out while *Lach*, talks out (and *Kali-i* doing both) tensions.

General Section

EXPLANATION: Venom exerts its action in a rapid and intense way; hence the metal *Arg-nit* has been called as a mild snake.'

The Meaning of : *Arg-nit* is *Lach* of *Nat-m* people': When a patient whose constitutional remedy has been decided as *Nat-m* develops symptoms at CVS or GIT level, instead of giving *Lach* it is better to think of *Arg-nit* as it corresponds to *Nat-m* in a far better way. In other words, *Arg-nit* is a better choice as an acute complimentary.

COMPARE: *Aur*, *Kali-bi*, *Merc* and *Plat* in catarrhs and action on CNS. *Merc* has more active inflammations. *Aur* and *Plat* have a slant for nervous system, *Kali-bi* for mucous membranes. *Arg-n* resembles the 'thin tuberculinic' as opposed to *Aur* which suits the 'fat psoro-luetic' (*Zissu*).

Gels: *Arg-n* is restless, active, tense, hurried, impatient, impulsive while *Gels* is slow, sluggish, dull and doesn't want to be disturbed. *Gels* is a vegetable analogue of *Arg-nit*.

Arg-m: Depression of mental - intellectual faculties, not affection (contra *Arg-n*); *Arg-m* is more chilly, more reserved and less impulsive than *Arg-n*. *Arg-m* acts more on cartilages, *Arg-n* more on mucous membranes. *Arg-m* is sycotic *Sil* while *Arg-nit* is sycotic *Sulph*.

Bapt is connected to *Arg-n* through *Gels*, which is acute of both *Bapt* and *Arg-n*. *Bapt* - *Arg-n* - *Gels* a trio.

To understand this relation, we must focus on indications of *Arg-nit*, *Gels* and *Bapt* in typhus. I quote here only the indications of *Arg-nit*.

Typhus: Stupor with muttering delirium, (complete) deafness, tongue black, fetid breath, voluntary motion impossible, general (but esp. arm) trembling, erysipelatous bed sores at left shoulder, nervousness, oppression of chest etc. Utter insensibility of body but sensibility to lowered temp, stays, involuntary stool and urine, hemorrhage, temp, subnormal, no sordes.

Phos: Both *Arg-n* and *Phos* are open, enthusiastic, intelligent; have multiple fears and panic attacks of anxiety; both crave salt, but

Arg-n has craving for sweet and sugar while *Phos* has aversion to both; *Arg-n* warm blooded while *Phos* is chilly; *Phos* maintains the method in art, *Arg-n* is unmethodical; ice-cream desire more marked in *Phos* than *Arg-n*; *Phos* is frankly hemorrhagic, tubercular and destructive.

Nat-m: touches tangentially, esp. in degenerations; exhibits salt abuse while *Arg-n* exhibits sugar-abuse and has more cachexy. *Nat-m* is pale, *Arg-n* is withered. It may be timid like *Arg-n* but more often it is bold. *Nat-m* exhibits brooding and miserability; *Arg-n* confusion and tenseness; *Nat-m* harbours resentment, *Arg-n* anxiety. Silver nitrate is antidoted by *Nat-m*. *Nat-m* patients require a preparatory course of *Arg-n* to bring up tone.

When you are undecided between *Arg-n* and *Lyc*, think of *Sep*.

Ars-a: Both are anxious, restless, active, sharp, hypochondriac and panicky; but *Ars* is more cautious, perfectionist and domineering; *Ars* chilly, *Arg-n* warm-blooded; *Ars* tubercular, *Arg-n* more sycotic; offensiveness and destructiveness more marked in *Ars*.

Nux-v: (unlike *Arg-n*) starts from nerves and then goes to MM. Both have anxiety but *Nux-v* is more irritable, ambitious and abusive.

Puls activates *Arg-n* and leads it to *Calc* (in sycotic) or to *Sil* (in syphilitic).

Ran-b is a remarkable blend of *Bry*, *Arg-n* and *Kali-c*.

lod is a midway between *Arg-n* and *Tub* also between *Arg-n* and *Kali-i*.

Lyc and *Arg-n* often run on the same line marking a choice sometimes difficult. Both *Arg-n* and *Lyc* have their focal points in the G.I. tract with flatulence and ailments from fright. Both crave sweets. But *Arg-n* craves cold drinks while *Lyc* craves hot drinks. Craving for salt in *Arg-n* is a point of differentiation. In addition to GIT action, *Arg-n* affects the spinal cord and the cerebellum with re-

sulting ataxia and involuntary movements. *Arg-n* prefers the left side, *Lyc* the right. However there is no bar in *Arg-n* ripening with *Lyc* (which is an aged *Arg-n*).

MORE POINTS OF DIFFERENTIATION AT THE LEVEL OF PERSONALITY

Arg-n: Recessive. Impulsive-emotional. Credulous. Trepid.

Lyc: Dominant. Calculative. Sober thinker. Cautious. Fagged.

Arg-n: Hustler - impatient. Generous. Sophist. Initially neurotic.

Lyc: Slow-steady. Greedy. Snobbish. Initially neuro-asthenic.

Arg-n: Insanity more. Shaky. Scrawny. Slipshod. Unmethodical. Non-persisting. Inconstancy. Resists ageing.

Not much responsibility-sense.

Lyc: Imbecility more. Puffy. Prone to ageing. Greater sense of responsibility.

Arg-n: Tense. Escapist. Deceptive-minded. Kleptomaniac.

Lyc: Tranquil. Responsible. Honest. Sincere.

Arg-n: Leads to *Nat-m*.

Lyc: Leads to *Sulph*.

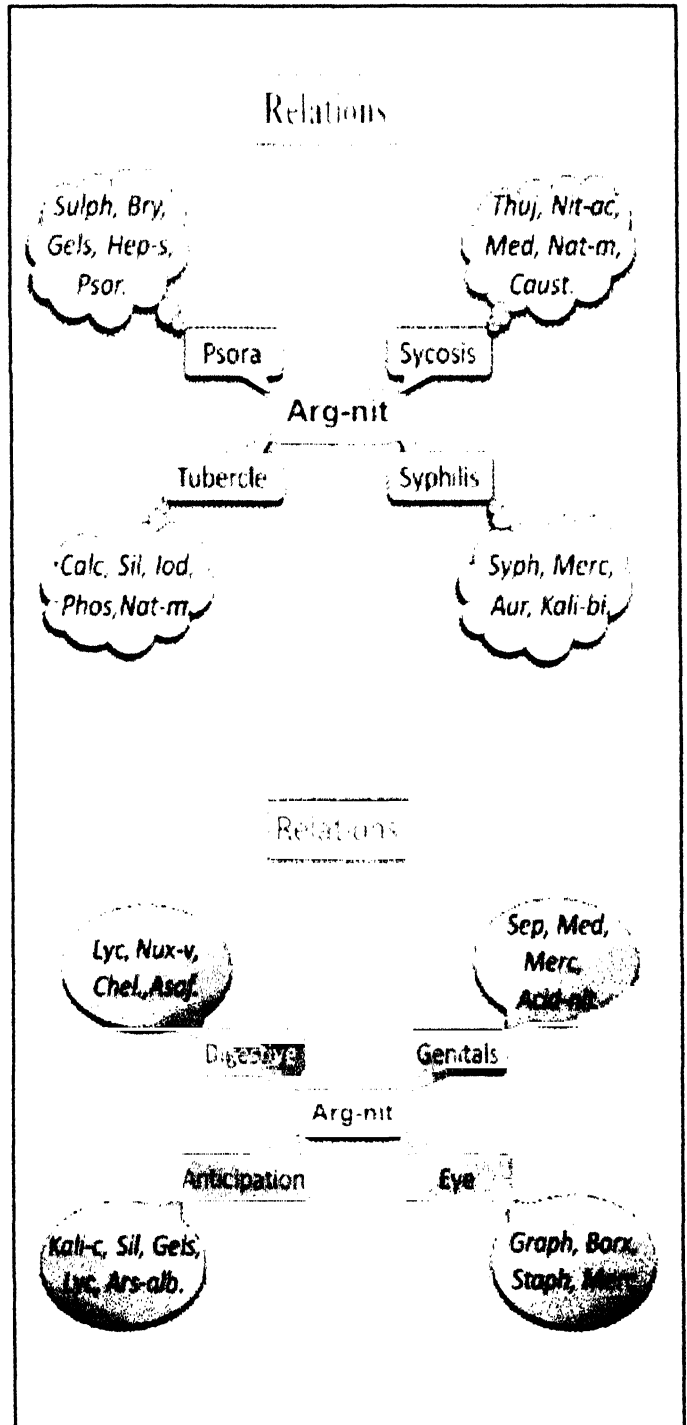
Arg-n: Cognate with *Sulph* (But *Sulph* is shabby, careless and has 'let go' attitude).

Lyc: Cognate with *Sil* (But *Lyc* has fatigue in mediocre brains, *Sil* in the bright.) (Kent)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: I thank my assistants Dr Sarita Rasal, Dr Vrishali Pharande and Dr Rupali Khomane for their help in preparing this article.

REFERENCES

1. A Select Homoeopathic Materia Medica- P I Tarkas and Ajit Kulkarni
2. Homoeopathy and the elements- Jan Scolten
3. A Dictionary Of Practical Materia Medica - J H Clark
4. Lotus Materia Medica- Murphy
5. Homoeopathy and Minerals- Jan scolten
6. Concordant Materia Medica- Vermeulin
7. Substance of Homoeopathy- Rajan Sankaran
8. ICR symposium



9. Lectures on Homoeopathic Materia Medica - J T Kent