

Chronic Miasms and the Remedies to Meet Them.

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ARGENTUM NITRICUM. { Tubercular,
Sycop-soric—
Deep acting

Here is another remedy that not only wastes, but dries up as well, the whole patient, so that the child looks like a "dried up old mummy," as the text has it. Healthy growth is arrested and a process of wasting sets in early,—very early. A deep sycotic inheritance is at the base, and if not remedied at the very start, a stunted growth continues and a full manhood cannot be expected. The remedy is a deep sycop-soric agent. It is more needed in chronic miasmatic cases than in acute Gonorrhoea. More of wasting, later on.

The *mind* is full of *apprehension*,—the patient is *anxious* and apprehensive. The mind is quite peculiar. There is a *hurry* in all matters. If there is an engagement, he is anxious and is in a hurry long before the time. Suppose he himself has fixed a particular time for commencing a journey, he is in a most uncomfortable condition, anxious and in a hurrying mood unless and until he actually commences it. The mind is full of *impulses*,—sudden impulses. There is no well-reasoned consideration as to the pros and cons of an undertaking or an action, but his mind goads him to a certain thing and he gets sudden urgings to do several things which an ordinary prudent man would not do. The mind is out of balance. There is a *fear*; if he is to go somewhere, there would well up thousand and one fears in his mind,—if this or that happens in the way, if a fast-running car runs up and crushes me, etc; even, imaginary fears come up and stand in the way of his doing things or going somewhere. Suppose, a peon comes and knocks at the door in order to deliver the letters, he is extremely anxious and apprehensive unless and until he goes

through all the letters addressed to him. Then again, on the eve of his departure for going somewhere to a new place, he has fear, anxiety,—even diarrhoea. Sometimes he engages himself in strange actions. Whatever he does, he does in a hurry,—if he walks, he must walk fast, when he eats, he eats fast enough, and therefore we have in the text —“Time passes slowly.” Always hurried, anxious, full of fears and apprehensions.

Next, the heart symptoms. There are many remedies having an aggravation of palpitation and other symptoms of the heart, on lying to the left. but this remedy has an aggravation of heart symptoms on lying to the right. Very few remedies are there having a like modality, except *Kalmia*, *Platina*, and *Spongia*.

There is found “a stick feeling” in the throat when swallowing. *Hepar sulph* has a similar feeling, but the modalities are quite different. *Arg. nit* wants cold things to swallow, wants cold air and cold room, whereas *Hepar* cannot stand cold in any form. Then again, *Hep. sulph* is irritable, and *Arg. nit* is apprehensive.

There are lots of eye-symptoms which are all relieved by cold air, cold applications and by being in a cool room. The patient cannot stand heat in any form, as the eyes cannot stand sitting by fire or diffused sun-heat. He wants sprinkling the eyes with cold water. There may even be ulcerations in the eyes with profuse purulent discharge. The modalities are the same, there is an intense photophobia, the patient wants cool room and dark room. The condition of the eyes is swollen and badly tumefied.

There is one peculiarity regarding the stomach. The patient wants, and is even fond of, sugar, but is aggravated by it. “Irresistible desire for sugar” but cannot stand it and is aggravated by it. The infants will have a green diarrhoea and the adults have a flatulence owing to eating sugar. The adults have a peculiar fulness in the stomach and abdomen giving rise to constant eructations. The gas comes

out with a loud noise during eructations which relieve. In China there is hardly any relief from eructations, but Carbo veg has it.

Copious flatus with diarrhoea,—stools with copious flatus with the little children. Natrum Sulp has it,—and both are sycotic. In Arg. nit. there is ulceration in the intestines and inflammation in the stomach with flatulent diarrhoea.

The females are generally worse before & during the menstrual period. This is the time when all the general symptoms are aggravated. The flow may be copious or scanty and the other *symptoms* will decide whether Arg. nit is needed in a particular case of a female patient.

Pulsatilla and Natrum mur. are parallel remedies and must be clearly differentiated. All the three are alike in their desire for cold,—Natrum mur. desires salt, Arg. nit desires sugar and Puls sour things. Mentally they are widely different. Natrum is aggravated from consolation. Puls wants it and Arg is highly apprehensive and anxious to meet even a friend.

A few Tubercular traits are found in this remedy, apart from its power to wither or waste away. The remedy is worse from sugar which it so badly desires,—this is Tuberculosis, viz, the very thing desired for, aggravates. There is found ulceration in the stomach, intestines, throat and other regions which has hardly any tendency to repair, and may end fatally.

A *vital* remedy—or one applied *directly* and *primarily* to the life—is understood as being the *essential specific* influence of any drug detached from its natural and material nidus, and located in an artificial one—sugar of milk—to which it is but loosely adherent, and from which it is immediately appropriated by the vitality of the patient.—A. H. Review, 1859.