

A MODERN MATERIA MEDICA

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- I. In *Bryonia* the complaint appears some days after the exciting cause or injury. In *Cicuta* the pain appears some distance away from the seat of injury.
- II. In *Bryonia* the patient pays the fees immediately after consultation is over; in *Phosphorus* he pays after he has got relief from the treatment.

Let us explain the above :

i. The complaints of *Bryonia* develop slowly. The person may have walked a long distance; or he might have injured his leg; he may not feel any pain or discomfort when he goes to bed that night; but the next morning or a few days after that, he feels pain in the limb. This is also seen in the case of injuries or sprain in the knee or ankle.

In the case of a child of five with fever and a disordered stomach, the symptoms pointed to *Bryonia*. The parents could not attribute the trouble to any immediate cause and the attending doctor was wondering what it could be because in acute diseases "useful to the physician in assisting him to cure are the particulars of the most probable exciting cause."¹

But careful inquiry revealed that a few days earlier to the onset of the trouble the child was taken out in the hot sun and after that given an ice-cold drink.

¹Section 5 of *The Organon*.

Sometimes the knee gets injured by knocking against the stairs but nothing is felt at the time. A day or two afterwards pain and swelling appear at the injured place.

In Cicuta the pain appears some distance away from the seat of the injury. I was questioning an epileptic case, a boy of twelve, who had frequent attacks, with a clear set of symptoms of Cicuta. He pointed to the right hypochondrium and said every attack was preceded by pain at the place followed by shock in the head. He would fall down unconscious with vertigo. I asked him whether he had any injury to that hypochondrium; the reply was negative. When I examined the place I noticed a scar below it and to my questions the parents replied he had been operated upon for appendicitis in his fourth year. His epilepsy had originated around that period.

11. In some cases the matter of payment of fees often shows the remedy.

I had a patient under my treatment for chronic disease; he was not at all regular either in taking the medicines or paying the fees. (I had to repeat my demands thrice to collect my fees.) One morning he appeared before me for some acute complaints and, observing his symptoms, I gave him Bryonia. He asked for directions for taking it and also wished to know the fees. When told he paid immediately.

I was struck by the change in the attitude of the patient.¹ While I was studying Bryonia in *Boericke's Materia Medica* the words "talks of business" (in italics) given against 'MIND' caught my eye. I concluded that since the main business of the patient during sickness is to consult the doctor, take the medicine and also pay the fees, the patient behaved so.

¹"in all diseases the condition of the disposition and mind is *always* altered. Those who were patient when will often become obstinate..." See—Section 210 of *The Organon* and foot-note thereon.

< =Increase, or aggravation; worse.

> =Decrease, or amelioration ; better.

Therefore, you need not be surprised if a patient, during an acute illness, pays you immediately after consultation, though formerly had not cared to do so; you will be justified in thinking that he needs Bryonia. Besides Bryonia, we find twelve remedies for "BUSINESS, talks of" in 'MIND' (*vide Kent's Repertory*). Bryonia is in the top grade.

Phosphorus is another patient who pays whatever is demanded by way of fees. You will find that during an acute illness he takes the medicines given by you and goes away; but a day or two afterwards (when he is relieved) he comes back to pay the fees. In the author's experience he has found only the phosphorus patient coming back to pay fees after getting relief. What is your experience ?

Bryonia and phosphorus patients are, of course, lean; both 'talk of business' ; are < by exertion. But why the Phosphorus patient pays after relief, is not clear. May be, he is unable to exert his mind to think of fees during the illness as his condition is aggravated both by physical and mental exertion.

The author has no experience of the remaining eleven remedies in respect of fees. Accounts of the experiences of doctors in this line are welcome for publication.

There are, of course, other rubrics in the repertory as regard the question of fees.

On telling your fees if the patient exclaims "Oh, so much!" or pays less than what you demand, then you may decide he is mean and one of the remedies given against "AVARICE" under MIND (*vide Kent's Repertory*) may suit that patient.

Let us come back to Bryonia and Phosphorus for an in-depth study. We have seen both "talk of business."

It is the business of the doctor to examine the patient and the latter should have no hesitation in allowing him to do it. But when a young female patient strips off her clothes unhesitatingly when a young male doctor wants to make a physical examination,

it is more a matter of 'shamelessness'¹ than 'talks of business'. In my earlier days of practice I mistook this for Bryonia.

After reading the foregoing the reader may desire to have mental pictures of the various remedies. This can be accomplished by means of the following rule.

When you have selected a remedy for a patient and if your selection is correct, then read the Mind symptoms of that remedy in the ten volumes *Hering's Guiding Symptoms* and then compare them with those of the patient by bringing before your mind's eye his behaviour and way of talking.

The author had done this and two examples are (i) the Nuxvomica patient (the way he describes the history of his complaints) and (ii) Lycopodium (in giving his answers to your questions). Following is the relevant portion from Aering's *Guiding Symptoms*² :

Nux vomica

"...manner shy and awkward..." "Desire to talk about one's condition, with *anxious reflections* about it."

Lycopodium

"Her answers are *quick, anxious and tremulous; imperiousness*; speaks with an air of command; manner stiff and pretentious...."

¹Phos is in the top-grade in SHAMELESSNESS. Hyos. is also in the top-grade in this rubric. Both these remedies also appear (Hyos. in top-grade and Phos. in second grade) against the rubric "SHAMELESS exposes the person". But Hyos. is an extreme case. The person removes all clothes and likes to go naked on the road, whereas all that can be said of Phos. is that she does not take scrupulous care to cover her person.

To distinguish Bryonia from Phosphorus we can note that the Phos. patient immediately strips off her his/her clothes even if the door of the consulting room is open but the Bryonia patient will insist on the closing of the door.

²This set of 10 Volumes is available with the author and also with M/s. HARJEET & Co. Post Box 5752, New Delhi-110055.

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Born : November 15, 1922.

Qualifications & Career :

L.I.M. — Licentiate in Indian Medicine (Madras)
1943.

D.F.Hom. — Diploma of Faculty in Homoeopathy
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F.C.E.H. — Fellow of Court of Examiners in Homoeo-
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- D-HT (Hon.)** : Diploma in Homoeo-Therapeutics (Honorary) (U.S.A.) 1965.
- F.H.M.S.(Hon.)** : Fellow of Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery (Given by the Court of Examiners) in Homoeopathy Maharashtra, 1976.

Career has been/is : *

Ex. Honorary Physician, Government Homoeopathic Hospital, Bombay.

Lecturer, Bombay Homoeopathic Medical College, Bombay.

Formerly Chief Editor, Journal of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bombay.

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Examiner, Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Gudivada.
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Paper-setter, Board of Homoeopathy, Karnataka & Kerala.
Lecturer under Govt. of India Travelling Lecturership Scheme.
Delegate to International Homoeopathic Research Council, New York.

Corresponding Member of the British Homoeopathic Faculty.
Member, Maharashtra Homoeopathic Appellate Authority.
Member of the Central Homoeopathic Research Institute Sub-Committee, Government of India.

Chairman, Souvenir Sub-Committee, International Homoeopathic Congress, New Delhi, 1967 and 1977.

Secretary, All-India Homoeopathic Editors Guild.

Member, Task Force for the Indigenous Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy for fifth five year plan, Govt. of India.

Delegate to the International Homoeopathic Congress London, 1956.

Represented India at the International Homoeopathic Convention, Philadelphia, 1965.

Member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Homoeopathy, Govt. of India.

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Presided over the Scientific Sessions of 1st All-Karnataka Homoeopathic Conference, Bangalore, 1957.

7th All India Homoeopathic Congress, Kottayam.

2nd South Indian Homoeopathic Conference, Madras, 1969.

Rayalaseema Homoeopathic Conference, Guntakal, 1958.

Special Homoeopathic Convention, Hyderabad, 1969.

Mysore State Homoeopathic Medical Conference, 1970.

Scientific Seminar on Homoeopathy, Coimbatore, 1972.

Has conducted drug-provings (Research).

Publications :

Author of 30 publications and over a hundred and twenty papers published in various homoeopathic journals of the world. During his sickness he has written 7 booklets, which are under print.



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