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Records of Indian Drug-Provings

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ASHAI OR AHOI.

(*Proved by Dr. K. K. Bhattacharya M.D.H., in the
month of February, 1922.*)

A SHORT INCIDENT WHICH LED TO THE DISCOVERY OF ASHAI
AS A GREAT REMEDY FOR THE BLACK WATER FEVER.

In the month of January in 1922 while, one day I was basking in the sun in front of my residence at Gauripur, some hill-men belonging to the Metch clan came to me to seek my help in introducing them to the proper authority in the Gauripur Kutchery so that they might get permission from him to cut timbers from Raj-forests. I consented and had many talks with them regarding their health and diseases to which they are generally victimised. During such conversations I came to know that the pestilential visitation of the Black water fever occur almost every year in their hills and they can cope with this fell disease by treating such patients by the decoction prepared from the leaves of Ahoi trees. My curiosity knew no bound when I heard of this tree which in Bengali is called Ashai. I introduced these people to the officer-in-charge of the forest department and they out of gratitude gave me a few days after, some branches with leaves of Ashai.

In the month of February, I prepared tincture from these leaves and took the drug in 1st potency on the 3rd February

1922; twenty drops a dose 4 times a day. No change occurred in 2 days. On the 3rd day I took Ashai 1X 30 drops a dose. In the following morning I began to feel very uneasy. Sometimes nauseating tendency occurred but disappeared at the next moment. I did not mind it very much. At 8 p. m. I felt that my epigastrium was somewhat distended and belching was very frequent. I took my usual diet of bread, though in smaller quantity. At 2 a. m. I was suddenly waked from sleep by a dull slow pain in my umbilicus. I was compelled to pass stools which were watery yellow feces very profuse in quantity. At an interval of 1 to 2 hours, I passed several stools, every time more watery than on the previous occasion, a very great agony making me weaker all the time. At 5 a. m. I felt so weak that I was unable to go to my privy which was about 200 feet away from my bedroom. Wife insisted me on passing stool in the bathroom attached to my bed-room. I consented and once passed my stool there, which was almost pure water with a yellowish tinge.

As the forcibly gushing stool falling upon the cemented floor rebounded in particles soiling my parts, I at the suggestion of my wife, for I was at that time beside myself with agony, preferred to pass stools on the second step of the door outside the bath room. When the day dawned I found in my stool some yellowish jelly-like substance. But one thing I was all along marking. The quantity as well as quality of the urine was changing on and on by degrees, until it stopped altogether. During three consecutive motions I perceived no urine passed during or after stool. The bladder seemed inactive. I felt excruciating pain lasting for a very short time, in the region of the kidneys. I tried to urinate often. However at 6.30 a. m. after the passing of yellowish watery stool, my attempt was partly successful by passing through the urethra something which could be termed dirty blood with a cramping pain rising up the urethra. The quantity was not more than half a dram. Wife screamed in fear but I took

courage and told her that it was not at all an alarming symptom.

The temperature of my body at that time rose to 101°. Pulse 110, respiration quicker about 35 per minute. I felt pain in the limbs, numbness in lumbar region and pinching pain in both the temples. At 7 a.m. I passed another stool which was bloody water. The weakness was so very great that I could not even stand although supported by my wife. She became nervous and was consulting *Materia Medica* for a suitable remedy, as I was reluctant to select one. I fell into temporary sleep in which I dreamt some kinds of dream, the like of which I never dreamt before. The dream runs thus: It was a fine morning. I, in company with some of my friends who had long been dead, began to walk through a garden-path, seeing various kinds of flowers round, when a swarm of bees came upon us and began to hover over our heads. Finding them thus hovering we became a little nervous and were thinking of getting rid of them. While we were anxious about our present troublesome situation, the bees suddenly disappeared. After taking a little rest under a Deodar tree we resumed our journey and to our great astonishment we perceived some birds greeting us with leaves of that tree which we took earnestly in our hands and being very hungry began to eat them. The taste of these leaves was so very relishing that we ate them at our hearts' content, the birds supplying us with them (leaves) all the time. We were eating and walking forward and arrived at the bank of a great river, the mountainous waves of which were lashing against the banks while others were roaring far away. Our clothes were already drenched with the watery particles of the rebounding waves. We took shelter upon a hillock nearly, but to our great dismay we felt the hillock moving forward and we were hopelessly alarmed for our safety and cried aloud several times for help, but no help was forthcoming. The hillock was very fast moving forward. Having no other alternative left to us, we were anxiously waiting

for the termination of the course of the moving hillock. But alas! our expected anxiety was increased hundredfold when we found that our undesirable vehicle stopped and began to sink in the middle of the river. We were beside ourselves with fear and jumped into the river. Suddenly the dream disappeared and I woke up. Still my heart was palpitating very violently and my respiration was very quick. I felt something wet near my anus and urethra and presently wife discovered my wearing cloth under me stained with profuse blood. She was alarmed at the sight of the blood and insisted me to take a suitable medicine or send for a doctor. But I dissuaded her saying that I would be all right within a few hours, and in order to divert her attention and to remove her alarm I began to relate my dream to her. Although I related the whole story of my dream to her, she had her attention directed to the selection of a right remedy for me. She prescribed China 30 for my present ailment and put two globules on my tongue. The medicine had a desired effect and the bowels stopped moving but the blood oozing out through the urethra did not stop and was gushing out with a force while micturition was attempted. My lungs were not free of affection. They seemed full of phlegms and loud mucous rales were heard in auscultation. I felt pain in the bronchii. I took barley water and again resolved to allow the symptoms develop at large. For three days I took no medicines in spite of my wife's importunities but on the 8th instant my both lungs were affected and pain and anguish were very severe and through extreme weakness I could not even sit nor raise phlegms from inside the bronchii. While in bed I felt my heart-beat very low and feeble. This gave ample opportunity to my wife to administer a suitable medicine, I suggested her to give Ashai 6M for there were no higher potency then prepared. In three days I was on a fair way to recovery and completely cured in a week's time. During the course of this week I took 6M twice,* the dose one globule in pure water. Only some minor symptoms

troubled me for some days, the prominent of which were jaundiced eyes and occasional pain in the umbilicus which symptoms yielded to Merc. Sol. 200. *

SYMPTOMS OF ASHAI-PROVING AS RECORDED ON MY BED-SIDE
AS WELL AS THAT OF A BOY OF 12.

Mind—Dreams of floating along river surface with anxiety and despair. Uneasy feeling. Very great apprehension of some danger happening in near future.

Inner head—Weakness and dull sensation within the cranium.

Outer head—Pinching pain in both temples; burning in temples.

Eye—Lachrymal glands weak and liable to be acted upon by a slight excitement.

Ear—Roaring in ears like the hissing of stove. Running from ears, watery offensive discharges.

Mouth—Putrid smell from the mouth, aphthæ in mouth and tongue.

Tongue—Swollen with red surface.

Teeth—Aching of teeth with swelling of gums. Gums full of blackish blood.

Throat—Full of phlegm. Burning sensation in the throat-pit while coughing. Granulation with rough surface in the pharynx, inducing wheezing cough at almost every inhalation, increased at about 2 o'clock during day and night.

Heart, Pulse—Blood-pressure 200 m. m. (arterial) Pulse rate 90. Palpitation. Constriction in the chest. Burning heat.

Desires, Aversions—Appetite for rice-diet. Great desire for sour-sweet things. Does not like milk unless it is thickened. Curd agrees. No liking for meat. Fruits disagree.

Eating—Eating and drinking—Cannot eat much at a time. Thirst for cold drinks.

* In Bengali translations from my note book these have been erroneously written as Ant. Tart 30 and 200. This was a clerical mistake.

Nausea and vomiting—Nausea and vomiting at the time of coughing.

Stomach—Distended. Eructations. Pressure in epigastrium after eating.

Hypochondria—Tensive pain below the false ribs. Pain in the liver while passing stools or urine.

Stools—Alternate constipation and diarrhœa. Dirty watery stool with whitish yellow sediments of undigested food. Bloody stool without or with little mucus or fœces.

Urine—Scanty and pale. Stopped altogether while passing watery stools for 4 or 5 times continually. Subsequently after a great effort about half a dram of bloody urine was passed with difficulty with a burning and smarting sensation in the urethra, lasting for sometime after micturition. This strangury had the tendency to rise upward.

Male sexual organs—Sexual desire very low.

Breathing—Respiration very quick after passing stools but abnormally low when reaction set in. Fell asleep after passing stool. Very weak.

Cough—Hacking, dry first, then moist, yellowish tough mucus coming out.

Lungs—Constriction of chest necessitating deep breathing. Oppression of right side of chest, seldom left. Bronchii affected on both lungs.

Limbs—Weak feeling while walking. Great weariness and painfulness of right thigh. So weak that he cannot stand for a few minutes.

Nerves—Very tired and exhausted.

Chill, Fever, Sweat—Chill with coldness of limbs and extremities. Internal shivering. Slight fever. Temperature rising up to 101°; heat external. Sweat profuse and easily excited.

Skin—Black pallor on the face as well as on the whole body.

Cognate—Antim Tart has some similarity with Ashai so also China and Merc. Sol.

Potency in use—3x, 30, 200, 1m, 3m, 6m, 20m.

CASES TREATED WITH ASHAI.

1. A baby of two years had black water fever. His chest was full of phlegms. Temperature varied between 100° and 103°. He was at first constipated but on the 3rd day of the attack he began passing stool of yellowish white colour mixed with mucus. After three or four months his urine stopped and the baby was crying hard at the time of passing stool. At first I thought that he had some uneasiness in his abdomen but afterwards it transpired that the baby was not feeling so much for his pain in the abdomen as he was suffering from strangury. After some mechanical efforts a few drops of bloody urine were passed with great difficulty. He had internal shiverings as he never left his mother's lap and his lips were trembling. These symptoms gave me a clue for Ashai which I gave in 3x potency 2 drops to be taken eight times at two hours' intervals, until improvement set in when the medicine must be stopped. After 12 hours the baby's stool was much better and he passed almost normal urine. On the second day of the use of medicine he looked much better and fever came down to 100° and rose to 101°. I stopped medicine for the next day, but the improvement also stopped with it. On the following day I repeated the same medicine under the improved Hahnemannian method and the baby was almost cured. But all of a sudden he had another relapse although of a very moderate type. This time I, in order to stop further repetition, gave Ashai 30 two globules in half an ounce of water to be taken a teaspoonful every three hours. The baby was cured on the following day and he had no further relapse. He is now a young boy of 7 years.

2. A young Mahomedan who had four wives at home, still went to prostitute quarters and imbibed or contracted some poison which made its appearance on the third day on his person in the dangerous form of black-water fever. All his circulatory apparatuses were attacked, the blood being

coagulated. His abdomen was highly distended and was vomiting bloody water. Urine stopped already. Stool was bloody mucus. He was anxious and fearing death every moment. An Allopath was first called in who gave morphia which was too much for the patient. Then I was called in. Finding the original symptoms still persisting, although under the influence of morphia, I gave one dose of Nux. Vom. 200. This gave some relief to the patient but as he was an well-to-do man, his father-in-law called in an Assistant Surgeon. But before he came I had given Ashai 3x and his vomitings almost abruptly stopped and he had a feeling in his urethra inducing him to say "well, I shall make water". But no urine really passed, Another attempt and yet another and the fourth brought forth a few drops of bloody urine. At this time the Assistant Surgeon came in, examined the patient and declared it to be a case of cholera! Perhaps the description of vomiting and purging and the stoppage of urine led the allopath astray and he concluded that it was a case of malignant cholera and began to inject saline pound after pound until 4 or 5 pounds were exhausted and the patient succumbed in two hours.

REPORTED CASES TREATED BY DR. R. K. MAITRA AT JALPAIGURI

Several cases of Black-water fever were treated with Ashai Tincture and potencies with almost uniform success in which the prominent symptoms noted were five, pain in the umbilical region, liver congestion, bloody stool, bloody urine with strangury.

The following case was reported by a private gentleman who used decoction in treating one patient when Ashai was not homœopathically proved.

A Hindu young man of strong built was attacked with black-water-fever while working in the interior of Assam. His fever was of low remittent type. He passed stools mixed with blood, had his chest full of phlegm and occasionally he passed bloody urine with strangury in the urethra. He

was taken to Calcutta for treatment. On the eve of his departure he was given some fresh leaves of Ashai which were to be boiled in water and the decoction thus obtained to be used internally as medicine, one tablespoonful every two hours. This was allopathic direction. We had no hand in the matter up till then. On his arrival in Calcutta the young man was almost cured and the doctor advised him to take the same for a few days more and the patient was cured in a week. But a relapse occurred subsequently and with my advice he used Ashai in potency and was perfectly cured. No relapse since.

Generally speaking, antipsoric remedies act the longer in chronic diseases, the more inveterate these diseases are; and *vice versa*.

It will be difficult to induce physicians to avoid the mistakes which have been censured in these paragraphs. My doctrines in regard to the magnitude and the repetition of the doses will be doubted for years, even by the greater number of homœopathic physicians. Their excuse will be, that it is quite difficult enough to believe that the minute homœopathic doses have all the power to act upon the disease, but that it is incredible that such small doses should be able to influence an inveterate chronic disease even for two or three, much less for forty or fifty days; yea, that after so long a space of time, important results should be obtained from these imperceptible doses. My proposition, however, is not one of those which needs to be comprehended, nor one which ought to be blindly believed. No one is bound either to comprehend or believe that proposition; I do not comprehend it, but the facts speak for themselves. The truth of my proposition is demonstrated by experience, in which I have more faith than in my intelligence.—HAHNEMANN.