

The Therapeutics of Tuberculous Affections.*

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ACALYPHA INDICA.

An East Indian member of the Euphorbiaceæ family, introduced, proved and applied in tubercular hæmoptysis by Dr. Tonnerre, of Calcutta, to whom it was recommended by a native for jaundice, but when given for jaundice produced hæmoptysis in a number of cases. The symptoms have been verified by Drs. Payne, Cooper, Holcombe and others, not only in hæmoptysis but in hæmorrhages* from any mucous membrane having the characteristics of *Acalypha*. Its range of action is necessarily limited by measure of imperfect provings.

CHARACTERISTIC.—Hæmoptysis: *of pure bright-red blood in the morning; dark clotted lumps in the evening.* Progressive emaciation (Iod).

AGGRAVATION.—In the morning, hæmorrhage.

LARYNX and TRACHEA.—Constant irritation in trachea, producing dry, fatiguing cough, worse at night but apparently not affected by position.

COUGH.—Violent, dry, irritating; worse at night and followed, but not relieved, by expectoration of blood.

LUNGS.—Constant and severe pain in chest, worse left side. Dulness on percussion. Tubercular deposits in left lung. Pulse small, depressed, from 100 to 120.

EXPECTORATION.—Of pure, bright-red blood in the morning; dark lumps (clotted) in the evening, hæmoptysis.

The clinical verifications of *Acalypha* have thus far been confined to hæmorrhages occurring in tubercular affections. Aconite, *Erechthites*, *Melilotus*, *Millefolium*, and many other remedies have bright-red blood in hæmorrhages, but none of them have the morning exacerbation, the bright-red blood in morning and dark, lumpy blood in evening.

*From the forthcoming work on Tuberculosis, by H. C. Allen, M.D.

RELATION.—Acalypha follows Calcarea well. It is followed by Carbo veg., Ferr. phos., Iodine.

ARSENICUM ALBUM.

There is scarcely a remedy in the entire *Materia Medica* that will yield more brilliant curative results in all stages of this affection—from the incipient symptoms of rapid emaciation, with or without the suspicious persistent cough, to the more advanced stages or even fully developed phthisis—than Arsenicum. Many cases of incipient phthisis, and not a few in the advanced stages attended with alarming symptoms, have been permanently cured with this grand antipsoric of Hahnemann. But, to attain this result, there also are few remedies which must be used with greater caution. Here it is absolutely necessary that the implicit directions of Hahnemann as to dose and repetition must be carefully followed if we would avoid that worst of all complications, a serious aggravation. If we would avoid a catastrophe when Arsenic is the simillimum, we must heed the emphatic warnings of Hahnemann on the too frequent administration of medicines, especially the long acting antipsorics.

Dr. Wurmb, of Vienna, in the *Homœopæhische Clinische Studien* 1, p. 179, when writing of the deep-seated action of this remedy, says :

Arsenic is one of those few drugs whose action is distinguished not alone by its intensity, but equally by its extent ; it involves the entire organism. Every system, every organ of the body, every nervous filament, is so subjected to its powerful influence that we are not able to say which of its symptoms are primary, which are secondary, and where the focus of its action chiefly lies. We see the entire nerve-life attacked in all directions, from the slightest excitement to the most violent irritation ; from a mere sensation of weakness to actual paralysis ; from the slightest irregularity in the vegetative sphere to a cachectic dyscrasia ; yea, even to decomposition and destruction of the organic substance.

From this profound, all-pervading action of Arsenic, affecting as it does every tissue and organ of the body, we have a powerful antidote, when indicated, for that constitutional dyscrasia which so frequently develops in tubercular diseases. And it is because of this peculiar action that the

constitutional symptoms of Arsenic are of so much greater value than the local, in the selection of the remedy.

Dunham says :

The fact cannot be too often called to mind, nor too strongly insisted upon, that our most characteristic indication for the use of a drug which presents well-defined general symptoms, as Arsenic does, and indeed as every wellproved drug does, are derived not from its local action upon any organ or system, not from a knowledge of the particular tissues it may affect, and how it affects them, but upon the general constitutional symptoms and their conditions and concomitants. If this were not so, in the presence of how many maladies, of the intimate nature of which we are wholly ignorant and which nevertheless we cure, should we be utterly powerless for good.

Our want of success in tuberculosis is largely due to the fact that we pay too much attention to the local manifestations of disease—the local symptoms of the drug—and overlook both the general symptoms of the patient and the constitutional action of the remedy. In this way we fail to grasp the secret of success, fail to obtain the true picture of the disease as embodied in the totality of symptoms, objective and subjective, and should not blame our Law of Cure if it decline to act under such an interpretation.

Farrington, p. 506, says :

I want to introduce a caution in regard to Arsenic. It is not a remedy usually called for in the beginning of diseases. The tendency of the symptoms is deathward. If you give the drug too soon in a disease which tends deathward, you may precipitate the result which you are anxious to avoid. * * You must be certain that the mental state is indisputably that of Arsenic, or you will do harm instead of good.

CHARACTERISTIC.—Great prostration, lassitude, weakness, with more or less rapid sinking of the life forces. Of this peculiar feature of Arsenic Hahnemann observes : "Even circumstances that are in themselves not very important and would otherwise produce but little effect, occasion in the Arsenic patient a sudden and complete sinking of the forces."

Hydrogenoid constitution.

Complaints return annually (Carbo v., Sulph., Thuja).

The mental condition is peculiar and guiding :

a. Depressed, melancholic, despairing, indifferent.

b. Fearful, restless, anxious, full of anguish.
 c. Irritable, sensitive, peevish, easily vexed.
 d. Fear: of being alone; of death. Dread; of dying, when alone; on going to bed.

Excessive anxiety; great anguish: extreme restlessness.

Burning pains; the affected parts burn like fire.

Burning unquenchable thirst for cold water; drinks often but little at a time; eats seldom but much.

Burning thirst, without special desire to drink; the stomach does not seem to tolerate, because it cannot assimilate cold water; it is greatly longed for but patient cannot drink it.

Desire for: sour things; beer; brandy; coffee; wine (stimulants); milk; warm food; fruits and vegetables.

Aversion to: sweets; gruel; meats; butter; fatty things; farinaceous food; loathes even the thought of food.

Diarrhoea after eating or drinking; dark color, offensive odor, usually watery, scanty, worse after midnight and followed by great prostration.

Extreme exhaustion; from the slightest exertion.

Fainting: from weakness; from coughing; from talking, from walking.

From climbing mountains or other severe muscular exertion: great prostration; cannot sleep; asthma; want of breath; and many other chest complaints.

Rapid emaciation although feeling well or fairly well (Iod., Nat. mur.); loses flesh rapidly while eating well. This progressing emaciation, more or less rapid, when the patient is eating well and there is no sufficient cause for it, is peculiar to Arsenicum and to Iodine and Natrum mur. It is a suspicious symptom and should always attract the physician's attention.

AGGRAVATION.—General: at night, especially after midnight (1 to 3 A. M.); from cold (except headache); cold drinks or cold food; lying on the affected, especially right side (Kali c.,

—relieved by lying on right side, phos.); or lying with the head low (Spong.).

Lying down greatly aggravates cough or breathing or both.

Cold damp cellars aggravate or bring on asthmatic affections (Aran.—asthma with every fresh cold, every change to damp weather, Nat. sulph.).

Catarrh or cough at 5-30 P. M.; cough from 2 to 3 A. M.

AMELIORATION.—General; from warmth, except headache, which is relieved by cold bathing or cold air.

LARYNX and TRACHEA.—Aphonia. Hoarseness, acute and chronic.

Voice: hoarse; weak; trembling; very uneven, now strong, now weak; rough; hollow; complete loss of voice.

Dryness of larynx and trachea, with burning.

Sudden catarrh threatening suffocation at night.

Sensation as if one were inhaling dust.

Smoky sensation in larynx as of the vapor of sulphur, causes cough before going to sleep in the evening.

Spasm of glottis.

Croup, with coryza; cannot breathe through the nose; worse at night, very restless.

Symptoms simulating membranous croup; caused by suppressed or non-appearing eruption, especially urticaria; suppressed itch (Caust.).

Constant titillation in the larynx, inducing cough, even when not inspiring.

RESPIRATION.—*Wheezing respiration*, which ranges from a fine wheezing to a coarse rale (but not so coarse as that of Ant. tart., Ipec. or Opium) often accompanied with cough and a frothy expectoration.

Frequent oppressive shortness of breath in every position of the body, causing anxiety.

Loss of breath immediately on lying down in the evening, with whistling, wheezing and constriction in the trachea.

Air passages seem constricted, cannot breathe freely; worse after midnight.

Oppression ; want of breath ; a nocturnal asthma makes him spring up at midnight. Respiration : short, anxious, oppressed.

Oppression worse ; when walking fast ; ascending ; warm, tight clothing ; in stormy weather, heavy air ; but especially from changes of warmth and cold ; taking cold in mid-summer.

Asthmatic breathing : coming on suddenly at 12 p. m. ; must spring out of bed, and obtains relief by inclining chest forward.

COUGH.—*At night on lying down, and in the morning on rising ; regularly every night and morning (evening when lying down, when warm in bed, Puls.—lying in bed, becoming warm in bed, Nat. mur.).*

Cough : from constant tittillation in larynx ; by smoky sensation as of vapors of sulphur in larynx ; when going into cold, open air ; especially after drinking (Dros.—eating or drinking, Phos.) ; with bloody sputum.

Night cough ; from 1 to 3 a. m. ; must sit up as soon as it begins ; asthmatic, with gasping for breath.

Cough depending on organic lesions or deep-seated affections : asthma ; anæmia ; cyanosis ; hypertrophy of heart ; attended with nervous irritability, exhaustion, collapse.

Cough, with bloody sputa.

Cough : short, deep, dry, unceasing after midnight.

The cough of Arsenic is not so distinctive or peculiar in itself as that of many other remedies. But its aggravations or ameliorations, the times or circumstances under which it occurs, are always guiding.

CHEST AND LUNGS.—*Acute, sharp, stitching, fixed or darting pain in apex and through upper third of right lung (sharp, stitching pains through right lung, middle and lower third, Bry., Kali carb.)*

Stitches : in upper right chest ; in left chest only during inspiration (more frequently in lower part or in left hypochondrium) ; in or under sternum from below up.

Burning and heat in chest, sometimes extending below diaphragm to stomach.

Chilliness in chest, evenings.

Constriction of chest ; when walking fast ; when going up hill.

Constriction of chest with great anxiety and restlessness, evenings ; with oppressive anxiety at pit of stomach ; burning, or feeling as if excoriated and raw.

Wheezing in chest with bruised pain between shoulders.

Tightness of the chest, as if bound by a hoop (as if an iron hand prevented its normal movements, Cac.—see Arn., Bufo., Iod., Lil., Nux m., Sulph.).

Yellow swots on the external chest ; upper part of chest yellow (Sep.).

Great weakness in chest in attempting to move or sit up.

Bellows murmur, either from thinness of the blood or thickening of the aortic valves, especially if accompanied by wheezing respiration or frothy expectoration, forms an additional symptom for Arsenicum in the early stages of tuberculosis.

EXPECTORATION.—*Foamy saliva ; frothy sputa ; yellow mucus, enveloped in or mingled with froth ; mucus streaked or specked with blood.*

A *frothy* expectoration is the characteristic of Arsenic and in the frequency with which it will be called for when this symptom is present, it outranks all other remedies, although Acon., Fer., Lach., Phos., Sil., and many others have it more or less prominently marked.

Expectoration : white ; gray ; grayish-yellow ; yellow ; thick ; bloody ; blood-streaked ; fetid ; dark ; green or yellowish-green ; brown or yellowish-brown ; purulent.

Expectoration : bitter, in the morning ; salty by hawking.

Tenacious mucus, difficult to dislodge, with rattling in chest (Kali bich.).

Hæmoptysis at night, with burning heat over whole body (with red face and throbbing carotids, Melilotus).

Foaming (frothy) bright-red blood bursts forth in a stream, with slight hawking; ebullition, burning and fullness in chest, Arn., Bell., Calc., Carbo v., Dul., Ipec., Led., Mel., Phos., Sec.)

Hæmoptysis: after loss of blood; burning heat all over, especially with pain between scapulæ; in drunkards; suppressed menses; suppressed eruptions.

Hæmoptysis; hacking cough every morning, with expectoration of bright red fluid blood, with burning in left chest.

RELATION.—Arsenic is useful and often curative in patients who have suffered or are suffering from: effects of excessive tobacco chewing; alcoholism in any form; abuse of Cinchona or Quinine; abuse of topical application of Iodine.

Remedies which follow well: Aran., Cinch., Fer., Hepar, Iod., Lyc., Nux v., Sulph.

Remedies which Arsenic follows: Acon., Arn., Bell., Ipec., Lach., Verat.

Complementary: Ars. iod., Carbo veg., Phosphorus.

When Arsenic is repeated, it is always advisable to change the potency.

The Medical Advance.

In treating a case, the homœopathic physician employs remedies which not only correspond to the troublesome symptom, but to the whole group. In palliating acute pain or incurable affections, the homœopathic physician ought constantly to act in accordance with that rule. He will accomplish that palliation by frequently repeating the suitable remedies, for instance: *Belladonna, Chamom., Ignat., Ipec.,* etc., violent spasmodic diseases; *Carbo, anim., Staphys., Thuja., Secale corn., Puls., Bell.,* etc., in cancer of the womb. There are many more examples, all of which show that the principle "*similia similibus*", if employed as the rule in the palliative treatment, accomplishes the object of that treatment much better than the empirical practice of the old school. We invite our opponents to try our law of cure as a palliative means in organic malformations, and to compare the results thus obtained with the results obtained by their ordinary means.—HARTMAAN'S *Acute Disease*, 1846.