

ARGENTUM

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The study of materia medica, the analyzation of the patient and repertory procedure are the three legs requisite for remedy selection, and the method employed or systems used differ probably with each prescriber.

Being convinced that many remedies are habitually neglected by showing preference for the polychrests due to stereotyped procedure, a slightly different manner of study will be followed in this paper.

I have read that all disease comes from the moon, such a statement is on a par with the one, that all life comes out of the ocean. The core of the moon is said to be silver, as that of the earth is said to be antimonium.

In gathering material for prescribing, some points are important. First, the symptom must be reliable, and, secondly, the sphere of action between remedy and disease producing cause must coincide, and the symptoms in patient must be consistent with, and logical to, the sphere of action. The principal source of error is due to the fact that mostly *sub* classifications are used to describe the sphere of action, the primary sphere being neglected or not even known; and when we further take into consideration that only four spheres of action are possible, and only three out of these four probable, the primary classification becomes easy and the sub-classification may then attract our attention.

First of all must we realize that homœopathy is a semi-metaphysical study, the term *aura of the drug* removes the whole subject into the realm of metaphysics. If we next take into consideration that this aura is capable of a fourfold division, which finds its analogy in the fourfold seat of consciousness of man, then can we better follow the reasoning employed.

The silver patient has his consciousness centered in the sex, or, more specifically in the sacral plexus. The moon controls

conception, ergo sex, and misused sex-function is the cause of all disease; superficial reasoning to the contrary, hence, all disease comes from the moon, and this predicates a very large field for silver.

Our present age is sex-mad, and some other characteristic manifestations are general haste, or restlessness, also pretense and sham. To verify that one needs only to watch the theaters, the night clubs, the road-houses. Every one of these characteristics has been brought out in the silver provings, only the proper values have not been placed on some of the symptoms and the connection with the sex-function has been kept covered up to a large extent, which is due to the very nature of silver itself.

A United States census taken during the World War brought out the fact that a large per cent of the population are morons. A moron is said to have the mentality of a 12 year old child, and the consciousness is consequently not situated in the intellectual centers. The striking characteristic of the moron is, that he is completely ruled by sex; in fact, sex is about the only thing he is conscious of.

Now, let us consider a nice woman of a good, yes, even of one of our best families who is afflicted with this devilish condition, never free from it day or night, awake or asleep. She meets some one who is congenial and in consequence becomes a little indiscreet. What are the immediate symptoms that follow? First, her conscience, being situated in a higher center, (I am not now speaking of a person whose conscience has been cut off), begins to make itself felt. She will be forced to admit, at least in her best moments and only to herself, that it was not quite the proper thing to do. Not being philosophic (philosophy being quite beyond a moron) she does not succeed in throwing off a certain sense of guilt. She resents it, and in order to justify herself puts the blame on her husband, and hates her husband, whom she has injured by her action. This sounds queer, but it is exactly the way it works

We hate those whom we have injured, as has been very well brought out in the Christ story.

Now the feeling of guilt, and the hating of her husband, and the attempt to cover up the whole thing, lest it be brought out into the open, induces her to be exceptionally nice to her husband. (Some husbands are pretty good at that same game). Let us keep in mind that she is sweet to a husband whom she hates, and further, let us keep in mind that this hate did not originate in the emotional center, but in the sex center, a very important point, to prevent us classifying it as an emotional symptom. This action I call deceit and it has been brought out in the provings and can be found in Kent's *Repertory*.

This deceit is by far the strongest and most important characteristic of silver. It sticks out on every corner, but always it is covered up, and a materialistic minded person will probably never see it. I am perfectly conscious of the fact that not all morons, by any means, come under this classification. There are those who have no conscience, but that is another story.

The great keynote of silver is deceit. Let me cite a case. A patient with plenty of symptoms, was prescribed for half a dozen times without satisfactory results. On leaving the house one day, I met a mutual friend and asked him, "What do you consider John's most characteristic attitude"? He answered without hesitation, "Deceit. He will hate you like poison yet pretend you are one of his best friends when he speaks to you". I went home, took down the *Repertory*, looked for deceit, found *Arg. nit.* and gave it on the one symptom with extraordinary result.

Going back to our lady, being a sexual person there will be practices that leave certain imprints. She will be irritable, nervous, more or less petulant and impatient, hasty, cannot do things fast enough, or she is so spent that she lies around all day. Her heart gives much trouble. Nausea is a very strong feature, coffee makes her worse, it makes her nausea worse and at the same time will stimulate the sex; add to all this her

remorse, and we get a state of mind that is typical but hard to describe, but certain features are rather constant. The face looks old and dissipated and has deep lines. Then there is that apprehension that will never go. The insincerity that one feels is the deceit covered up; it is the very opposite of being guileless.

Silver has apprehension on going to church or theater, which becomes plain fear, so much so that they lose control of sphincter muscles. A queer symptom, if considered by itself, but perfectly rational and consistent if we realize that she is going to meet her friends and friends of the family. They probably have talked about her and she wonders how much they know. Then she becomes touchy, feels isolated and probably is. A person in that state of mind is not good company; she insults and hurts her best friends and they naturally stay away.

We read under *Arg.*, "thinks she has an incurable disease" which is quite natural, if we take into account that she has exposed herself. She probably worries also as to whether or not she is pregnant. Of course that symptom will never come out in the proving. Such a state leads to all kinds of delusions and silver has brought out many.

Having tried to give an outline of present day civilization and of a person whose consciousness is situated in the sacral plexus, or, who is typically lunar, let us see in how far we can synchronize the provings of the silver salts with the conditions described.

Silver is cold-blooded, devitalized, as cold as *Nux.*, *Hep.*, and *Sil.*; very sensitive to being touched, not only the head but any part of body; almost as sensitive as *Lach.*; wants to be tucked in up to the neck; and least motion of bed covers chills. Many symptoms run very close to *Nux* and *Hep.*

Here are two peculiar symptoms I want to mention in passing. The first in a patient very much benefited by *Arg. nit.*, the other because of its singularity. When we deal with

living organisms there are some features we cannot very well overlook, if we are to be consistent. One is the effect of the sun, the other is the effect of the moon on all life. *Arg.* has a greater affinity for the moon than any other substance except perhaps water, but water is not an element.

As said before, homœopathy is a semi-metaphysical science ; many of the effects are physical but the causes and functions are metaphysical, and the time is not so far off when it will be developed along those lines. We may as well recognize this fact, and when we do we will be forced to take certain other facts into consideration. These two symptoms are definitely along those lines. The first is while chilly, always relieved by heat and from hot drinks, especially the gastric and abdominal symptoms, and *cannot bear to have the direct sun-rays touch her skin*. That woman, in less than ten minutes after the first dose of *Arg. nit.* CM, was able to lie on her back and extend her legs, a thing she had not been able to do in over 50 years. The provings pertaining to this read, "tension like a cord in abdomen and groin". The other symptom is even more peculiar. A man I met in Arizona 20 years ago was so sensitive to the lunar influence that he could not go out into the moonlight without being covered by an umbrella. This man could go out into the sunshine and was apparently perfectly rational. Had I been more familiar with silver at that time, I could have obtained much valuable information.

Dr. Kent mentions dropsical conditions almost any place. Under *Arg.* I had one woman, large, fat and chilly with amenorrhœa, who was much benefited by *Arg. nit.*, but most of the others were slender, some even marasmic.

Argentum has many pains, especially nerve pains, facial and sciatic predominating, also left ovary and right testis, which Dr. Kent has so well brought out. He also says, "*Arg.* is useful in locomotor ataxia". He probably means for the sharp pains ; and again syphilitics are notoriously sexual. Feels he is forsaken, and feels he is despised are very prominent silver symptoms ; is afraid to walk on the street

and pass corners; hurry, cannot do things fast enough, walks, eats, drinks, talks fast; impatient; time passes too fast; weak larynx; weak chest; hacking cough; expectorates little lumps like boiled starch. It runs parallel to *Stannum* in weak chest, and throat very sensitive to tobacco smoke. It is useful in epilepsy and in fibroid tuberculosis with great tightness at bifurcation of trachea.

Aggravation at noon is an important symptom.

Fermentation, much gas, nausea, very annoying, > from motion, < from looking at moving substance, are symptoms which suggest that it might be considered for sea-sickness. Early morning colic, > by heat, comes on about 5 a. m.; colitis with shreds, as if mucosa of colon had sloughed off; green stool, dry stool like sand; > lying on right side; suspicious, morose, disinclined to work. One troublesome symptom it cured for me was an itching, moist anus.

It desires sugar and has glycosuria, but its most important action is its soothing effect in sex erethism.

The study of our materia medica is very tiresome and difficult, and so are many points in our philosophy, and the law of healing is not by any means as simple as our slogan might indicate, yet they dovetail at every point. I have mixed practice, philosophy and materia medica in this paper, in order to bring out the rationality of some of the disconnected silver symptoms that have been developed by the proving and appear so queer and irrational.

If we are fortunate enough to have the full confidence of the patient and they allow us to look into their inner life, and we obtain one or two of these extraordinary symptoms, then almost any novice can select the curative remedy. But we are many times thrown on our own resources and on our ability to read between the lines and for this reason we will mention a few more of the main features of silver.

When pathology affects the cartilages, either in joints, eyes, ears or larynx, silver is the first remedy to come to our minds, just as *Phyt.* comes to our minds, if the seat of

trouble is at the place where tendons are attached to the bones. Tuberculosis of the larynx in a patient who uses his voice a great deal, with consequent hoarseness, especially if associated with haste, apprehension and neurasthenia indicates silver as the probable curative agency. Invariably they have a dry hacking cough.

In venereal disease, where the discharge remains yellow, thick and tenacious for many weeks, has been suppressed and thrown to internal structures, and the tubes and ovaries have become infected, or an epididymitis or orchitis has been established, a few doses of *Arg. nit.* will help to re-establish the discharge and eliminate the poison.

The silver patient is a notoriously poor "yes, sir" but he is famous when it comes to saying "no". I once heard a high-powered salesman say, "if I meet one of those moon-faced people, who looks like a full moon with an almost flat dished-in face, I turn right around and walk away, for he is sure to say no, and stick to it like a mule". If such a one happens to come to your office, think of silver.

I once had a patient who was an invalid for many years. I sized him up and could see nothing but gonorrhœa. In spite of his most emphatic denials, I prescribed a sycotic remedy, which, in the course of 2 or 3 days, established a brown petechial eruption all over his abdomen and thighs. This disappeared in about a week and finally ended in the complete cure of that patient. This denial is another form of the condition we labeled deceit in the beginning of this paper; it is characteristic of people who will not do things in a direct way, but who think it a sign of superior intelligence to mix in any amount of non-important side issues.

I sometimes wonder in what degree, if any, it differs from the symptoms called "liar". In the *Repertory* only two remedies are mentioned under that heading, namely, *Op.*, and *Verat.* I think *Arg. nit.* should be added. Dr. Kent mentioned a case that describes this point very nicely. A nursing baby had a greenish diarrhœa. *Merc.*, *Ars.* and *Cham.* had made

no impression. He asked the mother if she was fond of sweets. She said, "Oh no", but the husband said, "Oh yes you are, I bring you a pound of candy every day". That baby did not get well until it got *Arg. nit.*

This innocent looking "oh no", should be in heavy type, for it is quite characteristic of this remedy. We find it repertorized under the designation "contrary" where it is registered in italics.

Dr. Kent, in describing silver, says, "it affects the brain in a very profound manner, bringing about changes of a gradual softening". Again he says, "a strange feature is that it singles out the intellectual faculty, which is disturbed increasingly to imbecility. It scarcely affects the affections".

Not many surpassed Dr. Kent in the knowledge of our philosophy, in the scope of remedies he had at his command, or in the remarkable cures he effected, and Dr. Kent was not the type of person who would have left the regular school of medicine to join the ranks of homœopathy unless he was fully convinced that this system was based on law and not on empiricism. But his expression of silver selecting the intellect is not well put, in that he stresses a negative feature instead of a positive fact.

If we divide man into intellectual, emotional and physiological; or, materialistic, religious and philosophic; or, sacral, solar, and cerebral, then silver decidedly belongs to the sacral group, and the effect on the brain is due to the robbing of the brain, by drawing the blood supply to the lower center, depriving the brain of sufficient nourishment, and not because it affects the intellectual sphere.

If we have a patient who is on the verge of a nervous breakdown, several features must be taken into consideration.

First they overwork the brain and tire it out. Second they do not sleep enough. Third, they worry and eat very irregularly. Then they take recourse to stimulants, coffee, whisky, cigars, and sedatives to make them sleep nights, and aspirin for pain, completely demoralizing the physiological mechanism but not by any manner or means affecting the intellect *per se*.

Argentum nitrate is one of the best remedies for nervous breakdown. *Argentum nitrate* and *Nux vomica*.

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