

# Philip E. Krichbaum

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### 1903 - The Surgical Sphere and Indications for Hypericum

"In presenting this paper to such an enlightened homoeopathic body I feel as awkward as a small team looks pulling a very heavy load. The sphere of Hypericum in its application to diseased conditions generally is well and fully blocked out in our various works on *Materia Medica*, but the place that the remedy fills in certain mutilations and injuries to the body deserves special emphasis and reiteration.

To cut and sew and mend, to splint and bandage, to diagnosis out and plug up, is pure mechanics, each movement discernible by the eye, the efficiency of which manipulation is increased by a peculiar manual dexterity. Such is surgery broadly understood. But even the most brilliant instrument wielder in the world, with his ever device known to modern invention, must occasionally doff his professional cap the Hypericum. Many times may surgical attention be averted by its use, and as many more times may the suffering subsequent to surgical repair be mitigated when we can read the signs that point to Hypericum as our needed auxiliary.

First Hypericum is conceived in lacerated wounds of those parts of the body that are richest in sentient nerves, germinated in congested nervous centers, and grows steadily towards the great nerve track of the spinal cord and the cerebrum. Hypericum then is pre-eminently a remedy for injured nerves, whether from wounds, shocks to the nervous system or from any cause. The pains are always rending and tearing in character, always following the course of the nerve. You have for instance a laceration of the foot. In a few hours the wound begins to turn red, the pains are rending, tearing, following the course of the nerves up the leg. The muscles of the leg begin to twitch; next we have twitching and drawing in the muscles of back, then back of the neck. The eyes look glassy, the pupils dilated, the head congested to the extent that the patient feels as if he were being lifted up and dreads the letting down. At this juncture a prescription of Hypericum may save you a case of tetanus, and later the signing of a death certificate.

Since Hypericum has local congestion so marked it will often prevent sloughing. In gun shot wounds, when the parts have been extensively lacerated and torn with engorgement of the capillaries attended with more or less discharge of bloody serum, we read in the *Guiding Symptoms*, and may verify in practice upon every needed occasion.

Another class of injuries for which we require Hypericum occurs in cases of injured corns or bunions. The housewife who has a special weapon for sore corns, the *razor*, uses it "not wisely, but too well," in trimming the part that predicts an oncoming rain or snow storm, without having thoroughly slaughtered the bugs on her instrument, and the surgeon is called to inspect this awful case of blood poisoning. There is redness and swelling of the part, with rending, tearing pains up the leg along the course of the nerve. Give a dose of Hypericum, wrap up the foot, and go home and sleep the sleep of the just.

Hypericum, however, is not restricted to wounds and punctures, but has bruises from falls upon parts rich in sentient nerves, i. e., falls upon the head or spine. It has special affinity for a portion of the body little thought of until we come down upon it with sufficient force to find out just where it is. As a classmate of mine once remarked, "I struck my coccyx one day, and have not been able to think since." Do you believe this story? I do. He certainly could think very little in a connected manner at least. That man was suffering from shock due to his fall. Had I known about Hypericum he would never have left college disheartened. I am convinced Hypericum would have regulated his wits.

A child falls out of its crib, strikes his head and has a convulsion. Another falls and fractures or dislocates the coccyx. On come rending, tearing pains up and down the limbs, opisthotonos, strabismus and jerking in the muscles of the jaw. Hypericum will help you out.

While not strictly catalogued under surgery, there is another group of troubles belonging to and cured by this remedy. I refer to certain irregularities of female economy.

Leucorrhoea in children, milky and corroding.

Urethral trouble in females who have worn pessaries.

The urethra feels hard, as if it were a rubber tube.

Hypericum may be thought of in enuresis when you find that the child shudders violently when the desire to urinate comes on.

Another condition wherein this remedy may prove a great aid is in a form of ascending neuritis after a fracture or into the nervous structure. The muscles will emaciate from below upward, outlining the course of the nerve, accompanied or not by severe pains.

I once had a patient who had tried to her soul's disgust to be relieved of a very distressing pain in her arm, the result of a fracture. Her arm was emaciated, muscles flabby, etc. Morphine and liniment would relieve the pain so that she could rest, but the emaciation kept up. I was a poor, beardless "sugar pill" doctor in the town, but in order to gratify a friend she applied to me for aid. Hypericum, one dose, and five or six bottles of liniment of my own made, which must be applied between 12 midnight and 1 a. m. cured the whole arm.

To sum up, Hypericum has the sloughing of Calendula, the soreness of Arnica, the twitching of Cicuta, Hyoscyamus and Stramonium and the congestion of Belladonna. It goes to the spot when indicated and saves a zigzag cure with the remedies mentioned."

(P. E. Krichbaum, M. D., Upper Montclair, N. J., *The Surgical Sphere and Indications for Hypericum*, *The Medical Advance* vol. 21 (1903), p. 530-532)

## **1909 - Guaiacum**

"This is one of Hahnemann's antipsoric remedies, affecting every tissue of the body.

Guaiacum is a neglected remedy. In my opinion there have been many cases brought back to health slowly and indirectly by such remedies as Nux vom. Rhus. Merc, and Psor. when Guaiacum would have directly cleared up the whole train of symptoms.

It is pre-eminently a remedy for gout and rheumatism, if the symptoms agree. A typical Guaiacum patient, if there be such a thing, is one of dark complexion, tall, angular, large frame, with a not over active mind or body. Stupid at school, never learned very rapidly nor entered heartily or enthusiastically into play. They are usually termed lazy. Can be only temporarily enthused - over anything. Would rather sit and dream - dreams by the hour.

Growing pains are complained of in childhood. Unless this growing Guaiacum child is properly looked after in youth, puberty may bring Consumption, Gout or Rheumatism.

I have dwelt to some extent upon the Guaiacum youth, that we may be able to foresee and provide for the after picture, when the joints become involved. As was the boy so is the man.

He sits yawning and stretching for hours. Is so exhausted that he dreads to move. Dissatisfied, impatient and fault finding with everyone. His whole body feels drawn up and contracted. His sleep does not refresh him, and it takes most of the forenoon to pull himself together. Feels better in the afternoon, when he is liable to have some fever.

Weakness runs all through this remedy. His thighs are too weak to support his body. He becomes too tired to sleep or sleeps only in a restless way with disturbing dreams.

There are actual contractions in all affected muscles, whether of eyes, legs, uterus, or bladder. These contractions prevent motion. Incipient, and localized Tuberculosis in patients that are always chilly, even by a warm fire. They sweat about the head, have dilated pupils, and lassitude.

Dry cough with loss of breath. The cough comes from tickling in the pit of the stomach. In advanced tubercular cases, the patient coughs and hawks up copiously a fetid pus. Excretions are all intolerably offensive, from the bowels, nose, ears, bladder and uterus.

Stiches in the region of the second, third and fourth ribs. More often the left side and when there is aggravated by inspiration. The difficulty is more from contraction than from inflammation. There may be no fever. Pleurisy, when Aconite and Bryonia fail to relieve the stitching pains.

Abscesses in any part of the body, bones or muscles; in Rheumatism or Tuberculosis. Quinsy in tubercular, rheumatic or mercurialized patients, the tonsils are swollen, red, burning and very sensitive to touch, aggravated by heat. Burning is the most pronounced symptom. *When curative in Quinsy, Guaiacum produces a sweat, as the first indication of relief.* It will abort more cases of Quinsy than any other known remedy Why? Because Quinsy is apt to attack persons who have a tubercular or psoric tendency.

Ozanam says, it combines the properties of Bell, Apis. and Baryta Carb. It has the erythematous or inflammatory angina, with the bright redness of Bell, the oedema of Apis and the phlegmon with tendency to suppuration of tonsils of Baryta Carb. and Apis.

*All the affected parts of Guaiacum are sensitive to touch and aggravated by heat, whether the pain be in bone, muscle, or fibrous tissue, but general heat is soothing.*

Sticking pains in the tonsils, sticking pains in the head, ears, bladder, urethra, chest, everywhere. These sticking pains come in the teeth, when biting. The teeth appear too long. The whole mouth is red, sore, burning, and sticking, the pain takes away all desire for food. The tongue is so thickly furred white or brown, as to interfere with taste.

Neuralgia on the left side of the face, which comes on in the early twilight and lasts all night.

With this there is drawing in the muscles, sticking pains, the mouth is dry.

Glaucoma where the eye is tense, and the upper lid contracted. (Causticum has ptosis.)

In cases of laryngeal inflammation in which there is dyspnoea with violent beating of the heart. The patient awakens short of breath, palpitation that shakes the whole body, sudden dry cough, frequent and repeated until a little mucus comes.

Constriction or actual contraction with burning, runs through every affected organ and tissue. The stomach feels as if there was a band around it which interferes with breathing. The abdomen feels contracted or drawn, with pinching pains, relieved by passing flatus. The bladder is constricted, causing frequent urination, with continuous desire to urinate, even just after evacuation. The urine is horribly offensive. In fact so are all the secretions - whether from the

tonsils, lungs, bladder, uterus, bowels or from abscesses. Do not give Psorinum because of this offensiveness of the discharges and the added fact that the patient may be chilly, take the patient as a whole.

Guaiacum promotes suppuration of abscesses in soft or hard tissue, with offensive discharge; do not forget the sensitiveness, and aggravation from local heat. The remedy affects the joints producing rheumatic and arthritic pains. It acts upon the fibrous tissue causing pain from the least motion. This aggravation is from actual contractions. The joints are painful and intolerant of pressure, can bear no heat. The chest pains may involve the articulations, in fact the pain is frequently located in the articulations of the ribs.

Suppuration of bone in tubercular or syphilitic patients where there is the sensitiveness and the aggravation from heat. Caries of bone. Guaiacum promotes the spontaneous breaking up of gouty abscesses.

I have by no means exhausted it, or given all the symptoms of this noble remedy, but if anyone is hereby inspired to study Guaiacum in its entirety, I will feel that my paper has not been in vain.

Briefly summing up, I would say, do not forget the contractions, the offensive discharges, the sensitiveness to touch, the aggravation from local heat with the desire for heat in general, the temperament, the rheumatic, gouty and tubercular patients, the slowness of comprehension, and dread of motion, the fault finding and dreamy nature with desire for sleep, and you will have a picture that will point you to the administration of Guaiacum."

(Guaiacum, by P. E. Krichbaum, M. D., Proceedings of the International Hahnemannian Association 1909, p. 118-121)

### **1920 - Mercury and its salts**

"In taking up the study of Mercury and its salts, I appreciate the magnitude which such a procedure would attain if followed out with any elaboration. However, this last is not my intention. I wish rather to merely touch upon a few of the salient and particular symptoms of this great family group, bringing to your notice the individualizing strands which appear here and there in the various preparations. First be it remembered, the tie of relationship between these mercurial combinations is never lost to view. The differentiation of symptoms frequently seems to be one of degree, rather than difference. The finger prints of Mercury are easily traceable. Parenthetically, I may here state that I have made no attempt to separate Mercurius solubilis and Mercurius vivus. What I have to say of one applies to the other. In a pathological sense we find, then, that Mercury and all its salts is associated with such processes as paralysis, congestion, inflammation, and ulceration. Every organ and tissue of the body is affected. Burt gives us sixteen great centers of action. The keynote symptoms of Mercurius are classical; the modalities run through all the preparations; to wit, the aggravation from heat and cold, the aggravation at night, the profuse sweats with nearly all complaints, which sweating does not relieve and in some instances may even aggravate the complaint. The next particular found in this interesting series is the mercurial odor. The Mercury patient is offensive, body and secretions, while the breath is often excessively fetid with mawkish sweetish taste in the mouth. Body tremor is another distinguishing characteristic. This symptom is so pronounced and universal that its presence renders Mercury the best general remedy in paralysis agitans. This tremor may attack any organ of the body. If it seizes the heart, sudden death is likely to result. The mind under Mercury is as weak and tremulous as the body. Everything is hastily performed. Conversation is hurried and rapid. On the other hand, with the back swing of the pendulum, your patient may be very slow in answering questions. The Mercury subject has loss of will power and memory, suffers from embarrassment, is absent-minded, and may lapse

into imbecility. Time passes too slowly. The victim whom Mercury fits, desires to flee, has thought of suicide, or even harbours murderous intentions. It is a thoroughly disorganized mentality. The sores and ulcers of Mercury have many characteristic points. The grey lardaceous ashy or cheesy base, the burning stinging pain, the dirty look of the deep-seated sore, the tendency to form pus, yellow or green, burrowing in cavities and excoriating the tissues; all this is Mercury in one form or another. Again, Mercury is a great solvent. It dissolves living tissues, inducing excessive emaciation. Edema and dropsies are absorbed; rheumatic swellings obtain. Mercury intensifies the action of absorbents. It may also paralyze them, hence we have the often observed enlargement of glands with the well known pricking pains, inflammation and suppuration. Salivation is another red strand of Mercury. In fact, Mercury is seldom indicated when the tongue is dry. Slime in the mouth and in the stools, speaks for Mercury. People who exhibit an abnormal tendency to take cold,, when the nasal secretion is excoriating and the nose red, the "dirty-nosed child," such suggest one of the Mercuries.

The various and manifold sensations found when these preparations are called for, need not to be given in detail. In what follows it is my plan to lay stress upon the points of difference which we find when we read these medicines side by side. **Mercurius corrosivus** then we discover is Mercury plus. All authorities agree as to the intensity of the action of this remedy. The patient evinces a disposition to lie on the back, with knees drawn up. The well known tenesmus of Mercury is here markedly aggravated; the stools have more blood, ulcers spread more rapidly and Merc. cor. leads all preparations of Mercury in the frequency with which it is called for in the albuminuria of pregnancy. In the male sexual organs, Merc. cor. is highly useful, when from slight irritation we have phimosis or when the foreskin of an infant has been forcibly retracted and left so, inducing para-phimosis. Like the Mercuries in general, it affects all tissues with added intensity herein noted. In fact, you may at times be deceived into prescribing Cantharis for these Merc. co. urinary conditions. "Terrific tenesmus, with intense burning in the urethra and discharge of mucus and blood with the urine or after it," reads the text. The fine line of difference must be determined from concomitant symptoms. In throat affections Merc. cor. is a standby. If you encounter congested, flabby, elongated uvula, causing a troublesome and obstinate cough, swab the tissues with a solution of Merc. cor. low. It will relieve the condition often permanently. Under Merc. cor. there is severe throat constriction, any attempt to swallow induces violent spasms and fluids are ejected. The classical rectal tenesmus of Mercury is, of course, present under Merc. cor., the difference which decides our choice of the latter medicine, is again one of degree. In cases of dysentery occurring from May to November, Merc. cor. may be useful. The tongue, under Merc. cor. shows the typical Mercury ear marks, but in addition we may have a blackish coat and the swelling go on to the point where the patient cannot protrude the member.

Under **Mercurius dulcis** the keynote is *pallor*. Add to this characteristic pallor, a condition of flabby bloatedness, and Merc. dul. comes into its own. Pale scrofulous children who have swelling of the cervical glands, or the cadaverous looking infant, whose breath smells like fresh cow's milk, call for Merc. dul. When our old school friend sees these children, he says, "Worms," and promptly prescribes Santonine and Calomel. In many instances his prescription is justified to the extent that he gets the worms and when any lasting benefit ensues, the calomel was, of course, homoeopathically indicated. Merc. dul. has many of the catarrhal symptoms of the family group, with a few accentuations, for instance, you may run across a case where there is a iter al gluing up of the Eustachian tube and a catarrhal inflammation of the middle ear. In the intestinal tract, the point of demarcation may lie solely in the fact that the diarrhoea associated with the typical Merc. grass green excoriating stools, is *not attended with tenesmus*.

**Mercurius praecipitatus ruber** has in its symptomatology one curious sensation, a patient suffering with gonorrhoea will complain that the urethra is felt as a hard string. Phagedenic

ulcers and bubos come under this remedy, when the edges are red, indurated, hard and spreading. Also syphilitic iritis when the pains have ceased. Pemphigus neonatorum and intertrigo syphiliticus, eczema, acute or chronic, with sero-purulent exudate, tinea tonsurans, circinata, and sycosis are all conditions where this form of Mercury may prove valuable.

**Mercurius iodatus** has a distinct individuality based on the general Merc. characteristics. The right to left direction of its symptoms in throat or chest is like Lycopodium, but the throat symptoms are aggravated by warm drinks and Lyc. is relieved by them. The tongue is also typical, it has a thick yellow coating at base while the anterior portion is clean and red. In the eye we find corneal ulcers looking as if they had been chipped out by finger-nail. Head pains immediately following heart pains; pain in right forearm and left hip simultaneously; pain in heart with pain in chest. Jaws tired from clenching teeth during sleep. Nausea at sight of food. Cough worse from laughing. Susceptible to drafts while perspiring, very sensitive to damp and cold weather. Mostly a right-sided remedy.

**Mercurius sulphuricus**. Lippe considered this preparation as important as Arsenicum album in dropsies of the chest. The indications for its employment are: Pain in right chest extending to scapulae, patient can scarcely breathe and is greatly aggravated from 4 to 5 p. m. When acting, this remedy often produces a watery diarrhoea with great relief of the patient. It has a marked affinity for hydrothorax, depending upon liver or heart affections. Here, again, the Merc. tongue comes up but under Merc. sulph. there is apt to be great soreness of the tip.

**Mercurius biniodatus**. This preparation acts more intensely on the lymphatic glands and cellular tissue than Merc. sol. Its great sphere of action is upon the throat especially on the left side. Tonsillitis with Merc. symptoms. Aggravations are on empty swallowing, also upon swallowing food. Merc. bin. will often help you out in cases of asthma, where general Merc. symptoms are present. The explanation of this rests upon the fact that the Iod. merc. combination dissolves large quantities of uric acid and urates, causative agents in producing asthma. Merc. bin. has special affinity for old cases of syphilis in persons of lax fibre, the scrofulous, and those who have taken much Mercury. In the female generative organs we have ulcers and erosions of the cervix with profuse greenish, corrosive leucorrhoea.

**Mercurius nitricus** is to be studied when we find conditions suggesting Merc., and at the same time exhibiting the sharp sticking pains of Nitric acid. Pustular conjunctivitis and keratitis with burning lachrymation, photophobia and the aforesaid sharp sticking pain calls for Merc. nit. Coldness also predominates under this remedy, with a flushed face. The pains are intolerable, driving the patient to thoughts of suicide.

**Mercurius aceticus** should receive consideration when we find the keynote symptom *congestion* with stiffness, dryness and heat of parts affected. The eyes are inflamed, worse in the corner with burning and itching, worse morning and evening. *Lack of moisture* is the distinguishing feature here. The throat is so dry that talking is difficult. Merc. aceticus also has a barking cough which causes lancinating pain in the larynx or pharynx. Simple swallowing does not hurt but there must be enough motion in parts to move the cellular structure. "Pressure in lower sternum and dyspnoea on standing erect," is a peculiar symptom, but is in keeping with the general aggravation from moving the affected parts; i. e. mucous membranes wherever attacked. In the urinary organs there is burning in the urethra so intense at night that it awakens him. This burning increases as the bladder fills and is associated with cutting pain upon emission of last drop. The copious but slow emission in the morning proves that the mucous membrane of the urethra is thickened, giving it the characteristic compressed feeling. Still further, under male sexual organs, we find the glans penis inflamed and swollen at the extremity with burning and lancinating pain. It is aggravated by cold bathing but relieved by tepid water. Profuse sweat while moving about, obtains here as under Merc. in general.

**Mercurius biniodatus cum kali iodatum.** Hale says of it: It causes profuse discharge of watery mucus from the nose with sneezing, coughing and watering of the eyes. Take a patient who cannot ride in an automobile, winter or summer, without the above phenomena ensuing. It is a condition that conforms to this preparation of Iod. Merc. and Kali. The combination consists of one equivalent of red oxide of mercury and two equivalents of Iod. of potassium. Acute facial paralysis from cold (Merc. sol. and Caust.) come under this remedy. Remember to look for the Merc. tongue with the Kali expectoration.

Last but not least we have **Mercurius cyanatus**, the great cure and prophylactic in diphtheria. Extreme feebleness, trembling, and syncope, the characteristic trio, appear, of course. In diphtheria when the membrane is greenish and inclined to spread through the nose involving a large surface, with great destruction of tissue and intensified foetor. Swallowing is well-nigh impossible because of the severe cutting pain. There is icy coldness with nausea, thought of food causes retching. This is a dark picture, but Merc. cy. has won many laurels in just such conditions. The chronic sore throat of public speakers with rawness in spots in the throat as if about to ulcerate, will often be benefited by a dose of Merc. cy. if the general supporting and basic symptoms of Merc. are present.

I realize that the foregoing have been given but the slightest touch, a more extended exposition or minute comparison would lead us too far from the confines of a brief paper. I have simply endeavored to jog your memories by whipping into prominence these very few points of difference in a great group of homoeopathic medicines, wonderful Mercury and her Salts."

(Philip Krichbaum, M. D., Montclair, N. J., Mercury and its salts. Read before the annual convention of the International Hahnemannian Association, Cleveland, Ohio, June, 1920. The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 35 (1920), p. 433-438)