

Herbert Alfred Roberts



Herbert Alfred Roberts (1868-1949)

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“Helmuth furnished Swan with septic pus from an abscess, from which Pyrogen was prepared, first in a dilution, then potentized. This is preparation that is used by most Hahnemannians. Heath made Pyrogen from decomposed lean beef, and this has gone under the name of Sepsin. Burnett in his provings used Heaths preparation. Sherbino proved Swans, which was the preparation of septic pus in the potency. Kent used both preparations. The provings of the two are almost identical, so that they have practically all been classed under the head of Pyrogen.

This is one of the great nosodes. As you all know, a nosode is a remedy prepared from a pathological produce; but like all the nosodes, Pyrogen has a very definite field, and one who uses Pyrogen on the pathological findings will meet with disappointment. H. C. Allen says it is often indicated in septic states when the best selected remedies fail to relieve or permanently improve, analogous to the action of Psorinum or Sulphur in other conditions.

Most remedies have an acute and a chronic field, and Pyrogen is no exception to this general rule. Pyrogen is the Aconite of the typhus and typhoid quality in pyrexia, and wherever poisoning by bacterial products is going on, Pyrogen may do good work. This remedy is to be thought of in many of the surgical fevers, in carbuncles and erysipelatous swellings, and often in the poisoning caused by sewer gas. I do not know from my own observation, for I have never had a case of puerperal sepsis in my practice, but it is said to abort puerperal fevers.

The Pyrogen patient has a condition ushered in with a violent chill, beginning in the legs, with great heat and profuse perspiration.

The heat at first is dry, with intense aching in the limbs, and restlessness, which is ameliorated by heat and motion. If the patient is a child, this restlessness and nervousness by hard rocking in a chair. The patient will not sleep in bed, but wants to be held in the lap, like Chamomilla, but kept in slight motion; and if the motion stops, or you attempt to lay the child down, he immediately wakens. Like Sulphur, Pyrogen has a great aversion to being washed, and the child cries a great deal when being washed. However, if very hot water is used, it relieves the situation.

The pains of Pyrogen are worse when sitting, and decidedly worse from rest. The aching pains are like those of Eupatorium, or are sore, bruised pains. The intense restlessness can be compared to Rhus, which is relieved by continued motion; but unlike rhus, which is aggravated from first beginning to move, Pyrogen is relieved immediately upon motion. Many of the complaints of Pyrogen are brought on by becoming cold and damp. We find indications for this remedy in many of the hectic fevers of phthisis, when these symptoms are present.

The delirium of Pyrogen simulates that of Baptisia, in that it is a confused delirium, as though the parts of the patient were scattered about. The Pyrogen fever is apt to be very high, often times reaching 106; and with it there is great soreness and aching all over the body, but pains are relieved by motion. A condition peculiar to the Pyrogen fever which stands out as a characteristic symptom is the loss of rhythm between the pulse and the fever. With an intensely high fever, the pulse will be low. There is threatening heart failure in septic and zymotic fevers.

In conditions where there is scanty flow from an open wound, or when the secretions are scanty, together with great pain, this is one of the first remedies to be considered. In abscessed condition there is always intense burning. Here we can compare Pyrogen with Arsenicum, Anthracine, and Tarentula cubensis. The differentiation from Arsenicum is in the thirst and the slow pulse. It is interesting to note the Anthracine is also a pus product. Tarentula cubensis was produced from a Tarentula shipped from Cuba, which has been long delayed on the way. The alcohol had been spilled and the spider had partly decomposed, therefore we get the active septic conditions.

In recurrent abscesses, where they follow a history of sepsis, Pyrogen has done remarkable work. The patient is pale, sickly, rheumatic and stiff, together with these recurrent abscesses, which will date back to a sepsis of some kind. In the chronic states, the complaints practically always date back to a septic condition. The patient says she has never been well since she had puerperal fever years ago. Again, it is to be thought of in cases of Bright's disease where there has been a septic base years before. When we go into the history of the case carefully we are apt to find that some septic condition has been present earlier in life, and Pyrogen will often cure these ulcers when the history of an early sepsis is to be found.

The discharges of Pyrogen are intensely offensive, putrid. There is a cadaverous odor from the body, from the breath, and even the perspiration is very offensive.

Now let us glance at some of the peculiar and characteristic symptoms. The delirium is peculiar. The patient will know that where the rest of his body is. He has a sensation as if he covered the whole bed. He is always irritable, and with this, there is a decided loquacity; he talks all out of proportion to his normal state; he talks rapidly, and changes from one subject to another in quick succession.

There is the fan-like motion of the alae nasi, making us think of Lycopodium and Phosphorus. The tongue may show a brown streak down the center; it may be clean, smooth and dry; but the characteristic tongue is shiny as if varnished. The vomiting of pyrogen, like Phosphorus, occurs as soon as water becomes warm in the stomach. There is thirst for cold drinks in the chill as well as in the fever.

The patient craves chocolate. Stools are usually involuntary, and exceedingly offensive. The urinary deposits are red and very hard to wash from the vessel, making us think again of Lycopodium. In the heart action there is great palpitation, with a sinking feeling of the heart; a sensation as if the heart were pumping old water; a sensation as if the heart were purring.

It is a remedy of very great importance in the last stages of tuberculosis, where there are the very offensive, copious night sweats and the great tendency to diarrhoea.

There are many more detailed symptoms recorded, but the main characteristics of the remedy stand out clearly, and Pyrogen becomes one of our great curative agents when these peculiar and unusual symptoms are present in fevers or septic conditions.

This great nosode is to be compared with Arsenicum, Baptisia, Sulphur, Phosphorus, and all of the reptile and many of the spider poisons. A careful study of these several poisons in comparison with Pyrogen will yield abundant reward to the careful prescriber. It will do yeoman duty in many so-called surgical conditions, and will turn a hopeless prognosis into one of assurance of complete recovery. When we have a desperate case, and hope is all but abandoned, if these characteristic symptoms are present, Pyrogen will turn defeat into victory.

DISCUSSION

Chairman W. W. Wilson: Pyrogen is a great remedy. What is the experience of some of your men with Pyrogen?

Dr. P. Brown: I have enjoyed this paper very much. I have used Pyrogen for three years. This is the first paper I ever heard on Pyrogen. I wish to bear testimony to the efficacy of this remedy. I have some cases which I have successfully treated with it. I am prescribing it in quite large doses.

President G. Stevens: Dr. Leonard, who was for twelve years health officer in Minneapolis, told me that he had cured at least one case of malignant smallpox with Pyrogen.

Dr. J. Green: I turned the tide in a very serious case of erysipelas with Pyrogen prescribed on a mental symptom. The patient had a very sudden and very strong delusion of wealth and began to talk about what he was going to do with all the money that had come into his possession.

Dr. L. Ross: During the influenza epidemic in 1918, early in October I was led to Pyrogen by that discrepancy between temperature and pulse in the first case I saw. The man made a very uneventful recovery, but he was desperately sick.

Dr. E. Underhill, Jr.: My first experience with Pyrogen was in a pneumonia case. I had only been converted to homoeopathy about a year when I saw this case and I had some little difficulty in deciding to give Pyrogen as I couldn't find that it had ever been recommended for pneumonia. However, I gave it on the septic symptoms, the slow pulse. It worked like magic. That patient afterwards went into a state requiring Psorinum and while I think it is dangerous to say that one remedy is the chronic of another it seems to me that Psorinum often does follow Pyrogen very well.

One other point as that I see great similarity between Phosphorus and Pyrogen. In one case of meningitis I came to the conclusion that I needed Phosphorus but the next day I saw I was wrong and gave Pyrogen, which remedy was correct. The case had gone too far, however, and the patient died, although the Pyrogen palliated the case until the last day.

Dr. V. Reel: I had excellent results with Pyrogen a case of hay-fever, controlling the condition early in the spring.

Chairman W. W. Wilson: What were the symptoms?

Dr. V. Reel: General symptoms of hay-fever, just as ordinary case.

Chairman W. W. Wilson: What called the Pyrogen to your mind?

Dr. V. Reel: I can't tell you. I made no notes of the case at all, but I used Pyrogen and the case was so wonderfully benefited by it that the second year, at the time when the hay-fever usually developed, I gave her a 200th of Pyrogen. She has never had any further trouble and that was four years ago."

[The rest of the discussion is lacking here!]

(H. A. Roberts, M.D., Derby, Conn., Pyrogen, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 45 (1930), p. 703-706)

1931 - The Spider Poisons

LATRODECTUS MACTANS

"This "Black Widow," as it is called, is a member of the genus *Latrodectus* of the family *Theridiidae*, which bears the name of being the only true venomous family of spiders. However this may be, observations of *Latrodectus* poisonings have been recorded that show it to be a powerful venom, having a direct action on the circulatory system. In fifteen cases observed by Dr. Bogen in the Los Angeles General Hospital, the spider's bite had been witnessed by the patient, and nearly all these cases developed pain in the legs and abdomen, extreme abdominal rigidity, high blood pressure and high temperature. Had these cases been recorded by a trained homoeopathic physician, how much valuable date we might have gained!

It is significant that the higher types of animal development show the greatest reaction to *Latrodectus* poisoning. Horses and camels have succumbed to the bite, while sheep and pigs can eat the spider without any ill effect, and are used to clear fields of the spiders instead of the more common custom of burning over the fields. Experiments have determined that extracts from the poison gland of the spider will kill a cat very quickly.

The *Latrodectus mactans* is the largest spider of its family. It sometimes attains a length of one-half inch. The abdomen is round and the whole body is a velvety black, except a bright red spot underneath and one or more red spots over the spinnerets and along the middle of the back. The legs of the male are much longer than those of the female, although the male varies in size of body very much, in some instances being only about one-fourth the size of the female. Each joint of the legs is marked with orange, shading to black at the edges of the joint. The male also has four pairs of stripes along his sides, red in the middle and white at the edges.

This spider makes its nest among loose stones, on plants or in houses. Around its hiding place it spins a large funnel-shaped tent that widens into a flat or curved sheet of web, closer in texture towards the tube and more open toward the edges, spreading over two or three feet over plants and stones. It is found all over the United States as far north as Massachusetts and New Hampshire, although its northward spread was by forced means, a professor whose summer home was in New Hampshire carrying some specimens north for experimental purposes, and they escaped from captivity and made themselves at home. Their habitat extends southward through Florida, the West Indies and South America, as far as Chile. It is probably the *Theridion curassavicum* of the West Indies, or a very near relative, for the *Theridion cur.* also has the velvety black body with the spots in the same relative position as the *Latrodectus mactans* (the large spot underneath and the three smaller ones above) but the color of the spots in *Theridion cur.*, is not bright red, but yellow underneath and orange-red above, and in size the *Theridion cur.* is about the size of a cherry pit.

Many of the *Latrodectus* symptoms that have been recorded resemble those of *Theridion cur.*, although *Latrodectus* has not been thoroughly proven, and *Theridion cur.* was proven by that indefatigable worker, Hering. Had there been a more careful proving of *Latrodectus* by such a master as Hering, we might have noted more similarities.

It is interesting to note that the genus *Latrodectus* will eat almost anything, including tarantulas, scorpions, woodlice and lizards, and even the Spanish fly, cantharides, all without showing any poisonous effect.

The poisonous effects of the bite of this spider on human beings have given us some peculiar and valuable symptoms, which are almost wholly associated with the action of the poison on

the heart. There is disorganization of the blood, with inability to coagulate. We have used this remedy in these critical conditions with prompt and marked effect.

In the mental sphere there are symptoms of great anxiety and fear that dissolution is impending. This is not so much a fear as a foreknowledge of the approaching dissolution, with the attendant fear; and the countenance shows this great anxiety.

The heart symptoms are marked. There are very violent praecordial pains extending to the left axilla, down the left arm to the hands and fingertips. The patient's left arm seems to become almost paralyzed with the pain, and there is extreme numbness. The pulse becomes very rapid, so that it can hardly be counted, and so weak it is almost imperceptible.

The respiration is slow and gasping. There is great shortness of breath, approaching apnoea.

The surface of the body breaks out into a cold perspiration.

There are severe abdominal pains with nausea and sinking sensations in the epigastrium. Finally there is vomiting of black blood, with dark bloody evacuations of the bowels.

LATRODECTUS KATIPO

This venomous spider is found in some parts of California and in New Zealand. The recorded symptoms are those produced by bites. The symptoms are slow in evolution, and in a fatal case which was recorded, the child, who was bitten on the abdomen, did not die until six weeks after the bite.

The bite produces a small raised place like that of a flea-bite, sometimes with intense burning. This swells, sometimes at once and sometimes after the lapse of a few days, as large around as a teacup, white with a red halo. There are severe pains running upward from the bite, as in *Latrodectus mactans*, accompanied with a great deal of burning pain and severe twitching. The face becomes anxious, with extreme pallor, changing to a bluish tint. There is nervous depression and delirium. The jaws become stiff, so the patient cannot eat, nor scarcely articulate. The heart becomes slow in action and the patient is almost pulseless. The appearance of the patient is as of one going into a decline. Those bitten take a long time in recovering; after very long and gradual loss of strength the tide may turn and there will be a long, slow convalescence.

A marked peculiar symptom is the sensation as if the heel were lacerated by a dull instrument; a bruised pain, which awakens him from sleep, and which is an aggravation in sleep.

In these animal poisons we expect to find the anxious expression as a result of heart complications, and the pallor and blue tint extending from the face to the entire body, are of course due to the disorganized blood, which almost always is the first action of these animal poisons.

The stiffness of the jaws is so great that the patient cannot eat, nor scarcely speak. There is a loss of all desire for food; severe cramping and drawing pains in the abdomen.

There are severe burning pains running from the foot and limbs to the back, but centering about the heel. The sensation in his sleep as if his heel were lacerated.

With these symptoms, there is nervous twitching beginning in the limbs and extending over the whole body; severe shaking; lack of energy; sudden faint spells, with pallor; great emaciation and wasting.

THERIDION CURASSAVICUM

Theridion curassavicum, or the Orange Spider, is a native of the West Indies, coming from the island of Curacao, where it is found on orange trees. It is about the size of a cherry stone. When young it is velvety black with anterior and posterior lines composed of white dots.

Later the markings are three orange red spots on the posterior of the body and on the belly a square yellow spot. This is an exceedingly poisonous spider, and the poison has a marked action on the nervous system, producing weakness and trembling, coldness, anxiety and fainting.

There are two very characteristic symptoms always present when *Theridion* is indicated. One is the excessive sensitiveness to the least noise. This sensitiveness extends to vibrations as well as noise, as jars or the moving of a carriage, or even the moving of a boat, the vibration against the waves. Another peculiar sensation is as if these vibrations extended to the teeth, and were felt most in the teeth. "Sounds penetrate the body, and especially the teeth, increasing the vertigo and causing nausea." Many symptoms make this remedy applicable in sunstroke.

Because of its symptomatology, this remedy is very often of value in hysterias, especially the hysterical conditions of puberty and during the climacteric. It is indicated in many nervous disorders, and it is peculiarly useful in some forms of seasickness.

Hering introduced and proved this spider poison in 1832, using the preparations made from the live spider crushed in alcohol. Hering's careful observations elicited a very interesting symptomatology.

The provers found that time passed very quickly; their inclination to mental exertions was increased, and they became very talkative, hilarious and even hysterical. Then the reverse side of the picture, great aversion to work, especially to do the common tasks of everyday life. There was great mental depression, especially with the headaches, and with the peculiar toothaches there is much weeping and hysterical manifestations.

There is vertigo, nausea and vomiting, aggravated on stooping, from the least movement, and markedly aggravated on closing the eyes. In sick headaches and seasickness they will often be able to keep about until they close their eyes, but the moment they close their eyes the vertigo and nausea increase tremendously. The vertigo is more marked on board a vessel, and often blindness and cold sweats accompany the vertigo.

Theridion has much headache. These headaches are frequently throbbing, this throbbing extending back into the occiput. It is especially violent behind the ears, with heavy pressure. With the headache there is confusion of mind; it is hard for her to describe the feeling, her head is so confused. She feels as if her head were disjointed, as if it did not belong to her or to the rest of the body; as if she could lift it off; as if it were strange to her and belonged to another. This is one of the remedies having the marked sensation as of a band pressing about the head. There is a sense of pressure in individual parts of the head as well as about the head. There is a headache with nausea and vomiting like seasickness, at the climacteric period. With the headaches there is an aggravation from lying down, which causes pain deep in the brain.

There are marked eye symptoms. There is flickering before the eyes, even when closing them; a sensation as of a veil before the eyes. They are sensitive to light, and light causes sparkles before the eyes. There is double vision.

All the ear symptoms are made worse by the least noise. Every noise reverberates and penetrates the whole body, especially the teeth, causing vertigo and nausea. There is roaring in the ears. The scalp itches behind the ears.

The jaw is immovable in the morning on waking, making us think of *Latrodectus katipo*; later in the day the jaw opens involuntarily. There is tetanus with frothing from the mouth, which shaking chills. Cold water feels too cold to the teeth. There is pain in the teeth, particularly in the eye teeth.

There is a peculiar sensation in the oesophagus as if there were something slipping toward the epigastrium, temporarily taking away the breath.

These patients have a craving for acid food; a desire to eat and drink first one thing and then another, with particular desire for wines and brandies, and for smoking tobacco.

There is a burning pain in the hepatic region, aggravated on touch. *Theridion* has produced abscesses of the liver. It is one of the many remedies that is known to cure cases of anthrax in sheep, with great tumefaction of the hypogastrium and great thirst.

In the lower abdomen, there is great pain in the groins after coition. One of the peculiar symptoms of *Theridion* is the sensation as if someone tapped her in the groin when she flexes her knees.

The stool is a painless diarrhoea, with a sensation as if a lump were lying in the rectum. The urinary symptoms are peculiar, in that they have to get up severe times in the night, and they void practically none in the day.

In the male organs, sexual desire is lessened. There are weak erections during coition, with pains in the groin after coition; and there are forcible seminal emissions during siesta.

Theridion has been used successfully in the respiratory organs, several cases of phthisis florida having been cured by it, with the symptoms of cough at night, constant inclination to take a deep breath and much sighing. There are sharp stitches through the chest, especially sharp pains about the heart, radiating to the left shoulder.

There is a peculiar sensitiveness to the spine, and they will sit down sidewise to avoid pressing against the spine. The jar of the foot in walking so aggravates this sensitiveness that it makes her cry out.

Theridion has many peculiar sensations: as if the head were another's; as if the vertex did not belong to her; the band about the head; the veil before the eyes; as if too much air passed into the nose and mouth; as if the mouth were furred, benumbed; as if a lump lay in the perineal region; as if someone tapped her in the groin when she flexes her leg; as of a child bounding in the abdomen; as if the bones were broken and would fall asunder.

The aggravations occur every night; from cold; after stool; by coition; on motion or exertion, especially on stooping or rising; walking or going up and down stairs; after washing clothes there is nausea and fainting.

These patients are ameliorated by warmth, and the nausea and vomiting is relieved by warm water.

This is very largely a left-sided remedy.

TROMBIDIUM

Trombidium is a parasite that inhabits the bodies of house-flies, resembling very closely the itch-mite and closely related to the spiders. The remedy is prepared from the tincture of these parasites, and it has been proved in the 3rd, 6th, 9th, 18th and 30th potencies, under the direction of that indefatigable worker and observer, Constantine Hering. The provings have brought out a number of peculiar symptoms which are noteworthy.

The symptoms brought out by the provings show the action of *Trombidium* to be very largely on the left side. Its great characteristic is the marked aggravation of all conditions by eating or drinking, either while eating or after eating. It vies with *Croton tigl.* in aggravation of stool from eating or drinking. All conditions are aggravated by touch; aggravated by pressure; aggravated while lying down, especially toothache. Rising up causes faintness. Warm drinks relieve; open air relieves.

Some of the peculiar sensations are: As if there were no weight in the head (light-headed); as if there were incarcerated flatus in the abdomen; as if anus were excoriated after tenesmus; as if everything were coming out of the anus; as if hot air were blowing over the abdomen and thighs; as if the abdomen needed support; sinking sensation, as if breath would leave her; as if three toes on the left foot would be twisted off.

The mental symptoms of *Trombidium* show much talkativeness and loquacity; a determined inclination to things by contraries; an inability to collect ideas and co-ordinate them. There is loss of memory and a constant disposition to yawn.

In the inner head there is oppressive headache; the head is congested, with red face and ears. Light-headedness and dizziness is marked in *Trombidium*, especially aggravated upon rising from bed, when they are very apt to faint. There is sharp pain in the head and temples, and the headache is aggravated by shaking the head or by jars, as in walking. There is an intolerable itching of the scalp on the vertex and occiput.

The eye symptoms show a great deal of lachrymation in the open air, and the inner canthus itches intolerably. The conjunctiva is red and injected.

There are shooting pains through the ears, which are aggravated on swallowing or blowing the nose. The outer ear itches, especially mornings, and there are burning pains in the outer ear.

The nose is obstructed; there is dryness and scabs, and nosebleeds mornings.

One of the choicest and most frequently verified symptoms is a peculiar fluent coryza which manifests itself in the open air and especially when eating. Some people cannot eat without constant attention to the nose, due to this fluent coryza, which is very marked in the proving of the remedy.

There is much aching in decayed teeth, the pain starting up when eating breakfast and lasting until noon, when returning to eat. The toothache is aggravated lying down, eating, talking, or from cold air; ameliorated from warmth and hot drinks.

The tongue is white coated.

After meals there is eructation, tasting of ingesta. There is vomiting in the morning after breakfast, or after having coffee. There is much griping in the pit of the stomach after eating.

The abdominal symptoms are manifested in griping pains on rising, which soon give way to the desire for stool. The pain and tenesmus is so intense as to cause the patient to break out all over in a sweat. There is pain at 3 a. m. from incarcerated flatus. The abdomen is quite sore, and the patient is wakened at 5 a. m. with urging to stool (Sulphur). There is also pain in the abdomen during the forenoon, aggravated from drinking cold water, from eating and from pressure.

There is pain in the right hypochondriac region, with soreness over the liver on pressure, with darting pains, especially evenings.

There is constipation following soft stools. There may be diarrhoea and straining, with expulsion of much flatus. The diarrhoea at 5 a. m. is followed by several small stools during the day, which are preceded by some pain in the intestines. During the stool there is continuous pain in the abdomen, with urging and chills and shivering along the back, with tenesmus. The stools are light brown, consisting largely of mucus, and are preceded and followed by on in the abdomen. With these conditions there is great debility.

The patient complains of many sharp stabbing pains here and there through the chest, sometimes in the region of the heart, often brought on by a long deep breath.

There are rheumatic pains in the limbs, mostly shooting and stabbing here and there, as well as in the fingers and phalanges. With these rheumatic pains there is restlessness and inability to keep quiet. There is relief in the open air and relief evenings.

The skin symptoms manifest themselves in pimples, especially on the nape of the neck and in beard.

The sleep is restless and with lewd dreams. There is constant waking from 4 a. m. on.

In the feverish condition calling for *Trombidium* there is a great deal of chilliness in the evenings, in the mornings and on waking.

Trombidium is a remedy that bears study, keeping in mind these peculiar symptoms that have been mentioned, and these will lead us to the more frequent use of this remedy. Where it is indicated, it does exceedingly prompt and efficient work.

DISCUSSION

Dr. C. L. Olds: I think this is an exceedingly valuable paper. I am particularly interested in these remedies. Regarding spider poisons, it is rather remarkable that many of the spiders are only poisonous during the period of bringing forth their young, that is, during July and August in this climate. It is during those months, almost entirely, that we get the poisonous spider bites with their poisonous symptoms.

I recall the case, some years back, of a child that had been bitten by a spider, being brought to me. She was brought to my office about thirty minutes after she was bitten. She was then swollen from the feet to the top of the head in an almost unrecognizable way. I don't remember the other symptoms. I think there was not very much pain. I gave her, as an antidote, *Apis*, and in a short time she returned to her usual health.

In regard to the first remedy, *Latrodectus*, I have used it very little except in cases of angina pectoris, and there I have had very good results.

In regard to *Theridion*, I am particularly interested in this remedy as I recently had a case in which it acted most beautifully. It was a case in which there was swelling of the glands of the groins and neck. There was emaciation and long sickness. There were intense bone pains, which were left-sided. In fact, most of the symptoms were left-sided. There was this great sensitiveness that the doctor spoke of, sensitiveness to jar, sensitiveness to all impressions, mental and physical. The mental state was also one of more or less agony. The woman felt as if she would fly all to pieces; she felt she could not exist any longer. The condition had been going on for some months and nothing had been found to more than temporarily relieve these pains - intense pains from the left hip down. One dose of *Theridion* 200th caused a terrible aggravation the first night. After that there was absolutely no pain. It has been about two months now. It is quite a remarkable case.

In regard to *Trombidium*, I have had little experience with it except in the case of certain diarrhoeas that come in the daytime and usually only after eating. Several such cases I have cleared up with this remedy.

Dr. E. B. Lyle: About a year ago, a paper was published in the *Recorder*, January 1930, p. 20, on spider bites and the way the doctor treated them. We are not quite sure what the spider was, because unfortunately in sending it to the university for identification it was lost, but it would be well to compare this paper with that one.

Dr. G. Stevens: I would like to ask Dr. Roberts if he knows any antidote for *Latrodectus*. For instance, would *Lachesis* serve?

Dr. C. M. Boger: The signature of *Latrodectus* turned up quite unexpectedly in my work. I was reading over one of my cases one day, and I noticed that one of the main symptoms was that the patient was persistently annoyed by dreams of flying. Of course, that is not such an unusual dream, but in a few days the patient came in and her symptoms were not very clear. They did not point very clearly to any particular remedy. I didn't have the particular spider, but I had the next one, which was *Latrodectus*. I gave that and all the symptoms disappeared.

I frequently do that sort of prescribing. The spider doesn't fly with wings, but he flies with jumps. I think that one of the great signatures for spider poisoning is a dream of flying. It seems to indicate that this symptom is more or less in common with many of our remedies, remedies from the same natural order, remedies of the same chemical composition. It is well worth remembering.

Dr. D. T. Pulford: I think the article by Dr. Schwartz *, in regard to spider bite might help some of us in regard to the question of an antidote. He used *Arsenicum*, I think, in most of his cases.

* Spider Bites, The Homoeopathic Recorder, January 1930, page 20

Dr. H. A. Roberts: There is very little I need to say that is not in the paper itself. From the clinical observation, however, I have had quite a bit of experience. It is a very, very valuable remedy. I will not go out without *Latrodectus* in my case, for the reason that when you want it you want it very badly. It will relieve the terrible torture of angina very promptly, and it will hold it for some time. I have used it repeatedly in those cases. Not only does it hold it, but it holds it for a very long while. You very seldom get a repetition of it afterwards, unless it is a natural pathological condition that has destroyed altogether the coronary artery.

There is another peculiar thing that is very annoying, which you will often be able to relieve. There are many people whose noses will begin to drip the minute they begin to eat, a fluent discharge from the nose. It is exceedingly annoying to the patient. I have, on several occasions, been able to relieve that entirely by *Trombidium*. It is a light symptom, but it is terribly annoying.

Dr. C. C. Waltenbaugh: Would you give them a high potency or a lower potency?

Dr. H. A. Roberts: I ordinarily in those cases use 200th.

Dr. C. C. Waltenbaugh: Do you think a higher potency would aggravate them too much?

Dr. H. A. Roberts: I should be afraid of it. It is too powerful.

Chairman Dr. A. H. Grimmer: The doctor brought out one point that might be of value in the case of people who are trying to rid themselves of the desire for tobacco or alcohol. It might be one of the remedies in such a condition. That is just a suggestion, because of the craving that it has. That is the way we develop these things."

(H. A. Roberts, M. D., Derby, Conn., The Spider Poisons. Read before the I. H. A., Bureau of Materia Medica, June 1931. The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 46 (1931), p. 637-647)