

C. Carleton Smith

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1872 - Cholera infantum in Philadelphia

"Have had quite a number of cases of this disease this summer. Each case was treated according to the characteristic symptoms present.

One case, called to at midnight, I cut short with one prescription of *Ars.* ⁶¹⁰⁰⁰. The symptoms were great *restlessness* and *vomiting immediately everything* taken into the stomach.

Another case, commencing with *violent* and *sudden vomiting* of *yellow fluid* followed by *curdled* milk and *cheesy* matter, I rapidly cured with one prescription of the 200th of *Aethusa cyn.*

Another, in which the prominent symptom was *coldness* of the body, blueness of nails and lips, *cold sweat* on *forehead* and *upper part* of chest, with *icy cold* feet, was promptly restored by a single prescription of *Camphora* ²⁰⁰.

Another case had the characteristic symptom, *dark brown watery stools* of such an intolerably *offensive odor*, that the nurse could scarcely stand it, was promptly restored to health with one prescription of *Psorinum* ⁵⁰⁰.

A case which was characterized by *sudden forcible stools*, *one gush* and then suddenly ceasing, was quickly cured by two doses of *Croton tigl.* ²⁰⁰.

Cases characterized by *unconquerable drowsiness* after each evacuation, were met nicely by *Nux mosch.*

Remarks: *Psorinum* has been to me of infinite value in cases which did not respond promptly to the specifically indicated drugs. The children having in all cases, dirty, yellow, greasy skins, with a partially developed *eruption* on their *foreheads* and *chest*, with constant *fretting* and *worrying*. *Psorinum* ⁵⁰⁰ in these cases was infallible."

(Carleton C. Smith, M.D., Cholera infantum in Philadelphia, The United States Medical Investigator vol. 9 (1872), p. 6-7)

1885 - Remedies as Time-Keepers

"There are remedies incorporated in our *Materia Medica* which may be justly termed "Time-keepers," from the fact that in their provings they elicit symptoms which re-occur at certain hours or at stated periods, and at certain and regular intervals, without fail.

This feature, belonging to certain drugs, being verified by each and every prover, enables us to prescribe them with the utmost confidence when indicated - this confidence being daily strengthened by the witnessing of most remarkable cures following their administration.

One of the most important of this class of drugs, and the one I wish to call attention to particularly in this brief paper, is the *Aranea diadema*, commonly called the cross-spider. When the proving of this drug was first made, one of the most peculiar symptoms which was prominently brought forth and verified by subsequent provers is the one which reads: "Toothache every day at the same hour." Now, although this symptom is exactly in accordance with the proving, yet we must not make the mistake, as is frequently done by those who do not properly interpret the true meaning of symptoms as recorded in our *Materia Medica*, to throw aside this drug in a given case of toothache, for the reason that it may not happen to occur in the patient under treatment at precisely the same hour each day - remembering, that it is not so much the precise hour at which the symptom returns, as it is the marked regularity.

Many brilliant cures have been lost to the practitioner, and many a convert, also, to our school of practice, by reason of this error.

In the homoeopathic use of such drugs as the one we are now considering, we must reason from analogy, and if the symptom, whether belonging it be odontalgia or what not, comes on with clock-like regularity every day, every other day, or every seventh day, moving as it were in a cycle, then the remedy, corresponding to this positive regularity, is homoeopathic to it, and it will, in all likelihood, effect a cure.

By thus reasoning I was enabled to make a most beautiful and perfect cure of a case of chills in the person of a robust, tall, and heavily bearded man, who, from the nature of his business, was exposed to all sorts of weather.

This patient came to my office last spring, and explained to me that he was suffering from a very peculiar ailment. For weeks past, though feeling tolerably well throughout the day, attending regularly to his daily round of duties, every night, as soon as he stepped into bed, he was seized with a severe chill, which lasted perhaps for the space of two hours, followed by heat, but no sweat.

Thinking that the cold sheets upon which he lay had something to do with his difficulty, he adopted the plan of substituting blankets, but no improvement followed this procedure. The key-note in the case, "chill the moment he touches the bed," is very remarkable, and I did not propose wasting half a day hunting for it in the *Materia Medica*, for I knew it was not to be found there. I, however, reasoned from analogy, as I have always been in the habit of doing in prescribing in similar cases, thereby interpreting drug symptoms far beyond their literal meaning, as printed in black and white in our books. Hence, I was enabled to cure the patient promptly and effectually, and in this way. Upon hearing the story of the gentleman's sufferings I said to myself, There is no such symptom to be found, *verbatim et literatim*, among our key-notes; but in a moment the drug *Aranea diadema* loomed up before me, with that remarkable symptom confronting me, viz.: "toothache every day at the same hour." Now this patient's sufferings did not present themselves at the same hour precisely each day, but, on the contrary, were developed only when he retired to bed, which was at irregular hours; but when they did present themselves they were as regular as clock-work, and always under the same conditions.

Aranea occurring to me, as I remarked before, as being the best time-keeper among our remedial agents, I was satisfied that this, and this only, afforded hope for my patient. Accordingly, the remedy in the thirtieth potency was administered in smallest size pellets, a dose night and morning for four days.

At the expiration of a week the patient, according to agreement, reported, and stated that after the fourth dose the chills ceased, and he considered himself well. I saw him a week later and there was no relapse.

Comments. - We are prone to put a narrow or contracted interpretation on many of our provings, not allowing them sufficient scope. For instance, Lac caninum has sore throat, constantly changing from one side to the other. Now, if we stop here, and simply interfere that this drug has this peculiar power or action only in the throat, we will do nothing else with this peculiar symptom but cure sore throats with it. If, however, on the other hand, we interpret the symptoms recorded in our provings aright, giving them proper and reasonable construction, and reading between the lines, we will soon find that just as well certain forms of colic or acute pains in various portions of the body can also be readily cured with it, wherever this peculiar symptom exists of the pain alternating from one side to the other at regular intervals. Studying remedies in this light will give us greater latitude as healers of the sick, and will help us out with many a knotty case, where the identical symptom, as given by the patient, cannot be found recorded.

Remarks. - The headaches of Aranea are very severe, greatly aggravated by attempting to read or to write, but ameliorated by smoking tobacco, and entirely relieved by smoking out in the fresh air. The colic produced by this remedy is somewhat similar in its severity to Colocynth, but while the colic of the latter is much relieved by pressing the abdomen against some hard substance or bending double, the Aranea colic is made better by sitting up and rubbing the abdomen all over with the hand. The Aranea toothache occurs in one or more teeth every day at precisely the same hour, but on lying down every tooth in the head is sure to ache. The menstrual symptoms closely resemble Calcarea carb., inasmuch as it causes the flow to appear eight days too soon, and are too copious and too strong. We have but a meagre proving of Aranea diadema, and we should be pleased to hear through the pages of The Homoeopathic Physician of cures made with this drug, with the symptoms clearly given, by members of the profession who have found it, as the writer has, a most valuable addition to our armamentarium."

(C. Carleton Smith, M. D., Philadelphia, The Homoeopathic Physician vol. 5 (1885), p. 386-388)

1889 - Sticta pulmonaria

"As we are entering upon the season in which catarrhal diseases are very rife, I propose to call your attention to a remedy which has a most marked action upon the mucous membrane, viz., Sticta pulmonaria, which, when judiciously employed, has displayed marked curative effects in nasal and bronchial catarrhs, whether administered in the lowest, highest, or medium potencies. It is an indigenous plant, and, therefore, meets many of those cases of sudden colds ending in catarrh of the head and chest, which are so common during our changeable winter weather. And not only do we find it frequently indicated in acute attacks of the character just mentioned, but also equally efficacious in chronic nasal catarrh which lasted many years.

All the provers felt a dull, heavy pressure in frontal region and at root of nose, similar to that occasioned by Nux vomica. This was followed by darting pains in the temporal region, burning in the eyelids with soreness of the balls in closing the lids or turning the eyes, and also marked inability to concentrate the mind. These symptoms continue to increase in severity until a cough is developed, which is very severe in its nature, hard and racking, provoked by constant tickling in the larynx, and finally extending into the chest. These symptoms, given in a general way, are the result of various provings, which, though fragmentary in their nature, have, nevertheless, enabled our school to make some important cures. But, to be more specific, and in order to get a clearer idea of the remedy, let us place the symptoms in a group as far as we are familiar with them.

Under mind we find a general confusion of ideas, the patient must talk, even though no one is listening to him. Under head we find sensation as if scalp was too small, or drawn too tight

over the skull. Pains in right side of head of a darting and shooting character. Catarrhal headache, even with nausea and vomiting. Under eyes we find severe burning in the lids, with soreness of the balls, worse on closing the lids or looking from side to side. Under nose, we find that the patient wants to blow that organ constantly, but no discharge results. And the mucous membrane becomes so dry as to be quite painful, while scabs form quite rapidly, which are difficult to dislodge.

Under throat we find that the soft palate becomes so intensely dry patient cannot swallow without great pain. Now, take this group of symptoms as we have recorded them, and you cannot fail to observe a vivid picture of influenza as we so frequently meet with it in this latitude.

The cough of this drug is always dry, and invariably worse at night, preventing sleep. It is noisy and racking, accompanied with a splitting headache in frontal region. The tickling which causes the cough is so incessant that the patient soon shows sign of being completely worn out, and if not speedily controlled in some cases, becomes croupy in sound; can neither lie down * nor sleep on account of it.

* Must lie down with the headache, but cannot with the cough.

There are several remedies which we may compare with *Sticta*, and observe at the same time the points of difference.

The stuffed feeling at the root of nose we also find prominently under *Nux vomica*, but this latter drug has the fluent coryza by day, and the dry coryza at night, and the three a. m. aggravation, which do not obtain under *Sticta*. The *Sticta* patient feels better in the morning and worse in the afternoon. Sensitiveness to the inspired air we also find under *Rumex*, *Kali-bi.*, *Phos.* and *Dulcamara*. But under *Rumex* the parts are so exquisitely sensitive to the *warm air* of the room that the patient is forced to cover his head and face with the bed-clothes or stuff a handkerchief in his mouth; while under *Kali-bi.*, *Phos.* and *Dulc.*, the patient must needs to be exposed to the cold, damp outer air in order to bring about this aggravation.

The inspired air in the case of *Actaea racemosa* does not affect the larynx as we find under the remedies just alluded to, but the air seems to penetrate into the skull and upon the brain, causing a cold sensation.

As to the dryness of the nostrils, we must compare with *Sticta Arum triphyllum*, which is very important. The patient who requires *Sticta*, constantly blows his nose, but no discharge follows the repeated efforts. While the *Arum triphyllum* patient has a stuffed and perfectly dry nose (breathing through his mouth), yet there is a constant discharge, which excoriates the nostrils and skin of upper lip. A similar symptom is found under *Nitricum acid*. And in differentiating further with regard to excoriating discharges, I would add just here, that *Cepa* excoriates the *upper lip*; *Mercurius* the *alae* and *columnae* of the nose, while *Arum triphyllum* *excoriates both nostrils and upper lip*, the *left nostril* generally the worst.

There are several peculiar symptoms belonging to this drug which we will enumerate together, viz.:

1. The patient feels as if her legs were floating in the air.
2. Pain passing through from sternum to spine, with sensation as if abdomen were full of yeast, fermenting.
3. Pulsation, right side of sternum down to abdomen.

Remarks: - A great many persons who have had sad experience with the old school fully believe that nasal catarrh cannot be cured by any method. But, by showing our skill in the use of carefully selected homoeopathic remedies, we will win many a patient over to Homoeopathy. Shortly after the first fragmentary proving of *Sticta* was published many years ago, I obtained a vial of the tincture for the purpose of potentizing it, but, before I had the opportunity to do

this, I came across a lady who was suffering most intensely with all the acute symptoms of a fully developed attack of influenza. I remarked to her that she ought to be treated for it, to which she replied that it would be of no avail, as all previous attacks had to get well of themselves, her physician being incapable to afford her the slightest relief, besides informing her that catarrh could not be cured. I urged Homoeopathy upon her, and, after a little persuasion, she consented to try my prescription, which consisted of a drop or two of *Sticta* tincture in half a glass of water, a teaspoonful once in two hours. The result was a speedy cure, to the patient's great astonishment.

A gentleman consulted me with regard to a chronic catarrh of fifteen years' standing. He explained that he was constantly blowing his nose, but no secretion took place. Besides this, dry scales frequently formed upon the mucous surface, which not only added greatly to his misery, but also prevented his smoking with any degree of comfort, on account of the obstruction to his breathing. If, said he, you can improve my condition so that I can hold a cigar in my mouth and smoke it without the necessity of removing it every moment, I will be satisfied. I put him on *Sticta*, and when I was through with him he could hold a cigar between his teeth until it was reduced to the merest stump. He expressed himself as well pleased with the result.

To anticipate a question which is no doubt in some of your minds, I would say, that my favorite potency in prescribing this remedy is Fincke's 6M."

(C. Carleton Smith, M. D., Philadelphia, *Sticta pulmonaria*, Read before the Lippe Society, December 10th, 1888, *The Homoeopathic Physician* vol. 9 (1889), p. 37-39)