

A STUDY ON

MATERIA MEDICA

Enriched with Real Case Studies

(An ideal textbook for homeopathic students)



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BJAIN

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ABIES CANADENSIS



NOTES

- Chronic gastric affections.
- Canine hunger with excessive loading of the stomach.
- Debility due to mal-assimilation of food; strong desire to lie down all the time.
- Uterine displacements.

Our **Abies-c.**, a remarkable remedy in the treatment of chronic gastric affections and uterine disorders, is prepared from the fresh bark and young buds of the Canada Pitch. It is called Hemlock Spruce and it belongs to the natural order of Coniferae. It produces a kind of catarrhal condition of the stomach. Although imperfectly proved, we have records of numerous instances of cures effected with this remedy. These patients suffer from great debility and there is a strong desire to lie down and rest most of the time. A sort of languor is to be found in **Gelsemium** also. It is easy, however, to differentiate between the two remedies. In **Abies-c.** it is debility pure and simple due to mal-assimilation of food whereas in **Gelsemium** it is only a muscular debility and a want of tone in the muscular system.

The most prominent symptoms to guide us in our selection of **Abies-c.** are to be found in the gastric region. Canine hunger is present most of the time. It is a cruel hunger that gnaws in the stomach causing a sort of fainting feeling at the epigastrium. In his hunger he does not know how much he eats and very often there is excessive loading of the stomach which causes distention of stomach and abdomen with severe palpitation of the heart.

It is also applicable in uterine displacements. The patient complains of a sore feeling at the fundus of the uterus and relief is obtained by pressure. Chilliness, prostration and the peculiar cravings when associated with the above mentioned gastric symptoms will make its application almost a certainty.

ABIES NIGRA



NOTES

- *Dyspepsia, especially of the aged, due to excess of tobacco and tea.*
- *Sensation of a lump in the cardiac end of the stomach.*

Abies nigra, called the Black or Double Spruce, is prepared from the gum of the plant, native of the northern part of North America. It is undoubtedly a grand remedy in dyspepsia especially of the aged, habituated to excesses of tobacco and tea. They are generally low spirited and dull and have wakeful nights. This remedy has a symptom which has been verified repeatedly and which can be described as the most characteristic indication of **Abies nigra**. This keynote symptom consists of a sensation of a lump in the cardiac end of the stomach. The patient describes this as a feeling as though he had swallowed some indigestible substance which had stuck in his stomach. It is like a continual distressing constriction just above the pit of stomach, as if everything was knotted up and this would neither go down nor come up. Sometimes it is described as a sensation of a hard boiled egg lodging in the stomach. Severe pain in stomach is felt after eating. Symptoms like these are to be encountered daily and a few doses of **Abies nigra** will nip the trouble in the bud.

In this connection we may compare **Abies nigra** with **Bryonia**, **Calcarea carb.**, **China**, **Lacticum acidum**, **Nux vom.**, **Natrium mur.** and **Zincum**.

ABROTANUM



NOTES

- *Marasmus of infants.*
- *Puny, wrinkled, cross and depressed baby.*
- *Progressive atrophy inspite of ravenous hunger.*

- *Marked prostration; cannot even hold up head.*
- *Emaciation more marked in lower limbs.*
- *Alternate diarrhea and constipation.*

Artemisia abrotanum is prepared from the fresh leaves and stems of Lady's Love. I have used this remedy with great success in cases of marasmus of infants. They look puny, wrinkled, cross and depressed. The emaciation is more marked in the lower limbs. Malnutrition is evident from progressive atrophy inspite of ravenous hunger. The prostration is so great that they cannot even hold up their heads. They are very subject to alternate diarrhea and constipation. Protruding hemorrhoidal tumors with a burning pain when touched, oozing of blood and moisture from the navel, distention of abdomen, constant pain in stomach making the child irritable and ugly, a sort of hectic fever with painful inflammatory rheumatic swellings in different parts of the body, flabbiness of skin hanging in folds are symptoms to be always encountered in an **Abrotanum** baby.

Abrotanum, however, is not our only remedy for marasmus of children. **Aethusa**, **Antimonium crud.**, **Baryta carb.**, **Calcarea carb.**, **Cina**, **Iodium**, **Natrium mur.**, **Petroleum**, **Phosphorus**, **Sarsaparilla**, **Silicea** and **Sulphur** are important remedies to be remembered in this connection.

In **Aethusa** with the emaciation we have immoderate vomiting of milk immediately after nursing. The same emaciation, the same want of power to hold the head up are present but the great intolerance of milk should always be our guide in its selection.

In **Antimonium crudum** we have the vomiting of food and drink, we have the watery diarrhea, but the ugliness and peevishness of the child, the want of animal heat and the heavy milky or the milk white coating of the tongue should help us in our selection.

Baryta carb. is indicated when in addition to the general emaciation we have the immature and dwarfed mental condition of the child to think of. A general tendency towards swelling of cervical

and other glands is also to be noticed in this remedy.

In **Calcarea carb.** the emaciation is more marked in tissues other than adipose. The muscles and the bones suffer before the fatty tissues are affected. There is a general deceptive appearance of plumpness about this child. Profuse sweat especially on the head, crusta lactea, engorgement of glands especially the mesenteric, sour pungent clayey diarrhea and great craving for eggs are prominent symptoms.

Cina is inferior to none in marasmus but the itching of the anus, the wetting of the bed, the presence of worms in the stools, the beastly temper, the constant picking of the nose and a strong desire on the part of the child to be constantly rocked are guiding indications.

Iodium is indicated when the hunger is excessive and the child wants to eat constantly. In addition to this we have swelling and induration of the mesenteric glands.

Natrium mur., a great remedy at all times, is particularly indicated in marasmus when atrophy is more marked in the throat and neck of children. The mapped tongue, herpes labialis, marked repugnance to bread, sadness, profuse sweating, palpitation and constipation are sure indications for **Nat-m.**

Petroleum is indicated in marasmus when the patient is subject to a peculiar type of diarrhea, harassing all day long but mostly absent at night time. The other prominent symptoms are a marked odor of garlic in the breath and feces of the patient, aversion to fresh air, a marked tendency for eczema, excoriating cracks and bleeding rhagades.

We use **Phosphorus** in children growing over-tall but slender. The pot-belliedness, the pale waxy countenance, the delicate eyelashes and soft hair, a frequent tendency for diarrhea where stools pour away like water from a hydrant, the great tendency for affection of bones, the strong craving for cold iced drinks are symptoms too definite to be misleading.

Sarsaparilla is generally called for in very pronounced cases of marasmus where the disease is fully developed. The emaciation is

extreme, the face looks shrivelled, the skin lies in folds, eruptions are prone to appear on tongue and roof of mouth. Offensive sweat about genitals, restlessness before passing of urine, passing of great quantity of sand in the urine are also characteristic of this remedy.

Silicea is indicated in nervous, irritable, timid children who though wasting everywhere present an exceedingly large head. Malnutrition is marked everywhere in **Silicea**. A great aversion to mother's milk is also noticed.

Sulphur though coming last in this list is not second in importance to any. In fact it is used oftener than many of the other remedies mentioned in this list. No body can mistake a **Sulphur** baby. There is nothing inviting about him. The skin is dry, harsh and wrinkled, giving the child an old man look. Eczema, itch, eruptions, enlargement of the glands, obstinate constipation and persistent, diarrhea, a never-to-be-forgotten nauseous smell, dirt and filth speak of an ugliness that is only to be encountered in **Sulphur**.

ABSINTHIUM



NOTES

- *Over indulgence in alcohol.*
- *Epileptiform seizures; a large number of fits, in rapid succession on the same day.*
- *Vertigo with a tendency to fall backwards.*

This is prepared from the common Wormwood, a plant very well known because of the famous liquor extracted from it. The tincture is made from the chopped leaves and blossoms of this plant, macerated in two parts by its weight of alcohol.

Many symptoms of this remedy have been obtained from persons indulging too freely in this deleterious drink. This liquor is consumed very extensively in Switzerland and France. In the latter country, the consumption of **Absin.** has assumed such proportions that it has been

truly esteemed a grave national evil. The symptoms of over-indulgence are muscular quiverings, emaciation, melancholic look, giddiness, tingling in the ears, hallucinations of sight and hearing, loss of brain power and eventual idiocy.

In homoeopathic therapeutics, this remedy is used extensively in epileptiform seizures. A large number of fits occur on the same day in rapid succession. Trembling, tremor and terrific hallucinations precede the attack and it is mostly followed by motor and sensory paralysis. An obtuse state of the mind prevails after the attack is over.

In delirium calling for **Absin.** we notice great restlessness as manifested by a desire to walk about; they cannot stop in one place because of the terrible visions that come to them. In the typhoid state it is prescribed for sleeplessness when sleeplessness is suspected to be due to congestion of the base of the brain.

We must not forget the vertigo of **Absinthium.** It is characterized by a tendency to fall backwards. It is also accompanied by general constipation and spasmodic twitching of the facial muscles.

ACALYPHA INDICA



NOTES

- Hemoptysis of phthisis, bright red in the morning, dark and clotted in the afternoon.

Acalypha Indica is a common Weed growing in the East Indies. It belongs to the natural order of Euphorbiaceae. This drug has a marked action on the respiratory organs. This is one more of our new remedies which I cannot, for sake of decency, overlook. I have used this remedy with great satisfaction in hemoptysis of phthisis. There is dullness of chest on percussion. Patients complaining of severe pain in chest, progressive emaciation, night sweats, evening rise of temperature, all indicating a serious stage, have been helped

by the administration of **Acalypha**. The cough of **Acalypha** is dry and hard and each time it is followed by hemoptysis. The blood ejected is bright red in the morning, dark and clotted in the afternoon. We also have a spluttering diarrhea with forcible expulsion of noisy flatus in this remedy. Rectal hemorrhage too, is not uncommon.

It belongs to the same category as **Hamamelis, Ipecacuanha, Millefolium, Phosphorus** and **Aconitum**.

This remedy was first proved by Dr. P. C. Mojumdar of Calcutta.

ACETICUM ACIDUM



NOTES

- A remarkable therapeutic agent in many cachectic conditions arising from cancer, phthisis, diphtheria, croup and diabetes.
- Anemia with debility and loss of flesh.
- Hemorrhage, from every outlet.
- Intense thirst.

*I*t is common Vinegar. It produces a sort of anemia with debility, loss of flesh, cough, dropsical swelling and hemorrhage and is therefore, a very remarkable therapeutic agent in many cachectic conditions arising from cancer, phthisis, fever, diphtheria, croup and diabetes. The patient presents a pitiable condition. He is pale, waxen and emaciated. Wasting is excessive and progressive. Thirst is very intense. Nausea, retching and sour rising are frequent symptoms. It has been known to palliate intense gnawing, ulcerative pains of cancer in the stomach with great burning and profuse diarrhea. Dropsical swellings common in the later stages of the above complaints also find in **Aceticum acidum** a great help. We have hemorrhage from every outlet of the body. These are all very serious symptoms but they come well under the influence of **Aceticum acidum**.

CASE

A few years since, a young lady, in easy circumstances, enjoying good health, was very plump, had a good appetite and a complexion blooming with roses and lilies. She began to look upon her plumpness with suspicion, her mother being very fat, she was afraid of becoming like her. Accordingly she consulted a woman who advised her to drink a small glass of vinegar daily; the counsel was followed, and the plumpness soon diminished. She was delighted with the success of the remedy and continued it for more than a month. She began to have a cough, but it was at first dry, and regarded as a cold that would subside. But from being dry, it was presently moist. A slow fever came on, with difficulty of breathing; her body became lean and wasted away; night sweats, with swelling of the parts succeeded; and a diarrhea terminated her life. On examination, all the lobes of the lungs were found filled with tubercles, and somewhat resembled a bunch of grapes.

—“The London Medical Gazette” 1838-39

ACONITUM NAPELLUS**NOTES**

- *Tension on the mental, emotional and physical plane.*
- *Intensity, acuteness and rapidity of appearance of symptoms.*
- *Extremely sensitive mentally and physically.*
- *Congestion of all parts. Severe inflammation of mucous membranes, in the first stage as in, pericarditis, pleurisy, pneumonia, conjunctivitis.*
- *Active hemorrhages.*
- *Restlessness, anxiety.*
- *Fear of death, predicts the time of death.*
- *Inflammatory types of fevers as a result of exposure to dry, cold wind while in perspiration or getting wet.*
- *Great thirst.*
- *Frequent tense, hard pulse.*

This is a very strong poison. It is commonly known as the Monkshood or Wolfsbane. It grows over bare rocks in various parts

of Europe and Asia. The tincture is prepared from the whole plant when beginning to flower. It was introduced into our materia medica by Hahnemann.

No single word expresses the general character of **Aconitum** better than "tension." Every fibre of the **Aconitum** patient is an illustration of this condition. The great anxiety, fear and restlessness illustrate his emotional tension. His intellectual tension is evidenced by the great acuteness of all his senses. His senses of smell, sight, touch and hearing become exceedingly active, which will not take long for the most casual observer to find out. His pulse is another proof of his acute, over-sensitive and highly strung condition. It is full, hard and bounding.

Another important point that should not escape our attention is the intensity, the acuteness and rapidity of all the symptoms of **Aconitum**; for example, the fever, for which **Aconitum** is the remedy, is rapid in its onset, intense in its character and overwhelming in its nature. It runs up to an extreme temperature of 104° or 105° F. in a very short while and his internal turmoil manifests itself by the intense agonising restlessness, the great but inexplicable anxiety, apprehension and fear.

The appearance of the **Aconitum** patient during fever is very characteristic. We notice redness and heat of one and coldness with paleness of the other cheek. Sometimes the face looks red, while lying down but becomes deathly pale on rising up, and he becomes faint or giddy and falls over. This is accompanied with vanishing of sight and unconsciousness. The heat is dry and burning in character and is accompanied by intense and excessive thirst. Water tastes very sweet and he drinks large quantities at a time. During sweat he wants to be covered up. The sweat is warm and profuse and is over the entire body. The aetiology of the **Aconitum** fever is very important and should be borne in mind. The ailment is the result of an exposure to dry, cold wind while in perspiration or getting wet.

Aconitum is very rich in mental symptoms. He is impatient and