

APIS MELLIFICA

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Some of our most valuable medicines have come from domestic use, from herbalistic lore, from accidental poisonings, from observing the bites and stings of poisonous reptiles and insects, and from traditions of country folk and savages.

There are different preparations of *Apis* but, according to Hering, there is only one right one. This is the pure poison obtained by grasping the bee with a small forceps, and catching the minute drop of virus suspended from the point of the sting in a vial or watch glass. This is then potentized. Hering says there is no object in drying and powdering the whole bee, with all the foreign matter and impurities.

Dr. E. E. Marcy in *Elements of a New Materia Medica* noted that his attention was first directed to *Apis mellifica* as a remedial agent by the following unique cure:

"A lad, aged about twelve years, had been afflicted for several months with ascites and hydrothorax. He had been treated for some three months by allopathic physicians, first for dysentery, followed by ascites, and afterwards for several months by a homœopathic physician. No permanent benefit resulted from either mode of treatment and the symptoms finally became so urgent that I was called in consultation, and tapping was at once resorted to in order to save the patient from imminent danger. Appropriate homœopathic remedies were again prescribed, but without arresting the onward course of the malady. The patient began to fill up again with great rapidity. The secretion of urine was nearly suspended, the skin was dry and hot, pulse rapid and weak, respiration short and difficult, great tenderness of abdomen, dryness of the mouth and throat, thirst, excessive restlessness and anxiety, short irritating cough, and an almost entire inability to sleep.

At this stage of the case a strolling Indian woman—one of the few survivors of the Narragansett tribe—suggested to the family the use of a honey bee every night and morning. She

enclosed the bees in a covered tin pail, and placed them in a heated oven until they were killed, and then after powdering them, administered one in syrup every night and morning. In twenty-four hours the skin became less hot and softer, the respiration less difficult and more free, the pulse slower and there was a decided increase in the quantity of urine. From this time the symptoms continued steadily to improve, the dropsical effusion diminished day by day, until by the end of a few weeks, the patient was entirely cured. This was the first case of dropsy cured by *Apis* which was ever reported.

Kent says:

It is queer how old women knew, long before *Apis* was proved, that when the little new-born baby did not urinate they could find a cure by going out to the bee-hive and catching a few bees, over which they poured hot water, and of which they gave the baby a teaspoonful. Some domestic things like that have been known among families, and it is consistent because it is just like what we give *Apis* for."

Apis has very definite symptoms, and is very definite in the tissues which it affects, and in the way in which it affects them.

It affects the coverings of the body, not only the skin and the mucous membranes, but also the coverings of the organs, e.g. the meninges of the brain, the pericardium; and always in the same way, with swellings, dropsical conditions, and its own peculiar stinging and burning pains. These sharp stinging pains often provoke a shriek or the *crie cerebrale* of meningitis. Everywhere where there is the *Apis* swelling, edema, stinging and burning, there is the *Apis* aggravation from heat: aggravation from a hot room, aggravation from the heat of the fire and aggravation from a hot bath.

The complaints of *Apis* are attended with more or less violence and rapidity. Kent describes the effect of bee sting on a sensitive individual. He comes down with nausea and anxiety that makes him feel that he is dying, and in about ten minutes he is covered with urticaria from head to foot. He stings and burns and wants to be bathed in cold water. He fears that he will die if something is not done to relieve his dreadful suffering. He rolls and tosses as if he would tear himself to pieces. The antidote

for such a bee sting is *Carbolic acid* in potency, which will give very quick relief.

Apis is a violent, debilitating, prostrating, restless, edematous, burning, stinging, thirstless remedy.

Mentally there is a premonition of death. Loss of consciousness. Sleep interrupted by piercing shrieks. Awkwardness. Depression of spirits with constant weeping. No sleep from worrying. Very irritable. Suspicious and jealous.

Apis is a good remedy for the eyes. It has deep-seated, inflammatory complaints of the eyes as a result of disease. Inflammations that are erysipelatous in character, that have thickening of the mucous membranes and lids, and white spots over the eyes. Inflammation with opacities, very extensive or in patches. Enlarged blood vessels. When the inflammatory condition is active, it is attended with edema of the lids, both upper and lower, and the whole face may be edematous, such as one would expect after a bee sting. Burning and stinging like fire, better from washing, from cold applications, worse from heat. Chronic, granular lids. Eye troubles extending from the right to the left eye. Upper eyelids so swollen that they hang like little sacs over the face.

Dr. Tyler tells of a medical student who contracted trachoma while spending some time in Egypt. A homœopathic physician cured this case in about twenty-four hours with *Apis* CM. This medical student on returning to Egypt, although not yet a physician, was given all of the trachoma cases to treat and most of them responded to *Apis* CM, usually within twenty-four hours. Some people say that Homœopathy is slow, but have you ever heard of any other method clearing up trachoma as quickly?

Hering's description is "redness and swelling, with stinging and burning pains in the eyes, eyelids, ears, face, lips, tongue, throat, anus, testicles," with relief from cold, and aggravation from heat.

Apis is a great throat remedy. It is often indicated in tonsilitis and diphtheria but always with the *Apis* swelling, edema, aggravation from heat, and burning and stinging pains, or it may be a violent throat that is painless. Nash describes the *Apis* throat in diphtheria. *Apis* is indicated in those intensely violent and

rapid cases in which the whole throat fills with edematous swelling, the uvula hangs down like a transparent sac filled with water, and the patient is in danger of death by suffocation from the actual closure of throat and larynx. Nash tells about being called in consultation for a very bad diphtheria case. One had already died in this family and four had already died in the area that day. Over forty cases had already died in this town in this epidemic, in fact all that had contracted the disease had died. Dr. Nash suggested *Apis* and the patient recovered. From then on every diphtheria case who received *Apis* in this epidemic recovered. I still believe that good homœopathic prescribing will cure more diphtheria cases than antitoxins, although it takes more skill to do it homœopathically. We can be thankful that cases of diphtheria are now rare, but in the old days a homœopathic physician who lost a case under homœopathic treatment was looked upon as a criminal; but if he gave antitoxin, no matter how many he lost, he had done his duty.

While I was in the Children's Homœopathic Hospital in Philadelphia, one of the nurses came down with a severe tonsilitis. One of the visiting staff physicians saw her and prescribed one of the mercuries. Late that night the assistant superintendent of nurses asked me to see her. She had a violent follicular tonsilitis, throat very edematous and swollen, temperature 104°F. It was in the winter time and she had only a sheet over her. She was so dopey, I do not believe she realized that we saw her. I told the assistant superintendent of nurses that I was going to show her a real homœopathic action. I gave the patient *Apis* 10M. Early the next morning I stopped in to see her and found her alert, happy and with a normal temperature.

In exanthematous diseases with rheumatic complications, *Apis* is invaluable, especially if there is the peculiar wax-like swelling of joints, with prostration, fever (but no thirst), together with the other concomitants. In chronic articular rheumatism, it has proved of value with the same general symptomatology. In all cases it should be carefully differentiated from *Rhus toxicodendron*, because *Apis* and *Rhus toxicodendron* are inimical. *Apis* follows well after *Arsenicum album*.

Watery diarrhea is common in *Apis*: yellow stools; green

stools, watery stools. Six to eight diarrhetic stools every day which smell like carrion. It is especially useful in a peculiar kind of stool occurring in children and infants, an intermingling of blood, mucus and food, giving the stools an appearance like tomato sauce. Stools occurring with every motion of the body, as if the anus were constantly open, is another symptom of *Apis*.

The urine is scanty, coming only in drops. There is much straining before the urine will start and then only a few drops. As soon as a few drops collect in the bladder, the urging comes: constant, ineffectual urging. Later the urine may be almost completely suppressed. It is very similar to *Cantharis* and the two remedies antidote each other. Retention of urine in nursing babies.

In the extremities there is a marked dropsy, swelling with pitting upon pressure. The face is very swollen at times, the eyelids look like bags of water, the uvula hangs down like a water bag, the abdominal wall is of great thickness and pits upon pressure, and the mucous membranes in any part look as if they would discharge water if they were punctured. Puffiness or edema, with pitting upon pressure, is a general condition that may be present in any inflammatory state.

There is a general amelioration from cold and aggravation from heat. The skin symptoms and the patient generally are aggravated from heat. This prevails also in the mental state in inflammatory condition in cardiac disorders, in dropsy, in sore throat; etc.

Joints swollen, edematous, hot, white and waxy. Sensation in the toes and in the whole foot, as if too large, swollen and stiff. Sometimes the edema increases until large blisters like bags of water are formed.

Nash says that in inflammations and fevers, when there is dry heat alternating with sweating, think of *Apis*. In all inflammatory affections and in intermittent fevers, if you find the patient alternately dry and hot, or perspiring, think of *Apis*.

Kent says, "*Apis* is full of dropsy, red rash, eruptions, urticaria, erysipelas—in all of these there is stinging and burning: burning like coals of fire at times and stinging as if needles or small splinters were sticking in."

Apis is thirstless, especially in edemas and fevers. Tenderness and sensitive to touch, as if bruised. Great desire to sleep; extreme sleepiness. Chilly every afternoon at 3 P.M.; aggravations 3 to 4 P.M., and from touch.

Apis is a right-sided remedy. The trouble begins on the right side and extends to the left, whether internal or external.

In conclusion, whenever one sees the swelling, the edema, the relief from cold, the aggravation from heat, the burning and stinging pains, think of *Apis*. It is an extremely useful and powerful remedy when indicated.

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