

ALLERGIC DIATHESIS

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The two cases presented here have been chosen for the fact that their curative remedies are relatively less known and insufficiently proven, yet have a wide constitutional range of action.

The first is a four-year-old boy with recurrent serious attacks of bronchial asthma. Twice in the past he had to be hospitalized for status asthmaticus with bronchopneumonia. He is dark-complexioned and plump, pasty and pale with dry skin. He makes a slow, apathetic impression, is very easily tired but also easily irritated, very emotional and sensitive. The condition is worse in winter, worse from chocolate and particularly worse from milk, which is also disliked, and worse from damp weather. There is easy perspiration, especially of the hands and head.

For a while his condition improved under *Calcarea carbonica*. Then the asthmatic tendency recurred and failed to respond to repetitions and higher potencies of *Calcarea carbonica*.

Now the prescription was *Viscum album* 200. at the height of an acute asthma attack. *Viscum* proved the needed intercurrent. It controlled the acute exacerbations. *Calcarea carbonica* now again worked as a constitutional protection, gradually reducing the intensity of the onset of the attacks. The attacks themselves required *Viscum album*. The complementary use of *Calcarea* chronically and *Viscum* acutely gradually normalized the condition.

A translation of the *Viscum album* proving appeared in the May-June 1960 Journal of the American Institute of Homœopathy. I merely repeat here the most characteristic points of its symptomatology. *Viscum album* is a spastic drug fitted for nervous, emotional and spastic disturbances in a wide range of oversensitive individuals. The *Viscum* patient is sad, tired, feels worn out, is apathetic but restless at the same time, oversensitive to noise, has an aversion to people, wants to be left alone, cannot react adequately to people. There is a tendency to go to extremes: overstimulation, intense almost maniac ability to react, as well as, more often, a depressive oversensitivity. Vertigo is a leading symptom. Along with the *Magnesias*, *Mandragora*, *Phosphorus* and *Conium maculatum*, *Viscum* is one of the leading vertigo remedies. Its symptoms are worse at night. It has a distinctive organ affinity in neurovegetative disturbances particularly relating to the circulatory and respiratory system. It should be thought of first in spastic cough with dyspnoea and irritation, bronchial asthma, angina pectoris, coronary conditions, cardiac neuroses, cardiac disturbances of emotional origin such as paroxysmal tachycardia, and possibly any other functional or organic interference with cardiac innervation.

The second case is a girl of 16 who is allergic to lipstick. Whenever she

used lipstick her lips would break out, the skin would crack and a rash appear around the lips. She also suffered from vasomotor rhinitis, conjunctival itching and irritation. This, however, did not bother her. The inability to use lipstick represented a personal tragedy.

She is thin, of almost transparent appearance, dark-complexioned with large eyes, very sensitive, excitable. There is a tendency to take colds easily. She is very chilly. She tends to be nauseated. There are menstrual cramps, and pains in the legs like "growing pains."

The remedy first prescribed was *Phosphorus*; it had a moderate effect but did not hold. It was followed by *Psorinum* with a similar poor effect. The case was now restudied and the prescription was *Thyroidin* 200, which in varying potencies proved the indicated remedy, covering adequately and successfully the symptomatology.

Let me review briefly the symptomatology of *Thyroidin* which, though inadequately known, is a constitutional remedy of the widest range when used in potency.

Thyroidin patients are chilly; only rarely are they warm-blooded. They are of thin builds, of nervous temperaments, and with prominent eyes. The remedy is not contraindicated for fat persons, however. The *Thyroidin* patient has puffiness of the face and a tendency to angioneurotic edema, urticaria, asthma and eczema. In other words, *Thyroidin* in potency covers the allergic, angioneurotic and vasomotor constitution in its various manifestations. People needing *Thyroidin* are nervously and emotionally affected showing disturbances of the vasomotor balance, hysterical and allergic tendencies.

It fits convulsions of the new born, vomiting of babies after birth (sometimes with jaundice), the vomiting and diarrhea of dentition, and infantile marasmus. It is indicated for the effects of disturbed sexual function, for complaints incidental to and aggravated by menstrual disturbances or irregularity. Thus, it suits the symptoms of puberty as well as of the menopause, the mental disturbances of puberty and menopause and those following childbirth.

In the above conditions, when the apparently indicated familiar remedy fails, *Thyroidin* may be called for. It is the nosode for the allergically, hysterically and emotionally disturbed vasomotor constitution.

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