

KEYNOTES OF SOME OUTSTANDING NEW PROVINGS

JAMES STEPHENSON, M.D., New York

The following four remedy keynote pictures are based on material in my forthcoming book, *Materia Medica and Repertory to the Provings 1924-1958*.

LOPHOPHORA WILLIAMSII

Lophophora Williamsii (or, as called by the older term, *Anhalonium Lewinii*) is the Mexican peyote. The proving by Unger was based on a tincture of the whole plant. It was first reported in the *Allgemeine Homöopathische Zeitung*, volume 203, page 572, 1958. An English translation by Edward Whitmont and myself will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the American Institute of Homæopathy*. Hale and Mitchell did some earlier, partial provings reported by Clarke in his *Dictionary* under the name *Anhalonium Lewinii*.

The keynote of this remedy is *schizophrenia* between the conscious and unconscious life of the patient. There is a retreat from objective reality into an inner life so rich and so varied that the outer world has lost its meaning. The plant itself carries through this signature. The bulk of its bluish-green body is below the surface of the earth, or mythologically in the realm of the telluric forces of the unconscious world, and only the rose-tinted leaves, the pink to purple flowers, the crimson fruit and the yellow stamen and style extend as a button (or a caterpillar, called by the Nahauti Indians *Peiotl*) above the ground in the airy, extra-telluric world of mythological consciousness.

Possibly as the result of this separation between the conscious and the unconscious, physiologically there is an all pervading lethargy and a depression of the usual instincts of sex, hunger and a desire for companionship. (In this the action is similar to that following Opium smoking). Yet, in spite of the lethargy, insomnia is marked, particularly at night from over-activity of the mind.

The cerebral dissociation is accompanied by many peripheral, neurological symptoms such as numbness, formication and anesthesia, particularly of the tongue and the limbs. It shares the feeling of an electric current of X-ray.

The visual aberrations are among the richest of our materia medica. Outstanding are noise and touch seen as color, perspectives completely distorted. The visual impression may be so powerful as to drown out all mental functions. Blue and green perception are increased; red and yellow decreased. In this, the objective red and yellow of consciousness has been

displaced by the more subjective blues and greens, closer to the ultraviolet in the visual spectrum.

A unique symptom was green experienced as a metallic taste; also, two dimensional objects appear multi-dimensional.

In the mental sphere there is such a wide range of symptoms as to make analysis extremely difficult. As we have said, outstanding is the increased involvement in the inner life to the exclusion of the outer. Complete absence of will so that volition has become autocratic, divorced from any mental control. Most of the classic symptoms of religious experiences can be found here—the euphoria, the bliss, the loss of mundane time sense, the loss of self-consciousness and the feeling of union with a greater self, and the eternal renunciation of the world. Among delusions there is the classic schizophrenic one that “faces appear mask-like.”

In my own hands a catatonic schizophrenic, with religious delusions and sexual exhibitionism, appeared to be so ameliorated by the 200 centesimal of this remedy that the psychiatric staff were amazed at her rapid return to reality after one day on Thorazine.

Botanically it is related to the other Cactaceae—*Cactus grandiflora*, *Cereus Bonplandii*, *Cereus serpentinus* and *Opuntia*.

In gross dilutions it is used to allay hunger and thirst and general fatigue.

HEDERA HELIX

This is the common ground ivy, or English ivy. A tincture of the young shoots was prepared and proven by Julius Mezger in molecular dilutions (D1, D6 and D15). His proving was reported in his *Gesichtete Homöopathische Arzneimittellehre* and an English translation of this was in the *J. Amer. Inst. Hom.* 51 : 74, 1958, *Hedera* was included in Clark's *Dictionary of Materia Medica* (p. 873) on the basis of its clinical use in rickets and hydrocephalus, but Mezger's was the first true homœopathic proving of *Hedera*.

Among non-marine plants *Hedera* has one of the highest concentrations of Iodine. From this follows its relationship to the symptoms of *hyperthyroidism*. Indeed, as a keynote, one might call *Hedera* “vegetable Iodine.”

There is marked anxiety (particularly about the heart), goitre, exophthalmos, sensations of tension in the throat, increased appetite (or loss of), constipation, constriction and needle-like pains in the heart, palpitations, insomnia, profuse perspiration, a desire for the open air and extreme tiredness. Although from its Iodine content, one might expect a similarity of symptoms to *Iodum*, there appears rather to be a contrast. For instance, unlike the coryza of *Iodum*, which is increased in the open air, *Hedera* is better in the open air. There is throat pain on swallowing (*Iodum* has pain when *not* swallowing). *Iodum* has suppressed as well as increased urination,

Whereas *Hedera* urination is increased. *Hedera* has left ovarian pain; *Iodum*, right.

It is primarily in the cardiac sphere that *Hedera* and *Iodum* have a similar action. Both have constriction of the heart with piercing, needle-like pains (*Arsenicum album*, *Anacardium*, *Naja*, *Phosphorus*). *Hedera* has been of great service in myocardial infarction and should be considered along with our other great heart remedies. *Hedera* also has the organic hypertrophies of *Iodum* (prostatic as well as thyroid).

Therefore *Hedera* shares with *Iodum* many of the pathological signs and symptoms of hyperthyroidism but contrasts with *Iodum* in the expansion of these into the subtle sphere of subjective, physiological response. In this manner *Hedera* gives us one more effective agent for the individualization of the treatment of hyperthyroidism.

The outstanding symptoms *not* shared either with the clinical symptoms of hyperthyroidism or the symptoms of *Iodum* is a generalized tingling of the joints, muscles and nerves.

Botanically, *Hedera* is related to the other Araliaceae: *Aralia racemosa* and *Ginseng*. Its chemical relationship to *Iodum* has been discussed. Homœopathically, Mezger relates it to *Natrum muriaticum* and to *Silicea terra*.

Clinically, in homœopathic dilutions, *Hedera* has been of particular value in hyperthyroidism, gall stones and cholecystitis, and chronic cirrhosis. In gross dilutions it has been used to cure drunkenness, for worms, late menses, varicose veins and retarded menses.

BUTHUS AUSTRALIS

An arthropod, a member of the scorpion family, whose habitat is North Africa.

The original proving was conducted by Azam with a 6th centesimal dilution of a tincture of the venom. It was reported in French in *L'Homéopathie Française*, January and February, pages 91-107, for 1939. An English translation by me is in the *Journal of the American Institute of Homœopathy*, volume 53, page 7, 1960.

Like all arthropods, the hard part of the body is external, sheltering the soft, inner parts. The element in the human most associated with the hard, outer part of the body is *Silica*, in the hair and nails. Indeed, symptomatically *Buthus* appears to be an "insect *Silica*."

The mentals, like *Silica*, are chiefly irresolution, mental prostration, lack of self-confidence, weeping, indisposition to speech, irresolution, indifference to externals, anxiety and poor concentration.

Like *Silica* there is a throbbing headache, lachrymation, photophobia, sneezing, difficult swallowing and loss of libido. There is chilliness as general as in *Silica*, with icy cold extremities and chills associated with thoracic and cervical pains. There are profuse, cold night sweats. Interestingly

enough, the insect itself in its own habits shows the opposite picture. It is intensely sensitive to heat and will soon die if left to the direct rays of the tropical sun. Therefore, it is a night-feeder, remaining concealed under rocks during the daytime.

Peculiar symptoms *not* shared with *Silica* are "sensation of heat on the heart" and "a sensation of a piece of wood nailed between the heart and the lungs." There is yearly periodicity (*Arsenicum album*, *Carbo vegetabilis*, *Cenchrus*, *Lachesis*, *Sulfur*, *Tarentula*, *Thuja*) and marked salivation as extreme as in *Mercury*.

Zoologically *Buthus* is related to all the arthropods, in particular to the spiders. Pharmacologically, it is related to all the venoms and is related to some of them also homœopathically, for instance to *Apis* and *Vespa* through the "sensation of being pierced by red hot needles," and to *Lachesis*, with its loquacity, fatigue, suffocation and constriction of the throat.

Clinically, *Buthus* in homœopathic dilution has been of value in the treatment of a schizoid exhibitionist; and in gross dilutions it has been of value in drug addiction.

X-RAY

A profound remedy whose isopathic value for complaints secondary to old x-radiation would alone make it one of our most valuable remedies in this day of frequent x-radiation therapy. However, in addition to this isopathic use, x-ray has a wide spectrum of unusual homœopathic symptoms.

Two of our own members proved x-ray: Dr. Fincke in 1897 (reported in the *Proceedings of the International Hahnemannian Association* for that year, page 47-67) and Dr. Griggs in 1952 (reported in *The Homœopathic Recorder* for that year, pages 66-72). Both men based their medicines on absolute alcohol which had been exposed to x-radiation. Fincke used the 6x in his proving; Griggs used the 30th and 200th centesimal.

The discovery of x-ray by Röntgen in 1895 was the first laboratory demonstration of the world of sub-molecular energies—that archeal plasma from which the elements are born and to which they return after disintegration. In a similar manner, x-ray appears to operate at the formative level within the human being, both psychologically and physiologically. The primitive, inchoate basis of life itself is affected.

In the mental sphere the herd instinct is affected resulting in an aversion to company (Radium has fear of being alone) and even a desire to kill before and during the menses (again the creative plasma is seen). There is the sensation of smelling sulfur vapor, often resulting in sneezing. Sulfur is, of course, alchemically associated with the element of fire, a form of the sub-molecular plasma. Desire for food and sleep are both diminished. The sexual instinct is activated, resulting in lewd, troublesome dreams. (Uranium nitrate has impotency). In the sphere of generalities old complaints reappear—once again the primitive taking over.

More specifically electrical is a sensation of electricity in general, particularly in the hands and arms (*Lophophora Williamsii* is the only other remedy with this symptom and it also is characterized by the activation of primitive forces). Also, discharges are green (sputum, stool and menses).

Other than these symptoms associated with primitiveness, there are coldness with sensitivity to drafts, palpitations and stitching pains in the right chest extending to the scapula. Like *Radium*, there are aching joint pains. A peculiar symptom is "sensation of ingrowing toenails" (crude x-ray poisoning may cause falling fingernails).

Other symptoms of crude x-ray poisoning are the more generally known symptoms of x-ray sickness: nausea, skin ulcers and cancers, falling hair, sterility, cracks in the finger tips and a general suppression of all the cellular elements of the blood save the heterophile leukocytes which increase (*Radium* also has this). It is interesting to note that the irritability and the desire to kill are also found in the toxic symptoms.

Physically, x-ray is related to our other radioactive elements, *Radium* and *Uranium nitrate*. The homœopathic relations have not been described as yet.

Clinically, in homœopathic dilutions x-ray has helped bleeding, cracked fingers, and arthritic pains. It is in the first rank for suppressed eruptions or foot sweat, or lack of reaction in general.

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