

like butter, soothing like treacle, sweet like sugar and jolly like jam. And I will conclude with the memorable words that fell from the lips of immortal Dunham in his valedictory address given to the graduating class of the New York Homœopathic Medical College on Feb. 29th 1872 :

"And at the close of long and busy careers, may you have the pleasant consciousness, not only that you have made some permanent additions to the common stock of knowledge for the common good, but also that many men and women have been the happier for your lives."

In the name of Hahnemann, Homœopathy and our great Mahendra Lal with whose memory this Hall will ever remain associated I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the patient and kind hearing of what I had to tell this evening.

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(To be continued)

### **ÆTHUSA CYNAPIUM**

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*Every medicament produces a special action in the body of man that no other substance is able to produce in exactly the same way.*—Dr. Samuel Christain Friedrich Hahnemann.

SYNONYMS—Æthusa Cynapium (Linn.), Fool's parsley, Dog parsley, Fool's cicely, False parsley, Lesser cicuta, Bastard parsley, Dog celery.

FAMILY—Umbelliferae.

CHARACTERISTICS—An annual plant very similar to the parsley that grows in cultivated lands and in fallow fields. It reaches a height of from 10 to 50 cms. Erect stem, branchy and fistulous, with reddish grooves and leaves of a dark green color, biotripinnisect with oval lanceolate segments, divided into mucronate lacinias, sheathed at the base, the superior are petio-

late and the inferior sessile ; flowers white in umbels, with the petals provided with a green point.

It may be confused with parsley and common chervil, but it may be distinguished from these by the nauseous odor that it emits on being rubbed. It is very poisonous. It flowers from June to August. It has its origin in Europe and Siberia and is acclimated in the United States.

**ACTIVE PRINCIPLES**—The alkaloid Cynapine, discovered by Ficino, and an etheric oil.

**HOMŒOPATHIC PREPARATION**—The mother tincture with the whole green plant in flower, according to rule one, of the Homœopathic Pharmacopœia. Drug strength  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Aethusa cynapium* is an exclusive remedy of the Hahnemannian School, and was introduced into the homœopathic materia medica in 1828 by Dr. Nanning of Germany. It was proved again and in distinct epochs by Drs. Hartlaub, Trinks, Allen, Brugmaus, Hering, Bigler, Petroz, Roth, and others.

**TOXICOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION AND PHARMACODYNAMICS**—In massive doses the tincture produces phenomena of a gastro-intestinal type with vomiting and frequent and painful evacuations, prostration, delirium and stupor, and, in children, convulsive phenomena of epileptiform type that end in death. These cases have been observed in introducing the plant accidentally into the stomach. Its action is also narcotic, acting upon the muscles, particularly those of the face, originating painful contractions and paralysis.

In subphysiological doses and in dilutions of from 1x to 30x, a marked affinity of action is observed upon the liver, stomach and intestines, with cerebral and nervous phenomena that are manifested by spasms, stupor, weakness, cephalalgias and mydriasis ; coldness of the skin, with a clammy perspiration upon the face, especially upon the forehead, an absence of thirst, low and depressive pulse and a constant nausea followed by vomiting of all food and most particularly by a marked intolerance to milk and its derivatives.

*Characteristic Symptoms*

**MIND**—Anxiety, restlessness with a tendency to tears. Hallucinatory delirium, the patient imagines he see dogs, cats, rats,

etc. Delirium and unconsciousness. Confusion of ideas, inability to think or to concentrate the attention. Brain fever. Idiocy alternating with fury and irritability. Prostration among children who, on becoming worse, fall into a deep stupor.

HEAD—An occipital pain that extends to the vertebrae, improved on lying down and through pressure. Dizziness and fainting with palpitation of the heart. Sensation of heat in the head when dizziness has ceased. Incapacity to hold the head in a vertical position.

FACE—Aspect of anxiety and pain that is manifested by a depressive line that starts at the edge of the nostrils and continues to the commissure of the lips. Pale face, sunken eyes, with a circle around them, dilated pupils but sensitive to light, with prominent cheek-bones, abundant cold and clammy sweat that comes out upon the forehead and around the mouth; facies of restlessness, anxiety and prostration.

MOUTH—Dry, sometimes with aphthæ. Tongue red and dry, clean or coated and has a long appearance. Absence of thirst; burning and difficulty in swallowing.

STOMACH—Persistent nausea and vomiting produced with the very smallest quantity of food; intolerance to milk and its derivatives. Vomiting with great weakness and cold sweat upon the face, accompanied by anguish and restlessness. Violent vomiting of undigested milk in the form of great clots and with an acid odor; vomiting in children as soon as the food has been introduced into the mouth, especially milk, whether it be mother's milk, wet nurse's milk, cow's milk, etc. Hunger after having vomited. After vomiting, the child falls into a deep and exhausting sleep. The vomitus may be yellow or green and in great quantity. Spasmodic pain in the epigastrium with nausea, with or without vomiting; this pain spreads to the esophagus and is accompanied by burning. There is the sensation that the stomach has been turned inside out.

ABDOMEN—The walls of the abdomen are cold and with great sensitivity to the touch. Colic with dizziness that precedes or accompanies vomiting. Pressure at the level of any part of the colon produces pain and vomiting. A sensation of gurgling at the level of the umbilicus.

Infantile cholera with green diarrhoea with colic preceding or accompanying the evacuation and followed by exhaustion and drowsiness. The stools also may be mucous and abundant, of a yellow or yellowish green color, of a sticky consistency and very warm. Milk is eliminated without being digested. Sanguinolent stool; stools with violent tenesmus in both children and adults. Obstinate constipation; one has the sensation that the intestine has lost its expulsive power. Inertia of the sphincter because of liver troubles in persons along in years.

URINARY ORGANS—Pains in both kidneys. A frequent desire to urinate with pain in the bladder.

GENERAL SYMPTOMS—Epileptiform spasm: the thumbs turn in and the face is congested. Eyes turned down with the pupil dilated and immobile. Foam at the mouth. The tongue presents the impression of the teeth. Pulse slight, hard and accelerated. Great weakness. Children cannot remain standing up; they are helpless to hold the head straight. Agitation and pain in any part of the body. Sudden sufferings, worse in summer, in children, who present noticeable malnutrition. Complete absence of thirst. Profuse and cold sweats. Improvement in the open air.

CLINICAL INDICATIONS—*Aethusa cynapium* is one of the remedies most frequently indicated in affections of the digestive apparatus of children, when these present themselves as a result of transgression in the alimentary regime. Gastritis, gastroenterocolitis and symptoms of toxicosis of a very severe and acute character, that are often accompanied by convulsive phenomena due to autointoxication, with hypothermia and absence of thirst. Dehydration, Hippocratic facies, sinking of the fontanelles, enophthalmus, decrease of the turgescence of the skin, toxic respiration, urine with presence of albumen, and profound coma.

Colibacillosis, particularly during the epoch of dentition and in summer. Hyperchlorhydric dyspepsia in the child and in the adult. Duodenitis and pre-ulcerous periduodenitis.

Hepatic disfunctions. Colitis and enterocolitis in the adult of vesicular origin; spasmodic pains of the intestine with predominance in the tranverse. Rectocolitis of dysenteriform type.

Amœbic colitis. Epileptiform phenomena that are associated with digestive troubles accompanied by contraction of the mandibles and mydriasis. Slight pulse, hard and filiform. Precomatose states. Meningismus as a complication of gastro-intestinal complaints.

MODALITIES—Aggravation from 3 to 4 in the morning, in the afternoons and in the heat of summer. Gets better in the open air and if the patient is accompanied by few or more persons.

COMPARE—*Ipecac*, *Arsenicum alb.*, *Colocynthis*, *Bismuthum*, *Veratrum alb.*, *Phosphorus*, *Iris vers.*, *Podophyllum*, *Sulphuric acid*, *China off.*, *Rheum*, *Cerium oxal.*, *Kreosotum*, *Calcarea carb.*, *Aloe soc.*, *Mercurius corr.*, *Mercurius viv.*, *Belladonna*, *Chelidonium maj.*, *Robinia*, *Antimonium crud.*, *Cicuta vir.*

#### Conclusions

The most conspicuous characteristics of *Aethusa cynapium* for a genuinely Hahnemannian prescription are :

1—All the symptoms appear with violence and suddenness: vomiting, pain, diarrhœa, delirium, convulsions.

2—Hunger after vomiting; bitter taste. The tongue feels long and coated, or otherwise clean but with burning. After vomiting extreme prostration and somnolency. The adult complains of feeling the stomach turned inside out. Intractable vomiting of acid, bitter, greenish-yellow, mucous or sanguinolent substances. A very marked intolerance towards milk in the child and in the adult, producing vomiting of large curds immediately after drinking it.

3—Pain in the stomach that extends to the esophagus.

4—Cold and clammy sweats with excessive coldness in the abdomen and of the extremities.

5—Epileptiform spasms with a reddening of the face and turning of the eyes downwards. Mydriasis.

6—Hallucinatory delirium.

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