

## ARSENICUM IODINE

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This is a combination of two very live and potent preparations. Homœopaths are particularly interested in the therapeutic or medicinal power it possesses.

Let me compare arsenic with iodine. Arsenic is the first element. Give it any way you wish, it still affects principally the alimentary canal and especially the gastroenteric portion, when given in toxic doses.

It has a marked effect on the cardiovascular system. It depresses the contractability in both heart and vessels, and thus lowers the pressure and paralyzes the rhythm.

Respiration is accelerated. The nervous system demonstrates its effect by a descending paralysis of brain, spinal cord and nerve terminations.

Iodine is the second element. It is just as potent and toxic. It is an irritant, a disinfectant and a parasiticide. Iodine also affects the gastroenteric portion of the alimentary canal in toxic doses. It affects the thyroid gland in particular, after it is absorbed.

In *Arsenic* we find a great dryness of the mouth; a desire for small drinks. These drinks do not quench the thirst in many cases. The *Arsenic* provings show great prostration and restlessness and no appetite.

The *Arsenic* patient is a cold blooded person. The *Iodine* patient is hot blooded. He eats well but loses weight.

In *Arsenic* we have a swollen nose, alternating with stoppage, *Arsenic's* expression is anxious, and he often cannot hear the human voice. The *Arsenic* patient starts up when he is falling to sleep.

In *Iodine* we have a loss of smell with sneezing and a fluent discharge from the nose. The face is sallow and distressed. The patient feels as if he had forgotten something. *Iodine's* headache is worse in a warm room. He has buzzing of the ears, enlarged glands and is a very impatient individual. He ex-

presses a weariness of the entire body with a heaviness of the limbs.

The *Iodine* patient is melancholy, despondent, anxious and afraid. He weeps easily.

The *Iodine* patient is restless at night and gets little sleep. His skin is dry; pulse is irregular and rapid. His back is sore, as if broken.

The *Iodine's* appetite is remarkable. It is continuous. The patient must eat every few hours, but he still loses weight. He gets so hungry he cannot wait for the next meal, and most symptoms are better after eating.

Flatus distends the abdomen and it is constantly discharged. Diarrhoea occurs from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the day. This gets worse as the patient moves about. There is no diarrhoea at night. This chronic diarrhoea may alternate with constipation.

*Iodine* shows obstinate retention of urine or involuntary micturition. There is incontinence in the aged.

*Iodine's* voice is hoarse. There is a sense of constriction with a suffocative cough. He is asthmatic, breathes heavily even when quiet. There is a constant tickling in the trachea, chest weakness, with anxiety, oppression, burning, tearing, stabbing pain.

There is great precordial anxiety with a sensation as if squeezed. He must lie with his head high. He must sit up on account of dyspnoea.

*Iodine* has vertigo with stooping. There is internal heat, but his skin is cold. The skin is rough and dry, dirty, yellow, clammy, moist and cool.

*Arsenic* has a pale, yellow, cachectic appearance. There is burning heat internally but a cold clammy sweat. He may have a marked violent delirium which is worse at night with great restlessness, anguish, despair and fear of death. *Arsenic* also has much burning, like fire, over the various parts of the body, and much excoriation from the discharges from the eyes, nose, mouth, skin, rectum, vagina and urethra. There is a dryness of the tongue with a brown coat and a violent thirst, but he takes only a few sips of water at a time which may be immediately vomited.

Dr. H. Nankivell, according to our records, was the first to use *Aresnicum iodatum*, which he did on analogical grounds. He used it in cases of phthisis and the symptoms observed on these patients have increased the pathogenesis of the remedy. It is a remedy of wide range and great power and more closely resembles *Arsenic* than *Iodine*. Later, Kent made a proving and observed that these patients were worse from a cold wind, worse from any exertion and had a great vital prostration. Many had a thick, yellow, honey-like discharge with a peculiar corrosive character.

Complaints and symptoms depict a hectic state and may include many abscesses, extreme anæmia as of a tubercular subject.

The patient craves open air when not too cold, wants windows open, is sensitive to a close room, and has a marked physical anxiety. Hands and feet tingle. He is worse from bathing, takes cold from bathing. Some of these patients are sensitive to cold like *Arſenic* and others to heat like *Iodine*. They take cold often which brings on a coryza and increases catarrhal trouble, which is worse from hunger and, like *Iodine*, is better after eating. Often they have an increasing loss of flesh and weight, as in phthisical patients. There are extreme aggravations from slight physical exertion, fainting spells, hæmorrhage from mucous membranes.

There is an induration of the lymph glands and at times even of the skin. There is an extreme lassitude, lack of reaction, which is worse lying in bed and on the painful side, worse during menses and worse from motion, though he desires to move. The mucous secretions are generally increased with copious, catarrhal discharges which are thick, yellow or yellowish green, honey-like.

There is pain in bones and glands: a bruised sensation, with a burning internally and on outer parts; paralyzing pain; pinching; pressing; stretching; tearing. All are worse walking, worse warmth of bed, warmth of room, warmth of wraps. There is pulsation internally and externally like *Iodine*.

The burning is very much like that of *Arsenic*. These people are sensitive to pain, sensitive to summer heat and sensi-

tive to cold in winter. They have a weakness like a vital prostration which is worse on exertion and worse during wet weather.

These patients become angry and are irritable during all complaints. They have much anxiety, fear and restlessness, and an aversion to answering questions. They are discontented, sad, have a fear of insanity, of misfortune and of people. Mental exertion aggravates many symptoms. He is generally timid, impatient and indifferent to friends, shows an aversion to work and is inclined to sit. He is averse to being spoken to, starts during sleep and has vertigo while walking.

In my own experience *Arsenicum iodatum* is indicated in acute respiratory disease more frequently than any other remedy. There is frequently a dry nose with sneezing, or a profuse, clear, watery, irritating nasal discharge, so that parts become excoriated and sore. These patients frequently have a severe conjunctivitis which has a watery, irritating discharge. The patient usually is rather nervous and restless. A few doses of *Arsenicum iodatum* will clear the case. The same general symptoms accompanying a watery, frequent, irritating diarrhoea also respond very readily to *Arsenicum iodatum*.

*Arsenicum iodatum* is one of our best remedies when symptoms agree in chronic pulmonary states.

In Hahnemann's preface to the 5th edition of *Chronic Diseases*, he speaks of homœopathic dynamizations. He emphasizes his claim to its discovery. He writes in one paper that he was

... apparently the first one to make this great, this extraordinary discovery, that the properties of crude medicinal substances gain when they are fluid, by repeated succession with unmedicinal substances in which for centuries no medicinal power has been observed in the crude state. These crude drugs display under this manipulation a power of acting on the health of man that is quite astonishing. The medicinal chemical substances that are thus prepared are no longer subject to chemical laws.

Close says "without the most minute individualization Homœopathy is not conceivable."

And thus it is that *Arsenicum iodatum*, when properly potentized by the homœopathic method of dynamization becomes a very important and effective remedy in acute and chronic diseases.

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**COBRA VENOM—A CONSIDERATION OF ITS  
THERAPEUTIC POSSIBILITIES**

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