

## IMPRINT OF SOURCE ON DRUG

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The source of a drug often has its characteristic imprint on the symptomatology of that drug. The study of such drugs in the background of their sources is an interesting subject.

The source of Silicea is pure flint—sand drawn from sea-bed or desert. It is an inert substance, but violent wind—external force—can arouse it to unimaginable destructive ends. The great historical 'sand-storms' are known to have buried entire cities and army divisions underneath it! They have built up mountains in valleys! So is Silicea patient lying quiet (inert) in his easy chair. He does not want to be bothered and he cannot be aroused to any activity. He wants to be left alone. But Silicea patient 'blows up' under extreme provocation—external force—and when once he blows up there is no end to his destructive irritation. A heap of sand just crumples down and spreads wide with least amount of atmospheric changes, *e.g.*, rain, breeze; heat, vibration etc. The Silicea patient is equally 'brittle'—there is no 'spine' or 'go' in him. He is devoid of 'fire' or 'push' in him. He has no 'grit' in him. He just crumples down in his chair and is affected by least atmospheric changes. The Silicea patients are 'shattered beings' like the grains of sand. Water keeps the sand in cohesion and as it drips down the sand and as heat increases, disintegration takes place and the grains loosen up. Similarly, sweating breaks down the Silicea patient and he is obliged to gulp down enormous quantities of fluids—just to keep himself together. And just as heat disintegrates the sand, the Silicea patient too is aggravated by hot food and drinks. Sand is one of the main items of 'building material.' It forms the connective tissue between cement and steel. Silicea is the tissue salt in which the Silicea patients are deficient. The 'lack of spine' in them is due to lack of Silicea in their connective tissues.

The source of Lachesis is the Surukuku Snake of South

America. Dr. Hering gives us an account of an eye-witness of the hypnotic personality of Surukuku Snake. Once the witness heard a 'hissing' sound coming in from the backyard of his compound. He went out to find out what the matter was. He saw a snake making its characteristic rhythmic dance in front of a frog. Soon the dance reached its peak, the snake opened up its mouth and the frog just jumped up into its mouth, in sheer helplessness! The Lachesis patient has just that hideous personality. He is capable of witch-craft, if there is one. 'Alcoholism' is one of the symptoms of Lachesis; but the alcoholism of Lachesis patient is not confined to himself, but he enjoys it 'in company'—company of 'converts to alcoholism.' Happier is he to see these converts entirely ruined, in the end! The characteristic ability of the Surukuku Snake to swallow up massive victims with perfect ease has its imprint in the Lachesis symptom 'can swallow solids without pain (i.e. with ease!).' The snake, in its movement, has a characteristic drift from 'left to right.' The imprint of this drift is well-marked in the progress of disease in Lachesis patients, from 'left to right.'

The source of Tarentula Hispanica is the Spanish Spider. This spider is known to be very 'crafty.' It waits in hiding for its unaware victim and at an opportune moment falls foul on it and quickly retreats to its place of hiding awaiting for the next one. 'Feigns Sickness' is one of the most important mental symptoms of the drug Tarentula. The Tarentula patient would lie quiet in his bed, apparently unable to make any movement; but when none is around he is capable of getting out of bed and do something and quickly get back to bed as soon as he hears foot-steps around. Here, we can clearly trace the crafty mind of the Spider transcending into the mental symptom of the drug Tarentula.

The source of Sepia is the inky-juice expelled by the cuttle-fish 'while escaping from an attack of enemy fish.' The inky-juice so expelled obscures the path of the attacking fish and enables her to escape to safety. The cuttle fish, although exhausted, spurts and spurts forward and on reaching safety, takes some rest. However, at the least sign of renewed enemy

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**Air-conditioning**

"As reported in several scientific journals two years ago, atmospheric air has both negative and positive ions of which the former are more important for human health. The metal ducts and filters in the air-conditioning machines strip the air of the healthful negative ions which, according to several scientists, results in some people complaining about headaches, colds, rheumatism, etc., when working regularly for several hours a day in artificially-conditioned atmosphere."

[Dr. M. M. Bhamgara, in his letter to the *Times of India*, dated 23rd October, 1961].

—*The Homœopathic Outlook*, Jan. '62.

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approach, she becomes active again and spurts further on and strangely enough, each spurt seems to give her fresh energy to next one. The drudgery of the house-hold routine is the enemy of Sepia patient. She does her best to go through it and looks forward to the afternoon, when she can have little rest before the routine begins again, in evening hours. The cuttle-fish looks back to see how far she is away from her enemy and so the Sepia patient looks back to assess how much of the day's routine is over—i.e., how far she is away from it. And although Sepia is exhausted, she is capable of being active again in times of emergency—i.e., when there is sickness of relations, children, sudden arrival of guests etc. just as the cuttle-fish is capable of further spurts at renewed enemy attack. Each spurt gives the fish fresh energy—perhaps better—to next one. We see

the imprint of this characteristic in the Sepia symptom—'dance ameliorates'. 'To escape' is a common symptom of both the cuttle-fish and Sepia. Both the cuttle-fish and Sepia are 'down thoroughly, but not out—there is will to be active again.'

We have several drugs in our Materia Medica in which the native characteristics of the source transcend into the drug.

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