

## PECULIAR SYMPTOMS IN PRESCRIBING

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In Homœopathy, the peculiar, uncommon and strange symptoms are given first rank in prescribing since these characterise the *individual as a whole*. Here, we observe certain peculiarities and these are the very things that lead us to pinpoint the remedy for a particular patient, even though they are not indicating any relation to the basic pathology but eradicate the disease in toto when indicated. The interesting features of some remedies are culled from the writings of Dr. H. C. Allen, M.D., and furnished hereunder.

1. **Actæa Racemosa** : "The more profuse the flow, the greater the suffering."

Here, congestive type should be relieved by the establishment of the flow, whereas in this remedy, this patient is aggravated. Dr. H. C. Allen states: "Menses: delayed or suppressed by mental emotion, from cold, from fever." Usually, the patient should feel ameliorated by the establishment of the menses whereas this patient is aggravated. Hence, it becomes a very useful indication.

2. **Allium Cepa** : "Colic; ameliorated by moving about."

Generally colics are aggravated by movement and ameliorated by keeping quiet and by firm pressure. In this remedy, it is opposite. Hence, it becomes an useful aid in finding the remedy.

3. **Ammonium Carb, Pulsatilla** : "Lying on the painful side ameliorates".\*

Generally, there will be aggravation if the patient lies on the painful side, but in these two remedies, the same ameliorates. Hence of value.

\* This is according to H. C. Allen. But according to Boger Ammon. Carb. has < from lying on the painful side in the 1st degree (Characteristics and Repertory, p. 1131), according to Kent < in the 3rd degree (Repertory, "Hapco" ed. p. 1386). Of course Puls. (along with Calc., Cham, Coloc., and Sep.) has > by lying on painful side, in the 2nd degree, Bry. in the 1st degree. [Ed.]

4. **Argentum Nitricum** : "Chilly when uncovered, yet feels smothered if wrapped up; craves fresh air."

If a patient feels chilly, usually one wants to cover, but in this remedy, the patient wants to be uncovered, even though feeling chilly. Hence the symptom becomes a characteristic.

5. **Arnica** : "Says there is nothing the matter with him."

Even in serious affections, if we note the above symptom, it becomes an indication for this remedy.

6. **Arsenicum Album** : "Burning pains ameliorated by heat; hot applications, hot drinks."

This is peculiar.

7. **Camphor** : "Surface cold to the touch, yet cannot bear to be covered; throws off all coverings."

We find this state in collapse etc., where there may be shock, lowered blood pressure and lowered temperature with cold body surface. Usually warmth is required to combat this emergency but Camphor patient throws off all coverings and hence it is a peculiar characteristic.

8. **Cannabis Sativa** : "Dyspnoea or asthma : where the patient can only breathe by *standing up*." Usually asthmatic patients are aggravated by standing up and hence this symptom becomes a peculiar and characteristic symptom in prescribing.

9. **Capsicum** : "The burning, spasmodic constriction and other pains, *worse between acts of deglutition*." This individualises.

10. **Causticum** : "*Aggravated in clear, fine weather; ameliorated in damp wet weather*."

Usually dampness, wetting etc., tend to produce rheumatic affections, paresis etc., and these conditions, if present in an individual, are aggravated by wetting and damp weather. In this remedy, it is opposite and hence characterises the *Individual*.

11. **China** : "Pains are aggravated by slightest touch, but ameliorated by hard pressure." Plumbum and Capsicum† also have this. This is peculiar.

12. **Conium Mac** : "Aversion to light without inflammation of eyes; intense photophobia.

13. **Dioscorea Villosa** : "Colic: Pains aggravated from bend-

† We do not know of any other authority attributing this peculiarity to Capsicum, but Lachesis has it far more markedly. [Ed.]

*ing forward and while lying;* ameliorated on standing erect or bending backwards." Generally in intestinal colic, the patient is ameliorated by bending forward but in this remedy, it is opposite, thus characterising the individual.

14. **Eupatorium Perfoliatum**: "Insatiable thirst before and during chill and fever; knows chill is coming because he cannot drink enough."

15. **Gelsemium**: "Fears that unless on the move, heart will cease beating."

16. **Graphites**: "Hears better when in a noise—when riding in a carriage or car. When there is a rumbling sound. (Nitric Acid.)" Normal persons will have difficulty in hearing when there is noise, but Graphites patient, on account of his acuteness of his special sense, is able to hear in a noise. This is also the same in Nitric Acid and these two have to be differentiated by other symptoms.‡

17. **Ignatia**: The greatest remedy of *contradictions*, thus characterising the same. Hæmorrhoids ameliorated by walking; sore throat ameliorated when swallowing etc.

18. **Lachesis**: "Liquids more painful than solids when swallowing." This is peculiar.

19. **Ledum Palustre**: "Rheumatic pains ameliorated only when holding feet in ice-water." Generally rheumatic pains and conditions are aggravated and caused by wetting and hence this symptom in ledum palustre is characteristic.

20. **Medorrhinum**: "Asthma: Larynx stopped so that no air could enter, only ameliorated by lying on face and protruding tongue."

21. **Murex Purpurea**: "Leucorrhœa: happier when leucorrhœa is worse."

22. **Natrum Carb**: "Bearing down as if everything would come out; ameliorated by moving."

23. **Nux Vomica**: Fever: great heat, whole body burning hot; face red and hot; yet *patient cannot move or uncover without being chilly.*"

‡ According to Kent Nit. Ac. has no amelioration from *noise per se*, but its amelioration from *riding in a carriage* is rather more marked, in degree, than Graphites. (Repertory, page 334). [Ed.]

24. **Phosphoric Acid** : "Painless, not debilitating, diarrhoea." Generally, diarrhoea will produce debility; if it continues for a long time and if occurs several times in a day, but in Phosphoric Acid, it is the reverse; diarrhoea never debilitating. Hence, it is peculiar.

25. **Psorinum** : "Asthma: dyspnoea; ameliorated by lying down and keeping arms stretched far apart." Usually asthmatic patients are aggravated by lying down and ameliorated by sitting up. In Psorinum, it is the reverse. Hence, it becomes a peculiar symptom.

26. **Sepia** : "Dyspnoea: aggravated when sitting; ameliorated by dancing or walking rapidly." Generally, dyspnoea will be aggravated by dancing or walking rapidly, but in Sepia, it is the reverse and hence individualises the person.

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#### HOMŒOPATHIC NEWS

*(Continued from page 240)*

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