

THE STUDY OF REMEDIES

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Silica. In the Dictionary of (Homœopathic) Materia Medica Dr. J. H. Clarke states :

"Outside Homœopathy Flint as an internal remedy is practically unknown. Hahnemann introduced it into medicine, and it was his method of attenuating insoluble substances that enabled him to discover its powers." Dr. Clarke goes on to say : "*Silica* forms one of the most important remedies of the CHRONIC DISEASES. A large proportion of the earth's crust is composed of *Silica*. Sea sand (*Silica marina*) is mainly composed of it. The strength of straw is due to *Silica*. Flint supplies the 'grit' of the earth's crust, of plant life, and to a large extent of animal life also. 'Want of grit,' moral or physical, is a leading indication for *Silica* in homœopathic practice. According to Teste, *Silica* is the 'Chronic' of *Pulsatilla*—it corresponds to the chronic form of such diseases as *Pulsatilla* cures when acute."

Location. Nutrition (children), elastic and cellular tissue, brain, nerves, glands, bones, mucous membranes, skin.

Sensations. (Characteristics.) "What *Silica* is to the stalk of grain in the field, it is to the human mind. So it is with the mind. When the mind needs *Silica*, it is in a state of weakness, embarrassment, dread, a state of yielding." (*Kent.*)

It is a state of dread of undertaking anything. For example, professional men such as clergymen, barristers, lawyers, and business men, who are used to speak and appear in public, suddenly dread doing so, for they feel they will fail, and make a mess of things. It is not a case of incompetence—in *Silica* it is imaginary. He becomes timid, retiring, wants to shirk everything. It is the natural complement and chronic of *Pulsatilla*, because of its great similarity, but it is a deeper, more profound remedy.

The *Silica* patient is cold, chilly, hugs the fire, wants plenty of warm clothing, hates draughts, hands and feet cold. Lack of vital heat. Headaches better wrapping up head warmly. Pro-

fuse sweat of head. Profuse sweat of feet with fetid odour. Sensation of a hair on tongue. Quinsy, with a sensation of a pin sticking in the tonsil. Parotid and cervical glands swollen. Stools come down with difficulty, and when partly expelled recede again. Cough and sore throat with expectoration of little granules like shot, which when broken smell very offensive. Sleep-walking. White spots on finger nails. Felons, abscesses, boils, old fistulous ulcers. *Silica* promotes the expulsion of foreign bodies from tissues. Suffering parts feel cold. Ill effects of vaccination.

Modalities. *Time.* Worse in the morning, at new moon, full moon.

Circumstance. Worse uncovering, lying down, damp, cold, draughts, checked perspiration, excitement.

Better warmth, wrapping up head, Summer.

Causation. Vaccination, stone cutting (respiratory troubles), loss of fluids, injury, strains, splinters, foreign bodies. (Clarke.)

Temperament. Faint hearted, anxious, nervous and excitable. Sensitive to all impressions. Obstinate and headstrong children who cary when kindly spoken to. **FIXED IDEAS.** *Thinks only of pins, fears them, searches and counts them. Nostalgia. Apathy and indifference.*

This is a very full remedy and worth close study in a full *Materia Medica*.

Dr. Clarke states : "If improvement ceases under *Silica* a dose or two of *Sulphur* will set up reaction, and *Silica* will then complete the cure."

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