

## WYETHIA HELENOIDES

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Here we have another "little" remedy with which it is profitable to be acquainted. It is commonly known as the Poison-Weed, belongs to the Compositæ and is found on the hillsides near San Francisco and in the Sacramento Valley. Clarke's "Dictionary of Materia Medica" says of it, "Wyethia was introduced and proved, with the fresh root or the tincture, on seven men and two women, by J. M. Selfridge. Their symptoms make up Allen's pathogenesis." Allen gives the original proving of Selfridge on Page 168 of Volume X of the Encyclopædia of Pure Materia Medica which shows that the principal and most marked effect was upon the throat in which locality we find the following symptoms: "Throat feels swollen; epiglottis dry, and has a burning sensation; constant desire to swallow saliva to relieve the dryness, yet affording no comfort; swallows with difficulty.—Pricking dry sensation in posterior nares; sensation as if something were in the nasal passages; an effort to clear them through the throat affords no relief.—The uvula feels elongated.—Dryness of the fauces; constant desire to clear the throat by hemming.—Sensation of heat down the œsophagus, into the stomach, worse while eating. In the respiratory organs we find a burning sensation in the bronchial tubes, also a dry hacking cough, caused by tickling in the epiglottis. Under the rubric Generalities these further symptoms are noted: Feels weak and nervous, uneasy; is apprehensive that some calamity is about to occur. Feels very weak, as a person feels after a severe illness. Unable to make much exertion; the least exercise causes perspiration. All the symptoms worse in the afternoon."

There are numerous other symptoms, given by both Boericke and Clarke in extension, but those found in the proving as above cited, are sufficient. Nash and Willard

Ide Pierce do not mention the remedy, but Stauffer, in his "Klinische homöopathische Arzneimittellehre" offers this: "Hoarseness with dryness and burning in the throat. Inflammation of the epiglottis" evidently taken from Allen.

In these modern, hectic days of allergy and of allergists enjoying lucrative practices, with newly discovered allergens thrown upon the medical market almost weekly, our simple, harmless homœopathic remedies are likely to receive scant attention. Anti-histaminic agents are easy of administration, do not require special study for their administration and even though they may and frequently do, arouse unpleasant side effects, such as drowsiness, the latter is evidence to the trusting patient that he, more often she, is receiving the welcome benefits of modern medical science. Nevertheless, failures are also frequent and in the long run probably more frequent than are those of homœopathic prescribers who take the pains to study their cases with the object of ultimate cure or at least, a lessening of the severity and frequency of such common cases as hay-fever which, in spite of modern science, continues its annual sneeze orgies as of yore. Careful homœopathic prescribers endeavour to overcome allergy, by fitting constitutional, deeply acting remedies in high potencies to their patients, rather than to disease entities. In this effort they have their failures, yet the successes which they occasionally have, are a gratifying and sufficient reward for the former. Such remedies as Arsenicum alb. or its iodide, Natrum mur., Sepia, Psorinum, Kali carb., etc., are thought of, but acute manifestations often do require speedy relief and then it is that some "little" remedy, such as Allium cepa, Euphrasia, Sabadilla, Wyethia, etc., can and do bring marvellous results. It is true that these remedies are not likely to permanently free the patient from his sensitiveness to allergens, but they do, with remarkable speed, when well indicated, bring prompt relief. Among other symptoms of Wyethia, itching in the posterior nares is a keynote mentioned; together with Ranunculus bulbosus, in

Kent's Repertory. The symptom has been verified and is dependable. The potency used has been the thirtieth.

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## THE SIMILIA IN GENERAL PEDIATRIC PRACTICE

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Although our field is Internal Medicine, stressing Cardiology and Endocrinology, the request for a paper from the Pediatric Section is not as far-fetched as it appeared at first. Much of our work, past and present, is with children, and since the Similia has always been our choice, regardless of the patient's age, we submit the following in the hope that it may help some, at least, of our colleagues.

First, let us consider some common complaints and the remedies involved, and then a few case histories. Perhaps it would be best to limit ourselves in the first part to the diseases of the gastro-intestinal and respiratory systems. **TEETHING**, a purely physiological process, merits first consideration because it frequently fails to run a normal course. Three remedies are outstanding in such cases.

*Chamomilla*: Irritable, peevish child; cries to be carried; greenish offensive diarrhoea and circumscribed redness of cheeks. It is contra-indicated in the mild, gentle child with sluggish bowels or constipation.

*Belladonna*: Fever; dilated pupils; flushed face; redness and swelling of gums; vomiting.

*Calcarea phos.*: For delayed dentition in rickets and malnutrition. Imperfectly formed teeth with multiple caries.

**STOMATITIS**. Here most important is proper oral hygiene and diet. A clean mouth and plenty of citrus juices precludes the development of most forms of stomatitis.

*Mercurius* is the first remedy to think of as it is indicated in all forms of the disease, but most of all in the ulcerative type. Here we frequently need *Nitric acid*, especially