

DRAINAGE REMEDIES AND THE LIVER

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The idea of drainage goes back to Hippocrates and beyond into medical prehistory. It is the idea that the body rids itself of toxic material, first of all through the normal discharges of urine, sweat and stools, then, if this is insufficient, through increased discharges from mucous surfaces and glands, and finally, if all else fails, by means of abscesses. The laudable function of the true allopathic physician was to assist nature in this process; and herbal remedies are classified as cathartics, diuretics and sudorifics, as well as tonics and stimulants, to tonify and stimulate the 'organs of elimination', i.e., kidney, liver, bowels and skin. This idea was also responsible for the development of such treatments as cupping, bleeding and clysters. Abuse of these, as well as of mercury and other dangerous drugs, led Hahnemann to seek for a gentler alternative, which he found in Homœopathy.

Hahnemann was not unaware of the need for elimination, but he taught that disease was due to an imbalance in the vital force, and that if this were corrected the body would take care of its own eliminatory problems. (It is interesting to note that this is also the principle underlying Acupuncture.) However Hahnemann also knew that a patient could become quite ill as a result of the 'crisis of elimination' following administration of the similimum.

Rademacher, a follower of Paracelsus and contemporary and pupil of Hahnemann, pointed out that certain remedies acted upon particular tissues, organs or systems, and many homœopaths have successfully used these 'pathological' remedies in low potency, whilst others preferred to develop high-potency constitutional prescribing.

In England, Compton Burnett combined the two approaches by treating chronic diseases, in particular cancer and tuberculosis, with high potency constitutional remedies or with nosodes, alternating with courses of organ-specific remedies in low potency or mother tincture, or with tissue salts. This has remained as a pattern of prescribing amongst many homœopathic doctors in this country, and there can be few, even of the strictest Kentian persuasion, who do not occasionally treat an intercurrent condition, even if it may be an aggravation, with Arsenicum, Nux vomica, or Carbo veg.; and even if the doctor demurs, the patient will probably take it on his own. In fact I believe that patients often know best which are their own drainage remedies. Thus we muddle-through in Britain.

Not so in France! There, as can be imagined, the approach is much more systematic.

The Grand Old Man of French Homœopathy, Antoine Nebel of Lausanne, talked a great deal more than he wrote (like Socrates). The consequence of this was that his pupils and their descendants are still divided as

to what he really did teach, whilst the most literate of them, Leon Vannier, usurped the title of Grand Old Man, and his classes at the Centre Homœopathique Française have left their stamp on a generation of French homœopaths.

Like Compton Burnett, Nebel favoured a mixed Homœopathy, using constitutional remedies and nosodes in high potency, and organ remedies (remèdes canalisateurs) and drainage remedies in low potency or mother tincture. This attempt at marriage between Hahnemannian and Hippocratic medicine soon degenerated into polygamy. In a modern French manual of Homœopathy we find reference to:

(1) The Constitutional Remedy (classically, in Nebel's terms, Calc. carb., Calc. phos. or Calc. fluor., but according to Bernard Nat. mur. and Sulphur too). These cover the mental, general and morphological aspects of the case, and are given in high potencies, which in France are not usually as high as in this country.

(2) Isopathic Remedies—nosodes, given again in high potency, for reasons connected with family or previous history, as well as for the symptomatic drug picture.

(3) Satellite Remedies—given in medium potency. These are the complementary remedies and/or antidotes of the constitutional remedy, and are given to modify the patient's reaction to the latter.

(4) Organ Remedies—Remèdes Canalisateurs—given to direct the vital healing force to a particular organ or system.

(5) Drainage Remedies, to promote elimination.

The last two, which may well be the same remedy, are given in the lowest potencies, or mother tincture.

The various remedies are taken on a strict time schedule.

A further elaboration may be the combination of several remedies in a 'cocktail', an example of which is Hepagalen.

Such practices were and are anathema to the Kentist school of the single dose and the single remedy (of whom there are representatives in France, although the laws governing pharmacy make it difficult for them, and much easier for the pluralists). I myself would admit that the unicist approach is much more elegant, possibly more scientific, and certainly easier to teach; but does it provide a means of dealing with the patient who comes in great distress with an aggravation following a high potency of the well-chosen similimum, or the person whose mental and general symptoms point to one remedy, whilst his profusion of local signs and symptoms suggest one or several others? Or the one who just does not get better on his single dose? To return to the comparison with Acupuncture, it is said that the more skilful an acupuncturist, the fewer needles he uses, and perhaps that is also true of the homœopath, though I should think that compounding a prescription on the French pluralist formula must require the skill of a computer.

Of course if you are fortunate enough to have a patient whose mental,

general, regional and local symptoms all point in the direction of one polycrest, there should be no problem. In this case, as one Freichman put it, "le similitimum c'est son propre draineur".

I shall conclude by describing the liver drainage remedies named by Dr. Roland Zissu in his *Manual of Homœopathic Medicine*. Dr. Zissu, a convinced Hahnemannian, is careful to point out that these remedies must be chosen because of their homœopathic similarity to the patient's symptoms, and that, properly speaking, there are no drainage remedies as such; any remedy, particularly any polycrest, can be used as a drainage remedy if the symptoms and signs are appropriate.

IRIS VERSICOLOR—blue flag

Herbal use, for alternative properties, purifying blood and venereal infections.

Effects on pancreas, thyroid, salivary glands, gastrointestinal system, muscles, membranes.

Frontal sick headache, worse after strain, worse for rest.

Tinnitus

Burning of mouth and whole alimentary canal. Nausea

Salivation increased

Sore liver, cutting pains; *burning* diarrhoea and anus

Pain in left hip joint—(gonorrhoea)

Herpes. Shiny psoriasis

Worse evening, night, rest, *right* side.

Better motion.

CHINA-CINCHONA OFFICINALIS—Peruvian bark (quinine)

Throbbing headache. Sensitive scalp

Blue circles around eyes. Yellowish sclerotics

Tinnitus

Furred tongue with burning tip. Salty taste

Worse for fruit and milk

Flatulent colic

Gallstone colic. May have jaundice

Frothy yellow stools

Worse loss of fluids

Sensitive to touch. Better for hard pressure

Periodicity

Loss of fluids

Liver and gall-bladder trouble

Flatulence. Anorexia. Bulimia

Malaria

CHELIDONIUM MAJUS—greater celandine

Right-sided headache and face-ache. Icy cold occiput

Lethargy

Yellow tongue with tooth marks. Bitter taste

Dirty yellow conjunctivae

Pains under inferior angle right scapula

Pain in right lobe liver

Obstructive jaundice. Gallstones

Nausea

Hard round yellow stools. Itching in anus

Foaming golden urine, like beer

Generalized aches and pains. Muscular soreness. Icy fingertips

Dry yellow skin

Right-sided

Serous effusions. Hydrocele

CARDUUS MARIANUS—St. Mary's thistle

Dull, heavy, apathetic

Migraine which may be relieved by epistaxis

Bitter taste. Furred tongue. Nausea. Aversion to salt meat

Liver. Pain, especially in left lobe

Tender swollen gall bladder

Jaundice. Dropsy

Yellow stools. Alternating constipation and diarrhoea

Piles, varicose veins, varicose ulcers

Thick turbid yellow urine

Crest pain in R. ribs and front. Yellow patches over sternum

Asthma. Liver affections after influenza

Pain in hips

Transverse pains (of Chelidonium, vertical pains)

Worse lying on left side, after food, after movement

Better seated, bending forward, open air

Migraine

Cholecystitis, cholelithiasis

Jaundice

Portal congestion

Asthma (in miners) with liver damage

Influenza with liver dysfunction

BERBERIS VULGARIS—barberry

Frontal headache. Listless

Tongue feels scalded

Nausea before breakfast

Stitches in gall-bladder. Sticking pains in abdomen, down to groin

Catarrh of gall-bladder, with constipation and yellow complexion

Fistula in ano

Pain in renal angles

Frequency, with pains in loins and bladder. Burning urine

Red deposit in urine

Backache and lumbago, pain in metacarpals and metatarsals

Flat warts, itchy skin

Symptoms shift rapidly from one system to another, one area to another

Worse motion, *standing*

Better rest

Left-sided

SOLIDAGO—Golden rod

Bitter taste, worse at sight and on waking

Coated tongue

Abdominal distension

Pain on both sides umbilicus, worse deep pressure

Tender renal angles

Scanty dark urine

Bronchitis

Fibroids

History or family history of tuberculosis

Renal and hepatic insufficiency

Hay fever

PTILEA—wafer ash

Bitter taste. Tongue coated white or yellow. Increased salivation

Stomach: eructation, pain, nausea, vomiting, burning, emptiness

Weight and pain on right side

Liver sore and swollen

Pressure on lungs. Asthma

Worse lying on left side, early morning, heat

Better lying on right side, acids, fresh air

BOLDO-BOLDOA FRAGRANS

Bitter taste

Loss of appetite

Hypochondriasis

Burning weight in liver and stomach

Worse after malaria

TARAXACUM—dandelion

Mapped tongue. White coat, with red sensitive areas

Bitter taste and eructations, increased salivation

Enlarged hard liver

Stitches in left side

Diarrhoea with rectal cancer
 Tympanites
 Neuralgia of knees, relieved by pressure
 Night sweats
 Worse mornings, rest, lying down
 Better touch

CONIUM—hemlock

Vertigo on moving head, especially to left
Photophobia
 Aching in and around liver. Chronic jaundice
 Better and then worse for eating
 Acid eructations
 Enlarged hard glands
 Hard lumps in breast
 Paralysis of lower limbs
 Yellow skin and finger nails
 Induration

—*The British Homœopathic Journal, Oct. 1976.*

DEPRESSION AND THE LIVER

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vities are too dominant one would tend to use low potencies and where the hardening activity dominates the higher potencies. If the organism is too weak to respond to the medicine given by mouth it can often be more successful by injection in potency. Where one wishes to focus its action on the liver the plant-potentized form *Stannum per Taraxacum* can be used.

To summarize—I have tried to show through this study of depression that the liver function, being a specialized focus of metabolic activity which is common to all cells and tissues can affect the psyche by its malfunction and that by understanding these interrelationships we can use homœopathic medicines in a truly psychosomatic manner.

—*The British Homœopathic Journal, October 1976*