

FACES OF SOME REMEDIES

Farrington has a good deal of interest to tell us about the faces of drugs, and the faces of sickness. (See under Lachesis, p. 42.)

The face of Lachesis varies, of course, with the condition that obtains in the system at the time. In many of the diseases in which the remedy is indicated the face has an earthy pallor. In exanthematic diseases it is apt to be bloated or puffed; bluish-red; if the eruption comes out, it comes out sparsely and is of a dark colour.

Its expression is anxious and painful with the stupor; the face is disfigured, looks as after a debauch; there are blue circles around the eyes. With abdominal troubles, as in ague, the face is earthy grey.

Lachesis also has convulsions of the face; lockjaw; distortion of the face; stretching of the body backwards; screaming; feet cold and itching. Sudden swelling of the face.

For *swollen face* you may compare; Apis, Belladonna, Arsenic, Lycopodium, Hyoscyamus, Rhus tox., Pulsatilla, Stramonium, Kali carb., and Phosphorus.

For *sickly, pale, or earthy complexion*: Arsenic, Bufo, Lycopodium, Carbo veg., Rhus tox., Cinchona, Phosphorus and Phosphoric acid.

Blue about eyes: Arsenic, Cuprum, Phosphorus, Secale and Veratrum alb.

Debauched look: Baptisia, Hyoscyamus, Carbo veg., Nux, Sulphur, Opium, Nux mosch.

In *facial convulsions* compare: Nux, Hyoscyamus, Belladonna, Hydrocyanic acid, Lycopodium, Cicuta, Camphor, Phytolacca, Arsenicum.

Apis, Arsenic, Kali carb. agree in *puffing of the face even without any redness*. In the first there is also smarting of the eyelids, and a sensation of stiffness. In the second it is noticed about the eyes, glabella and forehead (also Natrum ars.). Kali carb. has the well-known sacs of the upper lids, and also sudden swelling of the cheeks.

The expression complexion, etc., of Arsenic are very similar to those of the snake poisons. The anxiety and pain are marked by more restlessness and irritability, fear of death etc. and the sunken face is more completely Hippocratic, with pointed features, sunken eyes and cold sweat. When yellow or earthy, it is cachectic. If trismic symptoms are present, the patient will be found lying pale, and as if dead, though yet warm. Suddenly he arouses, and goes into severe convulsions, only again to relapse into this sort of cataleptic rigidity. The eyes are partly open, with gum on the conjunctiva.

Lycopodium has pale or yellow face, deeply furrowed, looking elongated. The convulsive movements are unique. All through the provings of this remedy you will note an alternation to contraction and expansion. And in the face you note: tongue pushed out and withdrawn, spasmodic trembling

of the facial muscles, angles of mouth alternately drawn up and relaxed, alae nasi alternately expanded and contracted. The eyes may be partly open and covered with mucus—a bad symptom, generally being indicative of brain exhaustion.

Phosphorus has a pale face, but it is distinguished by its ashy anaemic appearance. This should be remembered, since this remedy, like the Ophidia, has puffy face, sunken face, blueness around the eyes, blue lips.

Hyoscyamus is very similar to Lachesis in facial expression and in the convulsive phenomena. It has a marked, stupid, drunken appearance, the face is distorted and blue, or swollen and brown red; starting; twitching of single groups of muscles are noted. Hunger appears before the attacks.

Stramonium is readily distinguished by its swollen turgid face, fright on awakening, renewal of spasms from light, and the contracted, gloomy expression, with wrinkling of the forehead.

Hydrocyanic acid closely agrees in convulsive symptoms and in the colour of the face. Like Elaps, it has fluids roll audibly into the stomach; but the latter has it more as a spasmodic contraction of the sphincters, followed by sudden relaxation. In convulsion the surface, in the acid, is pale-blue, and the muscles of the face, jaw and back are affected. Suddenly a shock is felt, which passes like lightning from head to foot, and then comes the spasm. Here the remedy is more like Cicuta and Helleborus than Lachesis. But Cicuta has, like the snake poisons, great difficulty in breathing from spasm, and more than any remedy, it produces staring: the spasm is followed by disproportionately severe weakness.

Camphor is readily distinguished from Lachesis by the coldness, and by the withdrawing of the lip, showing the teeth.

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