

# NICKEL

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## INTRODUCTION

Nickel is found associated with cobalt. It is said to have received its name (nickel, the devil) from the miners, who considered it 'false ore' as they were mining for copper. The word cobalt (kobold) has possibly a similar derivation. Nickel forms the chief ingredient in the alloy known as 'German silver.' It was proved by Nenning, and the pathogenesis contains some striking symptoms, many of which have been confirmed. Sir James Y. Simpson used the sulphate of nickel ( $\text{NiSO}_4$ ) in periodic headaches of a very severe character and the provings show that the mental and the carbonate are appropriate in this connection.

## NICKEL SULPHATE PROVINGS

A review of several provings of Nickel sulphate from *New, Old and Forgotten Remedies* by Dr. E. P. Anshutz:

Nickel sulphate is formed by dissolving nickel carbonate in dilute sulphuric acid and concentrating the solution and setting it aside to crystallize. The sulphate is an emerald green, salty, prismatic crystal, efflorescent in the air, soluble in three parts of cold water, but insoluble in alcohol or ether. It has a sweet, stringent taste. The solution gives a black precipitate with yellow ammonium sulphide, slightly soluble in excess, forming a dark brown solution, and with caustic potash a pale green, bulky precipitate.

Boericke & Tafel kindly furnished the 2x, 3x and 6x triturations for these experiments.

In August, 1908, I made a proving of Nic. sulph. 3x, taking five grains every two hours until symptoms were produced, then stopping.

I took sixty grains. That night I dreamed I had a very disagreeable taste in my mouth, which caused me to spit all the time. I awoke and found my mouth full of saliva, with a coppery taste, and, sure enough, I was obliged to spit.

I fell asleep again, and when I awoke in the morning there was the same coppery taste and mouth full of saliva. The next night I was awakened at 2 a.m. with pains in the occiput, sore pain in the eyes, coppery taste, and much saliva. After falling asleep I was awakened with a desire to urinate. Urine increased in quantity. Next morning I had shooting pains in my hands and fingers.

The dull pains in the occiput and eyes continued. Then there appeared a soreness in the cervical region, going down the spine. In the afternoon there was a hot feeling in my face, as if standing before a hot fire.

Full sensation in temples.

Dull pain in both zygomas.

Fine shooting pains in upper row of teeth.

Fine shooting pains in upper part of face.

Tongue red, elevator papillae sore to the touch. Increased thirst, at the same time mouth full of saliva, with coppery taste. On the third night was obliged to urinate four times. Was aroused at 3 a.m. with burning of soles of feet. The dull pain in the occiput, neck and eyes continued just the same as the day and night before.

Loss of appetite, dizzy, with a general weakness.

Every night for a week I was obliged to urinate three or four times during the night. Every night for two weeks was aroused once or twice a night between the hours of two and three with burning of feet. Coppery taste, pain in the occiput, neck and spine, continued for over two weeks, then gradually disappeared.

Face flushed and feet hot every afternoon for ten days.

In January, 1909, I made a proving of Nic. sulph. 6x trituration, using five grains every two hours. I took the remedy for three days, and the very same symptoms appeared again, but did not continue as long as when taking the 3x.

April 13th, 1909, I began the proving of Nic. sulph 2x. After taking it one day the same old story was repeated, but much more marked and lasting for three weeks.

Miss F. began taking five grains of 6x trituration of Nic. sulph., July 27, 1908, and continued it for two days. On the morning of the 30th she complained of bad taste in the mouth, coppery taste, etc. At noon 'head felt big and heavy.'

Legs and arms felt heavy and weak. Unsteady when walking.

Face flushed. Face felt hot. Eyes began to burn and ache. Head felt heavy, as if it needed a prop. Wanted to lie down.

Obliged to lie down all afternoon.

Slept well, and next day was able to be about, although some symptoms continued, yet not so marked. By the fourth day she felt herself well again.

August 20, 1908, began a proving, using the 2x trituration for one day. The same symptoms were produced, lasting for three days.

On January 25, 1909; Mrs. E. took five grains of Nic. sulph. 3x every two hours until 9 p.m. On January 26, 1909, she began with five grain doses every two hours. At 2 p.m. she began to have dull aching pains in both ovaries, then hot flushes, which came on every half hour to an hour. Hot flushes all over the body, often lasting ten minutes. Afterwards she would break out in a perspiration over the entire body, this only lasting a few minutes. When the flushes came on she wanted to fan herself or have the doors wide open. She did not take cold, although the weather was very severe. The flushes continued just the same through the night as during the day. When flushes came on she would throw off the covers. Would re-

main uncovered until perspiration came over the entire body. After a few minutes this perspiration would dry off and disappear as suddenly as it came on.

Then she would get chilly and would cover up again. This was repeated every one or two hours during the night. She was always waking up with hot flushes. The burning flushes were just like heat from a hot oven. Pain in ovaries continued for two days, with a sensation as if the menses would appear, although not having menstruated for a long time—the menses having stopped and the symptoms accompanying the change of life all being past.

On the second day there was great pain in the cervical region and in the occiput, which extended to the eyeballs. There was a pulling sensation from the eyeballs to the occiput.

There was a sensation as if strings were pulling the eye back to the base of the brain. This pain was made worse by turning head from side to side, also at night by lying on the back.

She could not lie on the back but a few minutes, as it aggravated the pain in the occiput and down the spine.

The spine became sore the entire length. She could not lie on her back. If she fell asleep on her back, she would soon arouse in great pain, and would be obliged to turn on her side at once. This afforded partial relief.

Urine was increased. She was obliged to get up three or four times during the night.

Stiff, numb feeling in neck and back, but worse in neck. Temporary relief obtained by rubbing.

Coppery taste in mouth, loss of appetite, weakness, and increased thirst. A continued tired feeling over entire body.

Tongue at first had a white furry coat. After a few days it was coated brown.

She was nervous, uneasy, would not settle down to any occupation.

Another strange feature of the proving was a breaking out of sweat when one part of the body came in contact with another part, i.e. one limb crossing another, and the parts in contact would be wet with sweat instantly, all the rest of the body remaining dry. If clasping hands, the palms would be wet with perspiration. After removing hand, the parts would dry immediately. If the hands were placed on any part of the body the something would occur.

She could scarcely bear any clothing, owing to these hot flushes and perspiration. Many times, when the weather was frosty or snow was on the ground, and the window was up, she could bear scarcely any covers at night. With all this condition she never contacted a cold.

This state of affairs lasted about six weeks, when an antidote was sought. Two powders of Sepia stopped the hot flushes within two days, but not until

after trying Glonoine first, the remedy which stopped the flushes when passing through the climacteric period.

The pain in the occiput, spine, and eyes was relieved by Picric acid.

#### COMMENTS

*William F. Madsen, M.D., Pasadena :*

Dr. Neiswander, would you say that one of the symptoms of Niccolum was a metallic taste?

*Dr. Neiswander :*

Yes, every prover had it.

*Roger A. Schmidt, M.D., San Francisco :*

Many remedies have a metallic taste. It is a rather common symptom.

—*The Pacific Coast Homoeopathic Bulletin, December 1969*

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### ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PHYSICIAN

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#### CONCLUSION

The homoeomethodology, with its vitalistic philosophy, its emphasis on synthesis, individualization, and treating the patient *as a whole*, corrects the materialistic-organic dichotomy, and over-specialized medical proclivities. It 'humanizes' modern medical ethics, eliminates and cures iatrogenic diseases by the minimal dose, improves the ecology by straightening out and ameliorating constitutional and genetic factors. It deals primarily with *causes* and embraces prevention and prophylaxis.

It is the opposite pole of the prevalent orthodox method. Both have their place and function and they should be integrated wisely in the total care and welfare of the patient.

—*Homoeopathy, December 1974*

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