

## A KIND OF PHTHISIS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SKIN DISEASE

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We used to wonder why Dr. Hahnemann, the founder of Homœopathy called Phthisis the worst form of Psora, of which leprosy is the outer expression ; the various forms of the itch disease being milder forms of leprosy.

The fact that Asthma and Eczema are sometimes alternate diseases has been corroborated by numerous instances.

It is a wonder to know that Phthisis has been not only caused by the suppression of the itch disease but has also been cured by inducing skin disease by the inoculation of the itch-product. Dr. Hahnemann had once written: '(Thus) a large number of writers record the outbreak of *Phthisis Pulmonalis* as occurring so immediately . . . after the suppression of the itch eruption by external remedies that we must undoubtedly recognise its previous existence as being only hitherto kept in abeyance by the eruption.\* Since, then, a kind of pulmonary phthisis is contained among the symptoms of the itch disease we cannot be surprised that its inoculation has succeeded in curing, homœopathically, already-existing Phthisis, as Mr. Fr. May (*Vermischte Schriften*, Manh., 1786) and the author (Hahnemann) in the *Eph. Nat. Cure*, relate (Dec. 11, ann. 2, Obs. 146).

In this connection it is interesting and worthwhile to mention how Dr. J. C. Burnett, who has popularised the cure of

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\* A candidate for the ministry . . . was to preach next day . . . he wished to get rid of an itch of long standing ; so in the morning he rubbed himself over (with?) itch ointment, and after a few hours of suffering from anxiety, dyspnoea and tenesmus, immediately after his dinner, he died. *Post-mortem* examination showed the whole lung filled with liquid pus. (*chr. Krank.* 1, 28, note 47).

ringworm in man and animals with his Bacillinum, the virus of Phthisis, 200, once a week, first came to discover clinically that ringworm was a tubercular manifestation. He writes: "A whole family of children of different ages had had ringworm for a full year . . . . the mother . . . . had already spent over £ 60 on medical fees . . . . All known remedies had been applied . . . several skin specialists had worked hard . . . but to no avail. Finally . . . the afflicted ones were isolated, and the services of a noted ringworm curer of the non-qualified variety had been secured ; but this failing, they were put under my care. Now their mother had been cured by me of incipient tuberculosis with the virus (of consumption), and it occurred to me (Burnett) that the ringworm might be a manifestation of the tubercular kind, and so I forthwith put the whole lot under the virus . . . . They all had numerous, superficial palpable glands. And the result? In a very few weeks they were all quickly cured by the virus, and in each case the general state has been greatly improved . . ."

A hint from Burnett: If Bacillinum indicated fails to act, a few doses of Thuja may be required. (Thuja is, par excellence, the remedy for poisoning with animal toxins). Boericke says, 'if Tuberculinum fails Syphilinum follows advantageously. Dr. Koch found close similarity between tubercular and syphilitic skin eruptions.

Close relationship between psora and tubercular taint is clear from their curative medicines also. Sulphur is the king of antipsorics ; Psorinum is the chronic of Sulphur ; "Tuberculinum may well be considered a species of Psorinum" (Kent). "The relationship between Tuberc. and Calc. is very close . . . The one may be indicated for a while, and then the other . . . also Silica is closely related to Tuberc. . . . "*Calcarea*, Tuberc. and Silica and Silicates." (K). "When well selected remedies act only for a short time, and symptoms agree, this remedy (*Calcarea-Sulphurica*) should be thought of along with Sulphur, Psorinum and Tuberculinum." (K). "In Psoric cases, complicated with syphilis and mercury and other violent drugs we find use for this most neglected remedy (*Guaiacum*). It is closely related to causticum, Sulphur and Tuberculinum," (K).

"Overpowered by heat; Guaiacum." (Clark). Dr. Nash says, "There are no two remedies oftener indicated after each other and work well when so indicated than these two (Sulphur and Causticum). In many books Sulphur is given as the complementary of Graphites. According to H. J. Allen, Graphites stands out by itself, it cannot be compared with any other remedy, if it is to be compared at all, it can be compared with Tuberculinum; it is anti-psoric, anti-sycotic, anti-syphilitic and typically anti-tubercular. Sepia "corresponds to chronic diseases based on psora, tuberculosis and sycosis." (Dr. K. C. Bhanja).

The use of Tuberculinum is daily coming to the fore front. Thus we find some justification for calling Phthisis the worst form of Psora. Many a time Hahnemann was able to check pus in the lungs by inducing skin eruptions.

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### THE THYROID GLAND

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blood pressure. Dr. Kent, in his "Lesser Writings", records curing a case of exophthalmic goitre in 15 months using nothing but *Lycopus* in high potency.

The important thing to remember about all the ductless glands is their interdependence, and if one is deficient this may show in disease, or disharmony, in it or another organ. It is for this reason that I have ever thought it good prescribing to treat a patient with the so-called organ remedies alone.

Hahnemann had the right idea when he emphasised the importance of considering the whole picture of the patient's illness as the only criterion on which to prescribe, for two sick people are more unlike than two who are well.

—Homœopathy, Oct. '58.