

## Some Observations on Symptoms Obtained During Repeating of Bryonia Alba

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### Introduction :

Bryonia alba, needs no introduction as a polycrest drug to homoeopathic community. Dr. Hahnemann proved this drug and recorded seven hundred and eighty symptoms in his book "Materia Medica Pura". Its clinical efficacy is worth mentioning. The first volume of Materia Medica Pura was published one hundred and fifty years ago and the importance of the voluminous informations therein mentioned have almost remain unchanged. Although there have been rapid progress in our knowledge of human mind and bodily functions and its environmental influence. Keeping in view to ascertain the symptoms and the influence of the present environment, mind and bodily functions an attempt was made to repeat Bryonia alba on ten apparently healthy provers under Drug Proving Research Project, Midnapore, West Bengal in 1957. Symptoms that have been shown by this repeating were, in fact interesting to study. In many of the provers some symptoms which were not found in the recorded symptoms of Materia Medica Pura may be considered as the symptoms of the repeating itself. Observation on these symptoms have been incorporated in this article.

Let us take up the symptoms which have been found in Materia Medica Pura and also in repeating.

### Observation-I.

#### Mind and Disposition, Sensorium :

- Confusion in head.
- Vertigo, as if intoxicated.
- Vertigo worse from motion.

All day long giddy in head. So weak in mind that the thought vanishes. (Prover No. 5)  
Desire for things which do not exist or which are no longer cared for when offered.

#### Head :

Headache.  
Heaviness of head,  
Out-pressing pain in both temples (Prover No. 6)

(Compressive pain has been mentioned in Materia Medica Pura)  
Scalp is painful to touch.

Worse by moving the eyes, opening the eyes (Prover No. 6)

Headache; as if skull was being pressed.  
Violent headache, as if the head is very heavy.

Inclined to fall on all sides.  
Sensation as if head were being compressed from ear to ear.  
Headache when stooping as if all the contents of the head would fall out at the forehead.

#### Eyes :

Redness and inflammation of lids with swelling.

#### Ears :

ringing in the ears (Prover No. 5).

#### Nose :

Epistaxis in morning.  
Swelling of the nose.

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**Face :**

Heat in the face with swelling of lips.

(Red, hot and soft swelling and swelling specially on the upper half of the face in one prover and left side of the face in other prover has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

Redness of cheeks.

**Teeth :**

Toothache which compel her to lie down.

Darting or flushing pain.

(Drawing, twitching toothache. "teeth felt too long" has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

Worse in open air.

(Better in open air has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

**Mouth :**

Dryness of mouth better by drinking cold water.

(Dryness without thirst has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

Dryness of throat.

Tongue thickly coated white.

Bad taste in mouth (Prover No. 1).

(Inspid taste has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

**Stomach :**

Voracious hunger.

Constant nausea with desire to vomit.

(Constant nausea, and immediately afterwards voracious hunger with want of appetite has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

Empty eructations after meal.

(Eructation with taste of food and with every eructation shooting pain, after meal bitter eructation, frequent sometime sour has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

Blood vomiting—obliging the patient to lie down.

Intolerable pressure in stomach.

(Immediately after the meal violent aching in scorbiculus cordis, when walking, at least pressure on the bladder and perinium to an intolerable degree ; it went off on sitting has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*).

**Abdomen :**

Pain abdomen with aching that impedes his breathing, relieved by walking.

Loud rumbling in the bowels as if diarrhoea was about to come.

**Stool :**

Hard stool.

Diarrhoea for 48 hours which made her so weak that she had to be kept in bed.

**Urinary :**

Cannot retain his urine long, when he has desire to urinate and does not respond immediately to it, he feels as if the urine passed involuntarily.

Sensation when urinating as if urinary passage is too narrow.

**Female :**

Menstruation too early.

**Respiratory :**

Dry cough as if coming from stomach.

Hoarseness and roughness of voice when walking in open air.

When entering in warm room out of cold air, felt as if constriction in air passages and obliged to cough.

**Heart :**

Palpitation of heart.

**Back :**

Pain in back relieved by lying down.

(Worse on lying down has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*.)

**Extremities :**

Stitches in knees when walking.

Stitches on sole of foot.

Red rash on forearm.

**Sleep :**

So sleepy that likes to sleep whole day and days together in succession.

Disposed to yawning all the day.

Dreams of household events.

**Fever :**

Flushes of heat in the forenoon with chilly feeling. Much sweat in morning. Feeling of chilliness very much in room than in open air. (Chilliness in open air has been mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*).

Next let us consider the symptoms which have been found in the reprovig only.

**Observation—II**

**Showing Symptoms That Have Not Been Found In *Materia Medica Pura***

Location	Symptoms	No. of prover.
Head :	Burning, head with warm sweat in the scalp.	6.
Eyes :	Redness and inflammation with swelling, pressure, heat and nightly aggravation particularly in upper eye lid. Pain and swelling of the eye worse particularly in open air. Discharge of mucus from eyes.	5. 6.
Ears :	Intolerance of noise and roaring in ears.	5.
Abdomen :	Pain in the inguinal ring going down thighs. Abdomen very sensitive as if sore.	6.
Stool :	After much straining stool escapes, causes confusion of head as if blood rushes to head.	
Urinary :	Brick dust sediment in urine.	4.
Back :	Stiffness of back.	1&2.
Female :	Pain in mammae and pain in glands of right axilla. Temperature-99°F. Suspicion as if malignant diseases are approaching. Menstruation-flow profuse in quantity.	1. 1. 1.

Heart : Pain in heart better by pressure. 2.  
 Skin : Eruption of the whole body but slow development of rashes with violent itching, likes to scratch the part. 6.

Next observation has been made regarding the symptoms which have been found in reprovig and are mentioned in *Kent's Repertory* and suggestions are given to add this drug where it is not mentioned. They are as follows :—

**Observation—III**

**Showing Symptoms of Reprovig in *Kent's Repertory* Where "Bryonia" May be Added**

Location	Symptoms	Page No.
Head.	Perspiration scalp, warm.	222.
Eyes.	Inflammation, lids upper.	267.
Nose.	Epistaxis, evening. Swelling, Touch Painful to.	352.
Abdomen.	Abdomen, anxiety.	541.
Urinary.	Urine, Sediment, Red-brick colour	690.
Heart.	Chest, Pain heart better pressure of hand. Chest, Palpitation heart, better by pressure with hands.	540. 876.
Back.	Pain, pressure ameliorates. Pain, sacral region better by pressure.	897. 940.
Sleep.	Yawning, daytime.	1257.
Fever.	Heat flushes of, Chilliness with	1366.

**Discussion**

Study on symptoms found in reprovig of *Bryonia alba* was based on three points i.e. (i) to ascertain the symptoms which were found in both reprovig and *Materia Medica Pura*. (ii) to find out the symptoms which appeared only in reprovig and not recorded in any authentic homoeopathic literature and (iii) suggest and mention the rubric in *Kent's Repertory* with page number where *Bryonia alba* may be added in the list of the drugs under them for having such symptoms in reprovig.

Considering the first point it was observed that reprovig of *Bryonia alba* proved many symptoms which were recorded and mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura* and it was also further noted that many of the charac-

teristic symptoms of the drug appeared in all the provers which again confirmed the accuracy and authenticity of proving carried out one hundred seventy years ago by our master Hahnemann. Rather he had more specific and detailed description of symptoms in relation to its elements of location, sensation and modality. With certain symptoms found in proving and re-proving this may be identified the clue of such opinion which were mentioned in observation of symptoms in relation to first point. So this proved that though there is lot of variation in environmental influence, bodily functions and responses in present days, the characteristic symptoms of drug could not be changed under any circumstances and such proving will clear misconceptions. Certain contradictory modalities in comparison with the symptoms mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura* were noted eg. feeling of chilliness very much in room than in open air was found in re-proving but chilliness in open air was mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*, pain in back relieved by lying down found in re-proving but it is worse by lying down mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura*, toothache worse in open air found in re-proving but better in open air mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura* etc. All these contradictory modalities in comparison to those mentioned in *Materia Medica Pura* need clinical verification and then they may be accepted.

Taking up the second point it may be observed that this re-proving showed certain new symptoms of its own in different locations which were, in fact interesting to study. Under the location of head, burning sensation had very peculiar concomitant of warm sweat on scalp and if clinical verification showed the efficacy of this symptom it will be a valuable addition among the symptoms of *Bryonia alba*. In eye it is found inflammation, swelling, pressure, heat specially on upper eyelid worse in open air had an important modality which was not found in *Materia Medica Pura*. Again with the act of defaecation there was important mental concomitant which is worth noting i.e. after much straining stool escapes-causes confusion of head as if blood rushes to head.

Change of colour of urine to brick-dust is interesting to note though no report of urine examination of the said prover was available. Another very impor-

tant symptom observed during this proving is pain in mammae and pain in glands of right axilla with suspicion as if malignant diseases are approaching. This symptom was found in only one prover. No clinical examination report of the said prover was available to determine any tangible cause for the appearance of such symptoms and in fact if there was no such thing with the prover herself indeed it may be accepted as valuable symptom to be added in the literature of *Bryonia alba*. Above all it may be stated that clinical verification of all these symptoms will prove its practicability.

Thinking of the third point the authors of this article made an attempt to find out the rubrics in Kent's repertory where those symptoms which were found only in re-proving may be adjusted and *Bryonia* may be added in the list of the related drugs under them and this may be done only after clinical verification. This has been mentioned in observation-III. So the author suggests that Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy can take up these symptoms of re-proving of such valuable polycrest drug which is often used in every day practice of homoeopathic fraternity.

### References

- (i) Symptoms of "*Bryonia*" proved with different potencies (on healthy individuals) arranged according to Anatomical Schema-published in the report of the Homoeopathic Research Work being carried on from Feb. 1957 to Mar. 1958 at Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Homoeopathic Drug Research Department.
- (ii) *Materia Medica Pura* (Vol. I) by Dr. Hahnemann.

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