

## LAC CANINUM

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It is surprising to note what a memorable sacrifice is being done not only by the human race but also by the lower animals, say the beasts, birds and insects etc., to add to the welfare of the world. The Almighty Father has created no creature or thing in vain. Everything is beautiful in its own place and contributes its mite to the construction and existence of this universe.

One may shudder at the idea of Lac Caninum, the dog's milk used as a medicine, but the excellent service done by it "forbids us to enquire or care" about its origin. Like Lachesis and other snake venoms and the nosodes—Tuberculinum, Psorinum, Pyrogenium, Medorrhinum etc., the dog's milk has met with the most violent opposition from prejudice and ignorance, but its wonderful therapeutic powers have slowly and surely overcome the same. The medicines if found efficacious cannot be neglected even though "derived from the purest filth" instead of "the purest gold". Similarly the full provings of monkey's, cow's, mare's, cat's and human milk have been greatly useful in the treatment of diseases.

Homœopathically, the grand characteristic symptom of this remedy is Metastasis and alternation of sides. Erratic symptoms—constantly flying from one side to another every few hours or days. The complaints irrespective of kind or quality or any naming of diseases whatsoever—change sides. They first begin on one side, go to the other and resettle on the very side whence they started. Today they may be on the upper portion of the right hand, tomorrow may travel down to the lower portion of the left hand and then it may come up to the upper right hand again or crosswise. Wherever the troubles may be, whether in nose, buccal cavity, throat or extremities—whether it may be coryza, rheumatism, sorethroat, diphtheria, tonsillitis, paralysis, sciatica, erysipelus, this typical changing of sides should be the

guiding factor. In taking into consideration such a peculiar symptom, the study of Pulsatilla, Kali Bichromicum, Manganum Aceticum, Lycopodium and Lachesis may be thought out by way of comparison but each of the medicines has its own sphere of choice—one may be ruled out in place of the other according to its own strange, rare and uncommon symptoms.

Vision of snakes and horrible thing is also another characteristic symptom of this medicine basing which many grave chronic diseases are known to have been cured for ever.

Mentally it is too much forgetful. One buys a thing in a market, but totally forgets to take it home. Makes mistakes in writing—drops ideas while talking—can not recollect the thread of events.

It has a decided effect in drying up milk in women.

It is a very deep acting medicine and scarcely bears any repetition. Should not be used lower than the 30th. Acts best in the 200th and 1000th potencies.

Modalities—Worse, morning of one day and in the evening of next. Better, cold and cold drinks.

The following case reports are cited by way of illustration :—

(1) A young girl of 17 years of age, medium sized, strong built, rather a little dwarfish, of fair complexion, with very amiable disposition, ever jolly, of sharp merits, very intelligent—a good student of Intermediate Science of a Pakistan College. Came here to visit one of her near and dear relatives. While passing the border lines, she had to walk a few miles which she was not at all habituated to and was unfortunately drenched through and through owing to the heavy rains all on a sudden during the sultry weather. The severe heat creating perspiration on the fat creature and the perspiration being dried up suddenly by the cold rains added to the heavy physical strain unwanted, and they did not go in vain. The very next morning she was attacked with fever and pain all over the body. Fever did not run very high, but the pain of the body was causing her the most terrible suffering. At first Rhus Toxicodendron in the 6th potency was administered in 4 three hourly doses. It ameliorated the all body pain to

some extent but an excruciating pain localised on the left deltoid. The next day the deltoid pain shifted from the left side to the right elbow. Fever, in the meantime, had already subsided. Medicine was stopped for a day. On the 3rd day the patient told me that the left hand pain was totally gone that day, while it shifted to the right hand; but the next day the pain again moved to the left hand, the right hand pain being less by this time. There was severe constipation—; bowels did not move for these three days. The patient, though restless at the beginning, became quiet now and she could not move. Any slight movement of the body made her body ache. She had moderate thirst. Her tongue was whitish. Two drops of Bryonia Alba 30 in 4 ounces of cold water were given to be taken in 6 divided doses to be stopped whenever improvement would be noticed. Next day, her bowels moved freely,—she was feeling much better in all respects. I was glad to conclude that the two complementary remedies Rhus Tox and Bryonia acted very nicely on her. She was put simply on Sac lac for two days. But to add to her miseries, troubles restarted. The pain on the left hand and right hand reappeared in full intensity; hot fomentation, massage etc. gave no relief; still more, pain began on the two legs also. First this pain came on the right leg, again it came to the shoulders,—thereafter it came to left leg also. In this way there was pain all over the body, but no body could say when and where the pain would settle and resettle. Thus the shifting pain was now considered to be the keynote of the case and the medicine must be based on this. This dog's milk, Lac Caninum ruled out all, and it was given in the 200th potency, which cured the patient like a magic. The girl had no relapse of the disease though a long time had elapsed.

With a view to cure her radically I took her history in details and found that she was suffering from Leucorrhœa and Dysmenorrhœa occasionally. Her mother had also the same diseases. Father's constitution was too much fatty. The paternal grandfather had suffered from Gonorrhœa and died of Paralysis. She could not give me further details. However I advised her to see me once again with her father to supply me

with all the informations I might ask for. If repertorized properly her constitutional medicine might be chalked out to be "Medorrhinum". But as is the usual—barely any body cares for a radical and permanent cure. Temporarily relief is the only thing people generally aim at, and as the patient was well for a pretty long time, she did not and could not persuade her father to come to me.

Thanks to the Hahnemannian Homœopathy—it can create wonders in curing the sufferings of the sick.

(2)—A gentleman, aged about 50 years, used to be suffering from almost constant coryza, an attendant headache. The nasal catarrh changed sides,—now one nostril and then the other was affected. He was extremely susceptible to cold; any slight change of weather from hot to cold or from cold to hot caused the watering of his nose. The two nostrils were not affected at one and the same time. Some times the right nose and at other times the left nose gave him troubles. Stuffing of the affected nose, a dry hacking cough and hoarseness, together with the terrible headache, plus the peculiar symptom of changing from one side to another, characterized the case for these ailments the patient took many remedies—allopathic, homœopathic and kaviraji—all of which gave him considerable relief. But complaints often relapsed. The gentleman therefore approached me for an advice. I put him on occasional doses of Lac Caninum 200, which gave him, greater relief compared to the other methods of treatment. Constitutional defects are often very difficult to be thoroughly corrected, but this much is sure that the defects are remedied to a great extent under Homœopathy.

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