

ONE OF MY CASES—DERMATITIS

DR. NOEL PUDDEPHATT

On January 14th, 1957, a gentleman came to see me and said that he was suffering from Dermatitis, which commenced about two years ago. The Dermatitis was on both hands and one foot. Its nature was as follows :

First came small blisters, which burst and exuded yellow sticky matter. It then dried up and scaled, after which it cracked, this lasted for about four days and then healed. Then it came back again, and always followed this pattern.

He stated that he had had several months treatment from a Homœopath who had slightly improved the condition, but had not cured it. He went on to say that : At eighteen he had scarlet fever, mumps as a child. Vaccinated four times, and had all the army inoculations. He preferred the summer. Damp weather was objectionable to him. Did not like changes of temperature, but did not mind dry frosty weather. He was living in a damp house which he loathed. Dislikes draughts. Loves the sun. Hates cold winds, and stuffy rooms. Always on the move, and can't stand still. Prefers to be in fresh air. Says "I eat a terrific amount of salt with my food." Appetite good. Drinks mostly tea. Never been any good at heights, and could not go up a ladder, as he feels he is going to fall. Whilst in the army had a crop of boils. Likes his clothing loose. Sleeps very well. Grinds his teeth in sleep. Gets very depressed when worried.

Likes sympathy. Flares up with anger, but gets over it very quickly. Memory normal. Stuttered from childhood, and stutters very badly now.

January 14th, 1957. - On the strength of—Four vaccinations, and several inoculations, plus aggravation from all damp, worse heights, eats a terrific amount of salt I sent :

Thuja 30. Four weekly doses and *Sac. lac.*

His letter dated February 8th says : "Blisters appeared but

no inflammation, and the skin did not crack or get inflamed, neither did they break. They lasted a few days and disappeared."

February 11th, 1957. I repeated the *Thuja* 30 and *Sac. lac.* as above.

His letter of March 8th, 1957 states: "Blisters appeared on one finger but did not burst, and there was no irritation. A large patch of blisters appeared on the underpart of the left foot, but did not burst. They dried up after two days. While they were drying up there was a considerable amount of irritation."

He who said "Confession is good for the soul" stated a profound truth—so permit me to make my humble confession, for at that time I must have been suffering from a black-out, or I had "Craving for salt" on the brain, for I changed the remedy and sent him *Natrum mur.*, which proved useless, and yet I knew that *Thuja* has a craving for salt, for Clarke gives in his Dictionary under *Thuja*, "Craves Salt". I cannot for the life of me think what I was about.

May 22nd, 1957. Sent *Thuja m.* one dose and *Sac. lac.*

His letter of June 23rd says: "My hands this month have been very much better, just a few odd blisters which have burst and then dried up, and I have had one patch on my left foot. My health generally has been good."

June 26th, 1957. Sent *Sac. lac.*

He wrote to me on July 23rd and stated: "I am very glad to be able to tell you I have had a trouble-free month, with no irritation or blisters at all, and my general health has been very good."

As he wanted more medicine to keep by him, I sent *Sac. lac.*

Key notes are very tricky things, and should be treated with the utmost respect, for if the remedy does not fit the patient as a whole, we are wasting our time.

As an example, most people think when a patient has a craving for salt—"Why, of course, this must be *Natrum mur.*"

Dr. J. T. Kent in his repertory under the rubric "Desires Salt things" gives thirty remedies, in which both *Natrum mur.* and *Thuja* are included.

On August 27th I received a final letter saying: "I am very

glad to be able to tell you that my hands are still all right—this makes three months without any sign at all of the dermatitis and my general health is still very good.”

We replied and stated that we considered him cured.

—*Health & You, Jan., 1958*

BOOK REVIEW

The Pocket Repertory. By Dr. P. Sankaran, L.I.M., D.F. HOM. (LOND). Priced at Rs: 3.50 nP. only. Published by the Homœopathic Medical Publishers, 13-A, Station Road : Santra Cruz (West), Bombay-23.

An excellent 62 page Pocket Repertory, very handy & informative. It is designed to be the *Index* to the Card Repertory, by the same Author, which unfortunately had not been to our hands. This Repertory has some advantage over other schematically arranged bigger ones, in that the rubrics are alphabetically arranged and so are readily referable. Numerous cross-references have been added. The rubrics refer to 292 remedies,—our old polychrests, old nosodes, some new nosodes & new remedies, which have been graded by 3 different types,—capital, bold & ordinary, to show their relative places in the rubrics. The introduction has been illuminating, and shows the way of working and the workability of the Card Repertory, as also the usefulness, adaptability and limitations of this Pocket Repertory. But we regret to miss very many useful rubrics, especially in the mental sphere, which should have been more thoroughly and carefully worked out. Notwithstanding, we hope the author will incorporate them in the next edition.

The printing & printing-material have been first-grade, binding neat. The get-up in one word is excellent. The price though not very high for such a complex work, especially in these days of soaring prices, had better been reduced to some extent.

S. M. B.
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