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SOME REMARKS ON LAPIS ALBUS

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This remedy, the Silico-Fluoride of Calcium, was introduced by Dr. Grauvogl, about 1874. It came about in this way. Grauvogl was anxious to find some substance which would defy chemical examination, and yet be an effective Homœopathic remedy, so that he could, as he expressed it, "hammer Liebig's nose into the truths of Homœopathy."

Being at Gastein, in the valley of the Asche, which takes its source from the base of the Tauerne mountains, he noticed that many of the inhabitants of the valley were afflicted with goitre. He attributed this to the water they drank, which he found to be impregnated with a species of gneiss. He also found that his own thyroid gland began to swell after drinking of the water. He therefore triturated of this gneiss, and began to use it with success in certain affections, and also to make provings of it, using the sixth potency.

Liebig, however, died in the meantime, and the

nose-hammering process being unnecessary, Grauvogl made known the name of the remedy, hitherto secret, and sent some of it to Dr. Carl Boganus, in Russia, and to others, that they might experiment with it.

The provings of lapis albus were but Fragmentary, the most constant symptoms being a persistent burning, stinging pain in the breast, cardiac region of the stomach and the uterus. These pains at times were very intense. It exerted, moreover, a marked effect on the thyroid gland, enlarging it.

The early reports of the cases of goitre cured with this remedy in potencies ranging from the first to the 200th are quite numerous. Another affection in which it has been used successfully is cancer, although open cases of cancer are said not to have been benefited by it. The persistent pain in the mammary region, coupled with glandular hardening, would suggest its use in the beginning of cancer of the breast.

The sphere of action of the drug may, therefore, be said to be: Goitre, certain carcinomatous affections and scrofulous glandular affections. It has, I believe, been successfully used in lupus and cataract.

My experience with this remedy, and I have been somewhat interested in it, dates from about 1876. At that time a member of my own family had an enlargement of one of the cervical glands. It was nearly as large as a hen's egg, and had a soft, doughy feel. Under lapis albus 6, prescribed, I believe, by Dr. G. E. Sparhawk, now of Burlington, Vt., the swelling speedily and completely disappeared. A peculiar and unusual symptom noticed by this patient while taking

the medicine was a marked increase in the appetite ; it became ravenous.

Since that time I have used the remedy in many cases of scrofulous enlargement of the cervical glands, and find that it is almost specific where the glands have a certain amount of elasticity and pliability about them, rather than a stony hardness, such as might call for *Calcareo fluorica*, *Cistus* or *Carbo animalis*.

One case in particular which I recall was a young lady, about 20 years of age, a natural blonde, skin fair, bluish white, showing prominent veins, who had a glandular enlargement in the right supra-clavicular region, nearly the size of a goose egg, and one somewhat smaller a little further back in the interval between the sterno-cleido-mastoid and trapezius muscles. These had a certain amount of hardness, but they were movable. Others of the cervical chain were also enlarged, the right side being the only one affected. As the young lady was engaged to be married, these unsightly lumps were very distressing. *Lapis albus* 6, a powder four times a day, in a week caused a marked diminution of the size of the glands, and in three weeks they were not noticeable, and eventually entirely disappeared. This patient also had a ravenous appetite while taking the remedy, an unusual thing for her. Her anæmic colour and complexion were also greatly improved.

The most remarkable effect of the use of the remedy I have had was in a case of goitre in a lady of about thirty-five, blond, who had for over a year noticed a gradual increase in the size of the thyroid

gland, until it was as large as a good-sized fist, when she came to me. Both halves of the gland seemed to be equally involved. It did not appear to be of the encapsulated variety. This patient had received previous Homœopathic treatment, having had Spongia, Iodine, Thuja, as well as some other remedies. Lapis albus 6 was prescribed, a dose every three hours. The swelling began to disappear at once, and continued to diminish in size until it completely disappeared, and at the present time over five years have passed with no return of the trouble. In this case the appetite was not specially affected, though it remained good throughout the treatment.

In another case of enlargement of the cervical glands on the left side, in a school teacher, Lapis albus 6 was given. There were no symptoms leading to any other remedy, the patient was apparently perfectly healthy, the gland, which was the size of a hen's egg, promptly began to lessen in size, and doubtless would have disappeared entirely had the patient continued treatment. From some unaccountable reason she ceased coming in the midst of rapid improvement.

Lapis albus, in cases like the foregoing, should, I believe, be given in repeated doses. And herein I concur with a point brought out the other day by Dr. Royal, that in certain chronic cases it is needful to repeat the dose oftener than in acute cases. It may be a deep-acting remedy, like its near relatives, Silicea and Calcarea fluorica, but I have never had any experience with it in potencies higher than the sixth,

nor in single doses permitted to act for a long time. Grauvogl observed that in cases where malarial conditions have existed, relapses of these were apt to occur, a further evidence of its deep action.

It has also proved useful in my hands in the common chronic glandular swelling in scrofulous children. I have succeeded with it after the Calcarea preparations had failed.

Grauvogl reported the case of a carcinoma of the cheek in a woman, aged 50, cured by Lapis. Her countenance became healthy and her complexion assumed a ruddiness and freshness unusual with her. He also reported the cure of five cases of uterine cancer with the remedy.

It would seem indicated in anæmic and chlorotic conditions. I have noticed that these conditions have improved under its use when prescribed for its action on the glands. Indeed, I look upon an anæmic condition as an additional indication for its use.

In enlargement of the mesenteric glands Lapis albus may be indicated. Dr. Soenens in the *Allgemeine Homoeopatische Zeitung*, reports a case of diarrhoea with enlarged mesenteric glands cured with Lapis albus 3. He considers it a specific in affections of these glands. It certainly acts very rapidly in causing as well as in curing glandular enlargements.

It has also been recommended as an important constitutional remedy in dysmenorrhœa. Dr. Whiting, of Danvers, Mass., uses it in subjects of a lymphatic temperament with indurated glands and pain preceding the flow. It seems to mitigate the pain and

swelling of the mammæ which are sometimes an accompaniment of dysmenorrhœa.

It is also mentioned as a remedy for cataract, but to what extent it has been used with success I am unable to state.

DISCUSSION

C. H. EVANS, M. D., Chicago, Ill. : The cure of mammary pains is not borne out by my experience. I have used it in the same potency as mentioned, in two cases of gastric cancer, where the diagnosis was supported by a post-mortem after a long course of Lapis albus. In another case, one of mammary cancer, I used it for some time, but could see no effect from it; the diagnosis in this case was supported by microscopic examination after removal of the breast. Notwithstanding this may prove of value early in the case.

MILLIE J. CHAPMAN, M. D., Pittsburgh, Pa. : Six years ago a patient came to me with a growth in one breast; she had had it removed in the East, but it had returned, and she dreaded another operation. I gave her Lapis albus once a day for a week and then none for a week, and so on for five weeks, when the growth had disappeared. She returned to the East and consulted with the surgeon who had removed the growth the first time; he examined her, and became very angry because it was no longer there. He had called it a recurrent cancer. I used the remedy in the 30x with no other treatment.

T. F. ALLEN, M. D., New York, N. Y. : I remember the case of a lady who had one breast amputated

for a tumour ; it returned on the other breast, and that, also, was removed. She then came to me, as there had developed in the left axilla a small nodule the size of a horse chestnut. In the scar on the right breast there was a small indurated mass, not having the feeling of a lymphatic gland, but a part of the scar, and here there was a burning pain. My experience with these cases, after they have undergone operations, has been unsatisfactory. In this case, however, the glandular swelling spoken of has nearly gone and the recent scar has lost its angry appearance and is decidedly improved. These cases are apt, after involvement of the lymphatics, to become speedily hopeless. My experience has been limited, but I think that in this remedy we have an agent to stop the progress through the lymphatics. The patient referred to had one dose a day of the 6th centesimal potency.

W. H. HANCHETT, M. D., Omaha, Neb. : I have a case of goitre which, under this remedy, has greatly reduced in size. I hope it may progress to a complete cure. I consider this as a valuable addition to our armamentarium in the treatment of this class of diseases.

T. G. COMSTOCK, M. D., St. Louis, Mo. : Seventeen years ago, after reading Grauvogl's report upon this remedy, I sent to Boericke & Tafel and procured some Lapis albus, and administered it to the wife of our Minister to Brazil, for carcinoma of the breast. I also used it in other cases, but to all without any good result. I gave the 6x trituration.

W. A. DEWEY, M. D., New York, Essayist : It is

only recorded and found useful in incipient cases of carcinoma, like the cases of Dr. Chapman and Dr. Allen. It is of no use where the case has progressed to the point of ulceration. Grauvogl never found it of value in open wounds.

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DR. KENT AND HOMŒOPATHY

By KATHLEEN M. GOODWIN, M.Sc. (Lond.)

Dr. Kent brings to my mind the picture of a diamond of great brilliance: a great prescriber with superb accuracy in diagnosis and instant knowledge of the remedy, unrivalled in the field of *materia medica*. His monumental work is consulted and valued by homœopaths the whole world over. He is a direct descendant of Hahnemann, steeped in his method and philosophy. Like Hahnemann, he sometimes lost patience with those who did not share his principles, especially his allopathic brethren, and gave vent to caustic tirades against them and their works.

In his *Lectures on Homœopathic Philosophy* he quotes from the *Organon* and each thought is examined under his vivid, succinct mind. It is from this book that one glimpses his profound knowledge of men and of Homœopathy.

He was far ahead of his time, too, in his conception of the mind of man and of what had to be cured. Concerning the role of bacteria in the