

## SOME MINOR REMEDIES

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### Scutellaria

This is one of the minor remedies that has served me well and on many occasions. My chief use of it has been following an attack of influenza. The patient complains of a nervous weakness that interferes with daily activities and restless nights. There is a fear that accompanies the weakness: a fear that something is going to happen. There is a cardiac irritability that is probably the result of the influenzal toxemia.

Accompanying the weakness is often a dull frontal headache: eyes feel pressed outward. Those who complain of restless sleep with a constant desire to move about. It is interesting that Scutellaria is among other remedies that were introduced by Hale, who quotes the use of this remedy by George Royal, who used it in so-called bilious headaches in a patient who said, 'There is nothing wrong with me.' Mental exhaustion apparently acts similarly to influenzal exhaustion in the production of the Scutellaria headache.

Ellingwood, eclectic, in his *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* mentions the combination of Scutellaria and Cimicifuga in the treatment of chorea. Many years ago, I used this combination in the treatment of a very severe case with great success. It has been used much in cases of insomnia in gtt. 10 of the tincture.

### Viscum album

This remedy was called to my attention by the late Dr. James W. Ward, that master of Homoeopathy, who was the leader of the Hahnemann Medical College of the Pacific for some thirty-three years, as well as in the practice of Homoeopathy on the Pacific Coast.

The mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is of particular value in rheumatic and gouty complaints, especially sciatica. One case, a lady of fifty years plus, was suffering from sciatica, aggravated in the left hip. There were burning, and shooting pains in both thighs and at times alternating with pains in the upper extremities. The chief modality was 'worse in bed.' Several remedies were prescribed but did not relieve the condition. *Viscum album* gave complete relief.

In former years, it was much used in epilepsy and chorea, also in asthma in the gouty subject. How often the minor remedies are forgotten when seeking to relieve the patient! Hale gives quite a list of symptoms referable to the pelvic area. Symptoms of that great enemy of the senior citizen, sciatica. Violent pains in the sacro-ischiatic area, extending into the limbs. The pain may be of a burning character extending down the limb to the ankle. Keep this remedy in mind when dealing with the next baffling case of sciatica.

### Condurango

My attention was redirected to this remedy quite recently when a fourteen-year-old girl was seen by me in Hahnemann Hospital. The complaint was a dry, scaly eruption on the face and neck. The most troublesome feature was painful cracks in the corners of the mouth. The pain was so severe that the child could scarcely open her mouth enough to eat; smiling and laughing were completely inhibited. Condurango 3x was prescribed on discs, and these were given every three hours. In 48 hours the pain was much lessened and in four days the cracks were completely healed.

By the way, you will find this remedy in both Clarke's *Dictionary* and in Kent's *Repertory* spelled *Cundurango* and not as in Boericke's *Homoeopathic Materia Medica*, where it is *Condurango*. However, this remedy is not mentioned in the third edition of Kent under the rubric 'crack in edges of the mouth.'

Many years ago, in the Homeopathic Clinic in San Francisco, a man presented himself for treatment of 'stomach trouble.' He stated that he had had indigestion and pain in the stomach, at times aggravated by food and again not. His age was sixty, rather spare in build and a retired clerk. The snap diagnosis was either ulcer or cancer. The x-rays ruled out ulcer, but the radiologist was uncertain about cancer. At the time of his first visit cracks in the corners of the mouth were noted. Reference to Kent's *Repertory* gave Cund. which was prescribed. This completely relieved the cracks in the corners of the mouth and also the gastric complaint. The patient was x-rayed some months later and at that time all the gastric involvement was completely cleared.

Perhaps similar experiences as the above in gastric ailments have contributed to its reputation in the treatment of cancer. Query: How often do our remedies cure proved cases of cancer? Much, of course, depends on the types of cancer and the resistance of the patient to the invasion of the cancer. Be careful of accepting the statement of cures by the older clinicians where growths have not been carefully biopsied or removed for pathological examination. The eclectic, Ellingwood, used Condurango in gastric ulcer.

### Vipera

Once again this remedy was indelibly fixed in my mind by the prescription of Vipera given to the wife of one of our doctors. She complained of painful veins in her fingers when she let her hand hang down.

Vipera has a special affinity for the circulatory system. The keynote in cases of phlebitis and varicosis is aggravation on letting the limbs hang down. One patient complained of a sensation which was as if the leg would burst with fullness.

Vipera acts on the blood vessels of the kidney and may be of use in haematuria. There is the sensation of fullness in the renal region. When deal-

ing with one of these 'lesser' remedies there may be the temptation to limit its action to one portion of the body or to one system only.

*Vipera* has quite an affinity for the heart, which is manifested by sticking pains in the region of the heart, cold sweat and faintness. Probably this remedy should be considered in the subject with marked varicosities of the limbs with the characteristic of aggravation by letting the limb hang down, cramps in the limbs when sitting for sometime with the legs hanging over the edge of the chair. Give it a trial in some of your women with marked varicosities.

#### **Aranea diadema**

The introduction of *Aranea* was made by Grauvogl. You may recall his designation of the hydrogenoid constitution, meaning the abnormal sensitiveness to damp and cold: the inability to live near large bodies of water. Aggravated by bathing, damp weather, damp localities and aggravated by cold air, the opposite to *Pulsatilla*.

*Aranea*, as all the spider poisons, powerfully affects the nervous system. The symptoms are characterized by the periodicity and coldness with the great susceptibility to dampness, as stated above. Pain in the right trifacial nerve, from periphery to center. (Left trifacial, *Colocynth*).

It is interesting that the nerve pains extend from periphery to center. (*Ledum*, the pains extend from distal to center and are relieved by cold). In *Aranea* they likewise extend to center but are aggravated by cold.

Case: A longshoreman developed pain in the right os calcis which interfered very materially with his employment. X-ray examination did not show any bony change. Several remedies were given without success until *Aranea* was prescribed with complete relief.

This leads me to mention another spider remedy or poison, *Aranea scinencia*. This poison has been used very successfully in twitching of the lower eyelid. One patient has been relieved of several attacks by the use of *Scinencia*, when other remedies, *Agaricus*, for instance, failed.

#### **Paeonia**

Permit me to call your attention to the lovely peony. Its niche in the extensive materia medica is small but very important. Its field of action is the anus and rectum. There is itching about the anus with burning and swelling. Fissures (Nitric acid), ulceration of anus and particularly of the perineum.

Case 1.—Female, aet. 25, suffered with a chronic ulceration of the perineum. The area was excised and pathological examination revealed tuberculosis. The general picture was that of a small ulcerated area on the perineum, very painful and chronic. *Paeonia* was given and with cleanliness, the area healed. No other area of tuberculous involvement was found. The patient has had no recurrence, now some thirty years later.

Case 2.—Pilonidal abscess. You are all familiar with the stubborn piloni-

dal cysts that are quite painful and sooner or later become infected and result in a chronically discharging sinus. When these are dissected out, there is very seldom healing by primary union. A young man about 30 years old presented the above picture. The abscessed area was removed, and the periosteum of the coccyx carefully curetted. The area was packed with furacin gauze, but it was indolent and Paeonia stimulated the healing which was complete on May 19, 1969.

#### **Collinsonia canadensis**

This may not be a lesser known remedy but rather a lesser used one. The chief field for it is pelvic and portal congestion resulting in catarrhal involvement of nasal pharyngeal and gastric areas.

This remedy has also been used in mucous stools mixed with particles of faeces. They are preceded by lower abdominal pain. This condition often alternates with prolonged constipation. There are subjective sensations of sticks in the rectum (Aesculus). The general history of prolonged constipation is found in those of sedentary activity, high starch diet, and little roughage.

I recall using Collinsonia in a cough from excessive use of the voice, hence the application in 'ministers' sore throat'.

The writer is aware that the foregoing is a potpourri of remedies, but each one has been found to fit in a niche, well-defined in the vast armamentarium of homoeopathic medicines.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- (2) Hale, Edwin M.: *New Remedies*, p. 574.
- (3) Ellingwood: *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, p. 111.
- (4) Boericke, William: *Materia Medica*.

#### **Comments**

*Roger A. Schmidt, M.D., San Francisco :*

Dr. Cookinham has brought us again one of those excellent papers to stimulate us for the selection of unusual remedies and to get us out of bad routine prescribing habits.

I might mention that Scutellaria, just cited in my paper on paroxysmal tachycardia, has been much to the fore in this session. It is truly a splendid remedy.

Viscum album is used in Germany as a cancer remedy. I have prescribed it myself in high blood pressure cases when no other specific indications are present. In some instances it gave me encouraging results.

Condurango is a drug I have verified many, many times for the right-sided fissure of the lips, with or without gastric manifestation.

Vipera—here is a very outstanding case—a woman afflicted with severe

chronic lymphangitis, so-called 'stovepipe legs,' when the leg goes straight down, about three times the normal size. When she mentioned that she had to put her legs up as soon as she could sit down, it gave me at once the indication for *Vipera*, which gave tremendous relief. The legs started thinning down, whereas diuretics of various sorts never helped. That is the type of lymphedema that is non-pitting.

*Solidago*—we have also the stovepipe legs, but this is part of the nephrotic syndrome.

*Paeonia* and *Collinsonia* are remedies I have prescribed often for piles with good results.

*Frederic W. Schmid, M.D., San Francisco :*

I treated a six-months pregnant woman who developed a milk leg on the left side. She had had varicose veins and non-pitting edema, Cerulean edema, dark brown. I gave her *Vipera* 12X and this woman has stayed well ever since—unforgettable!

*Mylan's Pharmacy* carries *Boericke's* formulas, ointments, and suppositories, a mixture of *Nux vomica*, *Hamamelis*, *Paeonia*, *Collinsonia* (which does just as good a job as the new cortisone suppository without the dangers).

Now, *Viscum album* is called *Iscador* in Basle, Switzerland, and is used in *Arlesheim's Clinic* for cancer treatment. If the patient refuses surgery or has had it and the surgeon says, 'There is nothing I can do for you,' then you can offer this *Iscador* treatment. I have seen a cure after sigmoidectomy with 12 to 30 lymph nodes positive for cancer. It is now nine years after the operation and I just saw her in the office and the only thing she has now is a calcified spleen.

Mistletoe grows on trees. The tree develops an anti-parasitic factor or agent which is used biologically and physiologically as an extract for cancer treatment by strengthening the system and body of the host. They have now refined this method for cancer of the larynx. They grow the mistletoe on pines or apple trees for cancer of the stomach. So I use it with the consent of the patient and have seen results as never before. The remedy comes in ampules and is injected in the damaged part.

*Ronald M. Troup, M.D., Berkeley :*

In the case of piles, you know that the various plexuses of that region deploy to the liver. If a fellow overlooks the situation of the liver and does not clean up the house there, he is going to have piles and severe ones. If you get busy with the liver remedies and clean up that phase of it, then the haemorrhoids will clear up.

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