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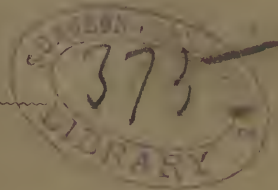
Homoeopathic (1843)

THE

HOMŒOPATHIC

MEDICAL LIBRARY.

MATERIA MEDICA.

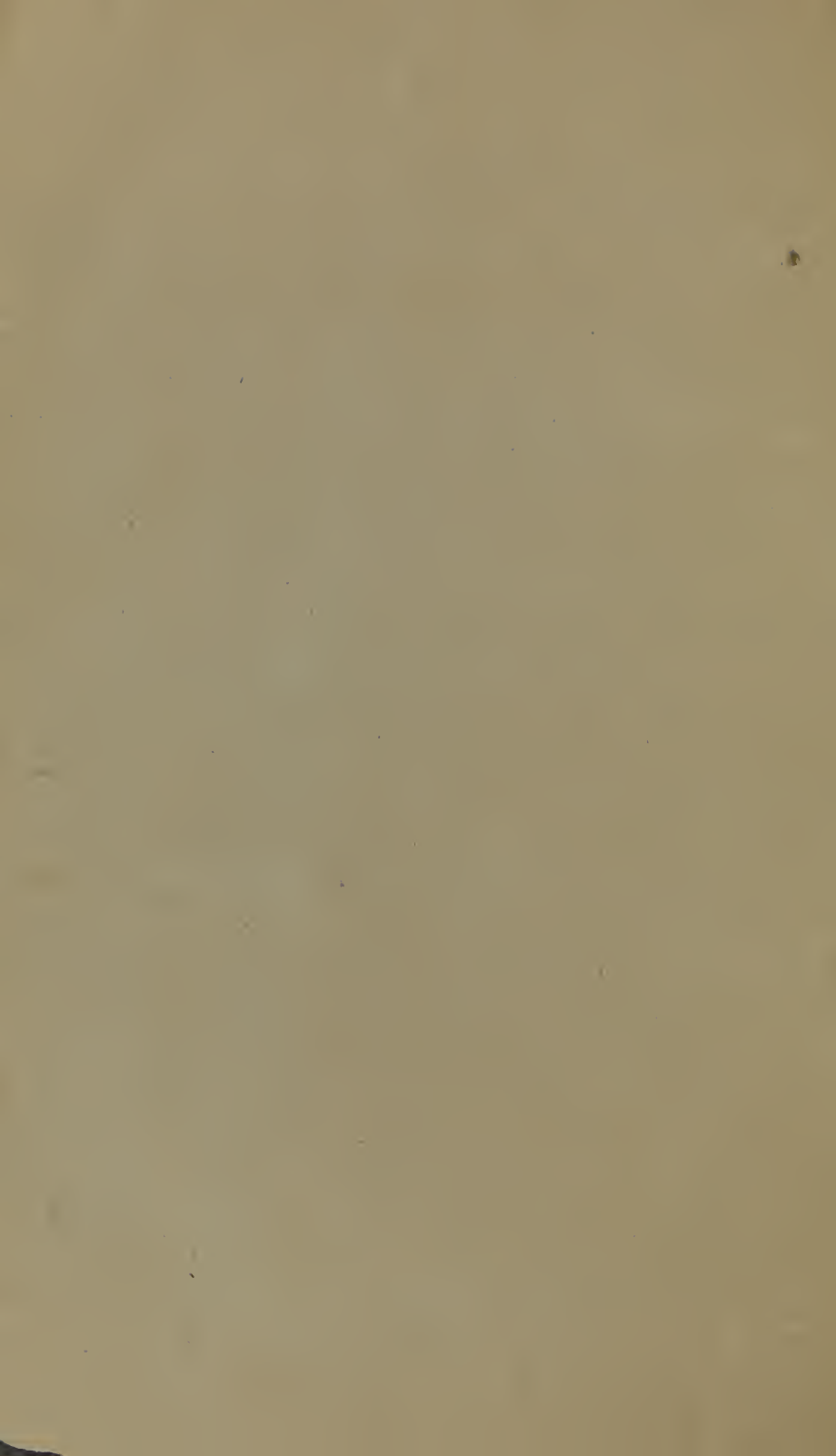


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1843.



## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE unprecedented success and rapid progress in this country of the SCIENCE OF SPECIFIC MEDICINE, or HOMŒOPATHY, since its recent introduction, after an existence in Europe of fifty years, and its gradual dissemination over the whole of that continent, have rendered the possession of its original and authentic literature, as possessed by the European practitioner, an object of no less pride than interest to the professional as well as non-professional students in the United States of this beautiful inductive science.

This fact, connected with the generally acknowledged imperfections of the text books now in use, and the solicitations of several eminent practitioners, has induced the present undertaking, with a view to supplying this want, by the publication of standard works from HAHNEMANN and other approved practical writers, under the title of "THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL LIBRARY."

The first work of the "LIBRARY" will be the *Materia Medica*; to commence with the polychrest remedies from "*Hahnemann's Materia Medica and Chronic Diseases*," and to comprise all the remedies of HAHNEMANN, from the original German, with such of those of other authors as may be desirable. As the work of experiment on remedies is understood to be in active progress in Europe, the series of HAHNEMANN'S remedies may be interrupted by the introduction of one or more new ones if received, or in following the sequence of polychrest remedies. Each will be preceded by its author's preliminary remarks, and the opinions of other writers, as to general character and action; followed by a synopsis of "General Clinical Indications," intended to exhibit its character, application, administration, and peculiar action.



The symptoms to be all numbered, and given in the original order of HAHNEMANN, under *fifty-seven* heads, and these heads introduced in the pathogenesis; which are omitted in the original, much to the detriment of reference.

The Editors and Publisher beg leave to assure the subscribers to "THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL LIBRARY," that every facility is in their possession to insure, not only the continuance of the work, but its general correctness as to matter and typographical execution.

The "LIBRARY" will be confined to one octavo size, in order to furnish the profession with a collection of uniform volumes of practical works in the science. It will be printed on handsome white paper, and no pains or labour will be spared to bring it fully up to the expectations of the subscribers.

The present is offered as a prospectus of the work; the practical matter of which will be reprinted in the first number of "THE LIBRARY."

The "LIBRARY" will be issued monthly, in numbers of sixty pages each, octavo, at *fifty cents*, to be paid for on delivery.

The subscription to the "LIBRARY" will be for the entire work in press, and also for the next, unless discontinued. Timely notice will always be given of the work which is to follow in the series.

The work will be put to press as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers is obtained to warrant it.

Subscriptions received by Dr. W. GEIB, 271 North Seventh street; Dr. H. M. HUMPHREY, 214 Pine street; E. G. DORSEY, 12 Library street, or by any of the gentlemen whose names appear on the cover.

*Philadelphia, March, 1843.*

## REMARKS ON THE MATERIA MEDICA.

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UNLESS the pathology of disease and the pathogenesis of medicine go hand in hand, and run in collateral lines, then has "*similia similibus curantur*," or Homœopathy, no meaning. We find in all the immense catalogue of diseases or morbid affections which afflict animal nature in various parts of the earth under a great variety of controlling circumstances, that each consists in a certain number of characteristic symptoms, together with others which may accompany the affection as concomitant, and which are produced by sympathy in other parts of the body. These affections may consist in or exhibit one, or a greater number of phenomena; as seen in a simple tooth-ache, or in the multifarious symptoms of a typhus fever. All these diseases consist of a number of symptoms of greater or less extent, and constitute the affections presented to us in the high sounding and classical, but deceptive language of nosology; which conveys simple facts with a high flourish of inflated learning, to prevent the cognition of the uninitiated reader, in place of the plain unsophisticated language of true philosophy, more intelligible to the mind, and far more useful in practice.

Now, in reading the *Materia Medica* of HAHNEMANN, no unprejudiced mind can avoid perceiving in the groups of symptoms, as reported by various experimenters, the very groups that are constantly observed in disease; affording to the physician whose mind has not been perverted by education, the assurance that medicinal diseases or pathogenesis, and pathology which treats of natural diseases, are intended for each other in the character of evil and remedy; whatever mode of action experience may prove to be best for indicating the selection of a therapeutic agent.

This fact, however, of coincidence in the artificial and natural diseases, would really seem to have escaped the notice of some of our most reputed authors in Homœopathic literature; for it appears to the Editors, that the *Materia Medica* of JAHR, on whose work the profession have so much depended, no doubt often with disappointment, is a gross *perversion* of the *text* or *Materia Medica* of HAHNEMANN. Either this is so, as may be easily perceived, it is thought, by a comparison of the two, and

he has done much injury to the cause, or he is in possession of better and more authentic data, and has rendered it an essential service. This last supposition would seem, however, under the repeated and constant admonitions from all the highest sources, to study the *Materia Medica* of the great father of our beautiful science, to be untenable.

If to this we add the fact, that the present English version of JAHR is extremely imperfect, and in some cases also a perversion of the original, it will be easy to perceive that our literature for practical use is, in our own language, alarmingly on the decline; and that it is high time to have a careful translation from the fountain-head, to guard the practitioner against the errors of authors who may be more influenced in their labours by sordid considerations, than by a love for Homœopathy. Compared, too, with JAHR'S arrangement of the *Materia Medica*, under heads it is true, but in one extended string of words, the *Materia Medica* of HAHNEMANN is simplicity itself. Each symptom, or each group of symptoms, stands isolated and alone, with its number to designate it; and the whole arrangement conforms to a succession as to character, far more classical, and better suited to the nature of morbid phenomena, than that of JAHR; who appears to have disturbed and broken up the groups, and thereby destroyed the integrity of that valuable experience which constitutes the *Materia Medica* of HAHNEMANN, and is the very foundation and cynosure of homœopathic practice. If a veritable group of symptoms is presented to the practitioner, which is not to be found in the *Materia Medica*, then is it true, either that the text is originally imperfect, or has been deranged by officious hands, or that the juxtaposition of pathology and pathogenesis, on which rests our fundamental principle, "*similia similibus*," is a fallacy. But, *a priori*, as we know, to our great satisfaction, that the last is not the case, then should the groups of symptoms found in the *Materia Medica* be a description of morbid affections found in the diseased man; which there is every reason to believe is the fact. How can they then be disturbed in their integrity by any arrangement dictated by a fancied convenience, without inflicting a fatal wound on the success of practice, in disappointing the very art of homœopathic skill, the apposition of diagnosis and pathogenesis.

If, therefore, it is conceded that JAHR'S *Materia Medica* is a perversion of the original text, nothing can satisfy the wants of the practitioner but a translation of the original *Materia Medica* of

HAHNEMANN; leaving all the symptoms or groups as they stand, (and they are precisely in the order most conformable to the pathology of disease as presented to his intelligent and judicious mind,) adding a numbered index to each remedy, with heads and other numbers to facilitate reference. The language found here, is what may be heard from the mouth of a patient, or read in the diagnosis of the physician—plain and intelligible, speaking Nature's facts in her own simple garb, free from the confounding elegancies of nosology, and affording the physician a sure means, if he is not too indolent to use it, of deciding on the appropriateness of the medicine to be selected for his patient.

As every physician must study the case in his hands and seek the remedy from his diagnosis, he cannot want any thing better as a guide to facilitate his search, than an ample key to the *Materia Medica*; where he may expect to find, in the remedy immediately under his view, one or more of the symptoms or groups of symptoms in his case, in the very language of his patient.

It would seem impossible that pathological views, dressed up in nosological phraseology, and tintured with the analogical doctrines of the old school, can render a very positive assistance in this process. With all the hints and information found there, no judicious practitioner would, in a serious case, finally prescribe a remedy without having first satisfied himself by a reference to its pathogenesis. All this may be made to comprise, it would seem, but one operation, and much time be saved, as well as an inestimable advantage gained to the homœopathic physician, by a constant association and final familiarity with the very arcana of his profession.

Pathology cannot be better studied than in the ample and learned works of the old school; where the intelligent practitioner despises the learned lumber of his profession as much as we do, and when at the bed-side, is plain and intelligible. The only thing the homœopathic student has to avoid in their works, is that part of the story, which is generally very short, and, according to the orthodox school, is easily told, which informs us what is to accomplish the great work of curing the disease. The rest is all in a state of great refinement, and belongs as much to the education of the intelligent practitioner of specific medicine, as of the pertinacious stickler for constitutional prin-

ciples; which, in their application, are no less at variance with the integrity of the constitution of the human body, than are some principles prescribed by high operative political physicians with that of the constitution of our country; both are too much on the *taxing* principle.

HAHNEMANN'S mode of selecting his remedy for a particular case, as found in the Preface to his *Materia Medica*, would seem to point to the kind of work required to aid the practitioner in this process. It is evident, from what he says, that a sufficient knowledge of remedies, which probably none attain to, not even the octogenarian himself, would supersede the necessity for a repertory of any kind. A key, therefore, to the *Materia Medica*, containing the whole variety of leading or pathognomonic symptoms, leaving the concomitant symptoms and controlling circumstances to be seen in the pathogenesis, and so arranged as to correspond to its author's classification, would seem to be what is wanting. It would appear that JAHR, in order to condense his work and embrace as many symptoms as possible, has included several groups in one range, without presenting any means for designating them, and thereby giving the impression that they all occurred at the same time, and in the same individual—also, some of his symptoms appear to be clinical, which are not so marked, and are not to be found in the *Materia Medica Pura*. This is certainly placing the axe at the very root of the spirit and letter of the pathogenesis of medicines.

It is difficult to imagine on what ground JAHR or any author could venture to alter the appropriate division that HAHNEMANN has adopted in his *Materia Medica*; which, even to a superficial observer, would appear to be the one exactly suited to the manner and order in which pathological phenomena are exhibited to the notice of the physician. And more especially is it surprising, that the dread of disturbing in any way the very order as it were of creation itself, had not deterred the perpetration of such a sacrilegious mutilation.

It is evident that in disturbing the integrity of the groups of symptoms, as they occur in the pathogenetic experiments, by separating the concomitant from the pathognomonic symptoms, on which they depend, and from which they derive their whole value and importance, and making isolated indications of them, that the very letter and spirit of Homœopathy, in its practical as well as experimental data, are completely perverted.



We should be able to trace the group of symptoms found at the bed-side, to a similar group in the pathogenesis; and this will be more or less the case, as our beautiful inductive science approaches perfection, both as to the purity and extent of the Materia Medica. And how is this inestimable inheritance from the arduous and devoted labours of the martyrs we may say of the cause, destroyed in its usefulness, to the inevitable disappointment of practice, by the licentious hands of superficial students and mistaken friends to the practitioners of specific medicine.

As this Prospectus may fall into the hands of professional and other readers who are entirely unacquainted with Homœopathy, the Editors beg leave to offer a few remarks, to guard against the prejudice which is likely to result from the contemplation of a detached part of a science, and more especially when that science is at variance with the opinions and ideas which, from education or habit, may have taken previous possession of the mind.

The Materia Medica of specific medicine, as will be seen, differs widely from that of the old school; the latter being founded on experiments *ab usu in morbis*, that is, on the sick, whereas the former is founded on a knowledge of the healing power of medicines derived from experiments on the healthy; and these experiments, or the phenomena resulting from them, constitute the Materia Medica of the science of specific medicine. Nor was the author of Homœopathy the first to condemn the former mode of studying the Materia Medica, and to recommend the one now adopted; for HALLER, the great Swiss philosopher and physician, a name well known and revered in the medical world, was not sparing in his reprobation of what he denounced as quackery, and insisted on experiments on the healthy, as furnishing the only sure means for estimating the action of medicinal agents on the human economy; as they are free from the confounding influences which must necessarily encumber them in clinical use. The mode of applying them on the data thus afforded, constitutes a separate subject, which it is not our intention to discuss on the present occasion; it is the part which exclusively belongs to specific practice, and on which is founded the maxim of the new school, *similia similibus curantur*.

The pathogenesis will likely be startling to those who look at it for the first time. It has always been so; and even RAU, who is the author of one of the most elegant and learned works in

medicine, and was a practitioner of homœopathy twenty years—having previously practiced more than thirty, and a zealous advocate of the fundamental principles of the science, though not necessarily so of all the postulates of its author—even RAU was at first view entirely prejudiced against the pretensions of the new practice, as being not only untenable, but unworthy of serious consideration. How far he changed this opinion, and on what grounds, may be seen in his works; after having had sufficient time and experience, certainly aided too by a most intelligent mind, to confirm or correct it. It is surely wise to conclude there is *something* good in the new science, and for the sake of humanity, to endeavour to find it out. Its downfall is constantly foretold, and still it goes on constantly increasing. This is not the usual fate of unsuccessful practice. It will be freely admitted by our readers, that isolated cases do not furnish suitable data for judging the merits of any system of medicine; and it must be conceded too, that however infallible Homœopathy may be, when judiciously applied in curable cases, its practitioners have to take their share of the fallibility which is so manifestly exhibited in the weekly obituary of our cities.

In referring to the pathogenesis, we would beg leave to admonish the strangers to our science, that the phenomena are the result of multiplied experiments, on numerous individuals, and under a variety of circumstances; which form sometimes in the aggregate, it must be admitted, a startling result. But it is only necessary to consider whether this is within the pale of possibility.

It may be well also to advert here to the fact, that some cunning wags, surcharged with pathological lore, have indulged their hostility to the science, in the fabrication of the pathogenesis of some new and probably useless remedies, and have unaccountably succeeded in imposing on the credulity of those who have been in a measure regarded as the sentinels of our system, and thereby obtained their publication to the world, connected with authentic literature. These, however, are counterfeits; easily detected by those acquainted with the general character of a genuine pathogenesis, and furnish us a wholesome precept to regard with suspicion what does not emanate from an authentic source. Those in possession of JAHR's former edition, may notice *alkekengi* and several other remedies as examples of this fatal and disgraceful imposition.

THE  
MATERIA MEDICA  
OF  
HOMŒOPATHY.

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ACONITUM NAPELLUS. *Hahnemann.*

*Abbreviation*, acon.

*German*—Sturmhut; Napell sturmhut; Eisenhut.

*French*—Chaperon de moine; Aconit.

*English*.—Large blue Wolf's-bane; Monkshood; Aconite.

*Latin*.—Cammarum; Canicida; Cynoctanum.

*Botanical*.—Aconitum; foliorum laciniis linearibus, superne latioribus, linea exaratis of Linnæus.—A variety of the genus Aconitum; class, Polyandria; order, Trigynia; Napellus being a diminutive of Napus, so called because it has a bulbous root, like that of the Napus.

(ACONITUM NAPELLUS.—The juice of the fresh plant, expressed on the first appearance of flowering, and mixed with an equal quantity of alcohol.)

ALTHOUGH the following symptoms do not by any means express all the medicinal power of this precious plant, they will, nevertheless, furnish the sagacious practitioner the means of judging how far it may be useful in certain states of disease, against which the vulgar practice has, up to the present time, employed, often in vain, and almost always with injurious consequences, its dangerous resources; such as, copious emissions of blood, and others peculiar to what is called the anti-phlogistic treatment.

I would speak of fevers, called purely inflammatory; in which the smallest dose of aconite, without recourse to any of the remedies acting in an antipathic manner, causes a prompt removal of the inflammatory action, and leaves no consecutive

effects behind. In measles, in purpura miliaris, in inflammatory fevers with pleurisy, &c., the efficacy of this plant amounts almost to a miracle; provided the patient observes a regimen somewhat cooling, and abstains from all other medicinal substances, as well as vegetable acids, takes it alone and in the dose of the thousandth part of a drop of the thirtieth dilution. It seldom happens that a second dose appears necessary at the end of thirty-six or forty-eight hours. But to guard our conscientious method from all possibility of influence from the precepts of the common practice, which is but too prone to be governed by names of diseases, often imaginary, it is necessary that the primary morbid affection, to which we would oppose aconite, should exhibit, in the aggregate of its principal symptoms, a striking analogy with those of the remedy. Then we obtain results truly surprising.

It is precisely in the cases in which the partisans of allopathy pride themselves most on their method; it is in the violent acute inflammatory fevers, where they expect to save their patients alone by excessive and frequent bloodlettings, and thereby exceed so far the powers of homœopathy, that they most grossly deceive themselves. Here, more than ever, in fact, homœopathy exhibits her universal superiority; for she has no necessity for shedding a drop of that precious fluid, of which allopathy is so dangerously profuse, in order to triumph over those fatal fevers, and restore health, sometimes in as few hours as the ordinary practice requires months, completely to re-establish those whom their violent remedies have not, it is true, conducted to the tomb, but have left a prey to those consecutive chronic sufferings which are their natural consequence.

It is sometimes necessary, in these acute diseases, to have recourse to another homœopathic remedy to cover the symptoms which remain after aconite has acted twelve or sixteen hours, but it is rarely necessary to administer a fresh dose of the latter.

In giving aconite with these precautions, in the affections of which I have just spoken, all danger will have passed at the end of four hours, and then the circulation returns from hour to hour to the calm and undisturbed balance which may habitually characterize it.

Although, from the short duration of its action, (which in so feeble a dose does not go beyond forty-eight hours,) aconite may appear to be useful only in acute cases, still it is not a less indis-

pensable remedy in the most obstinate chronic affections; in those in which the state of the body requires a diminution of what is called rigidity of fibre—a subject on which I cannot here enlarge. Its efficacy in similar cases will be seen in the account of symptoms excited by it in the healthy individual, in part about to be described.

Aconite is equally the first and most powerful of the curative means in croup, in several kinds of angina, as well as in the acute local inflammations of other parts of the body; especially when with thirst and a frequent pulse, we meet with great impatience, an agitation which nothing can calm, and jactitation similar to that which belongs to aconite.

It produces all the morbid states which are manifested in persons whose minds have been excited by fear, joined with indignation; and it is also the surest means of curing them rapidly.

Every time that aconite is chosen as a homœopathic remedy, it is especially necessary to regard the moral symptoms, and be careful that they resemble those which belong to it.

Aconite is indispensable for females who suffer from fear or contrarieties during the catamenia; for without this precious calmer, it happens indeed too often, that they suffer even a sudden arrest from such moral shocks. In such cases it will be sufficient to direct a single inspiration, and for an instant, from a bottle containing a globule of the size of a mustard seed, which has been impregnated with the thirtieth dilution; and this will preserve its virtue some years without any loss, provided the bottle is always well closed.

The principal part of those symptoms which appear to be contradictory, and which will be noticed hereafter, are but alternate states, and aconite may be salutary in the one as well as in the other, though principally so in those of a tonic character.

Vegetable acids and wine destroy the effects of aconite, and so do other remedies, which correspond palliatively or homœopathically to the untoward symptoms which sometimes follow its use when too large a dose has been taken, or it has not been homœopathically chosen. *Hahnemann.*

Dr. HARTMANN'S experience is also confirmatory of the fact, that aconite is the greatest antiphlogistic in homœopathy; and its superior efficacy in inflammatory affections has been proved, in his hands, by trials a thousand times repeated. His ideas gene-

rally accord with those of the father of our science, except in the dose; where he, in common with many other practitioners of high standing, professes to disagree with HAHNEMANN. There would appear to be some error, however, in estimating the general opinions of the latter on this mooted point; for while HARTMANN quotes his exclusive use of the thirtieth dilution for the sake of uniformity and convenience, (a creditable reason to impute to the truly great disciple of Bacon,) we find in HAHNEMANN'S Preface to his *Materia Medica*, that he made a remarkable cure with what he calls the strongest dose in homœopathy, viz: a drop of the undiluted tincture of bryonia: for the reason, as he says, that the patient, a woman, was robust, and had not suffered a depression of the vital action.

HARTMANN says that he has used aconite in all the dilutions, and finds his criterion in the action of the disease, in the constitution, and in the age of the patient; that inflammatory diseases of adults require generally the eighteenth, and of children the twenty-fourth and thirtieth; that it is sometimes necessary to increase the dose to a drop. In many diseases, particularly enteritis, it being necessary to repeat every three, four or six hours, and that here the fluid form (? solution) is far preferable to globules.

He includes *coffee* among his positive prohibitions during its use, on which Hahnemann is silent.

The *diminution* of pains when moving, agreeably to HARTMANN, is so contrary to general experience, to the history of aconite, and to its very nature as a remedy in serous inflammations, that it must, in respect for this author, not having the original German at hand, be charged to a misprint in our friend Dr. OKIE'S translation, from which these notes are made.

HARTMANN would appear to consider aconite a necessary precursory remedy in all affections, whatsoever their predominant characteristic, when there is increase of vascular action, with a hot, dry skin. This opinion, however, of Dr. H., which savours of general principles, is considered gratuitous, and should at least be qualified by the provision, that the remaining symptoms do not indicate a more specific remedy.

Dr. HOOPER, in his *Medical Dictionary*, says—"This plant is cultivated in our gardens as an ornament, but is spontaneously produced in Germany and some other northern parts

of Europe. Every part is strongly poisonous, but the root is unquestionably the most powerful, and, when chewed, imparts a slight sensation of acrimony; but afterwards an insensibility or stupor at the apex of the tongue, and a pungent heat of the gums, palate and fauces are perceived, followed by a general tremor and sensation of chilliness. The juice applied to a wound, seemed to affect the whole nervous system; even by keeping it long in the hand, or on the bosom, we are told unpleasant symptoms have been produced. The fatal symptoms brought on by this poison are, convulsions, giddiness, insanity, violent purgings, both upwards and downwards, faintings, cold sweats, and death itself.

“Dr. STÖERK appears to be the first who gave the wolf’s-bane internally as a medicine; and since his experiments were published, 1762, it has been generally and successfully employed in Germany and the northern parts of Europe, particularly as a remedy in obstinate rheumatisms: and many cases are related where this disease was of several years duration, and had withstood the efficacy of other powerful medicines, as mercury, opium, antimony, hemlock, &c. yet in a short time was entirely cured by the aconitum. Instances are also given us of its good effects in gout, scrofula, swellings, venereal nodes, amaurosis and scirrhus.

“This plant has generally been prepared as an extract or inspissated juice, after the manner directed in the pharmacopœia; its efficacy is much diminished on being long kept—like all virulent medicines, it should first be administered in small doses—STÖERK recommends two grains of the extract to be rubbed into a powder, with two drachms of sugar, and ten grains of this powder to be given two or three times a-day. We find, however, that the extract is oftener given from one grain to ten for a dose; and STOLE, SCHEREBECKER and others, increase this quantity considerably.

“Instead of the extract, a tincture has been made of the dried leaves macerated in six times their weight of spirits of wine, and forty drops given for a dose—some writers say that the napellus is not poisonous in Sweden, Poland, &c.; but it should be noted that the species which is not poisonous, is the *aconitum lycocotum* of Linnæus.”

## GENERAL CLINICAL INDICATIONS.

1. *Inflammations.* It is evident from its pathogenesis, the opinions of HAHNEMANN, HARTMANN, other authors, and the daily experience of numerous practitioners, that aconite is to be considered the most effective among the antiphlogistics in specific practice. Where the violent remedy of venesection is indicated to a *discriminating* practitioner in the old school, this potent agent, if judiciously applied, is fully able to supersede the lancet; and its use generally secures the patient, not only from the too frequently fatal consequences of mal-practice, but the consecutive evils which invariably more or less result from the use of heroic antiphlogistic remedies; among which is included a generally long, painful, and often precarious convalescence.

2. *Congestions.* Aconite is not less available in these formidable affections; and here again the use of the lancet in the old school furnishes a striking indication, with still stronger claims to preference on the ground of safety; for instances are not few where the presence of congestion is manifest to the medical attendant, but not so the probable fatality of venesection. It may not be *malapropos* to record here the fact, that congestions, arising from accidents, attended with a cold surface and paleness, present an example for the use of palliatives, to restore the circulation to the capillary system, by the application of external warmth and internal diffusive stimuli, as consistent with the wisdom of the new school of specific medicine, as with the precepts of the unsophisticated ARMSTRONG in the old. However, *arnica*, the remedy indicated here, may be conjointly used externally and internally. It would appear that *aconite* is identified with the vascular system as a regulator of its action, and a great specific remedy for whatever may morbidly excite it.

3. *Fevers.* Aconite plays a conspicuous part in fevers; especially in those of an inflammatory cast, whether idiopathic or sympathetic, where the vascular action and temperature are greatly elevated, accompanied by their usual concomitant symptoms. When the circulation is restored, the proper remedy is the one homœopathic to the remaining symptoms. A second administration of aconite is seldom indicated.

4. *Hemorrhage.* Aconite does not appear to be noticed as possessing a very controlling influence in this affection. Unless



dependent on congestion, plethora, or excitation of the vascular or nervous system, it must give way to the specific in the case.

5. *Pains.* The pathogenesis, as well as clinical experience show aconite to be a very efficient agent in affections attended with particularly acute pains, whether dependent on the nervous or vascular system; and more especially when accompanied by an excited circulation, with congestion, ebullition, or orgasm of the blood, as in pleuritis, and all other serous inflammations, as well as all acute inflammations of the mucous membranes, or of the parenchyma of organs, or the nervous tissue. Also of the muscular tissue, as in rheumatism, &c.

6. *Cutaneous Affections.* In exanthemata, aconite is conspicuous; but as in the use of all specific remedies, can only be so in proportion to its conformity to the controlling law, "*similia similibus curantur.*" When it is thus indicated, it acts, as our venerable sage says, like a charm.

7. *Psychological Indications.* HAHNEMANN denominates aconite a precious calmer of the vital action, when disturbed by sudden impulses of the mind, from fright, joy or passion; and points particularly to its use, where the catamenia have been, or are in danger of being arrested from this cause. HARTMANN refers to its use in two cases of what he calls *apathic mania*, occurring in childbed, where the disease was entirely removed in a few hours by a single dose, after a long and painful struggle, and parturition quietly proceeded to a fortunate termination. The concomitant indications were in these, as is necessary in all cases, characteristic of aconite.

8. *Temperament.* A plethoric, or bilious, or nervous constitution; a lively character; brown or black hair and eyes, and high coloured complexion, are most indicative of aconite.\*

9. *Controlling circumstances,* as in BENNINGHAUSEN'S tables.

The degrees are represented in all these tables of BENNINGHAUSEN by the first five letters of the alphabet.

<i>a</i> Denoting decided predominance which cannot be mistaken.	manner of acting at opposite periods, or under contrary circumstances.
<i>c</i> The medium term, or a similar	<i>e</i> The last rank.

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\*The Editors would apologise for this hasty sketch of "General Clinical Indications," designed more to give some idea of the general form, than the extent and usefulness designed for this part of the work.

<i>b</i> and <i>d</i> The intermediate ranks; that is to say, <i>b</i> that which approaches the first, <i>d</i> that which approaches the last.		Repose aggravates,	<i>e</i>
		„ ameliorates,	<i>a</i>
		Sitting aggravates,	<i>d</i>
		„ ameliorates,	<i>b</i>
		Lying down aggravates,	<i>b</i>
1. <i>Development of Symptoms as to time.</i>		„ „ ameliorates,	<i>d</i>
		Open air aggravates,	<i>d</i>
In the evening,	<i>a</i>	„ „ ameliorates,	<i>b</i>
At night,	<i>c</i>	Air of a room aggravates.	<i>b</i>
After midnight,	<i>b</i>		
In the morning,	<i>b</i>		
		3. <i>Moral state excited.</i>	
2. <i>Effects of Circumstances on the Symptoms.</i>		Anxiety, inquietude, despair,	<i>a</i>
		Timidity, disposition to be frightened,	<i>b</i>
		Anger, quarrelsome humour, passion,	<i>b</i>
Movement aggravates,	<i>a</i>	Madness, fury,	<i>c</i>
Movement ameliorates,	<i>e</i>	Serenity and good humour,	<i>d</i>
Touch aggravates,	<i>b</i>	Excitability, susceptibility,	<i>d</i>
„ ameliorates,	<i>d</i>	Ideas fixed, want of ideas, distraction,	<i>d</i>

### *Vertigo.*

1. Vertigo; sense of waving to and fro in the brain.
2. Vertigo; especially in stooping; with staggering, especially to the right. a. 36 h.<sup>a</sup>
3. Vertigo; all turning round, so as almost to prevent getting into bed. a. 37 h.
4. Vertigo; so giddy that the head dare not be moved; feeling as if the eyes were closing.
5. Vertigo, like intoxication; all goes round; staggers when walking almost to falling, with nausea; absent in sitting, worst on rising from a seat and less when walking. a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  h.
6. Vertigo; very much increased by shaking the head, by which it becomes quite dark before the eyes.
7. Vertigo and dizziness.
8. Vertigo; vertiginous weight in the head, especially in the forehead, and in stooping forward; with nausea and weakness in the scrobiculus cordis. a. 2 h.
9. Vertigo. (*Matthiolus.*)<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The letter a, the number, and the letter h, after the symptom, denote the time of development after the remedy was taken.

<sup>b</sup> When the symptom is derived from toxicological phenomena, the author's name is quoted, the others are omitted.

10. Vertigo, asthma and dry cough with sciatica. (*Greding.*)
11. Vertiginous obscurity of vision without alteration of the pulse.
12. Vertigo and headache; not affected by strong exercise. a.  $\frac{1}{4}$  h.
13. Vertigo and headache before and behind; both worse in stooping. a. 10 m.

*Obnubilation.*

14. Arrest of thought; in reading and writing the attention is interrupted.
15. Confusion of the mind; is not able fully to express his thoughts without stopping to recollect himself. a. 3 days.
16. As if a board was before the forehead.
17. °The head feels in front as if stupid, in a warm room.<sup>c</sup>
18. Sense of muddiness and emptiness of the head in the morning, as after a debauch.
19. Suffering of the head, as after a debauch, with pressure in the temples.

*Defect of Intellect.*

20. Great weakness of the faculty of thought.
21. He can neither think nor reflect, knows nothing and has no idea of anything, as at another time, but has a sense that all these functions of the mind are performed at the scrobiculus cordis; at the end of two hours a vertigo twice occurs, and the faculty of thought is restored. (*J. B. Vanhelmont.*)
22. Instability of ideas; if a thought is conceived it is driven away by another, and a third, and so on until all is confusion in the head.

*Defect of Memory.*

23. What has been just done appears like a dream and can scarcely be recollected.
24. Weakness of memory.
25. Quickness of memory.

° The cipher denotes symptoms frequently reported, which are in italics in the original.

*Cephalalgia, External and Internal.*

26. Dull beating headache, with throbbing in all the limbs. a. 14 h.
27. °Sense of fulness and heaviness in the forehead, as if a weight was pressing out there, and as if the contents of the head would issue from the forehead. a.  $\frac{1}{4}$  h.
28. Stunning, drawing internal pressure in the left temple.
29. Sense of being raised by the hair.
30. °Traction on one side of the head.
31. Pressive pain in the temporal region, also by paroxysms in the occiput, finally the head is affected with a constrictive pain.
32. Constrictive pain in the forehead.
33. Tension in the whole forehead.
34. In stooping the forehead seems full, as if it would burst. a. 25 h.
35. Headache, as if the eyes must fall out. a.  $\frac{1}{4}$  h.
36. Headache, as if the brain was pressing out. a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  h.
37. Headache, as if parts of the brain were raised up, which is increased by the smallest movement, even by drinking and speaking. a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  h.
38. Speaking increases the headache.
39. Lancinating, beating headache, as from an internal abscess, sometimes interrupting speech.
40. Headache in the forehead in walking, sometimes with acute lacerations, or beating, oppressive pains; subsides when sitting.
41. Small pulsation in different parts of the head.
42. °Headache; throbbing on the left side of the forehead with paroxysmal hard shocks on the right.
43. Pain in the left side of the head, as if it was pressed together.
44. Headache, as if the skull was externally laced by a band and drawn tightly together. (*Vanhelmont.*)
45. Very painful pressive headache over the forehead.
46. Outward pressing pain in the forehead.
47. Lacerating pain in the left temple.
48. Lancinating pains in the left temple in short paroxysms; stitches fly through the temples in the head.
49. Lancinating, pulsative pains in the temples.
50. Short stitches in the head, especially in the forehead.
51. Lacerating pain in the left temple, with roaring in the ears.
52. Sense of compression of the brain in the forehead.
53. Crampy, tensive headache, directly behind the orbits.

54. Pinching and cramp in the forehead, which appears to be in the bones; feeling as if she would lose her senses. a. 12 to 24 h.
55. Cramp in the forehead above the root of the nose, as if she would lose her senses; increased by exercise in the open air. a. 4 h.
56. Sense of crepitation in the temples, nose and forehead.
57. Lancinating and somewhat pressive headache above the orbits, in a direction of the superior maxilla, which excites vomiting, or what is wont to arise in the use of emetics. a. 2 h.
58. Pressive, lancinating sick headache over the orbits, extending towards the superior maxilla.
59. Sense of something forcing from the head, the upper eyelids being raised. a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  h.
60. Pulsating, lacerating pain in the occiput.
61. Short paroxysms of lancinating, tractive and drawing pain in the superior right side of the head.
62. Stitch in the occiput.
63. Pricking on the left side of the head as from a brush.
64. Sense as if a ball was rising from the umbilical region, and imparted a coolness to the vertex and occiput. (*Matthiolus.*)
65. Burning headache, as if the brain was affected by boiling water. (*Ibid.*)
66. Heaviness of the head. (*Bacon.*)
67. Pain in the occiput and neck. (*Richard.*)
68. As from the effects of a cold taken while in a profuse sweat, headache, buzzing in the ears, and colic, especially in the morning. (*Greding.*)
69. Very hot in the whole head towards evening, which then becomes very painful, especially in front, continuing the whole evening. a. 11 h.

*Face and Eyes in general.*

70. Bloating of the face and forehead.
71. Face bluish, lips black. (*Matthiolus.*)
72. Distortion of the muscles of the face. (*Ibid.*)
73. Pupils much dilated.
74. Obscurity of vision. (*Bacon.*)
75. Several attacks of blindness without interrupting speech. (*Matthiolus.*)
76. Distortion of the eyes. (*Ibid.*)

77. Distortion of the eyes and grinding the teeth towards midnight. (*Greding.*)
78. On opening the eyes pain in the interior part, as if they would be pressed from their orbits; this pain extends to the superciliary region and to the inner part of the brain. a. 21 h.
79. °Dilatation of the pupils. Immediate.
80. He looks wild. Immediate.
81. Avidity for light; desire to look at bright light. a. 3 h.
82. Black spots float before the eyes.
83. Cloudy before the eyes, sight impaired, with sense of vertigo.
84. Aversion to light. a. 6 to 12. h.<sup>d</sup>
85. Sharp sighted.
86. Dryness of the superior eyelids, which in some degree causes pressure in the eye. a. 5. h.
87. Weight in the eyelids; on opening them they appear too heavy.
88. (Coldness of the eyes in the open air.)<sup>e</sup>
89. Very painful inflammation of the eyes.
90. Sense of the eyes being much swelled. a. 5 h.
91. The eyes shut momentarily, as from an irresistible desire to sleep.
92. Eyes protruded from their orbits. (*Matthiolus.*)
93. Pressure in the eyes, especially sensible in looking down, and in turning them; with heat in the eyes.
94. Pressure and burning in the left eye and above the brow.
95. Hard and red swelling of the upper lid, with sense of tension, especially in the morning.
96. Fearful inflammation of the eyes, which causes so much pain and dread as to make him desire death. (*Richard.*)

*Ears, Hearing, Articulation of the Underjaw.*

97. Continual obscure buzzing before the ears, followed by syncope. (*Bacon.*)
98. Pain in the zygoma, as from an internal ulcer.
99. Noise in the ears. a. 10 minutes.
100. Sense of something being against the left ear.
101. Sense of tickling in the right ear, as from the crawling of a small worm.

<sup>d</sup> Probably the alternate symptom of 81, so that both are primitive effects.

<sup>e</sup> The symptoms in parenthesis are equivocal.

- 102. Drawing in the left ear.
- 103. Pain behind the left ear, as from pressure of the thumb.
- 104. Sense of great swelling in the cheeks. (*Bacon.*)
- 105. Pain in the articulation of the jaw behind the jugum when chewing.
- 106. While sweating a burning pain occasionally occurs in the left ear and in the superior maxilla.
- 107. Sweat on the cheek laid upon.
- 108. °Formicating pain in the cheeks.

*Nose, Jaws, Teeth.*

- 109. Sense of stupifying compression at the root of the nose.
- 110. Bleeding at the nose.
- 111. Sweat on the upper lip under the nose.
- 112. Small prurient pimples on the upper lip. a. 24 h.
- 113. Lancinating twitches in the under jaw.
- 114. Lancinating pain in several teeth. a. 36 h.
- 115. Pressive toothache in the left upper jaw.
- 116. Very penetrating pain in the jaws, as if they would fall off. (*Matthiolus.*)

*Tongue.*

- 117. Formication and burning in the tongue and jaw bones; the teeth appear loose. (*Bacon.*)
- 118. Biting sensation in the tongue, most towards the point.
- 119. °Penetrating sharp stitches in the end of the tongue.
- 120. Long continued burning in the tongue. (*Stærck, De Stram, &c.*)
- 121. Momentary flying stitches in the tongue with ptyalism. (*Stærck.*)
- 122. Short paralysis of the tongue.
- 123. Sense of dryness and roughness in the middle of the tongue, without thirst. a. 1 h.
- 124. Titillation at the root of the tongue, as caused by pepper; with flow of saliva.

*Interior of the Throat; Mouth.*

- 125. Coolness and dryness of the mouth without thirst.
- 126. Sense of dryness, first on the lips, then in the mouth, with

heat, which mounts from the chest to the head, (without redness of the cheeks.)<sup>f</sup>

127. Dryness of the inner mouth. Immediate.
128. Sense of dryness in the anterior part of the mouth.
129. Sense of excoriation of the stenoian ducts, as if ulcerated.
130. Scraping in the throat, with difficulty in swallowing.
131. Traction of the side of the neck behind the ear.
132. Lancinating choking on the left side of the throat, confined to a small spot, especially in drinking or talking. Passes in a quarter of an hour to the right side, ceasing on the left, disappearing entirely after a quarter of an hour.
133. Pricking in the throat.
134. Acute stinging in the back of the throat, as from the small prickly hairs of the sweetbriar seed. a. 1 h.
135. Burning and acute lancinating pain in the back part of the throat.
136. Sense of constriction in the back of the throat, as from astringents.

#### *Taste.*

137. Pepperish taste in the mouth. (*Matthiolus.*)
138. Bitter taste in the mouth, with want of appetite; pain in the breast and under the short ribs. (*Greding.*)
139. Bitter taste.
140. Flat, fishlike taste, as from stagnant putrid water.
141. Taste of rotten eggs; mouth seems filled with air.
142. Sour taste, with loss of appetite.
143. Loss of taste; what was sapid and agreeable is insipid.

#### *Regurgitation. Hiccough.*

144. Regurgitation of sweetish water, as in worm affections, with roaring in the ears.
145. Regurgitation of sweetish water with nausea.
146. Sense of scratching from the pit of the stomach to the throat, feeling ill and weak at the scrobiculus cordis, as if water would collect in the mouth.

<sup>f</sup> This occurred in a person who, in health, had very red cheeks, and the phenomenon was of course homœopathically suppressed, as aconite most generally produces redness of the cheeks.



147. °Empty eructations.  
 148. Vain efforts to throw up; wants to throw up and cannot.  
 149. Hiccough. (*Greding.*)  
 150. Hiccough in the morning. (*Ibid.*)  
 151. Hiccough in the morning of long continuance. (*Ibid.*)  
 152. (Hiccough after eating and drinking.)

*Nausea; Vomiting.*

153. Nausea, vomiting, thirst, general heat, and excessive sweat and flow of urine. (*Greding.*)  
 154. °Vomiting of lumbrici. (*Ibid.*)  
 155. Vomiting of green bile. a. 1 h. (*Matthiolum.*)  
 156. Vomiting of bloody slime, three or four days in succession. (*Greding.*)  
 157. Vomiting of blood. (*Ibid.*)  
 158. Weakness and nausea at the pit of the stomach, increased by sitting, almost removed by walking. Immediate.  
 159. Squeamishness.  
 160. Long continued squeamishness and loss of appetite.  
 161. Disposed to vomit in walking in the open air.  
 162. Sickness; felt first in the pit of the stomach, then under the sternum, lastly in the throat, without flow of saliva.  
 163. °Sick feeling, as if something sweet or fat which is disgusting had been eaten. a. 1 h.  
 164. After vomiting bloody slime a heavy sweat. (*Greding.*)  
 165. Vomiting, with excessive thirst. (*Moracus.*)  
 166. Vomiting artificially excited is followed by aggravation. (*Bacon.*)  
 167. Vomiting, with anxiety. (*Richard.*)  
 168. Sickness, with profuse diarrhœa. (*Greding.*)

*Appetite.*

169. Desire for beer; but it oppresses the stomach.  
 170. (No desire for food.)

*Stomach.*

171. Oppressive pain in the scrobiculus cordis, which becomes asthma. a. 2½ h.

172. Oppression at the scrobiculus cordis, as from a stone laying there, which soon passes to the back, with a compressive cramp-like feeling, as from too heavy lifting; stiffness.
173. Oppression of the stomach. (*Rödder.*)<sup>§</sup>
174. Pressive pain in the scrobiculus cordis in sitting, walking and standing.
175. Pain in the scrobiculus cordis, as if internally swelled, with loss of appetite and attacks of short breath.
176. °Pressive pain in the stomach, like a weight. a. 1½ h.
177. °Tensive, pressive pain, as from fulness or pressive weight in the hypochondria. a. 1½ h.
178. Sense of drawing in the stomach, as from astringents.
179. Sense of violent constriction in the hypochondria.
180. Pressive pain in the stomach.
181. After repeated vomiting and many stools, still complains of feeling as if a cold stone was in the stomach. (*Richard.*)

*Abdomen.*

182. Retraction of the navel, especially in the morning, fasting.
183. Burning in the umbilical region.
184. Sense of burning in the umbilical region, which it quickly pervades and extends itself to the scrobiculus cordis, with anxious beating and lancements there; after some time chills over the whole body, with disappearance of the sense of heat and of the painful sensation in the umbilical region. a. 1½ h.
185. Pinching pain in the umbilical region.
186. Compression of the navel, followed directly by a seated pressure in the navel, like jerks.
187. Gripes and contraction in the umbilical region.

*Note.*—The attention to the character of the symptoms required for the insertion of the heads, has shown the necessity for some alteration in the sequence of the original. As the heads given by HAHNEMANN are for the whole work, and of a general character, and can be only in part applicable to each individual remedy, and more especially to those of other authors, some special attention will be required to this feature of the *Materia Medica*. It is designed that each remedy shall be followed by an index of its heads referring numerically to the symptoms; which shall also be made as expressive of general character, for practical use, as the nature of the subject and our abilities will admit.—*Editors.*

§ All Rödder's experiments are from applying the juice to a wound.



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April 15, 1843.