

## HOMŒOPATHIC ANTIDOTES IN CASES OF POISONING.

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An exact knowledge of antidotes is important, yea, absolutely necessary, to the homœopathic practitioner if he uses so-called double remedies, or remedies taken in alternation; for without such knowledge it might happen that the one remedy may antidote the effects of the other, and his patient, in spite of his taking much medicine, really would receive no treatment at all.

But it is not our intention to treat here of antidotes in this sense, but only to adduce some cases in which the prescription of some medicine or other has led to a more or less dangerous case of poisoning, requiring a quickly acting remedy and energetic treatment. The medicines acting thus must be of such an aggressive nature that of themselves they are hostile to the human organism. Prominent in this class is *Mercury* (quick-silver); on account of its specific and many-sided effects this remedy is used very frequently, but, we are sorry to say, in large, poisoning doses. There is then frequently allotted to Homœopathy the difficult but useful task of curing chronic poisonings from mercury, the so-called mercurialism or hydrargyrosis, and thus to restore what others have spoiled. It is fortunate that Homœopathy possesses many an excellent arm for this warfare. The chief enemy of *Mercury* is *Iodine* and various preparations of *Sulphur*, which are also used by allopaths for this purpose.

We may enumerate among these: Pure *Sulphur*, *Antimonium sulphuricum*, *Hepar Sulphur, calc.*, *Iodine* and *Kali iodatum*. The latter is the chief remedy in mercurial salivation which generally

introduces and accompanies the acute stage. Mercurial fever may become a very threatening phenomenon, quickly reducing the patient's strength; its specific remedy is *Arg. nitr.* If both these symptoms are simultaneously present it is often well to alternate these two remedies. *Acid. nitric.* is much lauded in cases in which the mucous membranes of the throat are especially involved in this morbid process. I have not, however, found it effective in such a case. Dr. Zopyf, the late Swiss physician, recommends for this purpose *Dulcamara*, observing that bittersweet has proved a most excellent antidote to the action of mercury on the mucous membranes. *Aurum* (gold) and *Mzrium* have also been recommended, especially in mercurial diseases of the bones.

A very aggravated state of poisoning is also caused by *lead*, which chiefly manifests itself as *lead colic*. Certain pursuits (those of compositors' printers and workers in earthenware) are especially exposed to this danger. *Aluminium* is the natural and best antidote to *Plumbum*, and is therefore also able to cure the much-feared lead-colic. Prof. J. T. Kent, of Philadelphia, makes the following very appropriate remark about this: "The two metals are so similar, one to the other, that they cannot stay in the same house, *i. e.*, one antidotes the action of the other."

Invalidism caused by *Arsenic* or *Quinine* is cured by *Spicacuanha*, so also poisoning from *Morphine*.

Of late *Strychnine* has been found to be an antidote to *Curare* (arrow-poison).

*Natron permanganicum* has been lately used by allopaths with good success in cases of acute poisoning with *Phosphorus*.

Every poison has some natural antipode in nature, and where we do not know this counterpart it is merely a sign of the incompleteness of human knowledge. Often some mere accident has led to the discovery of such an antidotal relation, as, indeed, to many other cures.

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