

## LECTURE XII.

### ORBITAL GROUP.

THE curative virtues of Aconite in ophthalmia have been abundantly explained, page 131. Aconite is one of those drugs which is in therapeutic rapport with every form of this disease. *Conjunctivitis, Sclerotitis, Iritis, Retinitis*, may yield to Aconite either partially or completely. Or, if we prefer, we may apportion Aconite to the different forms of ophthalmia, as established by pathognomonic differences, catarrhal, rheumatic, arthritic, scrofulous. Even purulent and syphilitic ophthalmia may be advantageously treated with Aconite. You will not forget that Aconite is adapted to the most acute forms of these different kinds of ophthalmia, even when the brain seems very much irritated, as may be inferred from co-existing delirium and agonizing distress in the forehead, more particularly immediately over the eyebrows. In such a case it may be well to alternate Belladonna with Aconite, unless there should be no doubt concerning the exclusive homoeopathicity of Aconite to the existing disease.

The fever which accompanies acute ophthalmia in all cases where Aconite is indicated, is generally very intense, although not necessarily so in the milder forms of conjunctivitis. In acute sclerotitis the fever runs high; this is particularly the case in acute iritis and retinitis.

It may not be improper to remark that if, under the action of Aconite, a reaction should have been established, characterized by profuse perspiration, it is of the utmost importance not to check this cutaneous action by exposure to a draught of air or by any cause whatever. Such an accident might be followed by a return of the acute distress in the orbital region, which indeed might be much worse than before. If such a suppression should take place, we have to resort to every possible means of restoring the cutaneous exhalations as speedily as possible. The Aconite should be repeated at shorter intervals, and the patient may be enveloped in hot blankets on the bare skin; we have found this one of the most efficient and speedy means of re-exciting suppressed perspiration.

In *Traumatic Ophthalmia*, Aconite supersedes the necessity of bleeding from a vein or by the application of leeches. We have shown before, that it will even cure iritis. The milder forms of inflammation resulting from the irritating presence of a foreign body in the eye, sand, dust, etc.; or inflammation caused by wounding the eye with a pin, nail, lime, red-hot cinders, etc., may be and most frequently should be treated with Aconite.

Our provings inform us that Aconite causes yellowness of the sclerotica. This symptom indicates the twofold use of Aconite in jaundice, and likewise in acute irritation of the eyes, or

*Sub-acute Ophthalmia*, when complicated with, or in a measure arising from hepatic derangement. Persons who are troubled with torpor of the liver, are likewise frequently subject to

*Weak or Sore Eyes*, with burning and smarting of the eyes and lids, sensitiveness to the light, inability to use the eyes without fatiguing or irritating them; the eyes frequently assume a jaundiced appearance. Aconite, first to third potency, may be given.

*Blepharophthalmia* is distinctly delineated by our provings. We have Soreness and itching of the eyelids.

Painfully-tensive, red, hard swelling of the lids, especially early in the morning.

Pricking and smarting in the eyelids as when a cold is setting in.

We have stated, page 126, that Aconite is in homoeopathic rapport with amaurosis. Among the symptoms of Aconite, a number of symptoms may be found all pointing to this disease. We quote the following:

Obscuration of sight.

Complete blindness.

She sees as through a gauze.

Warm and undulating feeling in the eyes, with sensations as if there were not light enough to read by. He sees sparks and mist. He sees flashes and scintillations.

These symptoms are present in complete or partial loss of sight, *Amaurosis* or *Amblyopia*.

Two among the eye-symptoms of Aconite distinctly indicate its use as a remedy for

*Strabismus*, where it may, however, be available only in recent cases originating in rheumatic exposure, or consequent upon an operation, or arising spontaneously. These symptoms are:

Distortion of the eyes, and

Squinting of the eyes upwards.

In cases of this kind, it may be necessary to resort to the lower potencies and even to the tincture of Aconite root.

### **AURICULAR GROUP.**

We have already shown, on page 125, that Aconite will cure rheumatic deafness. In partial deafness or *hardness of hearing*, it may likewise prove useful. It is indicated by the following symptoms to be found among the recorded provings:

Tingling and roaring in the ears.

The ears feel stopped up, with sensation as if the vibrations of the air were prevented from impinging upon the tympanum.

Aconite likewise causes and will therefore cure

*Earache, Otagia*, to which the following symptoms point among the recorded provings:

Tearing in the ears, or tickling as from a little worm crawling about in the right ear.

Burning in the left ear.

Earache which is removable by Aconite, may be occasioned by a variety of causes, such as: exposure to a keen wind; sudden checking of the perspiration, retrocession of a rash upon or behind the external ear, or drying up of an habitual dampness behind the ears in the case of scrofulous children. The earache may be accompanied with a good deal of beating in the interior of the ear. Excessive sensitiveness to noise may likewise be present. This symptom is covered by the following symptoms among our provings: "The hearing is excessively sensitive; every noise is intolerable."

Among persons who are subject to earache, the paroxysms are often characterized by swelling of the parts surrounding the ear. Blood is very frequently discharged from the ear. Scrofulous children are very frequently troubled by this distress. Aconite, and in some cases Belladonna, will relieve this earache.

Among scrofulous children earache may occur in consequence of the suppression of an habitual discharge from the ear; and on the other hand, such a discharge may constitute the natural termination of an attack of acute earache. For this kind of

*Otorrhea* we recommend Aconite, a drop of the tincture of the root in a tumblerful of water. The discharge looks yellowish and has a very offensive smell. *Otorrhoea* which will yield to Aconite, is always accompanied more or less with twinges of pain, at times aching, at other times tearing, stitching or burning. In some states of the system the patient may be entirely free from pain..

In *Chronic Otorrhoea*, where acute paroxysms such as we have described, occur every now and then, a dose of Sulphur twelfth to eighteenth potency, may be advantageously interpolated once a week.

Although it may be supposed from what we have said under the head of inflammatory group, that Aconite is specifically adapted as a curative agent to

*Otitis*, acute inflammation of the ear, yet we will specify more fully the symptoms requiring the use of this agent. We deem this so much more necessary as many homoeopathic physicians are in the habit of considering *Pulsatilla* a sort of panacea for this affection.

Aconite is more particularly adapted to rheumatic otitis, especially among individuals who are somewhat tainted with scrofula, subject to eruptions or soreness upon or behind the ear, rush of blood to the head, earache. Both the internal and external ear may be inflamed. The patient complains of a distress as if the ear should be torn out of the head; a violent throbbing, burning, lancinating, dragging pain; excessive soreness, sensitiveness to noise; the ear-passage looks swollen, red, shining. If the inner ear is much inflamed, the brain may be disturbed; the patient may complain of violent throbbing or shooting pain in the head, dizziness; he may even be out of his senses. Blood and a thin watery fluid may be discharged out of the ear. The parts around the ear may either be swollen or else feel so. Acute inflammation of the ear is always attended with fever ushered in with a chill or chilly creepings along the back and extremities.

In this disease we prescribe a few drops of the German tincture in twelve tablespoonfuls of water, a teaspoonful every half hour until an improvement takes place; or else a drop or two of the first attenuation of the tincture of the root in a similar manner.

### **FACIAL GROUP.**

The changes which Aconite effects in the color of the face, are characteristic of its power to affect the nervous system and the capillary circulation. Among the recorded provings we notice the following symptoms:

Bloating of the face, or sensation as if the face had grown larger, with redness and heat of both cheeks.

Hot face, with coldness of the hands and feet.

Redness of one cheek, and simultaneous paleness of the other.

Sweat on the forehead and upon the cheek, upon which one is lying.

These symptoms occur in simple irritative, catarrhal, or rheumatic fever, or in any form of inflammatory fever where Aconite is required as a specific homoeopathic agent.

Other symptoms show the deep influence which Aconite exercises upon that portion of the nervous system which constitutes the connecting link between the mind and the face. This agent causes an

Expression of terror and imbecility in the countenance.

Hippocratic countenance, and alteration of the features generally.

These symptoms refer to mental disorders, or they may imply the existence of utter prostrations in acute attacks such as Cholera, spasmodic or inflammatory Colic, etc.

Other symptoms show that Aconite has a local action upon the trigeminus, and may therefore prove of service in pathological conditions to which the face is specially liable. These symptoms are:

Tingling pain in the cheeks, and sensation as if they were swollen.

Ulcerative pain in the region of the molar bones.

Sensation as if the face were swollen and hot.

These symptoms, in connection with the general fever-symptoms, which Aconite excites, point to this agent as a remedy for

*Rheumatic Inflammation* and swelling of the face, to which sensitive individuals of a plethoric habit and with a scrofulous diathesis, or who are afflicted with bad teeth, are more or less liable unless they have the means of avoiding exposure. Use the German tincture or the lower attenuations of the root.

It may be proper to record here the following symptom expressive of the peculiar action of Aconite upon the olfactory nerve: "The sense of smell is very sensitive; disagreeable odors affect him a great deal."

This symptom may indicate Aconite for an abnormal sensitiveness of the olfactory nerve generally, and for

*Hysteria* in particular, in which affection this peculiar sensitiveness to odors sometimes constitutes a prominent symptom.

#### **DENTAL GROUP.**

Aconite affects the teeth and jaws with more or less intensity. It causes symptoms like the following:

Pain in the articulation of the jaws when chewing.

Sudden shocks of a burning, tingling and lancinating pain in the lower jaw.

Penetrating pain in the lower jaw as if it should drop.

Sticking and drawing pain in the left upper and lower jaw.

The lower jaw is involuntarily pressed against the upper.

Rigidity of the jaws.

Lockjaw.

These symptoms point to Aconite as a remedy for

*Rheumatism of the Jaws*, where these laming, drawing, stitching and tearing pains occur. They also show that Aconite is one of our great agents in

*Trismus*, whether *idiopathic* or *traumatic*. I am not aware that Aconite is used much by homoeopathic physicians in this affection, but allow me to impress its efficacy upon your minds if you have to combat trismus resulting from rheumatic exposure, or from a shock of the nervous system in consequence of an injury.

In *Toothache*, Aconite is a most useful agent. It causes in persons in health a

Sensation as if the teeth were loose, with a burning and tingling sensation in the jaws and tongue.

Stinging in the teeth.

Pressure in the upper teeth.

The teeth are sensitive to the air.

The teeth are set on edge.

These symptoms show that Aconite may be of great use in toothache caused by exposure to a current of air, a keen wind, or by any rheumatic exposure whatsoever.

Toothache curable by Aconite, is of the congestive kind, with throbbing, stinging pain, or a hard aching, pressing pain as if the tooth should be shattered to pieces; inflammation of the gums, rush of blood to the head, headache, chilliness, sensitiveness to the open air, nervousness and restlessness. Aconite is particularly suitable to sensitive females, persons with a plethoric habit of body, high livers, individuals addicted to the use of spirits, or leading a sedentary life, taxing their brain, having a good deal of mental anxiety, grief.

The symptomatic provings likewise show that in

*Rheumatic Inflammation of the Gums*, Aconite may prove a valuable remedy. The gums look swollen, dark-red, inflamed; they are exceedingly tender to the touch, bleed readily; the patient complains of a burning, creeping pain in the gums. In scrofulous individuals, this form of inflammation may very speedily adopt a scorbutic character. Fever-symptoms, chilliness followed by, or mingled with heat and dryness of the skin, headache, dizziness, are generally present. Salivation may likewise exist.

In this affection we prefer the lower preparations of Aconite, from the first potency to one drop of the tincture of the root in twelve tablespoonfuls of water.

#### BUCCAL GROUP.

Aconite causes a variety of symptoms in the lining membrane and nervous tissue of the mouth which render it a valuable agent in several harassing affections. It causes

Sensation of dryness or actual dryness of the mouth and tongue.

Stinging and burning of the dorsum of the tongue; the tongue feels swollen.

Paralysis of the tongue, which lasts only a short time.

Soreness of the orifices of the salivary ducts, as if corroded.

Ptyalism, with stitches in the tongue.

Coldness of the tongue.

The lips are burning and feel swollen.

Burning of the tip of the tongue.

Numbness of the tongue.

The tongue feels like leather.

Inability to speak.

Spasmodic sensation in the region of the root of the tongue.

Vesicles on the tongue which burn a good deal.

To any one who has studied the character of the affections to which the mouth is liable, these symptoms must prove highly suggestive. Some of these symptoms refer to the state of the mouth and tongue such as it may exist in some forms of acute remittent fever, more particularly in *Gastric* and *Bilious Fever*.

The burning on the tongue, and the soreness and smarting at the tip of the tongue may occur in *Acute Dyspepsia*.

*Paralysis of the Tongue*, with numbness and inability to speak, has been alluded to in previous paragraphs. "We must not forget in this connection, to refer to the transitory paralysis of the tongue occasioned by abuse of spirituous beverages. After or during a drunken fit, the tongue often feels *thick*, as the phrase goes, causing an utter inability to articulate, although the consciousness may not be much disturbed. This form of paralysis yields to the tincture of Aconite more readily than to any other drug, except perhaps *Nux vomica*, which is generally considered by homoeopathic physicians as a panacea for paralytic conditions brought on by alcoholic poisoning.

Aconite is a remedy for rheumatic

*Stomatitis*, characterized by soreness of the inner mouth, ptyalism, stitches in the tongue, swelling and stinging-burning pains in the gums. We have again and again removed this condition by means of the tincture of Aconite.

There are two forms of stomatitis, where Aconite is indispensable; we allude to.

*Nursing Sore Mouth* and *Cancrum oris*. In these affections, Aconite is not a panacea, but it may prove specifically adapted to some cases of either of these affections, when the following symptoms constitute characteristic indications: The mouth is studded with aphthous ulcerations causing much stinging and burning pain; they are surrounded with inflamed borders, or the whole of the mucous membrane may look inflamed, with patches of whitish disorganizations spread about here and there. Ptyalism is a prominent symptom. This condition of the mouth is frequently met with among nursing females of a scrofulous or scorbutic diathesis. It should be treated with the tincture of Aconite, more particularly if the whole mouth feels hot, very sore, and the patient's strength is much reduced, the appetite is impaired and the bowels incline to diarrhea.

In *Cancrum oris*, where the disorganizing process emanates from rheumatic inflammation of the gums or lining membrane of the cheeks, with intense stinging and burning pain, hot mouth, secretion of ichorous, bloody pus, ptyalism, dark redness of the parts, Aconite will be found eminently useful, if given in doses of from one to two drops of the tincture in twelve tablespoonfuls of water, a spoonful every hour or two hours after an improvement once begins to be perceived.

There are some forms of *Cancrum oris* which have to be treated with Arsenicum, Mercurius and perhaps other drugs. We shall speak of them in due time; for the present let me urge upon you the importance of Aconite in all cases of this distressing affection where a purely rheumatic inflammation has given rise to it,

and where the disorganizing process is not characterized by the destructive sloughing and the fetid ptyalism which generally indicate Mercury.

*Coldness of the Tongue* occurs in Asiatic Cholera, and in a few other affections. The burning and sensation of swelling in the lips may be interpreted as referring to a swelling and inflammation of the upper lip which we sometimes meet with in scrofulous subjects, more particularly as the result of rheumatic exposure. The upper lip is swollen, rigid, looks red and inflamed, feels sore, and may break out in blisters. A few drops of the first attenuation of the root, or a drop of the tincture in twelve tablespoonfuls of water, may prove the most appropriate preparation.

Numbness and rigidity of the tongue, or sensation as if the tongue were like sole-leather, is a symptom which I have frequently met with in simple *Typhoid Fever*. Glossitis or acute inflammation of the tongue is distinctly indicated by the above mentioned symptoms. The tongue is swollen, excessively sensitive, has a dark-red appearance, inclines to bleed; the patient complains of a burning heat in the tongue, stinging and shooting pains are likewise experienced in it; if the inflammation is badly managed, it is apt to assume a dangerous character, and is always attended with a high fever. Of a mixture of one drop of the tincture of Aconite in ten tablespoonfuls of water, a tablespoonful may be given every hour, until the patient feels relieved.

### PHARYNGEAL GROUP.

In both acute and chronic affections of the throat, Aconite proves a most efficient remedy. Among the symptoms recorded by the provers of Aconite, the following are the most note-worthy:

Scraping in the throat, with difficulty of swallowing.

Stinging and choky feeling in the throat, especially when swallowing or talking.

Burning and stinging in the fauces.

The throat feels swollen and full.

Sensation as of a body with sharp edges and points being lodged in the throat.

Prickling burning in the palate, throat, and along the trunk of the Eustachian tube, with increased secretion of saliva.

The saliva which he spits up, is mixed with clear blood, accompanied with sweetish taste in the mouth.

These symptoms are of high therapeutic import to a homoeopathic practitioner. The burning and stinging distress, and the sense of fullness indicate Aconite as a remedy for

*Acute Angina Faucium*, when the throat, (the velum, fauces, uvula and tonsils) looks dark-red, with almost complete inability to swallow, heat and dryness of the throat which feels very sore as if raw; the tonsils looks swollen like lumps of raw flesh; the patient complains of stitches flying through the throat, sometimes

along the Eustachian tube to the ear. This form of angina is always attended with fever, creeping chills followed by heat and dryness of the skin. Throbbing headache, dizziness, and rheumatic pains in the extremities, soreness of the muscles, etc, may likewise be present. In acute angina the patient may hawk up some blood.

Aconite is adapted to acute inflammation of any part of the throat; hence we may prescribe it in

*Angina Uvularis, Pharyngitis, Tonsillaris, etc.* In angina tonsillaris or tonsillitis, the rational use of Aconite may save the patient a good deal of suffering. Under the common treatment of Old School physicians, this inflammation generally terminates in suppuration, causing excessive distress to the patient until the abscess is lanced or discharges spontaneously. This difficulty is avoided by the timely use of Aconite which scatters the engorgements, either unaided or in alternation with Belladonna. In most cases of uncomplicated quincy sore throat, if caused by rheumatic exposure, Aconite will be found sufficient. In most cases the first or second attenuation of the tincture of the root will be found sufficient; in other cases a few drops of the German tincture in a tumblerful of water may have to be used.

Even in chronic *Sore Throat*, Aconite may prove exceedingly useful as one of the medicines to be employed in the case. The following symptoms recorded by our provers, seem to imply the homoeopathicity of Aconite to this affection: "Burning, and feeling of dryness of the soft palate and fauces, not even passing off after a meal, and frequently inducing empty deglutition."

In cases of *Sore Throat*, where the patient complains of much dryness and heat in the throat, wants to moisten the throat very frequently, and seeks relief by continually hawking and swallowing saliva, Aconite may prove very useful, if given every now and then, in conjunction with other medicines.

In the first stage of *Diphtheria*, before plastic exudation has taken place, if the fever runs high, and the inflammation of the throat either presents an equally diffused appearance, or occurs in erysipelatous patches irregularly traversed by streaks of a deeper redness, some homoeopathic physicians prescribe Aconite, first or second attenuation; if no improvement sets in very speedily after the use of Aconite, Belladonna had better be given alone or in alternation with the former agent.

The inflammation, instead of being located in the pharynx, may involve the oesophagus, producing oesophagitis. The pain may be felt under the sternum or under the xiphoid cartilage, or near the cardia, etc., according as one or the other portion of the oesophagus is inflamed. It is an aching, burning and shooting pain with a sensation of rawness when the food passes over the inflamed surface, on which account emollient drinks should be principally used. Aconite should be given as in Angina of the throat.

## CHYLO-POIETIC GROUP.

Not all homoeopathic physicians seem to be aware of the comprehensive range of action peculiar to Aconite in this direction. Few drugs in our Materia Medica affect the liver as characteristically as Aconite; hence few drugs have it in their power to develop such marked changes in the condition of the chylo-poietic organs as this extraordinary agent.

The effects of Aconite upon these organs may be conveniently grouped under the following heads:

1. Taste;
2. Appetite;
3. Abnormal gastric secretions;
4. Nausea and vomiting;
5. Abnormal sensations during or after a meal;
6. Abnormal sensations without reference to the use of food or drink;
7. Pains in the bowels;
8. Alvine evacuations; exudations from the anus; hemorrhoids; worms.

### 1. *Taste.*

Aconite alters the taste in various ways: it causes a bitter taste, or else a putrid taste; also a flat taste, or a taste as of fish or rotten eggs. The taste in some instances is a nauseous taste causing a feeling of loathing; it disappears somewhat while eating, but reappears shortly after. Aconite causes a smarting sensation on the tongue, and hence a taste as of pepper in the mouth. These alterations of the taste may be of great use to us in various fevers, and gastric derangements, to which particular reference will be made in subsequent paragraphs.

### 2. *Appetite.*

Aconite causes loss of appetite, also with a sour taste in the mouth. This symptom may be present in certain forms of *Dyspepsia*, where we have often had occasion to combat it with the first, second or third potency of Aconite, especially in the case of nervous females of a nervous-bilious temperament.

Aconite likewise causes a form of nervous irritation of the stomach characterized by canine hunger; the recorded symptom is: "Intense feeling of hunger which continues even after a meal." This symptom indicates Aconite in *Bulimia*, a constant and insatiable craving for food, in spite of which the patient may grow thin.

This bulimia sometimes amounts to a simple *hungry gnawing* which troubles one either more or less continually or in paroxysms, a condition of the stomach for which the French use the very expressive and pointed term "*agacement*." The middle potencies from the sixth to the twelfth will relieve it.

Aconite also causes a burning, unquenchable thirst. This symptom may occur in many acute affections, where this agent is indicated.

### 3. *Abnormal Gastric Secretions.*

Among these we distinguish the following characteristic effects of Aconite:

Sensation as if the whole mouth became filled with air and rotten eggs.

Rising of sweetish water to the mouth, like waterbrash, sometimes accompanied with nausea.

Scraping sensation from the pit of the stomach to the throat, with nausea, qualmishness, and a sensation as if water would rise. Empty eructations, or ineffectual desire to eructate.

Burning sensation from the stomach to the mouth, through the entire tract of the esophagus.

These symptoms show how useful Aconite may be in

*Heartburn*, when characterized by the rising of sweetish water to mouth, a burning sensation along the oesophagus, and a feeling of qualmishness at the stomach. This affection has already been alluded to, page 100. Homoeopathic physicians are very much in the habit of associating Arsenic with burning pains, Both the provings and the toxicological effects of Aconite show that a burning sensation, or the rising of a burning fluid in the oesophagus may constitute a characteristic indication for Aconite.

We may here mention an affection which is sometimes met with in the case of females who are troubled with bilious derangements. We mean a

*Bad or Foul Taste* in the pharynx, which is generally accompanied with a qualmish feeling at the stomach. Patients complain of a taste as of foul flesh in the throat. The affection seems to be pathologically represented by engorgement of the capillaries, and consequent secretion of foul, disorganized mucus. It is

always traceable to, or connected with, abnormal conditions of the bilious secretions. No medicine will relieve this exceedingly annoying derangement more speedily than Aconite, first attenuation of the tincture of the root.

#### 4. Nausea and Vomiting.

Aconite causes

Loathing, qualmishness, nausea and inclination to vomit, especially

in the pit of the stomach; afterwards this nausea and inclination to vomit are sometimes experienced in the region of the sternum, and in the throat, sometimes while walking in the open air; sometimes these sensations are worse when sitting still, and abate again during a walk.

Nausea which is relieved by eating.

Inclination to vomit as after eating anything sweet or fat.

Vomiting, with nausea, thirst, general heat, profuse sweat and enuresis

Vomiting of a greenish-gray, watery liquid.

Vomiting of green bile.

Vomiting of blood and mucus.

Vomiting of blood.

Vomiting of lumbrici.

Vomiting accompanied by anxiety.

These symptoms are of the utmost importance as therapeutic indications, and may be turned to excellent account by an intelligent homoeopathic practitioner, Who does not see that Aconite may prove an admirable remedy for

*Nervous Nausea* of this uncertain, wandering order, which is pictured by these provings ? At times it is felt under the sternum, at other times in the throat, wandering about according as one or the other set of capillary vessels may become irritated and congested. For this nausea depends upon capillary engorgement, which may itself be traceable to an irritation of some nervous filaments of the great sympathetic. It may be caused by some sudden emotion, a violent surprise, fright, or by any sudden shock or cause whatsoever which tends to disturb the nervous equilibrium. One of these causes may be pregnancy.

*Nausea of Pregnant Females* is very frequently relieved by Aconite, especially among hysteric females, when attended with dizziness, rush of blood, palpitation of the heart, rising of sweetish water, vomiting of bile. The first six potencies will be found the most useful.

Nausea may be a symptom of biliousness, and hence we shall find that in

*Bilious Nausea*, Aconite is one of our most reliable remedial agents, It is particularly in the spring of the year that some persons are liable to this kind of derangement. They complain of loss of appetite, they feel heavy, weak, the head feels dull and dizzy, the bowels full and distended; the taste in the mouth is altered, the tongue looks coated; they feel sick at the stomach, are troubled with waterbrash, and even vomiting of bile. The sallow complexion and the dull look indicate a bilious state of the system. This whole group of symptoms pertains to Aconite more than to any other drug; hence it will yield to this agent.

Vomiting of bile may occur in bilious fever, jaundice or in other violent derangement of the biliary secretions.

*Vomiting of Blood* or *Haematemesis*, may be arrested by Aconite. It may occur in consequence of a strain or blow upon the stomach, in which case Arnica may be required. But if the discharge of blood should be attended with much anxiety, palpitation of the heart, soreness of the epigastric region, dizziness, paleness or violent headache, Aconite may prove preferable to Arnica, or else these two medicines may be given in alternation.

Vomiting of large quantities of dark red, coagulated blood has been arrested by Aconite.

Vomiting of arterial blood, with sweetish taste in the mouth, swelling of the region of the stomach, bubbling sensation and soreness in this region, praecordial anxiety, coldness of the extremities, small, hurried pulse, pale face, requires Aconite. A drop of the tincture or a few drops of the first attenuation in a tumblerful of water may be given, a tablespoonful every five or ten minutes, until reaction is established, the pulse bounds up, the skin becomes warm, and the face looks red; after which Aconite may be continued at longer intervals.

Among the symptoms of Aconite there is one which bears upon this condition very characteristically; it is this: "Sensation as of a cold stone lying in the stomach, notwithstanding repeated vomitings and frequent stools." This symptom very often precedes an attack of haematemesis. After the vomiting of blood has once commenced, the coldness may give place to a burning sensation in the epigastric

##### 5. *Abnormal Sensations During or After a Meal.*

In this respect the, action of Aconite upon the digestive organs is characterized by some exceedingly interesting symptoms, among which we distinguish the following:

While eating, the prover experiences a violent pressure in the stomach, as if he had eaten something indigestible, accompanied by a feeling of warmth and sensitiveness in the pit of the stomach.

Singultus, especially in the morning, or else after eating or drinking.

These symptoms may characterize a peculiar form of

*Dyspepsia*, with which Aconite will be found in curative homoeopathic adaptation; a feeling of weight and fullness at the stomach, a sensation of warmth, and sensitiveness to pressure in the epigastric region, raising of wind, and such symptoms of gastric derangement as have been indicated under the previous heading.

Many of the symptoms of gastric derangement to which Aconite is homoeopathic, are relieved for a period by eating or drinking; they return again one or two hours after. This peculiar change may be considered as characteristic to some extent of the homoeopathicity of Aconite to these gastric affections.

In *Acute Indigestion*, Aconite will prove indispensable. A few drops of the first attenuation made of the tincture of the root, should be mixed in ten tablespoonfuls of water, of which mixture the patient may take a small tablespoonful every half hour. Acute indigestion is attended with a good deal of vascular engorgement of the inner coats of the stomach, and hard, aching, burning pains, great soreness to contact, violent nausea, generally resulting in vomiting and hard straining to vomit. All this distress is most readily and permanently relieved by a few doses of Aconite.

#### 6. *Abnormal Sensations Without Reference to the Use of Food or Drink.*

Aconite causes a series of abnormal sensations in the region of the stomach, among which we distinguish the following:

Pressure in the stomach and pit of the stomach as from a load or stone, with a feeling of repletion; this pressure is sometimes increased to asthma, or it shifts to the back, occasioning a crampy sensation in that part, and accompanied with a feeling of stiffness as one experiences after having raised too heavy a load.

This symptom is significative of congestion which may first affect the stomach and then shift to the back, or even crowd upwards towards the lungs. We sometimes meet with organisms where these engorgements or congestions of the

capillary system occur as habitual constitutional conditions. The congestion may shift to various tissues or organs: to the back, causing a sensation as if the muscles were strained; to the legs, causing a feeling of weariness and soreness; to the soles of the feet, causing a velvety feeling or a sensation as if one were walking on pins; and to internal organs. These congestions are specifically acted upon by Aconite. Individuals of a paralytic constitution are very frequently troubled with them.

This passive congestion of the stomach, which is the peculiar form with which we have to deal" here, manifests itself by a variety of sensations, such as:

A feeling of *roughness* in the stomach. This very unusual sensation is generally attended with symptoms of bilious derangement, sallow or even jaundiced complexion, coated tongue, foul taste, loss of appetite, weariness. Mix one or two drops of the German tincture or a drop of the first attenuation of the tincture of the root in twelve tablespoonful of water, and give the patient a tablespoonful every two or three hours. This feeling of roughness may be accompanied by a feeling of fullness and oppression, and likewise by a sensation as if the stomach were generating a quantity of wind; hence for

*Wind or Flatulence* on the stomach, Aconite may have to be given as before. Sometimes the wind is rolled off unceasingly; the least pressure on the region of the stomach will bring up quantities of wind.

This flatulent congestion of the stomach may be distinguished by paroxysms as if the stomach were swelling up and sinking again; this sensation may be accompanied by shortness of breath, dizziness, as may be inferred from this symptom recorded by the provers of Aconite: "Painful feeling of swelling in the pit of the stomach, accompanied with want of appetite and paroxysms of shortness of breath."

Another important symptom among the Aconite-provings is the following: "Sensation as of a cold stone lying in the stomach. This sensation may characterize a peculiar condition of .

*Weakness* of the stomach, and it may likewise be the precursor of vomiting of blood.

Another symptom is: Contraction of the stomach as by astringents; and

Feeling of weight in the stomach, with constriction in the throat and nausea. Hence we use Aconite in

*Cardialgia*, when the stomach feels spasmodically contracted, with hard pressure as from a stone, excessive hard aching pain, soreness; relief is had by belching up a quantity of wind; nausea and even retching and vomiting of mucus and bile may be present. Use the German tincture or the first attenuation of the root.

In some forms of *Dyspepsia*, the sensations of weight, fullness, flatulent distension, raising of wind, or the sensation as if the stomach were swelling up, constitute characteristic features. These symptoms are more particularly experienced after eating or drinking.

#### 7. Pains in the Bowels.

Aconite is specifically adapted to the treatment of certain forms of *Bilious Colic*. In this form of colic the bowels feel as if twisted up in a knot; they feel extremely sore, the patient complains of a burning, tearing distress in the bowels, with nausea, vomiting of bile, dizziness, coldness of the extremities, chilliness, quick and small pulse, succeeded by heat and dryness of the skin, dark flushes on the cheeks, full and bounding pulse, meteorism, constipation, dark, foul and turbid urine. All these symptoms characterize the action of toxicological or medicinal doses of Aconite. This agent is likewise adapted to

*Spasmodic or Inflammatory Colic*, with drawing pains in the bowels, or pinching, griping and tearing pains; or also cutting and burning pains, soreness of the integuments, hot flatulence, rumbling and fermentation in the bowels. The alvine evacuations are more or less interfered with, dysenteric urging or constipation and distention of the bowels. The first attenuation of the tincture of the root may be resorted to.

A peculiar form of this colic is a colic which might be termed.

*Umbilical Colic*, consisting in a most painful sensation as if the navel were drawn in. This kind of colic is very pointedly hinted at in the following symptoms: "Retraction of the umbilicus, especially early in the morning before breakfast." An affection of this kind is not common, but it does occur occasionally.

#### 8. Alvine Evacuations.

We have .seen on page 130, that Aconite causes and is therefore in curative rapport with bilious diarrhea and dysentery, even when the discharges consist of black and fetid stools, for Aconite causes 'black, fetid stools.'" This agent is also useful in

*Common Catarrhal Diarrhea*, when the stools have a watery consistence; the discharges may either be painless or accompanied with more or less pinching or griping pain. In this sort of diarrhea the bowels may feel weak, as they do after taking a cathartic. If the first attenuation is not sufficient, a drop of the tincture in a tumblerful of water may be given.

In *Rheumatic Diarrhea*, with frequent scanty and loose stools and a good deal of straining or urging, Aconite may prove indispensable. It is likewise adapted to

*Nervous Diarrhea* or *Cholerine*, with nausea and sweat, either before or after the evacuation. This kind of diarrhea may even occur after an emotion, fright, chagrin.

Aconite causes white stools, with red urine; hence in

Diarrhea with deficiency of the bilious pigment, such as may occur when indurations of the liver are present, or during chronic jaundice, Aconite may prove indispensable.

Aconite causes diarrhea with enuresis and colic; hence in

*Diarrhea caused by worms*, or in

Diarrhea such as may trouble hysteric females, Aconite may be depended upon as one of our most reliable agents.

We should not forget Aconite in

*Cholera infantum* or the common *Summer-complaint* of children. The character of the discharges, the accompanying pains, the fever, all these symptoms point to Aconite as one of the few agents which prove specifically curative in this disease. In this connection let us not forget the

*Diarrhea* which may occur during or in consequence of *dentition*, where Aconite may likewise prove indispensable, if the children strain a good deal, the anus

becomes excoriated, and the little patients feel feverish, with flushed cheeks, heat about the head.

In *Diarrhea from indigestion*, when the discharges correspond with the character of the Aconite discharges, Aconite may be an indispensable remedy. The discharges may be watery; or they may consist of an admixture of mucous and fecal matter, having an offensive smell, of a yellow or even dark, blackish color.

In *Chronic Diarrhea*, Aconite is a most useful agent, more particularly if the diarrhea is symptomatic of chronic gastro-enteritis. The patient experiences frequent urging, passes mucus, fecal matter, and occasionally a little blood; the bowels may feel sore, the patient complains of a feeling of warmth in the bowels, with drawing, tearing and cutting pains; these symptoms may be present in parts or all together in different degrees of intensity.

We need not repeat the indications for Aconite in Cholera-morbus and the first stage of Asiatic Cholera. For these indication we refer the reader to pages 130 and 131.

Aconite has caused vomiting of lumbrici. This symptom, together with other symptoms characteristic of worms, indicate Aconite as a remedy in

*Worm-affections*, more particularly when the following symptoms prevail: Feverishness, flow of water from the mouth, nausea, sensation as of something crawling up the oesophagus; ravenous hunger, itching at the nose and anus; burning and smarting sensation at the anus; frequent desire to urinate, nocturnal enuresis; tympanitic distention of the bowels; alternate constipation and diarrhea; involuntary passage of faeces. Given from the first to the sixth potency.

Aconite causes "momentary paralysis of the anus, and stinging and pressure in the anus." These symptoms may lead to

*Prolapsus of the Anus*, which may be very successfully treated with Aconite. This condition may occur during an attack of dysentery, especially in the case of children, in consequence of the violent straining which may induce a sudden and violent eversion of the anus. Under these circumstances the anus may be seen forced out, and engorged with blood, looking like a sacculated pouch of bloody membrane and muscular fibre. Mix a drop of the tincture of the root in ten tablespoonfuls of water, of which a small tablespoonful may be given every hour until the prolapsus ceases,"

Aconite causes "painful contractions around the anus." This symptom leads us to use this agent in

*Stricture of the Anus*, where Aconite may perhaps compete with Nux, Mercurius corrosivus, and other drugs.

Aconite causes the following symptoms pointing to its use in

*Hemorrhoids or Piles*: " burning or sensation of heat in the hemorrhoidal vessels;" " sensation as of a warm liquid being discharged from the anus;" flow of white mucus from the anus, with itching; " flowing piles."

For this burning sensation in the hemorrhoidal vessels, homoeopathic physicians generally prescribe Arsenic or Carbo vegetabilis. In this they follow a blind routine. Charcoal has nothing whatsoever to do with it. We have known the first attenuation of the tincture of the root of Aconite to relieve this burning distress, when the patient was almost made frantic by the horrid and most agonizing suffering.

A discharge of blood from the hemorrhoidal vessels, when attended with weakness, or even fainting, in consequence of the pain and loss of blood, is arrested by Aconite more frequently than by any other agent. Give from the first to the sixth potency.

Our provings show that even the so called

*White Piles*, or a continual discharge of white mucus from the anus, may be removed by means of Aconite.

Aconite may be indispensable to counteract the consequences of a

*Sudden Suppression of Piles*, such as headache, backache, palpitation of the heart, violent colic, dyspnoea. In this connection we may likewise allude to Aconite as the most appropriate remedy for the consequences of

*Suppression of Diarrhea*, which may take place either in consequence of a sudden violent emotion, a fright, for instance, or as the effect of an opiate, an astringent, such as Opium, Lead, etc. This suppression may be characterized by dangerous congestions about the brain, heart, lungs, which Aconite will remove.

Aconite will also heal.

*Soreness and Excoriations* around the anus, with stinging, smarting and burning pains, exudation of serum, even when of a sanguineous character. The bowels are generally constipated, and the parts around the anus may even be studded with little boils, or inflamed tumors.

Few homoeopathic practitioners are aware that Aconite is a remedy for

*Constipation*; yet among the symptoms of Aconite we have " hard stool passed with hard pressing;" and as one of the curative effects of Aconite we have this record in Jahr's *Symptomen-Codex*: retention of stool in acute affections.

In a case of acute catarrhal or rheumatic fever, either diarrhea or constipation may be present. This may depend upon peculiar constitutional tendencies, or upon the peculiar manner in which the functions of the liver are involved. Aconite may be indicated by either condition. Do not imitate the idle maneuver of many physicians who, under these circumstances, consider themselves bound to associate with Aconite the purely symptomatic use of Pulsatilla, Bryonia, Nux or some other medicine supposed to be adapted to the diarrhea or constipation

existing in the case. If constipation is present during an inflammatory fever to which Aconite is homoeopathic, this agent will sufficiently restore the irritability of the intestinal fibre to induce regular contractions and consequent evacuations.

A single dose of Aconite, first to sixth potency, is sometimes sufficient to induce a discharge from the bowels, after rhubarb, jalap, calomel had failed. We once were called to such a case, where a woman who had a common rheumatic fever, had taken a whole lot of cathartics and drastics for the purpose of procuring stool. These drugs had remained inoperative. We found the bowels enormously distended and utterly torpid; not the remotest disposition to have a discharge. A single dose of Aconite excited the peristaltic motion and procured complete relief, besides inducing copious perspiration and effecting a perfect cure of the fever.

Under the allopathic treatment of acute rheumatic fevers, the bowels are very apt to remain torpid. We once cured a constipation of this kind, where the patient, a lady of 75 years, had not had a passage from the bowels for twenty-one days. A single drop of Aconite, 18th potency, was sufficient to move them; she discharged a hard, dry substance which looked like burnt peat. The bowels remained regular after this one evacuation. The character of such a black-looking discharge corresponds with the following Aconite symptom: "Discharge of black, fetid fecal matter, which may be either soft, diarrheic, or hard and burnt like coal."

In some forms of spinal irritation, when that portion of the column which supplies nerves to the liver, is the seat of the trouble, the bowels are very torpid, and what passes the bowels looks dark and burnt like coal. Aconite is the proper remedy for this sort of torpor.

Aconite may likewise be necessary every now and then, when the constipation depends upon a form of liver-complaint to which Aconite is homoeopathic; the stools have a dark-brown, dry appearance, and are pressed out with great difficulty.

Aconite may likewise be useful in some cases of constipation induced by abuse of cathartics; it may help to restore the weakened contractile energies of the intestinal fibre.