

LECTURE XIII.

URINARY GROUP.

WE have shown in former paragraphs the homoeopathicity of Aconite to Cystitis and Urethritis. Among the provings of Aconite we read the following symptoms which unequivocally point to such affections:

Retention of urine, with pressure in the bladder, or stitches in the region of the kidneys;

Burning and tenesmus of the neck of the bladder, between the acts of micturition;

Single shooting stitches in the urethra, when walking;

Burning in the urethra from one orifice to the other, during micturition;

Brown, burning urine, with brick-colored sediment.

Cystitis may occur in consequence of rheumatic exposure, or of an injury to the bladder; urethritis may take place from the same causes.

In *Dysuria* or even *Ischuria*, Aconite may prove a sovereign remedy. A cold on the bladder may induce this affection; there is a constant and most painful urging to urinate, with discharge of a drop of urine every now and then, or an utter inability to urinate. Besides the above-mentioned symptoms, the following symptom likewise indicates Aconite in this affection: " Difficult and scanty emission of urine, with frequent urging, and sometimes accompanied with pinching around the umbilicus."

Aconite causes: "Momentary *paralysis of the bladder*, with involuntary emission of urine. "This symptom speaks for itself. A paralytic condition of this kind may occur among old people, or as the effect of a cold, or as a symptom of constitutional weakness. Aconite is a capital remedy in this affection; even in chronic cases it may be used every now and then as an intercurrent remedy. If paralysis of the bladder should develop itself as the sequela of an operation, Aconite is the very best remedy to restore the contractility of the sphincter.

Aconite causes: "Enuresis, sometimes accompanied with profuse sweat, or with diarrhea and colic; or likewise with distortion of the eyes and contraction of the feet."

This symptom justifies the use of Aconite in

Enuresis, when worm-symptoms are present; or when the weakness was induced by a cold, a fright. Also in the

Nocturnal Enuresis of children, Aconite may do us great service.

This symptom has likewise induced us to use Aconite with good effect in acute

Albuminuria, during the first stage of the disease when the deposit consists chiefly of glucose or grape-sugar, and the urine looks watery. Aconite diminishes the quantity of urine and shows a decided tendency to check the waste of sugar.

Aconite produces symptoms which point to this agent as a remedy in

Irritable Bladder, especially of hysteric females; it causes: "Painful, anxious urging to urinate, which is sometimes excited by merely touching the abdomen, and at times results in the frequent discharge of a watery urine.

Shaking sensation in the region of the bladder, during urination.

The bladder feels painful, when walking.

All these symptoms exist with more or less intensity in the case of females who are troubled with hysteria.

Aconite may likewise be used in a case of

Renal Calculus, for the purpose of relieving the spasm excited by the passage of the calculus through the ureter or urethra.

Let us not overlook the eminent use of Aconite in

Acute Gonorrhoea, with burning pains which cause the patient to faint, inability to urinate, discharge of blood from the urethra; Aconite, given in one or two drops of the tincture in a tumblerful of water, will afford great relief. It is more

particularly indicated, if the sudden arrest of the discharge in consequence of exposure to catarrhal or rheumatic causes, should lead to agonizing distress, hemorrhage from the urethra.

Dr. Helmuth, of St. Louis, has mentioned a case of gonorrhoeal urethritis where the discharge being suddenly arrested, a most agonizing burning pain was experienced by the patient. This pain was attended with hemorrhage from the urethra. After trying Cantharides and other medicines without any result, the tincture of Aconite root was given in drop-doses, a few doses being sufficient not only to quiet the pain and arrest the hemorrhage, but to remove the whole trouble.

In the January number of the Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Review, 1858, the following interesting cases of *Stricture* are reported, evincing the sedative properties of Aconite in spasm and inflammation in a most satisfactory manner:

"I had recently under my care, at the Infirmary," says Mr. Long, "at the same time, three cases of irritable and almost impermeable stricture of the urethra; in all of which it was impossible to make any progress by dilatation, in consequence of the severe rigors which ensued after each attempt to pass the catheter. Finding that the ordinary appliances did not prevent the occurrence of the rigors, and that the introduction of the instrument could not be attempted oftener than three or four times in a fortnight, in consequence of the severe local and constitutional irritation which followed its use, I adopted the following plan: I gave two minims of Fleming's tincture of Aconite, in an ounce of water, immediately after the introduction of the instrument. The result was as follows: In one case the tincture was given without any omission, after every introduction of the instrument; no rigors occurred, and the treatment progressed without any interruption to a favorable termination. In the second, the same result occurred. On one occasion, the tincture was omitted as an experiment, and a rigor occurred, followed by its usual consequences. The tincture was resumed, and no rigor again occurred, though the instrument was allowed to remain in the stricture for half an hour or longer. This case did well, but the man left the Infirmary before the dilatation was fully completed.

In the third case, which was the most severe, no rigor occurred whilst the tincture was given, and the case was progressing favorably. The Aconite was, as in the second case, omitted, for the sake of experiment, and two introductions of the instrument were effected without the occurrence of rigor. On the third occasion, however, so severe a rigor, and such untoward local and constitutional symptoms were experienced, that up to the present moment no further use of the instrument could be attempted. I conclude that in the above cases, the tincture of

Aconite, by its direct sedative power, exerted a powerful influence in preventing the occurrence of rigors, and that in similar cases it may become a valuable addition to the means usually employed."

The sedative power of Aconite here alluded to, depends upon its spasm and inflammation-exciting properties. We know that large doses of Aconite will excite spasms and inflammation in the healthy, and we therefore infer—and experience justifies this inference— that these symptoms when occurring as signs of a natural malady, will disappear under the use of the same agent.

In a case of *Urethritis* which I treated some time ago, I had striking evidence of the necessity of conducting the medical treatment of a case in accordance with the dictates of a sound pathology, and not by the delusive light of purely, symptomatic indications. The patient, a man of about fifty, had been exposed to a violent draught of air, the consequence of which was an acute inflammation of the mucous lining of the urethra. A profuse discharge of purulent mucus soon set in, which was considered as an indication for Cannabis, and other medicines among the symptoms of which "discharge of pus or mucus from the urethra" may be found. Of course, such treatment was utterly unavailing, and after having been trifled with for weeks, his recovery did not take place until, by my advice, he put himself on the use of Aconite. This was the remedy in the case. The purulent discharge was the inevitable consequence of the vascular engorgements in the urethra, which furnished an exorbitant supply to the secretory action of the lining membrane. And, reasoning a little further, we readily perceive that the secreted mucus must be thick and purulent, just as water which is deprived of motion, will become foul, muddy and offensive.

SEXUAL GROUP.

In many derangements to which the sexual organs are subject, Aconite is an eminently useful and indeed indispensable agent. Many of these derangements have already been pointed out; we will now complete the list, and endeavor to establish the homoeopathicity of Aconite to these affections by referring them to the physiological effects which this drug has developed by provings.

Aconite causes a few symptoms denoting inflammatory irritation, such as: Itching of the prepuce; stinging and pinching in the glans when urinating. These symptoms may occur in

Balanitis, especially when arising from a cold.

Aconite causes a pain in the scrotum as if contused. This symptom may point to the use of this agent in *Orchitis*, or inflammatory conditions of the scrotum, such

as may develop themselves in consequence of retrocession of gonorrhoea, contusions, rheumatic inflammation.

Aconite affects the sexual instinct as well as the sexual power. It causes amorous paroxysms, or else a diminution of the sexual desire, or an increase of the sexual desire, alternating with sudden relaxation of the penis. It also causes a drawing up of the scrotum, and frequent involuntary nocturnal emissions.

Here we have a series of effects showing that Aconite affects the nervous life of the sexual organs as it is affected by

Self abuse or excessive sexual intercourse. Young men who are addicted to this vice, often complain of a weakness of the sexual organs characterized by spasmodic but speedily-exhausted erections, ending in sudden relaxation of the penis and sometimes attended with spasmodic retraction of the scrotum.

Involuntary Emissions arising from such a cause, are advantageously treated with Aconite. There is a constant tendency to vascular engorgements of the sexual organs which result in these extremely weakening losses.

A remarkable symptom of Aconite is the following; violent itching of the scrotum obliging one to scratch the part until it bleeds. We have frequently met with this,

Itching of the Scrotum, in the case of nervous and bilious persons of a cachectic, scrofulous constitution; it is attended with a burning distress about the scrotum, and is almost maddening. Aconite may afford relief in some cases.

It is especially in the case of females that Aconite affects the sexual life with a peculiar intensity and varied power. It causes a profuse discharge of the menstrual fluid amounting even to hemorrhage; hence we find Aconite specifically adapted to

Metrorrhagia, when the blood is bright-red, and a certain order of constitutional symptoms is present, such as: dizziness, rush of blood to the head, palpitation of the heart, feeble and nervous pulse, with coldness of the extremities, sickness at the stomach, bearing-down pain or weight in the uterine region. Even in simple

Excessive Menstruation, when similar symptoms are present, more particularly in the case of nervous, sensitive, plethoric females, Aconite will be found eminently useful. From the first to the sixth potency may be sufficient.

Amenorrhoea or menstrual suppression in consequence of exposure to wet, or similar rheumatic causes, may yield to Aconite-. The patients may feel weary and heavy, the bowels may feel sore and disturbed, and troublesome symptoms of congestion about the head, lungs, heart, liver, or small of the back, may show themselves.

We have explained, on previous occasions, how it is that the same medicine may be in homoeopathic rapport with two apparently antagonistic conditions. Large doses of Aconite may induce uterine hemorrhage, small doses would bring about menstrual suppression, although moderate doses of Aconite repeated for a

sufficient length of time, may develop a congested and relaxed condition of the uterine vessels which must inevitably lead to abnormal discharges of blood. Aconite not only causes profuse menstruation, but the flow may be accompanied with spasmodic pains in the bowels; violent dragging pains in the uterine region, nausea, headache, paleness of the face; hence in

Dysmenorrhea where these symptoms are present, Aconite proves a very useful agent. We have often relieved in a very short space of time the most intense distress, more particularly when given in alternation with *Cocculus*, where *Cocculus* alone seemed insufficient.

Aconite causes a copious, tenacious, yellowish

Leucorrhoea, which may sometimes exist in the place of, or after the termination of a menstrual discharge, more particularly in the case of plethoric individuals. A few drops of the German tincture or of the first three attenuations of the root are appropriate doses in these affections.

Aconite causes "frenzy on the appearance of the catamenia." May we not avail ourselves of this symptom as an indication for Aconite in

Puerperal Mania and *Convulsions*? It is more especially, if symptoms had occurred during pregnancy to which Aconite is homoeopathic, that this agent will prove useful in those dreadful disorders. Among these symptoms we distinguish: apprehensions of death; frequent congestions about the head; fitful mood, alternate depression of spirits and extreme mirthfulness. An attack of this kind may likewise set in consequence of a sudden fright, with suppression of the lochial discharge or milky secretion.

Aconite causes: "Increase of milk in the mammae." This symptom indicates the use of Aconite in

Galactorrhoea, in the case of plethoric females, with highly sensitive constitutions and nervous temperaments. Per contra, we may use Aconite for the purpose of stimulating the secretion of milk in *Agalattia*, or deficient secretion of milk, especially in the case of anemic girls who are habitually cold, or in the case of nervous, delicate females whose lochial discharges are excessive. It will likewise promote the flow of milk in the case of plethoric females whose breasts are turgid with milk, but where the irritability of the galactiferous vessels seems inadequate to the business of excreting the fluid.

CATARRHAL GROUP.

In this range Aconite proves a most important agent. Its action upon the Schneiderian membrane is characterized by the following symptoms:

Violent sneezing, with pain in the abdomen, or in the region of the left ribs;

Coryza, headache, humming in the ears and colic;

Complete dryness of the nose;

Discharge of a clear liquid from the nose.

Aconite also causes: a stupefying pressure over the root of the nose, and bleeding from the nose.

Here we have a group of exceedingly characteristic symptoms which point to an irritation of the Schneiderian membrane such as may occur in a common

Cold in the Head, Catarrh, Influenza, especially if this pressure over the root of the nose is present, or a weight in the frontal region, indicating engorgement of the frontal sinuses which is sometimes relieved by nose-bleed. It is strange that homoeopathic physicians are so generally inclined to overlook the homoeopathicity of Aconite to catarrhal irritation of the Schneiderian membrane. What is the use of our provings, if, instead of being guided by this kind of experience in the application of our drugs, we keep following the dark and brutalizing banner of empirical routine? If, in the first stage of a cold in the head, there is violent sneezing, discharge of water from the nose and eyes, frontal headache, or simply a dullness and tightness in the frontal region, with coldness or chilliness of the body, Aconite will prove one of our most reliable remedies if given in the lower potencies.

A catarrhal affection of this kind may come to us after it has been neglected either by a complete absence of treatment or by treatment of a wrong kind. A thick, purulent mucus is discharged from the nose; the nose may feel painful even up the cribriform plate; the suppurative process and consequent soreness may even extend throughout the whole tract of the frontal sinuses, causing a great deal of distress, stupefying dullness and heaviness in the forehead, inability to think clearly and coherently, and even constitutional disturbances of a more or less marked character. Again and again have we seen such difficulties yield to the steady use of the tincture of Aconite in tablespoonful doses of a solution of one drop in a tumblerful of water. Many a chronic catarrh is entailed upon a patient which might have been prevented by the use of Aconite. It is generally in catarrhal irritations of the Schneiderian membranes where Aconite is indicated and not used, that a chronic catarrh is the consequence of this most reprehensible neglect. In

Chronic Catarrh, where the nose seemed stopped up, and where the patient is frequently troubled with discharges of pus and blood, or even thick mucus from the nose, having an offensive smell, and culminating every now and then in acute paroxysms, with tight feeling in the frontal region, aching pains in the forehead, sense of swelling in the nose, sneezing and other symptoms of an acute catarrh, Aconite is an indispensable agent both for the purpose of controlling the paroxysm, and as a neutralizer of the chronic taint. In this business the Aconite may have to be associated with the Bichromate of Potash, Sulphur, and other antispasmodics. Aconite is homoeopathic, as our provings show us, to

Dry Catarrh, an affection which may befall both full-grown persons and children, and is sometimes very annoying, especially to infants at the breast and to larger children. The nose seems stopped up, a difficulty which is more particularly apparent when children are asleep; they have to breathe with their mouths wide open. The following symptom among the provings points to this condition: "The breathing through the nose is interrupted especially when asleep."

We have often relieved paroxysms of this kind with a few doses of Aconite internally and a weak solution rubbed at the same time upon the nose.

The violent sneezing which Aconite causes, points to the use of this agent in the

Spasmodic Sneezing to which some individuals are subject. The spasmodic irritation of the Schneiderian membrane is sometimes so violent that the patient seeks relief by artificial means. The antispasmodic virtues of Aconite point to this agent as one of the means of quieting the spasm, especially if the sneezing is attended with a sensation as though the head should fly to pieces, or if it jars the abdomen causing painfulness of the abdominal integuments and internal tissues.

The peculiar action of Aconite upon the windpipe and bronchial passages is characteristic of catarrhal irritation of various forms and degrees of intensity. Aconite causes, among other symptoms, the following series of more or less important therapeutic indications:

Attacks of catarrh and coryza, sometimes accompanied with headache, colic, humming in the ears and coryza.

Hoarseness early in the morning.

Croaking voice.

Sensitiveness of the larynx to the inspired air, as if the mucous membrane were deprived of its epithelium.

Feeble sound of the voice.

Sensation as if the sides of the larynx were pressed together.

Pressure and burning pains along the trachea, down to the pit of the stomach.

Roughness extending along the trachea, and inducing frequent coughing fits.

Sensation as if the trachea had gone to sleep.

The first symptom of this series indicates Aconite in

Common Influenza, where a sense of chilliness, soreness of the flesh, weariness, etc., are likewise present. The first six potencies may be used.

The next symptom: Hoarseness and croaking voice, or feeble sound of the voice, shows that Aconite may enable us to restore the use of the voice, if it should have become weakened or lost in consequence of some cause or other, exposure to rheumatic influences, excessive exertions while talking or singing, or a mechanical injury of the larynx, a fall, for instance, upon this organ.

Catarrhal Hoarseness may yield quite readily to Aconite, if the patient complains of much dryness in the throat, or a feeling of roughness, warmth, fullness or a choky sensation. This kind of hoarseness, provided Aconite is in homoeopathic rapport with it, is never without some alteration of the pulse and temperature of the skin; the pulse is somewhat accelerated, rising perhaps from 75 to 80 beats; and a certain degree of feverishness is necessarily present, some chilliness or a sense of coldness at first, followed by a feeling of warmth and some moisture.

Hoarseness may arise from a mechanical injury of the larynx, more particularly from a blow or fall upon this organ. An injury of this kind may lead to complete

Aphonia or loss of voice which may terminate in laryngeal phthisis. No medicine seems to be possessed of as much power as Aconite, to remove the consequences of such an accident. It neutralizes the effects of such a violent shock upon the

nervous system, and disperses the capillary engorgement which will necessarily set in the injured part, leading to suppuration, ulceration and fatal phthisis. The lower potencies and even the tincture may be used.

There is a species of hoarseness which comes on more particularly towards evening, a sort of

Chronic evening-hoarseness, most generally the result of a neglected or mismanaged catarrh, and very frequently accompanied by a feeling of weakness in the bronchial passages, a sense of oppression or even some aching pain or soreness in the chest. For this form of chronic hoarseness the lower potencies of Aconite may prove eminently useful.

Hoarseness may be the beginning of

Chronic Bronchitis. The patient complains of soreness in the larynx and trachea, raises a sweetish mucus; he experiences some heat in the parts, an aching pain and even a little soreness when making pressure externally. Even a little blood may be hawked up. Here Aconite will often succeed, if a cure is at all possible, in arresting the development of the bronchitis, and finally restoring the patient's health. In an affection of this kind, where the pathological character of the disease remains the same, notwithstanding apparent symptomatic changes, it would be absurd to adopt the plan which is so frequently pursued by superficial symptomists, namely, to change the remedy with every change in the apparent symptoms. The leading remedy which will quicken the sinking innervation, and restore the physiological harmony of the suffering tissues, is Aconite, which may be associated with one or two appropriate antispasmodics, without going the round of the *Materia Medica*.

There are other symptoms in the above mentioned series which point to chronic bronchitis. One is the sensation as if the trachea had gone to sleep. We have met with this symptom in the incipient stage of this disease.

Other symptoms are the pressure and burning pains along the trachea, down to the pit of the stomach, and likewise the sensation of roughness down the trachea, inducing frequent coughing.

The "sensitiveness of the larynx to the inspired air, as if the mucous membrane were deprived of its epithelium," is a distinct indication for Aconite in deep-seated inflammatory affections of the larynx, which, if of a chronic character, are likely to terminate in disorganization of the lining membrane, more particularly in

Laryngeal Phthisis; or we diagnose from this symptom

Laryngitis, either acute or chronic, which may prove a curable malady. If I recommend Aconite in this affection, you at once perceive that my recommendation is based upon the results of positive experimentation. Nor will it be necessary to resort to the tincture; the first six potencies will be found amply sufficient to effect curative results. In

Croup, Aconite is likewise indicated by this symptom. If used in time, it may prevent the formation of a false membrane. The symptoms which characterize the inflammatory stage of croup, inflammatory fever, hoarseness, shrill and cracking sound of the voice, redness of the fauces and velum extending down the throat as far as we can see, with signs of incipient exudation on the inflamed parts, correspond with the physiological action of Aconite upon the throat and larynx.

Among the symptoms of Aconite there is one which deserves particular mention; it is this: "Paralytic weakness of the epiglottis, causing the ready passage of food and drink into the larynx during deglutition, which induces a suffocative sensation, with cough."

This weakness may occur as an actual morbid condition, and is generally represented pathologically by congestion and consequent tumefaction of the epiglottis. A change of this kind may likewise constitute a prominent feature in *Laryngismus stridulus* or *Asthma Miliar!*, in which affection Aconite is eminently specific; the affection is characterized by violent paroxysms of suffocative breathing which often rouse the child from its slumber with a shrill cry; the pulse becomes small and hurried. the face looks congested, purplish, the lips are blue, swollen, the eyes express agonizing distress. Give Aconite, first potency.

The action of Aconite upon the air-passages is characterized by

Cough which has a catarrhal or rheumatic character. According to our recorded provings, Aconite causes a

Dry and hard cough;

Violent, dry cough, with spasmodic constriction of the anus;

Short and dry cough arising from a titillation in the larynx; the cough is particularly excited by smoking, or after drinking, or at night;

Cough which is worse at night, when the paroxysms set in every half hour;

Cough, with a fluid, frothy expectoration;

When coughing, the chest feels sore, and the larynx raw.

These different forms of cough occur more particularly in consequence of a cold on the chest. Cough to which Aconite is homoeopathic, has a more or less spasmodic character. It is a fatiguing, wearing cough, as if the chest should be torn to pieces or as if the brain should be shattered by the concussion. The cough may seem to proceed from a sore spot in the air-passages, or even from the larynx, the bifurcation of the trachea. This kind of cough may occur in a chronic form, when a dose of Aconite may still be indispensable every now and then.

Pulmonary engorgements are always present in cough which requires Aconite for its remedial agent; a certain order of pains corresponds with these engorgements, such as aching, sore, shooting, sticking pains. Several of these Aconite symptoms point very clearly at

Pleuro-pneumonia or *Pleurisy*; they are "stitches of various degrees of intensity, in the chest and sides of the chest, especially during an inspiration and when coughing, frequently accompanied with a plaintive and whining mood, with anguish and ill-humor, or with oppression of breathing." Another symptom reads:

"*Lancinations* in the region of the heart, apparently in the pleura costalis, hindering respiration and the erect posture, with sensitiveness to pressure in this portion of the thorax.

The congestion which Aconite excites in the lungs, is marked by a series of peculiar pains and abnormal sensations generally. We have

Aching, oppressive and constrictive pain in the chest or side of the chest;

Pain in the chest as if the sides of the chest were drawn towards each other;

Feeling of weight in the chest as if it were compressed on all sides;

Sobbing inspirations owing to a retarded circulation of the blood, and a distinctly-felt congestion of blood in the lungs;

Weight and a feeling of fullness in the chest, with sensation as if the lungs would not expand sufficiently, which frequently obliges one to draw a long breath;

Oppression of the chest, increased by a deep inspiration;

Aching pain in the upper and left region of the chest; the place is painful when touched;

Feeling of weight behind the sternum, preventing deep inspiration;

Painful pressure from the sternum to the vertebral column;

Weight in the chest, accompanied by a number of fine, but violent stitches in the left breast, from without inwards;

Violent darting stitches in the chest;

Soreness behind the sternum as if the parts were bruised;

Feeling of heat in the lungs;

Burning sensation in the lungs as if some hot fluid would rise into the mouth.

These very characteristic effects of Aconite upon the respiratory apparatus occur more or less in disease of the lungs and bronchial tubes which are characterized by acute or chronic congestion. When these symptoms occur, cough is generally present. This cough is *very* frequently of a tearing character, spasmodic and paroxysmal. It is peculiar to affections with which Aconite is in therapeutic rapport, to be exacerbated in the evening and forepart of the night. This characteristic peculiarity likewise occurs among the provings of Aconite, where we find the following record. "In the evening, all the chest-symptoms are aggravated." The expectoration which accompanies the cough, is of various

kinds, frothy, fluid like water, albuminous, purulent and even bloody as we shall see by and by.

Some of the symptoms which the provings of Aconite have yielded, show its relation to a state of passive congestion or

Anemia of the lungs; among these symptoms we distinguish for instance the following:

" Creeping and crawling in the chest as of beetles; sobbing inspirations; feeling of fullness and weight in the chest; the chest feels weary and exhausted."

This creeping and crawling sensation in the lungs we have often known to occur in the case of individuals whose lungs feel exhausted, emptied out as it were; in the case of females for instance whose chests have become worn out by excessive nursing. Aconite, third or sixth potency, will re-excite the process of innervation, and this stimulating effect of the drug is generally marked by a creeping or crawling sensation through the lungs. Most homoeopathic physicians who are simply guided in the use of drugs by the reminiscences of the past, consider Aconite homoeopathic only to states of hyperemia, such as occur in acute congestions or inflammations. It is only the new and progressive minds of our School who seem to be aware of the fact that Aconite is likewise homoeopathic to the opposite states of *anemia*, more particularly when induced by such draining processes as bleeding, nursing, or even when merely symptomatic of a chlorotic diathesis, or of tuberculosis resulting from a chlorotic condition of the system. If losses of the vital fluids are the cause of anaemia, Aconite should be administered in small doses, hardly ever below the sixth potency, lest the subsequent reaction should be too violent. If a chlorotic or tubercular diathesis is the constitutional cause or rather the determining condition of anaemia, Aconite may very frequently be given in much larger doses; even the tincture of the root may be admissible in some cases. In making this assertion, we of course speak from our own experience, which we are prepared to substantiate by a number of facts.

Among these chest-symptoms of Aconite, there is one which deserves particular mention; it is this: " Mucous rattling which can be heard at a distance."

I desire to invite your attention to this symptom. You may hear this rattling, as if the air-passages were full of loose mucus, in

Catarrhus senilis, or the bronchial catarrh of old people which is so apt to terminate in paralysis. We also hear it in the catarrh of children who seem to be choked by this rattling mucus without being able to hawk it up. We are here reminded by our provings that, if this symptom should occur in catarrh which has assumed a predominant nervous form, Aconite is one of the medicines which is in homeopathic rapport with the disease.

"We have to single out another symptom which we have met with in

Mucous Phthisis; it is this: " when breathing, the air-passages feel distended, so that the air passes with extreme facility in and out." When occurring as a natural symptom, it seems to imply a thinness of the mucous lining in consequence of the excessive waste, and must therefore be looked upon as an unfavorable indication. In the course of mucous phthisis, Aconite may be resorted to every now and then, but it should not be administered in too low a dose.

The symptom: "Rattling and vibratory trembling of the trachea," which we find recorded among the provings, has been known to occur in the course of

Tracheal Phthisis; it evidences greatly impaired innervation of the affected part, and therefore calls for the occasional exhibition of a dose of Aconite.

The spasm-exciting properties possessed by Aconite render it valuable in

Whooping-cough, especially during the first stage, when the cough is dry, spasmodic, attended with a good deal of wheezing, fever, burning pain in the larynx and trachea, vomiting after the paroxysm. Give third to twelfth potency. For the *Spasmodic Cough* which sometimes remains after measles, with soreness in the chest, titillation in the larynx, expectoration of a frothy or a glassy mucus, Aconite is one of the remedies which may have to be given every now and then. Aconite has caused cough, with expectoration of blood; hence in *Haemoptysis*, or bloody cough, we shall find Aconite not only useful but in many cases an indispensable specific. We have already alluded to this fact when speaking of hemorrhage. This kind of cough may occur in consequence of various causes, a strain, a concussion of the chest, an habitual disposition to pulmonary plethora, a neglected catarrh, tuberculosis, suppression of the menstrual or haemorrhoidal discharge. In one case the patient was a pregnant female; there was no pain, but nightly anguish, constant moaning and lamenting, tendency to start, redness of the face, improvement in a recumbent posture.

A very common cause of haemoptysis is pulmonary tuberculosis. In consequence of a cold, a tuberculous portion of lung may become irritated, the tubercles may become softened, and a cough may ensue attended with discharge of the softened tuberculous mass and a greater or less quantity of blood. This form of haemoptysis is very often the beginning of consumption. The patient complains of a sore aching pain at a certain place in the chest, more particularly in the upper lobes, from which the paroxysms of cough emanate. The cough is of a spasmodic character, exhausting, generally worse at night. For an acute cough of this kind we can safely recommend Aconite as one of our most reliable therapeutic agents. In many of these cases the potencies may be sufficient, but hardly ever above the third. We have frequently found it necessary to use the tincture, one or two drops in twelve tablespoonfuls of water.

Our distinguished countryman Benjamin Rush regarded bloodletting as the chief remedy for pulmonary phthisis. At the same time he stated it as his belief that, if there were a medicine in nature capable of superseding the use of the lancet, he

should accept this medicine as a remedy for pulmonary phthisis. If Dr. ' Rush had been acquainted with the physiological action of Aconite, he would probably have recommended this agent as a substitute for blood-letting in phthisis pulmonalis. Although not a panacea, yet it is undoubtedly one of our most efficient and therefore most important remedies in this disease.

Judging by the physiological effects of Aconite upon the respiratory organs, we may recommend this drug for

Asthma of various degrees of intensity. We find it indicated in asthma with a spasmodic contractive sensation across the chest, and a feeling of oppressive anxiety. Also in

Asthmatic Complaints of sensitive plethoric young females who lead a sedentary life, or when the attack is brought on by the least excitement.

Asthmatic Complaints of full-grown people, especially when the attack is brought on by the spontaneous retrocession or violent suppression of an acute rash upon the neck or chest, or when it is accompanied by violent congestion of blood to the head, vertigo, a full and strong pulse, or even haemoptysis.

We shall find Aconite eminently useful in

Angina Pectoris, for it causes "paroxysms of suffocation, with anxiety."

The action of Aconite upon the heart is very marked, pointing to the use of this agent in various important affections to which allusion has already been made in previous paragraphs, more particularly on page 140. Among the heart-symptoms of Aconite we may distinguish the following:

Compression of the chest in the region of the heart;

Slow shocks in the region of the heart, from within outward;

Palpitation of the heart, with great anguish.

In three pulsations the apex of the heart beat only once against the wall of the chest; the beats of the left ventricle are isochronous with the pulse; the right auricle appeared to be permanently convulsed; the movements of this auricle were quick, irregular, and not proportionate to the beats of the ventricles.

The beats of the heart are distinctly perceptible, taking place in rapid succession, the pulse being slow and intermittent and the patient having a momentary attack of debility.

Oppressive aching pains in the region of the heart.

Sensation in the region of the heart as if a heavy body were lying in its place; this sensation changes to an oppressive burning, accompanied with a flash of heat over the back.

Here we have a group of symptoms characteristic of

Congestion of the Heart, whether purely rheumatic or bilious; the congestion may affect the various parts, auricles, ventricles or coronary arteries. It may be

more or less temporary or permanent, with hypertrophy of the auricles or ventricles resulting from rheumatic inflammation or valvular disease. For more extensive remarks bearing upon this subject, we refer the reader to the *Thoracic Group of Arsenic*.

Our provings show the great use of Aconite in

Palpitation of the Heart which may be a symptom of a purely nervous irritation of this organ. It may characterise a paroxysm of hysteria. Aconite, first to sixth potency, will quiet the heart.

Spasms of the Heart come within the curative range of Aconite. The provings show that Aconite convulses the heart. This spasm may be characterized by a sense of suffocation in the region of the heart, sensation as if the heart had ceased to beat, excessive anxiety as if death were impending, coldness of the extremities, collapse of pulse, deathly pallor of the face. I mix a drop of the strong tincture in ten tablespoonfuls of water, of which solution I give the patient a small teaspoonful every few minutes, until perfect relief is obtained.

These sudden congestions of blood about the heart are frequently attended with

Syncope or fainting, with collapse of pulse, paleness of the face, staring look. If this attack occurs as a symptom of *hysteria*, it may be sufficient to hold a viol of hartshorn, or the spirits of camphor under the patient's nose. If treatment should be required, a few doses of Aconite, first or second potency, at a few minutes interval, may be sufficient to stimulate the heart's action.

Among the chest-symptoms of Aconite, we notice this record: "Fetid breath."

Fetor of the breath is very often owing to a morbid condition of the pulmonary secretions. We have often known it to exist in individuals of a decidedly phthisicky habit, with a narrow chest and wing-shaped shoulder-blades, in whom the pulmonary circulation is necessarily imperfect and the process of oxygenation deficient. Fetor of the breath may and frequently *does* arise from such a cause; no medicine is better calculated than Aconite to stimulate the stagnant capillary current in the lungs, and thus to remove the impurities which send forth the foul gaseous emanations.

FEVER-GROUP.

We have shown on previous pages that Aconite is in specific curative rapport with simple

Inflammatory fever, no matter by what cause it may be immediately excited. These causes may be exceedingly varied: a wound may occasion it; dentition, a fright, worms, an indigestion, exposure to a draught of air, wet feet, retrocession of the perspiration, may constitute so many exciting causes of fever.

Inflammatory fever may be symptomatic of other acute diseases, eruptions, local inflammations. In such cases Aconite is likewise to be administered; the middle or higher potencies up to the 30th will very frequently be found sufficient to

effect a radical change in the pulse and even to scatter the local congestion or inflammation.

Aconite may not only be homoeopathic to the pure synocha, when the pulse is hard, full, rapid and bounding; but likewise to a state of vascular erethism termed synochus, when the pulse is moderately excited, the temperature of the skin slightly raised, and even the cutaneous exhalation not entirely suppressed.

In some acute eruptions, a few doses of Aconite may be sufficient to control the fever and to remove the eruption at the same time. Acute nettle rash, measles, purple-rash, eczema and other eruptive disorders may come under this head.

It is not only in inflammatory fever, characterized by the full vigor of constitutional reaction, but likewise in

Adynamic fevers, with cold and clammy skin and depressed or even collapsed pulse that Aconite may be of essential benefit. Our provings indicate "small and feeble pulse," or likewise "gradual collapse of pulse," and "cold sweats, or night-sweats." A condition of this kind may occur as the result of previous inflammation, more particularly under allopathic treatment, in consequence of frequent venesections. Or it may occur as the natural development of an acute fever for which no treatment had been instituted. Aconite may rekindle the depressed temperature of the body, raise the pulse and generally restore the condition of things which existed as to the general features during the period of the previous organic reaction. If the adynamic condition was caused by previous loss of blood, the middle or higher potencies may suit the patient best; if the natural result of neglect or inadequate treatment, the lower preparations and even the tincture may be required.

We have seen that Aconite may be required in various

Remittent fevers, with predominant derangement of the mucous, gastric or bilious functions. In other words, we recommend Aconite in

Gastric fever, with whitish, gray or yellowish coating upon the tongue, foul taste, hawking up of mucous, nausea, soft bowels, constipation or occasional diarrhetic discharges from the bowels, consisting of foul-smelling mucus and ill-digested food.

Bilious fever, with symptoms similar to those of gastric fever, except that the bilious symptoms predominate; the patient complains of a foul taste in the mouth, yellow or brown coating on the tongue, thirst, nausea and vomiting of bile, headache, stitches shooting through the head, tympanitic distension of the bowels, constipation or occasional discharge of bile from the bowels.

Mucous fever, where the pulse is rather full, bounding and hurried, the tongue looks inflamed along the edges and at the tip, and has a whitish or grayish coating upon it; the patient hawks up a great deal of foul mucus, especially early

in the morning and after taking a nap. The inflammation may invade the whole of the mucous membrane, affecting even the bladder and sexual organs. Aconite may be one of the main remedies in this disease, where such medicines as Mercury, and even Belladonna and Arsenic, if typhoid symptoms should threaten, may likewise be required.

In simple rheumatic fever Aconite may pave the way for Bryonia or some similar drug.

We should not forget the use of Aconite in simple

Typhoid fever, when the irritation seems to affect chiefly the peripheral nerves; the tongue is thickly furred, taste in the mouth unpleasant, foul; the patient feels thirsty, complains of heavy, aching pain in the head, heavy or sore pains in other parts of the bowels, constipation, experiences evening-exacerbations of his symptoms; the urine looks dark, has a foul smell; the patient is very restless, feels depressed in spirits, is alternately wakeful and drowsy, troubled with heavy dreams, etc. This species of acute irritation of the spinal, cranial or ganglionic nerves is very appropriately treated with Aconite, from the first to the sixth potency.

We wish to direct your attention to the fact that Aconite causes a profuse secretion of moisture upon the skin, and that it may therefore be eminently adapted to feverish conditions where profuse perspiration is a leading symptom. In certain

Lentescent or hectic fevers, with profuse and weakening night-sweats, Aconite may prove an excellent remedy provided these fevers are not symptomatic of some incurable disorganization.

We have arrested the so-called

Sweating fever with Aconite. An interesting case of this disease occurred some time ago in our dispensary. A woman of fifty had taken cold, the consequence of which was that the subcutaneous adipose tissue seemed to melt away in unceasing perspiration, which gave the skin an appearance as if it were covered with liquid fat. The pulse was feeble and slightly irritated. Aconite was our main reliance in this case, and is in all similar cases, if the disease has a purely rheumatic origin.

The homoeopathicity of Aconite to

Yellow fever, even in the stage of black vomit, has been shown before. In the violent bilious

Congestive fevers, with agonizing distress in the head, vomiting of bile, extreme heat and dryness of the skin, full, bounding and rapid pulse, paroxysmal

exacerbations at certain hours of the day, Aconite may be one of the means of cure. In all these violent fevers the lower potencies are generally required.

We shall find Aconite sometimes indicated in

Scorbutic fevers, or acute scurvy. We know from cases of poisoning that Aconite may produce changes in the blood similar to those which exist in scurvy. In many cases of this disease the blood assumes a blackish appearance; according to the statement of Anson's surgeons, it may even look black as ink. The first effect of large doses of Aconite is to interfere with the oxygenation of the blood; in one fatal case, the patient's body exhibited a black hue. Moderate doses of Aconite produce an opposite effect by exciting the organic reaction; the process of arterialization is heightened; the blood assumes an inflammatory character, the quantity of fibrin is increased.

Both these conditions may prevail in scurvy, the former adynamic condition corresponding with the primary effects of poisonous doses of Aconite upon the blood, the latter inflammatory condition with the secondary action or rather with the organic reaction excited by moderate doses of this agent. If undue vascular activity occurs during an attack of scurvy, Old-School practitioners do not hesitate to take blood. This treatment is in perfect accord with sound pathology from the allopathic stand-point. Instead of bleeding, we resort to Aconite.

EXANTHEMATOUS GROUP.

The action of Aconite upon the skin, and its therapeutic virtues in acute eruptive diseases are very characteristic. In *Measles*, *Purple* and *Scarlet-rash*, *Rubeola*, acute *Eczema* and *Impetigo*, acute *Zona*, and in any other eruptive disease which sets in with synochal fever, Aconite may always be resorted to for the purpose of moderating the fever and facilitating the appearance and full development of the eruption. The various kinds of acute *rash*, *nettle rash*, *purple and scarlet rash*, measles, eczema and other eruptions very frequently disappear with the fever under the use of Aconite. In all the uncomplicated cases of these eruptions I advise you to give a dose of Aconite every now and then until the eruption has fairly run its course.

Aconite may help us in

Prurigo for it causes a burning-itching of the whole body.

In *Scarlet Efflorescence* induced by a cold, we have seen Aconite dissipate the whole difficulty in the course of a couple of days. Sometimes this efflorescence has an hemorrhagic appearance without any actual effusion having taken place.

In *Hives*, with which children are so frequently troubled, Aconite is an excellent remedy for the purpose of allaying the itching and burning. Give from third to twelfth potency.

Dengue may perhaps be properly classed among the eruptive fevers. We find this disease fully described in Professor Dickson's *Practice of Medicine*. According to this author the name dengue is a corruption of the English word dandy, the disease being named *dandy fever* by the English negroes of the island of St. Thomas on account of the stiff and affected gait of the persons who are laboring under it.

The disease was ushered in with febrile symptoms of an inflammatory character, accompanied by pain in the joints and muscles.

In the course of this fever gastric symptoms appeared, and on the sixth day minute red papulae, slightly elevated and distributed in irregular patches, broke out upon the skin, first upon the face and trunk and gradually invading the extremities. The full development of the eruption was accompanied by severe arthritic and muscular pains; the eruption itself terminated in a few days in desquamation of the cuticle.

A disease of this kind would undoubtedly require Aconite; which might be alternated with, or succeeded by Bryonia.

Aconite might prove not only useful but indispensable in inflammatory sores, with a good deal of itching, stinging and burning pain. Among these sores we may rank the acute

Scrofulous Ulcer when it develops itself suddenly from a small pimple or vesicle; the bottom of the sore is lined with a grayish mucus, the edges look angry, inflamed, bleed readily; the ulcer is surrounded with an indurated border, and inflamed pimples start up in its neighborhood, forming the nuclei of ulcerative processes which gradually coalesce in one large sore. The burning, stinging and itching are sometimes intolerable. Aconite is one of the most efficient agents to strike down the inflammatory action; Sulphur may afterwards be required to extinguish or hush up the scrofulous taint.

I must not forget to point out to your attention the importance of Aconite in the treatment of injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains. Aconite will check the traumatic fever, and control the inflammation which may develop itself in the dislocated joint.

In *Sprains*, homoeopathic physicians generally use Arnica, although Aconite is most frequently required in order to scatter the sanguineous congestion consequent upon a sprain. For this purpose, Aconite may be used both internally and externally; internally in the attenuated form, and externally from twenty-five to thirty drops of the strong tincture in eight tablespoonfuls of water.

We have shown in a former paragraph the homoeopathicity of Aconite to *Jaundice*, and likewise to *Dropsy*. There are several symptoms among the provings of Aconite which indicate very clearly its specific character as a curative agent in the last named disease. They are the following:

Sensation in the skin as if the epidermis were separated from the cutis by some intermediate substance, a sort of erratic creeping over the whole body, accompanied with an unpleasant feeling of shivering.

A sensation in the whole body, and especially in the left side as if

swelling up; this sensation gradually changes to a feeling of numbness, and is attended with a pain in the muscles as if bruised, and a sense of weariness in the bones.

Sensation in many parts of the body as if they were swelling up, generally accompanied with shivering, coldness or chilliness.

The pathological condition corresponding with these symptoms is a plethora of the capillary vessels which may very soon lead to exudations and fully developed anasarca. We can affirm from abundant experience that these symptoms occur in practice. In one case a lady who had exposed herself to a draught while the skin was covered with moisture, complained of a sensation of swelling up like a balloon. These symptoms are generally accompanied by gnawing, pinching, stinging sensations in the skin, or even by numbness of the skin, all of which constitute symptoms which have been reproduced by the provers of Aconite; we may mention

Pinching, pressing and gnawing in the skin, here or there, as if occasioned by a powerful electro-magnetic battery.

Numb feeling extending from the face over the whole body.

Stitches in various parts of the body as if electrical sparks were drawn from the forehead, back, sides of the chest, fingers, dorsum of the hand, and from various other parts of the body.

Stinging or stinging-burning pains in several parts of the skin, sometimes accompanied with a feeling of weight, numbness or swelling.

SLEEP.

Aconite causes a restless sleep which is moreover disturbed by dreams of an anxious or terror-inspiring nature.

The prover talks a good deal in his dreams and is in constant motion during his sleep.

Anxious dreams, with oppression of breathing, as if he had the night-mare; he wakes with a start as if in affright.

Constant drowsiness, even in the day-time.

Some of these symptoms occur during the course of an ordinary fever to which Aconite is homoeopathic. One of them shows that Aconite may prove curative in *Night-mare*, if persons are habitually subject to it.

Habitual Drowsiness may depend upon a certain torpor of the cerebral nerves or upon deficient action of the liver. Our provings point to Aconite as one of the remedies for this condition. This drowsiness may sometimes be insurmountable; it may attack a person even in the midst of a conversation, and is generally accompanied with a feeling, of heaviness and weariness, especially in the lower extremities, and with a frequent inclination to yawn and stretch one's limbs.

Aconite also causes sleeplessness, which seems to be owing to pain; hence we have in this agent a specific substitute for Morphine in many cases of

Sleeplessness which results from pain. Aconite will procure sleep by mitigating the pain. You will understand that this result can only be obtained in cases where Aconite is in curative adaptation to the nature of the pain.

Some of these symptoms show that Aconite may prove useful in certain

Monomaniacal States of the mind; we may refer to the following: He has a dream about one and the same thing which clings to his mind like a fixed idea even after waking.

MENTAL GROUP

Aconite is adapted to a variety of mental derangements both in the sphere of perception and volition. We have seen that Aconite is homoeopathically adapted to certain forms of

Fitful Mania, with varied exhibitions of temper, singing and weeping, whistling and moaning.

Aconite causes vehemence, headstrongness, quarrelsomeness, great sensitiveness to the least joke. This effect renders it a valuable agent in

Mania, characterized by a tendency to fight, dispute, or take offence at the least provocation or fancied provocation.

Aconite is distinguished by the peculiar property it possesses of exciting a foreboding state of the mind, with apprehensions of death 'or fear of one's recovery. How often do we meet with this state of the mind among pregnant or hysterical females! We therefore recommend Aconite in

Monomaniacal Hypochondria or *Hysteria*, where these fears and sad forebodings are constantly uppermost in the patient's mind.

Aconite has an exalting effect upon the fancy, and hence may be recommended in abnormal states of

Ecstasis or rather *Ecstatic Hallucinations* of the mind; we infer this from such symptoms as these:

He exclaims that his beloved has this moment sung the difficult passage which he had just executed himself.

When wide awake, his mind and fancy wander even so as to make him start out of bed.

He has a dream which explains to him a thing that seemed inexplicable in the waking state.

Aconite deranges the intellectual faculties; it causes weakness of memory, more particularly an inability to remember dates. It likewise causes an extreme absence of mind, a complete vanishing of ideas.

This sort of weakness may be the result of, or it may be accompanied by an habitual congestion of the cerebral sinuses, aching pains in the region of these sinuses, more particularly in the region of the frontal sinuses and likewise on the top of the head where a sensation of pressure is experienced. A condition of this kind may occur after a sunstroke, or in consequence of an habitual rush of blood to the head, constitutional headaches. The general hygienic means adopted in such cases may be assisted in their operation by an occasional dose of Aconite, sixth to twelfth potency.

Among the effects of Aconite upon the mind we notice the following symptoms:

"He acts foolishly like a crazy person: he performs a variety of things with extreme haste and without reflection, and runs about the house."

This symptom shows us that Aconite has power to disorganize the normal operations of the mind, and that it may be of use in certain forms of

Craziness characterized by unsteadiness of purpose, inability to logically connect cause and effect, nervous restlessness.

Let me not forget to point out the curative relation of Aconite to the consequences of a sudden fright, or even of other depressing emotions such as care and anger. Under such influences the capillaries may become affected as they are when acted upon by Aconite, and similar pathological conditions may result, such as: fever, prostration, nervousness, wakefulness, loss of appetite and other derangements for which Aconite has been recommended as their typical *simile* in previous lectures.

Gentlemen, this concludes my remarks on Aconite. If I have succeeded in imparting to you a knowledge of the curative range of this remarkable agent, we

have made a fair beginning towards a sound comprehension of our *Materia Medica*. It is only by studying the physiological effects of our drugs with constant reference to the pathological conditions with which they are in therapeutic rapport, that we shall weave a golden thread which like Ariadne's thread of old. will lead us through the dark maze of symptomatology into the bright sunshine of therapeutic truth.

On looking at this plant with the skilled eye of a therapist, what beautiful lessons are we taught of the goodness and wisdom of Providence. Our heavenly father has seen fit to create our organisms with inherent tendencies to disease. If this were not so, how should we ever succeed in discovering the true conditions of health? This is part of our destiny, and the consciousness that we are realizing this destiny by our own endeavors, is the sweet reward for the struggles which we are undergoing. In the mean while, if under circumstances favorable to the development of disease, these tendencies become manifest derangements of the physiological functions and tissues, God does not abandon us to an inevitable fate of misery and suffering. No. at the same time that He permits disease to exist, He has created the means to subdue it. The tendencies to disease which are from Creation inherent in the human organism, are likewise inherent in the great organism of nature. In the human organism these tendencies develop diseases: in the organism of nature they develop the means for their extinction. Those means are remedial agents, drugs. It being the office of drugs to cure diseases, they must necessarily correspond with the diseases which God permits to exist. If this were not so, there would be no unity in his system of government. If drugs generally correspond with diseases, each particular drug must necessarily correspond with some particular disease, some particular pathological disturbance. To the mind of a thoughtful therapist each drug speaks its own particular language, and reveals its own specific sphere of usefulness. Thus it is that the Aconite plant with its blue flowers, its glassy, dark-green, deeply-incised leaves, claims his attention as a powerful agent in combating disorders of the circulatory apparatus, bilious derangements, and nervous diseases, all of which make up a vast majority of human ailments. And it is thus that the students of Homoeopathy look at every drug not merely as an object of natural history, but as a means of relieving suffering man from the functional or organic disorders which this drug represents in nature. This representative character of drugs is the deep idea which underlies the great fabric of Homoeopathy. Every drug constitutes the visible image, in a material form, of the disease with which it is in specific therapeutic rapport. We prove drugs in order to discover, by this approximative process, the specific diseases with which they respectively harmonize as therapeutic agents. He who has a clear perception of these fundamental truths, has entered the holy of holiest of our great science, nor can his spirit ever depart from him.