

Editorial for the month of December 2011

Sycosis and Homoeopathy

The theory of miasms originates in Hahnemann's book The Chronic Diseases which was published in 1828; he declared that the theory was the result of 12 years of the most painstaking work on difficult cases of a chronic character which he had seen in his practice.

The three miasms given in that work are held to be responsible for all disease of a chronic nature and to form the foundation or basis for all disease in general. This latter aspect was then to receive considerable amplification from Kent, Robert and Dhawale etc. Kent in his repertory was also able to clearly identify those remedies that relate to each miasm.

Though now generally accepted by most homeopaths, at that time, the theory was generally greeted with disbelief and derision from all but the most devoted followers. This can be explained in part by the primitive nature of

medical science at that time, which was not really very willing accommodate any theory for the origin of disease.

The word miasm means an obnoxious agent in the being. The theory suggests that if 100% of all disease is miasmatic, then 80% is due to the primary and atavistic miasm Hahnemann called Psora. The remaining 20% of all disease he held to be either syphilitic or sycotic, being derived from suppressed Syphilis or suppressed Gonorrhoea.

Let's examine the main characteristic features of sycotic miasm.

SYCOSIS

This miasm is responsible for many sexual, rheumatic and urinary tract disorders, Also those conditions worsened by damp weather and by contact with the sea. Thus arthritis, rheumatism, asthma, catarrhs, bronchitis, cystitis and warts are all regarded as partly or mainly sycotic in character. The wart came to be seen as the underlying archetype of this miasm as it is also held to be responsible for all warty excrescences and growths. Chief

antisycotic remedies are Argentum metallicum, Argentum nitricum, Causticum, Kali sulph, Lycopodium, Natrum sulph, Nitric acid Sepia, Staphysagria, Thuja amongst many others.

Case 1:

I had a case of an obese elderly man who was a known diabetic and hypertensive with high cholesterol came to me with chronic complaint of meralgia paraesthetica. He tried all the methods available to him like pain killer, physiotherapy, massage oil, acupressure, and acupuncture but there was absolutely no relief for his complaints.

I took his constitutional symptoms, out of which the most important were numbness of thigh especially the left thigh on the outer side, it becomes worse on exertion, motion and he has a sensation as if the affected part was swollen. With this he had capsulitis of the left shoulder joint, any motion of the shoulder will give him severe pain. He had a restless leg in the night especially when he is in the bed. He craves for meat, red meat, meats of all the exotic animals, and sweets. He dislikes alcohol

totally. He perspires with exertion and the perspiration will stain the linen, mostly he perspires in the night when he is in the bed. He was hurried and impatient by nature. He usually preferred to sleep naked in his bed. He had a very strong attraction towards women even though he was married but he was always looking out for an occasion and circumstances where he could have an extra marital affair. He loves sex, he said if he cannot have sex in 3 to 4 days then he will really have lot of anxiety. So for him sex is very important. He loves air condition and fan but from a distance he never wants a direct draft of air on his body. At the same he needs hot water bath; cold water bath always aggravates him. He had a past history of gonorrhoea which was suppressed by penicillin. With this totality I prescribed him Medorrhinum in 30C potency, one dose and asked him to see me after 30 days.

He was much better after the medicine, he could move his shoulder comfortably, and tingling and numbness was much better by 40%. I repeated the dose of Medorrhinum 30C every week for next 12 weeks and asked him to see me after the stipulated period. The

second follow up showed more than 80% improvement in his meralgia paraesthetica and his shoulder. Subsequently I put him on placebo for 3 months after which his frozen shoulder as well as his meralgia paraesthetica were much better.

Case 2:

The second case was of 45 years old woman who comes to me with some gynecological complaints, she comes to me with an abnormal Pap smear with cervical erosion. She complained of brown, copious leucorrhoea which was offensive. her symptoms of leucorrhoea as well menses were accompanied with cramping pain in the lower abdomen that extends from the uterus and ovary to the back. She also complained of burning deep in her uterus somewhere near cervix.

She regularly suffers from an allergic cough. Eating any kind of fruits especially juicy fruits will aggravate her cough; if the cough was not treated with proper antibiotics then the cough will descend down and will affect the bronchus producing bronchitis. She also had a chronic lumbar pain which was worse on exertion.

Manytimes the pain was so severe that she had to bend down because walking erect increases the pain. She occasionally gets cramp in the lower limbs. Her sleep is quite disturbed; she prefers sleeping on the side. She is a chilly patient; if she goes out in open air she catches cold and then develops upper respiratory tract viral infection also she gets aggravated in winters and cold wet air of Mumbai.

She is quite emaciated; and has a strong family history of diabetes mellitus; and she avoids eating cucumber and cabbage because she feels that it does not suit her system. She is nervous person as far as her health is concerned, and that makes her somewhat hypochondriac; she has a fear of crowd and high places; she plays good piano; she is quite extroverted and loquacious by nature but very sensitive to the opinions of others, she always wants that people should have a good opinion about her; and she weeps very easily.

These were the symptoms that were given to me. My first prescription was Pulsatilla 30C. Pulsatilla 30C did not give her substantial relief even though it was repeated

for more than 8 weeks. When I reviewed the case all over again there were no additional symptoms but I found out was that this erosion of the cervix with leucorrhoea with the characteristic dysmenorrhoea where the pain radiates from uterus and ovary backwards with strong generals of unable to digest cabbage and cucumber and her extroverted loquacious nature made me think of a remedy Argentum metallicum.

Argentum metallicum has a very specific action on the female genital organs along with larynx where it produces a precancerous state. I gave her Argentum metallicum 30C and subsequently there was a marked improvement in her leucorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea. I continued this prescription for 6 months giving her one dose every few days. After 6 months when she did her pap smear the smear report was totally normal, her cervical erosion were totally healed and the best part was she could digest cabbage which she was never able to digest it properly.

Thank you.