

EDITORIAL FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2003

SOME RANDOM NOTES ON RARE REMEDIES

In my long practice of 23 years, I have been fortunate to use rare remedies with reasonable success, I use rare remedies mainly in out patient department where time factor is essential and scope to experiment is tremendous. In this issue I will discuss few.

Quercus

Quercus is supposed to be the “King of woods”, what we call commonly “oak tree”.

Oak is the symbol of strength, stability and power. It has been revealed as the symbol of God in almost every civilization. According to the Greek mythology oak was the first tree that ever grew on this earth. Hence many times it is called as the mother tree from which the human race has sprung. Some of the earliest inhabitants living in the primeval forest sustain themselves on the edible acorns, the fruit of the oak. The acorn, the relative small fruit of the large oak was the first food of the primitive man. Acorn flour is used for human consumption and the dried kernels are roasted and then ground and on pouring boiling water on the flour the pleasant slightly bitter drink is obtained as a substitute for coffee.

In the early nineteenth century there lived in Germany a doctor named Dr. Rademacher who made great contribution for converting many herbal remedies into homoeopathic mother tincture. One of the most important work of Dr. Rademacher is his article on Acorn tincture and through his experiment he found those brandy drinkers who had a painful affection of the spleen with anasarca improved very beautifully on the mother tincture of the acorn, also over period of time these drinkers developed disgust for alcohol. Some eight years later after Dr. Rademacher published this proving an English physician named Dr. Burnett came across his writing. He followed Rademacher suggestion and proved that Acorn spirit help in cases

of alcoholic craving in those unfortunate feelklings who are continuously taking nips of whiskey, brandy or bear. He agreed with Rademacher that a remedy that was able to bring a moribant toper with general dropsy back to health. In my practice I have used Quercus in case of vertigo esp. of alcoholics or vertigo of people who have some splenic affections.

According to the hint of Dr. Burnett I have also used Quercus in cases of anal fistula where fistula was a result of drinking excessive alcohol. I typically remember a case of Dr. Burnett where he mentions that a man developed an acute fistula every time he indulged in the Champaign and ate lot of lobsters and he was cured of his fistula with Quercus.

The second remedy that is worth mentioning is Yarrow.

Yarrow

Yarrow is also known as milfoil. It is a member of compositae family. The other members of the compositae family being lettuce, arthichoke, dandelion and daisy. It's a perennial plant grown all over the Europe. The botanical name of Yarrow is Achelia millifolium. Why it is known as Achelia the real answer is that there is a legend of Illiliad of a well-known hero of the Greek army. His master the Centaur Chiron taught Achelis how to heal the wounds of one of the chief of the army Telephus by applying the Yarrow to his bleeding wound. Millifolium or milfoil translated into English as thousand leaves is descriptive to elegance lace like division like fine leaves of this plant that resembles the traces found in the Gothic Cathedrals of the middle age. Another popular name for the millifolium is nosebleed. This has been given so because it has a hairy filament on the undersurface of the leaves. If place in the nostrils it starts the effusion of blood which relives the headache which is due to congestion and fullness of the blood vessels.

Another very useful situation which I have seen in the past frequently but not now much but definitely in the initial years whenever there used to be many cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, producing various degree of haemoptysis. Millifolium has given me some of the excellent results. I have

also used this in cases of varicose veins of the pregnancy. Sometimes I even allow the patients to rub the mother tincture of millifolium on the varicose vein to give relief. In cases of any injuries to the abdominal organs like crushed pelvis, laceration of the kidney, motor vehicular accident and any haemorrhage that follows, millifolium is supposed to be the best remedy especially. in case of splenic rupture due to an injury.

A very useful remedy is *Strychninum Citricum Cum Ammonioferri Citricum*. It is a very long name to remember. This remedy is extremely useful in my practice for anemia. It is also very important remedy for dyspepsia with vomiting of ingesta, heartburn and especially. indigestion after any sour food. In many of the simple cases of dyspepsia and indigestion I sometimes randomly make use this remedy.

Similarly another important remedy from the Drug of Hindoostan is *Abroma Radix*. This remedy contains lot of magnesium as its constituent. This is one of my very favorite medicines for dysmenorrhoea esp. for those women who get severe dysmenorrhoea and their menstrual flow may be either copious or scanty. Excessive leucorrhoea that may be either watery or thick. The constitution where you should think of Abroma radix is in thin women, it is not for the obese patients, and thermally they are chilly patients.

Another remedy which is very useful to me is ***Acetanilitum***. Its chemical name is phenyl acetamide. It is a very important remedy whose action is to reduce and depress the function of the heart and it slows down the respiration. It destroys the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood and has a destructive influence on the red blood cells and that is why therapeutically it is one of the very useful remedy in anemia. In cases of cyanosis and also in many cases of cardiac problems esp. in cases of congestive cardiac failure where there is edema of the feet with irregular pulse. Also in cases where thrombosis of lower limb which commonly occurs in patients who are lying down in bed for long, it is one of the useful remedies to dissolve thrombosis. I prefer using it in 6th and the 30th potency. The look of the person requiring acetanilitum is very tired, with no stamina,

no life, absolutely resembling Muriatic acid and arsenic album from a distance. He is anemic, his blood pressure is low, he has a low pulse rate, the body temperature is less than normal. In fact complete basal metabolic rate of the acetanilitum patient is very low. They are prone to excessive fainting spells. Acetanilitum is to be studied by trying to compare the Materia medica of acetic acid and anilinum. In cases of cyanosis I always use acetanilitum in a high potency but unfortunately very high potencies are usually not available so I land up giving 200 potency.