

Fear **FEAR**

(42/1)

The *Repertory* contains a large variety of fears, and all are of great value in the search for the simillimum. These are the most common:

FEAR, accidents, of (43/1)

This symptom should not be confused with 'Fear, happen, something will' (45/11). It should be ruled out if the patient or a close friend or relative has suffered a serious accident.

FEAR, alone, of being (43/1)

This is easy enough to understand. If the fear of being alone arises from the fact that in these circumstances the patient is scared of burglars, then its significance diminishes or it may be rejected altogether. (See also 'Company, aversion to, dreads being alone, yet'.)

FEAR, animals, of (43/1)

Most often found in women and children. Applicable when the fear is of all kinds of animals. If the animals concerned are dogs or cats then one should refer to the appropriate heading; 'Fear, dogs, of' (44/11) and 'Fear, cats, of' (*Synthetic Repertory*, column 483). Silica (Paschero) should be added to the latter rubric.

One should rule out a fear of dogs that originated in a traumatic real-life incident, in which the patient was attacked or bitten by a dog. The symptom is of real value only when the patient realises that it is absurd and without any logical basis. For instance, he might be scared of a harmless puppy, or invariably cross the street in order to avoid passing a dog on the pavement.

FEAR, crowd, in a (43/11)

This is the fear felt at football stadiums, cinemas, theatres, demonstrations and other crowded places. It must be differentiated from 'Fear, people, of' (46/11), a symptom in which the number of people present

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is irrelevant and which usually has to do with feelings of persecution. One patient said, 'People frighten me because they can react very aggressively - they can attack you for no reason at all.'

FEAR, dark (43/11)

Fear of the dark is usual between the ages of two and five. If it is to have any value as a symptom in young children it must therefore be markedly present over a long period of time. One should not take into account fear of the dark in an unknown place, or fear of entering an unlit house. The symptom can also be ignored in children whose parents have accustomed them to sleep with a small light on in their room, or with a chink of light showing through the door. If adult patients cannot go to sleep in a totally dark room then it is definitely present.

The symptom may also be rejected if it transpires that the fear is actually one of ghosts, or if there is a feeling that someone is standing behind one - symptoms that occur in some patients when they are in the dark.

FEAR, death, of (44/1)

This is a natural human fear which only becomes a symptom when it is so strong as to disrupt the normal life of the patient. The fear may be of death in the immediate or distant future. One must enquire as to the cause of the symptom: for example, it would have to be discarded in the case of a jealous patient who admitted that he could not bear the thought of his wife remarrying should he himself die.

FEAR, destination, of being unable to reach his (44/1)

The 'destination' is meant in a literal rather than a metaphorical sense. The cause of this symptom is physical weariness.

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LYCOPodium. Weariness and exhaustion while walking so that he feared that he would be unable to reach his destination, at 5 p.m.

Fear **FEAR**, disease, of

impending (44/11)

This rubric refers to any kind of illness that is not imminent. Fear of illness is in many cases associated with fear of death. Patients' replies, on being asked why they are afraid of illness, often throw invaluable light on their characters. One said, 'I'm scared of falling ill because illnesses are disabling and that makes me feel inferior to other people. I always give the impression that I'm well.'

A fear of dogs may conceal a fear of being infected with rabies. Fear of contagious diseases features in the *Synthetic Repertory*: 'Fear, disease, contagious, epidemic diseases, of (column 494). In Kent's *Repertory* it appears as 'Fear, infection, of (45/11). Both headings should be combined for the purposes of repertorisation. A patient who worked in a hospital said, 'I worry terribly about catching something. My fear of patients with contagious diseases makes it very hard to do my job properly. I may have to leave.'

Fear of infection can also be expressed as a fear of catching tetanus, epidemic diseases, or contaminating oneself by physical contact with everyday objects (a fear which leads the patient to wash his hands frequently in order to avoid contamination). One patient told me, 'I never touch the handrail in the bus. I'm terrified if someone sneezes or coughs in front of me. I don't go to the bathroom anywhere except at home.'

FEAR, evil, of (44/11)

Two very closely related symptoms are 'Fear, happen, something will' (45/11) and 'Fear, misfortune, of (46/1). A close analysis of these three symptoms and of the paragraphs in which they are described in Allen's *Encyclopaedia of Pure Materia Medica* suggests that on the whole they all have the same meaning, though it is expressed in different ways by the provers.

Thus, 'Fear, evil, of almost always appears to mean a fear that some harm may occur. The symptom 'Fear, happen, something will', is again, more specifically, a fear that something bad will happen. I therefore consider that for the purposes of repertorisation, 'Fear, evil of should be combined with 'Fear, happen, something will' when one is dealing with a patient who has the latter symptom.

The symptom 'Fear, misfortune of applies when the patient expresses it literally and spontaneously, but one must bear in mind its

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close relationship with the other two symptoms. In most cases the patient who says he fears something bad is going to happen will, when asked to be more specific, mention a misfortune or accident of some kind.

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Materia Medica - Fear, evil, of

ALUMINA. She is constantly possessed by bad thoughts, which oblige her to weep: at the same time she feels apprehensive and uneasy, as if something evil were to happen to her; everything that she only looks at, fills her with sadness.

ARNICA. Apprehension of future evils.

CALCAREA ACETICA. Anxious disposition, as though something evil were impending or to be dreaded in the future, with constant inclination to work.

CALCAREA CARBONICA. Fearful and restless, as if something evil would happen.

CALCAREA SULPHURICA. Excessive, bitter melancholy, with distressing apprehensions of evil to loved ones.

CASTOREUM. Very melancholy and depressed, as if something evil would befall her, in the afternoon.

CAUSTICUM. Anxious apprehension lest something evil should happen, with urging to stool.

CHININUM SULPHURICUM. The day being clear and windy, and a holiday to many, few people being on the street produced a sort of street-quietness; felt a gloom come over me, as if some evil were impending; relieved by a specific trust in the Almighty; this from 3 to 4.15 p.m. Recurrence of feeling of impending evil, in the afternoon. / Great anxiety, amounting to an apprehension, as if some evil would happen.

CINA. Great anxiety and apprehension, while walking in the open air, as if something evil had happened to him.

CLEMATIS. Anxious uneasiness, as though some evil would befall him.

FERRUM. Anxiety, as if something evil had happened to her. Anxiety at night, as if some evil had happened to her; she could not sleep; tossed about in bed.

KALI IODATUM. Very apprehensive and lachrymose, as if some evil were impending, in the evening, lasting two hours.

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LACHESIS. So great apprehensiveness while riding in the open air that it seemed to him some great evil was impending, like an evil foreboding; it tormented him for more than an hour.

MENYANTHES. Apprehensive sensation about the heart, as of impending evil, and as if he had to endure some hardship.

Materia Medica - Fear, happen, something will

CAUSTICUM. Great apprehension whenever, anything happens; despondent, depressed, most excessive exhaustion and prostration. Anxious uneasy mood, as if something unpleasant impended; this unfits him for every work.

ELAPS. Fearfulness, dread of being alone, as though something would happen, or as though a rowdy would break in.

FLUORICUM ACIDUM. During the tottering sensation he has a decided though not anxious expectation, as if something awful was to happen there, but he feels no anxiety. / Sensation as if dangers did menace him, but without being afraid; particularly during the pressure in the occiput, during the staggering, the pain in the bladder, etc.

HYDROPHOBINUM. Feeling as if I had heard, or was about to hear something bad; morose and crabbed feelings until 4 p.m. / Mind much depressed; felt as if something disagreeable was about to happen. / Feeling as if something annoying was about to happen; goes off when thinking of it. / He cannot prevent ideas of something awful about to happen, or as if he would do something awful. / An indescribable idea, which I could not shake off, of something dreadful about to happen to me; all day feeling as if some great misfortune were about to occur.

KALMIA. A feeling of anxiety; feel as though something dreadful was going to happen to me.

MOSCHUS. Anxiety, as if something were about to happen.

STRYCHNINUM. A fear of something about to occur.

Materia Medica - Fear, misfortune, of

ANACARDIUM. Illusions of the fancy; he imagines he hears his name called by the voice of his far-distant mother and sister, accompanied by an apprehension of misfortune and anxiety.

ASTERIAS RUBENS. Feeling of excessive anguish from noon till 3 p.m., it seems as if some misfortune was impending, as if he was going to hear bad news, he then feels as if he should give way to tears (sixth day). / Depression, feeling of weariness; it seems as if some misfortune was about to happen to him, and that, should it actually come