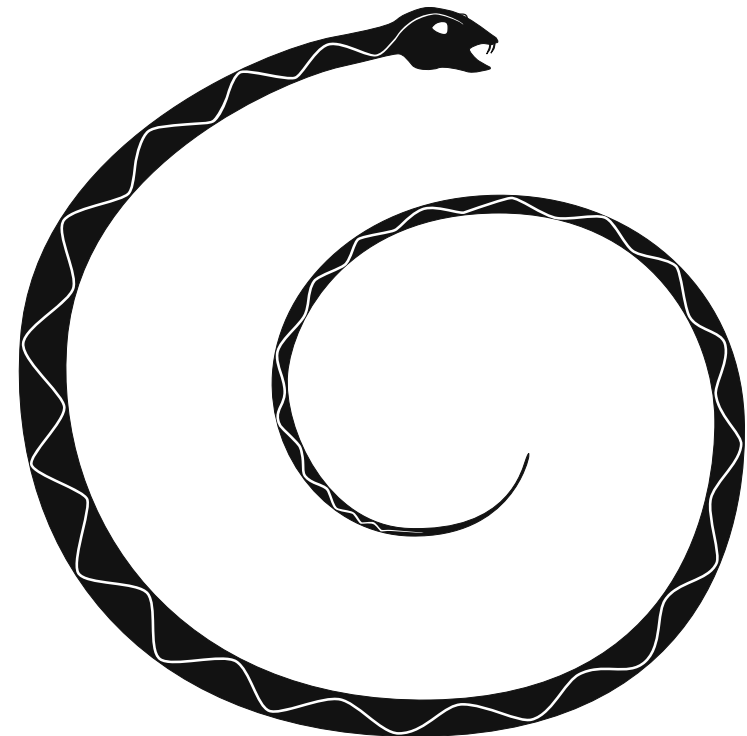


SNAKES

DRAWING POWER FROM THE UNDERWORLD

SNAKES – DRAWING POWER FROM THE UNDERWORLD

PETER FRASER



The Snake Remedies form a vital part of the materia medica. Lachesis is one of the most important of the polychrests but its very importance and prominence has overshadowed the many other Snake Remedies that are available to us. In many cases where Lachesis, or another of the well known Snakes, has some effect a more precise choice of a lesser known Snake Remedy might have a deeper and more dramatic curative effect.

This book includes a description of the Snake Remedies in general and of the symptoms that indicate the need for a Snake Remedy. It also includes a differentiation between the individual snakes, some of which are well known but many of which are new or little understood.

TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS

The remedies that move between the Realms of Sea, Earth, Sky and Underworld have a particular dynamic relationship to that transformation. Understanding this dynamic helps to understand the group as a whole and to find the subtle difference between its members. Groups include the Insects, the Birds, the Spiders, the Snakes, the Lacs, the Drugs and the Trees.

“Peter’s series of books has been a revelation. The discrimination between insects and birds is so succinct it is hard to believe it is so true. I can think of no homœopathic books available which give so much wisdom for such a small cost! They have inspired my practice, and benefited my patients.”

Geoff Johnson

“This book is remarkably informative, not only in the description of the different Insect remedies but more importantly in delineating how the traits of the insect are expressed in human pathology. The information is practical and brings alive the Insect remedies in a way that is exciting and inspiring.”

Janet Snowdon



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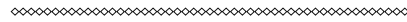
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PETER FRASER

TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Peter Fraser was a bookseller and publisher before discovering Homœopathy. His work on many provings of new remedies led to an interest in contemporary disease which resulted in his book *The AIDS Miasm*.

Having done work on defining the properties of the Realms, he was fascinated by those creatures and substances that move between the Realms and the dynamic pictures generated by this movement which both defines the group and differentiates within it.

OTHER WORKS BY PETER FRASER

From Winter Press

The AIDS Miasm: Contemporary Disease and The New Remedies

The Using Maps and Systems in Homœopathy series:

Using Realms in Homœopathy
 Using Mappa Mundi in Homœopathy
 Using Miasms in Homœopathy
 Using Philosophy in Homœopathy
 Using Correspondences in Homœopathy
 Using Archetypes in Homœopathy
 Using Provings in Homœopathy
 Casetaking in Homœopathy

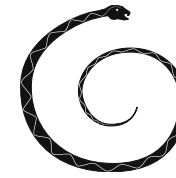
Transformation between the Realms:

Insects – Escaping the Earth
 Spiders – Suspended between Earth and Sky
 Snakes – Drawing power from the Underworld
 Birds – Seeking the Freedom of the Sky
 plus Drugs, Trees and Lacs

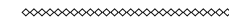
On the Internet at www.hominfo.org

A Supplement to Clarke's Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica (an ongoing project).

The full text of many new provings.
 Articles and information on Peter's latest research and ideas.

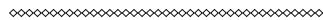


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INTRODUCTION



There are two types of symptom in any case. Most symptoms make up what can be seen as the background of the case. These are stable and distinctive and they will lead the prescriber to a group of remedies. Examples of the background are the Miasms, the Botanical and Zoological Families, the Periodic Table, the Realms and the Kingdoms.

It is sometimes possible to find the indicated remedy by cross referencing the various background features of the case. This approach has great appeal as it appears to be ordered and systematic and does not require a detailed knowledge of the remedies. In fact a completely unknown remedy can be prescribed purely on its relationship to other known remedies. However, this approach is not as easy to work with as it seems since the slightest misunderstanding in classifying the case will lead to the wrong remedy.

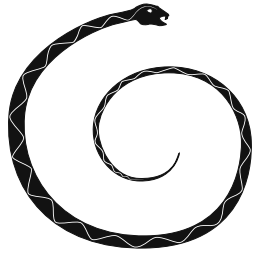
The background in the case will usually lead to a group of remedies and it is differentiating within the group and finding the specific group member indicated in the case that is the most difficult part. Although other backgrounds do differentiate somewhat there is usually a correspondence between different backgrounds. Many remedies that are of the Sea Realm are also Phlegmatic in nature and so knowing that a case is both of the Sea and Phlegmatic is not very specific.

The foreground is the place in a case where there is dynamic energy and movement. It is the place where the patient becomes animated and where the symptoms are changing and contradictory. This is the place that restricts, that prevents the patient from moving on and growing but it is also the place through which they will move and grow. This is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the foreground of the case – it is as positive as it is negative and it is as healing as it is destructive. It is also unusual, individualistic and characteristic. No one else expresses it in quite the same way and for no one else would it quite make sense in the way it does for the patient. It is also something that appears in different aspects of the case but with the same distinct character. The foreground is what Hahnemann refers to as the totality of the characteristic symptoms.

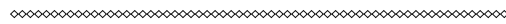
Finding the foreground in a case gives you a deep insight into the patient and without understanding this aspect of their life it is very difficult to understand the case and to discover what it is that is to be cured.

Finding the foreground features in a case requires attention to the patient's way of expressing him or herself and of describing his or her symptoms. The key indicators are animation and contradiction – wherever either of these appear in a case they need to be pursued because here will be found the information that allows an accurate differentiation between the group of background remedies. Animation is important because it indicates that the things under discussion are dynamic and alive for the patient. Contradiction is important because the path to illness and the path to healing are the same – just as the symptoms of the disease and of its cure are the same.

The same process that is involved in finding the foreground features of a case is involved in finding the foreground features



SNAKES - DRAWING POWER FROM THE UNDERWORLD



The snake remedies are among the most powerful and fascinating of those in the *Materia Medica*. The remedies, the creatures and the patients whose pictures indicate a snake remedy all tend to be noticeable. They are charming and frightening at the same time. They draw us towards them and they repel us. They seem to have great power and intelligence but also show vulnerability and weakness. We may love them or loathe them, probably both, but we almost never ignore them.

Snakes are not a particularly numerous or conspicuous group of animals, but they have an inordinate importance in our consciousness and particularly in our fears. The only animal more feared in the *Repertory* is the dog, and the dog is much more common in people's experience. Undoubtedly the snake's venomous nature is a major factor in this. There are many animals that have the power to kill or injure us. We can be trampled by an elephant or torn apart by a lion or a pack of wolves, but these are dangers that are reasonable and clearly of this world. The snake can come upon us almost unseen and the destructiveness of its bite is out of all proportion to the scale of it. The snake is not merely dangerous, it is a bringer of death and like all true bringers of death it is silent and remorseless.

Snakes are very fast in their movements. The Black Mamba can move at incredible speeds and the striking of many snakes is faster than we can see. The animals that attack snakes and feed on them, such as the Mongoose, the Secretary Bird and the Roadrunner, all rely on being even faster than their prey in order to catch them. Yet there is something incredibly lazy about the snake; even when it is in motion it does not appear to be making any effort.

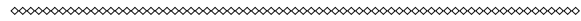
The fact that snakes have neither legs nor wings and move by sliding and slithering over the earth is also disturbing to us. The movement has no obvious mechanism and so they appear to move by supernatural force. The hissing sound that many snakes make is another unusual and sinister feature, especially when accompanied by the motion of the forked tongue. Although a few snakes can glide through the air and many are expert climbers and live an arboreal existence, the basic evolutionary movement of the snakes is downwards, to, or even into, the Earth and not into the Sky.

The shedding of their skin as snakes grow, like the stages of insect development, is indicative of a transformation but it also suggests an ability to leave the past behind and to start afresh. This has implications of avoiding responsibility, of being able to shake off past sins without having to face the consequences of them and thus of amorality and an existence outside the bounds of an ethical framework.

The snakes' method of digesting their prey, swallowing them whole and very slowly dissolving them, is something else that we view with fascination and disgust, especially as it is something that can sometimes be clearly seen as the snake's victim forms a visible lump that slowly moves down the snake's body.

The disturbing nature of snakes has resulted in their being

SNAKE REMEDIES IN GENERAL



One of the primary features of the snakes is a sensitivity to their environment. In the constrictors it is to the physical environment while in the venomous snakes it is more about the social and personal environment. The snakes are sensitive to how the people are around them. This information or feeling does not come to them through experience, nor is it intuitively felt; rather it is as if that information had been told to them. The snakes have a connection to the power and knowledge of the underworld. They are clairvoyant in that they receive information about people and the world from an unknown underworld source.

Their understanding of people is different from that of spiders in that it does have emotional content, they understand people rather than just knowing them as spiders do. It is different also from that found in the birds in that it is not empathetic; there is no fellow feeling in it.

The snakes are a very selfish group of remedies. Their concern is almost exclusively for themselves. When they do show concern it is either because they can identify with the person and see what is happening to others as echoing what might happen to them, or they are concerned for others because those others play an important role in supporting and looking after them. This aspect of the snakes is found most clearly in the Elapidae but the one notable exception is Naja which is itself

one of the Elapidae. However, even Naja's sense of responsibility has a complaining side that suggest they feel hard done by and abused by having this responsibility thrust on them. Snakes tend to use the knowledge and power that they gain from their instinct and clairvoyance in a way that will increase their power and put other people at a disadvantage.

They also show a sensitivity to physical influences and can be affected by all sorts of environmental factors, particularly temperature and weather. Naja and Lachesis are important hayfever remedies and all the snakes can have some form of sensitivity or allergic reaction. The venoms of many cause oedema and swelling similar to allergic reactions.

The cyclical and circular nature of things is very important in the snake remedies. This can be seen in periodicity of symptoms. Many snake bites, like spider bites, cause some return of symptoms at the time of year when the original bite took place and this return of symptoms can go on for many years. Annual periodicity is found in many of snake remedies. For example there are seven snake remedies in the rubric: *Generals - Periodicity every year*. Some snakes also have other periods of important periodicity. *Crotallus* and *Cenchris* are every day, *Bitis* every week and *Lachesis* every fortnight.

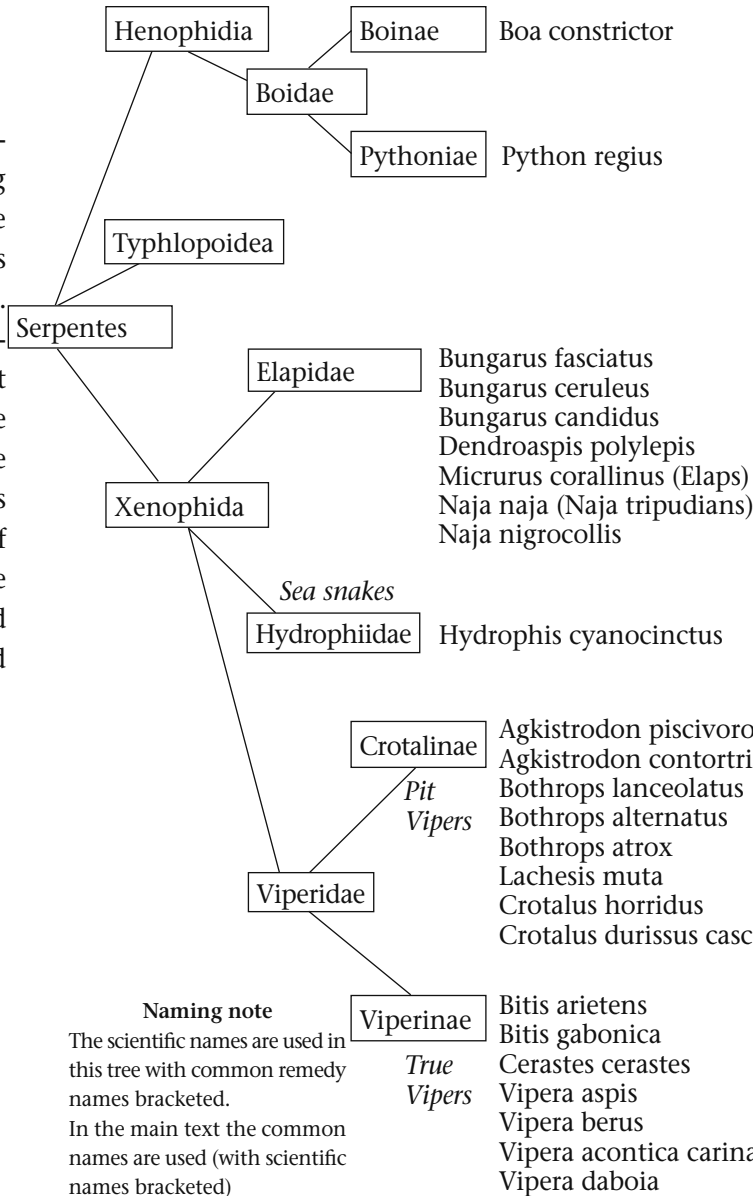
Snake remedies do not like change. They are conservative and inflexible in many ways and any form of change is threatening to them. Any change or new situation aggravates their symptoms. As the blood and the generative organs both have strong affinities to the snake remedies it is not surprising that changes brought on by hormonal actions are particularly distressing for them. Thus puberty is an important point when symptoms and pathology are likely to arise. However, it is at...

REPERTORIZING

In using the repertory with the snakes it is worth knowing how well represented each of them are. The following table shows how many rubrics include each of the snake remedies (taken from Synthesis 9.1). The second figure is the number of those rubrics which also contain Lachesis. Lachesis is exceptionally well represented in the repertory. Crotalus, Naja and Elaps are well represented but share half or more of their rubrics with Lachesis. The next group are moderately well represented and there are a large number of smaller remedies. The remedies that are from the Elapidae share a lower proportion of rubrics with Lachesis than do those from the Viperidae which confirms that there are family similarities and differences. The constrictors have not yet been added and so it is difficult to comment on them.

Lachesis muta	9888
Crotalus horridus	2318/1368
Naja naja (Naja tripiudians)	1501/809
Micrurus corallinus (Elaps)	1357/652
Crotalus durissus cascavella	983/562
Agkistrodon contortrix (Cenchrus)	855/441
Vipera berus	824/539
Bitis arietens	608/273
Dendroaspis polysepsis	348/158
Bungus fasciatus	222/84
Bothrops lanceolatus	196/146
Agkistrodon piscivorous (Toxicophus)	93/55
Vipera aspis	58/49

THE SNAKE FAMILY TREE



FAMILIES

Although the difference in remedy pictures between the families within the larger group of snakes are subtle (and have not yet been fully explored) they do offer a useful tool in narrowing choices when differentiating between snake remedies.

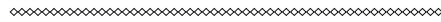
The most important division is between the Henophidia, the constrictors, and the Xenophidia which include most other snakes and all the other remedies we currently use. The constrictors are more primitive than the other snakes and as remedies they are much less sophisticated. They kill in the same way as venomous snakes, by stopping the heart and respiration of their victims, but they use physical force rather than poison. They are more upfront about what they are doing and in the remedies there is much less hidden malice.

Their concern is with a world that is out of their control and which may destroy them. Their reaction is to impose order and control on everything around them. In the venomous snakes the feeling is that people are against them and their reaction is more subtle and more malicious.

Within the Xenophidia the largest family, the Colubridae, is not represented in the materia medica and a proving of Natrrix natrrix, the grass snake, is long overdue.

The Elapidae are more primitive than the vipers but their venoms are often more toxic. In the remedies this comes through in more violence and less subtle malice. Childishness is often more apparent in the Elapidae and they have less of a sense of themselves and their abilities than do the Vipers.

BUNGARUS FASCIATUS



The Banded Krait is an Elapid found throughout India and Southeast Asia. Its diet is primarily other snakes. It is nocturnal and hides out in culverts and burrows during the day. It is very shy and not aggressive, hiding its head in its coils when threatened. It will almost never bite during the day but at night it will bite with a neurotoxic venom that can be fatal, very quickly causing paralysis of mouth and tongue, then throat and then lungs.

There is an uncontrollable anger that is quick to appear and vanishes as quickly. They cannot bear injustice though it should be said that it is usually themselves that they see as the victim of any such injustice. It is not as cold hearted as its close relative the Mamba and though it can be unfeeling and vicious it is impulsive and can be very generous.

They are fearful, particularly about their health, but they are less suspicious than most snakes and do not feel so much as if they are under attack. There is, however, a sense that they are forced to do things they don't want to by a powerful figure of whom they are afraid. They are irritated by noise and company but feel a bit vulnerable alone: ideally they would like to have someone with them to chat quietly with. They found themselves talking too loudly and too quickly and there is a childish curiosity.

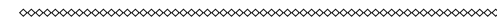
Their energy and stamina is quite good but they are lazy and lack motivation to do much. The morning aggravation of snakes is not pronounced and symptoms are aggravated more in the afternoon.

Hunger is important. They need to eat and almost all symptoms are ameliorated by eating.

There is sleep paralysis, being unable to move at all on waking up with great fear.

There is embarrassment and dreams of shame and embarrassment. There was an obsession with breasts and with sexual display, particularly of the breasts.

DENDROASPIS POLYLEPIS

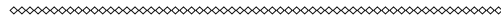


The Black Mamba is rightly one of the most feared of all snakes. It is one of the largest venomous snakes, it is the fastest of all snakes able to move at up to 20km/h, it is aggressive and it is the most venomous of all snakes. It is the only snake whose bite is 100% fatal if left untreated. Even a newly born hatchling can kill and devour something as big as a rat.

The venom is a deadly neurotoxin. 10-15mg can kill a man and yields of up to 400mg have been recorded. Because of their length and ability to lift more than a third of their body off the ground they will give multiple strikes to the torso, in which case paralysis is almost immediate and fatal respiratory failure occurs in less than 20 minutes. The remedy is one of absolute extremes.

The feeling of the Dendroaspis is one of being completely on your own. No one will help you and there is no one on whom you think you can rely.

ELAPS CORALLINUS (MICRURUS CORALLINUS)



The Coral Snake is a native of Brazil that spends most of its time buried in the leaf litter of the rain forest. It tends only to surface in order to breed or to escape drowning in heavy rains. It is an Elapid and so has less efficient fangs. The bite does not penetrate deeply and it must hang on to its prey and “chew” in order to inject the venom properly. The venom is neurotoxic and haemotoxic and is capable of killing a man. However, it is not a common snake and is very shy so human fatalities are rare.

It is one of the more fearful snakes and is especially fearful when alone. There is a dread of being alone but they do not like company and want to get away from people. When alone they feel sure that something will happen to them but are fine when people are around. They have a dread that something terrible will happen to their loved ones whenever they are apart from them but it disappears when the loved one returns. There is a great anxiety about health, their own and that of their loved ones and again it is much worse when they are alone.

There is a dread of rain, they cannot bear to feel it falling on them. There is also a fear of falling, both of physically falling and of a fall in status or social position.

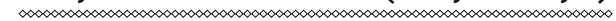
The main symptoms in the remedy are those of congestion. Sensation as if all the blood is collected in the head. Congestion of the lungs. There is swelling of the tongue and of the testes and the womb. The nose is stuffed up and the ears are filled

with wax with roaring and crackling noises in the ears.

There are heart palpitations and a constriction of the lungs with asthmatic respiration that is < ascending. There is also a cough. There is a burning in the stomach > lying on the abdomen, > cold drinks. Generally there is a desire for cold food and drink. For ice cream, fruit and salads.

It is a haemorrhagic remedy and the haemorrhages are even blacker than any of the other snakes. It is a generally right sided remedy.

NAJA TRIPIUDIANS (NAJA NAJA)

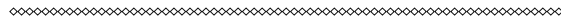


The Indian Cobra or Spectacled Cobra, so called for the markings on its hood, is one of the most poisonous of the Indian snakes. It is the snake used by snake charmers though it is charmed by the movement of the charmer’s pipe rather than by the sound. Although sensitive to vibration in the ground, snakes are deaf and do not hear vibration in the air. The Cobra is an important animal in Hindu mythology and is associated with both Shiva and Vishnu.

The Cobra’s venom is a powerful neurotoxin that paralyses the muscles of the heart and respiration and can be fatal in less than an hour. However, it is not universally so and only 10% of those bitten die.

Naja along with Lachesis are the two snakes that most feel trapped and controlled. They are the snakes that are in the

HYDROPHIS CYANOCINCTUS



The Blue Banded Sea Snake is a dramatic looking aquatic snake found in coastal waters from the Arabian Gulf right around to China and Japan. They are shy and not very aggressive and unlikely to bite unless they are mishandled or if their path to the surface, and the air they need to breathe, is obstructed.

The remedy has had a fairly substantial proving but there is still not a terribly clear picture for it. Perhaps this is indicative of its retiring and secretive nature.

Although most snakes can and often do swim, the Sea Snake lives in the water and so is much more of the Sea Realm than are other remedies, except perhaps the Cottonmouth. There is an element of loving water and swimming that might be found in patients needing Hydrophis, though this is not entirely absent in other snakes.

The emotions are more pronounced and less likely to be hidden or suppressed. There is also a desire for consolation and an amelioration from it, which is not common in snake remedies.

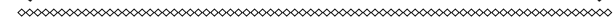
The overwhelming nature is of dullness and lethargy. There is great depression with little but some irritability to relieve it. The patient feels that they are living under a dark cloud.

The physical symptoms are of a similar nature with numbness, dullness and paralysis being the main symptoms. It is a remedy that is particularly recommended for polio and for muscular dystrophy.

There is clairvoyance in the remedy but it is likely to have a stronger emotional content than other snakes.

It is left sided and has many of the basic snake symptoms including a thirst for cold drinks and a desire for cold food, sore throat and constipation.

TOXICOPHUS PUGNAX (AGKISTRODON PISCIVOROUS)



The Cottonmouth is a semi-aquatic snake of The Southeastern United States. It lives near watercourses and swamps and eats fish as well as small reptiles, birds and mammals. It is regarded as aggressive and dangerous, perhaps because of the way it displays its startling white inner mouth, but it is reluctant to bite.

The venom is necrotoxic and haemotoxic and causes swelling and tissue destruction at the site of the bite but is rarely fatal. The snake is closely related to Cenchris and the pictures are similar.

There is great fear and apprehension especially at night. There are vivid and terrifying dreams such that they are afraid to sleep. There is fear of trivial things and hallucinations. They are afraid that they are going mad and completely overwhelmed by their fears. There is also a fear of animal impulses and a fear of allowing their violent and particularly their sexual urges to take them over. There is violent anger at the least provocation; they are argumentative and unreasonable and have an impulse to hit people.

There is great sensitivity, they are easily offended and easily upset with weeping at the least provocation. Mood is very changeable, laughing one minute and crying the next. It is a childish remedy and there can be arrested mental development.

There is great depression which can come and go quickly and can alternate with elation. They can be overwhelmed by these depressing thoughts which prevent them from being able to concentrate or think properly. They want to be held and caressed and perhaps looked after.