



Comparative
MATERIA
MEDICA

E. A. Farrington

Comparative Materia Medica

INTRODUCTION

It is not always, in the present state of our knowledge, that we can give absolute, characteristic contrasts.

It is easy to differentiate where remedies diverge; but difficult to nicely discriminate where similar remedies converge, until their symptoms are almost identical; and yet, just here individualization is essential.

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Symptoms of minor importance in the study of a drug in an individual may become quite characteristic when compared with comparison. Thus, *Scladonna* causes tonsillitis leading towards suppuration. This is certainly of less moment than the color, side and difficulty in swallowing.

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Comparative Materia Medica.

We are not determining which remedies agree, and which disagree, we must know why some remedies agree, and why some disagree. The symptoms are identical in some cases, but the action is different. Between medicines, which are complementary, there is a better prepared to compare Materia Medica, to compare it without violence.



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INTRODUCTION

It is not always, in the present state of our knowledge, that we can give absolute, characteristic contrasts.

It is easy to differentiate where remedies diverge ; but difficult to nicely discriminate where similar remedies converge, until their symptoms are almost identical ; and yet, just here individualization is most needed.

Failures arise first from defective judgment ; secondly from imperfect provings, thirdly from imperfect clinical reports ; fourthly from an imperfect comprehension of what symptoms should be compared.

Symptoms of minor import in the study of a drug in an individual may become quite characteristic when employed in comparison. Thus, *Belladonna* causes tonsillitis tending towards suppuration. This is certainly of less moment than the color, side and difficulty in swallowing water. But when compared with a medicine like *Apis*, which seldom causes suppuration of the tonsils, the contrast proves serviceable.

But with all their errors and imperfections, the comparisons have one use to perform—the main purpose for which they were transferred from private papers, intended for personal discipline, into printed papers. This use is to stimulate the study of Comparative Materia Medica.

We must determine which remedies agree, and which disagree ; we must know why some remedies, though similar in symptoms, are inimical in relation. We must distinguish between medicines, which are antidotes, and others which are complementary. Then we may be better prepared to systematize Materia Medica ; to abridge it without violence and to place it where it belongs, as the crown of science.

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COMPARISONS IN MATERIA MEDICA

WITH THERAPEUTIC HINTS

DIFFERENTIATIONS OF SIMILAR REMEDIES

ABSCESSES AND BOILS

[Remedies.—*Arn. Ars. Bell. Calc-S. Carb-S. Carb-Veg. Cinch. Hep. Lach. Mag-C. Merc. Phos. Pic-Ac. Sil. Psor. Stram. Sul.*]

Arnica

&

Silicea

Crops of boils all over body—begin with soreness and go on to suppuration and are followed by another crop.

Furuncles, or boils which occur in crops and which do not heal readily, but continue to discharge a rather thin, watery (less commonly thick) and even ichorous pus, usually having a foul odor.

Arnica

&

Kali Iodatum

See above.

Crops of boils (in summer), which appear on head, chest or back.

Arnica

&

Picric Acid

See above.

Crops of pustules on face, which turn into small boils.

Arsenicum

&

Carbo Vegetabilis

When abscesses and boils become gangrenous with cutting, lancinating pains and extreme restlessness.

With burning pain like *Ars.* but without restlessness.

Belladonna

&

Hepar

Sudden violent symptoms: radiating redness, throbbing and tendency to suppuration—pus develops with lightning-like rapidity.

Indicated after *Bell.* when it fails to reduce the inflammation before suppuration commences, with sharp, throbbing, sticking pains and chills.

Hepar

&

Mercurius

See above.

Indicated after *Hep.* when pus has already been formed.

ABSCESSSES AND BOILS (contd.)—

Mercurius

&

Silicea

See above.

Indicated after *Merc.* when the abscess has discharged and refuses to heal; pus keeps on forming and grows dark and fetid.

Phosphorus

&

Silicea

Abscesses with fistulous openings. Patients with irritable weakness.

Abscesses with fistulous openings. Patients with nutritive disturbances.

Silicea

&

Sulphur

See above.

When the benefit under *Sil.* ceases, an interpolation of a dose or two is necessary to rejuvenate the action of *Sil.*

APOPLEXY

[Remedies.—*Ap. Arn. Bar-C. Bell. Brom. Caust. Glon. Hell. Hyos. Lach. Op. Rhus-T. Stront-C. Tab. Verat-Vir.*]

Belladonna

&

Lachesis

In the initial stage, before the Paralysis sets in. The patient often starts from his heavy sleep, cries out, grinds his teeth, awakens frightened. Pulse is usually strong.

Indicated after *Bell.* when the pulse becomes quicker and more feeble and Paralysis is impending; head is hot, the face red, feet cold and the surface heat is irregularly distributed.

Belladonna

&

Opium

See above.

Indicated after *Bell.* Deep-red face. Stertorous breathing, convulsions. Tetanic rigidity of the body.

Hyoscyamus

&

Lachesis

Apoplexy, associated with convulsions.

See above.

Hyoscyamus

&

Opium

See above.

See above.

Lachesis

&

Baryta Carb.

Apoplexy in drunkards.

Apoplexy in drunkards with trembling of the limbs and well-marked Paralysis of the tongue.

See also above.

Lachesis

&

Opium

Apoplexy in drunkards.

Apoplexy in drunkards.

See also above.

See above.

APOPLEXY (contd.)—

<p>Lachesis</p> <p>Apoplexy followed by Paralysis.</p> <p>See also above.</p>	&	<p>Arnica</p> <p>Apoplexy associated with Hemiplegia or Paralysis, < left side. Pulse full and strong. Stertorous breathing. Aching soreness all over body.</p>
<p>Lachesis</p> <p>Apoplexy followed by Paralysis.</p> <p>See also above.</p>	&	<p>Baryta Carb.</p> <p>Followed by more or less severe Paralysis, esp. in old people. The patient is childish and has loss of memory.</p> <p>See also above.</p>
<p>Opium</p> <p>See above.</p>	&	<p>Apis</p> <p>Indicated after <i>Op.</i></p> <p>Complete stupor or coma.</p>

ASTHMA

[Remedies.—*Apis. Aral-R. Arg-Nit. Ars. Aur. Bar-C. Brom. Cact. Cac-Sul. Calad. Cap. Carbo-Veg. Cup. Dro. Ferr. Grp. Grim. Ipec. Kali-Bi. Kali-Chl. Lach. Lob. Lyc. Meph. Nat-Hypochlor. Nat-S. Nux-V. Plat. Pothos. Pulma-V. Rumex. Sep. Stict. Stram. Tereb. Yarba-S. Zinc. Zing.*]

<p>Arsenicum</p> <p>Expectoration is not tenacious.</p>	&	<p>Kali Bich.</p> <p>Expectoration of stringy mucus.</p>
<p>Arsenicum</p> <p>The patient is besides himself with anguish.</p>	&	<p>Ipecacuanha</p> <p>A sensation, as of constriction of the chest, worse from least motion.</p>
<p>Cuprum</p> <p>Constriction of the throat; spasmodic symptoms predominate.</p>	&	<p>Ipecacuanha</p> <p>See above.</p>
<p>Drosera</p> <p>Asthma of the consumptives.</p>	&	<p>Mephites</p> <p>Indicated when <i>Drosera</i> fails.</p>
<p>Drosera</p> <p>Asthma of the consumptives.</p>	&	<p>Rumex</p> <p>Aggravation at 2 A.M.</p>
<p>Drosera</p> <p>Asthma of the consumptives.</p>	&	<p>Sticta</p> <p>Associated with splitting headache.</p>
<p>Ipecacuanha</p> <p>See above.</p>	&	<p>Lobelia</p> <p>A weak sensation in the epigastrium, which spreads up in the chest.</p>

ASTHMA (contd.)—

Nux Vomica

&

Zingiber

Asthma of gastric origin; worse after a meal, after 12 o'clock at night, in the morning and always increased by cold air or any exertion, particularly when ascending a height; belching relieves.

Asthma of gastric origin; worse in the night towards morning. The patient has to sit up to breathe, but despite the severity of the paroxysms, there seems to be no anxiety.

BRONCHITIS

[Remedies.—*Amm-C. Amm-M. Balsam of Peru. Bry. Calc-P. Cap Carb-An. Carb-V. Dra. Kali-Bi. Kali-C. Lach. Lyc. Nat-A. Phos. Pix-L. Puls. Sang. Sul. Tereb. Yarb-S.*]

Ammonium Carb.

&

Ammonium Mur.

Heaviness in the chest, associated with *burning*. Coughs continually, but raises either not at all or with difficulty. Suited to fat, lazy and of indolent disposition.

Fat and sluggish—the legs disproportionately thin. Coldness between the shoulder-blades. Heaviness in the chest—as of a feeling of a lump in the chest, but without burning. Cough violent, during which the mouth is filled with saliva.

Carbo Animalis

&

Carbo Vegetabilis

Suffocating hoarse cough producing shaking of the brain, as though the brain were loose in the head.

Spasmodic cough, with deep rough voice or aphonia.

A cold feeling in the chest.

Burning in the chest, with a great deal of rattling.

Expectoration is green, purulent and horribly offensive.

Expectoration, profuse; yellow and more fœtid than *Carb-An.*

When the patient closes his eyes, he feels, as if he were smothering.

Dyspnœa, worse on turning over in bed and dropping off to sleep.

Draconitum

&

Balsam of Peru

Yellowish purulent discharge—at first watery and burning; afterwards, of pus or muco-pus.

The discharge is thick, creamy and yellowish-white muco-pus. Loud rales in the chest.

Draconitum

&

Pix Liquida

See above.

Purulent expectoration, offensive in odor and taste. Pain in the left bronchus.