
How To Use The Repertory

BI DWELL Glen I.

Cases illustrating repertory work

Headache

Lycopodium clavatum

Case

Mrs. C. F., 35 years, record contains the following symptoms :

Mind.-Thinks of nothing but death.

Homesick and worries about home whenever away.

Cross and irritable

Memory very poor. Forgetful, which is very troublesome.

Company makes her nervous; does not want to stay and visit with friend when they come to call or spend the evening.

Imagines there are persons in the room.

Difficult to concentrate her thoughts on any one thing long enough to complete it.

Head.-Headache most of the time, severe pressure at base of skull.

Pain in right side of head extending down to neck.

Aggravation from warmth of bed; from mental exertion.

Amelioration from lying.

Itching of scalp with much dandruff, with falling of hair.

Vertigo in hot room and when rising from seat.

Stomach-Hungry all the time, but a little satisfies.

Much belching of tasteless gas.

Desires sweets which disagree.

Abdomen-Sensitive to pressure of clothing.

Much rumbling of flatus with pressure both up and down.

Urination.-Profuse, pale and alkaline.

Sometimes burning in bladder after urination.

Menses-Profuse.

Irregular.

Dark, with dark clots.

Very much depressed and inclined to be tearful before menses.

Leucorrhoea profuse for few days after menses-excoriates.

Sleep-Good but unrefreshing. Wakens tired and exhausted.

Very sleepy after dinner (at night).

Dreams frightful, usually of drowning.

General Aggravations and Amelioration.-Better in open air.

Worse from pressure of clothes about abdomen and throat.

Very sensitive to noise.

Repertory Analysis.

Mentals-Imagines Phantoms, etc. (page 27.)-*Ambr.*, *Apis*, *Arg. m.*, *Ars.*, *Bell.*, *Carbo v.*, *Caust.*, *Crot. h.*, *Hep.*, *Hyos.*, *Lach.*, *Lyc.*, *Merc.*, *Nat. m.*, *Op.*, *Phos.*, *Samb.*, *Stram.*, *Thuj.*, *Sulph.*, *Zinc.*

Sensitive to Noise (page 79).-*Apis, Ars., Bell., Carbo v., Caust., Lach., Lyc., Merc., Nat. m., Op., Phos., Zinc.*
 Aversion to Company (page 12).-*Bell., Lach., Lyc., Nat. m.*

Physical Generals.-Amelioration From Open Air (page 1344).-*Lach., Lyc., Nat. m.*

Menses Dark (page 725).-*Lach., Lyc.*

Menses Irregular (page 726).-*Lach., Lyc.*

Menses Dark Clotted (page 725).-*Lycopodium.*

Therefore, if our analysis has been correct *Lycopodium* should cover this case in its entirety, and consulting our Materia Medica we find not only the general symptoms of the case that we have used in our analysis but all the others which are recorded in the record of the case. Therefore, we know that this remedy is the simillimum to the case, and if administered carefully, will cure.

Thoughts of midering

Sulphur

Case

Case 2. -Mrs. H.S. came to me 2-12-107,-with the the following symptoms which I will give in her own language : "I am so nervous; am afraid, I shall kill some of my people, as I go, all to pieces and can't control myself. Thinking about killing, I dream of killing my little girl. If I do not get better soon, I shall commit murder. Every afternoon I have pain over my eyes as if burned. Can't read at night, as there are sharp pains going through my eyes; if I persist in reading dark points appear on the page; so I cannot see the print. Hungry most of the time; in morning when I awaken, there is burning pain in my stomach which grows worse until I get up, when it goes away. Always have to take pills to move my bowels; before they move, there is a sharp cutting pain in the rectum and many times the bowels come out while at stool. If I drink beer will have piles for two or three days. My menses have been too often since my last child, three years ago, and for a week before I am sick, have whites each morning, which are much worse walking. There is not much flow, and it only lasts two or three days and smells sour as vinegar. Can't sew for past month, as there are stitching pains in the back of my neck when bending my head forward. Feet cold as ice every afternoon and the cramps in my calves keep me awake nearly all night. Do not shop, as I feel so badly when I have to stand long."

Repertory Analysis-Fear of killing people.-*Absin., Ars. a., Nux v., Rhus t., Sulph.*

Dreams of committing murder.-*Rhus t., Sulph.*

Burning pains over the the eyes, worse afternoon.-*Sulph.*

Sharp shooting pains at night, on reading.-*Phyto., Sulph.*

Following by dark points.-*Con., Sulph.*

Burning pains in stomach on waking, better rising.-*Sulph.*

Cutting pain in rectum before stool.-*Asar., Sep., Sulph.*

Prolapsus recti during stool.-*I gn., Lyc., Podo., Rhus t., Sulph.*

Leucorrhoea mornings, worse walking.-*Nat. m., Bov., Sarsa., Sep., Sulph.*

Menses scanty, short duration.-*Am. c., Lach., Puls., Sulph.*

Menses smell sour.-*Carbo v., Sulph.*

Stitching pain in neck from bending head forward.-*Sulph.*

Feet cold afternoon.-*Nux v., Sulph.*

Cramps in calves while in bed - *Ars. a., Caust., I gn., Sulph.*

Worse standing.-*Con., Cycl., Lil. t., Puls., Sep., Sulph. Valer.*

Here we see that *Sulphur* covers each symptom, but with a good knowledge of the the arrangement of the repertory it took me some time to work it out. Now to demonstrate how much more rapidly we can arrive at the same results by working from the generals to particulars, we will start with a general rubric :

Menses scanty, short duration.-We find the following nineteen remedies that have this symptoms in the first and second grades : *Alum., Am. c., Asaf., Bar. c., Cocc., Dulc., Graph., Lach., Mang., Merc., Nat. m., Nux v., Phos., Plat., Puls., Sepia, Sulph., Thuj.*

Now among this group of nineteen remedies will be found one which will cover the totality of our case. If we were to

give a remedy upon this one symptom alone, we might give any of the above, for they all have this condition in a high degree; but if we did not give the right one, we should not cure the case. We must individualize our case still further, so we will use another general.

Worse standing.-In consulting the repertory we find that of the first nineteen there are only the following seven which have the symptom in the first or second grade : *Con., Cocc., Phos., Plat., Puls., Sep., Sulph.*

But still we have seven remedies, any one of which may be the remedy so far, and we must individualize still further by another symptom. We will take the general, better in open air. Here we find that we have only four remedies of our previous group which have this symptoms in the first and second grade-*Con., Phos., Puls., Sulph.*

We have now worked our list down to four remedies and we will individualize again by taking another general, fear of committing murder. This gives us *Sulphur*, the only remedy which covers all of the symptoms we have taken so far. Now if the logic of our reasoning be correct, if the technique of selection be without a flaw, *Sulphur* must be the mathematically correct remedy, and reference to the pathogenesis of the remedy shows that *Sulphur* not only covers these four symptoms we have used, but it also contains all the other particular and common symptoms of the case. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, so we will turn to our record and we find that patient was discharged 7-7-'07; that all symptoms had disappeared, bowels move naturally. Says she, never felt better in her life.

Epileptic attacks

Causticum

Case

Case 3. -Boy, age 14; epileptic attacks for three years. First attack followed fright caused by other boys make-believe to hang him. Attacks increasing in frequency until at this time they occur every two weeks. The following symptoms were given : Attacks begin by running around in circle, then falls down unconscious. Attacks are more frequent in cold dry weather and during new moon. Involuntary urination during the attack. Boy complains of always being cold; wants to keep warm both summer and winter. He is very touchy; everything makes him cry; seems depressed all the time. Appetite either ravenous or wanting. Aversion to all kinds of sweets, of which he was previously very fond.

Repertory Analysis.-Under complaint caused by fright we find thirty-six remedies. Of these the following twenty-one have the symptoms on the first and second grade : *Acon., Apis, Arg. n., Art. v., Aur., Bell., Caust., Coff., Cupr., Gels., Glon., Hyos., Ign., Lach., Lyc., Nat. m., Nux v., Op., Plat., Puls., Rhus t.*

Sadness and depressed.-*Acon., Arg. n., aur., Bell., Caust., Gels., Ign., Lach., Nat. m., Plat., Puls.*

Worse cold dry weather.-*Acon., Caust.*

Aversion to sweets-*Causticum.*

We have arrived at the solution of the case by four steps and have used all general symptoms. Now you may ask, why did we start with the rubric complaints caused by fright? First : This is a general symptom and we are working from the generals to particulars.

Second : This condition was caused in this boy by fright. This mental shock was so profound that it caused the whole condition of this patient to be changed. It not only produced the epileptic seizure, but affected his desires as well. Some one of the remedies found under this rubric will be the one which will cover the totality of the case. The second symptoms we will take is another general-sadness and depression. We take this rubric from the fact that it is a mental condition produced by a derangement of the patient's most internal condition, the mind. Now if we hope to cure this case, we must have a remedy which has produced this symptoms in the provers; so among our first twenty-one we find eleven with this symptom in the first and second grade. Another general condition is the modality that the attacks are worse in cold dry weather. Among the eleven remedies found in the first two rubrics we find only two which are worse in cold dry weather. In order to decide which of these two will cover our case we will take the general aversion to sweets. Here we find that *Causticum* is the only remedy which covers our rubrics. If our reasoning has been correct, if the technique of selection is without a flaw, *Causticum* must be the mathematically correct remedy, and turning to our materia medica we find that the pathogenesis of *Causticum* not only contains the rubrics we have used in our analysis, but the remaining symptoms of our case as well. Therefore, *Causticum* is the remedy we will give. Our records show that two doses of this remedy were administered with the

following results : The attacks lessened during the first month to one; the second attack, a very slight one, did not follow for even weeks, and now, after an interval of a year and a half, there has been no sign of a return. So we may safely say, the boy is cured.

Menses irregular and profuse

Cocculus indicus

Case

Case 4. -Mrs. A.S. , aet. 28; married four years; menses have always been irregular, but during the first year of married life, were more regular but always profuse. The third year married, gave birth to a seven-pound child; labor normal; no lacerations. Since labor, has never been well; the menses would appear every two weeks; then every five or six weeks, with no regularity. The flow would be profuse and weakening. Had had curettages and various treatments without any relief. The condition of patient at the time of first prescription was as follows : Menses irregular and profuse; great weakness when walking; the walk from the car to office completely exhausted her. Cannot sleep; what sleep she gets, is unrefreshing. No appetite; does not want to think of eating. Craves beer, of which she had never tasted but once, and then it was repulsive; Sweats easily; is in a perspiration most of the time and has to be very careful about getting in a draft, as when becomes chilly she is nauseate.

Repertory Analysis.-Menses irregular and profuse.-*Apis, Arg. n., Art. v., Benz. ac., Calc. c., Carb. ac., Caust., Cimi., Cocc., Con., dig., Ign., Iod., Ip., Iris, Kreos., Lyc., Murex., Nux m., Nux v., Secale, Sepia, Staph., Sulph., Tuberc.*

Worse from warmth.-*Arg. n., Calc. c., Cocc., Con., Ign., Iod., Ip., Lyc., Nux m., Sulph.*

Extreme weakness when walking.-*Calc. c., Cocc., Con., Iod., lyc., Nux m., Sulph.*

Great desire for beer.-*Calc. c., Cocc., Sulph.*

Nauseated when chilly.-*Cocculus.*

Just a word in explanation of our selection of the rubrics in this case. Why did we start with the symptom, "menses irregular and profuse?" In the first place, it is a general symptom; then it is the symptom above all others that has proved the change in the patient's general condition; if we expect to cure this case we must have a remedy that has in its symptomatology this condition. On the other hand, if we took any of the remedies we find in the first and second grades under this rubric we would have a remedy for this local condition that so many and various lines of treatments had been used upon with no results; so not only must we take this symptom, but must take the other symptoms, which make this case of irregular and profuse menses different from every other case of the same condition; in other words, that makes of it an individual case. Therefore, we proceed with the other symptoms.

One word more, about our fourth rubric-great desire for beer. Ordinarily this symptom would be of little value, but here we find a patient that before she was affected with this change of internal condition, did not like beer; in fact, she had never tasted it but once, and then it was repulsive to her, but now she is sick; some change in her desires has produced a condition of her economy whereby she has a craving for beer. Now the condition has changed and a symptom, which in other cases would be of little or no value deserves a prominent place in our record analysis.

This case also has another interesting peculiarity, in that if the keynote prescribers had been working at it, they might have reached a correct solution, for in this case we find that the particular symptom, nauseated when chilly, is found under only one remedy, *Cocculus*.

Our selection of *Cocculus* in this case was justified, for the case was cured. The menses became regular and normal; the weakness disappeared; the craving for beer vanished; the excessive perspiration and nausea left, until after four months she was discharged stating that she never felt so well in her life.

Lachesis mutus

Case

Mrs. H. C., aet. 42; widow. Has eruption on legs which burns and itches, and is worse from warmth of bed. She cannot keep her legs quiet at night. Is worse from warmth of stove, which causes creeping sensation over whole body. Feet are icy cold during day, but soles burn at night in bed. Lameness of left shoulder, which has lasted since rheumatism four years ago; this is worse when lying on it. The hands go to sleep and feel numb, more especially the left one. The wrist pains as if sprained when awakening. All pains are of burning character and change locality often and suddenly.

Sometimes there are small ulcers on inner side of left thigh, from which there is a thin offensive discharge; walking will cause them to smart, become red and puffy. Stiffness in small of back on bending or beginning to move. The pains go down the thigh. She has a dry cough, which is worse after sleep and is caused by a tickling in the throat. This cough has always come the last of March or the first of April, and would last until real hot weather had come; with this cough she is quite hoarse and has sensation of lump in the throat. Menstruation is dark and scanty and offensive; has not been regular since last child, twelve years ago; she says all her aches and pains are better during her flow, and she never feels so well as when flowing freely, although it is sometimes accompanied by a painful diarrhoea. At other times she is always constipated; has to go to closet and try several times before she has stool. There is sensation of weight and pressure in bowels with much rumbling of gas. Abdomen is sensitive in the morning on awakening. Complains of burning, stitching pains in left ovary when constipated. Appetite one time is good, then she may have none at all. She says she cannot get enough to drink; has constant thirst and drinks a great deal of coffee. The mouth and tongue are dry; has feeling as if the skin was peeling from the roof of mouth. Sour taste in mouth all the time; tongue cracked, brown center and red tip.

Does not sleep well; has hard work to get to sleep before midnight and then she awakens frequently with shock in pit of the stomach and a tight suffocating feeling in the chest. Lately she has complained that her heart feels too large for her chest when she walks fast. This oppressive pain is sometimes relieved by belching. For past few weeks face and lips are bluish; has flushes of heat, but only one cheek gets red; the other is pale. For last year her hearing has been failing; she complains of a noise like a tea kettle boiling. There has been scarcely any wax, and what there was would be hard and white. Reading in the cold has always given her earache. She fears to go to bed during this last attack, as she thinks she may die, and she says she dreads to die so much.

There has always been more or less headache, at different times, but the one which has been the most troublesome is one that begins on the right side of head and goes through to the left until it aches all around. With this there is a drawing in the back of neck and burning pains back of the eyes; some dizziness with sensation as if she were going to fall to the left side. She has an irritable disposition and everything seems to be worse in the morning when she awakens.

Now what is the diagnosis in this case? I do not know. Have never made one. We do not care about the diagnosis, as it is not a disease we wish to treat, but rather this sick woman we are going to try to cure. We have a well-taken case, and from this mass of symptoms we must select some that will individualize this case and make it different from all others. Let us look at the record and see which symptoms we will select for our repertory analysis. We find the following general symptoms: Worse after sleep, thirsty, burning pains, left side and better during flow. Making a repertory analysis of these we find under:

Worse after sleep.-*Acon., Apis, Arn., Ars., Camp., Carb. s., Carb. v., Caust., Chel., Cocc., Con., Euphr., Ferr., Hep., Lach., Lyc., Op., Phos. ac., Puls., Rheum., Sabad., Sel., Sep., Spong., Staph., Stram., Sulph., Verai.*

Thirsty.-*Acon., Arn., Ars., Camp., Carb. v., Chel., Cocc., Con., Hep., Lach., Op., Phos., Stram., Sulph.*

Burning pains.-*Acon., Arn., Ars., Carb. v., Con., Lach., Op., Phos., Sulph.*

Left side.-*Arn., Lach., Phos., Sulph.*

Relieved during flow.-*Lachesis.*

Here you see we have worked our long cases down to one remedy with five rubrics. We will now turn to the pathogenesis of *Lachesis* and see if our selection has been justified. In the *Guiding Symptoms* we find under *Lachesis* not only the five symptoms we have used, but also each and every one of the other symptoms; so this remedy must be homoeopathic to the case.

Lachesis, two powders, was sent with the following results: For thirty-six hours after the administration there was an aggravation of all the symptoms, which was followed by rapid improvement that has continued ever since until the last report, when she wrote that every symptom had disappeared and that she felt as well as she had ever been in her life.