

# John Henry Clarke

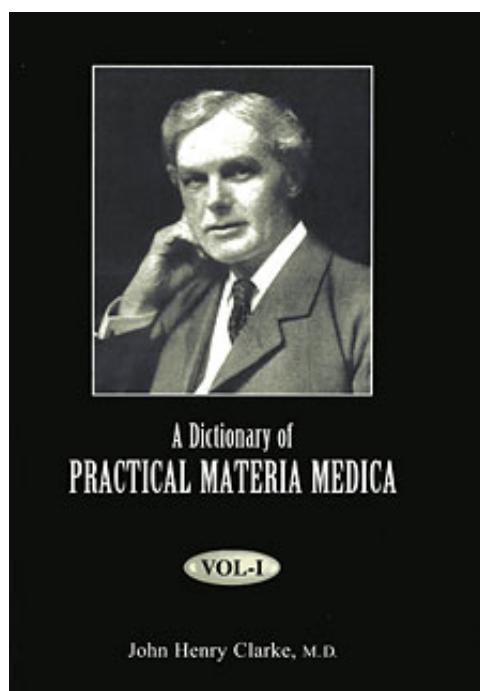
## A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica

Reading excerpt

[A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica](#)

of [John Henry Clarke](#)

Publisher: B. Jain



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**25. Skin.**—Pricking in the skin.—Burning and pricking in excoriated places.—Small itchy eruptions on the head, nape of the neck, abdomen, and thighs.—Glands inflamed and ulcerated.—Haemorrhage.

**27. Fever.**—General dry heat, night and day.—Redness and heat of the face.—Pulse frequent and full.—Tertian fever.—Increased perspiration—Cold sweat.

## Belladonna.

*Atropa Belladonna*. Deadly Nightshade. (Greece, Italy, Britain, N. O. Solanaceae. Tincture of whole plant when beginning to flower.

**Clinical.**—*Abscess. Acne. Amaurosis. Apoplexy. Bladder weakness. Boils. Brain, affections of. Bronchial glands, disease of. Carbuncle. Colic. Constipation. Convulsions. Cough. Croup. Delirium tremens. Depression. Diarrhoea. Dysentery. Ear, affections of. Enteric fever. Epilepsy. Erysipelas. Erythema. Excitemcm. Eye, affections of. Fear, effects of. Glandular swellings. Goitre. Gout. Hsmorrhoids. Headache. Heart, affections of. Hydrocephalus. Hydrophobia. Hypercemm. Influenza. Kidney, affections of. Lung, affections of. Malignant pustule. Mania. Measles. Meningitis. Menstruation. Month affections. Mumps. Neuralgia. Ata, affections of. Nyctalopia. Nymphomania. Paralysis. Parametritis. Perichondritiu. Perimetritis. Peritonitis. Phlegmasia alba dolens. Pleurisy. Pneumogastric paralysis. Pneumonia. Pregnancy, disorders of. Puerperal mania. Rheumatism. Roseola. Scarletina. Sensitiveness. Sleep, disorders of. Smell, disordered. Strangury. Taste, disordered. Tencsinns. Testicles, affections of. Thirst. Throat, sort. Tongue, affections of. Tuberculosis. Ulcers. Uterine affections. Vaccinia. Vertigo. Whooping-cough. Worm fever.*

**Characteristics.**—*Belladonna* acts primarily on the brain, and Teste very acutely explains the diversity of its action on men and animals by suggesting that it acts with an intensity proportionate to the brain development. On goats and rabbits it has no poisonous action whatever. On carnivorous animals it acts with moderate intensity. On man it acts with highest intensity. But on idiots, as Hufeland mentions, it has no more action than it has on some of the carnivora. An enormous number of the symptoms of *Bell*, are developed in and from the head and sensorium. Conformably with this, the pains of *Bell*, run downwards, *i.e.*, away from the head, (*Silic.* and *Gels.* have a pain running *tip* the back). To understand aright the action and uses of this great medicine it is necessary to bear in mind some leading features which characterise its action in all parts of the organism. But before alluding to these I will briefly refer to its correspondence to scarlatina. Cases of *Belladonna* poisoning have frequently been mistaken for cases of scarlatina. But it is the smooth form only, these presenting a smooth, even, red surface that come under its controlling action and prophylaxis. When such an epidemic is about, any one who may be exposed to infection may obtain almost certain immunity by taking *Belladonna* two or three times a day.

The several points to be remembered about *Belladonna* are that it

is a medicine which has great general *sensitiveness* and also sensitiveness of the special senses—sensitive to light; to slightest noise ; to motion or jar as when some one touches the bed. This is one feature which renders *Bell*, so appropriate in hydrophobia. It is a *chilly* medicine; sensitive to changes from warm to cold, to draught of air, to damp weather, to chilling from having the head uncovered, or having *the hair cut*; better from being wrapped up warmly in a room. Under this drug there is a remarkable quickness of sensation, or of motion; the eyes snap and move quickly. The pains *come and go suddenly* no matter how long they may last. They are in great variety, but throbbing, burning, and *stabbing* are very characteristic: "stabbing from one temple to the other."

The great intensity and variety of the head pains has caused *Bell*. to be regarded as the headache medicine *par excellence*. Congestion blood to the head. Vertigo, mostly at night on turning over in bed, or when getting up in the morning, also when walking and on every change of position. Headache with flushed face and brilliant eyes, dilated pupils. Feeling in brain like swashing of water. Throbbing, pulsating headache, with beating arteries and violent palpitation of the heart. It has cured a very severe headache in a nervous man occurring whenever he was exposed to tobacco smoke. In the mental sphere are mania ; rage ; disposition to bite, scratch and tear things. Fantastic illusions when closing eyes. Dull and sleepy ; half asleep and half awake. Spasms and twitchings are very marked. Many disorders of vision. *Heat, redness* and *burning* are three great characteristic notes of *Bell.*, and are constantly cropping out in the pathogenesis. The face is purple, red, and hot, or yellow. Redness and pallor alternate. The mouth is exceedingly dry without thirst. Stinging in (Esophagus, < swallowing or talking. (Esophagus feels contracted. Sensation of a hand clutching intestines. Stool in lumps like chalk. Spasmodic contraction of anus ; obstinate constipation. Bleeding piles ; back pains as if breaking. The menstrual flow is hot; of light colour ; or bad smell. Cough short, dry, tickling, similar to cough of *Rumex* and *Phos*. Whooping-cough ; with crying or pains before the attack ; flushed face ; nose-bleed and bloody expectoration ; sparks before eyes ; stitches in spleen ; involuntary stool and urine. Paralysis of lungs and heart (vagus nerve). Violent palpitation of heart. Stitches in chest. Swelling of breast with bright red streaks radiating from centre of inflammation. Rheumatism < by motion. Sweat on covered parts only.

A striking picture of *Bellad.* is sometimes seen in cases of worm-fever. A case (at. 3, pale, feeble child) reported by Lutze had the following symptoms : Awakened, or at least sits up at night in bed screaming, cannot be pacified ; wets bed at night ; passes worms now and then; cheeks and ear-tips brilliant scarlet, other parts of face, especially round mouth, white as snow ; eyes brilliant, staring ; pupils dilated. Skin dry and hot like fire. On being spoken to coaxingly flew into a violent rage. *Cina* 200 had ameliorated. *Bell.* cm. and m. cured permanently.

*Bell*, is a great children's remedy, not less important than *Cham*. Complaints come suddenly ; hot, red face, semi-stupor, every little

while starting or jumping in sleep as if it might go into convulsions. A very general characteristic of *Bell*, is < on lying down. refers to headache and all kinds of inflammatory affections. Soma characteristic symptoms are : " Tenderness of abdomen, < by least jar." " Pressing downward as if contents of abdomen would issue through vulva, < mornings ; oiten associated with pain in back as if it would break." Starting, twitching, or jumping in sleep. Moaning in sleep. " Sleepy, but cannot sleep." The characteristic skin of *Bell*. is : " Uniform, smooth, shining, scarlet redness, so hot that it imparts a burning sensation to the hand of one who feels it." "Sweatoil covered parts only " is also a marked symptom of *Bell*.

A number of cases of poisoning have been reported from application of *Belladonna* plasters to the skin, classical symptoms of the drug being produced and no little danger to life. One practitioner was warned by his patient that she could not tolerate a *Belladonna* plaster, but he, thinking there must have been a mistake, and that cantharides must have been in the plaster she had formerly used, had one made up under his own eyes and applied it himself. In less than one hour there was an unbearable pain and when the plaster was removed the surface was found to be blistered.

A case of poisoning reported in the *Medical Press* (September 9, 1891) brings out the profound and long-lasting effects of the drug. Three children, aged 7, 5, and 3<sup>^</sup>, ate a number of the berries. Three days after, a doctor saw them. The condition of the eldest was as follows : pupils dilated to maximum and insensitive to light; pulse frequent ; breathing feeble and hurried ; skin dry, bright red ; temperature lowered ; extremities and face cold ; urination and defecation suspended. *Co-ordination was lost*; the patient staggered as if drunk and acted like a mad person. When asked his name he would shout as loud as he could, *falling backwards* with his hands in the air, his legs slightly bent as if about to sit down on a low stool, and then tumble on the floor. When raised from the ground and seeing his friends again he began to talk without ceasing, laughing, and singing local melodies in a boisterous manner. *Suddenly* his whole demeanour would change into a melancholic depression of agony ; he would look blank and wild on all around. He would instantly jump up, run at the wall, and endeavour to spring on the highest articles in the room with the strength of a wild animal, and it was with difficulty that his movements could be controlled.

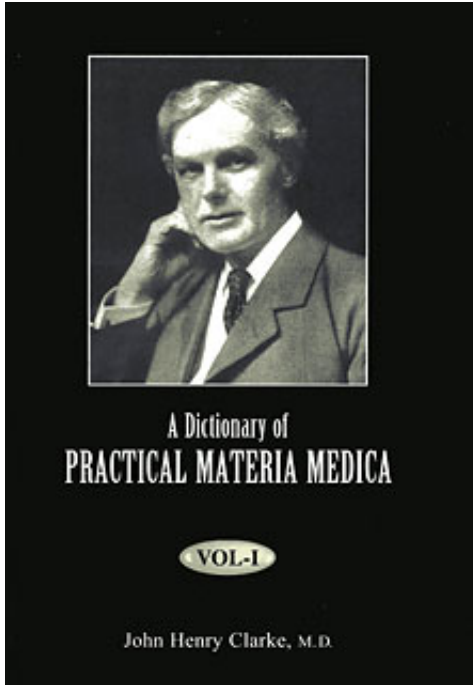
The youngest of the three lay depressed, in a soporific condition eyes closed, skin cold, limbs powerless. Pupillary reaction, tendon and muscular reflex were almost gone, whilst the sense of heat and cold still remained. On shouting loud in his ear, he slowly tried to open his eyes in wonder ; when shaken and put on his feet he *made two or three steps backward* as his elder brother and fell senseless on the floor. The second eldest lay in a deep sleep, face cyanotic ; skin of, extremities and part of body dry and cold ; breathing feeble, pulse scarcely perceptible. Loudest crying, or shaking could not rouse him; feeling and reaction lost. Washing out the stomach was effected in the eldest, but no evidence of the berries was obtained in that way. A long injection tube was inserted into the rectum and irrigation with

hot and cold water alternately was carried out, with the object of exciting peristalsis. This was successful. Besides a great quantity of black-brown masticated fruit with skins and seeds, broken berries were found to the number of 28 in the case of the eldest, 39 in the second, and 37 in the youngest. Pilocarpin and morphia were injected in the case of the eldest, and camphor subcutaneously in the other two. The akin was rubbed, warm applications administered and rectal injections of milk, egg and brandy.

Nothing was heard of the children till " June of the present year " (1891), [the date of the poisoning is not stated, but it was probably the previous autumn] when the children were brought to the doctor by their father. They all looked pale and feeble ; the pupils contracted slowly, and all were sensitive to light. The eldest was irritable and desponding. In the other two hearing and speech were almost gone. The almost absolute deafness in these cases is noteworthy in connection with Dr. Cooper's cure of a very chronic case of deafness with single drop doses of *Bell* (*j*).

*Bell*, is predominantly (but by no means exclusively) a right-side medicine: all affections of internal head, right side ; right eye ; right ear ; right face ; right teeth ; right hypochondrium ; right chest ; right upper extremity ; right lower extremity ; mouth and fauces *left* side. It is suited to plethoric persons with red face ; and to conditions where there is local plethora, that is, inflammatory states with pain, throbbing, shiny redness as in acute gout. Symptoms are < afternoon ; 3 p.m. ; n p.m. ; after midnight ; during the night and not at all in the day ; morning. By touch ; draught of air ; cold applications ; having hair cut ; looking at shiny things ; drinking ; sleeping ; lying down ; lying on affected side. > Bending affected part backwards or inwards ; leaning head against something ; standing ; by warmth. *Bell*, is suited to the bilious, lymphatic temperament. Light hair and complexion, blue eyes. It grows in dry limestone soils and is the acute correlative of *Calc. c.*

**Relations.**—*Bell*, must be *compared* with the other Solanaceas : Caps., Dulc., Lycopers., Hyos., Stramonium -ind the alkaloids Atropia and Solania. *Antidotes*: To effects of large doses, Vegetable acids, infusion of galls, or green tea, Coff ea., Hyoscy; to effects of small doses, Camph., Coff., Hep., Hyo., Op., Puls., Sabad. (salivation), Vinum. *Antidotes*: Aco., Arum t, Atrop., Chi., Cup., Fer., Hyo., Jaborandi, Merc., Op., Plat., Plumb., sausage poisoning ; oil of turpentine. // *follows well*: Ars., Cham., Hep., Lach., Merc., Phos., Nit. ac., Cup. *h followed well by* : Chi., Cham., Con., Dulc., Hep., Hyo., Lach., Rhus, Seneg., Stram., Valer., Verat. *Similar to* : Aeon., Alcohol (merry craziness); Ars. (pains of cancer) ; Bry. (rheumatism < by motion. In pleurisy and pneumonia it is distinguished from Bry. in that it has < lying .on affected side whilst Bry. has the opposite) ; Calc. c., Cliam., Cicut., Coff., Cup., Eupat. purp. (diuresis and vesical irritation, but Eupat. has more hyperamia and vesical inflammation) ; Gels., Hep., Hyo., Lach., Lil. tig. (Lil. has > by motion ; Bell. < by motion), Merc., Nux v., Op., Puls., Rhus, Stram. (rage), Tereb., Verat.; Am. (whooping cough). *Complementary* : Calc. c. *Incompatible* : Vinegar.



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2586 pages, hb  
publication 2010



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