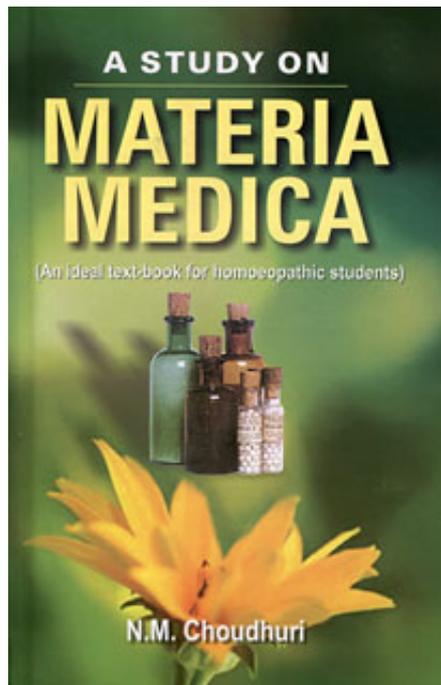


N. M. Choudhuri

A Study on Materia Medica

Reading excerpt
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those of **Baryta carb.** The same disposition to enlargement of glands, the same predisposition for tonsillitis are marked. It has however, a few symptoms particularly characteristic of the muriate element in it which is our object to study just now. It has a particular action on the cardiac orifice of the stomach where it causes induration as well as narrowing. The result is great epigastric tenderness as well as over-sensitiveness of the stomach. Considerable hardness is felt over the region of the stomach.

It also causes induration of the pancreas with profuse flow of saliva from the mouth as in mercurial poisoning. Like its sister remedy, it is a great help in abdominal aneurism. The patient writhes in agony and rolls on the floor with attacks of anxious dyspnea.

Another symptom particularly characteristic of **Baryta mur.** is the irritation it causes and hence cures in the female sexual system. It increases the sexual desire to an inordinate extent and has been recommended very highly in all forms and kinds of mania with increase of sexual passion.

It is also useful in multiple sclerosis of the brain and the cord. There is entire loss of voluntary muscular power, the sensibility remaining intact. It has been used with success in attacks of epileptic convulsions characterized by the retention of full consciousness.

BELLADONNA

NOTES

- *Prince of congestion remedies.*
- *Suddenness and violence characterize all symptoms; lightning like rapidity.*
- *Exalted sensibility of all the organs; senses are more acute; exceedingly sensitive to touch; least jar, noise, shaking make them distinctly worse.*
- *Intolerance of light; patient sits in a dark, quiet room with all the doors and windows closed.*
- *Indicated when inflammation is sure to set in or first stage of inflammation, with pain, redness, oedema and heat which imparts a burning sensation to the examining hand.*
» *Hemorrhagic remedy; bright red.*

- *Tendency to catch cold; least draught or breeze is felt by them.*
- *Irritability; averse to noise and company; prefers solitude.*
- *Rush of blood to brain so intense that patient turns delirious; delirium may be of a fierce form, gnashes teeth, strikes and bites everyone; resembles hydrophobia.*
- *Fears imaginary things; sees ghosts, hideous faces, monsters, black dogs and various insects.*
- *Moaning, confused muttering.*
- *Desire to escape and hide.*
- *Dreams of falling; robbers; fire; murders; and tries to get away from them.*
- *Convulsions in robust, corpulent children with cerebral congestion.*
- *Headache; right side; throbbing in nature; preliminary stage of apoplexy.*
- *Strawberry tongue.*
- *Throat troubles with pain; entire inability to swallow.*
- *Inflammatory affections of the stomach and abdomen like gastritis, gastralgia and peritonitis; great distention of the abdomen; transverse colon protrudes like a pad across the abdomen.*
- *Thin, greenish, bloody or papaceous white dysentery.*
- *Inflammatory condition of kidneys and bladder.*
- *Retention of urine due to paralysis of the walls of the bladder and involuntary micturition due to paralysis of sphincter muscles.*
- *Heat and dryness of vagina; metritis with marked tympanites.*
- *Bearing down sensation in women, better standing; worse lying down.*
- *In parturition when labor pains are deficient, ineffectual and spasmodic.*
- *In fever with great burning during the heat stage; sensation of steaming vapor.*
- *Capital remedy in boils, abscesses and carbuncles; in the stage of erythema with uniform, smooth and glossy appearance of skin.*

Belladonna is a herbaceous, perennial plant that grows to the height of four or five feet in the sandy parts of Europe and Asia. The flowers are pendulous, bell shaped and purple in color and are followed by purple black berries. The juice is extracted from the entire plant before it flowers and then mixed with an equal part by weight of alcohol.

It is also called the Deadly Nightshade. It belongs to the natural order of Solanaceae. It was known to the medical profession as early as 1500 A.D., but the first homoeopathic proving was made by Samuel Hahnemann. It comes from two Latin words "*bella donna*", which mean the beautiful lady, from the circumstance that the Venetian ladies of old used it as a cosmetic to brighten the eyes and

flush the cheeks. Its properties are due to the alkaloids, Atropin and Belladonnin. Physiological experimentation shows that **Belladonna** affects the sensory nerves, especially their extremities, thus causing cutaneous anesthesia. The allopaths, therefore, make use of it locally in ointments, liniments and plasters as anodyne for external pains. It also affects the motor nerves causing peripheral paralysis; hence it is also utilized by our brethren of the other school as an anti-spasmodic. They use it in rigidity of the os uteri during labor. **Belladonna** further excites the sympathetic nervous system as is manifested by the dilatation of the pupil when locally applied. We must not forget a fourth action of this drug. I mean the arrest of secretions especially of the salivary glands and the skin. This phenomenon, too is made use of by the allopaths, in hidrosis of the hands and feet, in salivation, in checking the secretion of milk where that is necessary; but they apply it locally.

Mentally these patients are very excitable. Mirth and happiness easily give way to anger and misery. Fretfulness and irritability of temperament make them very unsociable. They are ordinarily extremely averse to noise and company, hence we find them preferring solitude and dark places to mirth and gaiety.

Constitutionally these patients are rather fleshy, phlegmatic and plethoric; hence they are similar to the **Calcarea carb.** patients; the difference consisting mainly in the congestion of the former and the pallor of the latter remedy.

Belladonna is the prince of our congestion remedies. This congestion may take place anywhere—head, chest, uterus, joints, skin, in fact any part of our organism, but the most peculiar feature about this congestion is its vehemence and its suddenness. There are other remedies such as **Acon.**, **Bry.**, **China**, **Ferr.**, **Merc.**, **Nux-v.**, **Puls.**, **Phos.** and **Sulph.**, where we find great rush of blood to single parts, but in none of them do we notice the lightening like rapidity that characterizes **Belladonna**. The suddenness and this violence, characterize all the symptoms of **Belladonna**. The baby goes to bed

hale and hearty, but in the dead of night it wakes up with sudden convulsions. Just so in pains, in inflammations and in troubles of all kinds. The violence, the suddenness, the over-whelming intensity point to **Bell**, as the indicated remedy.

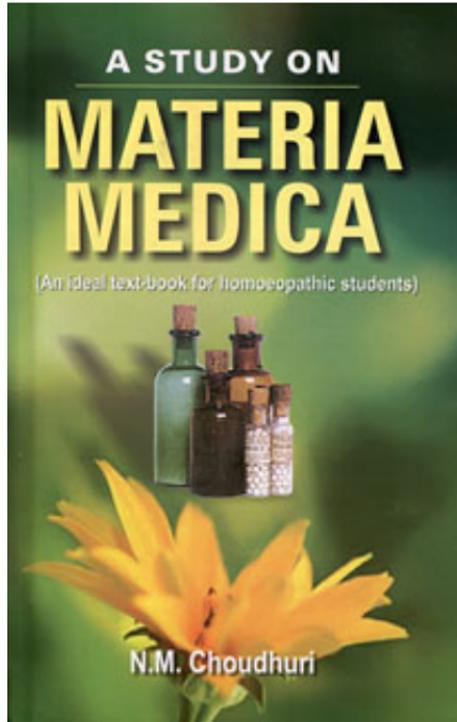
Sometimes this rush of blood to brain is so intense that our patient turns delirious. His eyes become injected, his carotids throb violently. Although he is sleepy, he is unable to sleep; he keeps his head rolling from side to side; at other times he is wide awake with pupils widely dilated. More frequently these two states alternate, that is at times the patient is drowsy and falls into a heavy slumber from which he wakes up with a cry or a jerk or start and keeps looking at things around him in a strange fashion. Even these slumbers are not undisturbed slumbers. He dreams of falling and that is why he starts as if in a fright clutching at the air. Sometimes he dreams of murders, of robbers, of fires, and tries to get away from them. In some cases the delirium assumes a fierce form and the patient breaks into fits of laughter, then gnashes his teeth, strikes and bites everybody around him. Sometimes he sees ghosts, hideous faces, monsters, black dogs and various insects. At other times he keeps picking at bed clothes as if looking for something lost with confused muttering.

It is not always very easy to distinguish **Belladonna** from **Hyoscyamus** and **Stramonium**.

In **Stramonium** the congestion of the brain is not so well marked; the violence and the intensity too are not at par with those of **Belladonna**. Furthermore, in **Stramonium**, the incoherent loquacity, the praying and the beseeching attitude, the desire for light and company always help to mark out the lines of demarcation.

Belladonna scores very high in mania. He calls for his food and when he gets it, instead of making good use of it, he bites his spoons into two, then gnaws at his dish and snarles and barks like a dog. He tries to throttle himself and begs those around him to kill him.

Symptoms like these are often seen in hydrophobia and on such indications **Belladonna** has been known to have made wonderful



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