

Constantin Hering

The Guiding Symptoms

Reading excerpt

[The Guiding Symptoms](#)

of [Constantin Hering](#)

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BELLADONNA.

Deadly Nightshade.

Solanaceae.

One of the first of all medicines Hahnemann experimented with, and the one which led him in 1800 to the discovery, greater than any other ever made in the domain of science, that *the life-altering influence of drugs and poisons* is not like the chemical or physical, depending on the masses, but solely on the surface. This has now been mathematically proved, and we have a full right to laugh at the stupid stubborn who doubt it. In 1805, *Fragm. de vir. med. posit.*, Hahnemann published of his own observations 103 numbers, of others 312; in 1811 *Reine Arzneimittellehre*, vol. i, as the first; of his own observations 176, of others 474 in 1829 *R. Ami.*, vol. i, second edition, his own 380, of others and his disciple[^] Hornburg, E. Kummer, Herrmann, E. Staph, W. Gross, F. Hartmann, C. f. Langhammer, Kiickert, J. E. A. Baehr, H. Lehmann, A. F. Mochel, 1042 symptoms—in all, 1422 numbers; in 1830 the third and last edition, Hahnemann had three more provers, and in all 1440 numbers, many had been contracted and several numbers united into one; in 1875 Allen has included, besides the 85 authorities of Hahnemann, in all 241, and gives, without any concentration, 2544 symptoms without a cured one. By the aid of at least 1455 cured symptoms we have been enabled to shorten the whole catalogue to somewhat less than 4000. The next following theme will be the separation of the symptoms obtained from berries, leaves and root, as far as it can be done.

¹ Mind. The patient is conscious but tormented by terrible anxiety.

- Loss of consciousness.
- Stupefaction, with congestion to head, pupils enlarged; delirium.
- Memory lively; remembers things long gone by.
- Memory impaired; forgets in a moment what he was about to do.
- Absent-minded and forgetful. Likes to brood in silence, supreme indifference, nothing makes an impression.

- Paroxysm of cerebral exaltation with abundance of ideas and images, generally fantastic and incoherent.

Mental confusion.

Confusion of head, aggravated by movement.

- Her mind was disordered so that speech did not correspond to thought, nor thought to sense, nor sense to objects present.

Merry craziness; while laughing or singing she constantly touches things around her.

- Timorous insanity; he is afraid of an imaginary black dog; of the gallows, etc.
- Insanity; they stripped themselves and clad only in their shirts ran out into streets in broad daylight, gesticulating, dancing, laughing and uttering and doing many absurd things.

Became crazy; got one leg over the window to kill himself, had to be tied down; died next day; within ten hours, two doses. Consumption.

Imbecility.

Fantastic illusions (when closing eyes).

- When closing eyes, though not asleep, patient sees fierce, wicked looking large animals with horns and bushy heads; room seemed to be full of strange men passing in and out, who would snatch at her as they passed, which frightened her very much, she thought the men wanted to take her away from home; she then saw children sitting on low benches in rows as in a school-room.
- Hallucinations, and illusions of senses.

IIIImagines he sees ghosts, hideous faces and various insects.

11 Fear of imaginary things, wants to run away from them.

Frightful visions ; she wishes to hide herself.

He is afraid of an extraordinary black dog, the gallows, etc.; he sees ghosts and insects; gets vexed easily, and then weeps; he tears things around him, bites and strikes, and when restrained, spits at those around him, strikes himself, curses and uses horrible words. (These symptoms of rage much resemble those of *Simmon*, and *Hyosc.*).

Fixed ideas, thinks he is riding on an ox, uses a stick for a gun, growling and barking like a dog.

11 Delirium.

- Lethargy and delirium, with pain in head. On disappearance of tumor.

Delirious moaning, flushed face, hot head.

- Delirium and heat.

Excerpt from C. Hering MD

„The Guiding Symptoms of the Materia Medica“

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- Rambling delirium.
- Delirium : with frightful figures and images before eyes; is afraid of imaginary things; sees monsters ; talks of dogs as if they swarmed about him ; furious.
- Violent delirium; broke into fits of laughter, then gnashed teeth; disposed to bite and strike those around
- Delirium; the boy jumped out of bed, talked a great deal, was lively and often laughed ; consciousness was entirely gone; he did not recognize his parents.
- In evening he was seized with such violent delirium that it required three men to confine him ; his face was livid ; his eyes injected and protruding, pupils strongly dilated; carotid arteries pulsating most violently; a full, hard pulse, with loss of power to swallow.
- Delirium, either continuous or recurring in paroxysms, mirthful at first, but subsequently changing to frenzy.
- Excited and delirious, with violent motions of arms and legs, increasing to a raging delirium, 1 Furious delirium all night with pleasant hallucinations, followed by great prostration, and mental confusion.
- Bites at his attendants and himself, screams furiously, A boy, set. 3. Mania, with desire to bite, strike and run away.
- Highest degree of mania, complete restlessness; he jumps on chairs, tables and stove.
- The paroxysms of madness were occasionally interrupted by loud laughing and grinding of teeth ; head was hot, face red, look wild and staring; pulse small and very frequent; pupils dilated; arteries of head and neck visibly palpitating, pulse hard and frequent.
- Mania, at one time merry, again would spit and bite at those around.
- Epilepsy and mania furibunda.
- Rage, madness, disposition to bite, to spit, to strike and to tear things.
- Fury, with grinding of teeth and convulsions.
- Fury ; they pulled at the hair of bystanders.
- Such fury (with burning heat of body, and open, staring and immovable eyes) that she had to be held constantly, lest she should attack some one; and when thus held so that she could not move, she spat continuously at those around her.
- Desire to escape or hide herself.
- Jumping out of bed with fear, trying to run away and hide. She rather desires death than fears it.
- She sought continually to spring out of bed.

- Inclination to bite those around him and to tear everything about him in pieces.

She wishes to strike, bite and quarrel.

- Weary of life, with desire to drown herself. Desires light, but shuns company. Loquacity.
- Speech rapid and hasty; they often utter inarticulate, confused sounds.
Great loquacity, foolish talk, laughs without any cause.
Talkative, then again mute.
- Delirious, obscene talking.
- Garrulity; he constantly uses foolish and absurd language, at which he often laughs aloud; when addressed he turns towards speaker, but does not answer correspondingly.
- She talks like a maniac, with staring, protruded eyes.
Loud laughter, wild abandon, singing, whistling, lascivious conversation.
- Changes from quiet to gay and merry mood, in which trills and sings ditties; great thirst, violent motion of arms.
- Moaning.
- Much moaning, distress, a sudden crying out. ^Retention of urine.

Weeping and screaming, made by gentle comforting.

- She was violently delirious, screamed and wept aloud, and was unmanageable, suffered greatest anxiety and despaired of recovery.

The child cries out suddenly, and after awhile it ceases crying as suddenly as it began, and appears as if nothing had been the matter.

Crying and howling of children, as from rage.

- Instead of eating, bit wooden spoon in two, gnawed plate, and growled and barked like a dog.
- The boy was quite beside himself, struck at his mother, bit her, made terrible grimaces and contortions of limbs, did not remain a moment in one place.
- She attempted to bite and strike her attendants, broke into fits of laughter, and gnashed her teeth; head hot, face red, looks wild and fierce.
- She tears her night dress and bedclothes.

Picking at bedclothes as if looking for something lost, with confused muttering.

In his delirium he picked at bedclothes, and threw them off, and sought continually to spring out of bed.

Foolish, ludicrous antics and gestures; they touch everything within their reach; foolish laughing, excessive sensibility.

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- Became wantonly merry, ran from house, and exposed their nakedness.
 They behaved like drunken people.
 Both children played with each other at hide and seek, calling each other in their sleep.
 - The boy ran around room laughing immoderately, desired neither food nor drink ; a piece of bread, which he took to be a stone, he threw far from him; his delirium was always merry, he became totally unconscious; pulse very slow, full; pupils widely dilated, not sensitive to light, abdomen somewhat distended.

Dancing, running and creeping about in shirt.
 The child became flushed, wanted to escape, struck at people, became delirious and restless.
 - She turns about in her bed in a perfect rage.
 - In his delirium he threw himself down from a height.

Nearly all symptoms lead to violence of action; patient must do everything violently; she wishes those around her to kill her.
 Sensation of floating or gliding along, as if in a boat; as if the body, or a part of it was greatly enlarged.
 - Aversion to noise and company.

Aversion to all mental occupation; indolence.
 Hands constantly in motion, try to catch things in air.
 - She will sit and break pins, into pieces, half a day at a time.

She feels of those around her; at times she seats herself; at times she acts as if she was washing, or as if she counted money, or as if she was drinking; she mutters as if asleep; she talks like a maniac, with staring, protruded eyes; talks about dogs that swarm around her; converses with a late sister in a churchyard ; beautiful images present themselves to her as if by a charm.
 Disinclination to talk, or very fast talking.
 Very mirthful mood, singing and whistling; frequent laughter.
 Depression, or too great hilarity.
 Sadness and dejection; patients are indifferent to everything, seek solitude, and desire rest.
 Melancholy; hypochondriasis; hopelessness.
 She is very despondent.
 Tremulous despondency.
 Great distress, with inquietude.
 Despair.
 - Hysteria, with melancholic mood.

Became fearful when persons approached him in street, and when they had passed, he insisted on it that he had stabbed them.

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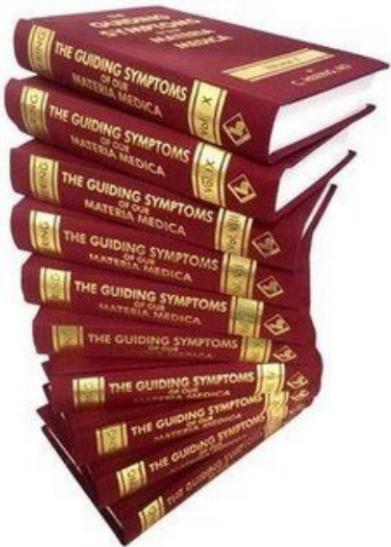
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- Starts in affright at approach of others.
 - Fear of imaginary things, wants to run away from them.
 - Cardiac anxiety, with anguish and restlessness.
 - Anxiety and fear of imaginary objects and hallucinations, ghosts, soldiers which come to take them away, black animals, rats, dogs, wolves, etc. Anxiety, restlessness, nausea and pain in back, with wind colic.
 - Anxiety, anguish, trembling, constant restlessness.
 - By day great anxiety; she has no peace anywhere; it seemed to her as if she must fly away.
 - Anxious and confused, fears she is about to die.
 - Tremulous, anxious, nervous. Anxious and timorous.
 - Nervous anxiety, restlessness, desire to escape. Anxiety, followed by sweat. Intolerable anguish during time she is free from rage,
with desire to die. Loss of courage. Very sensitive, irritable mood,
 - Very excitable mood, easily brought to tears. Weeping, irritable mood.
 - Fretfulness; nothing seemed right to him; was vexed with himself. Weeping and vexation about trifles, with headache and pressure in forehead, and great dryness of mouth.
 - Morose and serious.
 - Anger, proceeding even to paroxysms of convulsive rage.
 - Quarrelsome, during exuberant mirth.
 - Quarrelsomeness, cannot be quieted, with disposition to violent rage.
 - Great inquietude, goes from place to place. Great restlessness and indescribable anxiety, cannot sit or lie long in any position; they seek to fly.
 - Mania: with intense craving for snuff; voracious appetite, they swallow everything in their reach ; generally constipated ; wild, unsteady look, eyes brilliant, face flushed, breathing anxious, irregular; sexual excitement, inclined to masturbate; sleepless and restless. Stupefying headache.
- Sensorium.** All senses more acute.
- Great irritability and impressionableness of senses; he tastes and smells everything more acutely; sense of taste, of sight and of hearing is keener, and the mind is more easily moved, and thoughts more active.
 - Excessive nervous excitability, with exalted sensibility of all organs; least noise, least light is annoying.
- His senses deceive him.



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