ARUM TRIPHYLLUM.

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The attention of the profession has been called to the curative effects of Arum triphyllum in Scarlet Fevers, first in the *Homœopathic News;* later clinical observations were published on the 28th page of the second volume of the American Review. Attention was called to the remedy by Dr. Hale in his "New Remedies;" and the characteristic symptoms of this comparatively new medicine were published for the first time in the First Part of the Text Book on Materia Medica. Since its first introduction as a curative agent in some forms of Scarlet Fever, the characteristic symptoms have been more closely observed, and it has been successfully administered in quite a large number of cases.

The principal characteristic symptoms of this remedy are those of the buccal cavity, tongue, lips, throat and nose.

The discharge from the nose consists in an ichorous fluid, excoriating the nostrils and upper lip; the nose at the same time is stuffed up, he can only breathe with the mouth open. Similar affections we find under the effects of Ammonium mur., Castor., Kali hyd., Mezer., Nitric ac., Silicea.

The *Ammonium mur.* discharge is characterized by its being thicker, and making the nose more sore inside; the nose is either only stuffed up during the night, or only on one side.

The *Castoreum* discharge is watery and acrid, but the concomitant symptom is a violent tearing pain at the root of the nose.

Kali hyd. has great similarity with Arum triph., and a very similar discharge from the nose; the soreness of the mouth is different, as we shall show below. The watery discharge from the nose under Kali hyd. causes burning and soreness; but whether it will be curative in other cases than

those dependent on the abuse of mercury,—in which cases it promptly cures the frequently recurring attacks of fluent coryza, with burning in and soreness of the nose, with the sensation as if a ligature preventing the passage of air through the nose—must be ascertained by further clinical observations.

Lycopodium is also similar as to the discharge, but a concomitant symptom is headache, with much heat and thirst at night.

Mezereum. The discharge from the nose is generally slightly streaked or tinged with blood.

Nitric acid has a similar discharge, which is almost always accompanied by cough, with hoarseness and pricking pain in the throat, when coughing or swallowing.

Silicea causes a similar discharge; the nostrils readily bleed from the soreness, which is not the case under Arum.

The buccal cavity, the tongue and throat, are excessively sore under *Arum triph.*, so sore and burning, that every offer of drink is vehemently refused.

Kali hyd. has ulcerated tongue and mouth, with soreness and without ptyalism; food and drink are also refused on account of the great pain caused by the ulcerated condition.

Ammonium mur., Castoreum, Lycopodium, Nitric acid and *Silicea* have no sore mouth in the least similar to that caused by *Arum triph.* The burning blisters on the tip of the tongue under Lycopodium, and the stinging, pricking ulcers under Nitric acid, show the great difference between these otherwise often similar remedies, and determine the choice of either of them in similar diseased conditions.

Arum triphyllum has a red, sore tongue, the papillæ elevated.

The most similar appearance of the tongue is found under *Argentum nitr.;* the papillæ are prominent and erect, and feel sore; red painful tip of the tongue; or the papillæ are erect and painful only on the left side of the tongue, or on the left margin of the tongue, where they form red, painful blotches.

Crocus sat. has elevated papillæ, while the tongue is white. Tartarus emet., Pothos. f., Merc. bijod. and Lachesis have also

elevated papillæ, but not in any combination similar to that found under Arum triph.

Arum triphyllum has excessive salivation; the saliva is very acrid.

Mercurius and *Veratrum* have also acrid saliva and excessive salivation; but have no other similarity with Arum triph.

Arum triphyllum has swollen lips; they are cracked; the corners of the mouth are sore, cracked and bleeding. This condition is similar to many remedies, but most prominent among them stands Mercurius and Bryonia; but no other remedy has this combination as prominent as Arum triph.

Arum triphyllum has in combination with the above symptoms of the buccal cavity, lips and tongue, also a swollen, bloated face, swelling of the submaxillary glands, and an excoriated sensation in the throat, impeding deglutition. Another very important symptom, only observed on one Scarlet Fever patient, is great soreness between the abdomen, genitals and thighs, and on and below the os coccygis; this latter symptom has not yet been incorporated among the characteristics in the Materia Medica, as it requires further confirmation by clinical experiments before it can be fully admitted, and establishes a closer similarity with Lycopodium. The combination of symptoms as here stated, is often found present in malignant Scarlet Fever. In such cases, the first appearance of an alarming condition of the patient takes place on the third or fourth day of Scarlet Fever; the breathing becomes impeded by the nose being stuffed up and discharging a burning ichorous fluid. This condition is sometimes met promptly by one dose of Lycopodium; but in the most malignant cases the mouth becomes at once sore, the tongue red, acrid, saliva runs out the mouth in streams, the upper lip becomes excoriated from the nasal discharge, and the acrid saliva causes a swelling of the lips, they crack, the corners of the mouth crack, and both bleed freely if the lips are moved or the mouth is opened. (Lycopodium is still indicated if the lips become covered with viscous mucus, which dries on them, and so covers them.) The patient

refuses to take the least portion of fluid, because the opening of the mouth is excessively painful, and the fluid touching the sore surfaces of the mouth and tongue causes great pain; with the increasing soreness, the tongue becomes more red and the papillæ stand up highly inflamed and erect; the submaxillary glands also begin to swell, and the patient shows great signs of distress. Before the curative effects of Arum triphyllum were known, such cases almost always terminated fatally, notwithstanding the administration of Lycopodium, Nitric acid, Ammonium or Mercurius, because they were not the Homœopathic similars. When Arum triphyllum is indicated by this combination of symptoms in Scarlet Fever, it should be administered very cautiously; let a potency be dissolved in water and one spoonful be administered once in 3 or 4 hours for 24 hours; it will cause by that time at least a cessation of the increase of this alarming condition, and if it is allowed to exhaust its effects, will gradually but slowly improve the case; its action may last from three to seven days, and very frequently no other remedy and no repetition of the same medicine will be necessary. If it has been exhibited in too large a dose, or if it has been given for too long a time, the patient will become hoarse, and the trachea will be filled with mucus. And if the patient even overcomes the too liberal medication, it will happen that after the period of desquamation has passed over, a second similar eruption, with similar but less severe mouth and throat symptoms, will appear, which will pass off best if left to itself; it is only the legitimate medicinal effect, an involuntary proving. The most certain and unfailing sign that Arum triphyllum has not only begun to develop its curative effects, but will surely continue to improve the condition, is the frequent and profuse discharge of pale urine. And this combination of symptoms has not only been observed in Scarlet Fever, but also in the second week of Typhus Fever. And in such a case these symptoms yielded readily to one dose of a high potency of Arum triphyllum, and after they had ceased, the patient recovered rapidly. While the cases of Scarlet Fever, as here

described, are not met with frequently, they are surely very alarming, and it would bring much comfort to the sick and to the physician, if the remarks here made were verified and these symptoms fully substantiated by further clinical observations.

Arum triphyllum is an indispensable remedy in affections of the larynx and trachea from over exertion of the voice; especially if the accumulation of mucus prevails, and if the voice is hoarse, uncertain, cannot be controlled; the voice is now deep, hollow, then scarcely audible, and again high, shrieking. This occurs in clergymen, singers, public orators, auctioneers; the action of the remedy in such cases is very rapid, as I have had occasion to observe, especially on opera singers and auctioneers. Application has been made at times early in the morning to give a prominent artist a certificate that he is hoarse and cannot sing in the evening, as advertised; and if the above symptoms were present, one dose of Arum triphyllum and silence till evening, were invariably sufficient to supersede the necessity of a certificate, and saved the artist and public many a disappointment. Auctioneers had their voice restored frequently in the course of 3 or 4 hours, under the effect of one single dose, and for the last year I have found the highest potencies of the remedy by Dr. Finke, acting more rapidly than the lower preparations formerly used. In the "Clergyman's Sore Throat," it will do good service, if the above symptoms are present. The preparation from which these observations were gained was made in the following manner: The bulbous root was collected in January, cut up into fine slices, and put in alcohol; from this slightly yellow-tinged tincture the potencies were made, of which I first gave the 6th; but later I have given higher potencies, and seen better results from them, as I continued to give still smaller doses.