

LEDUM PALUSTRE

Introduction

Common Name: Marsh Tea, Labrador Tea
Family: Ericaceae

Prover: Hahnemann

Drug Totality

L = Lack of animal heat.

E = Emaciation of affected parts.

D = Diathesis : rheumatic and gouty.

U = Upward & Diagonal travelling : rheumatism & pains.

M = Motion < Extreme cold sensation > by cold (though a chilly patient).

Constitution

Boger describes Ledum as "Purple, puffy and chilly, yet averse to external warmth."
Tipsters-Constitution abused and broken down by alcohol. (Colch.).

Physical make-up: Mottled, puffed and bloated face (Lach.) (Ref. Kent). Kent remarks, it's a besotted face and looks like the face of an old drunkard.

Diathesis: Rheumatic and gouty.

Thermal Relation:

Complaints of people who are cold all the time; always feel cold and chilly; lack of animal or vital heat (Sep., Sil.).

Hahnemann says, "*It is suitable for the most part, only for the chronic maladies in which there is a predominance of coldness and deficiency of animal heat.*"

Dr. Kent said constitutional coldness. In spite of this chilly sensation, warmth aggravates & extreme cold sensation > by cold (N.M. Choudhuri).

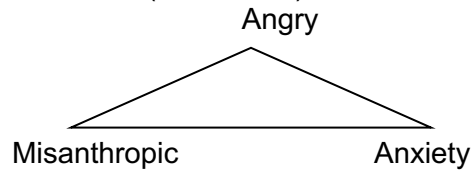
Miasmatics: Psora ++, Syphilis +, Tubercular +.

Aetiology

(i) Constitutions abused by alcohol (Colch.), colchicum. (ii) Injuries from sharp, pointed instruments. (iii) Rat bites, stings of insects, especially mosquitoes. (iv) Antidotal to spider poisons. (v) Antidotes Rhus poisoning.

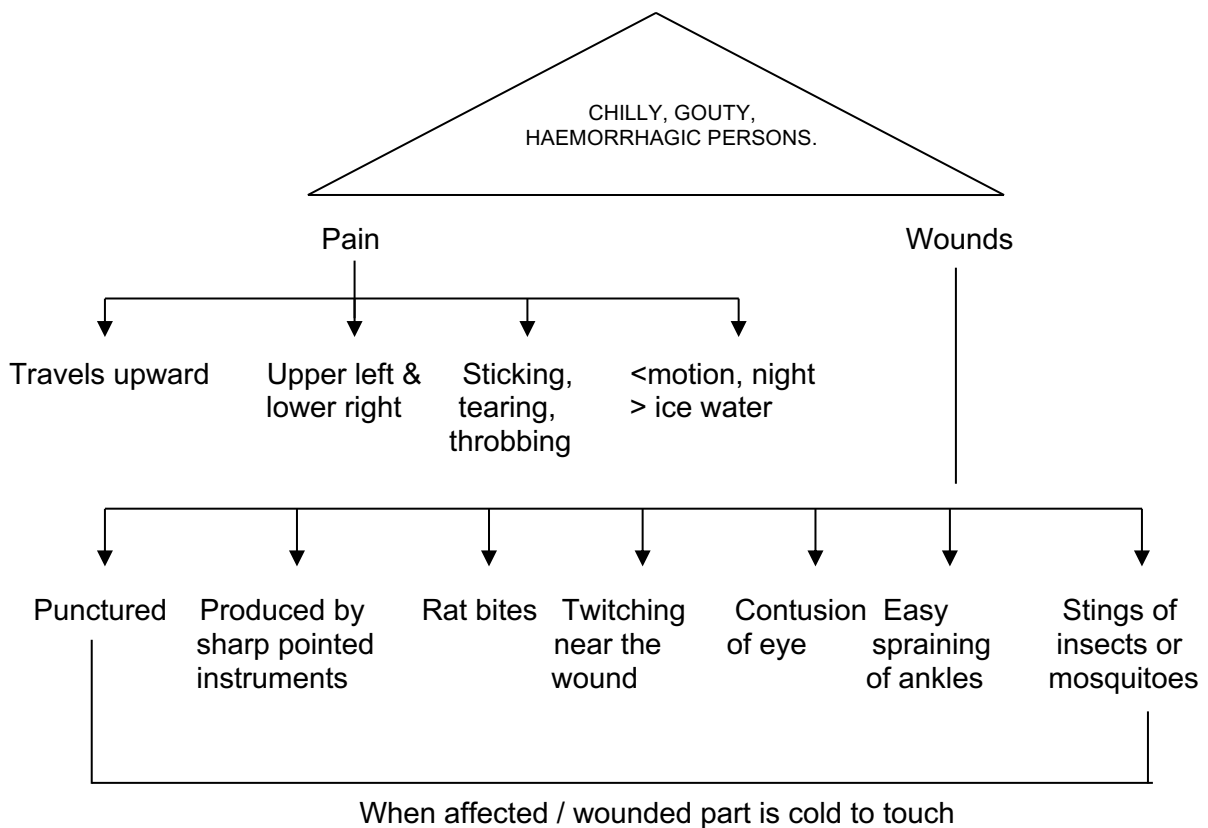
Mental Symptoms

Anxiety, timidity, vehement. Tendency to anger & rage. Dissatisfied, hates his fellow beings. Morose & peevish humour. Misanthropy. Dementia (Ref. Clarke).



Theme & Essence

Diathesis : Rheumatic and gouty (pain → swelling → deposits) : pains > by holding in ice water



Particular Symptoms

INJURY:

Causation :

- (i) Punctured wounds by sharp pointed instruments, as awls, nails (Hyper.); rat bites, stings of insects, especially mosquitoes.
- (ii) Ledum antidotes spider poisons.
- (iii) Easy spraining of ankles & feet (CarboAn).

Eyes :

- (i) Haemorrhage into anterior chamber of eyes after iridectomy (Arn., Ruta).

- (ii) Contusions of eye and lids, especially if much extravasation of blood; ecchymosis of lids and conjunctiva.
- (iii) Nash remarks, no remedy equals Ledum in "black eye" from a blow; better than Arnica. (---if nerve, Hypericum; --- if periosteum, Ruta; --- if bone, Calc. Phos or Symphytum, to promote reunion or repair; Ref. Nash).

Sprain :

Pain in ankles as if sprained or from false step.

Coldness: The wounded parts especially are cold to touch. Parts cold to touch, but not cold subjectively to patient.

Discolouration:

Long-remaining discoloration after injuries: "black and blue" places become green.

Tetanus: When tetanus comes on from punctured wounds, think Hyper; but when you have a punctured wound to treat, give Ledum to prevent tetanus (Ref. Kent). Remember, punctured wounds, Ledum; lacerated wounds of sentient nerves, Hyper.; bruises, Arn.; open laceration and cuts, Calend.

Tetanus with twitching of muscles near wound.

Emaciation of affected part: A nerve is injured by puncture → the muscle that supplies the part takes on an ascending neuritis, pain shoots along the nerve, muscles that are supplied by the nerve dwindle & the part withers. Diseased limb withers.

Nature of wound: Wounds that bleed scantily but are followed by pain with puffiness of foot, or splinter under the nail – after such punctured wounds, part becomes cold & then pale, paralysed & mottled, think of Ledum. (Kent)

Bloating: Ledum has a bloated condition of face and extremities; purple from the knees down in certain dropsical conditions.

Case Example: "He was an old syphilitic, whose nasal bones had been eaten out by syphilis, and his nose was a flabby piece of skin; it had no stiffening in it. He was a drunkard, and was abusive to his family when drunk. His feet were so badly swollen that he sat in the house day after day. When I first saw him he had before him a good-sized old-fashioned wash-tub, and there he sat with the ice water two-thirds up to his knees and pieces of ice floating around on the top of water, which he liked to have coming in contact with the skin. When that ice was out he would put in more. The wife described his sufferings by saying he "suffered agonies something dreadful". Ledum took his feet out of the ice water so that he never used it afterwards. It caused the purpleness to disappear, bloating went out of his feet, and he quit drinking."

Note:

- (i) Ledum sometimes comes into finish up a work that Arnica began well, but could not complete, even when Arnica was best at first, for it often removes the ecchymosis and discolouration more rapidly & perfectly.
- (ii) For black & blue spots from blow or bruises there is no better remedy than Ledum (Ref. Nash).
- (iii) Sulphuric Acid is very useful in ecchymosis esp. occurring in cachectic constitutions with tendency to purpura.

Modalities : Aggravated by motion and at night, by warmth of bed and covering. Amelioration by applying ice-cold water.

SKIN SYMPTOMS:

Causation : Due to injury, alcoholism.

Location : Acne on forehead. Red pimples or tubercles on forehead and cheeks as in brandy drinkers, stinging when touched.

Features :

- i) Intense itching of feet and ankles; < from scratching and warmth of bed (Puls., Rhus).
- ii) Long remaining discolouration after injury, black and blue places become green.
- iii) Wounded parts are cold to touch.
- iv) Eruptions, which burn sting, like the bites of stings of insects.
- v) Kent remarks, phlegmonous erysipelas, particularly of face or the injured part.
- vi) It produces an eruption like Poison-oak, and is antidotal to stings of insects.

Modality : Worse at night and heat of bed and by scratching but relieved by cold water.

RHEUMATISM :

Causation:

Due to altered secretion and deposit of uric acid, sodium biurate deposits in the tissues. Especially if brought to a low asthenic condition by abuse of colchicum.

Diathesis: Rheumatic and gouty diathesis, joints become the seat of nodosities & gout stones, which are painful.

Location :

- (ii) Affects left shoulder & right hip joint (Agar, Ant T, Stram).
- (iii) Rheumatism or gout; begins in lower limbs and ascends (Arn. – descends: Cact., Kalm.)
- (iv) Special tendency of affecting small joints (Ref. N.M. Choudhuri).
- (v) Painful and sensitive soles, can hardly step on them. (Nash)

Direction: Kent said, pain & swelling goes upwards & heart become affected, from circumference to centre.

Sensation :

- (i) Tearing and sticking pain in left shoulder and right hip joint.
- (ii) Pain in ankles as if sprained or from false step.
- (iii) Affected part feels as if bruised or beaten. (N.M. Choudhuri)
- (iv) The patient cannot tolerate the warmth of bed due to heat and burning in limbs.

Swelling: Swelling: of feet, up to knees; of ankle with unbearable pain when walking, as from a sprain or false step; ball of great toe swollen, painful; in heels as if bruised.

Alternation: Raue puts it "coxalgia alternating with haemoptysis."

Concomitant :

- (ii) Kent said in women, gout is accompanied with dysmenorrhoea & other uterine trouble.
- (iii) Cataract with gout.

Modalities :

< by motion; < at night, by warmth of bed and bed-covering (Mer.).

> only when holding feet in icy-cold water (Secale cor; ---rev. of Arsenic).

General Modalities

Aggravation: Warmth of bed is intolerable on account of heat & burning of limbs at night, on touch and motion, wine (Boger).

Amelioration : From cold, putting feet in icy cold water.

Relationship

Conium in long lasting effects of injuries.

Its antidotes: Apis, China, Lachesis, insect poison and animal poison.

Nash said, ecchymosis into the conjunctiva or sclerotica, Nux Vom is specific. Black eye from a blow or the fist, no remedy equals Ledum in 200 Potency (Ref. Nash).

Oral Questionnaire

Qu.1 State the respiratory symptoms of Ledum.

Ans.

- (ii) Cough; tormenting; from tickling in larynx; with epistaxis; then sobbing respiration; agg. receding eruptions.
- (iii) Double inspirations with sobbing.
- (iv) Bronchitis with emphysema of the aged.
- (v) Haemoptysis alternating with rheumatism.

Qu.2 State the urinary symptoms of Ledum.

Ans.

Copious clear, colorless urine, light in specific gravity and from its being light or deficient of salts in the urine we have an aggravation of the gouty manifestations. (verified by Lippe)

Qu.3 State the remedies which are > by holding feet in ice water.

Ans. I] Ledum II] Secale Cor.