Frans Vermeulen
Synoptic Reference 1 - 505 Remedies - Imperfect copy

Extrait du livre

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de Frans Vermeulen
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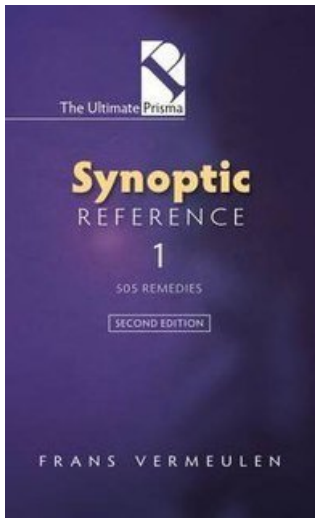

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PSORINUM

SUBSTANCE

Scabies-related nosode.
Sarcoptes scabei. Itch mite. Family Sarcoptidae. Class Arachnida. Phylum Arthropoda.

The remedy Psorinum was prepared from the 'sero-purulent matter contained in the scabies vesicle', as Allen and Hering put it. Scabies itself *does not produce purulence*. Purulent scabies vesicles are the result of *secondary bacterial* infection induced by scratching. However, secondary bacterial infection of scabies lesions is common and can involve a range of both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, such as staphylococci, streptococci, Peptostreptococcus and Clostridium, among others. Colonisation of skin lesions by group A streptococci or Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa appears to be most common. Other complications of scabies include impetigo, furunculosis and cellulitis. The staphylococci or streptococci in the lesions can lead to pyelonephritis, post-streptococcal glomerulo-nephritis, abscesses, pyogenic pneumonia, sepsis and death.

There is no telling which 'mixed bag' of bacteria was involved in the original preparation of Psorinum. Hering performed the first proving on himself with self-manufactured 'Psorin', the nosode of itch pustules. He explains: "In the autumn of 1830, I collected the pus from the itch pustules of a young and otherwise healthy negro; he had been handling some stuff from Germany, and had thus been infected, but whether by means of acari or not I cannot say. The pustules were full, large, yellow vesicles, particularly between the fingers, on the hands and forearms. I opened all the mature, unscratched pustules for several days in succession, and collected the pus in a vial with alcohol. After shaking it well and suffering it to stand, I commenced my provings with the tincture on the healthy. Its effects were striking and decided. I administered it to the sick with good results, and sometimes witnessed aggravations. I called this preparation Psorinum."

Here we have clear evidence that Hering made the remedy from pus and assumed that he was dealing with scabies! What he exactly meant with 'provings on the healthy' is clarified by the slightly more detailed description of the event in Knerr's biography *The Life of Hering*: "When in Suriname, I examined a strong, healthy looking negro with the itch, a tailor by trade. I looked for the acarus but *could not find it*. I know that the bug accompanies the disease, but it may be a product caused by disease, and there may be itch without the acarus. I took the pus and poured alcohol over it. It coagulated. I put some of it on a watch glass where crystals formed. I swallowed the potentised preparation. If I ever was sick in my life it was then. The effect was shocking."

Hering shared his information by letter with Hahnemann and sent a sample of Psorin. Hahnemann proved the new drug on 'S' [Schreter] and 'R' [Rhost], in the 30th potency, in 1833. Although a good deal of symptoms were attributed to one or more females, they are neither mentioned in the line up of the proving, nor is it clear whether they are provers or patients or both. Gross, one of Hahnemann's inner circle, undertook an additional proving on 4 individuals, but used the product of '*psora sicca*' [pityriasis, a *fungal* infection] as the proving substance.

Notwithstanding the near impossibility that scabies vesicles, purulent or otherwise, included mites or Hering's 'acarus', it would still seem best to rank Psorinum in the subclass Acari, given its traditional *association* with scabies, the 'itch'. Scabies has long been commonly referred to as 'the itch' in man and 'mange' or 'scab' in animals. Mites

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and ticks constitute the subclass Acarina, which is part of the arthropod class Arachnida. Mites are tiny creatures, the smallest being about 0.1 mm in length and the largest about 6 mm. Mites and ticks are close relatives of spiders and scorpions. There are about 20,000 recognised mite species, which are placed in nearly 1600 genera and 325 families. Mites are found in virtually every imaginable habitat in all parts of the world. They may be aquatic or terrestrial, predators, scavengers or plant feeders, parasitic or non-parasitic. Some prefer dry, others humid environments. Some mites are intermediate hosts of diseases transmissible to humans, animals, and plants.

P

"Marked pruritus is most intense when the patient is in bed [often severe enough to keep sufferers awake all night]. The characteristic initial lesions are burrows seen as fine wavy dark lines a few millimetres to 1 cm long with a minute papule at the open end. The inflammatory lesions occur predominantly on the finger webs, the flexor surface of the wrists, about the elbows and axillary folds, about the areolae of the breasts in females and on the genitals in males, along the beltline, and on the lower buttocks. There may also be numerous non-specific [uninfected] papules and excoriations over the trunk and extremities. The face is not involved in adults but may be in infants. Patients who have neurological disorders or various forms of immunodeficiency may have nonpruritic scaling due to infections with myriad mites; particularly on the palms and soles and on the scalp in children. Burrows may be difficult to find [particularly when the disease has persisted for several weeks] because they are obscured by scratching or secondary lesions [e.g., urticaria, scratch dermatitis, eczema, or superimposed bacterial infection]." [Merck Manual]

An English study of the distribution of mites in nearly 900 adult male patients revealed that 63% were found on the hands and wrists, followed by the extensor aspect of the elbows [11%], the feet [9%], genitalia [9%], buttocks [4%], axillae [2%] and only 2% on the remaining parts of the body. Scabies mites, released on the bodies of volunteers and forced to burrow in uncharacteristic areas, emerge and make their way to their favourite locations. In neglected cases of long standing, the number of parasites reaches enormous proportions and there are widespread lesions with much crusting. This condition is called 'Norwegian scabies' and occurs mostly among the elderly and in AIDS patients.

Symptoms marked ° from provings by Hahnemann with a single dose of 30c on 2 provers; and by Gross [Germany] with a single dose of 30c on 4 provers. Gross used 'psora sicca', the epidermoid efflorescence of pityriasis. Clinical observations in Hering's Guiding Symptoms [G] and from Clarke [UK; C]. Symptoms marked • from Degroote's Dream Repertory.

AFFINITY

Skin. Upper and lower respiratory tract. Gastrointestinal.

SYMPTOMS

M Feels as if he hears with the ears of another person.°
M Sadness with suicidal thoughts.°
M Sudden alterations of mood, from happy and cheerful to sad and downhearted. [H]
M Hopelessness # hopefulness.°
M Dreary and hopeless, believes he will go bankrupt.°
M Despair of recovery; has lost all hope. [G]
M Dreams: dangers; thieves; toilets; traveling; work.

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M Pessimistic; born loser, helplessly under sway of ups and downs of life. Forsaken feeling.
M Delusion having a dark cloud hanging over one's head.•
M Optimistic; pictures the future in the brightest colours.•
M Lack of energy, love, money, willpower, hope, knowledge, ambition, reaction, healing power, life impulse, etc.
M Confusion as to his identity, as if head were separated from body.
M Fear being left behind/alone by mother.•
G Ailments from suppressed eruptions – bronchitis, asthma, epilepsy, diarrhoea, paralysis.
G Debility [& profuse perspiration] remaining after acute diseases.
G Very chilly. Frequent colds. Change of weather <.
G Constant hunger. Waking from sleep from hunger. When hungry <. Attacks [esp. headaches] preceded [or attended] by canine hunger. Eating >.
G Cold and heat <. Summer <. Exposure to sun <.
G Approach of a storm – thunderstorm <. During storm <.
G Foul discharges – stools, sweat, foot sweat, odour of body, otorrhoea.
G Itching in face, on neck and hands, when touching these places.°
G Aversion to pork. [H]
G Great thirst during dinner, or no appetite but constant desire to drink. Thirst for beer.°
G Swimming >.•
G Sleep position: Curled up like a dog. Limbs apart.•
S Burning heat in vertex in evening, as if being pulled up by the hair.°
S Frontal headache, as if brain has not space enough in skull, when getting up in morning, as if everything were pushed out, > after washing and breakfast.°
S When leaning head on hand, due to severe neck pain, it feels as if head has no substance and as if hand would go right through it.°
S All objects in room as if trembling.°
S Front teeth as if so loose that he fears they will fall out.°
S Emptiness and looseness in abdomen, intestines as if hanging down. [G]
S Weakness in all joints as if they would not hold together.°
L Sensitive to drafts about head. Wants head covered, even in summer.
L Headache over left eye, spreads to right side, & nausea and diarrhoea; day before headache inordinate appetite, which remains until first hours of headache. [G]
L Facial acne. From fats, sugar, coffee, meat. < During menses. [C]
L Eructations tasting like rotten eggs.°
L Foul-smelling, dark brown, fluid stool; smell of rotten eggs; smell like carrion, < at night. [°;G]
L Dyspnoea in open air, must hurry home in order to lie down.°
L Cannot bear draft of air on nape of neck.•

RUBRICS STRANGE, RARE & PECULIAR

Mind • *Absorbed*, in horrible thoughts. Loss of *adaptability*. *Anxiety*, about business; on closing eyes; from becoming cold; while riding downhill. *Avarice*, from anxiety about future. Desires to remain in *bed*. *Bulimia*, at night. Full of *cares* at night. Full of *cares* about one's business, although it is successful. *Cheerful*, when constipated. *Confusion*, as to his identity, sense of duality. *Delusions*: Having no body; head separated from body; left half of head stupefied; will become insane; being poor; being sick; swimming in deep water, only. *Dullness*, > epistaxis. *Fears:* Business failure; corpses;

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being disabled; evil forebodings; falling into fire; being neglected; poverty; before thunderstorm; walking across a busy street. *Gestures*, wringing hands. Morbid *impulse* to wash. *Irritability*, during menopause. *Irritability* in children, good all day, cross all night. Everything causes *irritability*. *Obstinate*, children, annoy those about them. *Pessimist*. *Restlessness*, children, at night, but in morning fresh and lively; before storm. Persistent *thoughts*, ideas of thoughts which first appeared in his dreams. *Tormenting* everyone with his complaints.

Dreams • *Continuation* of dreams after waking. *Excrements*, stool.

Vertigo • *Walking* across an open space <.

Head • *Congestion*, & epistaxis; > epistaxis; from mental exertion. *Fullness* forehead, > eating; > washing. *Hair* sticks together, making combing and hairdressing difficult. *Oily* forehead. *Pain*, at night on waking; > eating; > heat, from change of weather; > wrapping up head. *Pain* forehead, above left eye then right. Pressing *pain* forehead, > eating; sensation as if hair were pulled. Pressing *pain* occiput, as from a band. *Shocks*, waking one from sleep.

Eyes • *Pain* when looking steadily. Pressing *pain*, < lying down. *Photophobia*, < walking in open air. *Tired* sensation, < reading.

Vision • Slow *accommodation*. *Colours*, black spots before headache; blue stars during headache. *Dim*, before and/or during headache. *Lost*, > evening in twilight. *Sparks*, during vertigo. *Trembling* of objects, which then become dark.

Ears • *Breath* as if coming from ears. *Discharges*, offensive, like putrid meat. *Eruptions*, behind ears, moist. *Noises*, roaring, during vertigo. Sensation of *opening* and closing like a valve. *Pain*, > boring with finger. Reddish *wax*. Warm *wind* as if blowing into or upon ears.

Nose • Constant inclination to *blow* nose but does not >. *Boring* in nose with fingers. *Coryza*, > lying; > warm room. *Hay fever*, < autumn. *Obstruction*, > warm room. *Odours*, blood.

Face • *Eruptions*, acne, & menstrual irregularities; acne, < coffee, < fat, < meat, < sugar; acne rosacea on nose. *Itching*, < touch. Stitching *pain*, < while eating.

Mouth • *Taste*, bitter, > after drinking; fatty, greasy.

Teeth • *Stick* together as if glued.

Stomach • *Appetite* increased, before and/or during headache. *Appetite* ravenous at night, during pregnancy. *Appetite* wanting, after acute and/or severe disease. *Eructations*, when hungry; after peaches; after pork. Empty *eructations*, during headache. *Pain*, during hunger.

Abdomen • Sensation as if intestines were *hanging* down. *Pain*, > eating. Pressing *pain*, after peaches. *Pain* liver, < laughing; < sneezing; < yawning.

Rectum • *Constipation*, natural stool; & feeling unusually well. *Diarrhoea*, after acute diseases; from change of weather. *Flatus*, offensive, like spoiled eggs.

Stool • *Odour*, offensive, night only; offensive, sticking to patient.

Bladder • *Urination* involuntary, night, & history of eczema; night, at full moon.

Female • *Menses*, offensive, putrid. *Menses* painful, dysmenorrhoea, near menopause. *Menses* too short, one hour; too short, one day.

Respiration • *Asthmatic*, # eczema; after suppressed eruptions; > holding arms away from body; < leaning backward. *Difficult*, > lying; > lying on back with arms outstretched; during palpitation; > riding; < sitting bent backward; > while travelling. Gentle *motion* >.

Cough • *Alternating* with eruptions. On *touching* ear canal.

Chest • *Eruptions*, boils; axillae, eczema. *Gurgling* in heart, < lying. *Oppression* heart, > lying. *Pain* heart, > lying on back. Pressing *pain*, < bending head forward. Pressing

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pain, in small spots. *Palpitation*, > lying on right side; < lying on left side. *Pressure* of arms against body <.
Back • *Eruptions*, boils, cervical region. *Pain*, when straightening up back. *Pain* dorsal region, third thoracic vertebra as if crushed. *Pain* lumbar region, as if third vertebra were wanting. Pressing *pain* lumbar region, < motion.
Limbs • *Cracked* skin of hands, in winter. *Eruptions* hands, between fingers, itching, vesicles. *Heat* soles of feet, after wine in evening. *Itching* soles of feet, < wine. Sore *pain* soles of feet, < morning in bed. *Perspiration* palms of hands, night. *Restlessness* legs, < morning in bed; < after rising.
Sleep • *Disturbed*, by hunger. *Position*, arms apart. *Waking*, from hunger.
Perspiration • *Odour*, cadaverous like carrion, musty, putrid. *Oily*.
Skin • *Eruptions*, urticaria, after violent exercise; from warmth and exercise. *Itching* without eruptions, on becoming warm.
Generals • Cold *bathing* >. Flushes of *heat*, preventing sleep. Feels unusually *well* and then <.

FOOD & FLUID
Aversion • Alcohol. Cooked food. Fruit; tomatoes. Meat; pork; rump steak. Tobacco. Vegetables. Warm food.
Desire • Alcohol; beer. Coarse food. Cold drinks. Delicacies. Farinaceous. Fruit; tomatoes. Raw food. Sour. Sweets.
Worse • Bread; rye bread. Coffee. Dairy; milk. Eggs. Farinaceous. Fat. Flatulent. Frozen food. Fruit; sour fruit; peaches; pears. Honey. Meat; pork; sausage; smell of cooking meat. Pastry. Raw food. Smoked food. Sour. Sugar. Vegetables; garlic; green vegetables; potatoes.
Better • Roasted food.

PLUS GROUP
Hopelessness # hopefulness, pessimistic # optimistic
+ Forsaken feeling
+ Lack of . . . [many things]
+ Great susceptibility to taking cold
+ Foul discharges
+ Constant hunger; eating >

PTELEA TRIFOLIATA

SUBSTANCE
Ptelea trifoliata. Wafer ash. Hop tree.
Family Rutaceae. Order Sapindales.

Ptelea trifoliata is a deciduous shrub or small tree, to 5 m [16.4 ft] high, with slender, dark brown, shining twigs, dark green, trifoliate, shining leaves and small, fragrant, cream-coloured flowers. Wafer-like samaras with broad wings, the round fruits have a papery margin, giving them *wings to fly* on high winds during early winter to distant destinations. However, despite the ability to travel on wind or water, seeds tend to establish under or near existing trees and, as such, much apparently suitable habitat remains unoccupied. The aromatic leaves have numerous glandular dots. Native to Eastern Canada, USA and Mexico, it is found in shady, moist thickets, forest margins,

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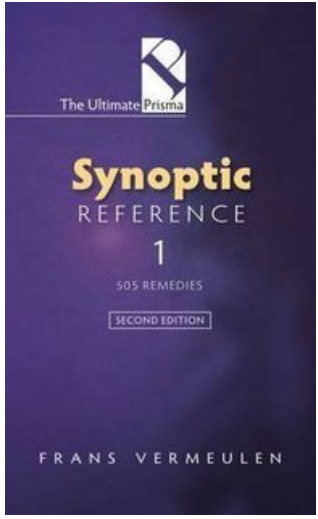

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