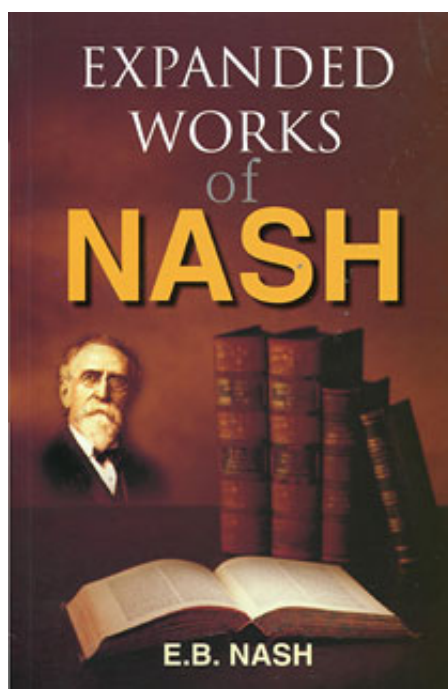


Eugene Beauharnais Nash Expanded Works of Dr. Nash

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The children are dwarfish, Mind and body weak, marasmic, swollen glands especially mesenteric, inclined to tonsilitis, taking cold easily, etc. [V.46]

BELLADONNA

All acute inflammatory diseases present prominent head symptoms, pain, red puffed face, throbbing carotids and delirium, and spasms, or jerks and twitchings.

Eyes staring, red, blood-shot and pupils first contracted, then greatly dilated.

Mouth and throat very dry, red, sometimes greatly swollen; all mucous surfaces correspondingly dry and hot.

Pains appear suddenly, and after a while disappear as suddenly as they came.

Skin very red and hot, fairly radiates heat; burns the hand touching it, but sweats on covered parts.

Several inflammations which streak out in radii from a center.

Modalities: < after 3 p.m. or after midnight from uncovering, or draft of air, and lying down; > from covering and head high.

Great liability to take cold; sensitive to draft of air, especially when uncovering the head; from having the hair cut (*Hep.*); tonsils swell after riding in a cold wind (*Acon*).

Imagines he sees ghosts, hideous faces, and various insects (*Stram.*); black animals, dogs and wolves.

Abdomen tender, distended < by least jar, even the bed; obliged to walk with great care for fear of a jar.

Pain in right ileo-caecal region, < by slightest touch, even the bed covers.

Pressing downwards, as if the contents of abdomen would issue from the vulva; < standing and sitting erect; worse mornings (compare *Lil-t.*, *Murex*, *Sep.*)

Tongue: Red and dry, with red edges and white coating in the middle; papillae bright and prominent, like scarlatina (*Acon.*, *Ant.t.*), offensive, putrid taste in throat when eating or drinking, although food tastes natural.

* * * * *

We now come to consider what I call the trio of delirium remedies — *Belladonna*, *Hyoscyamus* and *Stramonium*. Many other remedies have delirium, but these three deserve to head the list. *Belladonna* may also be called pre-eminently a head remedy. In most complaints where this remedy is indicated head symptoms preponderate. The *blood* all seems to be rushing to the head. (*Amyl nitrite*, *Glonoine*, *Melilotus*). The head is hot while the extremities are cool. The eyes are red and blood-shot. The face is also red, almost purple red. The carotid arteries throb so as to be plainly visible. There is either great pain, pressure or sense of fullness, or an almost stupid condition. The wild, terrible delirium, if present, may be found with pain, or even with no complaint of pain. In delirium the patient "imagines he sees ghosts, hideous faces and animals and insects." Fears all sorts of imaginary things and wants to run away from them; breaks out into fits of laughter or screams and gnashes his teeth; bites or strikes those around him; in short, performs all sorts of violent acts and is controlled with great difficulty. No remedy has more persistently *violent delirium* than *Belladonna*. One of the characteristic features of *Belladonna* in delirium as compared with the other two remedies is the decided evidence already mentioned of a surcharge of blood in the brain. When the throbbing of the

condition is often found in children and then *Belladonna* is like "oil upon troubled waters." Remember *Belladonna* inflammations localize more than they do in *Aconite*. I drew the difference between these two remedies in inflammations and inflammatory fevers when writing upon *Aconite*. There is no use of confounding them. Some do so; but, in so doing, only exhibit their ignorance.

There are, in every remedy, symptoms of sensation, circumstance, constitution or modality which are peculiar both to diseases and remedies. These symptoms are not always easily accounted for. The attempt to explain them from a pathological standpoint is not always possible or even necessary were it possible. A simple acceptance of them as facts is often more sensible than to wait long to find the often unfindable. To act as a prescriber upon what we know is better than waiting, because we cannot explain or account for it. For I instance, it is not easy to tell why 'the pains of *Belladonna* appear suddenly and after a time disappear as suddenly as they come," while those of *Stannum* "gradually increase to a great height and as gradually decline," or *Sulphuric acid* "begin slowly and decline suddenly," or "gradually increase and suddenly cease," but so it is, and the acceptance of these facts enables the homoeopathic prescriber to cure his patient, whether he can explain them or not. Gurnesey says — "This medicine is particularly applicable, and in fact takes the lead over all others in cases in which *quickness or suddenness of either sensation or motion is predominant.*" To be sure all these symptoms have their pathological explanation if we could give it; but, acting on our law of *Similia*, we can cure our patients and are not left at sea, without chart or compass, because we cannot explain. We know that these symptoms are the natural outcry of the pathological state, and that the administration of a poison which is capable of setting up a

similar outcry cures the patient. What else is necessary? Either this is true, or Homoeopathy is a humbug.

The simple fact, abundantly proven, that the remedy having the symptoms corresponding to the symptoms of the patient, cures him, no matter what the pathology, where a cure is at all possible, is one of the greatest discoveries of scientific investigation. Long live the name of Hahnemann, the discoverer.

From our description thus far of this remedy you would expect it to be a good one for *congestive headaches*, and so it is, and not only so, but for neuralgic headaches. Throbbing pains, with the already described evidence of congestion of blood to the head. *Belladonna* headaches, whether congestive or neuralgic, are worse on *stooping forward, bending downward, or lying down*, anything that takes the patient out of the perpendicular. "*Worse on lying down*," in fact, seems to be a very reliable general characteristic. The elder Lippe once told me of a case of suspicious enlargement or swelling and pain of the breast of long standing, which, as he expressed it, seemed likely to prove a case for the surgeon (cancer), which was entirely cured by a few doses of *Belladonna*, to which he was guided by this symptom of the pains being so much worse on lying down. Since then I have observed and verified this symptom in many cases of different kinds. I will not stop to give all the symptoms that might be present in *Belladonna* headaches.

No remedy has greater affinity for the throat. The burning, dryness (*Sabadilla*), *sense of constriction* (constant desire to swallow to relieve the sense of dryness, *Lyssin*), with or without swelling of the palate and tonsils, is sometimes intense. I once witnessed a case of poisoning in which these symptoms were terribly distressing.

There are two very characteristic symptoms in the abdominal region, viz: "*Tenderness of the abdomen, aggravated by the least jar, in walking, or stepping, or even the bed or chair, upon which she sits or lies*"; and "*pressure downward as if the contents of the abdomen would issue through the vulva, < mornings.*" This last symptom is found under other remedies, notably *Lilium tigrinum* and *Sepia*. With *Belladonna* there is often associated with this, pressure downward a pain in the back "*as if it would break.*" "*Starting and jumping,*" or "Twitching in sleep", or on going to sleep is characteristic. So also is "*sleepy, but cannot sleep,*" and "*moaning during sleep.*"

With *Belladonna* the head likes wrapping up or covering, takes cold when it is uncovered or from cutting the hair (*Silicea*). (*Glonoine*; can't bear hat on).

Uniform, smooth, shining, scarlet redness of the skin, so hot that it imparts a burning sensation to the hand of one who feels of it, is very characteristic (H.N. Gurnesy)

Convulsions with other symptoms of *Belladonna* are very frequently found under this remedy.

I have here endeavored to give an outline of this great remedy. A volume might be profitably written upon its virtues. No one remedy would be more greatly missed than this, if it were to be expunged from our great *Materia Medica*.

[I. 99 to 103]

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

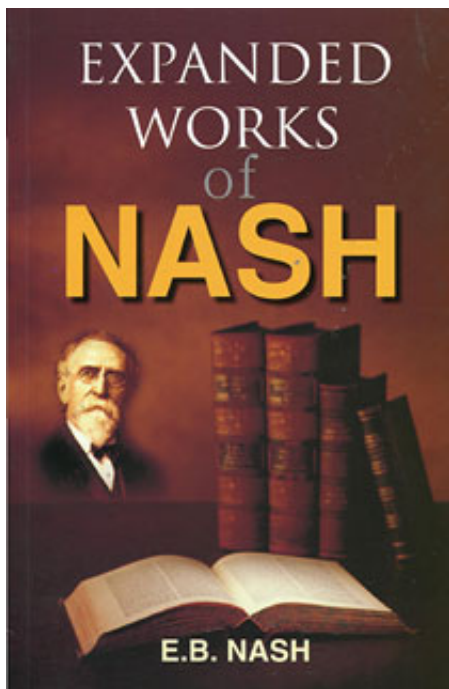
[II.15]

Headache worse from leaning forward; better when bending backward.

[II.31]

Vertigo when stooping, or when rising from stooping, falling to the left or backward with vanishing of sight, or flickering before the eyes.

[II.31]



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