

Margaret Lucy Tyler

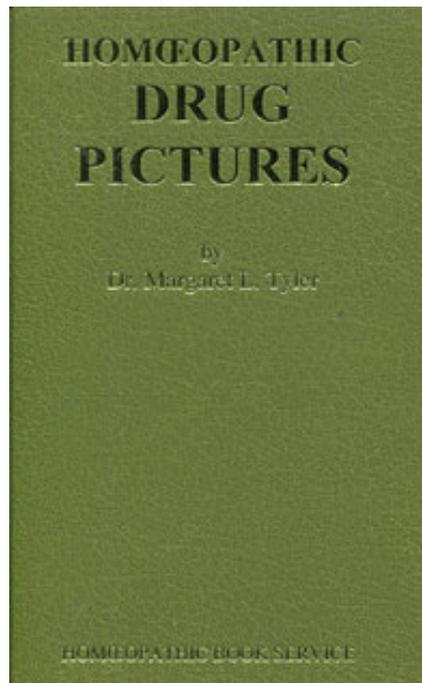
Homoeopathic Drug Pictures

Reading excerpt

[Homoeopathic Drug Pictures](#)

of [Margaret Lucy Tyler](#)

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BELLADONNA

THIS is another of Hahnemann's Polycrests—drugs of many uses—which has its place (for paramount utility in acute and violent conditions) in every homoeopathic medicine chest, however diminutive:—One of those medicines, " without which, we might indeed shut up shop "

Violence runs through *Belladonna*, violence and *suddenness*. We associate *Belladonna* in our minds with sudden violence—violent pain, violent headache, violent throbbings, violent delirium, violent mania, violent starts and twitchings, violent convulsions.

Bell, is a remedy of sudden, acute conditions, like *Aeon.*, yet very unlike *Aeon*, in its symptoms. Roughly speaking, *Aconite* is *turmoil in circulation*; *Belladonna* *turmoil in brain*; in the same way that *Chamomilla* provokes and cures ailments associated with *turmoil in temper*.

The cardinal symptoms of inflammation, as we are taught, are heat, redness, swelling, and pain. And all these *Belladonna* has in a violent degree ; therefore *Belladonna* is *palliative* to inflammations in general, and will modify them, if it does no more ; but it is *curative* only where the rest of the symptoms agree. For instance, in inflammations of lung and pleura, its disease picture, as we have shown, is easily distinguishable from that of *Bryonia*, *Phosphorus*, and other remedies. It is the " totality of the characteristic symptoms " that have to be taken into account if sudden and striking *cures* are to result. Sudden cures in pneumonia ?—in herpes ? How can you suddenly cure a pneumonia with consolidation ?—a herpes with wide vesicular eruption ? With the right medicine, early, the pneumonia should have been aborted, should not have gone on to consolidation. But even so, the sudden drop in temperature and pulse, the sudden possibility of rest and sleep, the sudden well-being of the patient, when he asks for food, the newspaper, and talks and smiles, announce the cure, even though the lungs may take days to resolve. In the same way with herpes, the pain and the redness, the inflammation, suddenly go, the vesicles are seen to be dried up, mere scabs; the thing is dead, and will give no more trouble. In acute sickness the needed homoeopathic remedy declares itself unmistakably and often almost suddenly. When you have hit it, there is no mistaking the fact.

Belladonna has been found to abort whitlows in the early stages, to abort an appendicitis, has doubtless aborted countless pneumonias. The typical *Belladonna* picture is unmistakable when you meet it :—the bright-red face, the dilated pupils, the burning skin, the throbbing pains, the intolerance of pressure and JAR. Those call for *Belladonna*, whatever the disease. *Belladonna* can abort and can cure (as we have seen elsewhere) where drug-picture and disease-picture match. Of course there are drugs, aspirin, genasprin, etc., which abolish the *sensation of pain only*, and cure nothing. Such drugs may be dangerous in acute appendicitis, acute middle-ear disease, because they merely mask symptoms while the disease runs on, perhaps into a gangrenous appendix and general peritonitis, or an " acute mastoid" necessitating speedy operation to avoid cerebral abscess. Beware of analgesics. They are not safe. Homoeopathic remedies that fit the symptoms only kill the pain by curing the condition that caused it.

An early experience, never forgotten, of *Belladonna's* rapid curative action was away in the country years ago, where a boy having been exposed to a very hot sun, came down suddenly with violent headache, flushed face, and a very high temperature—as high a one as I had met with in those days, and which filled me with awe—105, or 106. He got some *Belladonna*—and was well by next day. These early striking experiences are not lightly forgotten.

In sunstroke, and in violent congestive headaches, *Belladonna* and *Glonoine* would seem to run almost neck and neck. *Glonoine* (potentized nitro-glycerine) also has throbbing, bursting headache—waves of throbbing, bursting headache, waves of intense pain. It has also the flushed, hot face and, like *Belladonna*, cannot bear the least JAR. The great difference between them seems to be, that *Glonoine* is markedly aggravated by heat—can't bear any heat about the head, may even be ameliorated by cold applications, whereas *Belladonna* is very sensitive to cold ; the *Belladonna* head is especially sensitive to cold, and *Belladonna* has complaints from getting the head chilled, or wet—even from getting the hair cut.

One has seen the extraordinary effect of *Glonoine* in the terrible pains of a badly fractured skull. The boy had been for days under morphia; how was he to possibly exist without it ? *Glonoine* soon settled that question satisfactorily.

Belladonna is hypersensitive to LIGHT—with its hugely dilated pupils !—to noise, to motion, to PRESSURE, to JAR, to cold and, as we said, to washing the head and to getting the hair cut.

GUERNSEY says about *Belladonna*, " Manifested under this drug is a remarkable quickness of sensation, or of motion ; the eyes snap and move quickly ; pains come and go with *great* celerity ; a pain may have lasted for some time, then, in a second, it is gone ; may commence suddenly, slowly increase in celerity till the height is reached, then in a second be gone. Much twitching and jerking of the muscles. Dull and sleepy, half awake and half asleep."

In regard to the sudden come and sudden go of *Belladonna* pain, one remembers a capable and much appreciated little housemaid, who began to get sudden, very violent headaches, and, presently, occasional sudden convulsive attacks, for which no cause could be found. As to the headaches, she would go to bed all right, then, some nights, would come down to my room, where I was sleepily preparing for bed, swaying—waving tremulous hands before her head, " Oh, my head ! my head ! oh ! my head ! Oh ! give me something for my head ! " A dose of *Belladonna* ; a few minutes' wait—then, suddenly, " It's gone now ! " and off she would go, happily, to bed. The matter ended, tragically, in a fit, when cleaning the drawing-room grate in the early morning. An under-housemaid discovered her lying forward with her head in the large fireplace, while a black mark across her throat, from the top bar, betrayed the cause of her death—suffocation. The girl who found her made no attempt to pull her out, but ran off in a fright to tell someone else, and time was wasted before any attempt was made to resuscitate her. A *post mortem* revealed a " glioma " of the brain, a small tumour which accounted for the whole condition. But it was curious to see how *Belladonna* would always quickly, suddenly, relieve the severe head pains, even when dependent on such a condition.

Never think that Homoeopathy can cure everything : it cannot. But it *can* relieve even the incurable to such an extent that it is difficult to realize, at times, its incurability.

KENT has a wonderful lecture on *Belladonna*, from which we will proceed' to borrow .

Belladonna stands for *heat—redness—intense burning*.

The *Belladonna* throat burns like coals of fire : the inflamed tonsils burn like fire. The skin burns like fire to the patient, and is intensely hot to the doctor.

Put your hand on a *Belladonna* patient and you want to suddenly withdraw it : the heat is so intense. Kent says the sensation of heat may remain in your fingers for hours afterwards.

The heat is *violent*. " Heat intense. Violent heat."

With the *Belladonna* heat there is *Redness* : bright redness; going on perhaps later to dusky appearance, or to mottling. But bright-red, shiny skin.

Belladonna has rapid *swellings* : " as if it would burst."

Then *throbbings*—violent pulsations : "a veritable turmoil : an earthquake. Everything is shaken when the patient needs *Belladonna*."

" One of the most painful of remedies " : *pains come suddenly, and go suddenly*.

Motion, with *Belladonna*, means violent suffering : feeling that the head will burst, that the eyes will be pressed out : *hammering* pains.

Worse for touch, which excites violent throbbing.

Worse for JAK. A patient worse if you jar or touch the bed, " will reveal to you the remedy—*Belladonna*".

Intense pains, then, worse for *light*—for *^ar*—for motion —for *cold*. Better hot : better wrapped up : worse draught.

Inflammations : especially of *brain, lungs* and *liver*.

Belladonna's pains, its inflammations and sufferings, its nightly attacks of delirium, are violent inflammatory attacks, and are attended by that violent heat.

Spasms : from the twitchings in sleep of teething babies, to the most violent convulsions.

Convulsion of infants, with hot skin and cerebral congestion : attacks which are brought on by light, by a draught, or if the infant gets cold

Spasms, again, of circular muscles also, of the circular muscles of the bile duct, clutching a little stone. Kent says after a dose of *Belladonna* the spasm lets up and the stone passes, and the agony of gall-stone colic is relieved.

Violence, again, runs through all the mental symptoms which *Belladonna* can cause and therefore cure : "a wild state," says Kent, " perhaps relieved by eating a little food."

With the violent delirium of *Belladonna* there will be its *heat*, its *redness*, its *burning* Brain burns : head burns : skin burns.

Bryonia, as we saw the other day, has the busy delirium of everyday, common things : the anxiety about business : the desire to get on with it.

Belladonna has the furious delirium that leaps at the bare wall : that tries to escape : that bites—spits—tears. Fears also, of an imaginary black dog—of the gallows, etc.

Kent says that *Belladonna* is not indicated in continuous fevers, such as typhoid. Here it will do actual harm. But here

*Eyes dry ; motion attended with sense of dryness and stiffness.
 Burning heat in eyes.
 Dilated pupils : dilated and immovable.
 Everything he sees looks red.
 Great sensitiveness of smell.*

Great redness of the face : glowing red face, with inexpressible pains in the head. Face, neck and chest much swollen.

Tumefaction and redness of face and lips.

Spasmodic action of the muscles of the face.

Convulsive movements of face, with distortion of mouth.

The tongue and palate dark-red. Dryness of throat and difficult swallowing.

Dryness of tongue and throat, so great as to interfere with speech. Dryness of fauces most distressing.

During deglutition, feeling in throat as if it were too narrow, as if nothing would pass properly.

Scraping raw sensation of epiglottis : raw and sore.

Nausea.

Long-lasting painfulness of the whole abdomen, as if it were all raw and sore.

Excessive tenderness of abdomen, which cannot bear the slightest touch.

Violent cutting pressure in hypogastrium, now here, now there.

Retention of urine, which only passes drop by drop.

Badly smelling hœmorrhage from the uterus.

Violent pressing and urging towards the sexual organs as if everything would fall out there.

Menses too soon and very profuse, of thick, decomposed, dark-red blood.

Catarrh or cough with coryza.

Painful dryness in larynx.

Larynx as if inflamed and swollen.

Hoarseness.

Hollow, hoarse cough.

Pulse full and quick.

(Then numbers of black-type symptoms of extremities.) Thighs and legs, as if bruised all over, as if rotten. Shootings and gnawings along the shafts of bones . . . tearing in joints

*Epileptic convulsions.
Every moment wished to get out of bed.
The boy wished to escape.*

*Great irritability and impressiveness of the senses.
Tastes and smells everything more acutely.
Taste, sight and hearing keener; mind more easily moved
and thoughts more active.*

*Excessive nervous excitability with exalted sensibility of all the
organs. The least noise—light—annoying.*

*Redness of the whole body with quick pulse.
Redness like scarlatina of the entire surface of the body.
Pustules break out on cheeks and nose*

*He starts as if in fright and awakes, when just falling asleep.
Starts as if in a fright, feeling as if she were falling down deep
(Thuja), which caused her to shudder violently.*

*Very restless sleep.
At night the boys became restless, spoke irrationally, and could
with difficulty be kept in bed.
The child tosses about, kicks and quarrels in its sleep.*

*Temperature of the head very much increased.
The skin hot, dry, scarlet, especially intense on face and ears.
Burning heat within and without.*

* * *

*Whatever the ailment, headache, fever, inflammation, where there
is burning heat, redness, pain that will not bear pressure, jar, or
motion, think of Belladonna.*

» » *

But, after all this, who would dream that *Belladonna* was one
of the most commonly useful of nursery remedies?—yet it is.

As FARRINGTON puts it. "The character of the (*Belladonna*)
disease is acute, sudden and violent. The very rapidity of the
onset should at once suggest *Belladonna*." [Or *Aconite*, he might
have added : but their symptoms are very different, as we have
seen.] "For example," he says, "a child is perfectly well on
going to bed. A few hours afterwards it is aroused with violent
symptoms, jerking of the limbs, irritation of the brain, and scream-
ing out during sleep. All these symptoms suggest *Belladonna*."
[But to complete the picture, he might have added, that in these
cases the face is red, the head hot, the pupils big.]

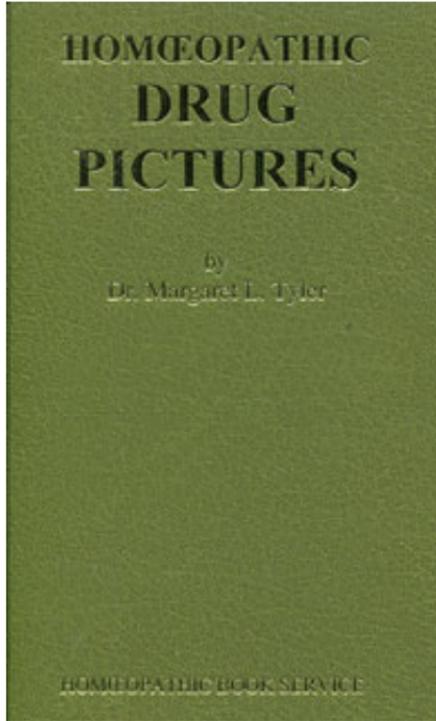
in the rheumatism the heat, redness and burning running through, with the same sensitiveness of the whole patient, and a sensitiveness of the joints to the jar of the bed. He wants to lie perfectly still, is much worse from motion, and has considerable fever . It is especially suitable to those that are very sensitive to cold, who cannot bear the least uncovering, cannot bear a draught, very sensitive to the motion of the covers, and ameliorated by heat. " The very stamp and character of *Belladonna* is in its rheumatic state, like it is in all its other complaints. • It is the *patient* that has given *Belladonna* that character in the provings ; it is the *patient* that gives disease that character when he has it, and it is only the fulfilment of the Law of Similars when these come together, and the remedy annihilates the sickness "

BELLADONNA " ALMOST SPECIFIC FOR SCARLET
FEVER."

In March, 1933, we published, together with this *Belladonna Drug Picture*, the experiences during an epidemic of scarlet fever in his district, of a doctor who had attended our Post Graduate Course, and was minded to put what he had heard about *Belladonna* to the-test, as a cure and as a prophylactic.

His results were what one would expect, but amazing to the Sanitary Inspector who, meeting him in the street, asked how he was treating his scarlet fever cases ? saying that, when he called in to see them, they all looked very well, with only the merest trace of rash remaining, and subsequent visits showed how quickly they recovered. The doctor asked, and how were the other cases doing in comparison ? " Well, they just drag on as usual." The Inspector said also, that there were no complications and never more than one case in any household. It was all a mystery to him.

The doctor details some of his cases in patients whose ages ranged from eighteen months to twelve years. . . . No deaths. No complications even, e.g. kidneys, ears, throat, etc. ; while the disease was cut remarkably short, and there was practically no convalescent stage. In 80 per cent. *Belladonna* was the only remedy required. He ends with, " I have never had such pleasant and happy scarlet fever patients to treat before." He also tells how he used *Belladonna* with success as a prophylactic (as was noticed by the Sanitary Inspector). Only in one instance did a second case occur in the same house—*four weeks later!* (the incubation period of scarlet fever being from one to eight days).



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