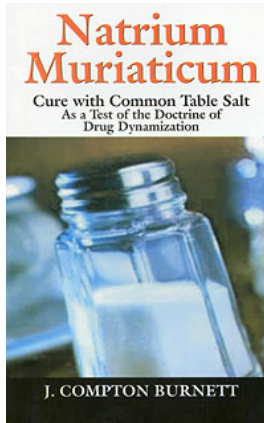


James Compton Burnett Natrium Muriaticum

Reading excerpt
[Natrium Muriaticum](#)
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N A T R U M M U R . I A T I C U M

AS TEST OF THE DOCTRINE OF DRUG DYNAMIZATION

THE theory of the dynamization of drugs was, perhaps, an arcanum of the jatrochemists in the Middle Ages, and was promulgated by Hahnemann as a doctrine, while this century was still young, and it may be regarded as the natural outcome of his law of cure ; he says :—

"The homoeopathic healing art develops for its purposes the dynamic virtues of medicinal substances, and, to a degree previously unheard of, by means of a peculiar and hitherto untried process (i.e. by triturating and shaking). By this process it is that they become penetrating, operative and remedial, even those that, in a natural or crude state, did not exercise the least medicinal power upon the human system."—*Organon*, § 269.

Then again, § 275—"The appropriateness of a remedy for a given case of disease depends not alone on its being homoeopathically just the right one, but it also depends as much on the right strength or sufficient smallness of the dose. If you *give* too large a dose of a remedy, even though it be fully homoeopathic to the morbid state present, and be it never so harmless in itself, it will be sure to do harm simply by its quantity, and by the unnecessary overstrong impression which it will make by acting exactly on the parts of the organism rendered tender and weak by the natural disease, and this it will do by the very reason of its like homoeopathic action."— (§273 of 4th German edition).

According to Hahnemann then, the strength (size) of the dose is very important, and the more homoeopathic our remedy in a given case the greater the danger of doing harm.

Many followers of Hahnemann accept his law only and cast aside the theory of increasing the remedial power

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single drug, since the duration of their action is held to be different.

So the thing bristles with almost insuperable difficulties. Still the matter calls for elucidation and, if possible, settlement.

For it has been affirmed by many able practitioners, by Hahnemann himself, and it is being daily and hourly re-affirmed by men of sound science that drugs *do* act differently and better when dynamized. In fact, many affirm, as did Hahnemann, that the doctrine is of transcendental importance, as many serious diseases can only be cured with dynamized drugs, being entirely incurable with the same drug in substantial doses, and so often altogether incurable unless with a highly potentized remedy.

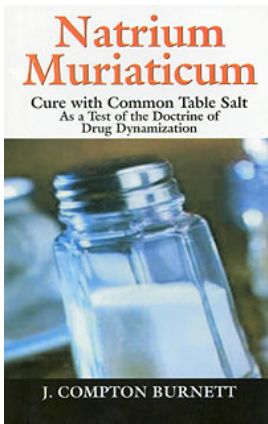
Yet we cannot accept any man's dictum, and faith can have no place in science. *In verba magistri jurare* does not advance science one whit, but neither does mere sceptical negation.

Any experiments on the subject, to be satisfactory, must be of such a nature that they may be repeated by others, proper circumstances and material being given.

It seems to the writer that there is one drug above all others in the materia medica which may greatly help in the elucidation of this important subject, viz. *Natrum muriaticum*. He has not the pretension to settle the question one way or the other, except for himself, but he thinks his ideas on the subject, together with [%]a few clinical experiments, may prove suggestive to his professional brethren, and possibly advance the cause of truth a little.

He will advance it historically, that is as the thing arose and grew in his own mind stimulated by observation.

OBSERVATION I.—Mrs. B., aet. 24, came under treatment in 1876, in the early months of pregnancy, with very severe neuralgia of the face. The case proved itself very obstinate, and many drugs were fruitlessly tried, but eventually it yielded to *China* given in the form of pilules saturated with the matrix tincture, which drug was chosen because of *perspiration breaking out* when the pain became very bad. The neuralgia constantly re-appeared, and finally *China* ceased to have any



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