

Margaret Lucy Tyler

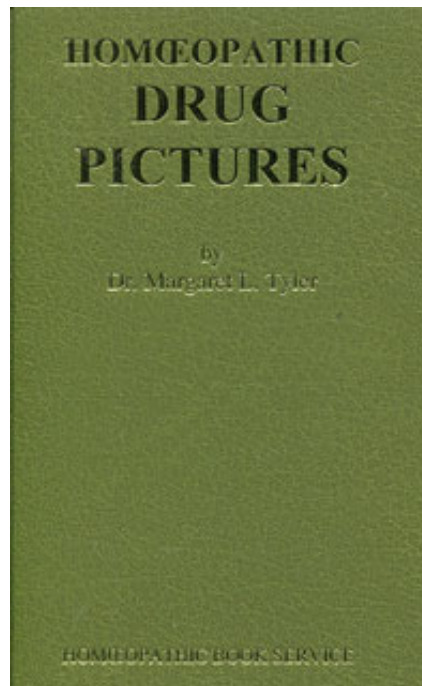
Homoeopathic Drug Pictures

Leseprobe

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von [Margaret Lucy Tyler](#)

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LYCOPODIUM

(Club Moss)

ONE of Hahnemann's precious gifts, and one that exhibits and justifies his teachings in regard to potentization.

Of *Lycopodium*, he writes : " This dust-like powder, which is yellowish, smooth to the touch, is obtained from the ears of a moss, *Lycopodium clavatum*, which grows in the forests of Russia and Finland " [also in this country.—ED.]. " Towards the end of Summer, the ears are dried, and afterwards beaten.

" When thrown into a flame, it flashes up, and has been used to cover pills which easily adhere to one another, and to protect sore places in folds against the friction occasioned by walking and otherwise. It floats upon liquids without being dissolved, has neither taste nor smell, and when in its natural crude condition, has almost no effect upon the health of man . . .

" This drug has wonderful medicinal properties, which can only be disclosed by trituration and succussion . . .

" A moderate dose acts from forty to fifty days. It may be repeated after the intermediate use of another antipsoric, but a second dose acts less favourably than the first.

" It acts with especial benefit, when homoeopathically indicated, after the action of *Calc.* shall have passed over . . ."

Kent says : " Though classed among inert substances, and thought to be useful only for rolling up allopathic pills, Hahnemann brought it into use and developed its power by attenuation. It is a monument to Hahnemann. It enters deep into the life. . . . There is nothing about man that *Lycopodium* does not rouse into tumult .

This " unmoistenable powder "—inert, yet flashing brilliantly " when thrown into a flame " has been also used in the manufacture of fireworks. When the spores are crushed, an oily substance is liberated ; and it takes two solid hours of trituration with sugar of milk (we are told) to its initial preparation as a remedy at once potent and unique in its properties for good.

To start with, let us reproduce, more or less, one of those little old Drug Pictures, which boil down to their lowest dimensions what we know and find absolutely essential to the employment of a remedy . . .

LYCOPIDIUM

LYC. is one of our most constantly used drugs. It does not always stare you in the face as the patient walks in ; but a few questions will generally have you hot on the trail.

Ask early as to *time of day*. This patient says, " worse afternoon, or worse 4 p.m., or worse 4 to 8 p.m.," and you look to see that he conforms to the *l.vc.* type, and enquire further.

Kent says : " Poor little Paul Dombey needed a dose of *Lye.*, but Dombey did not know it, and lost his son."

In *Lye.* the mind is better developed than the body. *Lye.* is apt to look sickly and wrinkled—skinny, especially in the upper part of the body. The forehead may be frowning or wrinkled, and if it is after early dinner, the cheeks or nose are apt to be red, to the patient's great discomfort.

Anticipation is a very useful little rubric. Everybody knows that *Gels.* and *Arg. nit.* have it. But *Lye.* has it too ; and *Ars.* and *Med.* ; and (though fewer people know this) *Carbo veg.*, *Phos. a.*, *Pb.*, *Sil.* and *Thuja*. These last have to be hunted in other parts of the repertory. It is well to add them to the rubric.

Years ago one of our very good prescribers made me understand a phase of the *Lye.* mentality. He explained the terrors of anticipation as they affect *Lye.* *Lye.* has to meet his shareholders or his constituents with an important speech, and knows that he will flounder, and hesitate, and forget his points; is obsessed with the idea that he will make a mess of it. The dreaded moment arrives : he gets on to his legs, warms to his work, sails along in blissful self-forgetfulness, to sit down feeling that he has made the speech of his life. It was all joy and fluency ; he not only remembered all his points, but made new ones as he went along. But—he will have the same terror next time, unless he gets his stimulus, because he is *Lycopodium*.

Or again, *Lye.* wants to be alone—with *someone in the next room*, because—he FEARS to be alone ! His desire for solitude is in italics ; his fear, when alone, is in black type. Drugs that have these opposite states in big type are most interesting. (*Lack.* has loquacity in the highest type, rapid speech and loquacity ; and, also in the highest type, slowness of speech ! This is not always realized.)

Lye. has plenty of FEARS—fear alone, of crowds, of dark, of death, of ghosts, of people.

Lye. has all the DYSPEPSIAS you can imagine. It competes with *Carbo veg.* and *China* for the distinction of being the most flatulent remedy. *Lye.* will come and tell you that for days together she is distended like a drum, and has to loosen her

LYCOPodium

clothing. After food she is distended and tense, almost to bursting, and cannot bear the pressure and constriction of her clothes. Or, she feels famishing, and after a couple of mouthfuls she is bloated and full, and can eat no more. Or, she may feel absolutely full up, yet hungry. For *Lye.* has in black type the easy satiety, and also the opposite in black type, " hunger p.c." or " hunger p.c. with full and tense stomach ".

The *Lye.* FOOD CRAVINGS are for sweet things—for hot drinks. *Lye.* loves, but is made ill by oysters : Hates coffee and meat.

We all know the RIGHT-SIDEDNESS of *Lye.*, and the direction of symptoms, from right to left, or from above downward.

URINARY symptoms are important. Red sand in the clear urine ; urine that is acrid and excoriates . . . thus you may spot a *Lye.* baby by the red sand in the napkin, or by the rash where urine has inflamed the skin ; and you may cure its nephritis and dropsy—as one has seen.

Lye. is AN INTELLECTUAL, as we said, with self-distrust. And *Lye.* has intellectual sufferings and failures and confusions when ill. Loss of memory. Speaks wrong words and syllables. Makes mistakes in writing—mis-spells—omits words, or letters. May realize that " Z " is the last letter of the alphabet, and be unable to supply its name. To such a length may this go, that he may be unable to read—may be able to write what he wishes, yet unable to read what he has written.

Our doctors tell of great cures with *Lye.* of literary persons unable, after an attack of 'FLU to get to work again. The intellectual sequelae of 'flu often call for *Lye.*, while the neurotic ones (to almost insanity) need *Scvtldaria*, and those with long-lasting weakness and chilliness, find their rapid help in *China*.

There is no disease, acute or chronic, where *Lye.* may not be the remedy—in a *Lycofodium* patient ! Toothache about 4 p.m. (one has seen this). Eruptions that wake up horribly at 4 p.m. (this also). Lingering pneumonias, where the temperature is found to rise at 4 p.m. and drop after 8 p.m. Diphtheria where the membrane starts on the right side and crosses to the left, the mouth and tongue not crying out for *Merc.* Or, post-nasal diphtherias that descend. *Lye.* has also the post-diph. paralysis (its usual great remedy being *Gels.*) where food and drink regurgitate through the nose. Kidney troubles, as said, where the urine inflames and reddens the skin wherever it touches.

Two useful little rubrics may put you on to *Lye.* Right foot cold, left normal. Burning pain like red-hot coals between scapula. (*Phos.* has this, and a very few other drugs.) These small rubrics are often very useful, if only to clinch the diagnosis of the remedy.

LYCOPODIUM

If you get < afternoon
< 4 p.m.
< 4—8 p.m.
desires hot drinks
craves sweets
acidity and wind
bloating

with its urinary troubles, you will not go far wrong if you scribble down LYCOPODIUM.

BLACK LETTER SYMPTOMS (*Allen,*

Hering, with some of Hahnemann's italics)

MENTALS. *Dread of men: of solitude: irritable and melancholy. Weeps all day, cannot calm herself. Worse 4 / 0 8 p.m. Sensitive : even cries when thanked.*

Satiety of life, particularly mornings in bed.

Amativeness, and amorousness.

Sensitive, irritable: peevish and cross on waking. Easily excited to anger; cannot bear opposition, and is speedily beside herself.

Ailments from fright, anger, mortification or vexation, with reserved displeasure.

Oversensitive to pain. Patient is beside herself. (Cham.)

Speaks wrong words and syllables. Selects wrong words.

Becomes confused about everyday things.

Great apprehensiveness in the pit of the stomach. (Kali c.)

HEAD. *Vertigo in the morning when and after rising from bed, so that he reels back and forth.*

Throbbing in brain on leaning head back during the day.

Throbbing headache after every paroxysm of coughing.

With the cough, shattering in temples and in chest.

Pain in temples as if screwed together, worse during menses.

Rush of blood to head on waking.

Excessive falling of hair : hair becomes grey too soon.

EYES, *distressing pain, as if dry, with nightly agglutination.*

Styes on lids, more towards inner canthi. Ulceration and redness of eyelids.

Evening light blinds him very much : cannot see anything on the table.

LYCOPODIUM

*Soaring, humming, rushing, etc., in EARS.
Loss of hearing in connection with otorrhoea.
Eczema of ears, with thick crusts and fissures.*

Violent catarrh, with swelling of NOSE. Stopped catarrh, so that he cannot get breath at night. Complete stoppage of nose : child's breath stopped during sleep, frequently for fifteen seconds, even while the mouth is open. Fan-like motion of the alts nasi.

*FACE yellowish grey.
Spasmodic twitching of facial muscles.*

*TEETH painful when chewing and when touched.
Numerous blisters on the tongue. Ulcers on and under tongue.*

Feeling as if a ball rose, from below, up into the THROAT. Throat feels too tight on swallowing : nothing goes down : food and drink regurgitate through the nose. (Gels., Diph.)

*Excessive appetite, followed by distension of abdomen.
Hunger remains immediately after eating, though the STOMACH and abdomen are full and tense.*

She cannot eat at all: is constantly satiated and without appetite: whatever she eats goes against her, even to vomiting.

Sudden satiety and great thirst.

Immediately after a meal, is full, bloated, distended.

Loss of appetite at first mouthful: weight in stomach after eating.

A sour eructation, the taste does not remain in mouth; but acid gnaws in the stomach.

Incomplete burning eructations, which only rise to the pharynx, where they cause burning, for several hours.

Epigastrium extremely sensitive to touch and tight clothing.

Digestion seems to proceed very slowly.

Discomfort in the stomach after eating a little.

Cramp in the stomach which is much distended.

Pressure in stomach, as if she had eaten too much.

Pressure in stomach, as if over-distended, in the evening, after eating a little.

Pressure, heaviness in stomach, after eating a little in the afternoon.

Pair in epigastrium caused by coughing.

LYCOPodium

She dares not eat to satiety, because if she does, she has an unpleasant, distressed feeling in HEPATIC REGION.

Pressive pain, hepatic region, on breathing.

Sore pressive pain as from a blow in right hypochondriac region, aggravated by touch.

Liver is painful to touch.

Pain in left hypochondriac region, afternoon.

Violent gall-stone' colic.

A scites from liver affections, after abuse of alcohol.

Something heavy felt lying in left ABDOMEN, not affecting the breathing, but constantly felt while walking, sitting and lying.

Distension of the abdomen from gases. Relieved by emission of flatus.

Grunting and gurgling in abdomen.

Whole abdomen distended by flatulence after a stool.

Much flatus accumulates here and there in abdomen, in hypochondria, even in the back in region of ribs and chest, causing tension and bubbling, always relieved by empty eructations.

Immediately after eating the abdomen is constantly full, distended and tense. Tension with incarceration of flatus.

Sensation of something moving up and down in stomach and bowels. (Comp. Crocus, Thuja, Sanicula.)

Hernia right side.

ANUS painfully closed.

The rectum so frequently contracted that it protrudes during a hard stool.

Hemorrhoids painful to touch.

Great tendency to excoriations about anus : bleed easily.

Itching and moist, tender eruption.

First part of stool lumpy, the second soft.

Aching in KIDNEY before and after urination.

Some red sediment in urine.

Red, or reddish yellow sand in urine.

Turbid, milky urine, with offensive purulent sediment. Disposition to calculi.

Renal colic, particularly right ureter to bladder.

Urging to urinate : must wait long before it will pass, or inability with constant bearing down : supports abdomen with hands.

Night COUGH affecting stomach and diaphragm, mostly before sunset.

Cough overpowering, evening before going to sleep, as if larynx tickled with a feather, with scanty expectoration.

LYCOPodium

*Tickling cough as from sulphur fumes in larynx.
Difficult breathing, as if he had inhaled sulphur fumes.
Grey, salt-tasting expectoration. Dyspnoea : during
sleep ; from every exertion. CHEST feels oppressed and
raw internally. Stitches left chest, and during
inspiration.*

Hering gives " Hydropericardium ". (-Irs.)

*BACK, burning as from glowing coals between the scapulae (PHOS.,
KALI BICH., etc.).*

Severe backache, better by passing urine

One foot hot, the other cold.

Desire to go into the open air. (Puls., etc.)

*Her symptoms are aggravated at 4 p.m. : at 8 p.m. she feels better,
but weak.*

Headache, cough, fever, chill, EVERYTHING WORSE 4-8 P.M.

*Nervous excitement : prostration of mind and body. Nervous
debility.*

Hungry WHEN WAKING at night.

On waking, cross, kicks, scolds : or wakes terrified : unrefreshed.

Many years ago, one was asked to go to the " other end of nowhere " to prescribe for a small boy—very small, yet already a great cricketer at five years old. The trouble was recent :—tormenting " frequency." One stood and watched him playing cricket on the sands with the other little boys, and every few minutes he had to rush away for relief. All this was very puzzling to his parents. A few *Lycopodium* symptoms emerged, with *this* one, also new to him—that he " woke up ugly " as the Americans express it, " crying and cross ". *Lye.* quickly cured ; and, incidentally, hammered home a point which we will pass on . . . *Lye.* is, in almost everything, worse in the evening and better in the morning, *except*, as one discovered over this case, that it is (mentally) " ugly on waking ".

It is puzzle-cases that bite into the memory, and their triumphs that teach one to know drugs.

Hughes quotes Dr. David Wilson in regard to the *fan-like movement of the alae nasi* noted in the pathogenesis of *Lye.* " When this symptom is clearly marked, no matter through what organ or tissue the symptoms of any attack of illness may manifest themselves in children or young people, I venture to submit that the whole group of the phenomena in such attacks will be found

under *Lycopodium*." Dr. David Wilson was a great prescriber and, note! he does not say " when the alae nasi work, give *Lye.*," but " / submit that the whole group of the phenomena in such attacks will be found under *Lycopodium*."

It is in respiratory affections that this symptom is generally seen. This is the classical picture of a *Lycopodium* pneumonia, for instance.

— Frowning forehead.

Working of the alae nasi.

Temperature rises each day at 4 p.m. till 5 p.m., and then declines. In a pneumonia that tends to hang fire, this last symptom puts one straight on to *Lye.* which finishes the case.— Kent speaks of its use " in the advanced stage of pneumonia, in the period of hepatization, with the wrinkled face and brow, the flapping wings of the nose and the scanty expectoration. The right lung is most affected, or is affected first in double pneumonia ".

In a *Lye.* diphtheria, as said, the trouble begins on the right side, and may spread to the left : we have seen such a case : but with none of the foulness of mouth and tongue that cries aloud for one of the *Mercuries*.

Lycopodium is one of the great polycrests—the Drugs of Many Uses. But the above black letter symptoms, the " caused and many times cured symptoms ", which are classical in our school, bring out its important points of attack for evil and for good.

The drug, as said, suits *intellectuals* ; (rather skinny and *old-looking* intellectuals) ; with more mental than bodily vigour. Hence it proves subversive, and especially curative of mentality ; affecting MEMORY, and restoring those who, after sickness or strain, are afflicted with confusion and mental tiredness and incompetence.

Again, its subversive effects and therefore its curative powers come strongly into play in the *digestive* and *urinary* regions.

One remembers one " new " patient in particular who for days had been almost bursting with flatulence and distension, and had had to loosen all her clothing ; and how quickly *Lye.* put her right.

NASH says, " *Lycopodium* with *Sulphur* and *Calcarea* form the leading trio of Hahnemann's anti-psoric remedies. They all act very deeply. *Lycopodium* acts favourably in all ages, but particularly upon old people and children . . . on persons of keen intellect but feeble muscular development : lean people. . . . The *Lycopodium* subject is sallow, sunken, with premature lines in the face ; looks older than he is. Children are weak, with well-developed heads, but puny, sickly bodies. . . . This is one of the trio of flatulent remedies, *Carbo veg.* and *China*

being the other two . . . remember, while *China* bloats the whole abdomen, *Carbo veg.* prefers the upper, and *Lycopodium* the lower parts. . . ." Guernsey points out here, "*China* has fulness after a full, normal meal; *Lye.* after eating a little." "Constipation predominates ; and like *Nux* there may be frequent and ineffectual desire for stool, but while that of *Nux* is caused by irregular peristaltic action, that of *Lye.* seems to be caused by a spasmodic contraction of the anus, which prevents the stool and causes great pain. . . . *Lye.* has often saved neglected, maltreated or imperfectly cured cases of pneumonia from running into consumption. . . ." We have given its characteristic indications elsewhere :—the frowning forehead, the flapping alae nasi, the 4-8 p.m. aggravation of fever, etc.

Lye. is down as a chilly remedy : yet it is one of the few remedies that appears in the Repertory in the rubric, *Better when cold.* (loo., PULS., with *Loch.*, *Nat. mur.*, *Sulph.* and a few others.) But *Lye.* is generally better from warm or hot things, drinks, etc., and even better warm in bed.

A few additional points from KENT, who reiterates, stresses and amplifies "*Lycopodium* emaciates above, while the extremities are fairly well-nourished. . . . The *Lye.* patient cannot eat oysters. It does not seem to matter what is the matter with him, if he eats oysters he gets sick . . . headache, pain in the ovary, cough—*after eating oysters.* Oysters seem a poison to *Lye.*, just as onions are a poison to the *Thuja* patient. The *Oxalic acid* patient cannot eat strawberries. If you are ever caught in a place where you have a patient get sick after eating strawberries, tomatoes or oysters, and you have no homoeopathic remedies at hand, it is a good thing to remember that a piece of cheese will digest strawberries, or tomatoes, or oysters, in a few minutes."

"The eruptions of *Lye.* and sometimes the ulcers and abscesses of *Lye.* are better from something cool. The soothing thing to *Lye.* is something cooling, while the soothing thing to *Ars.* is heat. . . . The old ladies of the house will want to do something, and put warm cloths or warm water on the suffering part, but these will make the *Lye.* patient worse."

^?. • "*Lye.* is tired. A tired mind, a chronic fatigue, forgetfulness, aversion to undertaking anything new, to appearing in any new role ; aversion to his own work.

"Taciturnity : desires to be alone. If there were two adjacent rooms in the house, the *Lye.* patient would go into one and stay there, though very glad to have someone in the other. That is the state of the *Lye.* mind. . . ."

" *Lye.* often breaks down and weeps when meeting a friend. . . . An unusual sadness with weeping comes over this patient on receiving a gift. At the slightest joy. *Lye.* weeps . . . even cries when thanked . . .

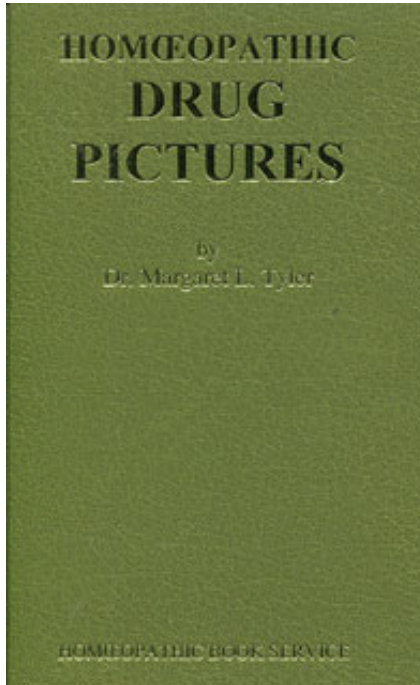
" Left foot cold, the other warm . . . red sand in urine, red pepper deposit . . ."

In regard to throats and diphtheria, and the " right to left " of *Lye.* and the " left to right " of *Lack.* Kent points out that " *Lack.* is better from cold, and has spasms of the throat from attempting to drink warm drinks, while *Lye.* is better from warm drinks, though *sometimes better from cold drinks.*" It is important to know this, or one is apt to discard *Lye.*, when otherwise indicated.

To become a rapid and at all correct prescriber—for the bulk of the patients that crowd in to a hospital out-patient clinic, or for panel work, there are some dozen remedies that one needs to make friends with, so as to be able to recognize them after a minimum of glances and questionings. Such are SEPIA, SULPHUR, LYCOPODIUM, CALCAREA, SILICA, NATRUM MUR., ARSENICUM, BRYONIA—Hahnemann's anti-psorics all!—and for acute work, ACONITE, BELLADONNA, again BRYONIA, RHUS, GELSEMIUM, BAPTISIA, and a few other indispensables. These are all remedies of distinct personality, and should not be confused—when once their inwardness is grasped. It is to make these remedies easily recognizable that in our little drug pictures we reiterate, and try to produce a snapshot of one or another, with its various uses. Such an assortment of drugs at one's fingertips should make homoeopathic prescribing, in a large proportion of the common complaints, comparatively easy and sure.

LYCOPODIUM IN ANEURISM

DR. HUGHES (*Pharmacodynamics*) mentions a " curious point " in regard to *Lycopodium.* He says : " *Lycopodium* has occasionally been suggested for aneurism, but I had thought little of it, though in a case treated by Dr. Madden and myself what *seemed* to be an aortic aneurism ceased to be discoverable while we were giving the medicine for the general health. But I have since seen most striking results from it in an unmistakable carotid aneurism in an old lady, for whose dyspeptic symptoms the remedy had often proved serviceable. The shooting pains which accompanied the swelling disappeared in the first three days of taking the *Lycopodium* ; and in a fortnight the enlargement of the artery was reduced to one-half, at which point it has since continued stationary, giving her no pain or inconvenience."



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