



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Study of Homeopathy must encompass an understanding of the nature of the action of the remedy, that is, the characteristic which determine, what is curative in the medicine.

Although, pure *Materia Medica* provides an accurate description of symptomatology, but we have to have ways where we can remember all this information in a way, which is useful for application part. When a patient comes he doesn't recite the symptom in a way that is he will just read a drug to you. It's a homeopath's art to pick what is characteristic in each patient and then have the capability to compare the drugs, which look similar to the case presented in front of you. Then see the fine line of differences in the drugs and select the one, which exactly looks like the mirror image of what the case depicts. It is our past conditioning to this kind of practice, which will help us use this methodology in practice.

There are different planes where we can study drugs for comparisons. Mental picture is one where many remedies look similar from periphery or when you just take the words of patients as it is. If a patient says I am very emotional, and the physician writes – "Emotional" it doesn't signify anything for a homeopathic point of view. Every individual is emotional but still they differ in their sensitivity levels, attributes or issues they are emotional about, whether they express emotions or not, if they do in what way, if they don't why, what is effect on the person etc. and for these aspects even if expression is same but remedies are different. For example: When we compare *Lycopodium* and *Silica* they have very similar symptoms. You will be surprised in repertorization, *Silica* comes in almost all the rubrics of *Lycopodium*. However these two remedies are very different when we see the core of the patient. Let us see few rubrics which are common in both the drugs: Ailments from anticipation, timidity, conscientious about trifles, mental exertion, aggravation, prostration of mind, irritability.

Both have anticipatory anxiety. The *Silica's* anxiety is whether he will be able to perform as per what people

expect out of him from the image they have of him. i.e to maintain the level of his image and *Lycopodium's* anxiety is that he should be nothing but the best and perfect. *Silica* has a peculiar dread of failure but when he enters the task he does with the same excellence and ease with which he has always been doing but it the regular anxiety which comes up everytime he has to perform a task even it's a routine work like a surgery for a surgeon or a case for a lawyer. As Dr Kent puts it for *Silica* "he feels his own selfhood so that he cannot enter into a subject, he is worn out by prolonged efforts at mental work". *Silica's* anxiety disappears once he is starts on his job starts to perform where as *Lycopodium* would have shivers in his legs throughout his performance or will be anxious throughout his job.

Conscientious about trifles is also understandable on this basis only, *Silica*, is so because he doesn't want to do anything wrong which will hamper his image and *Lycopodium* wants to be perfect and so doesn't accept any mistakes from his side. This is also reflected in *Lycopodium's* delusion that he is neglecting his duty. *Lycopodium* also does not accept faults from other people, for they expect perfection from everybody.

There is aggravation from mental exertion because every time *Silica* has to do some work he has tremendous anxiety to do things in a way which do not hamper his image. So it's the anxiety to maintain that image which exhaust him more than anything else. But when he forces himself into the harness he can go on with ease, his usual self-command returns to him and he does well; he does his work with promptness, fullness, and accuracy. The peculiar *Silica* state is found in the dread of failure, even if he is capable of doing things rightly. There might be states when patient comes to you and you find this dread where just few doses of *Silica* will give him the stamina he needs and he excels.

But both the remedies show timidity, *Silica* whenever he is not convinced he will surrender in front of that person and will stop expressing

so to maintain his selfhood he will become yielding but inside he never does things unless he is convinced, whereas *Lycopodium* is found to be timid wherever he finds resistance he gives in and moreover tries to move away from that situation.

*Silica* shows irritability when he has to do things or is told to do things which he perceives are against his image or if does those things it will affect his image whereas *Lycopodium* shows irritability when he sees people are not accepting his way of perfection and are not able to accept what he is suggesting. This person likes to show his superiority in every possible way. He is in a habit of considering himself better than others (contemptuous), especially with his subordinates and colleagues. This shows his egoistic nature due to which he tries to dictate others. He becomes defiant which helps him stand out different from others. But with his seniors and superiors he is always pleasant and mild as he has fear of being humiliated. He expresses his anger and irritability about them in their absence, as he does not have the courage to accept their reprimand. His irritability is also seen when he sees people around him are not working in a manner he expects, or when he sees people are not aiming at perfection.

So understanding the core of the remedy and then comparing is very helpful for us for practice. Similarly various drugs which look similar on appearance of the patient are different in reality.

We should try and work all the remedies in this comparative way whenever we see a similarity in two drugs and this way one can master the wonder drugs of our *Materia Medica* and understand different drug personalities.

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