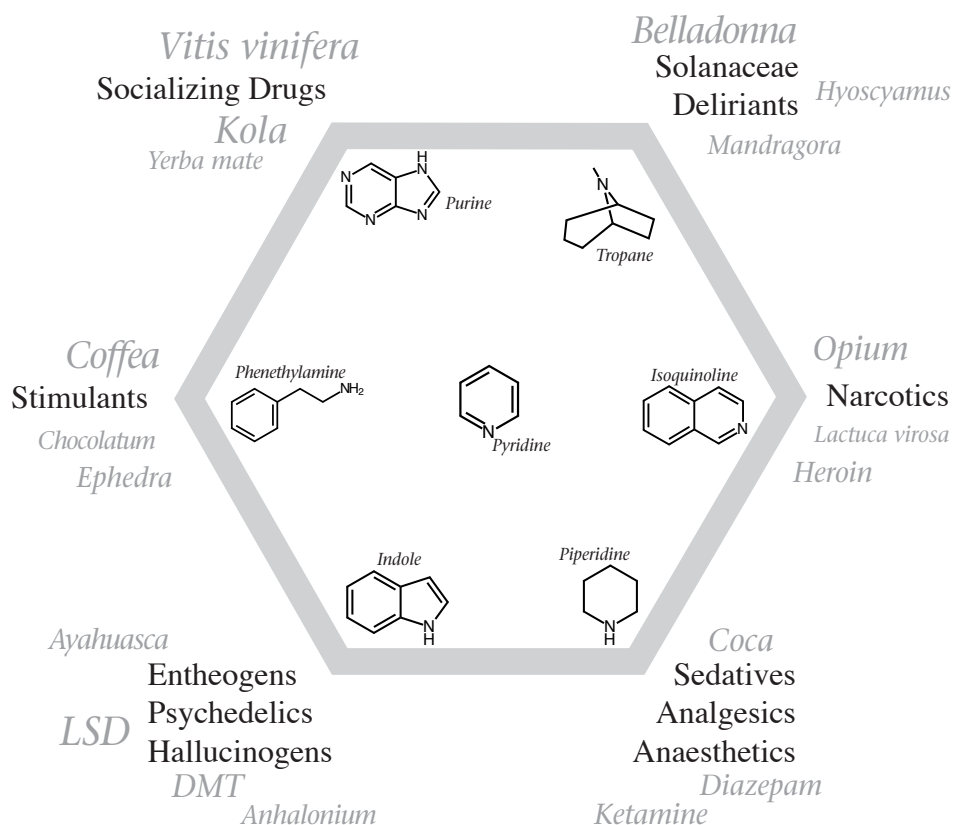


DRUG REMEDIES

FROM EARTH TO SKY THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD



The Drug Remedies are a complex group of remedies made up of plants from many families and of synthetic chemicals. The substances from which they are made are extremely important both to society and to individuals and they have a major role to play in the treatment of many modern diseases and states.

This book contains information on some seventy five remedies. It looks at the role of chemical structure and plant families in defining characteristics and looks at provings classical and modern, as well as the information given by poisonings and the experiences of recreational users. The remedies are divided into three basic groups: Narcotics, Hallucinogens and Stimulants and the similarities and differentials between them are examined.

TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS

The remedies that move between the Realms of Sea, Earth, Sky and Underworld have a particular dynamic relationship to that transformation. Understanding this dynamic helps to understand the group as a whole and to find the subtle difference between its members. Groups include the Insects, the Birds, the Spiders, the Snakes and the Drugs.

"Peter is one of the most original thinkers and writers in homeopathy and has commanded a broad analysis of homeopathic thought on many subjects. This book is yet one more example of his work, which explores the important subject of Drug Remedies in homeopathy and their significance in our lives. This book, along with his other writings and research, are essential for serious homeopathic students and practitioners."

Richard Pitt

"One of Peter's greatest skills is to bring clarity into the homeopathic world. This book is an illuminating and helpful example of that. He illustrates how drugs, whether used for medical, recreational or spiritual purposes, have always been part of the human experience. By placing these important remedies in context our understanding of them, and consequent use of them in our practices, will be greatly enhanced."

Janet Snowden



ISBN 9781-874581-222



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PETER FRASER

TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My thanks to Caroline Dent without whose support and input none of these books would have seen the light of day.

TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN THE REALMS

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There are two types of symptom in any case. Most symptoms make up what can be seen as the background of the case. These are stable and distinctive and they will lead the prescriber to a group of remedies. Examples of the background are the Miasms, the Botanical and Zoological Families, the Periodic Table, the Realms and the Kingdoms.

It is sometimes possible to find the indicated remedy by cross referencing the various background features of the case. This approach has great appeal as it appears to be ordered and systematic and does not require a detailed knowledge of the remedies. In fact a completely unknown remedy can be prescribed purely on its relationship to other known remedies. However, this approach is not as easy to work with as it seems as the slightest misunderstanding in classifying the case will invariably lead to the wrong remedy.

The background in the case will usually lead to a group of remedies and it is differentiating within the group and finding the specific group member indicated in the case that is the most difficult part of remedy selection. Although other backgrounds do differentiate somewhat, there is usually a correspondence between different backgrounds. Many remedies that are of the Sea Realm are also Phlegmatic in nature and so knowing that a case is both of the Sea and Phlegmatic is not very helpful.

The foreground is the place in a case where there is dynamic energy and movement. It is the place where the patient becomes animated and where the symptoms are changing and contradictory. This is the place that restricts, that prevents the patient from moving on and growing but it is also the place through which they will move and grow. This is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the foreground of the case; it is as positive as it is negative and it is as healing as it is destructive. It is also

unusual, individualistic and characteristic. No one else expresses it in quite the same way and for no one else would it make sense quite in the way it does for the patient. It is also something that appears in different aspects of the case but with the same distinct character. The foreground is what Hahnemann refers to as the totality of the characteristic symptoms.

Finding the foreground in a case gives you a deep insight into the patient, and without understanding this aspect of their life it is very difficult to understand the case and to discover what it is that is to be cured.

Finding the foreground features in a case requires attention to the patient's way of expressing him or herself and of describing his or her symptoms. The key indicators are animation and contradiction and wherever either of these appear in a case they need to be pursued because here will be found the information that allows an accurate differentiation between the group of background remedies. Animation is important because it indicates that the things under discussion are dynamic and alive for the patient. Contradiction is important because the path to illness and the path to healing are the same, just as the symptoms of the disease and of its cure are the same.

The same process that is involved in finding the foreground features of a case is involved in finding the foreground features of a remedy. Again, animation and contradiction are the key indicators of foreground symptoms. This is why it is important to study remedies from the provings as all too often these are lost in secondary materia medica.

In some classes of remedy there is at least one point of dynamism and change that is the same for all the group, but which the individual remedies each handle in slightly different ways. Each remedy has different issues that dominate the same dynamic process. One of the clearest points of this dynamism is when there is movement from one Realm to another. The Birds, Trees and Insects all involve movement from the Earth to the Sky. The Snakes move between the Earth and the

Underworld , while the Drugs move through the Underworld on their journey from the Earth to the Sky. Since this movement is so important and so dynamic it will be where the dynamic foreground of the remedy is expressed.

Through understanding the way in which each individual remedy handles this point of transformation, it is relatively straightforward to differentiate between the members of the group.

DRUG REMEDIES

The Drug Remedies is a classification that is often heard in homœopathy and it is a distinct and valid grouping of remedies. However, it is not an easy one to define. The remedies that are included here come from fungi, plants, minerals, gases, or animals, whilst some have been synthesized. The majority are from plants but they come from many different families and orders. Often one or two members of a plant family show drug characteristics while the rest do not. Some have been used by mankind for thousands of years; others have been discovered or invented in the immediate past. They have been used for many different purposes from the gentlest of social interactions to the defining of kingship; from exploring the mind of God to roaming the deepest circles of Hell.

The Drug Remedies, as I am defining them for the purposes of this book, are pharmaceuticals, substances that have a defined physiological effect, especially ones with a neurological effect, that, rather than being used to remedy a malfunction, are used to enhance the body's ability to function or the mind's ability to understand. They tend to do this by interfering with the normal pathways of neurological function, thus freeing the body and mind to create their own new and different pathways.

They are sometimes referred to as “recreational drugs” indicating that they are used in a way that is not serious. However, many of them have roles that are serious: most Narcotics and Anaesthetics are used in conventional medicine, while many of the Entheogens have an important role in religious observances. Some in all groups have a role as psychiatric pharmaceuticals. Terence McKenna proposes that one of the Hallucinogens, probably Psilocybin, was responsible for changes, at first epigenetic but in the longer term also evolutionary, in the way early hominids perceived the world and so created consciousness.

If looked at in a more holistic way, this definition of the Drug Remedies is not strictly accurate. Rather than be used purely for fun or expanding experience, these remedies tend to be used in order to suppress a general dissatisfaction with life, an inability to bear life because life has become unbearable. Indeed this is the general homœopathic usage for the Drug Remedies. The state of persons for whom a Drug Remedy is indicated is generally one where their world has become unbearable and they have had to suppress some, often many, aspects of that world in order to be able to survive. Key aspects of the Drug Remedies therefore involve suppression and reaction.

As suppression is so important, there is often a link to the Cancer Miasm and many of the Drug Remedies are Carcinogens. There is also a strong link to the Hydrophobic or Acute Miasm. This can be seen in extreme sensitivity and reactivity but also in a history of abuse, violence and danger. A number of remedies are Sycotic and the use of drugs and stimulants is often an indicator of the Sycotic Miasm.

If it is difficult to define what is a Drug Remedy, it is even more difficult to break them up into smaller groups. There are many possible ways to group them. But in the end, just as the whole class is defined by its use rather than by its origin, so I have divided them into three groups based on the use to which they are put. This is still not a definitive way of dividing them as many have overlapping purposes and some could easily be put in all three groups.

The members of the first group are Narcotics, Anaesthetics, Sedatives and Analgesics. As pharmaceuticals, they are used to promote sleep, to ease pain and to reduce sensation. In unofficial use they generally make the many pains of life easier to bear.

The second group is Hallucinogens and Entheogens. Many of them have been used by various types of shaman to help create a state that is closer to divinity. They enable an experience of the divine within the mortal. This is generally done through the creation of an hallucinogenic state. In religious use they

are part of deep traditions and accompanied by powerful rituals that are learnt through a long training or apprenticeship.

The third group, Stimulants and Socializing Drugs, is used in some way to oil the functioning of relationships and of society. They use the methods of the other two groups to do this, either by dulling the many painful aspects of interaction or by raising communication to a more spiritual level. Many of them combine aspects of each of the first two groups and on the whole they act in a more gentle way, though this can make them more insidious.

DEFINING TYPES OF DRUGS

There are many complicated ways of defining drugs. Many of the definitions overlap, and most drugs have qualities that belong to several different groups and several definitions.

The different groups are described here, and with each individual remedy there is an indication of all the groups in which that remedy could reasonably be placed.

NARCOTICS (Nar)

The word Narcotic is derived from a Greek verb to benumb, and this is its original meaning. It has been applied to a substance that causes sleep. It is also, particularly in the US, a legal term which classifies the substance as a serious drug and subject to extreme penalties for possession and distribution.

OPIATES (Op)

Opiates are narcotic alkaloids that are naturally found in the Opium Poppy. There are some thirty different alkaloids found in the Opium Poppy but the great majority of them have no effect on the nervous system and so are not Opiates. The principal Opiates are Morphine, Codeine and Thebaine. There are a number of synthesized esters of Morphine, that are often regarded as Opiates. The most notable of these is Heroin.

OPIOIDS (Opd)

There are a large number of substances that are synthesized or derived from other sources that have an action that is similar to the Opiates, and these are referred to as Opioids. They work by binding to Opioid receptors in the nervous systems, especially the Central and Enteric Nervous Systems, and so suppress pain. They also have a tendency to suppress other functions, including wakefulness, respiration and digestion. They have often been used as cough suppressants.

ANALGESICS (Ang)

Analgesics are drugs that reduce or remove the sensation of pain. Opioids form a large part of this group. Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs such as the Salicylates, Paracetamol and others interfere with the Prostaglandin production and so reduce both pain and inflammation. NSAIDs often have severe gastric side effects and can affect the liver and kidneys. COX-2 inhibitors are more specific and more effective than general NSAIDs which inhibit both COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes. Suppression of muscular-skeletal inflammation and pain tends to lead to a deeper expression of disease particularly focused on the heart. Cardiovascular disease is therefore a common side-effect of Analgesics and the more effective the pain relief the more common the cardiovascular effects.

SEDATIVES (Sed)

Sedatives are drugs that reduce sensitivity. There are a number of subsections within the Sedatives.

Hypnotics (Soporifics) which cause sleep.

Tranquilizers reduce mental distress. They include both *Anxiolytics* which reduce anxiety and *Antipsychotics* which are much more powerful.

ANAESTHETICS (An)

Anaesthetics not only reduce pain as Analgesics do but they also reduce sensation. There are local Anaesthetics that reduce pain in the area in which they are applied or injected. There are also general Anaesthetics, which are systemic in their action and cause a complete loss of sensation, and often of consciousness. Some general Anaesthetics are inhaled while others are ingested or injected. Some substances, Barbiturates and Benzodiazapines, are reliable as sedatives, and in producing unconsciousness they are less reliable as Analgesics, while substances such as Opioids and Ketamine are reliable in relieving pain but much less so

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ORGANIC MOLECULES

A short introduction to organic molecules and their representation in this book.

The atoms of each element have their own way of connecting with other elements. Each element has a specific number of bonds that it uses to connect to another atom. The inert, or noble, gasses make zero bonds and so are almost always found on their own. Carbon makes four bonds.

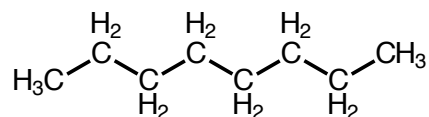
The four most important elements in living systems are: Hydrogen which makes one bond, Oxygen which makes two, Nitrogen which makes three and Carbon which makes four.

There are many others including Sulphur, Phosphorus, Chlorine, Sodium and Potassium; which are all important and have specific roles. However, it is the big four that form the skeleton on which all life is built.

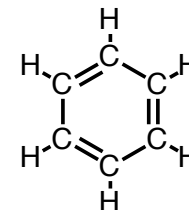
Elements need to make their specific number of bonds but they can make more than one to another atom. There are therefore double and triple bonds. This can be seen in the common gaseous forms of Hydrogen, Oxygen and Nitrogen. They all have molecules made up of two atoms but there is a single bond in H_2 , a double bond in O_2 and a triple bond in N_2 .



On the whole single bonds are stronger than multiple ones. Carbon's ability to make 4 strong bonds means that it can make long chains of Carbon atoms and still have two spare bonds on which other atoms, or groups of atoms, can be connected:



These chains often turn back on themselves to form rings:



As can be seen when there is nothing in particular connected to any of the bonds on a Carbon atom it is usually capped off with a single bond to a Hydrogen atom.

These chains and rings are the basis of all organic molecules. Carbon's versatility in bonding means that there are an almost infinite variety of possible molecules. Organic chemists spend their time classifying these molecules into separate classes based on the basic structure of rings and chains. This means that even a basic introduction to organic chemistry is mind-bogglingly complicated.

Not only can these molecules form in an enormous variety of shapes and sizes but they can be joined in further chains. These chains can be made up of all the same type of units (a polymer) or can be chains of many different smaller molecules. The latter gives the amazing complexity that allows life to exist.

The simplest organic chemicals are Hydrocarbons, which contain only Carbon and Hydrogen. They have little role in biological systems but we use them to fuel our cars and heating.

Molecules that contain Carbon, Hydrogen and Oxygen form substances, which have significant roles in the processes and structure of life. These are things like Sugars and Fatty acids, which are important for energy transport. Sugars can be polymerized to form Starches which are used to store energy, and substances like Cellulose on which the structure of plants is built.

Molecules that contain Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen and Nitrogen are the most complex and play the most important

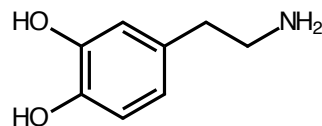
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THE CHEMICAL NATURE OF DRUGS

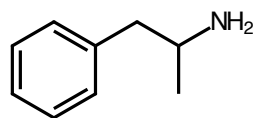
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The substances that the drug remedies are made from usually derive their powers from constituents that have chemical similarities to chemicals found naturally in the body, especially neurotransmitters. The structure of these molecules mean that they bind to receptors, especially in the nervous system, that are usually bound by the chemicals generated in the body.

The endogenic chemicals, those made in the body, tend to be more complicated than the analogues that are made in plants or are synthesized. The most obvious examples are the adrenergics that simulate the effects of Adrenaline (Epinephrine). The endogenics such as Dopamine or Adrenaline (Epinephrine), found naturally in the body, are based on a catechol (a benzene ring with two OHs); the exogenics such as Amphetamine, found outside the body, are based on the much simpler phenyl (a simple benzene ring).



Dopamine



Amphetamine

This effect is even more apparent in the substances that bind to opioid receptors. The beta-endorphin molecule, the main endorphin, ($C_{158}H_{251}N_{39}O_{46}S$) is a dozen times the size of the morphine molecule ($C_{17}H_{19}NO_3$) which was discovered long before the endorphin.

There are many different ways in which these substances affect the nervous system. They can bind to receptors and stimulate the neurone just as the natural neurotransmitter would. They can bind to the receptor without stimulating but thus blocking the natural chemical (competitive antagonists), and

some can stay bound so making the receptor unavailable to any stimulation. They can thus block neural pathways stopping any action. This can also force the nervous system to find alternative pathways, as often happens with Hallucinogens. Some substances can prevent or accelerate the breakdown of neurotransmitters.

Some of the drug substances, and some of the endogenic substances they mimic, are able to cross the blood-brain barrier. Many, however, cannot and the organs such as the thalamus, hypothalamus and pituitary glands that act as gateways between blood and brain, and between hormone and neurone, are important parts of the processes involving drugs.

Many of the drug remedies have as much of their effect on the Enteric Nervous System (ENS) and the Cardio-Genital Nervous System (C-GNS). There is a complex structure of neurones in the tissues around the gut and around the heart and genitals that amounts to secondary “brains”. The ENS was long thought of as a structure left over from more primitive ancestors. It regulates many of the digestive processes and can do so independent of the Central Nervous System. However, its importance is beginning to emerge. The nerve pathways are much more from the ENS to the CNS than the reverse (80% of the fibres in the vagus nerve are to the brain rather than from it). It seems that the ENS might create the background mood of a person; the emotional matrix against which the brain conducts a more analytical understanding. More than half the body’s Dopamine and 90% of the Serotonin is found in the ENS. The C-GNS regulates cardiac and vascular activity, again quite independent of the CNS. The C-GNS regulates the Affections, the desires and dislikes on which the CNS take action. The action of Adrenaline (Epinephrine) and Noradrenaline (Norepinephrine) is more important in C-GNS. Both of these systems have enormous emotional importance and are susceptible to adrenergics and other drugs. It may well be that the effect of the drugs, especially the Stimulants and

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BORROWING FROM THE FUTURE

Suppression is an important feature of the Drug Remedies but there is a subtle difference between Drug Remedy suppression and straightforward allopathic suppression. Allopathic suppression attempts to remove the symptom permanently without removing the disease that is its cause. This leads the disease to express in deeper and more serious symptoms. The Drug Remedies, at least as they are usually first employed, do not suppress symptoms of disease, but rather suppress symptoms caused by more or less natural stresses and situations. There is an assumption that these stresses are temporary in nature and that they will be removed relatively quickly, so removing the necessity for the drug.

The endogenous substances to which the drugs are analogous allow the body to act in emergency situations in a way that would not be possible in everyday situations.

This applies to the substances like Adrenaline (Epinephrine) that play major roles in the fight and flight response and to the endorphins which allow the body to continue in spite of pain or exhaustion. The fight and flight response is a very temporary one and its corollary is a period of exhaustion, shut down and recovery. Similarly, endorphins have a time-limited quality and require a later period of recovery. Again this is an example of the way in which Drug Remedies contain within themselves strong and contradictory polarities of activity and exhaustion.

In an emergency, the Adrenaline (Epinephrine) rush allows a person to act in a superhuman manner but it is for a very limited time. In a competitive race the endorphins allow the runner to move past the “pain barrier” and finish the race in spite of exhaustion and pain. However at the end of the race there is a come down and they are completely exhausted.

The exogenic substances have some of the same effects as the endogenic neurotransmitters, but do not always have the

same restrictions. They do not have feedback loops that restrict ongoing activity and their presence in the body is not restricted by any natural activity. You can always just pop another pill or shoot up again. Thus the person taking them can continue to take the drug past the point where the body can handle it.

Many women report experiencing a spaced out or drug like state at some time during pregnancy. Part of the reason for this is that the placenta produces endorphins which help the mother to get through the stresses, discomfort and pain of pregnancy and labour. The stresses are partly a direct result of the physical situation, but they are also often exacerbated by social expectations. There is naturally in pregnancy a turning inwards which can cause disconnection from the people around her, including sometimes her family. Many of the ways that we ease discomforts and social anxiety, especially Tobacco and Alcohol but also some activities and social interactions, are denied to pregnant women by medical advice and social pressure or even just by circumstance. Though there is usually a state of euphoria around pregnancy, there is also isolation and a lot of fear and anxiety, especially for the *prima gravida*.

The majority of the placenta is, at least genetically, part of the foetus rather than the mother. To some degree therefore the endorphins circulating in the mother's blood can be seen as exogenous rather than endogenous and so are less susceptible to natural feedback controls. This could be seen as the foetus pushing her body beyond what she is comfortable with; in much the same way that stimulants can push the body beyond its natural limits.

After the birth of the baby and the expelling of the placenta these endorphins are no longer available to the mother. There is therefore a comedown with withdrawal symptoms. This comedown is manifested in many ways and can become post-natal depression or post-natal mania. Puerperal fevers are a more physical expression of it...

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DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

The Drug Remedies are often made from pharmaceuticals or from pharmaceutical-like substances. The very name Drug Remedies suggests a link. There is usually a preference in homœopathy for natural, complex substances over the refined alkaloids preferred by conventional medicine and pharmaceutical companies. However, there is a complex interaction between the substances used to make Drug Remedies and the pharmaceutical processes. There is also a strong correspondence between the pharmaceutical industry and the business of illicit drugs. The pharmaceutical industry is very much big business and follows business principles and objectives in a way that is not really compatible with caring and health. Finance always seems to be more important than health.

It has often been noted that the pharmaceutical companies are not very different from the criminal organizations that run the manufacture and distribution of illicit drugs. They can be very focused and ruthless in the pursuit of their objectives. The terms “drug dealers” and “drug pushers” could easily be used to describe how pharmaceutical companies function.

This darker side of business and society generally are inextricably linked to drugs. Some of this is undoubtedly the result of the criminalization of drug use, but legal drugs also connect to the criminal world. The role of alcohol, even where it is completely legal, is disproportionately important in many forms of illegal and criminal behaviour.

ADDICTION

One of the things closely associated with the substances that are used to make the Drug Remedies is addiction. Opium and all its derivatives, alcohol and tobacco are all regarded as especially addictive and so particularly harmful. Addictiveness is regarded as an intrinsic quality of these drugs; it is assumed that it is a chemical, neurological effect rather than a psychological one and that it amounts to a disease. This is known as the "disease model of addiction". Although this is accepted wisdom, it does not entirely fit the facts. For example, although Heroin and Morphine are often used as pain relief after operations and in other situations where there is considerable pain, the cases of iatrogenic addiction are remarkably scarce. In almost every case when the pain goes there is no need, and so no desire, for the drug.

The work of Bruce Alexander would also appear to cast considerable doubt on the model though it has had little apparent effect on accepted wisdom. Heroin is regarded as one of the most addictive of all substances and the nature of addiction is usually studied through it. The most common form of this study is done with animals, particularly laboratory rats. These animals are given the opportunity to press a lever and receive a dose of Morphine laced water or an injection of Heroin. Experiments with these animals seemed to indicate quite clearly that they became addicted to the drugs, their need for them taking precedence over all other activities.

Alexander wondered if the conditions in which the animals were kept might affect the experimental results. He built "Rat Park" an enclosure that offered the inhabitants 200 times the space found in normal laboratory cages. It had plenty of toys and interesting activities, there were enough rats to form the social structures they need and there was a mix of males and females with enough private places to mate, nest and raise

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PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ACTION

One of the distinctions that the Drug Remedies have always had is the way in which they tend to conflate primary and secondary action. Hahnemann speculated that the mechanism of homœopathy lay in the way in which the vital force reacted to the primary action of a remedy with an opposite secondary action, and that this would then bring the organism back to a state of health. Many later homœopaths saw that this was not the case; that in provings, as in clinical experience, opposing actions were apparent but that there was not necessarily an order to them. In some provers an action was primary and followed by an opposing secondary action, but in other provers the same symptoms would occur but in the opposite order. They concluded that both actions were part of the remedy picture. Clarke says “For my part I have never yet been able to turn to practical account this division into primary and secondary in respect of any drug (remedy); and, except for the occasional purpose of arranging the actions of a drug (remedy) in rememberable form I do not attempt it. I find that whether an action is ‘primary’ or ‘secondary’ depends on the prover or the patient.” Some other homœopaths would not agree and have religiously stuck to Hahnemann’s original claim and distinguish between what they see as primary and secondary symptoms. Even for Hahnemann there were doubts about his claim and these were centred on the narcotic drugs where he found it difficult to distinguish between primary and secondary actions. Sometimes the insensibility was primary and irritability secondary, and sometimes the irritability was primary and insensibility secondary.

That this question should come to the fore in the discussion of Drug Remedies is an indication of how the action in Drug Remedies is even more contradictory than it is in other remedies. What is happening in a Drug Remedy case can be very

confusing. There is a tendency to swing between extreme states or even for such seemingly contradictory states to run concurrently. Coffee usually causes insomnia but in a percentage of people it causes drowsiness. Opium is a remedy of extreme insensibility, and of extreme sensitivity and irritability. Alcohol often causes maudlin sentimentality but it also causes aggressive behaviour and the two can alternate or even merge into each other. Contradiction and confusion in a case, particularly where it lacks stability, can be a good indicator for a Drug Remedy.

CONTRARY STATES

Because the contrary states are so obvious in them, the Drug Remedies are an excellent context to study the concept. Contraries are ideas that are incompatible with each other. In logic, contraries are statements such that both cannot be true. Yet in reality many contraries appear and need to be dealt with. Homœopathy is based on two very basic contrary principles. One is that the poison that causes a range of symptoms is also the remedy that cures those symptoms. The other is that the more a remedy is diluted the stronger that remedy becomes.

Contraries are encountered all the time and they create a state that psychologists call Cognitive Dissonance, an anxiety caused by trying to accept or live with contrary beliefs. For scientists, cognitive dissonance is anathema and they must be resolved immediately and at any cost. This is why homœopathy is so hated by conventional science; it is impossible to accept the existence of homœopathy without creating serious cognitive dissonance.

The state of polyvalent beliefs can be sustained but it is not an easy thing to do. There is a particular mindset that is better able to do this than most. F Scott Fitzgerald said that “an artist is someone who has the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.” (In other versions of the quote this is the test of a first rate intelligence.) This is one of the reasons why a homœopath has to be both an artist and a scientist.

There was no greater artist and no one who understood contraries better than William Blake, and he described them in a letter to his patron, Thomas Butts.

He describes four levels of understanding and acceptance of contraries.

The first level is single vision, what he calls Newton's sleep. At this level contraries are denied, everything is reduced to simple numbers, to what Blake called ratio. He illustrated it often with figures such as God or Newton measuring the universe with giant compasses. This is the state that scientists use to relieve themselves of cognitive dissonance, and Blake entreats God to save us from it

The state of twofold vision is one in which the contrary states are able to coexist even if it is a somewhat uneasy and difficult state. It is always with us if we look around with unclouded vision and see the world as it really is.

The state of threefold vision, Blake calls Soft Beulah's Sleep. In his mythology Beulah is the state of unconsciousness. In this state there is an ability to live with the contraries by entering into unquestioning acceptance of them. This is the Drug state which is able to live with contraries through a state of semiconsciousness.

The fourfold vision is “supreme delight”. This is the state that the artist not only is able to live with, but is the foundation of all real creativity. The great engineer Buckminster Fuller called it Dymaxion (the DYNAMIC of MAXimum tensION). This is also the place where homœopathy becomes truly creative and does more than merely cure diseases.

Homœopaths have always struggled with the need to accept contraries. Hahnemann himself was subject to cognitive dissonance. He partly resolved it by relying on the concept of primary and secondary action, though the Drug Remedies made this strategy difficult.

It was an understanding of the philosophy of Swedenborg that allowed homœopathy to find a way of living with contraries. Swedenborg defined two ways of interaction which he called degrees of height and degrees of breadth. Degrees of height do not directly interact but act through correspondence, and this is much more amenable to acceptance of contraries.

Homœopaths who have understood Swedenborg, either directly like Kent, Hering, Boericke, Wilkinson and Creasy; or indirectly such as Tyler and Vithoulkas through Kent, and Clarke through Blake, have been able to accept contraries more easily.

Homœopaths who have not understood Swedenborg have struggled with cognitive dissonance. Some, like Hahnemann and Boeninghausen, used the primary/secondary distinction to find comfort. This is continued today by Dimitriadis and the Neoboeninghausenists. The other strategy is the conventional one of ratio.

DRUGS – FROM EARTH TO SKY THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD

The drugs offer something to people who take them. They give a power or ability that would not normally be available to them. These powers can be the ability to bear pain or difficult circumstances; they can be the power to connect with the nature of divinity; or they can be the ability to function at a higher social level. These powers are generally those that are associated with the realm of the Sky. They are powers of connection, of dissociation, of divinity and of knowledge. Some remedy groups are associated with the realm of the Sky. They have access to these powers by right. Many of the Gases and the Imponderables have their natural residence in the Sky and so aspects of this realm are natural to them. The Birds also have access to the realm of the Sky, they are not absolutely part of it but they have the natural ability to spend much of their time there. The Insects, though of the Earth and not of the Sky, are working towards a transformation that will take them to the Sky. Those that need Drug Remedies do not have access to the Sky and the powers of that realm by any natural right.

Such powers and abilities can be obtained through effort rather than by right but they come at a great cost. They can not be taken without giving much in return. In some ways there is an analogy between the Drug Remedies and witchcraft. They both offer tremendous power but require that a due be paid to the Underworld. The Underworld represents the world of death and to take advantage of the power of drugs it is necessary to undergo a form of death, to risk death or to forfeit some of life and bring death closer. If all goes well, if the Underworld is given its due, then the power can be gained and the cost will be acceptable, but this is not usually the case. Normally entering the Underworld is to enter a place from which there is no return. The gates to the underworld are superscribed with the

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TRIP AS PROVING

There are two interrelated aspects of the Drug Remedies that set them apart from other groups of remedies. The first of these is that they are, by their nature, in some way pharmaceuticals, i.e. drugs or remedies. This means that they are already remedies in a way that most substances are not. Thus there is much less distinction between the substance and the remedy than there is in other groups.

The other aspect is that many people take drugs in the same spirit of exploration that homœopaths do when they conduct provings. People when taking drugs, going on a trip, often keep a detailed record of their journey and their experiences on that journey. There is therefore a great deal of information that has both been discovered and recorded about the Drug Remedies, and because the unpotentized drugs are closer to the remedies than most substances this information is very much of the nature of a proving.

Perhaps the best example of this is when Albert Hofmann took the first dose of LSD. His experience was conceived as part of his conventional pharmaceutical study of Ergot derivatives. It was also a quintessential Drug Trip and is undoubtedly a gem-like proving that reveals the nature of LSD as a homœopathic remedy.

There have been a number of books on Ecstasy, studying it, not quite in purely allopathic manner but from a social and personal perspective. These give a picture of MDMA that is as useful as the picture obtained from a number of provings.

Internet sites such as The Vaults of Erowid, which contains more than 50,000 documents, many of them personal experiences that amount to good provings, are a valuable resource and these combined with many modern provings give us good pictures of a large number of Drug Remedies. This does mean that we can use many Drug Remedies based on these substance provings with a confidence that we cannot generally have in remedies with only toxicological data.

DRUG REMEDIES IN GENERAL

The different groups within the Drug Remedies have different emphases, but there are a large number of qualities and properties that they share. These are the indicators for a Drug Remedy while the differences help to choose between them.

All the Drug Remedies represent an attempt to gain some sort of advantage for the person. This advantage is usually an aspect of the realm of the Sky. The Sky is a place of connection, and the theme of empathy and deep spiritual connection with others and with the divine is strong in all the groups of remedies that have an association or correspondence with the realm of the Sky.

In Drug Remedies, connection may not be as universal as it is in other Sky Remedies. Rather it is very focused and specific. The connection is often with the divine or the spiritual because the more common earthly connection is not available. Connection with more earthly things, with society and particularly with family has been lost, and to compensate for this they seek a deeper, if less practical connection in the spiritual realm.

This spiritual connection is not as real or as solid as it is in other Sky Remedies. In some of the remedies, particularly the Entheogens, though the connection is clear, it is often presented as a map with all the nodes of connection illuminated; however, this is very much an external map that can be studied and followed but not one that is internally and naturally understood. Those that use the drugs shamanistically undergo a long apprenticeship in which a mentor guides them in their understanding of this map. The common modern experience is to eschew this training, and as there is not a real comprehension of this map it is often misunderstood and following it leads the person into a place of deeper confusion and disconnection.

The lack of connection with the family is something that the Drug Remedy patient feels particularly strongly. This can be seen in many ways. A history of disconnection from the family, often through some form of abuse, is a common expression. The disconnection may come about through adoption or separation from their roots. The situation where native peoples are taken from their families and communities and placed in special schools or placed with acceptable mainstream families is a good example of this. This was often accompanied by a breaking from their language, history and spiritual roots. This need for family can become focused on a particular person, often a sibling, who becomes immensely important. It can also be expressed in the creation of a family type group with others who feel similarly outcast. This group has many aspects of the family but is always a construct and does not have any of the stability of a family unit. It thus tends to break down even more easily and quickly than a family does, causing repeated failure and disappointment. Cults rely on this to attract and keep members and often also use drugs to help maintain their hold.

The Drug Remedies represent a state that is in separation from, and conflict with, society. The Socializing Drugs attempt to resolve, or at least smooth over, this conflict. The Narcotics and Entheogens detach from it and try to make it not matter, though it always does. Just as those needing Drug Remedies try to create an alternate family to replace the one they miss; so they will often try to create an alternate society that they can feel part of. This counterculture does give some sense of belonging but it also further distances them from conventional society and makes them feel even more in conflict with the wider world.

This lack of connection leads to a feeling of isolation. The rubric *Mind; forsaken feeling; isolation, sensation* of is one of the most important for the Drug Remedies. It is also the rubric in which many of the remedies that need to be differentiated from

the Drug Remedies are found. Gases, Lacs, Birds, Lanthanides and the AIDS nosode are all very well represented in it.

The sensation of isolation is palpable in the Drug Remedies. It is not just a sense of being alone that is fairly general for most remedies and most people; rather it is a feeling that is almost physically expressed, of being alone in the world. Even when surrounded by people, the person that needs a Drug Remedy feels is as if there is no one else in the world.

Just as the lack of family is met with an attempt to build their own family, so the lack of connection with the world is counteracted with a need for communication that is so important that it can appear desperate or obsessive. This can be seen in many ways. It can be in a severely pathological way. Like the sailor in *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*, the person repeats the same story again and again to anybody who will listen, or anyone who can't get away. At the other extreme it is no accident that the arts and drugs have always been entwined with each other. The alcoholic writer, actor or painter is an absolutely stock figure and stretches across the centuries. From Kit Marlowe through the Romantic Poets to Dylan Thomas and the Beat Poets; from Caravaggio to Toulouse Lautrec and throughout 20th Century music the use of drugs has been endemic. This is undoubtedly partly because the pain and dissociation that Alexander connects to addiction is also the motivating force behind much of the great art that has been created. The demands of art, of expressing oneself in a manner that is exceptional and beyond the mundane, can also be more difficult than most people can bear and this leads many artists to seek the support or oblivion of drugs. However, drugs can also be a support and inspiration in achieving the sublime or other-worldly. The writings of Aldous Huxley or of Coleridge and the music of the Beatles and the Grateful Dead have some of their inspiration in the increased perception provided by drugs.

DIFFERENTIALS

GASES

The Gases are perhaps the group that could most easily be confused with the Drug Remedies. In fact there is a large cross-over particularly in the Anaesthetics, many of which (Ether, Chloroform, Nitrous Oxide etc.) are gases. The disconnection, lack of feeling and disorientation or confusion are common to both groups.

The main differentials between them lie in the fact that the Gases are completely of the Sky realm and do not have the other aspects that the Drug Remedies have. From the Earth the Drugs have issues with materialism, with money, sex and food; none of which are very important in the Gases. The darker side of the Drug Remedies which include the links to war, violence and the worst aspects of religion come from the transition through the Underworld and are also uncommon in the Gases.

BIRDS

The Birds are an attractive group of remedies, and though they have been introduced into the materia medica very recently they are popular and tend to be overused. One of the groups that is often mistaken for Birds is the Drug Remedies. The confusion comes about through the Sky realm elements. These include the spiritual dimension, the connection and the sense of unbounded infinity.

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INSECTS & SPIDERS

The issues with the Insect remedies are diametrically opposite to those found in the Birds. Bird remedies are appealing to prescribe and to prove. The Insects are extremely unappealing and

are not proved or prescribed nearly enough. While Birds are often given when Drugs should be, so Drugs are often given when Insects are indicated.

They both have issues of materialism and of dirt and disgust. The attitude of both to food and sex are similar and in contrast to the attitude of the Birds. The Insects have work and industriousness as major issues whereas the Drugs tend not to have much interest in these. The Insects tend to have more of a sense of social responsibility and of both working with and

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REMEDIES

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With each of the remedies described there is some shorthand information. This includes the type of drug it is, as outlined on pages 8 – 13. Most Drug Remedies fit into multiple categories. There is the most important active ingredients and what category of carbon skeleton they fit into. For chemicals there is the chemical formula. For remedies made from plants the family is given. I generally use the older Cronquist system. This is in technical terms less accurate but, because it is based on the observation of the plants properties, it is often more accurate in terms of the properties of the remedies. For those who use the modern APG III system, which is based on studies of DNA, I have given the number assigned by Scholten to the species in “*Wonderful Plants*”. This will tell you which family it is assigned to in APG III and which particular place Scholten puts it in his system.

JUMP TO....

NARCOTICS, ANALGESICS AND ANAESTHETICS

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The remedies of this type all have the keynote property of removing feeling. They are important in conventional medicine in several ways, but the use of them is almost always allopathic and leads to deep, chronic suppression of symptoms and of the vital force in general.

One of the factors that makes them difficult to use is their contrary qualities. Thus while they generally reduce sensitivity, and so feeling in general and pain in particular, they can also have the property of causing extreme sensitivity.

OPIUM

Nar, Op, Ang, Sed, An, Hal, Dis, App

Isoquinolines (Morphine, Codeine, Thebaine, Papaverine, Noscapine).

Papaveraceae 642.17.17

Opium is the type for the Drug Remedies and the best known and most used of them.

Opium is the dried latex that is exuded by the immature seed pods of the Opium Poppy, *Papaver somniferum*. The ripening pods are cut with a special knife, a nishtar, the white latex exudate is left and “poppy tears” of drying brown latex are scraped and collected the next day. The gummy brown Opium can be smoked in a pipe or dissolved in ethanol. Raw opium is rarer today and it is usually converted into Morphine soon after being harvested.

Opium has been used since neolithic times and in all ancient civilizations in religious rites, medically and recreationally. It is addictive. It is found in all ancient medical texts and was used medically to the time of the American Civil War when it was replaced by the alkaloid Morphine which makes up 12% of the latex. Some Muslims argued that it is not specifically prohibited by the Koran in the way that Alcohol is, and so it has been the most popular recreational drug in many Muslim societies.

It has always been associated with business, corruption, war and organized crime. The Opium Wars between Britain and China in the middle of the Nineteenth century are perhaps the best example of where these all come together. Opium, or its purified forms of Morphine and Heroin, seem to feature as a factor in all wars from the Trojan War to Vietnam. It is how soldiers endure the unendurable and is the quickest way for the unscrupulous to turn misery into money.

The Laudanum of Paracelsus was one of the most important substances in medicine into the twentieth century. It was used to suppress coughs, diarrhoea and pain. It was also a major influence on art and culture and especially the Romantic Movement. It was used by de Quincey and Coleridge among many other writers and artists. While it reduces awareness of the world around, it increases awareness of other possible worlds.

Opium is the most contrary of all remedies. For anything that it could be said to do, it is also indicated for the opposite state.

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MORPHINE

Nar, Op, Ang, Sed, An, Hal, Dis, App

Isoquinolines (Morphine). $C_{17}H_{19}NO_3$

Morphine is a purified alkaloid of Opium. It was the first plant alkaloid to be isolated, in 1804. It was distributed by Merck in 1827 but it was not until the invention of the hypodermic in 1857 that its use took off. It substantially replaced Opium for pain relief during the American Civil War. It was found to be highly addictive though it is likely that this has been exaggerated for political effect.

The effects are very similar to those of Opium. It is said to be less stimulatory, less convulsant but more hypnotic. Perspiration is not as prominent but itching is more so. Herpetic eruptions are common. Pains are violent and tend to be neuralgic. The reaction to pains or things that threaten pain tends to be sudden and violent. Everything happens more quickly and more violently than in Opium.

Patients needing Morphine can lack morality. They may be manipulative and untrustworthy. Con artists and gamblers. They can be slick and convincing but become aggressive when they feel they may be exposed.

Depression and despair are much more important in Morphine than they are in Opium.

Restlessness, both general and specifically of the legs. Twitching, jerking, convulsions.

There are restrictions and tightness in all areas. Respiration is difficult from paralysis of the diaphragm. There are palpitations and weakness of the heart from exhaustion.

HEROIN

Nar, Op, Ang, Sed, An, Hal, Dis, App

Isoquinolines (Diamorphine). $C_{21}H_{23}NO_5$

The diacetylate of Morphine was discovered in 1874 but was not manufactured until it was re-synthesized in 1897 and marketed as Heroin by Bayer, alongside their acetylate of Salicylic acid, Aspirin. It was marketed as a nonaddictive alternative to Morphine and a cough suppressant. By 1914 it was becoming clear it was addictive and was restricted and in 1924 it was completely banned in the States, though medical use has continued in most other parts of the world. In spite of being made illegal, it was common in gang cultures and the worlds of art and music throughout the 20s and 30s. Supplies dried up during the war but in the 60s it became more available and again was found among gangs, artists and musicians. Usage by Vietnam veterans was substantial and, as prices dropped, it was used by the destitute and particularly prostitutes, it having the quality of making the unbearable bearable.

Users habituate to the drug and continually need larger doses. However, this habituation is environmentally dependent and in an unfamiliar environment a normal amount can cause an overdose.

The short term effects of Heroin are to reduce sensation, especially the sensation of pain and to depress nervous reac

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