

The following is an excerpt from a lecture on developing a unified understanding of the materia medica. Dulcamara was one of the remedies discussed as an example, and part of the materia medica discussion is presented here, in an abridged form. Ed.

Solanum Dulcamara

Paul Herscu, ND, DHANP

I have come to believe that disease, as Hahnemann described it, on the energetic level, has a certain perfection to it. As such, I think that one could describe any remedy by describing the perfect energetic flow of it. For instance, we can take *Dulcamara* as an illustration. On the energetic level, *Dulcamara* can be described as **a proactive and excess remedy; they are aggravated if acted upon and ameliorated if they act upon the environment.** This sentence can explain all the symptoms of the remedy. For example, it explains why there is found in this remedy the following discrepancy. It seems on first reading that *Dulcamara* is aggravated by all change. However, in arthritis, the remedy is ameliorated by motion and by change. So really, they are not aggravated by change itself, rather by change that comes from the outside, as change exerted *on* them. In contrast, they may be ameliorated by any change that they themselves can cause. Progressing symptom by symptom, one can then explain the remedy. But more than that, understand the reasons why particular symptoms arise in the first place.

For *Dulcamara*, one of the most difficult stresses is the change that comes from fluid. *Dulcamara* patients are worse from water. Water has no shape, water changes in us and around us continuously, through every day and every season. And since *Dulcamara* does not like change from the outside, water in the environment will aggravate, almost as a metaphor, the *Dulcamara* patient. Overall, their mechanism of balance will be intimately involved with water.

The actual plant often grows by stream sides, and so

is in contact with water. The other remedies in the same plant family, i.e. *Stramonium* and *Belladonna*, and others also have some form of aggravation from water. Some of the remedies have fear around water, some choke on water, some become delirious when near water. *Dulcamara* is aggravated by an increase of water, as if they have too much water already in them. It is as if by increasing the water around them, they are allowing more change to affect them. So with the slightest increase of water they become sick and during their sickness they must do something that will discharge water lest they become even more sick. This is why they are aggravated by wet weather and suppressed sweats, and why when they are ill,

they produce diarrhea, hives, edema, and urinary symptoms as their pathology. Any of these discharges allows for the vital force to try and establish some sense of balance. This also explains why suppressions, such as the allopathic drying of mucus membranes is a clear etiology for their pathology. These two sides of *Dulcamara* allow us to understand why they may have opposite symptoms. Some of the symptoms are symptoms that

help to produce balance while other symptoms are symptoms that begin the pathology. For example, in the genito/urinary tract, there is found two opposite symptoms: increased flow of urine (as a balancing symptom) and paralysis of bladder (as the

etiology.) As I say, one can go through the whole symptomatology and understand and in fact be able to predict the symptoms, just by understanding a single broad yet exact statement at the beginning.

With regard to the emotional state of *Dulcamara*, just as they do not like too much water (stress that

Some of the symptoms are symptoms that help to produce balance while other symptoms are symptoms that begin the pathology.

Pure and simple, emotional change, caused by other people is so difficult that they can not accept it.

inflicts change upon them,) so too they do not like people impacting them. Because they do not like change, they may appear like a cold people. What then of emotional change? Pure and simple, emotional change, caused by other people is so difficult that they can not accept it. This then leads to the famous syndrome, described by George Vithoulkas, of the quintessential mother-in-law, who is never satisfied, never, happy, and never accepting. Why? Because, the new son or daughter in-law in the family represent change, a gambit card that changes the delicate and long established, even if unhealthy, balance of a family. Indeed, in the repertory, one can find that *Dulcamara* thinks and sees evil in people around them. And so deep down, on the milder level, the son-in-law actually is evil, is the perception. Why? Simply because his sheer arrival impacts upon them. But just as with water, they develop a mechanism to equalize the effects of the change, so too does that happen with the emotions. The loquacity, as in *Lachesis*, is a discharge, a way to vent out the turmoil, a way to actually bring about change, instead of being passive. This then for the first time explains why *Dulcamara* is listed in such odd rubrics as abusive or angry without being angry, quarrelsome without anger, etc.. Because they need to act upon the environment, they can not just sit there and take all these changes. They have to emote, even if they do not truly feel anger. This is why it comes as a complete surprise that a neighbor may say to the *Dulcamara* patient, "Why are you always so angry?" The *Dulcamara* person is speechless caught off guard for a time, not believing that someone could really have that image of them. Because they need to act upon the environment, they are restless, and are worse rest; in general, capricious, etc.

This then for the first time explains why Dulcamara is listed in such odd rubrics as abusive or angry without being angry, quarrelsome without anger.

Not only can one predict all the symptoms of a remedy by understanding its energetic flow, but one can also understand why the patient develops certain specific symptoms.

The same main idea is seen in the head. Their headaches are better by speaking, which is their method of emotional discharge. The headache is started by using nasal spray which stops a cold and is aggravated by cold, wet weather. (Both processes eventu-

ally build up water in the *Dulcamara*.)

Likewise, as we travel down the body, we find the same idea repeating itself. Even in the menses we find the expression of the two sides. There is suppressed menses (the etiology) and profuse menses (getting rid of the fluid.)

Not only can one predict all the symptoms of a remedy by understanding its energetic flow, but one can also understand why the patient develops certain specific symptoms. For instance, it would be fairly easy to predict that *Dulcamara* would have a very difficult time at night. Why? Yes, they are colder then and there is more moisture in the atmosphere in the evening. But more importantly, I go back to the main idea. At night people sleep, and in sleep you do not move and the atmosphere and the unconscious can start to act upon the *Dulcamara* person, because they can not defend themselves. That is why they are worse from a nap and why they have bad dreams at night.

So you see, it is not correct to say that disease is mental, or emotional. I reject the concept that disease has a focus on the mental, or emotional or physical. I think disease lays in another realm and must be described by using the language of that realm, the language that arises from the descriptives of energy flow.

THE SOCIETY OF HOMŒOPATHS

The Homœopath

Here is an opportunity for you to subscribe to this quarterly journal of international repute.

The Homœopath contains articles on all aspects of the homœopathic profession - cases, philosophy, materia medica, research, education, book reviews and the rest.

At a cost of £38 annually it is of tremendous value, and a welcome reference tool for your practice.

Payment is simple - just write for a subscription form, or send, telephone or fax your MasterCard/Visa details. We regret we cannot accept cheques. The journal is mailed by air.

The Society of Homœopaths
2 Artizan Road, Northampton England NN1 4HU
Tel 44-604-21400 Fax 44-604-22622