

## *Primary Materia Medica*

ACONITE	LYCOPODIUM
APIS MELLIFICA	MERCURIUS SOLUBILIS
ARGENTUM NITRICUM	NATRUM MURIATICUM
ARNICA	NUX VOMICA
ARSENICUM ALBUM	PHOSPHORUS
BELLADONNA	PULSATILLA
BRYONIA	PYROGEN
CANTHARIS	RHUS TOXICODENDRON
CARBO VEGETABILIS	RUTA
CAUSTICUM	SILICA
COLOCYNTHIS	SULPHUR
EUPHRASIA	SYMPHYTUM
GELSEMIUM	THUJA
HEPAR SULPHURIS	URTICA URENS
HYPERICUM	

### **Aconite**

*Aconitum napellus*, Monk's Hood, Wolf's Bane Plant

Family: Ranunculaceae (the buttercup family)

Aconite is a herbaceous, perennial plant, the flowers are purplish-blue in colour and shaped like a monk's cowl. Aconite flowers from June to August. It is handsome to look at, but somehow rather sinister in appearance. All parts of the plant contain the alkaloid aconitine, making it one of the most poisonous plants in Britain.

It is appropriate that it should be the first remedy in this materia medica, because it is the first remedy to consider whenever there is shock, fright or fear. In homeopathy it has been known as the homeopathic lancet, because years ago it replaced the surgical instrument of that name in blood-letting for cases of acute fever. In earlier times, if blood-letting was not practised in conditions such as pneumonia or pleurisy, it was considered to be the equivalent of murder, for without blood-letting to release the 'bad blood' the patient must surely die.

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Aconite is a short-acting remedy but it does act very quickly. It may be repeated several times at short intervals (its effects are noticeable in minutes).

### *Uses*

#### **ACCIDENTS - SHOCK - FRIGHT - FEVER - CHILLS**

- 1) To steady the nerves after an accident or unexpected incident such as a fall or road traffic accident. This is likely to apply equally for the owner as for the animal.
- 2) To help to control pain of any kind.
- 3) In the early stages of a fever, such as acute tonsillitis, mastitis etc. when the temperature is high, the eyes may appear reddened, the pulse is rapid and bounding. The patient is often anxious, restless, thirsty and may be severely chilled.
- 4) It should be considered after animal or insect bites, burns or scalds, when there is haemorrhage (bleeding), especially if distress is obvious with trembling, increased respiration and heart rate.

### ***Modalities***

Worse in a warm room and in the evening. Worse when lying on the affected side. Better in the open air, but can be affected by dry, cold winds.

## **Apis Mellifica**

Prepared from the honey-bee, using the whole body and the sting. In folklore the bee's venom has been used for centuries for its medicinal properties. The poison acts principally on cellular tissue causing swelling, oedema (the accumulation of fluid in the tissues) and local pain. Oedema may occur in many different parts of the body and these are where Apis exerts its curative properties. It can therefore be useful as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, a modern diuretic.

### *Uses*

#### **STINGS AND BITES - NETTLE RASH - ARTHRITIS - NEPHRITIS**

- 1) Its first obvious use is to counteract the effects of the pain and swelling caused by any sort of insect bite or sting.
- 2) Puffy swollen eyelids, possibly associated with conjunctivitis, respond well to treatment with Apis.
- 3) Acute urticaria (nettle rash or hives) with raised swollen plaques anywhere

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on the body, combined with irritation and a desire to rub or scratch the affected part.

- 4) In the early stages of acute sore throat (tonsillitis) or earache (otitis).
- 5) Arthritis with hot, shiny, swollen and painful joints.
- 6) Acute nephritis (kidney infection), often accompanied by retention or restricted flow of urine, due to bladder involvement.
- 7) Difficulty in breathing due to the accumulation of fluid (oedema) in the lungs.
- 8) Useful in the early stages of acute wet eczema.

### *Modalities*

Worse from any sort of warmth or heat, a stuffy atmosphere and from pressure. Symptoms always appear to be worse in the early evening (around 5 p.m.), on the right side, and after resting. Better in the open air, from cool bathing of the affected parts, lying on cold surfaces and from moving about.