

HOMOEOPATHY

GUNPOWDER

AS A WAR REMEDY



John H. Clarke, M.D.

Gunpowder

as a

War Remedy

By

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

FIRST INDIAN EDITION

J. H. Clarke, is not unfamiliar in the Homoeopathic World. He has rendered immense service to the man-kind by following the fundamental principles laid down by the MASTER in 'ORGANON'. These two rare works 'RADIUM *as an internal remedy*' (especially exemplified in cases of SKIN DISEASES and CANCER) and 'GUNPOWDER AS WAR REMEDY' speak itself on the 'Law of Similarity' i.e. Radium and Gunpowder which have the capacity to kill the human being can equally kill the ills of human being provided these are used under '*Law of Similarity*'. We feel great pleasure in announcing the release of such work to the profession for the benefit of the students, beginners and old practitioners on a very moderate price.

Dr. Charan Singh Sandhu of New Delhi has been a source of inspiration to us in that it is his encouragement that we have the privilege of reprinting these books on moderate rates. By sparing these books *Dr. Sandhu* has rendered great service to the profession. We are grateful to him.

21st April 1971
New Delhi.

Bimla Rani Jain
(B. Jain Publishers)

PREFACE

My authority having been cited in the *Evening Standard*, *Daily Mirror*, and other journals for the recommendation of GUNPOWDER as an all-round remedy for blood-poisoning in general and septic war-wounds in particular, I think I shall best serve the public interest by putting the facts about the remedy into separate practical shape and thus making them accessible to all.

In the following pamphlet will be found all the information necessary for the practical use and understanding of the remedy, and I think that the directions are so clear and simple that any intelligent person, lay or medical, will be able to put them into practice.

JOHN H. CLARKE

8. BOLTON STREET, W.
August 4th, 1915

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CHAPTER III

EXAMPLES OF THE CURATIVE ACTION OF GUNPOWDER

In addition to the cases related by Mr. Upcher it may be of interest to record a few of my own. First, I will give that of the gunner, whose case I related in the article already referred to. It will be noticed that in this case I gave other remedies besides *Gunpowder*, but the progress of the case showed that the *Gunpowder* was the chief agent in the curative work.

H. J. S., 30, a non-commissioned artillery officer in an Indian regiment, who, had been born in India of English parents, and had never before left it, presented himself to me on April 9th, 1913, in a fairly desperate condition. He was a man of very powerful physique, but his flesh was hanging about him, and he was covered from head to foot with sores, some discharging, some having rupia-like crusts, copper-coloured stains marking the areas where sores or 'boils' had previously been.

His story was as follows. About two years before he had had an outbreak of 'boils,' and six months later another attack. At intervals of four or five months he had other attacks, ending up with the present one. All attempts to cure him having failed, he was advised that the only thing for him was a voyage to England and a change of air. H. J. S. was greatly valued by his superiors. He was an instructor in athletics, a total abstainer, and an expert gunner. In order that he might not lose his pay whilst absent from India, his officers had very kindly arranged for him a course of

instruction at Woolwich. He had been six weeks in England when he came to me.

So far from the change benefiting him, he had become steadily worse. He had had diarrhoea during the voyage home. His digestion was bad and his sleep broken by the pains of his sores. He had lost two stones in weight in four weeks; altogether he had lost five stones. The neck, trunk, extremities were all affected. The inguinal glands were much swollen and painful.

On trying to get at the origin of the trouble, I ascertained that his previous health had been excellent. But in 1894 he had been bitten in the finger by a squirrel and his finger had been bad for a long time afterwards. This showed a degree of susceptibility to blood-poisoning. He had had attacks of fever, but almost always in association with the attacks of 'boils.' The first attack occurred the end of November, 1911. At the end of the previous October *he had been vaccinated*, for the second time in his life, and it 'took well.' It did, indeed! To me, the connection was obvious between the present state and the vaccination.

At the same time as my patient, a fellow soldier was also vaccinated, and he also soon afterwards became ill, in a somewhat similar way. But this man was not temperate in his habits, and his illness was put down to alcohol by his medical officers. This would not do for my patient, who was a life abstainer. The only other hypothesis was syphilis. The possibility of this he steadily denied, and his word was borne out by the Wassermann tests, which consistently gave negative results, though tried again and again. My diagnosis was unhesitatingly VACCINOSIS, secondary or tertiary. This was confirmed by the fact that the sores were *thickest and lasted longest on his right arm on the site of the vaccination scars*. The fact that his right arm was worse, was explained by his doctors as being due to over-exertion at cricket, bowling, etc.!

I ordered him *Gunpowder* 3x eight grains three times a day; and *Thuja* 200 three doses in the week.

At the end of the week he was a changed man. He had still plenty of sores, but they were healing, and the whole aspect of the man was different. His appetite had improved to such an extent that some indigestion and diarrhoea had resulted from over indulgence. His skin had improved altogether in appearance. On April 24th his weight was 10st 3lbs. He had then gained much, but I have no record of his weight when he first came to me. On June 5th he was 11st 11½ lbs, and on September 18th, 12st. 6½lbs. He had steadily improved all this time. New swellings or 'boils' occasionally appeared, and some sores with thickening on the hands, just below the wrists, especially the right, had proved particularly obstinate. I now omitted *Gunpowder* and gave instead *Silica* 3X in eight-grain doses in the same way; *Thuja* 200, thrice a week, being continued as before.

A rapid change took place. A new outbreak of boils occurred, diarrhoea set in, with bitter taste and coated tongue and some fever. The diarrhoea was worse after drinking milk. The weight had gone down to 11st. 8lbs.; but *the hands were much better Trombid.* 200 soon cured the diarrhoea, and then I gave *Gunpowder* 3x eight grains every four hours alone; leaving off the *Thuja*. On October 16th he was very much better again in every way, his weight having gone up to 12st. 2½lbs. Soon after this, his time being expired, he left for India after successfully completing his course of instruction, in very good condition. I gave him a good supply of *Gunpowder* to take home with him, and told him to let me know if he had any relapse. As I have heard nothing since, I conclude he is now busy with his guns somewhere in the widespread area of the war.

Here are a few other cases of mine:-

POISONED BITE

A lady, who had a very sensitive skin, was bitten by a gnat on the foot resulting in swelling, inflammation and suppuration. There was a ring of inflammation round the bite, constantly spreading and detaching the epidermis as it spread. After the failure of several remedies, *Gunpowder 3X* eight grains three times a day rapidly cured.

POISONED CUT

A gentleman had a bad cut with a knife on the left index finger. The wound refused to heal. An inflammatory ring stripped off the epidermis and spread more and more. *Lachesis* and other remedies failed to make any impression. *Gunpowder 3X* rapidly cured.

SEWER-GAS POISONING

A lady was very severely poisoned by sewer gas. There followed swelling of the right arm and axillary glands of the right side. When she consulted me, three months after the accident, the right arm was almost fixed at the elbow-joint with swelling. It threatened suppuration above and below. The axillary glands were as large as a hen's egg. *Gunpowder 3X* gradually resolved the trouble, and though the cure was, interrupted by an attack of measles, the mobility of the arm was fully restored.

The following case shows that as earthquakes and war are placed in the same category of calamities, *Gunpowder* may prove of service in some of the ills caused by the one as well as the other.

BLOOD-POISONING FROM EARTHQUAKE DUST

In 1912 I had under my care a lady who had been in the great earthquake which wrought so much havoc in Jamaica some years before. She asked me if I thought I could do anything for her little niece, aged 4, who lived in Jamaica and suffered from a skin trouble. She was born soon after the earthquake, was a very tiny child, had always been nervous, and suffered, as many other children of the colony have done since the earthquake, from eruptions on the skin. It was as if the earthquake had thrown up from the depths some new kind of irritant and poisonous dust. The first symptoms were 'prickly heat,' with much itching. Then sores appeared, forming blisters, the fluid of which had to be let out. The parts affected were chiefly the ankles and the trunk. Every mosquito bite made a poisoned wound. This little patient was very languid, was nervous at night, and a restless sleeper. These were the facts I elicited from her aunt.

I thought *Gunpowder* was the very thing for her, and on January 4th, 1912, I sent her a supply of powders of the 5x.

In due course I received a report that within a week of commencing the remedy she was much better. She slept better, the bowels acted better, and as for her appetite, whereas formerly she had to be coaxed to eat anything, now they could not give her enough. The skin improved at the same time. A second course of powders was sent on April 30th as there had been a relapse of the eruption with fever. From this time she steadily improved and got perfectly well.

I may append to these an Editorial note from the Homoeopathic World of June 1st, relating the work of another observer:-

SEPTIC INFLAMMATION OF THUMB

‘More Gunpowder cases continue to come to hand. The latest is of a septic inflammation of the thumb in a nurse of 19. It was vigorously treated surgically, and pus evacuated, but the inflammation continued, and the loss of a joint was contemplated until a short course of Gunpowder 3x achieved a satisfactory healing and scarring.’

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUDING REMARKS

I think it will be agreed that the evidence adduced above is sufficient to warrant my recommendation of *Gunpowder* as a remedy of almost universal applicability in wounds of war. It has the additional advantage of being, in the form recommended, whilst powerful for good, as innocent of evil as brimstone-and-treacle, castor oil, or Gregory's powder. In fact, it is a perfectly safe domestic remedy. For that reason I have no hesitation commending it to the notice of the public in general, civil as well as military. In my opinion, if the use of it were universal through out the army at the front there would be infinitely fewer septic wounds among our wounded, and those wounds which become septic would heal in a vastly shorter space of time.

It may be asked how I can be so certain, seeing that I hold no official position in the Army or Navy, and have no opportunity of putting the remedy personally to the test of practice on a large scale. In reply, let me say that in medicine, as in warfare, the chance of success very often lies in an intelligent anticipation of the enemy's intentions and capabilities. An ounce of wisdom is often worth many tons of experience. When cholera invaded Europe a little over a century ago the medical world was divided into two camps—the followers of Hahnemann on the one side, and all the rest on the other. Before the epidemic arrived reports of cases of the disease were brought and published. From the symptoms described Hahnemann was able to name the remedies

that were likely to be called for. Consequently, his party, who exercised intelligent anticipation of what was to come, were all ready for action when the invasion occurred. The other party, who may be called the party of the 'Wait-and-Sees,' never were ready, and lost over 70 per cent. of their patients, whilst the homoeopaths saved over 70 per cent. of theirs.

In our Services, so far as I know, there are only Surgeon-captains, Surgeon-majors, Surgeon-colonels, and Surgeon-generals. If there is such a person as a Physician-general I must confess I never heard of him. But whilst surgery is paramount in war practice, and has reached a very high pitch of perfection, physicians' work is very necessary also, and I believe this branch of practice is not by any means so fully developed as the branch that belongs to mechanical surgery. It is for this reason that I offer this contribution to the neglected branch, and I do not think any surgeon could object to such of his patients as might like to do so treating themselves to a few tablets of *Gunpowder 3x*.