

## Chapter 12

### *Isopathy and the Use of Nosodes*

The term *isopathy* is used to describe the employment of potentised remedies prepared from substances responsible for the disease being treated. The word is derived from the Greek '*iso*' meaning 'equal'. It is a matter for discussion as to whether isopathy should be addressed in a textbook of homeopathy, as strictly speaking its definition excludes it from consideration within that sphere of medicine. However, as it has been developed by homeopaths and its acceptance has grown alongside the development of homeopathy, isopathy is generally considered to be a part of the armoury of the homeopath.

A *nosode* is a potentised remedy prepared from diseased tissue or the product of disease (from the Greek *nosos* = disease, *eidōs* = like). (Strictly speaking, a remedy is only homeopathic when prescribed for a patient whose symptomatology corresponds to that of the remedy - until then it is simply a 'potentised' remedy.)

Hahnemann himself prepared remedies from diseased tissue, foremost of which were the so-called 'miasmatic' nosodes, Psorinum, Medorrhinum and Syphilinum. Since then many others have been prepared, not only from human or animal derivatives but also occasionally from plant sources. Examples of the latter include Secale (prepared from rye affected by ergot fungus) and Ustilago (corn smut). In addition, with the advent of microbiological culturing techniques, remedies have been prepared from pure cultures of infectious agents. It should be noted that the latter do not contain any of the host tissue and may therefore differ from their host-derived counterparts. In order to distinguish them from other nosodes, remedies derived from pure cultures are sometimes erroneously referred to as *homeopathic vaccines* or, more correctly, *pathodes*.

The major nosodes have undergone thorough provings and their use in veterinary homeopathy on this basis is no different from that of any other homeopathic remedy. However, somewhere between 1831 and 1833 Joseph Lux, a German veterinary surgeon, investigated the idea of using nosodes in the treatment of the specific disease from which they

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were derived. Lux used Anthracinum in the treatment of cattle affected by anthrax and he is credited with coining the term *isopathy* to describe this field of therapy.

Nosodes are further classified on the basis of the source and recipient. An *isonosode* is a potentised remedy made from diseased tissues or products of disease from the same group of patients/animals. An *autonosode* is a potentised remedy made from diseased tissues or products of disease from the same patient.

Bearing in mind the above definition of isopathy, the use of 'disease-producing agents' other than those of an infectious nature may be included in the concept. Allergens, for instance, may be potentised and used in desensitising programmes. These are sometimes, rather clumsily, termed *allergodes*. Stretching the definition slightly, there is a whole range of medicines available which are derived from the potentisation of organs and tissues from healthy individuals (usually human). These medicines are termed *sarcodes*, defined as 'homeopathic remedies made from healthy glandular or tissue extracts', and are used in organ support regimes, usually in conjunction with other levels of homeopathic prescribing. Their use was first advocated by Hering in 1834.

Finally, under the heading of isopathy comes the term *tautopathy*, 'a form of isotherapy, using homeopathic remedies prepared from allopathic medicine, in order to counteract the side effects caused by that particular medication'.

### **USES OF ISOPATHY**

#### **'Never Well Since' (NWS)**

A clear causality in the history of a patient presented for homeopathy is 'like gold-dust', such are its implications for success, and this is no less true if the instigating factor of the disease has been on the physical, rather than the mental plane. If an infectious disease can be identified as the cause of subsequent illness, then the use of a nosode of that disease can not only be helpful but occasionally also essential in the successful homeopathic treatment of that patient. The infection may of course have been deliberately introduced in the form of a vaccine; if available, a homeopathic remedy derived from the vaccine itself may be used in this situation. This latter could well be regarded as tautopathy, and if the exciting cause is identified as a particular allopathic medicine, then the use of a homeopathic preparation derived from that medicine will be

beneficial. This is particularly effective if the animal is suffering from recognised side effects of the medicine.

### **Desensitisation**

Where a specific allergen is implicated, either from laboratory investigations or circumstantial evidence, this may be potentised and used in a desensitising programme.

### **Treatment of Active Disease**

Where a specific disease is present in an individual, the use of the nosode from that disease may be employed. However, if the disease is unidentified, isopathy can still be employed by preparing an autosode from pathological emanations such as nasal discharges or diarrhoea. Non-specific infectious disease may be countered by the use of autosodes prepared from blood and/or urine; this latter technique, though rarely practised by the authors, is considered by its advocates to confer a general improvement in immune response, whatever the cause of the infectious disease. However, a word of caution may be appropriate here - it is the authors' experience that treatment of active disease with the specific nosode can result in a significant aggravation of the symptoms more frequently than would be expected from a purely homeopathic approach.

### **Prophylaxis**

It is generally accepted among homeopaths, medical and veterinary, that when the nosode of a specific infectious disease is administered to a healthy individual a protective effect ensues. Anecdotal evidence and veterinary homeopaths' experience, including that of the authors, seems to confirm that present dosage regimes of homeopathic nosodes in this way have some protective effect. However, there is as yet no evidence in the form of custom-designed trials to support this and the area remains contentious. Further discussion will be found in Chapter 14.

### *Epidemic /epizootic disease*

Opportunities for using nosodes in this situation are rare in veterinary medicine; the advent of canine parvovirus in the 1970s and the 2001 Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) epizootic are exceptions, although in neither case are there any records of the use of homeopathic nosodes for

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prophylaxis. Indeed, the use of nosodes for the prophylaxis of a notifiable disease such as FMD would be unethical, although it might be considered in countries where the disease is endemic.

The pattern of Foot and Mouth disease is, of course, influenced by the disease control policies of national governments. The slaughter approach to control, with or without temporary vaccination, aims at a disease-free national herd. This means that when outbreaks occur they follow an epizootic pattern. In parts of the world where such policies are not followed, the disease is often of a more enzootic nature.

#### *Endemic/enzootic disease*

This represents the most common form of prophylaxis employing nosodes. Combined nosodes of all the common infectious diseases are available from the major homeopathic pharmacies. Ideally these will have been produced from disease material, though there is sometimes uncertainty as to whether pure strains of the organism have been used as source material.

One of the advantages of the prophylactic use of nosodes is that they can be prepared for any disease as long as there is disease material to present to a homeopathic pharmacy. Consequently, nosodes have long been prepared from such diseases as Feline Infectious Peritonitis and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus where no conventional vaccine has been available.

Once again, in small animals, there is little evidence to support the use of nosodes in this way but one of us (Saxton 1991) has documented significant effect in reducing the incidence of distemper in a welfare kennels by the use of distemper nosode.

In the case of farm animals several trials have been performed, notably in the control of mastitis in dairy cows (Day 1986).

#### *In face of an outbreak (pre-emptive)*

This is another area where there is documented evidence of efficacy of use of nosodes. An outbreak of kennel cough in a boarding kennels was managed by the administration of a nosode; incidence of disease was markedly reduced (Day 1987). Isopathy therefore represents an extremely useful tool in these circumstances. A generic nosode may be available immediately from a homeopathic pharmacist; alternatively one may be prepared within a very short time from material collected from affected animals - indeed, it is not even necessary to have a specific diagnosis for therapy or prophylaxis to begin.

## Chapter 15 *Surgery* *and First Aid*

### **General Considerations**

There are a number of homeopathic remedies whose pathological symptomatology so closely matches that produced by injuries of various kinds that in such situations they may be prescribed with very little reference to the materia medica; they are therefore generally regarded as 'first aid remedies'. Their application in injury, whether accidentally or surgically inflicted, is a most useful way for a practitioner to become acquainted with the homeopathic method. However, it should be remembered that homeopathic principles still apply; these remedies will therefore only be effective if the symptoms presented in the patient correspond to those described in the materia medica for that remedy. In addition it should be noted that these remedies are often polychrests, and their usefulness in homeopathic therapeutics is not limited to their relevance to first aid situations. A detailed study of their materia medica will reveal their true scope in the sphere of homeopathic medicine. However, one of the great strengths of these remedies is that they can be prescribed on very little information, and often simply a knowledge of the initiating cause of the symptoms is sufficient.

The first aid remedies can be enormously effective and their role in counteracting the effects of injury can literally be lifesaving, so much so that it may be tempting to ignore more conventional forms of therapy. While this may be possible in certain minor situations, in others it is clearly erroneous; such procedures as intravenous fluid therapy, general nursing and the dressing or immobilising of injured limbs are clearly measures which are complementary to homeopathy, and are considered to be just as much a part of homeopathic therapeutics as they are of orthodox practice.

Where the situation is acute, the sooner homeopathic medicine can be instituted the better, and drop doses of a liquid potency administered onto the oral mucosa, or tablets placed under the lip, can be administered by the owner before veterinary attention can be received; an

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animal can also be treated by the veterinary surgeon on its way to the provision of surgical facilities. Doses may be repeated at regular short intervals with complete safety. Remedies in high potencies such as 1M can be administered at intervals as short as five minutes until the patient stabilises. This may then be followed by lower potencies such as 30c at increasing intervals until complete recovery ensues.

When first aid is required there is rarely time to refer to textbooks such as repertories; for this reason it is recommended that the student of veterinary homeopathy learns thoroughly the indications for the following ten medicines.

#### *Aconitum Napellus*

Aconite is for shock, whether induced by physical or emotional trauma. The fear, anxiety and restlessness induced by shock are relieved by Aconitum. The provings describe a full, bounding pulse and tachycardia, but in practice shock which has induced a weak, rapid pulse will also respond to Aconite.

Haemorrhage is sudden and profuse; the blood is bright red.

Similar symptoms of fear and restlessness are seen in animals suffering from a high fever, and this represents the second major indication for Aconitum; administration of Aconite at the first onset of fever, before any pathological changes have appeared, will often bring about rapid recovery.

Symptoms are worse at night, for cold dry winds, light and noise; they are better for open air and rest.

*Keynote:* Fear.

#### *Apis Mellifica*

Apis, made from the honey bee, is indicated wherever there is oedema or other accumulation of fluid. This may be the result of local inflammation, or systemic disease such as cardiac failure or renal disease. Insect stings or other allergic reactions will often respond rapidly, and it can be extremely effective in the treatment of angio-neurotic oedema, or 'hives'. The symptomatology includes the oedematous swellings, heat, pain and erythema one would expect to see with a bee sting, but the homeopathic indications comprise any condition where these signs are present, such as acute arthritis or abscess. There is always amelioration from cold in any form - hence in urticaria the

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pruritus is ameliorated by cold applications. Compare this with *Urtica Urens*, where there is aggravation from cold applications.

*Apis* is a thirstless remedy, and correspondingly there is retention of urine. *Apis* can therefore be beneficial where oedema of the urogenital tract precludes the free passage of urine, and it is frequently indicated in postparturient animals on that basis.

Any acute allergic reaction, where there is oedema, will benefit from *Apis* so it should be remembered in cases of hydrothorax and peritonitis as well as those conditions of a more superficial nature which have been mentioned.

*Keynote:* Oedema.

*Arnica Montana*

The indication for *Arnica* is bruising, and its effectiveness in this situation is what has caused *Arnica* to become the most commonly used homeopathic remedy around the world. It often represents a person's first experience of homeopathy and has certainly been responsible for demonstrating the efficacy of this form of medicine more than any other remedy.

In acute injury it is given at any potency, but generally the higher the better, even 10M, as soon as possible after the event, and as frequently as necessary thereafter. In surgery, it is useful to commence dosage the day before the operation, and during surgery drop doses can be administered sublingually by the anaesthetist. Postsurgically it may be continued at lower potency, e.g. 30c b.i.d. This also applies to dentistry, where the anti-haemorrhagic effect of *Arnica* makes it so extremely useful. Aural haematomas, especially if surgery is contraindicated, will benefit from *Arnica*, and postparturient bruising is yet another indication.

The provings include 'bruised feeling', difficulty getting comfortable when lying on hard surfaces, and pain and stiffness of muscles which is relieved on motion. Pain on touch may be so great as to lead to a fear of being touched.

The homeopathic effect of *Arnica* in bruising reduces pain considerably and it is the authors' experience that when it is used properly, if necessary in conjunction with other homeopathic remedies, it is only in extreme cases that conventional postsurgical analgesia is necessary.

*Keynote:* Bruising.

## Chapter 27

### *The Skin*

#### **General Considerations**

In Paragraph 202 of the *Organon*, Hahnemann stresses the importance of treating the underlying imbalance of the vital force, rather than annihilating the symptoms by topical means. Denied this superficial expression of disease, the vital force awakens the remaining, internal, symptoms of the disease, which had previously remained dormant. This phenomenon is generally referred to as 'suppression' but as can be seen from Hahnemann's explanation, the term is not strictly accurate; it is nevertheless the description used by the majority of homeopaths, and as long as the true mechanism of the observed effects is understood it is acceptable to use this definition. The dangers of suppression as thus defined are, however, those that demand that skin disease is treated correctly. The use of topical agents such as corticosteroids and the surgical removal of skin lesions are therefore contraindicated from a homeopathic point of view, but of far greater import is the use of systemic anti-inflammatory drugs. While antibiotics and antifungal agents seem to be less suppressive, their continued use is counterproductive; if the correct homeopathic medicine is administered they should become unnecessary. That being said, every patient is an individual, with their own individual strength of vital force, and an animal with low vital force may exhibit symptoms of overwhelming or deep-seated infection, such as deep furunculosis or massive burdens of malassezia. In such a case the strategic use of systemic antibiotics or topical antifungal agents can act synergistically with homeopathic medicine by lifting the energetic burden sufficiently to allow the vital force to react. This situation is, however, rare.

The effects of homeopathic suppression as predicted by Hahnemann are easily observed in veterinary practice. Firstly the symptoms recur, and at increasingly short intervals; secondly when they do recur, they are more severe; and thirdly, eventually, the deeper organs are affected. It may be pertinent at this point to reassess from a homeopathic point of view the progression of an atopic dog treated with corticosteroids



towards steroid dependency, iatrogenic Cushing's disease and hepatic, renal or cardiac failure. On the subject of atopy, the other major factor which must be considered when treating homeopathically is that of vaccination, and it is the authors' experience that to continue the annual vaccination of an atopic animal is to render homeopathic treatment almost completely ineffective. Vaccinations almost invariably aggravate the skin symptoms of these patients, sometimes irreparably, and the importance of this issue in the context of the homeopathic treatment of skin diseases cannot be overstressed.

Sadly, many of the patients who are presented for homeopathic treatment of skin diseases are in an advanced state; in addition they frequently have histories of long-term suppressive therapy, often still in process. The effect of the latter is to bury signs of the true homeopathic disease, along with the animal's mental and general characteristics, under a fog of non-specific symptomatology, so much so that it is frequently impossible to see any clear constitutional picture. It is most important with such patients to 'hasten slowly', and in these cases the use of 'clearing remedies' such as bowel nosodes or miasmatic nosodes is to be recommended for initial prescriptions. Indeed, in his later life, Hahnemann himself frequently used Sulphur as an initial prescription in patients suffering from chronic disease, apparently on the basis of its power as a clearing remedy. Such medicines have the effect of 'clearing the picture' and allow a more accurate prescription to be made at follow-up. In addition, identifying the predominant miasm is a major step in successful treatment of skin disease and to that end the table opposite should be of assistance.

The suppressive effects of corticosteroids may persevere for weeks or months after administration has ceased, and tautopathic treatment with potentised corticosteroid may help to remove them more rapidly. It should be noted that the homeopathic proving of cortisone (by Templeton, described in *Materia Medico of New Homoeopathic Remedies* by Julian) produces symptoms indistinguishable from allergic dermatitis, and in cases of longstanding steroid therapy, sometimes all that is required is a course of potentised cortisone, prednisolone or other such corticosteroid as may be appropriate for the case.

In allergies, the isopathic use of potentised allergens, identified by skin or blood testing, may prove a useful adjunct to more classical prescriptions, but it should again be borne in mind that this does not address the underlying imbalance in the vital force and can at best be

*The Skin A Miasmatic*

**Classification of Skin Diseases**

<b>Psora</b>	<b>Sycosis</b>	<b>Syphilis</b>	<b>Tuberculosis</b>
Dry	Warty	Ulcers	Pustules
Rough	Circumscribed	Flexures of limbs	Smooth
Spreads	Localised		History of ringworm
Itch	Pain	Pus, blood	
Dirty	Oily	Offensive	Urticaria
Scales thin	Pigment changes	Scales thick	Obstinate boils
		Glandular swelling	Glandular swelling

**Effects of suppression**

Mind	Reproductive	Meninges (paralysis)	Deeper tissues
CNS	Liver	Eyes	Suppuration
Colitis	Heart	Bones	Cavitation

palliative. In this context, a vaccine composed of allergens is no different from any other vaccine in the way it affects the vital force, and the repeated insults to the immune system which such vaccination regimes involve seem to render the organism extremely refractory to homeopathy.

On the subject of ectoparasites, the increased level of general health, coupled with the improved immune response which can occur with homeopathic treatment, may be sufficient for an animal to throw off such a burden. Sometimes, however, the vital force does not seem to be able to respond sufficiently. In addition, the continued irritation caused by the parasites constitutes an obstacle to cure, and in these cases removal by some other, topical, means is necessary.

Ear problems are treated homeopathically in the same way as skin disease, reflecting the fact that the ear canal is lined by modified skin. However, the shape of the canine ear in particular renders its aeration and drainage highly critical, and anything further affecting this delicate balance sends the external ear into a downward spiral of swelling of the