



**Typhoid
Miasm**

Urgent

Selfishness

Demanding

Ruthlessness and Ambition

Aggression

Order and Routine

Bed / Home

Money

Collapse

Typhoid Miasm

Hahnemann originally called the Typhoid miasm the “subacute” miasm. Rajan Sankaran chose the name “Typhoid” for this miasm because its pace matches the disease of typhoid. Slower of pace than the Acute miasm, with a long, sustained fever at the onset, typhoid is found in the rubric “continued fever” in the repertories.

TYPHOID, THE DISEASE

The disease of typhoid comes on over a few days, then reaches its zenith. A severe condition, typhoid can continue for long periods of time, with relapses common up to several months later. Even mild cases of the disease can sometimes be fatal. Typhoid fever differs from malaria because one can feel quite well between attacks, but then relapse follows. The onset is delayed, with a one to three-week incubation period.

Typhoid fever is a febrile illness especially common in the spring and autumn. Contamination occurs through ingesting food or water infected by a bacterium known as *Salmonella typhi*, or by contact with an infected carrier. Typhoid Mary was a household cook who, in the early 1900s, infected more than fifty people through food she had prepared. Entirely asymptomatic herself, she denied responsibility but was eventually quarantined against her will for spreading the disease.

Symptoms of Typhoid Fever

Early symptoms: headache, weakness, nosebleed, constipation

Progressive fever—often to 105°F (40.5°C)—with sudden, intense evening exacerbations

Excitement and irritation

Flushed, dull face; cough. Red-tipped tongue, whitish, furry coated, dry or cracked; ulcers; foul mouth

Vomiting, abdominal distention, diarrhea

Neutropenia, anemia, spleen issues, intestinal ulceration

Typhoid Miasm

Emaciation, dehydration, prostration, death

Headaches, constipation, nosebleeds, and weakness are common symptoms of Bryonia, a classic Typhoid miasm remedy; but they also represent symptoms that accompany the disease of typhoid. Other clinical symptoms include redness on the tip of the tongue, a keynote of Rhus Toxicodendron, yet another Typhoid miasm remedy. The tongue can be dry, cracked, or ulcerated, with marked prostration, again essential characteristics of both the disease and the miasm.

The sudden high fever associated with typhoid can evoke the Acute miasm. The difference between the febrile state, seen in both Acute and Typhoid miasms, is that Typhoid also has a strong element of weakness and collapse. Stupor is present in Acute miasm, but weakness and collapse are absent. Patients may faint in the Acute miasm, but this is not from weakness. Typically, excitement predominates in the Acute miasm.

There are a number of complications in typhoid fever—including hemorrhage, intestinal perforation, and pneumonia.

In summary, the disease is characterized by a moderate onset, which leads to an intense febrile condition. There is a marked crisis, then relapse. Initial excitement is followed by intense prostration. This is a life-threatening disease.

THEMES OF THE TYPHOID MIASM

The miasm is characterized by slowly progressive onset that may last days to weeks, followed by a rapid escalating crisis. As with the disease of malaria, there are relapses during the crisis phase: the difference is that Typhoid patients feel almost entirely well in between relapses.

The systems typically targeted are the gastrointestinal tract, central nervous system, lungs, and joints.

Many of the Acids, though certainly not all of them, are found in the Typhoid miasm.

The Personality

Similar to the Acute miasm, these patients have elemental personalities. They are not deep, complex thinkers, nor does their suffering reflect a deep inner conflict. Their straightforward nature masks no complex personality traits. In the compensated state, they are practical and optimistic. They think with a pragmatic mind that seeks concrete results from their actions.

Like *Nux Vomica*, one of the classic remedies of the Typhoid miasm, these patients want a payoff for their efforts. Direct and intense in their personalities, these are business-oriented, competitive people who are driven to get ahead in the world. Making and accumulating money means a great deal to them because they are security-minded and their ambition can make them seem so restless as to be hyperactive. Extraordinarily determined, they can push to the point of being ruthless. These characteristics are easily recognized in *Nux Vomica*, but all Typhoid remedies share this quality.

Urgent

Typhoid miasm patients are troubled with a feeling of urgency that arises from the core of their being. The sense is that of a crisis demanding immediate attention, which intersects with themes of the Acute miasm. If a problem is possible to solve, they will solve it. If they cannot solve it themselves, then they will find help. The sense of threat they feel is real to them, as is the fear it engenders. Any remedy described in homeopathic literature as being “like *Chamomilla*” is probably in the Typhoid miasm. Remedies that demand an immediate resolution to their perceived problems—Acetic Acid, Rheum, *Terebinthina*, and other remedies often compared to *Chamomilla*—appear in this miasm.

Selfishness

Typhoid patients orient around their own needs and can appear terribly selfish. They are materialistic in their thinking and have a strong drive toward creating a sense of security for themselves, a security defined by material possessions. They are not afraid to take what they want and may seem shamelessly selfish at times. They can be generous, but their motivation is not necessarily altruistic.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

Acute Miasm versus Typhoid

People in the Typhoid miasm are not simply reacting to the effect of a crisis situation. Not as childlike or instinctive in its reactions as Acute, Typhoid has more strategies upon which to draw. Both miasms have an urgent onset that feels life-threatening, with childlike reactions to these crisis situations. Both are fine between their attacks.

Malarial Miasm versus Typhoid

Both Malarial and Typhoid miasms have relapsing conditions, and recurring febrile illnesses; and reactions that can be demanding as well as angry. Both have the qualities of defiance and disobedience. What is unique about the Typhoid miasm, compared with the Malarial, is that the former lacks any feeling of being a victim. Typhoid miasm patients are not dependent people, nor do they feel stuck in their situation. They are unrelenting in their determination to get away from whatever is alarming them. Confident and optimistic,

Typhoid Miasm

Typhoid knows they are going to get through whatever life throws their way. Malarial, on the other hand, is equally sure they can never get through it, because it is going to keep coming back, over and over, ineluctably. While Malarial is a victim, Typhoid is a victimizer.

LANGUAGE OF THE PATIENT

A Case of Ipecac

Theme: Urgent

When our son was three or four, we thought he had a bad cold. He was coughing, and we rushed him up to emergency because it looked like he was having trouble breathing. The doctor said he had asthma.

The point here is the urgent, dramatic onset: “Rushed him up to emergency.” The physical state and the emotional state are intertwined. Both have the same characteristics. This is true in all miasms.

Theme: Order and Routine

Our son needs order. Everything needs to be in order. If the pattern or routine is broken, it throws him off. He will ask, “Why aren’t we doing it this way? We’ve been doing it this other way for so long.” It’s kind of disruptive. He thinks in patterns. When he was little, he organized his cars. They were all in colors, in rows. Everything was a set pattern. In school, if they go beyond the normal routine one day, if they break the pattern and do something else, he’ll be the first to say something.

A Case of Saccharum Album

This young boy has a serious case of Tourette’s syndrome, yet he is very enjoyable. For reasons unknown, the part of the brain affected in Tourette’s syndrome often corresponds to the Typhoid miasm—not always, but often. Hyoscyamus is frequently used for Tourette’s. These patients often have many objects that need to be ordered, such as a whole set of toy soldiers or miniature cars. They want to have the complete collection of things like Pokémon cards. They search for every character and card obsessively. When they have them all, they like to arrange them. “Avarice” is another good rubric for Typhoid miasm. All of the food remedies also love to eat. Gluttony satisfies another of Typhoid’s basic urges, which is the overwhelming need for security.

Theme: Urgent

Mother: My son had been in a good mood and happy. Then all of a sudden, after some cheese, I went to get something, and when I came back, his little friend was all sopping wet. I said, "What happened?" The friend said, "He threw water on me." "Why?" I asked. "Because he called me a loser," my son said. That is fine; he did call him a loser, but this is something they do back and forth all of the time. My son has done it fifty thousand times to his friend, too. So throwing the water was not typical. Normally, they just do this stuff back and forth. Then he proceeded to say, yelling loudly, "I don't want to be your friend anymore. You go home." He's done that several times to him.

This illustrates the quality of suddenness. The water-throwing event occurred after his mother had stepped out of the room for just a moment. The boy is dear; but if refused something he wants, he is not dear anymore. His teachers love him. He loves the Home Shopping Network and Christmas because of the presents, which reflect his desire for material security. But the things he craves are very specific items in the right quantities. He also loves eating, which comes back to the rubric "cupidity in eating."

A Case of Nux Moschata

This woman had chronic fatigue syndrome that was healed by Nux Moschata. Periodically, over the years, it would return. When the fatigue started to come back, she took her remedy and it went away. Finally, it no longer came back. Depletion from diarrhea or fluid loss is a big characteristic of Typhoid, both the disease and the miasm. That sense of being depleted and deflated is a typical Typhoid description. Weakness associated with other symptoms might be another miasm altogether, for chronic fatigue may be seen in almost any.

Theme: Depletion

I have to survive, except I'm not thinking. I'm not sharp. My normal mind is quite sharp and fast and usually very intuitive. It's like I lose my intuitive connection to things. If I'm working with a client and I'm on, I'm picking up things all the time. I'm picking up little cues and getting intuitions of this or that. Even if I'm wrong, I think I'm putting things together. But when I'm feeling like this, it's like, "Oohhh." The problems seem overwhelming, and I think, "It will be hard to process today. Maybe I should do it another day."

This is the confluence of Typhoid miasm and a drug remedy, Nux Moschata, or nutmeg. As a drug remedy, the presentation differs slightly. She gets intuitive ideas about

Typhoid Miasm

clients, at least when her intuition is functioning. This is the drug-remedy component. In saying, "I'm on or I'm off," she means her mind is either working at full capacity or it is depleted and weakened. The depleted state is what is seen over and over again in Typhoid miasm.

Theme: Relapsing Conditions

All of these illnesses started about six years ago. The first symptom was flu-like symptoms in my stomach. The first time I got it I thought it was a stomach flu, but then it became chronic. The pattern was to get more and more constipated for about a week, and then I would have diarrhea that would almost be like labor. It would be these contractions that would go on for two hours, like this pumping rhythm, and then the next day I would be completely empty, deflated, and wiped out. Then for a day or two, I would be completely exhausted. Then I'd start feeling better, but I'd be constipated again. The pattern was just going on and on and on.

A Case of Nux Vomica

Theme: Security and Materialism

I went to a private school. When I got there I did a lot of drugs. I just behaved that way and really didn't care about anything else. Then I started to realize, when I was eighteen, "What if I just completely fail out of life? What if I can't function?" I started researching how much money my father had at that time because I was concerned. I'm concerned about myself. What if I'm a complete failure? I started taking a great interest in what kind of assets he had. I would spend hours, literally, calculating: he has this house and that house and this stock. I didn't tell him what I was doing. I don't know what comes over me. He's got so many of these things. I think, "What happens to me?"

This is the failed state of Typhoid miasm. This patient has a sneaky and rather underhanded way of digging through his father's files. At eighteen or nineteen, when most people are thinking about sex, friends, and partying, he is thinking, "What if I fail? I'm going to need money. I need to have security. How much money am I going to inherit from my father?" This is a clear example of the intensity of the failed state.

Money is still an issue for me, because I'm always counting. When I get into these modes, I'll spend all day on the calculator. I'll be adding up numbers five, six, ten times a day, calculating how much money my father has and how much money I have. Is there going to be enough? It's almost like a mantra. Sometimes when I get clear about it, I say, "This is no different than a mantra." Repeating something that sets up a feeling, but it is compulsive thinking.

Is there a fear of not having enough money?

Yes, I think so. I'm always aware of how much things cost, how much is that car, what does that house cost. It's definitely not rational. When I sit here talking about it, I think, "I don't have to do this."

Money kills me. This is the classic thing. My mother tells a joke about a guy on Park Avenue. He is wearing a suit, and somebody is wheeling him down the street, and a person comes up and says, "That is horrible—he can't walk." She says, "He can walk, but thank God he doesn't have to." I think about that all the time. I have some of that in me. I guess I'm definitely a lazy person. I never felt any capacity to do work of any kind. I think that part of the reason I deliberately failed in school was because of the fear. If I tried and failed, then that would be really bad. It would be safer to deliberately do poorly. The word "work" made me ill. I thought, I can't do that. A challenge, a project—I just can't live up to it. A lot of it has to do with my father. He was a tremendously hard-working person and very determined. He runs marathons, bikes two hundred miles. I always felt in his shadow. What am I? I am nothing. He was at a high level in a large corporation. He met the challenge, and I am like nothing. It was my fear of not being able to live up to his standards that made me just turn into Jell-O.

This illustrates the theme of depletion. The father is so overwhelming that the son feels completely inferior. This approaches the failed state: completely giving up.