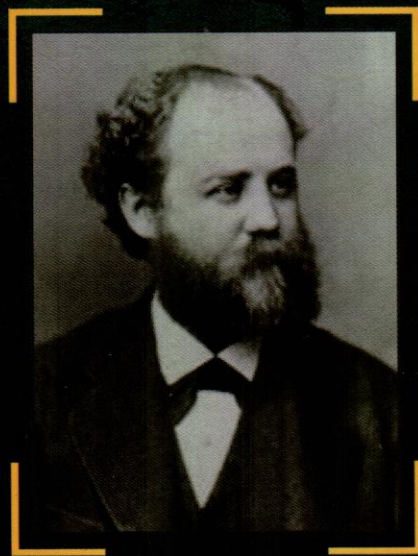


Lectures
on
CLINICAL
MATERIA MEDICA
in FAMILY ORDER



E. A. Farrington, MD

Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged by

HARVEY FARRINGTON, MD

LECTURES
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MATERIA MEDICA
IN
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(with gist of each lecture)

By

E.A. Farrington, MD

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Harvey Farrington, MD



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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

DURING the year following the death of Dr. Farrington, the editor of this volume published several of the lectures here presented, in the *Hahnemannian Monthly*, *North American Journal of Homoeopathy*, and *Monthly Homoeopathic Review*. These were well received by the profession. Some of them were, moreover, translated and published in German, French, and Spanish journals. A number of physicians expressed the desire to have the lectures appear in the book form. The consent of Mrs. Farrington to such publication were therefore obtained, the Doctor's manuscript was placed at our disposal, and Dr. S. Lilienthal kindly consented to revise the lectures after their completion in manuscript.

In order that the work should be thoroughly representative of Dr. Farrington, those concerned in its preparation for the press decided that the author's style should be closely followed. These lectures are therefore presented exactly as delivered, excepting where a change was suggested by his manuscript or by his published writings.

There have also been incorporated in the volume numerous abstracts from the comparisons in the "*Studies in Materia Medica*," published in the *Hahnemannian Monthly* in the years 1880, 1881, and 1882. These will be found in the lectures on Lachesis, Apis, Cantharis, and Sepia. The lecture on Moschus is essentially a reprint of the study of that remedy in the *Hahnemannian* for this addition of the above-mentioned matter of the lectures proper, for as Dr. Kornoerfer truly says in his memorial sketch of his deceased friend, they "belong to the classics of our school." The regret is that they cannot be incorporated in their entirety.

The reader must remember that in a course consisting of seventy-two lectures, it would be utterly impossible to include a complete presentation of the homoeopathic materia medica. This fact was always kept in mind by Dr. Farrington. It was his aim, therefore, to present to his students, only such matter as would enable them to establish their knowledge of materia medica on such a firm foundation that their post-graduate study of that science would be a comparatively easy task. How well he succeeded in his object can be attested by the many physicians whose fortune it was to receive instruction from his lips.

It should be said of Dr. Farrington's manuscript, that it gave marked evidence of constant study. Interlineations and notes of reference were frequently added. Erasures were few, for what he therein recorded was only placed there after having been thoroughly confirmed by the clinical experience of himself, or of some other competent observer. Fully did he realize the importance to homoeopathy of a materia medica which should be, in all respects, perfect.

PHILADELPHIA,

OCTOBER 1ST, 1887

CLARENCE BARTLETT, M.D.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

WHEN the first edition of this work was published, in the autumn of 1887, a large number of copies were printed, sufficient, it was thought, to satisfy the demand for some time to come. So flattering was the reception accorded it, this large edition has been exhausted, and a new one has been called for. In the preparation of this the editor has had, as before the assistance of the author's manuscript lectures, together with notes of students whose privilege it was to receive instruction from Dr. Farrington in more recent years than was accorded the editor. The result of this revision has been the addition of a number of symptomatic indications for drugs. These additions have been pretty evenly divided over the whole work.

In presenting the second edition of Farrington's *Clinical Materia Medica* to the profession, the editor cannot refrain from expressing his admiration of the thoroughness of the work of its distinguished author. A review of the index shows that more than four hundred drugs were considered by him; many of these received but minor mention, while others he treated of *in extenso*, as their importance warranted. The therapeutic index shows, moreover, the hardly a class of ailments to which humanity is liable but what has received more or less attention. The therapeutics of diseases like scarlatina, diphtheria, and typhoid fever, as to be expected from their importance, were thoroughly considered. Others, but seldom met with in actual practice, were given but a passing notice. In all his teachings Dr. Farrington showed himself to be practical physician, fully alive to the demands to be made upon the needs of the student on entering practice.

OCTOBER 1, 1890

C.B.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

OWING to the continued favour of the profession, the second edition of my father's work is now exhausted, and it becomes necessary to issue a third, which is herewith presented in substantially the same form with the one preceding. I have gone over the whole work, carefully comparing the text with the original material and correcting one or two palpable errors, also pressing into service a large volume of notes on *Materia Medica*, chiefly comparisons, which was not made use of before.

PHILADELPHIA, P.A.,

HARVEY FARRINGTON, M.D.

August 19, 1896

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

Farrington's *Clinical Materia Medica* has made for itself a place among the classics of homoeopathic literature. It has become a standard text book in the colleges, and is consulted by practitioners generally in this country and, in fact, wherever Homoeopathy has made its way. It has been translated and published in the German language, in Spanish (Mexican), and an edition in Bangla (Indian) has been contemplated, if not already issued.

Though lacking in the perfection that the author himself would have given it had he written it with his own hand, it nevertheless bears the charm and freedom of expression of the fluent lecturer who is well-versed in the materia medica and a past-master in its practical application. In editing this fourth edition of the work these essential characteristics have been faithfully preserved. The revision has consisted chiefly in the elimination of a few inelegant expressions, due to a too literal transcription from the notes of the stenographer. Over forty pages of new matter has been added, including a full lecture on *Natrium arsenicatum*. But with only a few minor exceptions, these additions have been made from original manuscript notes and articles from current literature by the author himself.

Much time has been expended in compiling the indexes, which will now be found to contain the names of some of the lesser remedies mentioned in comparisons, the alkaloids and other references previously omitted.

To master the homoeopathic materia medica requires years of study and close application. Those who are conscientiously toiling to this end will find much in the following pages to lighten their labour.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my brother, Dr. Ernest A. Farrington, for valuable assistance in preparing the work for the press.

CHICAGO, ILL.,
January, 1908

HARVEY FARRINGTON, M.D.

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Lecture 7

CANTHARIS

THE remedy which I propose to bring before you for study today is *Cantharis*, the so-called spanish fly. It is my purpose to speak of the more important symptoms produced by the drug, comparing it superficially with a number of others having effects similar to it. First of all, for the sake of completeness, let me give you notes on two other drugs, the *Lytta vittata* and the *Cantharis strygosia*. The first of these is the potato-fly, not the potato-bug, the pharmacopoeial name of which is *Doryphora*. The potato-fly acts much like *Cantharis* when applied to the skin. It produces first a dermatitis, which is soon followed by the formation of vesicles. The affected parts become red, almost erysipelatous in appearance. The vesicles finally rupture, leaving an ulcerated surface. Finally, death of the part may ensue.

The *Cantharis strygosia* is a species of *Cantharis*, which infests the cotton plant. This, too, has vesication for its characteristic.

There are other varieties of this *Cantharis* among which are the *C. cinerea*, *C. marginata*, *C. atrata*, *C. nutalli* and *Mycabis cicorii et phalateria*, these last two being imported from China.

Cantharis, or Spanish fly, has long been used by allopaths as a counter-irritant; when applied to any part of the surface of the body it excites a violent inflammation. This inflammation begins, of course, with erythema, rapidly advancing to vesication. The blisters thus formed are filled with a yellowish-white serum. As the inflammation progresses they enlarge, and their contents assume a purulent character. Finally, death of the part ensues, presuming, of course, that

the application is continued long enough. At other times large blisters, termed bullae, may form. These are sometimes as large as a silver half-dollar. They are raised above the surface and are filled with a fluid which is excoriating. *This irritating property of Cantharis is the foundation-stone of the whole proving.* The pains incident to this kind of inflammation are, of course, very severe. They are of a burning character. At times, when the nerves seem to be implicated in the inflammatory process, there will be sharp lancinating pains along their course.

But *Cantharis* is not the only drug that has these highly irritating effects when applied to the skin or taken internally.

Thus, from external use the following will, sooner or later, cause vesicles to develop on the skin: Varieties of *Cantharis*, *Formica*; varieties of *Rhus*, *Anacardium oriental el occidentale*, Ranunculous plants as *Clematis*, *Ranunculus bulb.*, *Ranunculus sceleratus*, *Pulsatilla*, *Aconite caltha*, *Helleborus*, *Actea spic.*, *Araceae*, especially *Arum mac.*, *Arum tri.*, *Palladium*, *Pix*, *Terebinthina*, *Thuja*, *Nux juglans*, *Chininum sulph.*; several species of *Plumbago*, *Allium sat.*, *Euphorbium* plants, particularly *Croton tig.*, *Hura*, *Euphorbia corol.*, *Euphorbium offic.*, *Mancinella*, *Sinapis*, *Piper nigrum*, *Capsicum*, *Mezereum*, *Thapsia garganica*, *Chloral*, *Cotura matura*, *Drosera*, *Podophyllum*, *Chimaphila*, *Oleander*, *Chelidonium*, *Cochlearia arm.*, *Veratrum album*, *Camphor*, *Picric acid*, *Ammonium causticum*, *Calcarea caustica*, *Sulphur*, *Sulphuric acid*, *Kali hydrosulphuricum*, *Nitric acid*, *Arsenic preparations*, *Carbolic acid*, *Mercury Cuprum arsenicosum*, *Antimonium tart.*, etc.

Rhus tox. and *Anacardium* cause vesication, with much redness of the skin and infiltration. The latter adds loss of appetite and other gastric symptoms as essential-concomitants. The former causes red skin and numerous vesicles, surrounded with a red rim from infiltration. A well-defined advance-line of inflammation marks the progress of the disease. The predominant sensations are itching or tingling, while in *Cantharis* burning and smarting, as from salt, are leading sensations. The latter, in some cases, when topically employed, induces an eczematous eruption around the plaster, and in others the vesicated surface assumes a soft, pultaceous, almost gangrenous appearance; but the skin is not the reddish-brown of *Rhus*.

Croton tiglium give rise to myriads of small, terribly-itching vesicles on a red base. When the genitals are attacked there is pain on urinating, and some of the blisters become large, others break, leaving a red, moist surface. The vesicles may develop into pustules, which finally break and form grayish crusts.

Hura Brasiliensis, a near relative of the former, also produces red vesicles. Both of these remedies cause a tension of the skin, a hidebound feeling, which is best confirmed in *Croton*; but *Hura* carries this feature into its vesication, for the blisters become so tense that, on opening, their serous contents fairly bust forth. A characteristic of this remedy is a sensation as of a splinter under the thumb-nails. The eruption prefers projecting of bone, as the skin over the malar bones.

Formica, locally applied, setup inflammatory redness, with itching and burning, slight exudation and desquamation. The urine is albuminous and bloody, and there is much urging to urinate.

Clematis crispa is food for the Spanish fly. The *Clematis erecta* we know irritates the skin to the production of burning vesicles, which pustulate and discharge a yellowish corrosive ichor. The urine is discharged in drops, or intermittingly for a narrowed urethra.

Ranunculus bulbosus and *Ranunculus sceleratus* act similarly. In the former the vesicles may become blue-black, or they may discharge a secretion which becomes horny. The latter raises blisters, which leave a raw surface with acrid discharge, and resembles *Cantharis* in pemphigus. In blueness *Ranunculus bulbosus* rather resembles *Lachesis*; the latter causes deep-seated bluish blisters (which appear after scratching). In horny crusts it resembles *Antimonium crudum*.

The several species of Spurge have caused vesication, and the variety called *Euphorbium officinarum* has been employed in vesicular erysipelas; red cheeks, covered with yellow vesicles as large as peas (from the application of the juice); violent fever. Like *Hura*, this plant and the *Euphorbium cyparissias* have an affinity for the malar region. *Cantharis* attacks the surface of the nose (like *Graphites*). *Euphorbia peplus* also attacks the nose, as well as the cheeks.

Mancinella is so irritating that even the water dropping on the skin from the leaves may raise blisters, but the accompanying erythema far exceeds that of *Cantharis*. It resembles the blush of scarlatina, and has been used in the disease.

Thapsia garganica, an umbelliferous plant, closely resembles *Croton*. It causes more pustules, however, and these fill rapidly with pus.

Mezereum develops numerous small vesicles with intolerable itching; but the secretion quickly forms into thick, high scabs, from beneath which an acrid pus oozes.

Capsicum, *Camphor*, *Terebinthina*, *Pix* and *Piper nigrum* vesicate very slowly. Several of them are used rather as rubefacients. The first may be distinguished by the fact that the blisters appear in surfaces which have been wet with sweat and the sensation is a pungent burning, while in the fly it is a smarting burning, as from salt.

Camphor, topically, causes an erysipelatous dermatitis, with bright redness, and eventually, blisters (from concentrated solution). We generally think of it when there has been a retrocession of skin disease, with its well-known symptoms of collapse and convulsions.

Pix and *Terebinthina* cause violent itching, especially the former. The skin becomes cracked under *pix*, with sleeplessness and bleeding when scratched.

Potash preparations favor more a papular than a vesicular eruption, the latter form being intermediate between the papule and the pustule. *Kali hydrosulphuricum* and *Kali nitricum* develop papular vesicles when locally applied. *Kali bromatum* causes vesicles about the hair follicles (from internal use). *Kali bichromicum* induces an eruption, which presents vesicles with a depressed centre; they suppurate, and on healing leave a cicatrix. *Kali hydriodicum* causes papular vesicles (from internal use), the resulting vesico-pustules contain minute quantities of Iodine. None of these, therefore, resemble the superficial blister of the fly.

Chloral is capable of producing several forms of eruption. Its vesicles are surrounded with a marked capillary hyperemia.

Chininum sulphuricum has caused an erythematous appearance strongly resembling scarlet fever, but it also forms confluent