

SCALP ECZEMA

CASE 112

A male university student was complaining of severe crusting of his scalp, which caused severe itching, involuntary scratching all night and bleeding. I gave *Oleander* 30c, one dose, which gave complete relief for one week. A second dose cleared the condition entirely.

Oleander is particularly indicated for eruptions at the margins of the hair, with violent itching, bleeding and oozing. The skin is very sensitive, with the slightest friction causing soreness and chapping.

SUN SENSITIVITY

CASE 113

A 3-year-old boy who suffered from eczema was also very sensitive to the sun; even short exposures made his skin 'bum' and his eczema flare up. For the previous two years his mother had had to protect him each summer from strong sunshine, keeping him indoors or in the shade, both at home and when on holiday. In those days (1975) effective sun barrier creams had not been formulated.

I gave him *Antimonium crudum* 3x tablets (which are grey!) three times a day for one week (see Boericke).

His mother reported that they seemed effective, so I increased the potency to 12c alternate days.

She returned two weeks later to state that they were so effective that he had been able to play outside each day in the hot sunshine without any adverse reaction. She and her husband were mystified, but delighted. I observed that during the previous fortnight there had been a heatwave, and Birmingham had had the hottest day for fifty years, and for seven consecutive days the temperature had been over 27°C (80°F). She responded: 'And he was out in all that.' They both ascribed this achievement to the homeopathic medicine. 'It must have been those tablets, he could never have done it otherwise.' She then added

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that they had spent a day at Burnham-on-Sea, and recalled that last year when they went there her husband had had heatstroke ('He can't stand the sun'). He had tried all the available creams with no success. This year 'He tried some of our son's tablets, and they worked with him. It was so hot I had to stay in the shade.'

Antimonium crudum 200c weekly protected both father and son for the rest of the hot weather.

CASE 114

Similarly, a middle-aged man had suffered from severe sun dermatitis for six years. He could not expose his skin to the sun for more than fifteen minutes without it burning intensely and forming pustules. His previous doctor had tried virtually every known treatment, including antihistamines, barrier creams, courses of injections, and cortisone.

When he consulted me, I suggested that he saw a leading Birmingham dermatologist, and, as an interim measure, gave him *Antimonium crudum* 12c to go on with. Within a week he could face the strongest sunlight and had bathed in trunks all day during a short heatwave. He had even been in the greenhouse and to the seaside in an attempt to produce a rash to show the specialist, but without any success!

The dermatologist wrote to me, 'Since your last pills, the above-named patient has been completely immune from sun dermatitis. I should be extremely interested to know what these pills are.'

I had a long and interesting discussion with the specialist, who could not understand how antimony sulphide could work, as it was not mentioned in any dermatological textbook!

I explained the difference, and told him that the best way to test the effectiveness was to wait and see how long the cure lasted.

As I had anticipated, the patient returned to report that his sun dermatitis was coming back again. His first dose had relieved him completely for nine weeks. I gave him one dose only of *Antimonium crudum* 30c, which I anticipated would ease him for some months to come.

CASE 115

Finally, I had another middle-aged man who was very keen on his allotment and a keen grower. Gardening was a problem, as he had developed a severe sun sensitivity ever since coming back from the Far East, where he had been during the war.

For the previous five years he had also been unable to grow

Skin Problems

tomatoes, or even handle the plants, on account of irritation and blisters that developed on his skin.

Rhus tax. did not ease his sun dermatitis, but *Antimonium crudum* did. I gave him the 12c potency three times daily for four days, and he was most impressed with the way the blisters cleared. It was then that he mentioned his tomato sensitivity to me, so I gave him *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato) 30c, one pill twice a day for six doses, and he went through all that summer without any reaction, despite growing tomatoes again.

I repeated the treatment the following year, although I am not sure that he really needed it.