

Chapter 8

A-Z of Disease Syndromes

Before using this chapter for the first time, the reader is advised to read the prescribing instructions given in Chapter 6. Generally speaking, a 30c potency will serve very well in most cases. However, there will be instances where other potencies may be more suitable, in which case this is stated in the text.

This chapter is the part of the book which will be used most often, and is the part which most users will be tempted to consult to the exclusion of all others. I do not recommend that you give in to this temptation. Homoeopathy is the art of treating the *whole* patient (body and mind) by the *law of similars*, taking into account not the name of a disease but the totality of symptoms displayed, along with a consideration of environmental and management factors (the holistic approach). The foregoing chapters have put these considerations in context for farm use.

This present chapter is intended simply as a pointer to some of the remedies which are likely to be of use in any given situation, and therefore does not give clear reasons for choosing one remedy over another. This choice is left to the prescriber, who will need to acquire some knowledge of the properties of the remedies (the *materia medica*), a guide to which is given in the preceding chapter.

It does offer some insight, however, into what one should especially observe when assessing a case. The remedies that are most likely to be useful are printed in dark type; less likely remedies are printed in italics and, in some cases, a third category is used, in ordinary type, denoting those remedies least likely to be chosen. **It is recommended that all internal remedies be given in a potency not lower than 3c (or 6x, which is also one part per million in concentration terms), in order to remove completely any risk of tissue or milk residues.**

I have written this chapter using conventional disease names because we are all brought up to think of disease in these terms, and are able to

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recognise certain syndromes which have been given specific names. I use these names solely for the purpose of convenience of communication and description, and not as a 'diagnosis'.

When prescribing, we must think of these diseases in the context of their aetiology, predisposing factors and prevailing symptoms, not in terms of 'what remedy for which named disease?', so that we are better able to provide a relevant and effective homoeopathic treatment. Syndromes are listed in alphabetical order to simplify reference. The careful reader will notice the absence of the UK's 'notifiable diseases' (such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, anthrax, enzootic bovine leukosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and foot-and-mouth disease) from the chapter. The reason is that they are subject to legal control and treatment is therefore not allowed.

More useful advice can be found at the end of this chapter to help you gain the best from the information listed below. Where zoonoses (diseases of animals transmissible to man) occur and public health considerations pertain, reference is made to that effect.

Remember: Consult a veterinary surgeon if the signs of disease are dramatic or do not respond.

Abomasum, Displaced (see **Acetonaemia**)

Abortion, Induction of

The intentional induction of parturition is not within the realm of homoeopathy, but can be achieved with conventional drug medication.

Abortion, Mental ill effects from

Ignatia, Pulsatilla. The 200c potency is useful here.

Abortion, Prevention of

Viburnum opulus is reputed to be able to prevent abortion occurring, but this has not been tested by the author. The author questions the general medical validity of trying to arrest abortion, since it may be nature's way of preventing faulty offspring. If, however, the cause of abortion is infective, prevention of that infection or the damage it causes does seem sensible. Here a nosode could help. Brucellosis abortion is a notifiable disease in the United Kingdom and is therefore not specifically discussed in this book.

Abscess

A local inflammatory response to injury with implantation of infective or foreign material. Look for special characteristics of pain, colour, discharge, etc. Useful remedies are: *Belladonna, Calc. sulph., Calendula, Hepar sulphuris, Lachesis, Mercurius sol., Pyrogenium, Silica, Tarentula cubensis*.

Acetonaemia

A sign of derangement of the energy metabolism of the cow; the herd dietary management must therefore be checked. Diet for the affected individual should be good-quality long fibre with beet pulp and no concentrate for a while, and milking should be minimal. The condition should be treated with the appropriate remedy, taking into account such factors as liver function, rumen function and nervous signs. Useful remedies are: *Antimonium crudum, Carduus marianus* (6c), *Cicuta virosa, Flor de piedra* (6x), *Lycopodium, Nux vomica*. *Note*: Acetonaemia may be associated with displacement of the abomasum (fourth stomach) — *if in doubt consult your veterinary surgeon*.

Actinobacillosis

Actinobacillosis or 'wooden tongue' is a disease manifesting with a swollen face, swollen glands, profuse salivation, inability to eat and a

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very hard swelling, usually in the dorsum of the tongue. Variations in these signs will lead you to the correct remedy, but since actinobacillosis is a chronic disease you will also need to use a constitutional prescription. Useful remedies are: *Alumen*, *Calcarea fluor.*, *Cistus canadensis*, *Kali iodatum*, *Lapis albus*, *Mercurius iodatus*, *Silica*.

Actinomycosis

Actinomycosis or 'lumpy jaw' is a chronic infection in the bones of the face, particularly the lower jaw. The lesion is swollen and bony, and often discharges. Study the characteristics of the discharge. Use a constitutional remedy plus one of the following: *Calcarea fluoratum*, *Calcarea sulphurica*, *Fluoric acid*, *Hekla lava*, *Kali iodatum*.

Afterbirth (see Placenta)

Arthritis¹

This is a chronic inflammation of the joints and is not often treated in cattle, much to their disadvantage. Look for bony changes, the site of the lesions, weather modalities, movement modalities. Be sure that the cause of pain is not a fracture. // *in doubt, consult your veterinary surgeon*. Since it is a chronic disease, use a constitutional remedy plus, if different, one of the following remedies on a 'local' basis: *Bryonia*, *Calcarea fluorica*, *Caulophyllum*, *Causticum*, *Cimicifuga racemosa*, *Hekla lava*, *Kali bichromicum*, *Ledum*, *Phytolacca*, *Rhus tax.*, *Ruta graveolens*. In cases of septic arthritis consider *Hepar sulph.* or *Silica*.

For welfare reasons it is recommended that any animal having difficulty in walking is kept off bare concrete and that harassment by other individuals should be prevented.

Bleeding (see Haemorrhage)

Bloat

Gases build up in the rumen, or more rarely the bowels, to distend the abdomen. This can be severe enough to kill the animal. The swelling is generally on the left side. The origins are usually dietary but can be obstructive or neurogenic. Check for obstructions and, if it is a real emergency, the gas should be let out prior to treatment. *Consult your veterinary surgeon*. Try to ascertain what dietary factor may be

¹See case history: Appendix I.

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involved (this is of use in remedy selection and the prevention of further cases), look for signs of abdominal pain and select a remedy accordingly from: *Antimonium crudum*, *Carbo vegetabilis*, *Colchicum*, *Lycopodium*, *Nux vomica*, *Raphanus*.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) is a specific disease causing pneumonia and diarrhoea symptoms which respond to remedies under those headings. The nosode is also helpful. The disease carries a very poor prognosis conventionally, but with homoeopathic help an animal may recover. According to the signs and symptoms displayed, choose from: *Arsenicum album*, *Merc, sol.*, *Nitric acid*, *Phosphorus*, *Sulphur*.

Caesarean (see Injury, surgical)

Calf-Bed (see Prolapse)

Calf Diphtheria

This is characterised by swellings in the face of affected calves, and there is often salivation and an unpleasant smell from the mouth. It spreads easily in suckled or teat-fed calves. Try to restrict the spread of the disease and treat according to variations in the symptoms with: *Kreosotum*, *Mercurius cyanatus*, *Mercurius iodatus*.

Calving Difficulty (see Dystocia)

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Castration (see Injury, surgical)

Cellulitis

Cellulitis is a condition in which bacterial infection is running through the superficial tissues, having beaten the body's local defence mechanisms. It can therefore be quite dangerous. *If life is threatened, consult your veterinary surgeon.* Look for characteristic swellings, pain and skin colour for remedy selection and treat with one of the following: *Hepar sulphuris*, *Lachesis*, *Rhus toxicodendron*, *Tarentula cubensis*.

Cerebro-Cortical Necrosis (CCN)

Cerebro-cortical necrosis (CCN) is a condition of calves in which large portions of the brain can die away. The results can be quite sudden and dramatic - the condition is usually sporadic, but can affect groups of