

Silicea

SUMMARY

Weakness and inhibition are the overriding features of this remedy. He feels impotent and inadequate, and his typically psoric fears and anxieties form a protective screen between him and the outside world.

Lack of Self-Confidence

His lack of self-confidence causes him great embarrassment in social situations. His lack of courage and decisiveness prevents him from ever trying anything new.

Related Rubrics

'Confidence, want of self': 2.

'Cowardice': 2.

'Timidity, appearing in public': 3.

'Undertakes nothing, lest he fail': 1.

Anticipatory Anxiety

Any extra stress, such as a test or exam, brings on an attack of anticipatory anxiety.

Mated Rubric

'Ailments from: anticipation': 3 (Barthel).

Perfectionism

He sets himself impossibly high standards of perfection in the belief that therein lies his security.

Mated Rubric

'Conscientious about trifles': 3.

Weakness of Intellect

He is unable to concentrate on anything for long, his mind is sluggish, dull and confused when he tries to read, write or talk.

Mated Rubrics 'Concentration, difficult': 3. 'Confusion of mind': 3.

'Conversation agg.': 2. 'Dullness, mental exertion, from': 2.

'Prostration of mind': 3. 'Prostration, reading, from': 2. 'Prostration, writing, after': 2.

Comparative Materia Medico

The Inner Child

He will never become a self-reliant individual while the meek and mild child within him needs so much reassurance and support. His reluctance to leave the past behind him is illustrated by the homesickness, the aggravation when alone, and the desire to surrender himself to another person's control.

Related Rubrics

'Company, desire for, alone, while agg.': 1.

'Homesickness': 2.

'Magnetized, desires to be': 3.

'Mildness': 3.

Frustration

The conflict aroused by the desire for independence and the need for protection infuriates him; he takes his frustration out on other people with his irritability, intolerance of contradiction, stubbornness and aversion to consolation. He then guiltily regrets his behaviour.

Related Rubrics 'Anxiety,

conscience, of: 2. 'Consolation

agg.': 3. 'Contradiction, is intolerant

of: 2. 'Irritability, children, in': 2.

'Obstinate': 2.

Hypersensitivity

His nerves are in a state of hypersensitivity. He jumps at the slightest noise, gets ill with fright, and his internalised anger comes out in the symbolic fear of pins.

Related Rubrics

'Delusions, pins, about': 2.

'Fear, pins, of: 2.

'Fright, complaints from': 3.

'Frightened easily': 2.

'Sensitive, noise, slightest, to': 3 (Barthel).

'Starting, noise, from': 3.

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM AND REPERTORISATION

In the centre of the diagram overleaf we have the MCS — that group of highly characteristic symptoms which identify the remedy and

Silicea

COMPARATIVE MATERIA MEDICA

From a miasmatic point of view, a tubercular case of Silicea would present a picture of emaciation, chilliness, timidity and tearfulness, and a sycotic case would have obesity with a distended abdomen, oedematous swellings, obstinacy, irritability and fastidiousness.

Four remedies have all the symptoms of the Minimum Characteristic Syndrome of Silicea: they are Lycopodium, Ignatia, Nux Vomica and Bryonia.

Lycopodium

The Lycopodium patient tries to compensate for his lack of confidence by putting himself first and treating others with arrogant disdain. He is argumentative and aggressive. Silicea, by contrast, is a passive bystander in life who merely dislikes being told that he is wrong. Behind the mask of obsequiousness, Lycopodium is a proud egotist who will reject his loved ones when he is ill. His pride will not permit him such indulgences as 'Homesickness' (11), 'Anxiety, conscience, of (17), or 'Magnetized, desires to be' (12).

Ignatia

Ignatia shares the hysterical and obsessive characteristics of Silicea, although here the nature of the disturbance is more functional than systemic. Ignatia is characterised by extreme changeability, contradictory mental and physical effects, and a sensitive, excitable disposition. If the emotions are suppressed, the nervous system will be affected and the patient will suffer a range of hysterically based physical symptoms. Ignatia has a highly emotional, volatile and erratic disposition.

This remedy does not have six of the repertorised symptoms, namely 'Prostration of mind' (9), the cause of Silicea's mental confusion and difficulty in comprehending; 'Magnetized, desires to be' (12) and 'Company, desire for, alone, while agg.' (13), rubrics that speak of Silicea's lack of self-reliance; 'Irritability, children, in' (16), 'Sensitive, noise, to slightest'(18) and 'Starting, noise, from' (19), rubrics that describe Silicea's highly wrought state. Both Ignatia and Silicea lack self-confidence — in the former it stems from an emotional instability, whereas in the latter it denotes a deeply ingrained and fundamental weakness.