

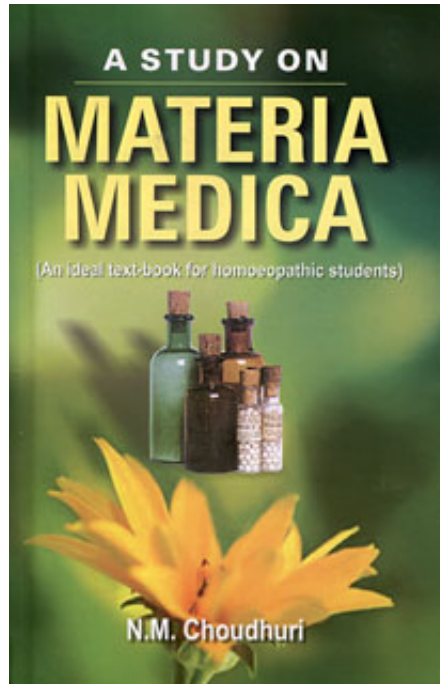
N. M. Choudhuri

A Study on Materia Medica

Leseprobe

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von [N. M. Choudhuri](#)



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Narayana Verlag GmbH

Blumenplatz 2

D-79400 Kandern

Tel. +49 7626 9749 700

Fax +49 7626 9749 709

Email info@narayana-verlag.de

<http://www.narayana-verlag.de>

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CARBO VEGETABILIS

NOTES

- *A remedy for a desperate condition, where the vitality has been drained to the very bottom.*
- *Breath is cold, breathing is short and labored as if he has not enough energy left in him to draw air. To minimise exertion of respiration, wants to be constantly fanned.*
- *Cyanosis.*
- *Great weakness, subject to vertigo.*
- *Face hippocratic, pale and ashy grey.*
- *Black spots floating before field of vision.*
- *Unrivalled in dyspepsia and indigestion; tympanites; great acidity; frequent eructations of wind. Result of debauchery and excessive indulgence in rich and indigestible foods.*
- *Frequent, involuntary, cadaverous smelling stools; dysentery; collapse stage of cholera.*
- *Bad oxygenation of blood; venous stasis. Ulcers, bedsores, carbuncles with intense burning; worse at night.*

" Lowitz, a German, discovered the properties of Vegetable Charcoal to deodorize and arrest putrefaction. It was first employed in medicine with success, externally, to fetid ulcers and eruptions, afterwards internally for flatulence—its employment all the while being based upon its chemical influence. It was left to Hahnemann to find out its real curative value on the principle of "*similia*", by proving the triturated vegetable charcoal on healthy persons and then applying it in practice. His experiments were made on twenty or thirty different persons, who were strictly aloof from all medicinal influences. The cruder preparation failed to produce any symptoms of importance, but after potentization was carried further on, a steadily increasing number of symptoms was produced in sensitive persons and in animals. He used the **Carbo ligni betulae**, but assures us that well prepared charcoal acts in the same manner, irrespective of the kind of wood used. The provings by Adams, Gersdorf and Caspari in the *Materia Medica Pura*, contained 1189 symptoms. We have had no provings since, excepting one by C. Neidhard, with the second

centesimal trituration. The charcoal contains carbonate of potash."

This is a desperate remedy for a desperate condition, a condition where the vitality has been drained to the very bottom. Every feature of this patient speaks of the great drain, his system he undergone. The face is hippocratic, pale and ashy gray. It is covered with cold sweat; the eyes are dull and lustreless; he sees black spots floating before the field of vision, a sign of intense debility and profound prostration. The facial appearance speaks of great anxiety; memory is weak; flow of idea is slow; indifference and lassitude mark his behaviour everywhere; nothing affects him pleasantly or unpleasantly.

His great weakness, renders him an easy subject to vertigo. When he wants to move, he has to hold on to something for support or else he falls. A sensation of whirling is constantly experienced in his head. Fainting occurs at the slightest provocation; he faints after sleep, after rising or while yet in bed. He feels heavy like lead. His gums are spongy and scorbutic. The teeth are decayed. Aphthae or thrush are plentiful. His very breath is cold showing that the fire of life is about to be extinguished.

His breathing is short and labored, as if he has not enough energy left in him to draw in the necessary current of air. To minimise the exertion of respiration he wants to be constantly fanned. This difficulty of respiration causes cyanosis. His pulse is thread like, weak and small, sometimes intermittent and almost imperceptible. To add to his distress, his abdomen becomes tympanitic, tense and inflated, which makes him feel very uneasy. Frequent, involuntary, cadaverous smelling stools make his condition, already grave, more and more desperate.

It thus becomes an invaluable remedy in the final stage of many critical complaints.

From the above description of this valuable remedy, we must not be led to believe, that its application is totally confined to extreme conditions alone. We find in **Carbo veg.** an unrivalled remedial agent in lesser complaints such as dyspepsia or indigestion. In fact, it vies

with some of the most important of our remedies applicable in disturbed digestion. The principal symptom is tympanites, in consequence of which the epigastric region becomes tender and sensitive. With this tenderness there is also a sensation of rawness of the stomach extending all the way along the oesophagus to the middle of the chest. Great acidity of the stomach is complained of, and with this goes frequent eructations of wind. Tension is felt in the region of liver which too is sensitive and painful. Colic attended with gurgling, the result of flatulence, is equally troublesome. The flatus passed, feels hot and is extremely offensive. Fatty food disagrees. Milk cannot be taken as it produces flatulence. These are symptoms of what we call chronic dyspepsia, and are the result of debauchery and excessive indulgence in rich and indigestible foods. **Carbo veg.** is particularly useful in such low, adynamic form of dyspepsia, specially when it comes on after some exhausting and serious illness. They are frequently victims to hemorrhoids, the natural consequence of high living that clogs the liver. The hemorrhoidal knobs are blue, and they frequently suppurate. The piles become more active each time they go on a spree. The temperament too, is peevish and irritable. The above symptoms also suggest **Lachesis**, **Nux vomica**, **Pulsatilla**, **Sulphur** and **Sulphuricum acidum**. Great deliberation is necessary to be able to arrive at the indicated remedy and to avoid confusion with many a similar ones.

Lachesis too, is a remedy for weak digestion due to vicious habits. Milk disagrees in both the remedies, but in **Lachesis** inspite of this intolerance of milk, there is a strong craving for it. **Carbo veg.** has fullness, heaviness and sleepiness after eating due mostly to flatulence, whereas in **Lachesis**, it is more a sensation of pressure than of fullness. It feels like a load, as if a stone was suspended in the intestinal region. The sensation of constriction, so characteristic of **Lachesis**, is wanting in **Carbo veg.** Then again in **Lachesis**, the weakness is due to cardiac debility, whereas in **Carbo veg.**, it is due to profuse loss of some important fluid of the system. The craving for

intoxicating liquor is very strong in **Lachesis**. In **Carbo veg.**, on the other hand the longing is wanting and it is generally used after bad effects of previous indulgence.

In **Nux vomica**, the condition is so similar to that of **Carbo veg.** that at times, it becomes difficult to decide, as to which one of the two remedies, to resort to. The same fullness and sensitiveness to pressure are to be found. Pyrosis, acid eructations, borborygmi and nausea are same in the two remedies, although in the latter remedy the intensity of the distention is more marked than in the former. The tympanites in **Nux** is troublesome enough, but it has not got that bursting sensation that we have in **Carbo veg.** The **Nux** patient suffers from violent retching, more or less ineffectual, with a similar ineffectual urging for stool. The excessive irritability that marks the debauch of **Nux**, is far more to be dreaded than the cool distemper of the **Carbo veg.** patient.

Pulsatilla resembles **Carbo veg.** inasmuch as the etiology is same in both remedies. The trouble originates in both the remedies without doubt, from indulgence in fat, rich and greasy foods. Flatulence, bitter or sour eructations are common in both the remedies **but Carbo veg.** lacks the sensation of a lump in the mid-sternum. Neither has **Carbo veg.** aggravation at the peculiar time, when everything in **Pulsatilla** gets upset. It is more or less a case of slow digestion in **Pulsatilla**, as is evidenced by the bringing up of food, partaken several days ahead of the vomiting. The temperament and the thirstlessness in **Pulsatilla** are always guiding.

Sulphur has eructation, sour taste, fullness after eating, and strong craving for beer and brandy, and so far the similarity between **Sulphur** and **Carbo veg.** holds good. But the latter remedy lacks the abdominal plethora, the congested liver, the eternal piles, the constipation and above all the great hunger of **Sulphur** described usually as an empty, all gone feeling felt at about 11 a.m.

Sulphuricum acidum resembles **Carbo veg.** strongly in its sensitive epigastrium and in sour risings from the stomach. In both,

the patient suffers from the bad effects of drinking, and in both we have got to deal with cachectic persons. But the main difference consists in the acidity of the former and the putridity of the latter remedy..

We will now discuss the action of **Carbo veg.** on the skin. Due to bad oxygenation of blood, we have various forms of ailments arising from venous stasis. Ulcers, bed sores are to be abundantly found in **Carbo vegetabilis**. They are flat with a tendency to spread in circumference. An intense burning, which becomes worse at night time, prevents him from sleeping. It is equally useful in carbuncles when the surrounding parts look livid and blue and the discharge is ichorous and fetid.

Charcoal from which this remedy is prepared, is as has been mentioned previously, a great deodorant and disinfectant. In cases of carbuncles, ulcers and gangrenous degenerations we may use it externally as a sort of a poultice made up of a fine charcoal powder.

Carbo veg. is very useful in the collapse stage of cholera, but this collapse as has been mentioned before, is caused by the great drain on the vitality due to profuseness of its discharge. In **Camphora** the collapse is more or less due to a shock to the nervous system.

Carbo veg. is indicated in the more severe forms of dysentery where the stools show signs of putrid disintegration. Sopor, cramps, and symptoms of collapse, rarely found at the onset of a complaint, are its main indications.

CASE1

I was called to a family (always allopathic, but wished to try homoeopathy as a dernier resort), and was brought before a child two months old, and apparently dying. The patient presented a hippocratic countenance, the eyes half open, nose pinched and cold, lips blue, pupils insensible; no complaining or crying from the child. The pulse I found small and quick, difficult to count, but beyond 130; the body thin, lean and marbled; feet and hands, blue and

cold, although constant application of hot cloths is made; abdomen distended with gas; respiration frequent, but not full. Auscultation revealed only tracheal sounds, and no vesicular murmur. The breath is cold. The previous history of the cause, although not very clear, was not more encouraging. The child had, during the last two months, three nurses; since three or four days she had fever and a cough, and since noon has ceased to cough and to nurse; no stool or urine. Although preparing the parents for the speedy death of the child, I ordered a more frequent application of warm cloths, and in the meantime dissolved four globules of **Carbo veg. 30**, in seven or eight teaspoonfuls of water. A few doses of this were given every ten minutes. The child improved from this time.

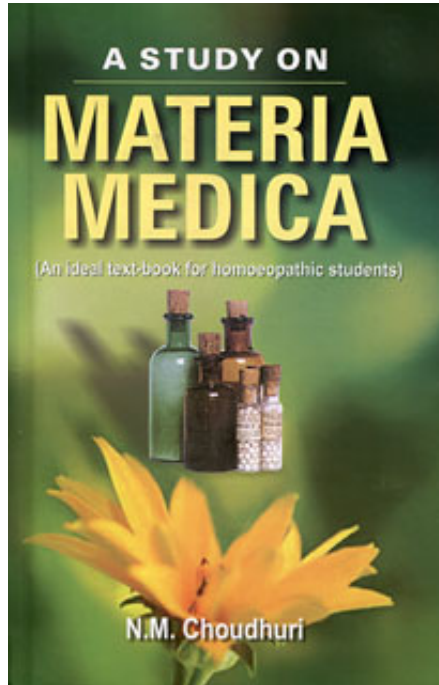
—Dr. Gounard

CASE 2

(Typhus)

Boy, aged fourteen. Third week, symptoms were: Unconsciousness; profuse, involuntary diarrhea; abdomen distended; spleen enlarged; urine passed involuntarily; tongue dry, black, cracked; complete exhaustion; mucus rales in the lungs; dull sound on percussion and respiratory murmur almost inaudible in posterior portion of thorax; frequent, rough, hollow cough. Next day found him under the table, where he had fallen in the midst of his excretions, cold, unconscious, almost moribund. After a few respiratory acts there would be an intermission of several respirations. At each respiration, the patient, with distorted features, snapped at the air, and gasped exactly like a dying fish; pulse small, frequent; skin cold. **Carbo veg. 200**, every two hours and on the second day he was incomparably better. **Muriaticum acidum** finished the cure.

—Dr. Battman



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