

Huber (Ed)

# MERCURY

AND ITS

## PREPARATIONS.

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A PHARMACOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTIC STUDY,  
ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF  
HOMOEOPATHY.

BY

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## PROSPECTUS

OF THE

## THIRTY-FOURTH VOLUME

(Volume XVI of the New Series)

OF THE

## NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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WITH the beginning of the thirty-fourth volume—volume sixteenth of the new series—the NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY will pass into the ownership and management of the Journal Publishing Club, an association formed for the purpose of continuing the publication of this oldest homœopathic periodical in the city, where it has always been edited. The membership of the Club being restricted exclusively to physicians avowing and practicing the therapeutic law of Hahnemann, all the interests comprehended in the term, Homœopathy, are thus secured against betrayal and are guaranteed the same devoted service which has hitherto distinguished the Journal. In the list of members, definitely pledged to its financial and editorial support, are numerous physicians of New York City and its vicinity, thus embracing all shades of difference in belief, influence and experience, and including members of the various social clubs, medical societies and hospital

staffs, organized under homœopathic auspices in the metropolis of North America. The Journal will, therefore, represent broadly, as it always has represented, the best in homœopathy: its *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics; its medical and surgical practice, general and special; the various departments of medical science and the sciences collateral to medicine; the humanities of the profession; and the principle of freedom in the profession from oppression by trades-unionism, which, clothing itself in borrowed sacerdotal drapery, draws *ex cathedra* the line separating the regular communicant from the excommunicated heretic. With the above objects in view, it is intended that the journal shall deserve the active coöperation of the best minds in homœopathy throughout this country and Europe. For, as New York is the centre to and from which flow the intellectual currents of the Continent, it is desired that the Journal shall be, what its title indicates, a truly North American Journal of Homœopathy.

The Executive Board of the Club takes pleasure in announcing that, by the voluntary subscription of a large number of responsible gentlemen, the future of the Journal has been placed upon an ample and permanent financial foundation; and that, in all respects, the excellence of print, paper and general appearance, so liberally furnished by its former publishers, will be fully maintained. They deem it wiser, for the purposes of the journal, to issue each volume in twelve numbers instead of quarterly, continuing, however, the same size and number of pages as heretofore. Inasmuch as it is desirable to make the volume coincident with the calendar year, they have determined to issue the first number in September, 1885, instead of August—the month when the former volume began—and to carry the first volume through to January 1st, 1887. All the obligations of F. E. Boericke, Publisher, to subscribers, not yet fulfilled, will be kept in good faith. The subscription price per volume will be reduced from \$4.00 to \$3.00.

The retirement of the veteran editor, whose faithful, admirable work during these many years has so well earned the right of three-

score and ten to rest from labor, has devolved upon the Executive Board the duty of replacing his services by younger men. The editorial work, as the Board conceive it should be performed, being more than could rightly be asked of a single editor, they have determined to divide the Journal into departments with editors in charge of each department, each editor being responsible to the Board, the Club and the Public in his particular department as a single editor would be for the whole journal. In addition, they have appointed an editor-in-chief, who is to shape its general policy and to select from the material, submitted by his associates, such as will be judged suitable to make up each number, his responsibility ending after the selection has been made. The Board have secured the following Editorial Staff:

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Until further notice, all exchanges, books for review, and communications relating to the literary columns, should be addressed to

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When the organization of the Club has been perfected and the editors have planned in detail the work of their several departments, an announcement containing full particulars will be issued in circular form and sent to all subscribers, to fellow journals and to the profession generally.

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*Russdorf* thus describes mercurial rheumatismus: In the first stage pains in the joints of the extremities when using them, aggravated by pressure. Their seat is in the perichondrium where the muscles are inserted, and the pains migrate in all directions; in the second stage hydropic exudation takes place, especially in the knee-joint; the swelling is painless; by and by the muscles are attacked and become painful to pressure. Concomitant symptoms are: palpitation of the heart; frequent pulse; horripilations; great malaise; sleeplessness; crepitus articularum. There is also a rheumatismus vagus, emanating from the sensory nerves. When at rest we find subsultus tendinum frequently over a whole extremity.

*Merc. sol.*: The left axilla is considerably higher than the right one, although it did not enlarge laterally; with pains waking him from sleep, especially during motion; terrific stitches in the shoulder-joint in the evening; a cracking sound in the axilla and elbow-joint; a kind of twitching in the axilla every quarter of an hour; tearing in the right shoulder-joint, the upper arm and corpus, in the knee and hip-joint and in the thigh-bone; in the axilla pain as if something was pressing downwards; tearing in the elbow-joint; slow, tearing stitch in elbow; red, very hot swelling of the left elbow, extending down to the hand, with burning, tearing pains and crawling sensation as from ants; burning in the elbow-joints; stitches in the elbow; in the joints of the hand a painless hammering; painful stiffness of the joints of the right hand; loss of power and paretic sensation in the joints of the left hand, with stitches and cracking therein; the left wrist is swollen and painful when moving it and seizing anything hard; painful stiffness of the hand; considerable swelling of the left hand; tension in the whole hand; drawing pains in the hands with coldness of the fingers; in the morning the fingers go asleep, with buzzing in the fingers, afterwards tearing, extending to the middle of the forearm; painful swelling of the posterior knuckles; tearing here and there in the finger-joints; aching pain in the middle joint of the middle finger when bending it; a pressing pain in the middle joint; stitches in the right hip-joint when walking; the leg is quite stiff



when walking; the knee-joints are painful when lying down, as if broken; slow tearing stitch in the right knee when sitting or walking; tearing in the knee-joint; simple pain in the right knee and as if it were stiff; in the knee-joints paroxysms of painless hammering; when walking out stitches in the knee-joints; sensation of stiffness in the left leg, extending to the bend of the knee; violent pressure under the ankles and in the tarsal joints superiorly, rendering walking difficult; violent swelling of the right tarsal joints with stitching pains in the joint, especially when walking and in the evening; pain as if sprained in the right tarsal joint; painful slow drawing in the right tarsal joint, below the outer ankle, extending to the hollow of the sole of the foot and commencing with stitching and griping (cracking in all joints); in the joints paroxysms of painful hammering; arthritic pains in the joints with swelling of them; nearly uninterrupted pain in the joints, as if sprained, compressed and mashed, so that he cannot rest on any place; he has to move his limbs continually to all sides.

The following symptoms point to contraction of limbs: Contraction of the fingers of both hands, especially the thumb, which is clenched, as in epilepsy; without aid he is only able with great exertion to stretch the fingers two-thirds, the hands trembling all the while; painful cramps in the fingers and hands, first the fingers become stretched, making the bending difficult; after bending them the cramp contracts the fingers; sensation as if the bend of the knee were too short; spasmodic drawing up of the legs; they remained contracted the whole night, although he wished to stretch them. Hence we see that Mercur. suits acute rheumatism as well as rheumatic, dyscratic, etc., inflammation of single joints with serous exudation and even suppuration.

(a) *Inflammation of solitary joints.*—*Kafka* gives in *scrofulous inflammation of joints* Merc. sol. (Bryon., Arnica, Sulphur), when the inflammatory symptoms have passed, but the joints are still swollen, their functions disturbed and exudation remains; also in the second stage of *coxitis*, when the affected limb is elongated, every movement, by which the surfaces of the respective joints come in contact one with another, very

painful; the patient limps; exudation has already taken place, with a simultaneous inflammation of the cartilages of the periosteum and of the bone itself. He gives Mercur. or Iodum internally, and externally Ungu. cin. ʒi, Axung ʒi, to prevent rapid absorption of the exudation in order to prevent its evil influence on cartilage and bone. During the third stage, when the extremity appears shortened and the exudation causes spontaneous luxation, Mercur. or Iodum are still the remedies indicated.

*Bähr* remarks in *acute coxitis*: Where the symptoms of suppuration are clearly present, Mercury remains our mainstay. In the second stage of chronic coxitis purulent destruction takes place, if not prevented by Mercury, especially in scrofulous individuals. In *tumor albus genu*, when the affection begins in the bone, with great painfulness and but little swelling, Mercury is in place and still more so, where suppuration threatens. Mercur. and Sulphur correspond more to that form where the swelling is very hard and of little circumference. In *inflammation of the ankle*, emanating from the bone, Bellad. and Mercur. are indicated.

*Hughes* recommends Mercur. in chronic rheumatic synovitis; Merc. corr. in painful ulceration of the cartilages of the joints.

*Helmuth* prescribes Mercur. in synovitis, complicated with syphilis, with drawing pains and stiffness of the parts affected, especially where we meet profuse sweats and nocturnal exacerbations; also in scrofulous inflammation of the joints and ulceration of its cartilages, with purulent or serous infiltration. In the first stage of coxitis, when the patient complains of pains in the knee, we may begin with Bellad. in alternation with Mercury.

*Hirschel* found Merc. sol. very useful in the first and second stage of coxalgia; as we nearly always find then nocturnal exacerbations.

*Cl. Müller* remarks: In recent cases, where the head is not yet pushed out of the acetabulum, Bellad. and Mercur. act beneficially.

(b) *Acute Arthro-rheumatismus*.—We find in *Kafka*: Where fever and articular pains are moderate during the day, but be-

come aggravated at night, especially in bed; where simultaneously the joints are very red, the epiphyses greatly enlarged, and where in the synovial capsules, *e. g.*, of the knee, ankles and elbow, a soft exudate is present, very painful to pressure, with profuse, sour smelling, not alleviating perspiration, great thirst and scanty urination, the urine being highly saturated, where the patients are not allowed a moment's rest in spite of the increasing pains on every motion, we apply Merc. sol.<sup>3</sup> in trituration, a dose every two hours, till decided amelioration sets in, which usually happens in 24 to 36 hours.

*Bæhr* remarks: Many a syphilitic patient, treated with Mercury, suffers terribly from rheumatism, a fact showing us clearly its great remedial power in rheumatic affections. It suits more *acute and subacute rheuma* than chronic cases, according to the symptoms: high fever, very quick and hard pulse, copious and foul smelling perspiration, excessive thirst. The local swelling is of less degree, but rather painful, very red, with threatening suppuration; it does not easily change its location, and where other joints become affected the former swelling still remains very painful; the breath is foul; the tongue heavily coated; all appetite gone; food causes nausea; copious sudamina on the skin; the pains increase every evening towards midnight from the slightest effect of cold air; whereas strong external heat diminishes them. It is especially suitable where frequent relapses take place. Indications in *muscular rheuma* are: The nocturnal exacerbation and deep-seated pain as if the periosteum were attacked, with great sensitiveness to slight or severe pressure. Mercur. takes a front rank for the complicating inflammations of internal organs, as in carditis, pneumonia, pleuritis, meningitis.

(c) *Chronic Articular Rheumatismus*.—*Kafka* uses Merc. sol.<sup>3</sup> for the absorption of the exudation in the synovial capsule and in the cartilages of the joints; when the affected joints crack during motion, with the usual mercurial aggravations.

*Hughes* recommends Merc. cor. and sol. in low potencies, in chronic articular rheuma with profuse, non-alleviating sweats and nocturnal aggravations.

*Helmuth* prescribes Mercur. for continual changes between

cold and heat, or for internal heat with continual horripilations on the affected parts, which are continually moved about on account of the internal malaise, or on account of the drowsy, tearing pains.

#### DISEASES OF THE MUSCLES.

All authorities agree that not only abuse of mercury, but also relatively small doses may produce rheumatic muscular pains.

We find in *Merc. viv.*: severe pains through the whole body, exacerbating at night (12, 13); tearing pains in the abdominal muscles (47); severe pains in the abdominal muscles (47); stitching, pinching pains in different parts of the body (24); tearing in the extremities (33); tearing in the extremities, especially in the arms (35).

*Merc. sol.*: Tearing in the right cheek; tearing in the left cheek, extending to the ear; bruised sensation to the touch in the left chest; violent tearing pains in the muscles of the chest towards the left axilla; tearing pain at the coccyx, diminished by pressing it to the abdomen; griping pain in the small of the back, especially when standing, somewhat diminished when walking; bruised sensation in the small of the back; pain in the small of the back diminished when sitting; a stitching pain in the small of the back and thighs, so that he has hardly any power there and in the knees and feet; fine stitches close to the false *processus spinosi* of the os sacrum; sharp stitches, as of needles, in the spine between the shoulder-blades; fine and coarse stitches in the dorsal muscles when walking; tearing pains in the back when sitting; the back pains as from bruises; when walking in the fresh air a bruised sensation in the left side of the back, as from frequent stooping, for several days; burning pains in the right shoulder up to the neck when sitting; burning between the shoulders down the back; between the shoulders, where the neck begins, when turning the head or the whole body (when lying) severe pains, aggravated by lifting, so that he compresses his teeth; tearing in the shoulder-blades; a crampy pain under the shoulder-blades during motion, at midnight in bed; a bruised pain with stitches

and tension in the left shoulder-blade, so severe when turning the head that he weeps and screams (soon after waking up in the morning); burning pain when sitting in the right shoulder up to the neck; stiffness of the neck with stitches when moving it. Rheumatismus in the neck like a pressure even at rest, mostly when bending the head backwards; neck stiff and swollen, so that he can only turn it with difficulty; painful stiffness of neck and sensation of heaviness, he can hardly turn it; twitching, tearing in both upper arms; soreness of the muscular fibres to the touch; burning in both arms, so that everything drops from his hands and the arms hang down; the right arm and hand as if asleep, relieved by motion; tearing in right arm (inside); a dull, stitching pain in the right lower forearm in all positions; a dull, stitching, crampy pain in all positions in the muscles of the left lower forearm; boring pain in the right glutæi; burning in the glutæi; pain in the right thigh as if bruised, aggravated by touch and by walking; a stitching, tearing in the muscles of the right thigh in all positions; a tensive pain in the right thigh when sitting; drawing pain in the anterior surface of the left thigh; bruised sensation in the right thigh; drawing and heaviness in the legs; when walking in the fresh air stitching, tearing in the muscles of the right thigh; paroxysmal tearing from the great toe to the knee; tearing in different parts of the body; tearing here and there in the extremities, more in the muscles, aggravated by the touch; twitching and tearing in the extremities here and there; tearing pains in the hands, back and chest, with headache; nocturnal drawing pains in extremities; the whole body feels bruised, especially the thighs, for many days; lassitude with tearing, drawing pains in both thighs, after midnight in bed, when getting up; when stepping about pain in the inguinal region down to the knee as if the anterior muscles of the thigh were torn away; he does not feel tired when sitting, but greatly when moving about ever so little, especially about the legs, as if he had walked great distances.

*Merc. subl. corr.:* Pains in all extremities (41). From Buchner's symptoms: fine stitching pains here and there in the muscles during the day; a tensive pain exteriorly next to the

left scapula; repeated tearing in the left shoulder; tearing in the arms to the bone, especially at night when she awakens; peculiar relaxed sensation in the deltoids; itching, contracting pain in the muscles of the right metacarpus; stitching pains in the dorsum of the hand, especially in the adductor and extensor pollicis and in the extensors of the foot; could not sleep at night on account of the burning and stitching from the left inguinal ring to the thigh; stretching the foot out ameliorates; sensation as if clasps were loosened from the lower region of the muscoli recti; rheumatic pains as from the insertion of needles in the feet; stitches in the muscles of the lower extremities; peculiar sensation of relaxation in the calves and muscles of thighs; tearing on the inside of the left calf.

#### DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

*Hermann* ascribes to mercurial skin diseases the following characters: (1) The affection of the skin is commonly of a higher grade, the pustule, the vesicle, the nodule. (2) Its color is mostly coppery on any part of the body, and, according to duration, lighter or darker; (3) the seat from the beginning to its full development is not limited to any part particularly; (4) they have a decided tendency to ulceration, and thus form the bases of the so-called secondary syphilitic ulcer of the skin, which ought rather be called a serpiginous one (5). Treated with Kali hydrojod., which is here specific, Mercury is shown by electrolysis in the urine and other secreta.

##### (a) *Pruritus—Itching.*

*Merc. viv.*: Erythema with violent itching and burning (4, 5, 6); heat and itching on the whole body, especially on the face and eyelids, with swelling of the integuments (10); itching on the thighs (11); skin swollen and inflamed, partly itching, partly without sensation (11).

*Merc. sol.*: Itching on the forehead; burning-itching on the forehead and scalp; itching-tearing in the neck and hairy scalp; itching and burning on the hairy scalp day and night; eruption on the head, itching so violently that he has to scratch; violent itching on the right side of the nose, he has to

rub it; stitching-itching of the abdomen in the evening, burning after scratching, no eruption on the head; itching when walking, at the os sacrum; itching on the back, in the evening in bed; titillating-itching on the left side of the back, so that he has to scratch; burning-itching and heat over the whole back, mostly when taking the fresh air; itching at the right shoulder-blade; itching at the left elbow; corroding itching on the back of the head in the evening in bed, passing off after scratching, but soon returning; titillating, stitching, itching on the inside of the lower joint of the thumb of the right hand, so that he has to scratch; in the evening itching of the lower extremities; itching relieved by scratching on the inside of the thighs, causing small elevations; itching on the thighs; stitching-itching in the skin of the thighs, waking him after midnight; itching of the legs; itching between the toes, especially in the afternoon and evening; itching in the joint, as from scabies, worse in the evening and night, but without any visible eruption; unbearable stitching-itching, as if from flea-bites, in the evening; violent itching all over the body, so that she has to scratch much at night, with great redness and heat of the face.

*Kafka* gives Mercur. in pruritus: burning, stitching-itching from warm air, heated rooms, especially from the warmth of the bed; when perspiration breaks out; or when going to bed, undressing—continuing the whole night and disturbing sleep. Itching of the glans, external labia, and between the toes.

*Hughes* recommends for pruritus Mercur. internally and externally.

*Jahr* recommends Mercur. for an acidity, showing itself at the anus, genital organs, etc., and itching violently.

*Merc. subl. corr.*: Itching over the whole skin, which feels dry (56). *Buchner*: Itching on different parts of the skin (scalp, thighs, etc.), changing frequently to fine stitches, and burning; itching, burning, stitching, immediately under the skin; itching passing into fine stitches in the centre of the back, as if it were in the skin; she awakes at 1 A.M., with such a violent itching of the scalp, that she not only scratches herself with the nails, but also with her comb.

*Cinnabaris*: Itching of both eyelids; itching over the body and on the corners of the eyes; for two days unbearable itching at the corners of the eyes; violent itching in the right ear; itching on the left side of the face; itching in the palm of the right hand; itching on the right wrist; violent itching on the inner surface of the thighs and knees, especially of the latter and at night; severe itching and stitching on the inner surface of the knee; worse at night and before getting up in the morning; sensation of soreness at the ankle, accompanied by heat and itching over the whole thigh; violent itching of the anus, worse at night in bed; itching on different parts of the body in the fresh air; from time to time itching over the body.

(b) *Burning, Titillating, Stitching.*

*Merc. viv.*: Erythema with violent itching and burning (4, 5, 6.)

*Merc. sol.*: Burning on the left temple; burning on the left side of the forehead, passing off after touching it; burning and itching on the scalp; burning in the hand, the cheek and chin; burning hot sensation over the whole back (burning in the soles of the feet in the evening); herpes, causing burning when touched; violent titillation in the palm of the left hand, so that he has to scratch; a fine titillation in the right palm, necessitating scratching; stitching and itching on the skin of the thigh, rousing him out of his sleep at 3 A.M.

*Merc. corr.*: Skin very hot and stitching; burning and redness of the skin; itching on different parts of the body, increasing to fine stitching and burning.

1. HYPERÆMIA OF THE SKIN, ERYTHEMA.

*Merc. viv.*: Erythema with severe itching and burning (4, 5, 6); general erythema with desquamation (11).

*Merc. sol.*: Itching eruption of the head, necessitating scratching (?) dry eruption of the whole head, feeling sore to the touch (?)

*Calomel*: Erythema of the whole body (7); severe burning of the reddened skin (8); erythema (9).

*Cinnabaris*: Redness of the skin, as of a chronic eruption.



*Kafka* considers Mercur. of first importance in erythema from acrid secretions. *Behr* praises Merc. viv. or sol. highly for the chafing of infants. *Hughes* also recommends them in intertrigo, when the affected parts become raw and painful. *Guernsey*, where the excoriation is worse at night, very raw and bloody, preventing the sleep of the child.

## 2. ANOMALIES OF SECRETION.

### *Sebaceous Glands.*

Hypersecretion of the sebaceous glands is not mentioned among the symptoms of Mercur., still we know that all glandular secretion is increased, especially of the perspiratory glands. We find in Merc. sol.: At night a kind of fatty or oily perspiration, making the linen stiff and yellow, so that it can hardly be removed by washing; small, elevated, firmly adhering crusts on the hair of the head; crusts on the scalp, itching and, after scratching, burning.

*Kafka* saw great benefit from Merc. sol.<sup>3</sup>, where the sebum is secreted in large quantities on the head, so that the hair becomes matted, with severe itching and heat of the scalp; in seborrhœa of the fossa coronaria with hyperæmia of the glans or prepuce. He also gives Merc. corr.<sup>3</sup> internally, and applies a weak solution externally (one grain to three ounces water). It is also useful in seborrhœa of the female sexual organs.

### *b. Perspiratory Glands.*

*Dieterich* describes the mercurial hyperidroses, saying: The skin is at first very hot, followed by copious perspiration all over the body, especially over the chest, continuing uninterrupted for 24 to 30 hours, then gradually decreasing, so that toward the close of the second day the skin feels only moist. Thirst excessive; the perspiration of a foul odor, between flat and putrescent. The patient then feels exhausted and tired. There remains a great tendency to perspire; even when only eating a warm soup the skin gets in abnormal action. Persons with chronic mercurialism suffer often from frequent perspiration. Laborers in Hg. with habitual mercurialism, suffer from

nocturnal perspiration, which often continues for a long time afterwards.

*Merc. sol.*: Cold sweat of anguish in the face, with great malaise for one-fourth of an hour, followed by diarrhœa; towards morning cold, sweaty feet; he has to lie down in the forenoon on account of itching and heaviness of the thighs, with copious sweating of the face and of the whole body; frontal perspiration in the fresh air; *copious perspiration when walking; perspires from the least motion*; perspiration when drinking something warm; sleeplessness and vigilance at night up to 3 A.M., followed by sweat before falling asleep; he does not sleep before midnight, and awakens early in the morning, when it is still dark, with some sweat; he wakes up during the night and perspires only on the legs, from the knee down to the soles, not on the thighs or soles; by putting the feet out of the bed, the perspiration disappears immediately. Sweat causing a burning sensation in the night; day and night greatly inclined to sweat, still more at night; copious perspiration all through the night, from the evening to the morning; foul-smelling perspiration for many nights; copious night-sweat; violent sticking sweat, so that the covering and mattress are soaked through; sweat on the face and chest; frequent cold sweats on face, the other body being dry; excessively copious, sour and disgustingly smelling sweat, softening, as it were, the fingers, and rendering them spongy and wrinkled, as in washerwomen; sour smelling sweat and when she puts a foot out of the bed, severe tearing in it; sweat every evening for half an hour after lying down; *copious perspiration in the morning*, with thirst, nausea and vomituration and excessive palpitation of the heart; perspiration in daytime with nausea; copious perspiration at night in bed, he falls asleep sweating; *copious night-sweats*; sweat in the palms of the hands and soles of the feet; sweat at night on some parts of the body and dryness of other parts, the sweating places are not over six inches in circumference, but there it is trickling down; head and face dry. Immediately after eating, anguish with sweat on the face and forehead, which appears to him of icy-coldness; she has to go out, before the sweat disappears with dyspnœa and stitches in the right side close to the ribs.

*Merc. subl. corr.*: Skin cold, covered with sweat (27, 29, 33); copious night-sweats (61); sweat and sensation of coldness (3); cold sweat (34); night-sweat (20). Buchner: Skin covered with cold sweat of anguish; sweat under the left axilla, then general, when he awakes at night from sleep; sweat at night (Van Swieten); sticking sweat towards morning; moderate sweat during the night when he is awake.

*Merc. præc. rubr.*: Skin cold, covered with sweat (1); night-sweat (1); cold, clammy skin, especially of the extremities (4).

*Cinnabaris*: Chilliness in the morning, with sweat under the arms; profuse sweat between the legs, worse towards noon.

Characteristic of sudor mercurialis are therefore: Sweat foul-smelling, sometimes cold; cold sweat with anguish (*Merc. corr.*, but also other preparations); partial sweat, most frequently on the face and chest, especially at night and in the morning, during motion or when drinking something warm. It is indicated for profuse, foul-smelling sweat, based on tuberculosis, scrofulosis, etc., or where other symptoms suggest mercury, and the patient is not relieved by the sweat.

*Jahr*: Frequent night-sweats, the perspiration setting in as soon as his head touches the pillow; he perspires easily in daytime from the least exertion or motion; partial sweat on the head, face, genitals; weakening, not relieving, oily, fatty, clammy, sour or foul-smelling perspiration, staining the linen.

### 3. INFLAMMATION OF THE SKIN.

#### a. *Erythematous Inflammation.*

##### a. *Urticaria.*

*Frank* and *Kussmaul* observed urticaria in laborers with Hg.

*Merc. sol.*: Urticaria, changing after two days to red spots; eruption of red, raised spots, itching and stitching.

*Cinnabaris.*: At night severe itching on both shoulders, red streaks appearing after scratching; small red elevations, itching unbearably till he goes to bed.

β. *Erysipelas.*

*Merc. viv.:* Stens observed a febrile erysipelas in a patient, who rubbed mercurial ointment around his hemorrhoidal tumors. *Kussmaul* observed erysipelas in workers on looking-glasses (10). We also read in our cases: heat and itching over the whole body, especially on the face and eyelids, with swelling and inflammation of the integuments (probably Stens's case). *Erysipelas antebrachii* (34).

*Merc. subl. corr.:* Vesicular erysipelas (14, after external application), the arm up to the shoulder was excessively swollen, red and covered with vesicles (6, after ext. use).

*Merc. dulc.:* The whole skin very red and somewhat swollen, worse on head and neck, which appear livid (7).

*Merc. sol.:* The right side of the face swollen, especially under the eye, and hot; great swelling of the left cheek; the whole nose, especially on the left side, is swollen, very red and shining, with itching of the nostrils; inflammatory swelling of the nose; top of the nose swollen, red, inflamed, itching. (Comp. eczema.)

*Kafka* gives *Merc. sol.*<sup>3</sup> (or *Jod.*<sup>3</sup>), a dose every two hours, in erysipelas verum combined with cellulitis.

*Bæhr:* Where suppuration threatens, we can hardly ever prevent it with *Mercur.*, and it is better to have immediately recourse to *Hepar*. He recommends *Mercur.* where there is great pain and the erysipelas not seated on the face.

*Guernsey* gives it in erysipelas syphil. of infants.

*Jahr* mentions *Mercur.* in phlegmonous, scarlet colored, secondary erysipelas, but does not mention it in that of the face.

*Hartmann:* *Erysipelas neonatorum* is based in most cases on a syphilitic or herpetic dyscrasia. During the first few days of infantile life there appear red spots, especially between the thighs, on the scrotum and inguinal region, at first pale red, but soon of a more intense color, forming a kind of intertrigo, with a disagreeably smelling exudation and easily suppurating; spots of a deeper redness soon appeared on other parts of the body, especially on the abdomen, near the umbilicus, etc., taking on more and more an erysipelalous character, and extend-

ing to places already affected; diarrhœic fermented stools and high fever are now added to it. Mercur. corresponds to such a state, and no other remedy can be compared to it. It ought to be given in alternation with Sulphur<sup>31</sup>, where the mixed herpetic dyscrasia is clearly proven.

*Quin* recommends Mercur. for erysipelas bullosum.

*Hirschel* recommends it in suppurating erysipelas, and in erysipelas neonatorum with suppuration.

*Goullon, jun.*, cured with three doses of Calomel an erysipelas faciei with typhoid symptoms after the failure of Bellad., Bryon. and Rhus.

Comparing the manifestations of Calomel, found under eczema, we easily understand its indications in grave forms of erysipelas (typhus, meningitis, etc.).

*b. Phlegmonous Inflammations—Furuncle, Phlegmon, Panaritium.*

*Kussmaul* observed phlegmon and furuncles on different parts of the body, also several times panaritia in workers on mirrors, suffering from habitual mercurialismus. Other authorities have seen the same from the internal as well as external use of Hg.

*Merc. sol.*: Pimples and small boils on shoulder-blades and abdomen; small sores on the finger-joints, which are somewhat ulcerated; a boil on the left upper thigh painful to the touch and when walking; many ulcerating sores from small pimples on the left leg, remaining open for 8-10 days, and healing by exfoliation of the skin.

For *phlegmon*: Digging up pain along the ball of the right little finger on the outside, worse during rest; (when standing) a digging pain in the right sole; great swelling of the heel, so that she can hardly stand with burning and gnawing pains in the whole foot; he could not keep his foot in bed; for *panaritium*: burning twitching under the nail of the thumb, when writing; boring pain at the first joint of the third toe at rest and during motion; burning pain under the left big toe (when resting).

*Kafka* uses Merc. sol.<sup>3</sup> in phlegmonous inflammation of the

skin, when, in spite of cold applications, the pains, the heat and the tension increase in the inflamed parts, with no fever and total sleeplessness.

*Bæhr*: Where the furuncle is very extensive, and the cellular tissue highly inflamed with high fever, and the boil will not come to a head, a few doses *Merc. viv.*, to be followed by *Hepar*, will hasten the cure.

*Kreussler* expects much from *Mercur.* in panaritia, where the inflammation is seated in the cellular tissue, between skin and sinews; in the sheath of the sinews; in the sinews, and in the joints connecting the phalanges.

But cutaneous inflammations are only caused by Mercury after a protracted action of the drug on the organism; it does not influence the idiopathic process; hence we cannot expect much from it in such affections. In *Andrien's* experiments the *Merc. bijod.* caused small boils on different parts of the body, and thus perhaps this preparation might be here preferable.

#### c. Vesicular Inflammations.

*Pearson*, *Bartels* observed them after mercurial action.

#### d. Herpes.

*Merc. sol.*: On the inside of the wrist-joint blisters full of a watery fluid; transparent blisters, containing a small quantity of watery fluid, on different parts of the body, early in the morning; pimples below the vermilion border of the lower lip, with stinging pain when touching them, more towards the corner of the mouth.

*Cinnabaris*: Red, herpetic (?) spots on the forehead, especially over the right arcus supraciliaris; two small red spots on each side of the glans, secreting a large quantity of a lardaceous mass (*Herpes præputialis*).

*Kafka* does not consider Mercury a remedy for herpes; still he finds it indicated by the burning pains, preceding the breaking out and course of herpetic forms, and in zoster refers to the accompanying neuralgiae.

*Bæhr* remarks on zoster that Mercury may counteract the formation of new vesicular groups.

*Jahr* mentions Mercur. only as a remedy of secondary rank; it may even aggravate a herpes præputialis. The different forms of herpes, as phlyctenoides, circinnatus, zoster, find mostly their chief remedy in Mercur. and Sulphur. In zoster he relies on Mercur.

*Trinks* gave to a patient, suffering from zona, Mercur.<sup>3</sup> and received the report that the disease yielded more rapidly than at any other time. *Wolf* also cured several cases of zona in nine days with Mercur. *Lobethal* considers Mercur. the only remedy which rapidly removes the burning pains of zona and considers it specific.

#### γ. Eczema.

*Eczema Mercuriale Symptomaticum*.—A few days after the inunction with mercurial ointment the patient feels a troublesome itching at the places of friction. The skin takes on a pink color, interspersed with white spots, as the redness is composed of many irregular plaques. The redness disappears at pressure, but returns with the cessation of it. The skin feels burning hot. After ten to twelve hours the examining finger detects small insignificant elevations on the reddened surface, and under the microscope we see quite small but closely standing vesicles. On the second day the vesicles become more raised, so that they can be seen with the eye filled with a yellowish lymph. With the appearance of the vesicles the itching ceases. On the third day they sink in, dry up, and by the fifth day bran-like desquamation takes place. Where the Hg. acts more powerfully the symptoms are also more pronounced, the skin darker, the vesicles larger, nearly pustular, and the patient has fever. Whereas at the place of inunction the vesicles always appear first, we soon find similar red spots in the groins, inner surface of the thighs, scrotum, even on the chest. The skin desquamates in pieces. Some consider such a state caused by a peculiar idiosyncrasy, and it may last three to four weeks.

*Eczema Mercuriale Criticum* (Plumbe, Dieterich, Falke), first stage.—After a febrile prodrome the patient feels an itching, crawling in the skin, extending over the greater part of the

body, but especially severe in the bend of the joints, at the inner surface of the thighs, in the inguinal region, pubic region and under the axilla. The second stage begins with rawness of the skin of the affected parts, followed by an exanthema simulating measles. On the second day the rawness is increased, the small spots become confluent and form red patches of different size and form, with vesicles of the size of a pin-head, standing closely together and surrounded by a red halo. On the third day the parts of the body, which are usually more exposed, are also covered with vesicles containing a transparent fluid; whereas those on the thighs and groins become dull and milky. On the fourth day many burst, and the affected surface is covered with an exudation of a viscous fluid, smelling disagreeably, penetrating and stiffening the linen. On the fifth day desquamation in large pieces follows. The inner surface of the thighs as well as the inguinal region, the scrotum and the edges of the axilla are sore and covered with the same fluid. Every attempt to change position is excessively painful to the patient. The pulse is weak and quick, the tongue slightly coated, debility, but appetite is not diminished. It runs a tedious course, as the eruption is apt to reappear on places where a new cuticle had shown itself. Such an eczema is idiosyncratic and takes the place of salivation.

What Dietrich and Falke calls impetigo, may be considered as *eczema impetiginosum*: The skin begins to swell and expand, so that the features can hardly be recognized, and the eyelids closed. The swelling goes over the whole body, the temperature increases and the pains are severe. First in the pubic region, then on the chest, appear dark pinkish spots of different sizes, of irregular borders, confluent, on a smooth surface and violently itching. Large vesicles arise upon them, which subside at about the fifth day with a bran-like desquamation; about the ninth day the itching continuing during its whole course, whereas they appear at first only at the sternal region, they spread gradually over the whole chest, appear also on the arms, calves and inside of thighs. Sometimes we find bullæ instead of the vesicles, which burst and discharge considerable fluid. After eight to ten days, exfoliation of the inflamed skin in



large pieces takes place. It may happen that the cuticle comes off in one piece, as *e. g.*, on the hand like a glove. After the casting off of the cuticle, peculiar, fishy-smelling, lymphatic and purulent exudations take place on the inflamed skin, which dry up to crusts, covering deeply ulcerated surfaces where the exudation continues. The upper part of these crusts become gradually withered and whitish-grey and fall off in scales. This process of dying off externally and of regeneration of the crust from below may repeat itself continually. Finally, also the skin on the hairy parts of the head, beard and eyebrows become dry, rough, fissured, and white, bran-like scales fall off in large quantities, alopecia follows (with the exception of the cilia), and also the nails on hands and feet fall off. In some cases misformed nails may grow and the skin also remains rough and scaly. It differs from syphilitic eruptions by the coppery color of the latter and their painless progress, also by the appearance of new syphilitic symptoms after the exanthema has run its course.

In our cases of poisoning all forms and stages of eczema are found.

*Merc. viv.*: (4) eczema vesiculosum and squamosum; (5 and 6) eczema impetiginosum; (10) eczema squamosum; (11) eczema acutum in all stages; (25 and 27) eczema from the vapors of Hg.

*Merc. subl. corr.*: (1) Eczema vesiculosum squamosum, an exquisite case; internally given we never meet cutaneous affections, as in large doses the manifestations of the mucous membranes appear more in the foreground. *Hahnemann's* proving gives us the symptoms: painless blisters on the arms and abdomen in the morning, which pass off during the day.

*Calomel.*—Eczema vesiculosum squamosum (8). Duncan and Alley observed eczema from two grs. Calomel.

*Merc. sol.*—In Andrien's experiments we find eczema and the *Materia Medica* gives us: small, raised, firmly adhering crusts between the hair of the head, itching and burning after scratching. Moist eruption on the hairy scalp, eating away the hair with painful pressure, especially at the sore places; eruption near the corners of the upper lip with yellow crusts, with a

smarting, burning pain; under the chin yellow crusts quarter of an inch thick; nearly painless eruption on both thighs in the evening, preceded by heat in the head, and itching in the dorsum of the feet; a burning water oozing out after scratching, as when one pours brandy into a wound; after itching, about midnight, sweat on abdomen and thighs, all without thirst. Eruption on the legs, sexual organs, bend of knees, neck and abdomen, red, sore, humid, itching, considerably elevated and on several places looking like fatty scabies; a place swelled up and a grey flat crust formed upon it, after which swelling and pain ceases.

*Cinnabaris* causes eczema according to the experiments of Andrien.

An extensive eczema was observed after the internal use of *Merc. oxyd. nigr.* and application of unguent. cinereum. Although the inunction produces most frequently the eczema, still we cannot put the whole blame on the local irritation, as the eruption is also observed on places far from the eruption, during internal use, in laborers and provers of Hg.

*Kafka*.—*Merc. sol.*<sup>3</sup> in acute eczema with humid vesicles, with heat and burning of the affected parts; œdematous swelling, *e. g.*, of the eyelids, of the penis, ear, scrotum, etc.; simultaneous swelling of the cervical glands; sleeplessness, restlessness in the evening and first part of the night. Where no amelioration is seen in a week the remedy will be better discontinued. He gives *Merc. sol.*<sup>3</sup> (*Rhus tox.*<sup>3</sup>) for chronic capillitic eczema; the groups of vesicles discharge continually a fluid, matting the hair together and causing a burning-itching. In obstinate cases it may be advisable to give *Merc. præc. rub.* internally and externally. Chronic eczema behind the ear and copiously discharging improves quickly under *Merc. sol.*<sup>3</sup> (or *Hepar*); crusty eczema behind the ear, at the lobe of the ear or on the concha require at first the removal of the crusts and then *Merc. præc. rub.*, which also acts well in crusty eczema of the nipples, with fissures and rhagades, also in chronic eczema rubrum umbilici, externally (1 gr. to 2 drachms fat). Chronic eczema on the dorsum of the penis improves under *Merc. sol.*<sup>3</sup>, two doses daily; but where we find sore, horizon-

tally running streaks, it is better to combine the internal and external use of Merc. præc. rub., especially where there are also rhagades and fissures. (*Rüseberg* prefers Merc. bijod. in such cases.) In chronic eczema of the extremities the indications are the same as in capillitic eczema. In eczema, caused by dirt, sweat, etc., and where cleanliness and anointing with fat does not suffice, he gives to the children Calc. carb. or Merc. sol.

*Hughes* considers Hg. specific for eczema rubrum, as it is pathologically identical with eczema mercurialis, and expects also some benefit in eczema impetiginosum.

*Jahr* gives Mercur. for the impetiginous eczema on the hand and fingers and of the ears.

*Marsten* finds it indicated in eczema of the lower extremities; *Blake* in vesicular eczema, although it does not cure every vesicular eruption; *Guernsey*, where we meet also salivation and scorbutic gums; *Cl. Müller* considers it the chief remedy in eczema, especially of the extremities, and here again most frequently on the lower ones. Sulphur alone could be compared to it in value, still he prefers Mercur. as long as there are no complications. Even where there was already considerable infiltration, and the patient was unable to take the necessary care of himself, Mercur. sufficed in many a case for a cure; but where there is considerable swelling and a varicose state, he prefers Sulphur. For the capillitic eczema (*tinea capitis*), found so frequently in children as eczema impetiginosum, with swelling of the lymphatic glands, Mercur. is less sovereign. In complication with impetigo or real ulceration, he gives Mercur., especially in impetigo on and behind the concha auris, sometimes also Sulphur. Both remedies are also indicated in eczema scroti. Mercur., in fact, suits every eczema, except the papular, especially those running an acute or subacute course. Where Mercur. fails in chronic cases after a week or so, it is no use to expect anything from it. All mercurial preparations act well in eczema; least perhaps the corr. Merc. bijod. is preferable for rhagades, and Merc. viv. in chronic and less humid cases; Merc. sol. in all the common forms.

*d. Bullous Inflammations.*

*Fourcroy* mentions the case of a bullous exanthema in a gilder. In the case of poisoning with Hg. oxyd. nigr. and Ung. ciner., No. 1, we see bullæ on an inflamed basis, not on normal skin as in pemphigus.

*Wolfsheim* observed from Merc. corr.: Burning and redness of skin, a bulla forms containing a yellowish serous fluid, raising the cuticle, and after being lanced, drying up with scaling of the epidermis. *Bæhr* mentions Hg. in pemphigus. He saw in Vienna a case of pemphigus in a nurse, who for several years attended the syphilitic wards, and who had rubbed a large quantity of mercury with her hand.

*Schelling* cured a case of pemphigus with Merc. sol. We have to rely here on general symptoms rather, as Hg. does not give the characteristic symptoms of pemphigus.

*e. Pustular Eruptions.*

Pustular eruptions, caused by mercury, are mentioned by Herrmann, Jussein (in Almaden), Alley (8 cases which ended fatally), Girtanner, Gardane, Stoll, Fleury, Hacker, Kahleis, Acherson, etc. Van Chersante described small-pox-like, copper-red pustules, on the face of a gilder, suffering from tremor.

Dieterich's impetigo we mentioned in eczema. He also describes a phydrcia mercurialis, differing from acne syphilitica, that the nodules appear on hairy parts with violent itching, of a dark pinkish color, and remaining thus for years, whereas acne syphilitica appears everywhere on the skin, causes no itching, is of a more coppery color, and does not last so long. The latter attacks first the chest and the forehead, more rarely the extremities, whereas in the former it is just the opposite.

In *Calomel* we see in No. 6 great pustules over the whole body with ulcerations, but this case might have been complicated with syphilis. But in No. 9 Calomel caused pustules over the whole body, which dried in (showing great similarity to small-pox).

*Cooper* witnessed after Merc. corr. pustules on the forehead.

*Andrien* observed in his experiments with *Merc. bijod.* hardened pustules (in 12 provers) once, the proving being made with the third decimal trituration.

*Merc. sol.*: A very painful pustule on the nose; on the chin a pustule full of pus, of the size of a pea; small-pox-like eruption immediately above the anus, with pressing pain when sitting; a small red boil with red tip on the glutæus, with a stitching pain in it; pustules on the upper and lower limbs, the tips of which are filled with pus, with itching: small itching pimples, afterwards changing to ulcers, during the healing of which the surrounding skin peels off; round stigmata on the thighs and legs; gradually changing to round, ulcerated spots, and becoming finally covered with a scurf.

*Kafka* uses *Merc. sol.* and *Merc. præc. rubr.* for pustular eruptions. In *acne disseminata* he gives *Merc. sol.* where the papular form prevails, the inflamed follicle remaining at the acme of inflammation, without passing into suppuration, forming a bluish-red stigma, which, after detumescence, becomes covered with small scales, and gradually decreases in size. Of *sycosis* he says: We cut away the hair of the beard, of the eyebrows, of the axillæ and mons veneris, extract with fine tweezers the hairs which penetrate the stigmata, pustules, or crusts, soften the crusts with oily applications, prescribe internally *Merc. præc. rubr.*<sup>2</sup>, a dose morning and evening, and apply the red precipitate ointment over all sycotic spots, at least twice a day. As often as fresh stigmata or pustules arise, the hairs must be again extracted, which manipulation ought to be nearly painless; and continue the external and internal use of red precipitate, till all stigmata and pustules have disappeared and no new ones make their appearance.

According to *Bæhr*, *Mercur.* acts well in infantile impetigo of the face or hairy scalp, where the impetigo has a very red base (*eczema impetiginosum*). In *ecthymæ* *Tart. stib.* is preferable to *Mercur.*

We learn from the impetiginous *eczemata* and pustular eruptions, caused by mercurial inunctions and the internal use of Calomel, that these two preparations may be considered chief remedies for the rare, but frequently fatal eruption, which

Hebra calls *impetigo herpetiformis*, and which so far has been exclusively observed in women during pregnancy or puerperium.

*f. Squamous Inflammations of the Skin.*

In *Hahnemann's* proving we find the following symptoms: Skin dirty-yellow, rough and dry; reddish-white, rough, herpetic spot on the left malar bone; burning, corrosive, humid and itching pimple on the right lobule, having a scaly appearance like herpes, which he has to scratch; the left arm, especially the elbow, is covered with small, red, not inflamed elevations, the tips of which become white, scaly and itching; they burn when scratched; herpes on the right forearm, round, the skin peeling off, with voluptuous itching, and lasting 18 days; large, red, round, scaly spots, with burning pain, one inch in diameter, on the forearm and wrist; herpes on the posterior surface of the thigh, painful when scratched, and the epidermis coming off when scratching, for 30 days; herpes, causing a burning when touched; dry, elevated, burning-itching herpes over the whole body, especially extremities, arms, joints of the hand even between the fingers; rhagades, as they appear in psoriasis, especially on the flexor surfaces of the extremities, palma manus and planta pedis and on the face. Merc. sol. has fissures and rhagades of the corners of the mouth; deep fissures in the fingers, looking sore and bloody at their base; the fingers look as if they had a cut, especially on the inner surface; a deep fissure, like a cut, between thumb and index-finger, bloody and painful.

Hence we may conclude, that squamous eruptions only arise from the action of small doses; sometimes after a few doses of Merc. sol. or Merc. viv., the only two preparations which manifest such symptoms.

Whereas *Bæhr* and *Kafka* fail to mention Mercur. in psoriasis and pityriasis, *Hughes* witnessed good effects from Mercur. in recent affections of the hands, and even in chronic cases it will act beneficially, though we may need Arsen. to finish the cure, where this is possible.

*Jahr* praises Mercur. in psoriasis infantilis and syphilitica.

Cl. Müller considers Mercur. to correspond fully in its skin symptoms to psoriasis, although it must be admitted that the usual and characteristic Hg. exanthemata fail to show the specialties of psoriasis. After giving the usual squamous symptoms he adds: The parts of the skin remaining unaffected by impetigo mercurialis, become rough, dry, somewhat fissured, and continually desquamate white, bran-like leaflets, especially on the hairy scalp, beard and eyebrows, but the face escapes. The occurrence of psoriasis in syphilitic organisms is an argument in favor of mercury; but even where such a complication was not present, I have witnessed good effects from Mercur., after the fruitless use of Arsen., or where the latter produced only a temporary amelioration. This most frequently happens in cases where the lower extremities are especially affected. He uses mostly Merc. sol.; in rare cases, Merc. præc. rubr.

*g. Papular Inflammations of the Skin. (Lichen, Prurigo).*

In Case 25 we find that Mercur. caused a papular eruption on the back.

*Merc. sol.:* Under the skin of the left cheek a large tubercle; heat and redness of the lobule which is excessively painful. Two days afterwards a tubercle forms in the left lobule which lasts twelve weeks; the left arm, especially the elbow, is covered with small, red, not inflamed elevations, the tips of which become white, scaly and itching, they burn when scratched; small pimples on the inner surface of the thigh, itching and relieved by scratching; small efflorescences on the inner surface of the thighs.

*Merc. subl. corr.*—*Knorre* speaks of a fine red eruption over the whole head (*A. H. Z.*, 19, 283). *Trousseau* observed a papular exanthema on the calves, similar to lichen agrarius.

*Cinnabaris:* Stinging-itching of the neck and chest, with swelling of the cervical glands; red points and spots on those parts changing to hard little blotches, with burning and increased itching after scratching. In the morning a red papular eruption without itching on both elbows, worse on the left. Whereas *Kafka* does not mention Mercur. in lichen, he says of it in *prurigo*, that Merc. sol. corresponds to most of the

symptoms, and during the first stage of development he found the use of this preparation beneficial in children as well as in grown persons. Efflorescences, arising spontaneously from some unknown cause and causing violent itching during the night and becoming pale red in consequence of the scratching and rubbing, become paler and smaller after five to six days and the itching diminished so rapidly that after six to eight days sleep was fully restored. The efflorescences either remained in *statu quo* without causing any further disturbance or passed off entirely. In old cases other remedies are required.

*Cl. Müller* gives in *prurigo* Mercur. (or Ant. crud.), when complicated with eczema, impetigo and ecthyma, both remedies also in *prurigo genitalium*. Inasmuch as the phydracia mercurial, mentioned by Dieterich, has great similarity with *Lichen pilaris*, we may try it whenever the indications correspond.

In *prurigo* and *lichen scrofulosorum* Cinnab. may act in some cases better than Merc. sol.

#### 4. LUPUS.

Lupus is a cutaneous neoplasma; Mercur. never produces such and therefore cannot be indicated. But *Merc. bijod.* causes tubercular formations in the skin and especially when caused by syphilis it may find its place in the treatment of lupus tuberosus, and other mercurial preparations may be used in lupus exedens to restrict the ulcerative process.

According to *Kafka*, where syphilis is suspected, the protoiodide of Mercur. 2d or 3d (or Nitr. ac.<sup>2</sup>) may be given for some time in an ascending scale. *Jahr* mentions Mercur. here among the remedies of the third order. *Cl. Müller* has sometimes witnessed beneficial results from Arsen. and Mercur. but they failed entirely in other cases. In one case, where the affections already lasted ten years and where the left eye, the nose and upper lip were totally destroyed and the lower lip partially, the destructive process was stopped by the use of Mercur.



## 5. CUTANEOUS ULCERS

In Hahnemann's case of poisoning with *Calomel* cutaneous ulcers were found on several places. Poisonings with *Merc. corr.* run too rapid a course and hence ulcers are out of the question. Simon observed from *Merc. cyan.* (3) ulcers with diphtheritic deposit around the anus. We find in *Merc. sol.*: Red ulcers of the size of a millet-seed on the right side of the chin, painless when touched; suppurating, small, red ulcers on the left side of the knee, painless; gnawing-itching ulcers on the outer side of the right thigh, necessitating scratching; small, itching pimples, afterwards changing to ulcers, during the healing of which the surrounding skin peels off; dropsical persons lost their swelling, in the place of which fetid ulcers made their appearance on the legs, which became speedily putrid. Symptoms suggesting chancre are: A number of small red vesicles at the termination of the glans behind the prepuce, changing to ulcers, which burst and discharge a yellowish-white, staining, strong-smelling matter; afterwards the larger ulcers bleed and when touching them a pain is felt in them which affects the whole body; they are round, their edges, which look like raw flesh, overlap the ulcers, the base of which is covered with a cheesy lining; burning around the glans in the evening, afterwards vesicles on the inner surface of the foreskin, which soon form little ulcers, healing rapidly.

*Kafka* says in the therapy of the *inflammatory ulcer*: We give *Bellad.*<sup>3</sup>, a dose every hour where the pain is severe, the secretion scanty, and the swollen, red and hot periphery of the ulcer surrounded by blisters; or *Merc. sol.* (or *Rhus*) where the secretion is acrid and corroding, producing an eczematous eruption at the edges and in the neighborhood of the ulcer. Where the ulcer takes on an inflammatory character in consequence of cold, or where it is very painful, *Mercur.* is indicated. Where in necrotic ulcers numerous worms or maggots are present, irrigation is necessary for their removal, or where this does not suffice, *Aqua Merc. corr.* (1 gr. to 3 ounces distilled water).

*Halfort* thus describes the mercurial ulcer, hence also the indication of *Mercur.*: The ulcers usually arise from an *ecthyma*-

pustule from wounds, scars or ulcers of another character; they have irregular, not sharply defined, slightly elevated edges, an irregular indented form, a dirty grey base (as if covered by blotting paper) and are surrounded by a red halo, bleed easily and are not very sensitive. They heal easily in one place, to break open again in another. Scrofulosis in ulcers is another indication for Mercur.

#### 6. SYPHILIS OF THE SKIN.

Where syphilis is the cause of the already treated papular, squamous, pustular, bullous, ulcerous, cutaneous affections not treated by Mercur, we have one more indication for this drug, and Merc. sol. or vivus will mostly suffice. In condylomata we use Merc. cyanat., in tubercles and rhagades of the skin Merc. bijod.

We have only still to consider the *macular syphilides* and *rupia*. Keller, Hermann, Halfort observed macular eruptions in workers with Hg., and numerous cases could be mentioned where they appeared after the internal and external application of mercurials.

*Merc. subl. corr.* (61): Over the whole body an eruption of pale red, apparently elevated, roundish maculæ, disappearing by pressure of the fingers, not sharply limited and itching; in some places they become confluent, like rubeola.

*Merc. sol.:* Red spots on the face; eruption of red, elevated spots, itching and stitching. In Andrien's provers: red spots with small maculæ at the upper and lower extremities and on the trunk, not on the face, with severe burning-itching.

Whereas *Hermann* considers *rupia* the exclusive product of hydrargyrosis and the representative of mercurial eruptions, *Hebra* considers it caused by syphilis. At any rate we know that Mercur. produces pustules which become incrustated and may try it in *rupia*, if not caused by large doses of the drug. *Kafka* recommends *Merc. bijod.*, internally and after softening and removal of the crusts Merc. corr. externally. *Hughes* says: If it is true that *rupia* appears rarely in syphilis, not maltreated already by large doses of Mercur., the latter may become a useful remedy for the simple form.

Eruptions of secondary syphilis yield best to *Cinnabaris*; the tubercular syphilide of tertiary syphilis is amenable to *Merc. bijod.*, especially where there are also ulcers faucium and broad condylomata. Where the tubercles are already exacerbated (lupus syphiliticus) and the condylomata show fissures and ulcers, *Merc. præc. rub.* may be prescribed internally as well as externally, and if no amelioration sets in it is advisable to change to *Merc. bijod.* Squamous syphilis does not need *Cinnabaris* as long as there are no ulcers in the folds of the skin, but as soon as fissures or ulcers appear we use red precipitate internally and externally.

*Bæhr* uses *Cinnabaris*, *Merc. jod.* and *bijod.* in syphilitic skin affections. *Andrien* gives *Merc. bijod.* for syphilides with indurated bases, or with ulcers with callous edges.

*Gerson* recommends *Merc. præc. rub.* for that form of syphilides where one solitary place, especially on the extremities, papular eruptions form of a brown-red color which burn and itch, have a doughy feeling, burst and form ulcers of the size and form of half an apple. These ulcers are mostly circular, have only slightly elevated edges, a lardaceous base, secreting pus abundantly. He also uses it in lupous and impetiginous syphilides where ulceration takes place under the crusts, showing the characteristic symptom of chancre which so closely indicate *Merc. præc. rub.*

*Merc. bijod.* corresponds to those syphilides whose chief element is the nodule, and whose especial form is the elevated, round herpes. He also recommends this preparation for a peculiar form of tertiary syphilis, appearing exclusively on the scrotum. Without any general discoloration or inflammatory irritation of the scrotal skin, we find deeply penetrating indurations of the size and form of a struma, on whose surface continual desquamation takes place; so that the denuded surfaces look like raw flesh, on which thin diphtheritic exudations form. These places itch and burn violently, and whereas some pass off, new ones reappear. This is a very obstinate, painful syphilide, but it will yield readily to *Merc. bijod.*

*Espanet* prefers *Cinnabaris* for the vesicular form, for isolated vesicles and patches on a reddish base; for the red, erysipela-

tous tumors on the cheeks and eyelids; for the *plaques muqueuses*, the inflammation of the nose with copious secretion, and with simultaneous vesicular affection of the lips. *Calomet* suits especially the abscesses of the anus; *Merc. bijod.* the nodosities, indurations and tubercles; *Corrosivus* the obstinate cases, the cachectic state, the destructive ulcerations and the red spots, migrating from one place to another; *Merc. nitr.* intertrigo and excoriations; *Merc. viv.* and *sol.* the non-syphilitic zona, even in preference to Arsen., Graphit., Caustic. and Phosphor. In psoriasis he prefers *Merc. corr.* to *Cinnabaris*.

Syphilis is frequently combined with *alopecia*, a symptom also found in Hg.; even Kussmaul found it in workmen on mirrors. We meet the same symptom also in case 34 and 35, from *Merc. viv.*, and in *Merc. sol.* we read: The hair comes out without any headache, and there is exfoliation of the fingernail; the nails of the fingers and toes ulcerate with itching.

#### 7. PARASITES OF THE SKIN

*Scabies*.—Small, internal doses of Hg. will not destroy the acarus; we need for that purpose the external use of Sulphur. Still we meet indications for the use of Hg. even in *Virchow's Pathology and Therapy*, I, 471, where he says that it depends greatly on the soil on which the sarcoptes flourishes, inasmuch as in some cases these parasites may pass through their whole development in man, fructify, deposit their eggs, and give birth to a new generation, without our meeting a trace of scabies. *Mercur.* also produces all those cutaneous eruptions which are produced in scabies by the irritation of the parasite and by scratching. A large dose of Hg. might therefore render the soil suitable for the development of itch, and small doses correspond therefore to scabies in a twofold manner. We find, furthermore, the itching in places, free from the furrows made by the sarcoptes, and there also the efflorescences caused by the scratching.

*Kafka* gives in Sulphur-eczema, caused by the heroic treatment of scabies, *Merc. sol.* 2 or 3 doses a day, especially when they become obstinate, secrete copiously, and itch so terribly that the sufferer is forced to scratch. *Blake* considers theoretic-

cally Mercur. far more indicated in scabies than Sulphur, inasmuch as the characteristic eruption of Sulphur is papular, but scabies more vesicular; although we also find pointed tubercles mixed with the vesicles. The mere diagnosis of scabies fails to indicate Sulphur, and wherever we find vesicular eruption, Mercur. is certainly to be preferred.

#### GENERAL DISTURBANCES OF NUTRITION.

##### 1. *Anæmia, Chlorosis.*

*Headland's* studies prove, that in chronic toxications with Hg. the blood not only becomes poorer in fibrine and albumen, but that it also loses one-third or more of its blood-corpuscles. We meet at the same time paleness of the skin, which is relaxed, wrinkled and cold; the face is pale, sallow, the cheeks sunk in, the nose pointed. The visible mucous membranes are pale, and of a bluish, muddy-looking color. There is general malaise and lassitude; he feels always chilly; the feet become œdematous, whereas all other parts of the body are emaciated. Buzzing in the ears, vertigo, syncope, are frequent symptoms, also periodical attacks of pain. Dyspepsia, retarded stool, irregular and scanty menses, leucorrhœa, sleeplessness—in short all the symptoms of anæmia, as we find them after great losses of fluids, hemorrhages, and all the symptoms of chlorosis are again found in chronic mercurialism.

*Cunstatt and Marshall Hall* consider the so-called mercurial erethismus as an acute anæmia. *Dieterich and Falk* described it thus: after Hg. has been taken for some time, a chlorotic state of the body arises, with pale face, great restlessness, sighing and yawning, lassitude, loss of power, and emaciation. Respiration frequent, chest oppressed with a sensation of constriction, fluttering in the præcordia; pulse small, frequent, sometimes intermittent. With the progress of the disease the adynamia also increases with a steadily increasing sensation of anguish in the præcordia, of the sighing and yearning, of the beating and fluttering of the heart. The function of the latter in general becomes more irregular, so that during sleep the beat of the heart can hardly be felt externally. A gradually in-

creasing tremor of the whole body is now added to the other ailments, especially of the fingers and corners of the mouth; desire for sour drinks; sometimes vomiting of food or mucus, of bile; diarrhœa off and on, of a green color, followed by constipation, even choleraic attacks; fainting spells, pale, collapsed face, sensation of coldness over the whole body, with excessive debility. Death frequently sets in very suddenly in consequence of the debility of the heart, when the patient exerts himself a trifle during a walk or at home; even rising up in bed may kill him. Bellows murmur has been heard in the carotids and veins of the neck. *Hermann* mentions twenty-two cases of anæmia in his one hundred and twenty-two patients.

*Kafka* mentions Merc. sol. among the remedies for *congenital anæmia*, when the children do not wish to go to sleep; also for the *anæmia of evolution*, with copious salivation, chronic stomatitis or gingivitis.

*Goullon, Jr.*, justly remarks: We are astonished that Mercur. is not more frequently mentioned as a remedy for chlorosis, as its pathogenesis in that disease is as rich as that of Calcar., Pulsat., Sulphur, Sepia, Platin. and others; many think of it only during the prodromal stage, which is one of serofulosis. Still we find in Mercur. as chlorotic symptoms: disagreeable, metallic taste, loss of appetite; nausea, coated tongue, foul breath, loose gums, labored respiration, pressing, tensive sensation in the præcordia; abdominal restlessness, sleeplessness, lassitude, loss of strength, tremor of extremities, pale, sallow features, pale lips, blue rings around the lustreless, sunken eyes. All these symptoms are found in allopathic works, just as they give us also the poverty of blood-globules, the decrease of fibrine, serum and alkaline salts. We would recommend Mercur. especially in protracted cases of chlorosis, appearing in connection with polyuria, profuse loss of fluids during suppuration; sweating, salivation, hemorrhages, diarrhœa. We do not find in mercurialism an increase of the white blood-corpuscles, and leucæmia therefore excludes Mercur.

2. *Diabetes Mellitus.*

*Sackowsky* observed in rabbits after subcutaneous injections of 0.02 to 0.04 grammes of Merc. corr., that in twelve cases eight times the urine was passed in larger quantities, pale and transparent, containing more or less large quantities of sugar. In five cases the diabetes was so severe that two centimetres of urine during a fermentation of forty-eight hours and at a temperature of 31° C. gave between 3 to 4 centimetres carbonic acid. This artificially produced diabetes lasted sometimes four to five days, in one case a whole week and the animals survived. Two dogs were slowly poisoned by subcutaneous injections of 2 grain doses for thirteen or fifteen days; they emaciated fearfully and suffered for four weeks from violent diabetes. *Culomel and Hg. jod.* cause the same symptoms.—*Virchow's Archiv. f. Path. Anat.*, Vol. XXXVII.

*Kletzynsky* observed in the hydrargyrosis of man an increased secretion of sugar in the urine. In their respective chapters we treated already the polyuria of Mercur. as also the furunculosis and dryness of the skin.

*Jahr* mentions Mercur. favorably among the remedies for diabetes, and *Goullon* remarks that *Jousset* failed to see any benefit in diabetes mellitus from Mercur. præc. rubr. As this mercurial preparation has never been proved, we have no strict indications for its use; yet it certainly makes some difference which preparation we use. Merc. sol. and dulc. have important relations to the liver, and we may expect the same from the red precipitate. At any rate its administration was followed in one case by very large bilious stools; but it must be added that the patient took at the same time rhubarb and drastic pills. The patient had taken for his diabetes mellitus eight powders of Merc. præc. rubr., each containing one-third grain. The cause of the disease was a fall from a great height, causing loss of consciousness, somnolent stupor; cerebral symptoms with diminished frequency of pulse; all symptoms which *Cl. Bernard* produced by his pique on rabbits.

### 3. *Scrofulosis.*

*Hermann* found in Ischia among 122 patients, fifteen grown persons suffering from scrofulosis. He considers this disease endemic in Ischia and gives us the interesting fact that two children, born at a time when the parents worked in salt mines, were not scrofulous; whereas those born in Ischia suffered from it, although the parents enjoyed all the time excellent health. It is evidently the atmosphere at Ischia, impregnated with Hg., which produces the disease. *Hermann* saw scrofulosis also in persons making barometers or working in looking glass factories, where all the children suffer from it, whereas the parents suffer only from hydrargyrosis, and not from scrofulosis.

*Mayr*, of Furth, witnessed frequent abortions or dead fœtuses in pregnant women working in looking glass factories, and their infants, born alive, suffer from scrofulosis, rachitis, eruptions and miasmus. *Keller* says that the children of such parents look pale and cachectic, showing clearly the scrofulous type and anæmia. Want of animal food and low, ill ventilated dwellings cannot be blamed for it, as the children of parents living under the same circumstances, but having different labor, do not suffer in like manner. *Schneider* found in autopsies of workers with Hg. indurations of the lymphatic glands. *Graves* says that syphilitic patients, who take a large quantity of Hg., easily fall into a state of mercurial cachexia, looking exactly like scrofulosis. They exhibit emaciation, nutritive disturbances, irritability, fever, affections of the skin, of the lymphatic glands, of the periosteum.

Having treated already of most of the affections, it remains only for us to study those of the lymphatic glands. *Habershon*, *Guldbrand* and *Dietrich* mention them in general, *Mathias* especially the bubo mercurialis, and *Hunter* the hypertrophy of the inguinal glands. *Dietrich* also witnessed from the internal use of Merc. dulc. intumescence of the mesenteric glands. As the swelling of the lymphatic glands is caused by infiltration with cellular elements, we see here again a part only of the general action of Mercury, showing us that this drug never produces a neoplasma, not even of connective tissue.



In *Merc. viv.* we find: Swelling of the maxillary glands (2); left submaxillary glands swollen (15); both (49, 50, 51); swelling of the glands of the neck and throat (25); submaxillary glands swollen, hard and painful (26); anterior lymphatic glands of the neck hard and large (34). In 25 we see that the children of a barometer manufacturer suffer and some of them die from scrofulosis.

*Merc. sol.*: Painful swelling of the glands of the neck and ear, so that the jaws cannot be moved; stitching pains of the cervical glands, and symptoms 510 to 525 relating to bubo.

*Goullon* justifies the use of mercurials in scrofulosis, as we know that they all modify the lymphatic system and produce in the whole organism a state similar to scrofulosis. *Hunter, Vigaroux, Samuel Cooper, Richerand, Alibert*, etc., show that persons exposed to the noxious influence of Hg., frequently have scrofulous children. Without putting too much stress on the source of scrofulosis, as homœopaths we should take note of such experience.

*Goullon* mentions as manifestations of scrofulosis: Inflammation of the glands with phlegmonous redness, swelling and pain; evening aggravation; blepharodentitis with ulceration of the cornea and photophobia; atrophica meseraica with debilitating diarrhœa and fever of dentition; coxalgia; coryza with copious discharge from the nose; panaritium in the inflammatory stage; osseous affections; eczema, stomacace, otorrhœa.

*Kafka* says of *Merc. sol.*: In eczema scrofulosum on and behind the ears, when the edge and base of the eczema is red and hot, the discharge copious, we give *Merc. sol.*, two or three doses daily till we see a decided amelioration. Only then he allows the crusts to be softened with oil and applies the red precipitate ointment on the affected parts, continuing at the same time the internal use of *Merc. sol.* in acute coryza, in chronic coryza with purulent, blood mixed, foul-smelling discharge, or with dry crusts, or with ulcerating nostrils; we sometimes fail to see any benefit from *Calcar.* or *Silic.*, and then *Merc. præc. rubr.*, internally and externally, is indicated. In acute swelling of the lymphatic glands *Mercur.* is indicated, when the gland feels hard, is not intensely red and not too

sensitive to the touch (after Bellad.) and may be continued even when suppuration threatens, or when, without going into suppuration, the gland remains hard and painless (Bellad. or Conium). In scrofulous inflammation of the joints, after the removal of the inflammatory symptoms, in order to induce absorption (Bryon., Arnica, Sulphur).

*Bæhr* considers as general anti-scrofulose remedies: Calcar., Arsen., Ferrum and Sulphur, and uses Mercur. where specific indications exist. We rather count it among the former after Calcar. and Sulphur.

According to *Lobethal* Mercur. in general corresponds to the diseases of reproduction and vegetation, to those of the lymphatic glands, the skin and the serous and mucous membranes; only secondarily to the blood and nervous system. It suits, therefore, the leucophlegmatic habitus, the bloated skin with tendency to cold and sweat. The fuller the reproductive power, the more depraved the nutrition, the slower the mental development from bodily weakness, the more Mercur. will be indicated; a remedy hardly ever suitable to the choleric or choleric-sanguine temperament with its dry skin and tense fibre.

*Espanet* considers Mercur. not only to correspond to the glandular swellings and to the subacute phlegmasiæ of the mucous membranes, but also to the advanced stage with its night-sweats, colliquations, rapid emaciation, indurated or ulcerated glands; encrusted and itching eruptions, especially on the hairy scalp; frequent and jumentous urine, lenteria, diarrhœa, enlarged abdomen and rachitis. Merc. sol. or viv., in alternation with Sulphur, is useful in scrofulous indurations of the skin and cellular tissue.

#### 4. *Scorbutus.*

Post-mortem examination of persons dying from scurvy, or from chronic poisoning with Hg., alike give us the following results: Extreme emaciation of the cadaver, moderate œdema especially of the lower extremities, a sallow color of the skin, which is covered with dry scales of the epidermis. Extravasations here and there in the cutis and subcutaneous cellular

tissue, the blood very fluid and dark; the endocardium and the walls of the blood-vessels strongly infiltrated (especially in corros.), serous or sero-fibrinous exudation in the cavities of the pleura, pericardium, peritoneum and in the articular capsules; the liver, spleen and kidneys full of ecchymoses, relaxed, full of blood and infiltrated with extravasated blood, ecchymoses are even found between the serosa and muscularis of the intestines.

We miss a characteristic symptom of scurvy in acute and chronic poisoning with Hg., the tough, red infiltrations under the skin, between and in the muscles and in the periosteum. The latter have nothing in common with the gumma, as they are not a sequel of periostitis.

Both have in common: Debility and lassitude, depressed mood, pale and dirty complexion; eyes sunken and surrounded by blue rings; tearing, stitching pains in the extremities, stomatitis, ecchymosis, hemorrhages from nose, lungs, kidneys, stomach and female sexual organs.

*Merc. viv.:* Round, dark red petechiæ on the abdomen and lower extremities, hemorrhages from mouth, nose, eyelids, forehead, bloody urine (48).

*Merc. corr.:* The cortical substance of the kidney full of small red points, towards the infundibula. Ecchymosis in the ovary (27), numerous reddish-grey, round ecchymotic spots, not disappearing by pressure, over the trunk and extremities; especially numerous in the small of the back (43); bloody discharge into the stomach (53); mucous membrane of the stomach inflamed, softened, discolored from the extravasated blood (57 and 59); ecchymosis under the serous membrane of the stomach (27); coagulated blood in stomach (28, 37); discoloration in the large curvature of the stomach, near the pylorus (34); ecchymosis in cœcum, like hemorrhoidal knobs, more numerous near the anus (28); intestinal mucous membrane covered with ecchymosis (29); darkened spots on the inner surface of the duodenum (41); ecchymosis in the endocardium. We see thus that the corrosivus corresponds most to scurvy; while the *Merc. dule.* is preferable where the gums are especially affected.

## HYDROPS.

A sequel of many diseases of the heart, lungs, liver, kidney, anæmia, etc. We have seen already that chronic hydrargyrosis produces dropsy, especially anasarca; without showing whether it emanated from the liver or kidneys (we may exclude heart and lungs), or whether the whole blood mass became affected.

Mercur. suits anasarca of the lower extremities, especially that arising from eruptive diseases, as scarlatina, or from hydræmia. Inasmuch as Hg. also affects liver and kidney, and inasmuch as we already mentioned that in poisoning with corros. death ensues sooner than the possible appearance of dropsy, we consider the corros. indicated in nephritis and hydrops post scarlatinum.

