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Understanding *tarentula hispanica* through William Boericke's *materia medica* and *repertory*

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Abstract

Tarentula hispanica is a homoeopathic remedy marked by extreme nervous excitability, restlessness, hysteria, chorea, and intense psychosexual disturbances. This article presents the remedy through William Boericke's *Materia Medica* and *Repertory*, highlighting its characteristic mental state, compulsive motion, hypersensitivity, and marked amelioration from music. By correlating the qualitative remedy picture with repertorial rubrics, the study emphasizes accurate remedy recognition and its clinical usefulness in nervous, hysterical and different conditions.

Keywords: *Tarentula hispanica*, Boericke's *materia medica*, homoeopathic *repertory*, nervous excitability, hysteria, chorea, restlessness, amelioration from music

Introduction

Tarentula hispanica (Spanish spider) is a unique remedy marked by extreme nervous excitability, hysterical tendencies, constant restlessness, and heightened sexual impulses. The remedy picture is vivid, intense, and unmistakable, showing a constitution driven by incessant motion, sensory hypersensitivity, and destructive behavioral impulses.

William Boericke's *materia medica* and *repertory* provide a complete and dependable understanding of *Tarentula hispanica*. The *Materia Medica* vividly presents the core essence of the remedy marked nervous excitability, extreme restlessness, hysteria, chorea, violent impulses, heightened sexuality, and the characteristic amelioration from music. This enables a clear grasp of the remedy's individuality and keynote features.

Boericke's *Repertory* systematically converts this qualitative picture into precise rubrics and modalities, facilitating accurate remedy selection in clinical practice. It emphasizes the remedy's strange, rare, and peculiar symptoms, especially the influence of music, compulsive motion, and impulsive behavior.

1. General characteristics

The dominant keynote of *Tarentula hispanica* is remarkable nervous phenomena. This includes:

- Hysteria with chlorosis
- Chorea
- Dysmenorrhea
- Spinal irritability
- Bladder tenesmus (cystitis)
- Constrictive sensations
- Formication (crawling sensation)

A cardinal feature is extreme restlessness. The patient must remain constantly in motion, yet walking aggravates, showing the paradoxical nature of the remedy. Movements are impulsive, erratic, and often uncontrollable.

The remedy also has strong affinity to hysterical epilepsy and intense sexual excitement.

2. Mental and emotional state

The mental sphere is highly expressive, unstable, and dramatic.

2.1 Sudden alteration of mood

Emotions turn abruptly - from excitement to despair, from activity to destructiveness.

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2.2 Distinct personality traits

- Foxy behavior (cunning, sly, deceitful)
- Destructive impulses
- Moral relaxation (reduced restraint, yielding to impulses)

2.3 Restlessness of mind

The individual must constantly stay busy, walk, or engage in something. Idleness is intolerable.

2.4 Sensitivity & social behavior

- Sensitive to music (a hallmark of the remedy)
- Averse to company yet desires someone nearby
- Ungrateful, discontented, and ruled by whims

These traits describe a mind in constant turmoil, showing alternating desire, rejection, hypersensitivity, and impulsiveness.

3. Head and nervous system

3.1 Head pain

- Intense pain as if thousands of needles were pricking the brain

Such pain is sharp, penetrating, and nerve-driven.

3.2 Vertigo

The patient desires hair brushed or head rubbed, indicating a strange modality where stimulation relieves discomfort.

4. Sexual sphere

Male

- Sexual excitement
- Lasciviousness reaching insanity
- Seminal emissions

Female

- Vulva dry and hot with severe itching
- Profuse menstruation with frequent erotic spasms
- Pruritus vulvae, nymphomania
- Dysmenorrhea with extremely sensitive ovaries

Sexual energy in this remedy is excessive, uncontrollable, and often pathological.

5. Heart & circulatory system

- Palpitations
- Precordial anguish
- Sensation as if the heart were twisted and turned around

These sensations reflect the violent internal excitability characteristic of the remedy.

6. Extremities

The extremities show intense motor disturbance:

6.1 Weakness & numbness

- Weakness of legs
- Numbness

6.2 Involuntary movements

- Chorea movements
- Trembling
- Twitching and jerking

6.3 Neurological disorders

- Multiple sclerosis with trembling
- Locomotor ataxia

6.4 Restless legs

- Yawning with uneasiness in legs
- Must move them constantly

This restlessness parallels the mental sphere: movement is compulsive and offers temporary relief.

7. Modalities

Worse From:

- Motion
- Contact
- Noise
- Seeing others in trouble (strange, rare, and characteristic)

Better from

- Open air
- Music
- Bright colors
- Rubbing affected parts

The amelioration from music is a classic keynote of *Tarentula hispanica*. Music can transform the patient's state, organizing their chaotic energy.

Rubrics from Boericke's repertory

Mind

Mind, awkward, lets things fall from hand

Mind, fears, Dread, Music

Mind, fears, Dread, Noises

Mind, fears, Dread, Touch, contact

Mind, hypochondriasis

Mind, hysteria

Mind, loquacity

Mind, mania, Remedies in general

Mind, mania, Erotomania (nymphomania, satyriasis)

Mind, mania, Monomania (kleptomania)

Mind, melancholia, Remedies in general

Mind, mind, Absence of moral and will power

Mind, mood, disposition, Fault finding, finicky, cautious

Mind, mood, disposition, Hysterical (changeable, vacillatory)

Mind, mood, disposition, Impudent, insulting, malicious, revengeful, spiteful

Mind, mood, disposition, Nervous, excited, fidgety, worried

Mind, mood, disposition, Restless (mentally and physically)

Mind, mood, disposition, Sad, weeping from music

Mind, propensity, to be aimlessly busy

Mind, propensity, to be cruel, violent, inhuman

Mind, propensity, to be destructive, bite, strike, tear clothes

Mind, propensity, to dance

Mind, propensity, to do absurd things

Mind, propensity, to laugh immoderately at trifles

Mind, propensity, to sing

Mind, propensity, to tear things

Mind, senses, hyperacute

Mind, startles, easily frightened

Head

Head, headache (Cephalgia), type, Neuralgic

Head, headache (Cephalgia), character of pain, Constrictive, band-like, squeezing

Head, headache (Cephalgia), Character of pain, Stitching, sticking

Head, headache (Cephalgia), Modalities, Aggravation, Contact, touch

Head, headache (Cephalgia), Modalities, Aggravation, Light
 Head, headache (Cephalgia), Modalities, Aggravation, Night
 Head, headache (Cephalgia), Modalities, Aggravation, Noises
 Head, Headache (Cephalgia), Modalities, Amelioration, Rubbing
 Head, Vertigo, Dizzinesss, Remedies in general

Abdomen

Abdomen, Anus, Rectum, Pain Neuralgic (proctalgia)
 Urinary system
 Urinary system, Diabetes, Sugar

Male sexual system

Male sexual system, Desire, Desire increased (erethism, satyriasis)

Female sexual system

Female sexual system, Desire, Desire increased (nymphomania)
 Female sexual system, Mammae, Cancer
 Female sexual system, Complaints, Preceding and attending flow, Mouth, tongue, throat dry, especially during sleep
 Female sexual system, Complaints, Preceding and attending flow, Pain, in ovaries
 Female sexual system, Complaints, Preceding and attending flow, Spasm
 Female sexual system, Complaints following menses, Pruritus
 Female sexual system, Nymphomania
 Female sexual system, Ovaries, Congestion
 Female sexual system, Pain, Swelling
 Female sexual system, Pain, Tenderness, to touch, motion
 Female sexual system, Uterus, Congestion
 Female sexual system, Uterus, Irritable uterus (hysteralgia)
 Female sexual system, Uterus, Pain, Neuralgic, lancinating, spasmodic, tearing, shooting, cutting, stitching
 Female sexual system, Tumors; Cancer, malignant disease
 Female sexual system, Vagina: Sensitiveness (vaginismus)
 Female sexual system, Vulva - Labia: Dryness
 Female sexual system, Vulva - Labia: Itching (pruritus)
 Female sexual system, Vulva - Labia Soreness, tenderness

Respiratory system

Respiratory system, Cough, Cause, Occurrence, Aggravation, Excitement
 Respiratory system, Cough, Type, Laryngeal, nervous

Circulatory system

Circulatory system, Heart, Pain, Pseudo- angina pectoris
 Circulatory system, Heart, Palpitation, Emotional cause
 Circulatory system, Heart, Sensations, As if heart were burning,
 Circulatory system, Heart, Sensations, As if heart were twisted

Locomotor system

Locomotor system, Back, Pain in general
 Locomotor system, Coccyx, Pain (coccygodynia)
 Locomotor system, Extremities, Pain, Trembling, twitching, jerking
 Locomotor system, Upper extremities, Jerking, involuntary motion

Locomotor system, Hand, Fidgety
 Locomotor system, Thighs - Legs, Motion involuntary
 Locomotor system, Thighs - Legs, Numbness, formication "going sleep"
 Locomotor system, Thighs - Legs, Pains, Restless, fidgety
 Locomotor system, Feet, Fidgety

Nervous system

Nervous system, Brain, Epilepsy, (grand mal)
 Nervous system, Brain, Epilepsy, (grand mal), Cause, Concomitants, From hysteria
 Nervous system, Paralysis, Type, Agitans
 Nervous system, Hemiplegia, Hysterical
 Nervous system, Paraplegia, Paraplegia, Hysterical
 Nervous system, Insomnia (Sleeplessness), Causes, Occurrence, Dry mouth
 Nervous system, Insomnia (Sleeplessness), Causes, Occurrence, Hyperacute senses
 Nervous system, Restlessness, Restlessness, during
 Nervous system, Restlessness, Spasmodic symptoms, during (Jerkings, Twitchings, Startings)
 Nervous system, Chorea (St. Vitus dance)
 Nervous system, Chorea (St. Vitus dance), Cause, Occurrence, Fright
 Nervous system, Chorea (St. Vitus dance), Cause, Occurrence, Relief, from music, sight of bright colors
 Nervous system, Chorea (St. Vitus dance), Cause, Occurrence, Rhythrical motions
 Nervous system, Chorea (St. Vitus dance), Cause, Occurrence, Worse, during sleep
 Nervous system, Chorea (St. Vitus dance), Cause, Occurrence, Worse, right arm, left leg
 Nervous system, Convulsions, Cause and type, Hysterical
 Nervous system, Nervousness, Hypersensitivity
 Nervous system, Nervousness, Tremulousness, faintness
 Nervous system, Neurasthenia (nervous prostration), Remedies in general
 Nervous system, Tremors, Twitchings, trembling
 Nervous system, Spinal cord, Anaemia
 Nervous system, Spinal cord, Degeneration, multiple sclerosis
 Nervous system, Hyperesthesia
 Nervous system, Hyperesthesia, spasmodic pain in chest and cardiac region from touch
 Nervous system, Irritation
 Nervous system, Locomotor ataxia
 Nervous system, Concomitants, Early stage
 Nervous system, Concomitants, Vesical and anal symptoms
 Nervous system, Pain in spine
 Nervous system, Tic convulsive

Fever

Fever, Intermittent fever, Type, Nervo-hysterical persons
 Fevers, Intermittent fever, Type, Recent cases
 Fever, Chills, Occurrence, Type, Afternoon, late, evening, night
 Fever, Chills, Occurrence, Type, Afternoon, Mingled, with heat
 Fever, Chills, Occurrence, Type, Afternoon, Quotidian
 Fever, Concomitants, Cardiac region, pain in
 Fever, Fever paroxysm, Chill, intermingled

Skin

Skin, Anthrax: Carbuncle, Malignant pustule

Generalities

Generalities, Complaints, Fatal issue; to induce “euthanasia”
Generalities, Muscles, Twitchings
Generalities, Sensation, of burning

Modalities

Modalities, Aggravation, Motion
Modalities, Aggravation, Noise
Modalities, Aggravation, Periodically
Modalities, Aggravation, Rest
Modalities, Aggravation, Right side
Modalities, Aggravation, Touch
Modalities, Aggravation, Weather change
Modalities, Ameliorations, Air, cool, open
Modalities, Ameliorations, Colors, objects, bright
Modalities, Ameliorations, Mind being diverted
Modalities, Ameliorations, Music
Modalities, Ameliorations, Rubbing

Conclusion

In conclusion, Boericke's *Materia Medica* reveals the soul of *Tarentula hispanica*, while repertory provides the scientific framework for its practical application, making the remedy easy to recognize, confidently prescribe, and clinically reliable in nervous, hysterical, choreic, and psychosexual conditions.

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