

Miasms

The word miasma was in common use in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and meant 'emanations from the boggy swamp'; Hahnemann's way to describe a cloud or fog in the being.

The theory of miasms originates in Hahnemann's book *The Chronic Diseases* published in 1828. He had found that homoeopathic treatment often only produced temporary relief if the remedy did not reach deep enough to the source of the disturbance. Hahnemann stated that the theory was the result of 12 years of the most painstaking work on difficult cases of a chronic character combined with his own historical research into the diseases of man. To bring the remedies under one miasm or another he focused on the patterns that were being expressed by the symptoms and in the remedy provings.

Hahnemann's understanding was that there were three fundamental disorganisations of the vital force that are acquired and transmitted genetically and are responsible for all disease of a chronic nature and form the foundation or basis for all disease in general. He stated that the miasms arose due to the suppression of disease by our ancestors. They become our inherited predispositions. Most modern homoeopaths consider that there are at least five fundamental miasmatic types.

Such deep treatment is best left to the very skilled prescriber. It is of value however to lay homoeopaths and home prescribers to at least understand the principal as it helps us to realise why our 'best' home prescribing efforts may not bring forward the desired lasting results. This often indicates that there is an underlying state be it the need for a constitutional remedy or a miasmatic remedy to balance the inherited pattern.

1. **Psora**, the tendency to under function. Characterised by lack of heat, anxieties and slowness – skin problems, itch, seasonal allergies, problems with digestion, assimilation and elimination. Always struggling. Remedies include: Psorinum, Sulphur, Graphites, Lycopodium, Baryta carb.
2. **Syphilis**, the tendency to destruction. Characterised by destruction and distortion on any or all levels of being – necrosis of tissues, haemorrhage, suicide and murder, ulceration, suppuration. Despair. Remedies include: Syphilinum, Merc sol, Aurum, Kali iod, Nit acid, Calc fluor, Fluor acid.
3. **Sycosis**, the tendency to over function. Characterised by neoplasm, wetness of mucous membranes, emotional instability, acquisitiveness, many ideas – benign tumours, disorders of the genitals, joints and membranes, warts, catarrhal states, obsessions. Fixed ideas. Remedies include: Medorrhinum, Thuja, Sepia, Nat sulph.

4. **Tuberculosis**, often described as being a mixture of psora and syphilis. Characterised by respiratory problems, nasal, bronchial and pulmonary problems, allergies. A restless desire for change. Remedies include: Tuberculinum, Phosphorus, Calc phos, Drosera.
5. **Cancer**, characterised by the tendency towards growths – morbidity, obsessiveness, suppressions, moles, pre-cancerous states. Perfectionists. Remedies include: Carcinosis, Arsenicum, Staphysagria, Argent nit.

References:

1. Margaret Roy, The Principles of Homoeopathic Philosophy
2. Ian Watson, Guide to Methodologies of Homoeopathy
3. Rajan Sankaran, An Insight into Plants

Next month we will explore **Mental and Emotional Symptoms.**