

Case of Heightened Mental State

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03-09-07 Ben, boy of 9 years, under my treatment since 9 months of age, for erratic behaviour and learning difficulties.

Presenting – Ben is extremely talkative, full of weird ideas which come thick and fast. He seems driven to relate his ideas in his own words but doesn't finish one before he starts describing another. Mother says, "Ben just won't stop talking."

Highly imaginative thoughts and ideas. He often retreats into his own little world.

His thoughts and imaginations are often dark and scary. He describes them as 'bad thoughts.'

Visions of figures without faces moving quickly when he is alone at night.

He has outbursts of energy and anger, where he slams doors and wants to break things (but doesn't). Mother says, he wants his way all the time.

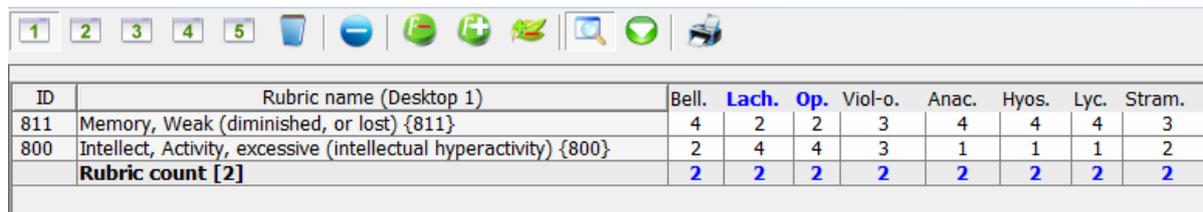
Very poor memory. If he is given a direction by his teacher he quickly forgets what he was asked to do. As a result he has an inability to learn to read and spell new words, though his initial comprehension is OK.

Physical symptoms: tired eyes when working - feels like sleeping and gets headaches, also hay fever worst in Spring, and car sickness.

My Impression

The overwhelming feature of this case was the fact that Ben just couldn't stop talking and that he was so highly imaginative. Yet, at the same time he had no ability to retain even the most basic instruction.

Obviously, many remedies come to mind including *Lachesis*, *Stramonium*, *Belladonna* and *Opium*. I had already given all these medicines, as well as others, at different stages of his life, each with some results and slight changes in the overall picture. I decided to ignore all but the two main features of the case and chose the following rubrics from TBR₂.



ID	Rubric name (Desktop 1)	Bell.	Lach.	Op.	Viol-o.	Anac.	Hyos.	Lyc.	Stram.
811	Memory, Weak (diminished, or lost) {811}	4	2	2	3	4	4	4	3
800	Intellect, Activity, excessive (intellectual hyperactivity) {800}	2	4	4	3	1	1	1	2
	Rubric count [2]	2							

I was very interested in the fact that *Viola-odorata* repertorised with such grade consistency for these two rubrics, so peculiar to my case. I eagerly went to the Materia Medica seeking some confirmation. Unfortunately, although Hahnemann actually proved *Viol-o*, along with Gross and Stapf, it is not included in his own materia medicæ. I examined the symptoms instead in *Allen's Encyclopædia* and found the following:

- 1 *Morbid fantasies; fantasies come to him, he makes an effort to grasp them but before he can do so they disappear.*
- 6 *Very great intellectual and emotional hyperactivity, with constant weak memory, followed by headache.*
- 7 *Confusion of thought; when he attempted to express his thoughts by words they immediately disappeared, and some strange thoughts took their place, and he could not recall the former.*
- 8 *Disconnected thoughts thronged one upon the other....*
- 10 *..he recognises morbid fantasies but cannot help them: therein he looks like one meditating and despondent*
- 11 *Weakness of memory, when he reaches a period in reading he has already forgotten what the beginning of the sentence was.*
- 25 *Tension beneath the eyes.*
- 28 *Tendency of the lids to close without physical sleepiness.*

The above symptoms confirmed in the provings of *Viol-o* were sufficient for me to prescribe the medicine.

Rx: *Viol-o* 0/1, 1 x day.

Follow up - 19-12-07

No headaches, much quieter and less talkative, no more bad thoughts,

Moods and behaviour much improved, no mention of anger and aggression.

Rx: *Viol-o* 0/2, 1xday

I continued *Viol-o*, gradually increasing to *Viol-o* 0/4 over the following 18 months.

There was no return of the 'bad thoughts,' the talkativeness, or the aggressive behaviour.

Gradually Ben's memory, focus and reading ability improved. His car sickness also disappeared.

While taking the *Viol-o* he repeatedly developed a number of small eruptions with pussy heads, which exuded puss and blood on squeezing. These eruptions were always on his legs and would cease whenever he stopped the medicine.

Today: Ben is now 17 years and in Year 11 at school. There has been no return of the previous mental state. Although, school is not easy for him, he works hard and has an ambition to go to University. I continue to treat him mostly for his spring hay fever, which persists and also for the stress associated with school and study. For these conditions he responds well to *Rhus-t*.

In conclusion

This repertorisation is a good example of how a small remedy would not appear in the results when too many symptoms are entered. It would, as in this case, be overwhelmed by the polycrests. It also demonstrates that TBR can be used effectively in cases with purely mental symptoms.