

later. This is not a criticism but an observation of the complexities Bach experienced in selecting the twelve basic type remedies. It was made more difficult by the fact that, to all appearances, Rock Rose is less of a soul type and more of a 'situation' remedy.

Weeks says that Bach was looking for a plant which carried the same instantaneous healing power which he himself could sometimes bring to people, calming them when they were in deep distress. He had wanted to show people they had the same ability, but he did not know how. So he went looking for a plant, 'a material agent, a herbal remedy which would act in the same manner'.<sup>29</sup> This remedy was to be Rock Rose, for 'those in absolute despair, in terror: who feel that you can bear nothing more; terrified . . .'.<sup>30</sup> Yet Rock Rose is the twelfth remedy and a soul type just like the others. Bach gave it the soul qualities of Terror and Courage.

How can terror be one of the 'twelve primary types of personality'?<sup>31</sup> Indeed, among the majority of people using Bach's remedies today Rock Rose is seen as only a treatment for acute fear, panic or distress (he called it 'the rescue remedy').<sup>32</sup> While it does work in that way, it also has a deeper resonance with a certain type of person: one who lives life mutely under the intense pressure of fear. When this fear is overcome, perhaps such people are able to help calm the distress of others, just as Bach anticipated. It is a particular kind of fear, however, not the nervous fear of *Mimulus* but rather a deeply hidden fear of life itself. Being hidden it is perhaps hard for others to recognize. Like the secrets of the twelfth house in astrology, the Rock Rose secret is not apparent to the outer world. Only those who resonate with the blind panic of the Rock Rose soul will recognize its quality.

*The Little Mermaid* by Hans Andersen is a fairy tale which illustrates aspects of the Rock Rose soul condition. A mermaid falls in love with a prince after she saves his life during a storm at sea. She decides to leave her own family and go to live on land in the hope that the prince will love her in return, and thereby she will gain an immortal soul. She visits the sea witch who agrees to make her a potion which will give her human legs to replace her mermaid's fish-tail, but on certain conditions. With her legs she will be the most graceful dancer but each step will pain her as if she is treading upon sharp knives. Then, if the prince marries another, her heart will break and she will dissolve into foam on the water. Lastly, in payment, she must give to the witch the best thing she has: her beautiful voice.