

Amerikanische Säckelblume - New Jersey Tea



Ceanothus americanus

“You may say, “Ah! but whoever sees cases that need *Ceanothus*?
In the last ten days we have had to prescribe it twice;
apparently splenic pains are not so rare as one might suppose.”
(Margret Tyler, 1942)

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Die Pflanze / The Plant



Die Pflanze / The Plant

Übersicht / Overview

New Jersey Tea, or Red Root
Die amerikanische Säckelblume

New Jersey Tea, or Red Root

“*Ceanothus americanus* is a small shrub, growing from three to four feet high, from a dark red root, which varies widely. During the Revolutionary war, the leaves were used as a substitute for tea. (I have tasted tea made from them; it tastes very much like a poor quality of black tea.) The leaves are egg-shaped, the broad end at base, with three ribs, toothed edges, downy beneath, very beautiful green in summer, but in the autumn turn a very bright and beautiful red; have a long leaf stalk. The branches are downy. The flowers grow in white clusters. The calyx has five lobes, which are colored, and curved in, the lower part with a thick disk cohering with the ovary, the upper part separating across the fruit. The petals are spreading, hood-shaped, on slender claws, longer than the calyx. The fruit has three lobes, and when ripe splits into three carpels.”

(Edwin M. Hale, M.D., *Materia Medica and Special Therapeutics of the New Remedies*, vol. 1, Boericke & Tafel, New York and Philadelphia 1882, *Ceanothus americanus*, p. 167)

“The *Ceanothus* is a large genus of twenty or more species, distributed through most of the states, even to California and Oregon. The *Ceanothus americanus* extends from Canada to the Gulf, and west to Arkansas and Iowa. It is more extensively diffused than any of the other species. The *Ceanothus ovalis* comes next, and has nearly the same distribution except that it is not found in the southern Atlantic or Gulf states except Texas. The prairies of Illinois and Iowa furnish two species or varieties; one of which grows on the ridges, and is familiarly known as red root. Torrey and Gray, in their “*Flora of North America*,” describes this, I think, as a variety of the *Ceanothus americanus*, and not a distinct species. Elliott in his *Botany of Georgia and South Carolina*, makes it a distinct species under the name of *Ceanothus intermedius*. He speaks of the *Ceanothus americanus*: That the bark of the root is intensely astringent, and may be used in all cases where the use of astringents are indicated, in the form of infusion, tincture or powder. Darby in his “*Botany of the Southern States*,” ascribes to it the same properties, and says it has been highly recommended in aphthous sore mouth and sore throat accompanying scarlet fever.”

(T. L. Andrews, *The Ceanothus Americanus*, *The United States Medical Investigator*, New Series vol. 9 (1879), p. 341-342)

Die amerikanische Säckelblume

„Die Gattung *Ceanothus* L. mit etwa 50, namentlich im Süden und Westen der Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika heimischen Arten ist an den aus sitzenden Dolden zusammengesetzten, traubenähnlichen oder rispigen, weiss oder blaugefärbten (wobei meist auch Kelch und Teile des Achsenbechers gefärbt sind) Blüten und den längs der Innenkante aufspringenden und während der Samenausbreitung weit klaffenden Früchten kenntlich. Wirtschaftlichen Wert besitzen namentlich *C. Americanus* L., dessen Laubblätter als „Neu Yersey Tee“ einen Ersatz für Tee bilden und medizinisch verwandt werden. In seiner Rinde ist neben Gerbstoff das noch wenig bekannte Alkaloid *Ceanothin* festgestellt worden. Die Wurzel dient in Nordamerika gegen Schleimhautkrankheiten; die Indianer verwenden sie auch gegen Fieber. In Mexiko wird *C. azureus* Desf. im gleicher Weise benutzt. Viel bekannter im Gebiet sind die *Ceanothus*-Arten aber als schönblühende Ziergewächse.

C. Americanus L. ist ein bis 1 m hoher Strauch mit anfangs behaarten, rotbraunen oder grünlichen Zweigen. Laubblätter eiförmig bis eilanzettlich, seltener rundlich, unterseits behaart bis fast verkahlend, graugrünlich, nicht glänzend. Blütenstände blattachsel- und endständig, an diesjährigen Trieben, am Grunde beblättert, bis 40 cm lang, weiss. Blütezeit von Juni bis August. Heimat: Nordamerika: Ontario bis Manitoba, Florida, Texas. Seit langem, bereits vor 1713, in Kultur.“

(Gustav Hegi, Illustrierte Flora von Mittel-Europa, 5. Band, 1. Teil, München 1925, S. 324-325)

Frühere Erfahrungen / Former Experiences



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Hints to the use of *Ceanothus americanus* by the Americans Natives

- Decoction of root used as a wash for injured legs or feet (Creek).
 - Infusion of root taken for: 'bowel complaint.' Infusion of root held on aching tooth (Cherokee).
 - Infusion of roots taken for constipation with bloating and shortness of breath; for pulmonary troubles (Chippewa).
 - Decoction of roots taken for suppressed menses from catching cold. Decoction taken as an abortifacient when foetus is hurt within 2 or 3 months. Infusion of roots taken for the blood, and for colds. Powdered bark applied to open sores caused by venereal disease, and used as a wash for sore roof of the mouth. Compound decoction of plants taken for sugar diabetes. Compound decoction of dried roots given to children with 'summer complaint.' Decoction of roots taken by women with urinating problems caused by colds, and for venereal disease (Iroquois).
 - Decoction of root taken for cough with a 'tendency to consumption.' Infusion of roots used as a cure for all stomach troubles. Dried leaves used as a substitute for Ceylon black tea. (Menominee).
 - Boiled root chewed as main remedy for flux. Root, strongly astringent with great powers, used for bowel troubles, and for snakebite. Leaves used as a beverage (Meskwaki).
 - Leaves used to make a tea like beverage. Woody roots used as fuel on the buffalo hunt during scarcities of timber (Dakota, Omaha Indians, Pawnee, Ponca and Winnebago).
- (Native American Ethnobotany Database: <http://naeb.brit.org>. - On this site you can find for all above mentioned information the corresponding authorities)

On the remedial powers of the *Ceanothus americanus* - H. Hubbard

"Mr. Editor, - I do not remember to have seen any reference made (medicinally) to the *Ceanothus Americanus* of Linnaeus. Its sensible properties led me to use it in a case of aphthae, and subsequently in other derangements of mucous surfaces, where I found it of some importance.

Prof. Bigelow describes the *ceanothus* as follows. "Leaves heart ovate, acuminate, triply nerved. Panicles axillary elongated. A small white flowering shrub, not unfrequent in dry sandy soils. Leaves two or three inches long and one broad, finely serrate, and tapering into a long point. From the axils of the upper leaves come out leafless branches bearing crowded bunches of minute white flowers. These are followed by dry three seeded, and somewhat triangular berries. The leaves were used among other substitutes for tea during the American revolution." I might add that the dried leaves and seeds have an odor, when bottled, not unlike imported tea. It has a slight bitter, and somewhat astringent taste.

I first used it in case of an old lady of 70, who had a severe thrush following typhus. The usual gargles were tried without much effect. Every 2nd or 3rd day a new coat of darker hue would cover the whole interior of the fauces. The mucous membrane after its discharge presented a dark florid appearance, with extreme sensibility. I had tried borax, alum, nitras argenti, vegetable astringents and tonics, as gold thread, crane's bill, hardback, oak bark, sumach, &c.

without much benefit. The ceanothus growing near, I directed a strong tea to be made of it, which acted like a charm; the thrush soon passed off, and without relapse. Since then I have used it largely in aphthae of children, and find it highly useful in cases following dysentery maligna, as well as those of less debility and disease, even after other gargles have been ineffectually tried. During last March and April, scarlatina, attended in most cases with ulceration of the fauces, was very prevalent with us ; I depended almost exclusively upon the ceanothus, with borax for a gargle, and in all but a single case of very malignant character this gargle was effectual. The form I used, and which I found best adapted for the cases as presented, was prepared by making a strong tea of the ceanothus and flowers of *Anthemis cotula*, and to a gill add a piece of borax the size of a large pea. I think the borax and Mayweed rendered it in many cases more effectual. I have also used it with benefit in form of a tea in dysentery of children, and found it fully equal in many cases to the *Speica tormentosa*. The tea I used was prepared from the leaves and seeds."

Bloomfield, Conn. Sept. 12th, 1835.

D. H. Hubbard.

(Dr. H. Hubbard, Remedial powers of the *Ceanothus americanus*, The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal vol. 13 (1835), p. 127-128)

"We are pleased to see such articles as the above, brought before the public by industrious and faithful observers - articles with which our country abounds; and as valuable as, not to say more so, in many instances, than those which are imported at great cost and trouble. Distance and cost seeming to place a peculiar value on others of their kind, whereby we are often decoyed into a preference for them; the bounties of Providence by which we are surrounded are but too often contemned or disregarded.

The *Ceanothus Americanus* is one of the most abundant of the small shrubs found on our dry sandy soils. In this section of the country it is known to all the country people by the common names, Red Root, Red Shank, &c.; and were its virtues well known amongst practitioners, it is sufficiently abundant to be made an article of commerce, of comfortable profit to its preservers.

In situations remote from medical aid, and, indeed, in most families in the country, it is in constant successful use as a styptic and astringent. The observations of many years enable us to confirm the remarks of Dr. Hubbard relative to its virtues in aphthous affections. In thrush in children, it is itself a remedy not inferior to borax, which has been so long in universal use. In those cases of Fluor Albus which are attended with aphthous eruptions, it has been found as uniformly profitable as any remedy of its kind of power; and as generally corrective, as abiding and still operating causes of this eruption would allow. In those cases of Fluor Albus which depend on prolapsus, or descent of the womb into the vagina, which constitute no small proportion, there is probably not a better astringent lotion in use than its stronger preparations, for permanently correcting that relaxation of the vagina which exists in these cases.

In obstinate diarrhoea, the bark of the root has been long in successful use. In the troublesome discharge and ulcerations of the second stage of salivation, it has been long and successfully administered. The strong decoction of the bark of the root, also the bark of the fresh root itself, have been found by experience amongst the most valuable styptics in domestic use, for restraining haemorrhage from wounds. A tea of the leaves and flowers, sweetened with fine sugar, &c. which is not an unacceptable offering to the palate and stomach, is finely adapted to diarrhoea and relaxation of the bowels generally, particularly in children, and those troublesome habitual cases unattended with febrile action, in which we have reason to apprehend the presence of aphthae, or ulceration, in the mucous membrane of the intestines.

It has also been found useful in those highly dangerous cases of hypercatharsis induced by the ruinous power of lobelia in the hands of the Thomsonians, and which so often ends in permanent relaxation of bowels and loss of all powers of nutrition, and consequent death.

In such cases, a tea of the leaves and flowers may be very advantageously prescribed, more or less exclusively, as a diet. This tea will generally be found not only admissible, but remedial in those cases of dyspepsia in which the bowels are perpetually relaxed, and the digestive and nutritive functions suspended."

(*Ceanothus americanus*. The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. 15 (1837), p. 42-43)

A remedy for splenitis and enlarged spleen - D. L. Phares

"The natural order Rhamnaceae contains several genera of valuable medicinal plants indigenous to the Southern States: as *Ceanothus*, *Rhamnus*, *Frangula*, *Berchemia*, &c.

In this paper, I will limit myself to a brief notice of the first, which is found in most of the Southern States, perhaps in all; growing in dry woods, preferring, so far as I have observed, gentle slopes, and a soil with a considerable percentage of sand.

The dried leaves, slightly bitter and astringent, have the odor of the black tea of commerce, as a substitute for which they acquired considerable notoriety during the war of American Independence. The leaves, flowers, and root have been used medicinally, and reputed astringent, diuretic, tonic, expectorant, sedative, antispasmodic, antisyphilitic, &c.

The Indians used it in fevers, dysentery, epilepsy, asthma, chronic bronchitis, pertussis, gonorrhoea, syphilis, &c. An Indian remedy, for dysentery, of considerable reputation, the formula of which has never been made public, is prepared by boiling the root of the plant, cut in small pieces, in the crushed dupes of the *Callicorpa*; to which add sugar and molasses, and boil to rich syrup. Dose f. 3 ss.— i. p. r. n. I have tried this remedy in a few cases; not enough to test it fairly. Not finding its action so prompt and satisfactory as other remedies, I did not experiment much with it. This preparation, and others, have been long used, and are still used, for gonorrhoea and syphilis, with an alleged success, which, if true, surpasses that of any other remedy within my knowledge, curing inveterate cases of the latter in a fortnight, and the former in three days. Having no experience with it in the premises, I am not prepared to admit the truth of these extraordinary claims.

In the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, 1835, Dr. Hubbard commends *Ceanothus*, in decoction, for dysentery and ulcerated sore throat of scarlatina; and, in aphthae of children and sore mouth after fevers, he succeeded with it when all other remedies failed. Other authorities, American and European, might be cited; but I presume enough has been said on the use of this plant in the diseases mentioned to excite attention; for if it possess only in part the properties ascribed to it, it is certainly worthy of investigation.

My object, however, in writing, is from my own knowledge and experience to add to the already long list of valuable properties ascribed to this plant, one more, which, so far as I know, has escaped the notice of others. During the late civil war I commenced using it for splenitis; and so well satisfied have I been with the results, that for six years I do not remember using anything else for enlarged spleen.

In this affection, I have never found any remedy superior to *Ceanothus*. I have used it in the worst cases I ever saw, from tender infancy to advanced age. (Two of the largest spleens, relatively, I ever saw, were in the same family, one a child a few months old, and the next year one a few weeks old, probably born with enlarged spleen.) I have yet to see or hear of its failure in a single case, however inveterate.

During the war, I had neither time nor means to procure elegant preparations, so I ordered a bottle loosely filled with the chipped root, carefully putting in all the bark, and then filled with spirit, frumenta. It was ready for use in a week, and the dose for an adult, f. 3 ss. - i ter. die. I directed the same tincture rubbed on the surface over the spleen, bis. die., the patient having the side turned towards and near a fire. A second bottle is seldom required. In chronic cases,

when the organ is no longer tender, under the use of this tincture, even without the friction, it soon becomes painful and tender, and then sinks very rapidly to its normal size, and so remains, the patient being no longer conscious of its presence. I have not seen a relapse occur in any case; though no doubt such would be likely to occur under circumstances favouring it. We have other indigenous remedies for this affection, which I have tried and found very valuable, of which, at another time, I may have something to say."

(D. L. Phares, M.D., Newtonia, Miss., *Ceanothus Americanus*, Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal vol. 9 (1868), p. 129-131)

Prüfungen / Provings



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Übersicht / Overview

1879 - Pathogenesis of *Ceanothus Americanus* - J. Compton Burnett

1900 - Proving of R. H. - J. C. Fahnestock

1900 - Symptom-Register - John H. Clarke

1879 - Pathogenesis of *Ceanothus Americanus* - J. Compton Burnett

Ceanothus Americanus never having been proved, at any rate as far as I know. As a first contribution to a proving, I will add two or three data.

1. It very frequently relaxes the bowels, and I have known this even amount to diarrhoea.
2. *Ceanothus Americanus* 1, four drops in water three times a day was once given by me to a young lady (26) for severe pain and fulness in left side, with inability (for years) of lying on left side. In a few days she could lie comfortably on either side, and the pain in the side was said to be nearly well. This was my second visit, and I said, Go on with the medicine. She did, and I took these notes at my next visit: -
"Had been taking it for about a fortnight, when one day I felt *great nervous excitement, with chilliness, loss of appetite*; felt as if the nerves were shaken, and one day at dinner could scarcely hold knife and fork."

The chilliness was chiefly down the back; she *shivered with cold chills* (i.e., rigors).

Thinking these symptoms were due to the medicine, she left it off for two days, and the symptoms entirely passed off. Then she resumed the medicine for one day, and the same symptoms again appeared; she again discontinued the medicine, and again the symptoms ceased. *Her bowels were relaxed.*

Subsequently her *menses appeared ten days too early, and very profusely*, a thing that had never happened before in her life, as her mamma informed me."

(J. Compton Burnett, M. D., On *Ceanothus americanus* in its relations to diseases of the spleen, The Monthly Homoeopathic Review vol. 23 (1879), p. 159-160)

1900 - Proving of R. H. - J. C. Fahnestock

"*Ceanothus* is a small shrub, growing three or four feet high, and having a dark-red root. The leaves were substituted for tea during the Revolutionary War. The leaves are egg-shaped, broad end at base, three ribs, toothed edges, downy beneath, and being a beautiful green in summer, but late in the season they turn a beautiful bright red; have a long leaf stock. The flowers grow in beautiful white clusters. Calyx has five lobes, the petals are spreading, hood-shaped, and longer than the calyx. The fruit has three lobes, and when fully ripe splits into three carpels.

Here is another remedy that come to us breech presentation, and having such great success with it in cases having enlargement of the spleen, about one year ago I fully determined to know more about this remedy, to me a most valuable one. There are comparatively few remedies that have a special action on the spleen and that control the true deep splenic stitch. I might mention them: China, Berberis, Chelidonium, Conium, and the one under consideration - *Ceanothus*.

To know more of the drug in question, there was only one way to proceed, and that was to make a proving of it, as I could not find any in our literature. Luyties prepared a tincture of

the leaves of *Ceanothus* for me, and the following is the result of several provings. I will here mention that I had two provers under observation in my office and saw them nearly every hour in the day during the proving, and noted every positive symptom. I will give you the description of one of my provers. The second one was carried out on the same line, and, strange to say, that all of the symptoms that were made manifest were like the first prover, but not so severe.

Mr. R. H., set. twenty years, medical student; weight, one hundred and thirty-nine and one-half pounds, five feet eleven inches high, nervo-sanguine temperament; eyes, dark-gray; hair, brown; fair complexion. When small had measles, mumps, whooping-cough, dysentery, and chicken-pox. *Malarial fever five years ago and treated with Quinine (Al.). Please take note of this.* Bowels regular once a day. His father is perfectly well and has been for years, never sick. Mother has asthma at times, but perfectly well otherwise. Grandfather, on father's side, was always well, but ate too much honey and died. Grandmother died of pneumonia. Grandfather, on mother's side, died of dysentery; grandmother, of old age-ninety-two years. Pulse, sitting, 75; standing, 80; lying, 70; respiration, 18 per minute; temperature, 98.5°; chest at nipple line, 31 inches; at expiration, 30 inches; at inspiration, 34 inches; waist measure, 28 inches; respiration normal. Examination found all internal organs normal; urine, amber color, acid reaction; specific gravity, 1025. Amount examined for several days was forty-eight ounces per diem. Earthy and alkaline phosphates normal; albumen, none; sugar, none; microscopical examination negative. This test was kept up for several days before commencing the proving.

On May 23, 1899, the proving was started by giving 5 min. Ø, 10:30 A. M.; 5 min. Ø, 11 A. M. ; 10 min. Ø, 1:30 P. M. ; 10 min. Ø, 2 p. M.; 10 min. Ø, 2:30 P. M.

A few minutes after taking the last dose the face was red.

Pulse, standing, 93; sitting, 78; lying, 73; 10 min. 4 P. M.

May 24, 1899, arose at 5:30; mouth and throat dry, with raw sensation when swallowing.

Eyes felt too large; lids swollen, with a dry sensation of cornea, with a dull pain in orbital region.

Urine amber color, but not so profuse, with a sharp pain above pubes in region of the bladder before urination.

Bowels constipated.

10 min. Ø, 9 A. M.; 10 min. Ø, 9:30 A. M.

At 9:45 A. M. felt a dull pain in left hypochondriac, in region of spleen.

10 min. Ø, 10:40 A. M.

At 10:50 A. M. took pulse.

Pulse, standing, 75; sitting, 65; lying, 62.

11 A.M. 10 min. Ø.

11:10 A. M. hands felt cold, with cold perspiration of hands and fingers.

11:40 A. M., 10 min. Ø; normal stool at 12:30 p. M.; 1:30 p. M., 10 min. Ø; 2:40 p. M., 20 min. Ø; 3:30 P. M., 20 min. Ø; 4 p. M., 20 min. Ø.

Pulse at 4 p. M., standing, 93; sitting, 73; lying, 69.

May 25, 1899, arose at 5:30, with the same dry ness in mouth and throat, dry feeling of cornea.

Eyes feel too large; stool light brown with loud flatus.

Pulse, standing, 99; sitting, 84; lying, 78; 9 A. M., 20 min. Ø; 10 A.M., 20 min. Ø; 11 A. M., 20 min. Ø; 4:40 p. M., 40 min. Ø.

May 26, 1899, noticed same condition of eyes and mouth.

8:30 A. M. took 1 dram Ø; 9 A. M., 1 dram Ø; 10 A. M., 1 dram Ø; 10:30 A. M., 1 dram Ø; 11 A. M., 1 dram Ø; 11:30 A.M., 1 dram Ø ; 1 p. M., 1 dram Ø; 1:55 p. M., 1 dram Ø.

3:40 p. M. felt stiffness of anterior part of thighs.

4:45 p. M. took pulse, standing, 95; sitting, 85; lying, 80; temperature, 99°.

Had a weak, tired feeling as if would fall in a heap.

Urine had a slight green color, alkaline reaction; sp. gr. 1025; earthy phosphates increased.

May 27, 1899, same symptoms of eyes. 1:55 P. M., took 1 dram Ø; 2:40 p. M., 1 dram Ø.

Urine decidedly green; sp. gr. 1030; earthy phosphates greatly increased.

3:40 p. M., took 2 drams Ø; 4 p. M., took 2 drams Ø.

Pulse at 4:10 p. M., standing, 96; sitting, 86; lying, 76.

Temperature, 99°.

Urine alkaline.

May 28, 1899, took no medicine; felt tired all day; could not work.

May 29, 1899, 10 A. M., 1 dram Ø; 11:20 A. M., 1 dram Ø.

Immediately after dinner had a dull pain in region of liver.

Pain in region of spleen, and on placing hand on side discovered a fullness in spleen.

Full feeling in hypogastric region.

Dirty-white coating in center of tongue.

After urinating, seems as if urine was not all passed; desire to continue to urinate, but cannot.

Burning pain, beginning at end of penis, extending back to bladder.

Sensitiveness in umbilical region, with a desire to relax abdominal muscles.

Dull pain in forehead, relieved by lying down.

Pulse, standing, 110; sitting, 95; lying, 90.

Pulse full and very strong; see heart's action through clothing.

Carotids throbbing; head seems to move with every beat of heart.

Weakness of knees; must lie down.

Cheeks and ears hot, with cold fingers.

The whole abdomen moves with beat of the heart; chest feels too small for the heart.

Weakness in small of back and legs.

Urine, sp. gr. 1030; earthy phosphates in excess, and traces of sugar; urine quite green; bile in urine.

2:30 P. M., pain in right side in liver: sideache like when running when a boy; must lie down.

3 p. M., feel a general weakness.

Pain in wrists and elbows.

Full feeling in umbilical region; dull pain in lumbar region.

Food tasteless, unless highly seasoned: craving for something sour.

May 30, 1899. Did not sleep an hour last night.

When lying on left side, spleen would pain; if lying on right side, the liver would pain.

Eyes felt dry and swollen.

Dryness of mouth and throat.

Dull pain through my chest; lungs feel congested; chest feels sore internally.

Dull pains in anterior parts of thighs.

I feel too full in region of liver, as if it was a great deal too large.

Weakness in lumbar region; soreness in umbilical region.

Do not care to move, as I feel too weak.

Head feels as if brain was too large.

Loss of appetite.

Urine has a very strong odor; 15 ounces in 15 hours.

Stool yellow, clay color.

Pulse, standing, 82; sitting, 80; lying 74.

Urine frothy like soap-suds; sp. gr. 1030; alkaline reaction; the phosphates increased; traces of sugar.

Dull pain in umbilical region, as if distended with gas.

Dull frontal headache.

Bearing-down feeling in abdomen after eating.

Soreness in liver and spleen.

May 31, 1899, slept well but awaked with same feeling in eyes and mouth.

Urine scanty: sp. gr. 1025; urine quite a green cast with bile.

Tongue large and flabby; shows print of teeth; dirty white coat in middle of tongue.

I took 1 dram \emptyset to see if symptoms would return.

I immediately felt my face flushing, and within five minutes had a pain in urethra, with a desire to urinate.

A dull pain in frontal region.

Great weakness when walking or standing.

Pain down anterior part of thighs.

Congested feeling in lungs.

Pain in forehead, more when rising.

Pain in liver.

Pain in spleen.

Soreness in umbilical region.

Pain in wrists and forearms.

Dull pain in lumbar region.

June 1, 1899, on awakening I had a dull frontal headache, fullness in chest, with soreness behind sternum.

Dreamed nearly the entire night, which is very uncommon.

Bowels moved as usual, only a little darker.

Urine slightly green and frothy.

I find myself forgetful.

Conjunctiva, slightly yellow.

June 2, 1899, have taken no medicine for two days.

On arising, throat and mouth dry.

Constricted feeling in chest.

Lungs feel very sore on taking a long respiration.

Sleep full of dreams.

Feel very tired.

Urine, sp. gr. 1025; alkaline; traces of sugar; still some bile in urine.

June 15, 1899, have not taken the medicine for two weeks.

My sleep is full of dreams; dreams of snakes, robbers, etc., every night since taking the medicine.

I am conscious of a pain in the spleen all the time.

I cannot eat any pastry, which is very uncommon for me.

I have a don't-care feeling all the time and cannot work.

4 P. M., June 15, 1899, had six chills in succession, with constant chilliness up and down back; after chill was very hot; fever; pulse 120; throbbing carotids, just like when taking remedy. My heart beat so hard it shook me all over.

Constant dull pain in kidneys and up the back.

Pain under my right shoulder-blade.

Pain down anterior part of thighs, and down forearms and fingers.

Pain in knees.

Continual bearing-down in my rectum, with a constricting sensation in rectum.

Constant urging to urinate.

Urine very pale.

Constant dull frontal headache, better by lying down.

Wanted to drink water but made me sick.

Pain in back and irritation of urethra ever since taking the medicine.

I now weigh one hundred and thirty-five and one-half pounds, losing four pounds in weight.

I now took his case in charge, and found his malaria, which was suppressed with Quinine (by an Allopath) to be a Nat. Mur. case at that time. I gave Nat. Mur., 30, which soon stopped all trouble, and all his symptoms disappeared. The enlarged liver and spleen soon returned to their normal size, and perfect health established.

This paper is already so very long that I cannot now tell you of the many cases I have cured."

(A Proving of *Ceanothus americanus*, By Dr. J. C. Fahnestock, A. M., M. D., The Homoeopathic News vol. 29 (1900), March, p. 67-70)

1900 - Symptom-Register - John H. Clarke

Mind

- Low-spirited, fears he will become unfit for work.
- Great nervous excitement, with chilliness and loss of appetite; felt as if nerves were shaken; at dinner could scarcely hold knife and fork.
- Don't-care feeling all the time, and cannot work (F.) ^[1]

Head

- Headache, right side, with pain in region of spleen.
- Head seems to move with every beat of the heart (F.).
- Head feels as if the brain were too large (F.).
- Dull frontal headache, > lying down (F.).

Eye

- Eyes feel too large; lids swollen; dry sensation of cornea; with a dull pain in orbital region (F.).

Face

- Cheeks and ears feel hot, with cold fingers (F.).

Mouth

- Aphthous affections of mouth and fauces.
- Mouth dry (F.).
- Tongue, white coat down centre (F.).
- Food tasteless, unless highly seasoned (F.).

Throat

- Throat dry; raw sensation on swallowing (F.).

Appetite

- Loss of appetite (F.).
- Craving for something sour (F.).
- Thirst for water, but it made him sick (F.).
- Cannot eat pastry (very unusual) (F.).

Stomach

- Wanted to drink water but it made him sick (F.).

Abdomen

- Deep-seated pain in left hypochondrium.
- Pain and fulness in left side, with inability to lie on it.
- Severe pain in region of spleen, with low spirits.
- Pain in left side, for a long time, with leucorrhoea and chilliness.
- Pain in left side, headache right side; severe pain right side, with inability (for years) to lie on it.
- Swelling in left side, with cutting pain, < in cold weather, with constant chilliness, must sit over a fire.
- Chronic hypertrophy of spleen.
- Dull pain in region of spleen (F.).
- Immediately after dinner, dull pain in region of liver (F.).
- Full feeling in region of liver (F.).
- Pain in liver < lying on right side (F.).
- Sensitiveness in umbilical region with desire to relax abdominal muscles (F.).
- Whole abdomen moves with beat of heart (F.).
- Bearing-down in abdomen < after eating (F.).

Stool and Rectum

- Diarrhoea.
- Dysentery.
- Stool light brown, with loud flatus (F.).
- Continual bearing-down in rectum with constricting sensation (F.).

Urinary Organs

- Sharp pain above pubes, in region of bladder, before urination (F.).
- Urine : alkaline; increased phosphates; high specific gravity; trace of sugar (F.).
- After urinating feeling as if all had not passed (F.).
- Urine : quite green; contains bile; strong odour, frothy (F.).
- Pain in back and irritation of urethra (F.).
- Constant urging to urinate (F.).

Male Sexual Organs

- Syphilitic complaints.

Female Sexual Organs

- Leucorrhoea, profuse, thick, yellow, with pain under left ribs.
- Menses ten days too early, and very profuse.
- Metrorrhagia with spleen pain.

Chest

- Congested feelings in lungs; chest sore internally, < deep inspiration (F.).
- Soreness behind sternum (F.).
- Constricted feeling in chest.

Heart

- Palpitation and dyspnoea, with enlarged spleen.
- Pulse full and very strong, heart's pulsations visible through the clothes (F.).
- Heart beat so hard it shook him all over (F.).
- Chest feels too small for heart (F.).

Neck and Back

- Carotids throbbing in neck (F.).
- Pain under right scapula (F.).
- Chilliness down back.
- Weakness in small of back and legs (F.).
- Dull pain in lumbar region (F.)
- Constant dull pain in kidneys and up back (F.).

Upper Limbs

- Pains down forearms and fingers (F.).

Lower Limbs

- Weakness of knees; must lie down (F.).
- Dull pains in anterior part of thighs (F.).

Generalities

- Aversion to move; feels too weak (F.).
- Great weakness, walking or standing (F.).
- Lost several pounds in weight (F.).

Sleep

- Awake all night (F.).
- Dreamed all night (unusual); of snakes; of robbers (F.).

Fever

- Shivering; loss of appetite, and nervous excitement.
- Rigors at frequent intervals.
- Intermittents with splenic enlargements.
- Cheeks and ears hot, with cold fingers (F.).
- At 4 p.m., six chills in succession, with constant chilliness up and down back; after chill very hot; fever; pulse 120; throbbing carotids (F.).

[1] "The symptoms of the provers of J. C. Fahnestock are marked (F.) in the Schema."

(John Henry Clarke, M.D., A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica, vol. 1 (1900), *Ceanothus Americanus*, p. 442-443)

Heilungen / Cures



Heilungen / Cures

Übersicht / Overview

- 1879 - Ceanothus in diseases of the spleen - J. Compton Burnett
- 1880 - Pain in the left hypochondrium and leucorrhoea in a woman aged 19 - J. Compton Burnett
- 1881 - Pain in the region of the left sacro-iliac joint in a carpenter aged 52 - John H. Clarke
- 1886 - Milzleiden als Folge eines Wechselfieber bei einer Dame von vierzig Jahren, die mit einem ihr unsympathischen Mann verheiratet war - Gustav Pröll
- 1887 - "Hopelessly incurable heart disease" in a young woman - J. Compton Burnett
- 1887 - "Incurable heart disease" in a charwoman - J. Compton Burnett
- 1887 - Further experiences with Ceanothus in diseases of the spleen - J. Compton Burnett
- 1893 - Dull headache and trembling of the hands in a woman - John L. Ferson
- 1897 - Supposed heart disease in a young man - P. C. Majumdar
- 1926 - Lymphatic anaemia in a woman aged 55 - Grace Stevens

1879 - Ceanothus in diseases of the spleen - J. Compton Burnett

"For several years I have been in the habit of using this drug in true Rademacherian fashion as an organ remedy. The perusal of Rademacher's *Magnum Opus* is one of the greatest literary treats that ever fell to my lot ; based on Hohenheimian bizzarries, avowedly and obviously merely an attempt at reducing his genial erratic *pretended* mysticism to the concrete form of a practice of medicine, by depolarising it, if I may so speak, it is nevertheless the most genial and most original production it is possible to find in medical literature. It is the most bare-boned lawless empiricism that one can conceive, and yet there are two leading ideas running through the entire work, and these are the *genius epidemicus morborum* and organopathy ; and, considered from the pharmacological side, the other two ideas of universal (general) and particular medicines. For Paracelsus there were only three universal remedies, and so also for Radcmacher and for their followers. Hahnemann has but three fundamental morbid states, psora, syphilis, and sycosis. Von Grauvogl has but three constitutions of the body - they might have all been working out the fatherlandish proverb, *Aller guten Dinge sind drei !*

The *genius epidemicus morborum* is beyond question a fact in nature, but it is dreadfully eel-like, hard to get a grip of. The same maybe said of Hahnemann's tripartite pathology and of Grauvogl's three constitutional states.

Rademacher's organopathy (that an otherwise able modern writer appropriates with child-like *naiveté*) is no more and no less than the homoeopathic specificity of seat, with just a dash of a mystic psychic something in the several organs ; if we set aside this little particular soul for each organ, it is only local affinity, or elective affinity. And it is quite true in nature, and the mind that cannot, or will not, recognise it, is wanting in catholicity of perception ; and *in practice will often go a mile when three paces would have reached the goal*. Whatever else cantharis may be, it is first and foremost a kidney medicine ; whatever else digitalis may be, it is primarily a heart medicine ; and let belladonna be what it may, it is before all things an artery medicine, and just in this sense *ceanothus Americanus* is a spleen medicine.

The spleen constitutes a dark corner in the human economy, whether considered physiologically or therapeutically. I have heard it professorially very ably argued that the spleen is the principal manufactory of our blood corpuscles. I have heard that theory equally ably and professorially refuted, and in its stead the thesis set up that the spleen is, as it were, the *ultimum refugium* of the old and effete blood corpuscles, wherein they are broken up and their *débris* sent off again into the circulating medium. A third argued that all this was veritable nonsense, as the spleen had nothing whatever to do with either making leucocytes or breaking up their reddened descendants, that in fact the spleen had no other function than to act as a

reservoir for the blood, being, indeed, a kind of living sac in the side, to swell or shrink according as the circulation required more or less of the circulating fluid.

I fondle this latter theory myself, and like to call it mine; whose it really is I do not know. Perhaps the erudite editors will kindly add a foot-note, and say what they think the spleen is good for beyond serving as the anatomical whereabouts of that enigmatical something that supposedly sends my dear fellow-countrymen in shoals off London Bridge into the Thames on a rainy or foggy day - I mean, of course, *le spleen*!

This great bugbear of our Gallic and Germanic brethren - as applied to ourselves *bien entendu*! for they consider it essentially a *morbus Anglicus*, just as we like to think it is principally those naughty French who commit suicide - is really only another name for being "hipped," or suffering from an attack of hypochondriasis, and there cannot be any sound reason for refusing it a habitat under the *left* ribs, since so many have welcomed it under the right ones.

My first and only literary acquaintance with *Ceanothus Americanus* is the very short empirical account of it in Hale's *New Remedies*, which I read some five or six years ago. Previously I had frequently felt a difficulty in treating a pain in the left side, having its seat, apparently, in the spleen. *Myrtis communis* has a pain in the left side, but that is high up under the clavicle; the pain that is a little lower is the property of *sumbul*; still lower of *acidum fluoricum*; a little further to the left of *acidum oxalicum*; more to the right of *aurum*; right under the left breast of *cimicifuga rac.*

These remedies promptly do their work when these left-sided pains are a *part* of the disease-picture, but they will not touch the pain that is deep in behind the ribs of the left side ; more superficially *bryonia* has it ; a little deeper than *bryonia*, *pulsatilla nuttal.* will touch it ; and so will *juglans regia*, which poor Clothar Müller proved as a student. But the real splenic stitch requires *china*, *chelidonium*, *berberis*, *chininum sulfuricum* or *conium*, or *ceanothus Americanus*.

Some years since I treated a lady in Chester for "violent vomiting, pain all up the left side, cough, with expectoration, profuse perspirations, and fever." She was not a Cestrian, but came only for a short visit, and took lodgings in a small house facing a meadow on the banks of the Dee ; the locality was at one time a part of the Port of Chester, but was many years ago reclaimed. At my first visit she told me she often got inflammations on the chest with cough, and finding considerable fever, cough, pain in left side, and dulness on percussion of the same side, I quickly ticketed it *pleuropneumonia sinistra*, and gave *acidum oxalicum*, which seemed to cover all the symptoms, and to correspond also to the supposed pathological state within. *Oxalic acid* somewhat relieved the vomiting, but nothing more, and I then gave various remedies, such as *aconite*, *bryonia.*, *phos.*, *ipeca.*, and thus elapsed about three weeks, but patient remained as ill as ever.

Then I went into the case with very great care, and examined my patient very thoroughly, and see, there was *inflammation of the spleen*. I gave her *ceanothus Americanus* in a low dilution, and all the symptoms, subjective and objective, disappeared right off, and my previously ill-treated patient was sitting up in a week, and quite well in a few more days. I had never before met with splenitis in the acute form, and have never since met with it.

A few cases of chronic pains in the spleen occurred subsequently in my Chester practice, and they rapidly yielded to *ceanothus*, one of which I well remember ; it is this : - -

Chronic splenitis. A young lady of about 26 consulted me for a chronic swelling in the left side under the ribs, with considerable cutting pain in it. She stated that it was worse in cold damp weather and she always felt chilly ; the chilliness was so severe and long lasting that she had spent the greater part of her time during the previous winter sitting at the fireside, and

now she was looking forward to the winter with perfect dread. In the summer she had felt nearly well, but the lump and the chilliness and pain nevertheless persisted, but it being warm she did not heed it much, it being quite bearable. *Ceanothus Americanus* quite cured her of all her symptoms, and subsequent observation proved its permanency. Often during the following winter she called my attention to the fact that she was not chilly and-felt well.

One of the first cases I treated at the Wirral Homoeopathic Dispensary in Birkenhead was that of a young man somewhat similarly suffering.

Chronic splenitis. This young man was sent to the dispensary by the then manager of Messrs. Thompson and Capper's Birkenhead establishment, and was occupied in the Liverpool post office in some light but ill-paid employment.

His whole trouble consisted in *severe pain in the left side in the region of the spleen*, and he had long vainly sought relief of many, probably at dispensaries. He therefore put in an early appearance at my new dispensary to try the new doctor, probably on the well-known principle of the new broom. He had become quite low spirited and began to fear he would become totally unfit for work, and naturally that was a very serious matter for a young married man. He told me he had formerly helped his wife in her household matters, doing the heavy rough work, but the pain in his side had now become so bad that he could not carry a bucket of water into the house or even sweep up their little yard, as handling the broom pained him so dreadfully.

I was pressed for time and prescribed *ceanothus Americanus* in pilules of a low dilution, and promised to go into his case that day week, meaning to percuss the part and ascertain whether the spleen was enlarged. He returned that day week almost well, and the following week was quite well. At my request he again reported himself some time afterwards and he still continued well.

I resolved to begin my next case with the physical examination. My next case was this -

Chronic hypertrophy of the spleen. A middle aged lady consulted me, shortly after the above case, for a *severe pain in the left side and a large swelling in the same position*. Remembering the last case I said I must examine the side. She objected, so I declined to treat her, then she said she would think about it and consult with her husband on the subject. In a fortnight or so she returned (driven by the severe pain in the side), and I examined the side and found an enormous spleen occupying the entire left hypochondrium, and reaching inferiorly to about an inch above the crest of the ileum ; it bulged towards the median line and ran off to an angle laterally. It was of long standing. Gave *ceanothus Americanus* in a low dilution. This lady being very intelligent I begged she would allow me to examine the side again after I had finished the treatment. She promised to comply. Fourteen days after this she came full of gratitude and reported that the swelling was smaller and the pain considerably less. To continue the medicine.

She never consulted me again, but as she was a near neighbour of mine I often saw her, and somewhat six months afterwards she called to pay my fee, and then informed me that she had soon got rid of the pain entirely and the swelling was much smaller, so she had discontinued the medicine altogether, and did not deem it needful to trouble me again. This is the usual thing. People will not be at the trouble of seeing the doctor as soon as they are better, they seem not to understand any interest one feels in the case. We can only make periodical reliable examinations of patients in a hospital ; in private practice it is extremely difficult, as all practitioners know to their chagrin. Still, *faute de mieux*, we must put up with those fragments. This patient had had no children, and had a very fresh complexion.

My next case is also one of *chronic hypertrophy of the spleen*, though only about half the size of the one just narrated. Subject, a poor woman of about 30 or 32 years of age, whom I was

requested to see by a very kind hearted benevolent lay minister well known in Birkenhead and the neighbourhood. She is the mother of several children, very poor, ill fed and overworked, but withal a good respectable woman and very clean. She had a considerable and very painful swelling in the left side under the ribs, that had been there for some time, and latterly she could not get up on account of the severe pain. I carefully examined the tumour and satisfied myself that it was a very much swelled spleen, and the pain seemed to me to be due to its pressing against the ribs. I marked its size on the skin with ink, made her engage not to wash off the ink mark, and promised her I would call in a week, having first prescribed *ceanothus* as in the other cases. But the fates were against my laudable plan, for I received a message, the day before my next visit was due, to the effect that Mrs. - felt herself so much better than she was up at her housework, and begged me not to call again, as she thought it unnecessary.

Since then I have at times had cases of deep-seated pain in the left side to treat, and have mostly found it yield to *ceanothus*, though not always. In one case in which it failed the pain was cured with *berberis vulgaris*. In one case of jaundice, characterised by very severe pain in the *left* side, I gave *ceanothus*, with very prompt relief of the pain only; *myrica cerifera* then finished the icterus. Before giving the *ceanothus* I had given *chelidonium majus*.

In one case of severe metrorrhagia, characterised by pain in the left hypochondrium, *ceanothus* gave instant relief to the pain, and checked the hemorrhage. It failed me in a subsequent similar attack in the same person when *conium* was effective, and was suggested by Dr. Thomas of Llandudno.

Chronic splenitis, chills, and leucorrhoea. Some four years since, perhaps a little more, I treated a lady of about 55. She complained of rigors at frequent intervals, and pain in left side, both of long standing. The leucorrhoea had lasted some twenty years, and was profuse, thick and yellow. She had been for years under the best allopathic physicians of Chester, and finally given up as beyond the reach of medical art, evidently on Moliere's principle that " Nul n'aura de l'esprit que nous et nos amis." Nevertheless, the patient bethought her of homoeopathy, and came under my care. Her last physician had finally suspected cerebro-spinal mischief, and hinted at incipient paralysis.

The pain in the side was the most prominent and distressing symptom, and for this I prescribed *ceanothus*. In a month the pain was entirely cured, and also the leucorrhoea, while the cold feeling was very much diminished, but not quite cured. I have also never succeeded in quite curing it with any subsequent treatment. I watched the case for nearly four years, and am thus enabled to state that the pain in the side and the leucorrhoea never returned, and the chilliness never again became very bad, but still she had it a little when I saw her last.

Cases calling for this remedy are not very common with me, but every few weeks I meet with one. Thus, since coming to London, I have met with one such, viz., a girl, Ada, aet. 14, who came under observation on Nov. 29, 1878, with *pain in the left side for some months*, and right-sided headache. She received *ceanothus* 1 in pilules. Dec. 18. Cured of pain in left side, head better. Pergat. Did not return.

I have always used *Ceanothus americanus* about 1x or 1, and sometimes in the mother tincture. Most of the persons with these splenic disturbances were in fair condition, and many complained of nothing else ; many were women, and two of these were drunkards; many had " chills," but not all; none had ever had ague."

(J. Compton Burnett, M. D., On *Ceanothus americanus* in its relations to diseases of the spleen, The Monthly Homoeopathic Review vol. 23 (1879), p. 153-159)

1880 - Pain in the left hypochondrium and leucorrhoea in a woman aged 19 - J. Compton Burnett

"A young lady, aged 19, came under my observation on May 23rd, 1879, complaining of constant and severe *pain in the left hypochondrium*, of more than two years' duration, and yellow leucorrhoea. The pain she described as piercing. Her menses were too frequent, appearing every fortnight. *Ceanothus* has strong affinity for the left the hypochondrium, and it produces pathogenetically a too frequent flow of the menses. In my hands it has repeatedly cured *Fluor albus when the discharge was yellow, and when it was connected with a pain under the left ribs*. I therefore ordered *Ceanothus Americanus*. Heretofore I had confined myself to very low dilutions of this remedy, but having found it, even in the first centesimal dilution, produce disagreeable symptoms, and being, moreover, desirous of testing a somewhat higher dilution, I made use of the third centesimal, and of this I administered one pillule every four hours.

July 18. Patient returned, and reported as follows: "The pain in the left side disappeared entirely in two days, and has not since returned; the whites have ceased, and the period was a week later, and there was less pain as usual," viz., there was an interval of three weeks instead of two.

I have proved before that *Ceanothus* is a splendid spleen medicine. Apparently others do well without it; I cannot.

The patient still complained of a headache; for this *Zincum* 6 was prescribed, and she never came again."

(J. Compton Burnett, M.D., Case of leucorrhoea, with pains in left hypochondrium, cured with *Ceanothus americanus* 3, *The Homoeopathic World* vol. 15 (1880), p. 14-15)

1881 - Pain in the region of the left sacro-iliac joint in a carpenter aged 52 - John H. Clarke

"The following case came under my notice soon after the publication of Dr. Burnett's observations on *Ceanothus*, and as it appeared to me to resemble closely the case that had received benefit from that medicine, I determined to give it a trial. As *Ceanothus* is at present but little known, cases exhibiting its action are valuable, and it has occurred to me that this one might be read with interest.

Mr. F., aged fifty-two, carpenter, tall, spare, rather dark, very active, and very steady, of good family history, his own children being strong. He lives in a very healthy though somewhat exposed situation. He belongs to the better class of artisans. On March 5th, 1879, he came to me complaining of pain in the left side. He described it as an aching in the region of the left sacro-iliac joint, coming round the ribs in front, and extending upwards as high as the fifth. With the pain there was a sensation of cold water dropping under the arm. The pain was relieved when he could get rid of flatus with which he was troubled. He had had the pains for two years, during all which time he had not been able to lie on his left side. Latterly the pain had been getting worse. The tongue was clean, appetite good, bowels rather costive. On examining the chest I found the heart and lungs normal. There was tenderness to pressure for an inch beyond the free border of the left free ribs, and dulness on percussion over the same area, the dulness passing under the ribs for a distance of two inches. The patient had never had intermittent fever, and did not suffer from chills. I diagnosed splenic enlargement, and ordered him to take *Ceanothus Americanus* 1, pil. i. quarter die. He began to take this on the 7th, and on the 12th reported, "Pain in the side decidedly better. The medicine acted at once. Can lie on the left side now." On examining the affected region I found the tenderness very much diminished. What pain there was chiefly in the back. *Repeat*.

19th. On the night of the 12th, after partaking somewhat freely of lentil soup, he had a sensation of fulness, and this was followed by an attack of urticaria. There was, however, with it no increase of the pain. On a former occasion, after eating heartily of that food, a similar

urticarious attack ensued, and at the same time the pain in the left side was considerably worse. Now the pain in the side is better. Tongue clean, bowels regular, appetite better. The eruption has disappeared, but he feels oppressed in breathing, and faint. I left off the medicine for a time, and gave *Nux vomica* 1, pil. i. quarter die.

April 2nd. Better altogether. No indigestion. Eats well. He has the pain sometimes - principally on Saturdays and Sundays when he is at rest. He can lie on the left side with perfect ease. There is no dulness anterior to the margin of the left free ribs. I repeated *Ceanothus* 1 as before, leaving off the *Nux.*, and he had no occasion to return. About a twelvemonth afterwards I saw his wife, and heard from her that he had kept perfectly well. Such are the facts of the case, and to my mind they afford clear evidence of the power of *Ceanothus* to affect the spleen."

(John H. Clarke, M.D., The action of *Ceanothus* on the spleen, The Homoeopathic World vol. 16 (1881), p. 59-60)

1886 - Milzleiden als Folge eines Wechselfieber bei einer Dame von vierzig Jahren, die mit einem ihr unsympathischen Manne verheiratet war - Gustav Pröll

"Eine *verheiratete Dame* von vierzig Jahren mit schwarzen Haaren, bronzartigem Teint, braunen Augen, länglichem Antlitz, hatte von ihrem Eltern die Gicht geerbt und alle möglichen Unterleibskrankheiten seit ihrer konventionellen Verheiratung mit einem ihr unsympathischen Manne ausgestanden. - Die peinlichsten Leiden waren ihr die *Bauchfellentzündungen*, deren Produkte als Exsudate noch zeitweise sie belästigen, besonders aber eine *Milzaffektion*, als Folge eines Wechselfiebers, mit fast beständigen grabenden, nagenden Schmerzen, die ihr alle Essens- und Lebenslust raubten; Zunge weiss belegt, - gleichzeitig quälten sie hartnäckige Verstopfung und Urinbeschwerden. Ihr Gang war unsicher; ihre Haltung vorwärts gebeugt. Respiration und Zirkulation normal. - Ich gab ihr *Ceanothus* 3. Potenz, 3stündlich 1 Tropfen auf 1 Kaffeelöffel Wasser, und hatte die Freude, nach 7 Tagen zu erfahren, dass eine auffallende, noch nie früher eingetretene Milderung und nach abermals 7 Tagen ein gänzlich Aufhören der *Milzschmerzen* und übrigen davon abhängigen Beschwerden zu konstatieren war. *Nun* ist ein Jahr verflossen, und diese Dame schrieb mir, dass sie jetzt ganz aufrecht gehen könne und wieder Essens- und Lebenslust empfände; und sobald Spuren von den alten Leiden zurückkehren (was hier und da der Fall ist), so hilft stets augenblicklich *Ceanothus* wieder."

(Kurze Mittheilungen über Heilungen oder schnelle Besserungen mit einem einzigen Mittel, von Dr. Gustav Pröll in Meran, Allgemeine homöopathische Zeitung Bd. 113 (1886), S. 186-187)

1887 - "Hopelessly incurable heart disease" in a young woman - J. Compton Burnett

"A few years ago I was attending some of the members of a family of position in London, and at my various visits I occasionally heard of an invalid daughter of the family suffering from a hopelessly incurable disease of the heart, for which she was said to be under a West-End physician, who was thought to devote himself especially to diseases of the heart. The heart was said to be enormously enlarged, and the patient had had to give up first dancing and then hurrying, and finally she was only allowed to walk very slowly and carefully, lest the hugely enlarged heart should rupture. Several physicians had examined the case, and all were agreed as to its cardiac nature. I had never seen the young lady, and took no particular interest in the frequent narrations of her heart troubles; they are common enough. Time went by, and the mother used to speak of her "poor invalid daughter" with increasing despondency, finishing up one day with the remark that the unfortunate girl was no longer allowed even to walk, as the doctor considered even that now fraught with danger. "Is it not sad?" said she. "Would you like to see her?" I declined, saying, I never cared about seeing other physicians' patients.

More time elapsed, and finally I was requested to take the case in hand. I demurred at first, because such hopeless cases are as unsatisfactory as they are painful.

At last I consented to take over the case, and I appointed a time to call and examine the patient.

During all my professional life, I have rarely been more taken aback than I was after I had made my examination of the patient, for I found the heart not only not enlarged, but of the two rather abnormally *small*, although apparently the cardiac dullness extended a foot down the left side. But this dulness on percussion was due to an *enlarged spleen* which pushed up the diaphragm and left lung by its bulk, till the heart and the spleen gave one continuous dull percussion note. Patient had many genuine symptoms of real heart disease - dyspnoea, palpitations, inability to lie on the left side, faintness - but these were due to the mechanical hindrance to the heart's action produced by the spleen bulking upward so much.

That young lady I met three weeks ago looking blooming, and as agile as possible, and she has done her share of dancing, tennis, etc., for some years.

Ceanothus Americanus cured the enlargement of the spleen for the most part, though it swelled again two or three times at some months' intervals, and *Ferrum phosph.*, *Conium*, *Thuja*, *Berberis*, and other splenics, came into play before patient was really well.

Looking at the case now with the advantage of wider experience and more matured views of biopathology, and with the patient fully six years under my observation, I regard the affection as a primary disease of the leucocytes due to vaccinal infection, the spleen being disturbed secondarily, and then the heart mechanically. I am confirmed in this view by the fact that the spleen would not leave off swelling up at certain times till I had cured the vaccinosis. That prince of splenics, *Ceanothus Americanus*, readily cured the splenic engorgement, but did not touch the blood disease which caused it.

This is the inherent defect of organopathy, that it is not sufficiently radical in its inceptive action, but the like remark applies to every other party more or less, because the primordial cause is more or less elusive, and generally quite beyond positive science, which only admits of what it knows, and will not seek to encompass the unknown by the processes of thinking and reasoning. Because in former times philosophy made science impossible, the votaries of science now round upon philosophy, and sneer it out of view. To trace back proximate effects to remote causes is now ridiculed in medicine because *mere* science is productive of gross-mindedness, incapable of following the *fine* threads of the higher perception."

(J. Compton Burnett, M.D., Diseases of the spleen (1887), p. 21-24)

1887 - "Incurable heart disease" in a charwoman - J. Compton Burnett

"It was also about the same time that I was at the house of a patient in London, the wife of a general officer and the conversation fell upon the general's heart affection, and also upon that of their *charwoman*. I learned that the lady of the house took a certain interest in her charwoman because she had seen better days and had an invalid husband depending on her labor more or less. This charwoman was, it was said, suffering from an incurable disease of the heart, causing her terrible distress; on rising in the morning she would have to fight for her breath, so that it would take her often three-quarters of an hour to get dressed, having to pause and rest from the dyspnoea and its effects, nevertheless she persisted in thus getting up and dressing, and did as much charring as she could get. Her pride would not allow her to beg of her friends. Such was the story, and I really felt curious to see the charwoman, and promised to do what I could, though from the account given me by the general's wife, I certainly thought it quite a hopeless case.

Calling a few days later, I saw the lady and the charwoman, and having duly examined the latter, I promised to cure her! She was to come to my city rooms, and report herself every fortnight. On returning from the bedroom to the drawing room, the general's wife accused me of cruelty in thus raising the poor old woman's hopes "when," exclaimed she, "you *must* know it is impossible." I tried to explain that it was a case of enlarged spleen, and not the heart disease at all, that the charwoman was suffering from, and that the palpitations and fightings for breath were the mechanical sequels of the splenic engorgement, but my patient evidently did not believe it, for she wound up by saying, "As you will treat her for nothing, I hope you may succeed, and it is very kind of you, but you must know that the poor woman has been under various doctors, and all have declared it incurable heart disease, and I merely wanted you to tell me of something to relieve and ease the poor old thing."

This was towards the middle of October. A careful physical examination showed that the heart-sounds were normal, but there was much beating visible in the neck, and the heart's action was labored. In the left hypochondrium there was a mass corresponding to the position of the spleen, and a dull percussion note was elicited not only in the left hypochondrium, but also in the right, and all across the epigastrium, or pit of the stomach, from side to side.

The following notes were put down at the time: "Heart-sounds, normal; apex beat, exaggerated; splenic dulness extending up to the left mamma; the whole region very tender, so much so that she cannot bear her clothes or any other pressure."

The prescription was: *Ceanothus Americanus* 1x 3ij, five drops in water three times a day.

November 14. - Has been taking the *Ceanothus* five weeks to-day, and has taken altogether three bottles of it, viz., 3vj.

It has nearly stopped the pain in the left side, *which had lasted for quite twenty-five years.*

This pain came on suddenly, especially if she drank anything cold. She would get an indescribable pain under the left ribs, and she would have to fight for breath, and the dyspnoea would be so severe that it could be heard in the next room, frightening everybody.

She had ague thirty years ago in Northamptonshire. Repeat.

November 29. - Not much pain left; the cold feeling still there, but nothing as it was. Repeat.

December 20. - Has the pain in the left side, but very little; *has not had any of those attacks of fighting for breath;* she can walk better, and the side is much smaller, which she knows from her dress. In her own opinion she is less in the waist by two inches.

Before taking the medicine, for very many years she was compelled to pause in the morning when dressing, and lie down on account of the beating of the heart, but this has all gone; on examining by palpation and percussion I find the dulness diminished by four inches in the perpendicular, and by about the same from side to side. However, there is still some tenderness on pressure, and the swelled spleen can still be felt towards the median line and inferiorly. She can now do her work (charing) very much better.

RJ. *Tr. Ceanoth. Am.* 1, four drops in water three times a day.

January 10. - The pain is gone; has now no pain in walking, and she is a great deal stronger and better. The coldness in the pit of the stomach has gone. Repeat.

February 7. - In the left hypochondrium there is now nothing abnormal; the old ague-cake has disappeared, there being no dull percussion note. Her own conception of the size of that portion of the enlarged spleen that used to stretch across the pit of the stomach to the liver is thus expressed by her: "I used to say it was as big as a half-quartern loaf." Not only is the lump gone, but she is much stronger; she now wears stays again, and fastens her clothes with comfort. She again gets some cold feeling in the pit of the stomach, but not much. Her liver seems considerably enlarged, and there is still too much beating of the blood-vessels (veins) in the neck. In my opinion the condition of the bloodvessels calls for *Ferrum 6*, which I now

prescribe, and when that has done its duty - as it surely will - the liver will call for attention. But what I wanted to bring out was the specific affinity of *Ceanothus Americanus* for the spleen, and its consequent brilliant effects, as the *simile* only grounded on the homoeopathic specificity of seat, which some say has no existence.

This poor woman thus took *Ceanothus* during about four months in small appreciable doses: at first the 1x and then the I centesimal.

The existence of the hypertrophy was ascertained by percussion and palpation; and subsequently I ascertained by the same means that it had ceased to exist. Although patient took the drug for four months I could not find that it affected any other organ - liver, kidney, bowel - save and except the spleen.

The dyspnoea and palpitation were cured certainly, but these arose, I submit, from the engorged condition of the spleen itself.

As far as I could ascertain, the secretions and excretions were not affected in the least degree; the remedial action must, therefore, be considered specific. My conception of the cure is simply this, that the specific *Ceanothus* stimulus persistently applied restored the spleen tissue to the normal. This homoeopathic specificity of seat suffices only in simple local disturbances; it is only a *simile*, not a *simillimum*. The latter would, I apprehend, have affected the liver also and the right heart, and I should then not have needed further detail treatment.

This charwoman continued to attend at my rooms for some months, and *Ceanothus Americanus* and other indicated remedies cured her of her "incurable heart disease;" and I saw no more of her for some time, when one day she was ushered into my consulting room. She came up to where I was sitting, told me she was perfectly well, could do any work with ease, and - then occurred one of the sweetest things in my whole professional life - the old lady (and *what a lady!*) put a tiny packet on my desk, tried to say something, burst into tears, and rushed out!

I never saw her again, and have often since wished I had kept that particular sovereign and had it set in diamonds."

(J. Compton Burnett, M.D., Diseases of the spleen (1887), p. 24-29)

1887 - Further experiences with *Ceanothus* in diseases of the spleen - J. Compton Burnett

Supposed consumption: chronically enlarged spleen. - The case I am about to relate is not without practical interest. The subject is a fine young Anglo-Indian of about 21 or 22 years of age, who a couple of years since, commenced preparing for the study of medicine in London. His father was my patient, and told me, as he left for the East, that one of his boys, whom I had casually seen, was going to remain in London to study medicine as a profession, rather than as a hobby, as said father has done for many years.

Two years relapsed, and then my patient returned from the East, and came to see me on his own account, and I incidentally inquired about the medical student. "Ah! he is better now, but he had to give up the study of medicine, as the professor said he was going into consumption. He had spitting of blood, and they sent him to America. He has returned, and is better; but I am still anxious about him, as his breath is very short. He looks very well."

The young man came in due course, and a very careful percussion and auscultation of the chest revealed nothing but a *very* large spleen filling up the left hypochondrium, and clearly impeding both lungs and heart in their action.

I ordered *Ceanothus Am.* 1 in five drop doses. He took the drops for a month or so, and came again on the 16th of February, 1887, telling me he breathed easily and comfortably, and demonstrated to me that he was inches smaller round the body, by showing me his waistcoat

and trousers that were previously tight, but now uncomfortably loose, so much so that he laughed at their bagging. Evidently his pulmonary symptoms had never been phthisical at all, but were merely mechanical from the engorgement of the spleen.

Splenalgia. - A lady came to me complaining of the following series of symptoms:

Pain in the left side corresponding to the region of the spleen, so bad that she cannot lie on the left side; with this pain in the side there are two other disturbances, indicating that a kind of vascular turgescence - an *orgasmus humorum* - underlies the whole, viz., palpitation of the heart and piles. With these also some indigestion, and a feeling as if the visceral contents of the abdomen were being pulled down.

R. *Ceanothi Americani* 3x 3iv. Three drops in water three times a day.

She came from the country, so I did not see her again, but as I asked a report in a fortnight, her husband wrote at the end of that period to say that she was well and needed no further attention.

Painful engorgement of spleen with varicosis. - Some cases of varicosis will not get well till you cure the spleen of its - perhaps slight - enlargement. Thus, a hale gentleman of 70 old consulted me early in 1887 for varicose veins, particularly below the knees. The veins on the surface of all four extremities get knotty and painful. There is a pain under the left ribs, which is worse, when he has urinary urging. The splenalgia he has had these ten years.

I prescribed *Ceanothus* 1. It cured the splenalgia and painful vein-knots in a few weeks. He is now comfortable under left ribs for the first time for ten years. He is also not so short of breath. The stricture of the urethra, of which he also suffers, was not affected by the *Ceanothus*, and he remains under my care to see if the stricture will also yield to treatment.

Chronic enlargement of spleen with heart symptoms. - A unmarried lady of 49 came to me in January, 1887, for a supposed affection of the heart. Being rather stout, she was thought to have a fatty heart. She complained of numbness and heaviness down the left arm for a considerable time, also of a pain under her left ribs at times ever since her childhood, and over which part she had had blisters and poultices from most of her physicians, generally with relief for the time being. An examination showed the heart to be normal, but disclosed an enlargement of the spleen. The patient has suffered from whites all her life.

She took *Ceanothus Americanus* 1, five drops in water night and morning, for two months; I had ordered it for one month only, but she found herself so much better from the medicine that she got a second bottle of it on her own account, and continued taking it for just two months, when she came to inform me that she felt quite well, and percussion showed that the spleen had returned to its normal size. The leucorrhoea was a trifle better, but not much, and for this affection she remained under treatment. The spleen enlargement had been cured by the spleen remedy, but the constitutional state had remained unaltered; but with this I am here no concerned.

Vomiting - Chronic and severe hypertrophy of spleen. On June 16, 1881, an unmarried lady of 23 years of age, residing on high ground in London, came to me saying she suffered from chronic and severe vomiting, debility and emaciation. The vomiting began about midsummer, 1880, at first once or twice a week, and it has been gradually getting worse, so that she now vomits generally about half an hour after every meal, though occasionally she will miss a meal and not vomit. She has lost 13 lbs. in weight since January last. Menses are getting scant. There is a very considerable area of dulness on percussion in the left hypochondrium, and when she is sick feels pain under the left ribs. She often gets caught with a pain under left ribs; and besides this left hypochondriac pain, she gets a clawing pain in the pit of the stomach, not seemingly connected with it, and apt to last the whole of the day. Lifting her arms seems to pull her stomach and hurt in the middle. Cannot wear stays, because their pressure hurts; she dons them, but is compelled to put them off every few hours. There is a clear space

of about an inch between the area of dulness on percussion of liver and spleen respectively. She flushes at times. She is generally chilly, sitting by the fire when others do not, and she goes to sit by the kitchen fire when there is no fire anywhere else in the house. Cannot walk upstairs other than very slowly, because of dyspnoea. The vomit is sometimes nearly black, as if she had been drinking coffee; at times it is watery, at others just the food.

R. *Ceanothus Americanus* 1, 3v. Five drops in water three times a day.

She took no other remedy, and was discharged cured in about seven weeks. The patient had previously been under an able homoeopathic practitioner, who had treated the case purely symptomatically, and thus failed, for the very sufficient reason that the symptoms which he treated were secondary to the engorgement of the spleen, and so his remedies all failed. God forbid that I should say one disparaging word about symptomatic treatment as such, for we but too often have only the subjective symptoms to go by, but where an exhaustive physical diagnosis is possible, it should always be made, and should stand in importance far before merely subjective symptoms, as these may be, and often are, consequently in this sense delusive. For in this case, it must be manifest that vomiting due to an enlarged spleen can never be cured by remedies that physiologically produce vomiting, but by such as will bring a large spleen back to the normal.

Enlargement of spleen - Ague-cake. In November, 1886, a *poitrine* lady of 29 came under my observation complaining of indigestion, flatulence, and palpitation, with cough and considerable debility. The flatulence is worse in the evening. The right lung gives a dull percussion note almost all over the front aspect. There is an endocardial bruit, best heard at mid-sternum. The spleen fills the entire left hypochondrium, while in the right side the hepatic dulness runs up, seemingly almost to the nipple. There is slight increase of vocal resonance on the right side of the thorax. The skin across the epigastrium is very brown. Had a cough ever since she had fever in Malta three years ago; also frontal neuralgia.

Chelidonium 1 cured the swelling of the liver, and reduced the spleen a trifle. *Ceanothus Americanus* 1 restored the spleen to the normal, but did not touch the neuralgia. *Thuja occidentalis* 30 cured the neuralgia, and I am now endeavoring to go deeper into the case to find out the etiologic *x* of her constitution, which causes me to state that she is *poitrine*, the anatomic base of which is a sodden, phlegmy, bronchial lining; but what is the etiologic moment thereof?

This case also illustrates both the insufficiency of the organopathic conception and also its practical utility.

Quasi-heart disease. - A city gentleman between 30 and 40 came to see me on November 25, 1885, for heart disease, from which he had suffered for fifteen years. He has been under quite a number of eminent physicians, tried changes to spas, and been for climatic benefits east, west, north, and south, at all times and seasons. Cruising about in a yacht does him most good. For the past several years he has been under Sir - for his heart.

I find his heart rather small, its action irregular and endocardial bruit most audible below and to the left of the left mammilla. He gets very chilly, and his fingers often go dead in the early morning; the so-called "poor circulation" so frequently accused. He is languid, anaemic, seemingly barely able to rise in the morning. Has been vaccinated three times, but only took very slightly the first time. The lungs are flat; the spleen notably enlarged. The most distressing symptom is his nocturnal palpitation.

R. *Ceanothus Americanus* 1. Five drops in water three times a day.

After taking the *Ceanothus* for a fortnight, the cardiac and splenic dulness no longer ran into one another, and the palpitation and numbness were much better. Regarding the case causally as partly from vaccinosis, I gave *Thuja* 30 infrequently, which did him so much good that he

stayed away for a month. *But a very ugly patch of eczema had come out in the right axilla! and he subsequently got shingles on left thigh.* The quasi-heart disease was gone, and has not returned, and the further course of the case presents no relevancy to my present thesis. Strange to say, the endocardial bruit had also quite disappeared."

(J. Compton Burnett, M.D., Diseases of the spleen (1887), p. 30-38)

1893 - Dull headache and trembling of the hands in a woman - John L. Ferson

"On July 19, 1892, Mrs. C., a short, stout woman, of florid complexion and even temperament, called and made complaint as follows: Constant dull ache in the occiput and forehead; if it does stop for a time, which happens occasionally, it begins in the occiput and then appears in the forehead; always worse in the occiput, sometimes becoming very severe; it feels heavy, as if the head most fall back; too heavy to hold up; ameliorated in cool, open air, when lying down, and by pressing firmly front and back, or tying tightly; she can go to sleep easily in spite of headache and sleeps well, but finds the head aching just the same on awakening; face and head burn at odd times an hour or so at a time, but the face does not flush; relieved in cool air; from 9 A.M. till after dinner each day hands tremble continuously, and if she walks the knees feel weak, as if they would give away. Shortly after dinner these symptoms pass off, to reappear next morning. I found the spleen enlarged and tender, with dull, aching, smarting, burning pain. This lady is the mother of three healthy children, and has always herself enjoyed perfect health. The above symptoms have been present for several weeks, gradually increasing in severity, and constituted the sum total of her complaint.

After taking her history, I found I had no time then to make a careful prescription, and the symptoms picture presented was one which I was not familiar with, and was therefore unable to prescribe for without study, so I did what I presume many of us do at times: I did a slovenly piece of work and gave *ceanothus*, five drops every four hours. The reputed value of this drug in the cure of diseased conditions of the spleen was the sole base upon which it was given, and, contrary to one's usual experience in such slipshod work, the result was gratifying. At leisure, I looked up the literature of the drug, and found my *Medical Index* referred to an article in vol. xv, page 67, of the HAHNEMANNIAN MONTHLY, entitled "Notes on *Materia Medica*," by Dr. Clarence Bartlett, in which I found quoted Dr. Burnett's experience with *ceanothus* as follows: "In one patient to whom I gave *ceanothus* it produced great nervous excitement with chilliness and loss of appetite. The patient (a young lady) felt as if her nerves were shaken, so that one day at dinner she could scarcely hold her knife and fork. The chilliness was confined chiefly to the back. The medicine was discontinued, when all the symptoms disappeared, only to reappear on resuming the drug." The feeling as if the nerves were shaken so that she could scarcely hold her knife and fork at dinner corresponded so nicely to Mrs. C.'s continuous trembling from 9 A.M. till after dinner, that I was glad I had *happened* to give it, and awaited a report with interest. I did not see the patient again till October 10th, when she reported that the medicine had promptly and entirely removed all symptoms, those of the head being relieved first. However, for a couple of weeks past the symptoms had been returning gradually, hence her visit. Having failed in the meantime to procure myself with a potency, I had to give the tincture in drop doses. On October 22nd, she called for medicine for one of her children, and reported the same prompt and efficient action as previously, and since that time there has been no return in any measure of any of the symptoms. The action of *ceanothus americanus* in this case was so prompt, so thorough, and so lasting as to justify us in placing the symptoms of case presented among those belonging to, it, especially when it in part conforms to the proving recorded by Dr. Burnett."

(John L. Ferson, M.D., Pittsburgh, Pa., A *Ceanothus* Case, Read before the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, September 19, 1893, The Hahnemannian Monthly vol. 28 (1893), p. 710-711)

1897 - Supposed heart disease in a young man - P. C. Majumdar

"Recently I had a wonderful case of supposed heart disease cured by *Ceanothus*. I am indebted to my friend, Dr. Burnett, for the suggestion of using *Ceanothus*.

A thin and haggard looking young man presented himself to my office on the 26th July, 1896. He told me he had some disease of the heart and had been under the treatment of several eminent allopathic physicians of this city; some declared it to be a case of hypertrophy of the heart and some of valvular disease.

Without asking him further, I examined his heart thoroughly, but with no particular results. The rhythm and sounds were all normal, only there was a degree of weakness in these sounds. Dulness on percussion was not extended beyond its usual limit. So I could not make out any heart disease in this man.

On further inquiry I learned that the man remained in a most malarious place for five years, during which he had been suffering off and on from intermittent fever. I percussed the abdomen and found an enormously enlarged and indurated spleen, reaching beyond the navel and pushing up the thoracic viscera.

The patient complained of palpitation of heart, dyspnoea, especially on ascending steps and walking fast. I thought from these symptoms his former medical advisers concluded heart disease. In my mind, they seemed to be resulted from enlarged spleen.

On that very day I gave him six powders of *Ceanothus Americanus* 3x., one dose morning and evening. I asked him to see me when his medicine finished. He did not make his appearance, however, on the appointed day. I thought the result of my prescription was not promising. After a week he came and reported unusually good results.

His dyspnoea was gone, palpitation troubled him now and then, but much less than before. He wanted me to give him the same powders. I gave him *Sac. lac.*, six doses, in the usual way.

Reported further improvement; the same powders of *Sac. lac.* twice. To my astonishment I found spleen much reduced in size and softened than before; I knew nothing about this patient for some time. Only recently I saw him in perfect picture of sound health. He informed me that the same powders were sufficient to set him right. He gained health; no sign of enlarged spleen left."

(P. C. Majumdar, M.D., *Ceanothus Americanus* and *Bufo Rana*, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 12 (1897), p. 274-275; from *Indian Homoeopathic Review*.]

1926 - Lymphatic anaemia in a woman aged 55 - Grace Stevens

"*Ceanothus Americanus*, also called New Jersey Tea or Red Root, belongs to the Rhamnaceae or Buckthorn family of shrubs or trees of bitterish and astringent properties. It is found from Canada to the Gulf and west to and beyond the Rocky Mountains. In this particular branch of the family the flowers have no petals, but the calyx and flower stems are colored like petals. They are white, crowded in a dense, slender peduncled cluster. The shrub itself is from one to two feet high above the dark red root. The ovale finely serrate leaves were formerly used as a substitute for tea.

Hering quotes an old school authority who says that the very bark of the root is astringent and recommends it in aphthous sore mouth and throat accompanied scarlet fever.

The preparations used by our school are dilutions of a tincture made from the fresh leaves.

Very little has been written about the remedy, but J. C. Burnett published a fragmentary proving and some clinical cases have been reported.

The outstanding conditions covered by the drug are enlargement and inflammation of the spleen and general left-sided symptoms. The symptoms show deep-seated pain and feeling of fullness in the left hypochondrium with inability to lie on that side, or in some cases, to lie down at all. In the case I shall report later the pain was also very severe on lying on the right side on account of the weight of the enlarged spleen. The mental condition is one of depression with fear of permanent disability. There is right-sided headache with pain in the splenic region (my case had left-sided headache). The intestinal tract shows diarrhoea. The female sexual organs may have a profuse thick, yellow leucorrhoea or early and profuse menses, but all these ailments are only accompaniments of the splenitis, and the pain in the left hypochondrium will be the guiding symptom to the remedy. In acute cases there is chilliness down the back, with loss of appetite and nervous excitement.

Dr. Erastus E. Case in his "Clinical Experiences" gives the following case:

Hypochondriacal; thinks she can never be any better.

Anorexia; nausea after eating.

Raises bloody or brown mucus from the pharynx in the morning.

Passes large amount of inoffensive flatus.

Enlargement of the spleen.

Soreness, weight and full sensation of left hypochondrium; cannot lie on left side.

Smarting sensation of skin over the spleen.

I have one case of my own to report. Miss A. H., age 55, English housemaid. In past years has been treated at different times for haemorrhoids, eczema of face, menorrhagia at menopause, with uterine fibroid and some rheumatism of right shoulder and right knee.

For some months during winter and spring of 1925, she has not been as strong as usual, and has grown thin, but on the whole has responded well to remedies. One symptom - shortness of breath on ascending - was complained of in April, and continued more or less. Heart sounds were normal, except that the aortic second sound was a little snappy. In July, 1925, there was painless enlargement of the cervical and other lymphatic glands. Early in August there developed severe pain in the left hypochondrium, and a physician who was called in my absence diagnosed pleurisy but could not understand why the pain was worse lying on the painful side. On my return home early in September I found the spleen very much enlarged and inflamed, so that the patient could not lie on either side.

An examination of blood showed:

Haemoglobin 62 per cent.

Red Cells 3,864,000.

White Cells 50,800, of which 90 per cent were small leucocytes; 7.5 per cent polymorphonuclears.

The diagnosis of lymphatic leukaemia was unmistakable and the prognosis hopeless.

However, with rest, nourishing diet, sunshine, Natrum muriaticum 45 m. for a remedy there was a very slow gain in comfort and strength, but no diminution in the size of the spleen.

About the middle of October the pain and tenderness in the spleen returned. *Ceanothus Americanus* 30x was given, four doses at two hour intervals. Relief began after the first dose and was complete for three days. A slight return of the pain yielded to one dose of the remedy, and the patient gained steadily for four months. All tenderness left the spleen, although it remained large, and the patient could lie on either side. A left-sided headache disappeared.

There was gain in flesh and strength, so that the patient could easily walk half a mile. The enlarged glands almost disappeared.

The blood showed marked improvement, as follows:

On September 30 the leucocytes were 93,600;

On December 11 there were 30,600;
On February 18 there were 14,200;
and in the same time the haemoglobin increased from 44 per cent to 74 per cent.

How much of this general improvement was due to the Ceanothus, it is of course impossible to say. The thirtieth potency was given two weeks after Natrum muriaticum 45 m., which had seemingly caused some gain. However, there is no doubt that Ceanothus removed the pain and tenderness in the spleen.

Later, when the symptoms of the disease - enlarged glands, growth of spleen, and increase of leucocytes - returned with renewed force, I gave Ceanothus 30x again with no result, but a severe pain in the left axilla, extending to the chest on deep inspiration, yielded to the 1000th potency."

(Grace Stevens, M.D., Northampton, Mass., Ceanothus Americanus, Its use in a case of lymphatic leukaemia, Read before the annual meeting of the International Hahnemannian Association, Philadelphia, July 1926, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 41 (1926), p. 407-410)

Klinische Hinweise / Clinical Hints



Klinische Hinweise / Clinical Hints

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- 1996 - Cancer - Arthur Hill Grimmer

1890 - Ceanothus in Leucorrhoea and Suppression of the Menses - R. K. Ghosh

"A married lady, aged about 28, had menstruated first at the age of 14, when she was married. Since then she menstruated regularly every month for six years, but she did not bear any child, although she looked apparently healthy in every way. In the twenty-first year of her age, that is in June 1876, she had an attack of malarious intermittent fever, in which her spleen got enormously enlarged. She was living in a village in the malarious district in Jalpaigure, where her husband was employed under a jute-merchant. There she caught the poison of *Malaria*. She was apparently cured of the fever by large doses of *Quinine*, but the spleen remained enlarged. Since then she would every now and then get an attack of intermittent fever. In this way she suffered for nearly two years, and, as a matter of course, she became very anaemic, lean and thin, and she looked as if jaundiced. Her brother, a native doctor, learning that his sister was thus ailing, brought her down to Calcutta for treatment. As long as she was with her husband she took patent medicines, supposed to be specifics for malarious fever, the ingredients of which are known to the proprietors only, sometimes with some benefit, and sometimes with no benefit whatever. I was consulted. This was in August, 1881. When I examined the patient, I learned from inquiry that the fever was of the Quartan type. Her spleen was very much enlarged on all sides and so indurated that it felt like a stone. She was extremely anaemic and looked as if jaundiced like a chlorotic patient. She also had dysenteric diarrhoea and oedema of the eyelids, hands and feet. She had no menses, but profuse leucorrhoea which came out like a stream since the first attack of the fever. The oedema led me to the suspicion of the presence of albumen in the urine, and on examination, an appreciable quantity of albumen was detected in the urine. I prescribed Arsenicum album 30, three doses daily. Arsenic was given in this way for a week and the fever stopped. I ordered the discontinuance of Arsenic for the next one week. The fever did not recur but the diarrhoea continued. Arsenic again prescribed for two weeks more. The diarrhoea was checked and the fever also did not recur. Oedema had also gone. On examination no albumen was found in the urine. Now the medicine was discontinued for two weeks. Still the fever did not recur, nor the oedema. But the leucorrhoea continued still very profuse and the menstruation also remained yet suppressed; the spleen also remained enlarged and indurated as before, and yet the patient began to gain flesh and blood. I prescribed Ceanothus θ , in five-drop doses internally, three times a day, as also over the spleen as an external application. In this way Ceanothus θ was continued for two weeks. It made no impression on the spleen whatever, but the leucorrhoea had gone, and the menstruation, which remained so long suppressed, reappeared on the 18th day of the administration of Ceanothus. She menstruated regularly every month for six months or so and there was no leucorrhoea during that period. The fever did not return, but the spleen remained enlarged and indurated as before, in spite of Ceanothus treatment which was continued over four months; from a perusal of what has been extracted in Hale's "New Remedies" regarding Ceanothus from the *Atlanta Medical Journal*, as I took it to be like

"Newton's apple" in the domain of so called charming remedies for intermittents, with enlarged and indurated spleen, as I have already said in my treatment on "Fevers and their treatment on Homoeopathic principles." In the middle of June, 1882, she caught cold and her menstruation was suppressed and leucorrhoea again commenced. The leucorrhoeal discharges were so profuse and so corroding that the labiae, perineum and the parts of the thigh which came in contact with the discharges, became quite ulcerated. There was also burning and scalding during micturition. Ceanothus was again prescribed in five-drops doses as before and continued for a fortnight. On the thirteenth day of the administration of Ceanothus leucorrhoea stopped, and on the eighteenth day menses reappeared. Since then she was menstruating regularly every month at the usual time, with normal discharge, but the spleen remained enlarged and indurated. The fever did not recur. The husband of the patient having taken service in Assam she has accompanied him there in June, 1883. From that time she had no leucorrhoea and her menstruation was regular till September following, when she conceived. In May, 1884, she gave birth to a healthy male child. The labor, I was told, was rather a tedious one. She did not menstruate till June, 1885, but had leucorrhoeal discharge ever since the child was born. Again the patient began to lose flesh, and became so weak and anaemic, and her husband was so alarmed at the general debility and prostration of his wife that he at once came down to Calcutta for her treatment and consulted me again. When I saw her I noticed no fever, but the spleen remained enlarged and indurated as before; she was extremely anaemic; there was diarrhoea, oedema of the eyelids, hands and feet, especially the ankle-joints, and much urinary difficulties. I prescribed Arsenic 30, three doses daily. Arsenic was given for two weeks, and all the symptoms disappeared, except enlargement of the spleen, the leucorrhoea, and suppression of the menses, with occasional swelling of the sub-maxillary, axillary and inguinal glands which were painful. Ceanothus θ was again prescribed in five-drop doses and leucorrhoea went off in about three weeks and menses reappeared, but the spleen remained enlarged and indurated as before. She went back to Assam in June, 1886. In March following she conceived again and in December following she gave birth to another healthy male child. In February, 1888, the husband of the patient wrote to me to say that his wife had not other complaints than enlargement of the spleen which became painful every now and then, with occasional painful swelling of the sub-maxillary and axillary glands. I prescribed Cod-liver Oil, five drops noon and night, after meals, and advised the husband to give his wife a change to the Northwestern Provinces where she was sent. She remained there for nine months or so and got rid of her enlarged spleen, without any medication whatever. In February last, the husband of the patient wrote me to say that his wife had no other complaints than occasional painful swelling of the sub-maxillary glands even on slight exposure to cold or night dews. I suspected scrofulous taint and accordingly I prescribed Cod-liver Oil in five-drop doses, noon and night, after meals as before, which was continued for six months. The husband of the patient saw me here last week and told me that his wife was quite well, and that she had nothing to complain of regarding her health.

Seeing the good results which I got from the use of Ceanothus in leucorrhoea and suppressed menses in this case, I tried it of late in ten or twelve cases of leucorrhoea and suppressed menses, coming from the malarious districts of Nuddea, Wurdwan and Hoogly, proceeding evidently from *malarial anaemia*, and I am glad to say all the cases were much benefited by this medicine except one, who died of chronic malarial infection in May last. I should, therefore, recommend that this medicine be given a fair trial by the profession in the treatment of leucorrhoea and suppression of the menses, proceeding from *malarial anaemia* and other causes of malarial origin, when opportunity offered. I am, however, sorry that I cannot endorse, from personal experience, the opinion expressed in the *Atlanta Medical Journal*, and quoted by Dr. E. M. Hale in his "New Remedies," regarding the efficacy of Ceanothus in intermittents, with enlarged and indurated spleen, because I have been singularly unfortunate in the treatment of the malady with this agent, as I have already said in my treatise on "Fevers and their treatment

on Homoeopathic principles," page 93.

The readers will kindly remember what I have said in my article on "Aurum metallicum and Syphilis," published in page 145, No. 4, of THE HOMOEOPATHIC RECORDER, of July, 1890, regarding the efficacy of Cod-liver Oil in cases supposed to have constitutional taint, as that of Syphilis, Scrofula, etc. The case under review, I believe, supports me in that belief."

(R. K. Ghosh, M.D., Calcutta, *Ceanothus* in Leucorrhoea and Suppression of the Menses, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 5 (1890), p. 259-262)

1895 - What I know about *Ceanothus* - J. A. Whitman

"Some six or eight years ago, while running over "Hale's New Remedies," I chanced to fall upon *Ceanothus* as a remedy which seemed to point strongly toward the spleen, and as that organ is more or less involved in this climate, particularly in intermittent and malarial fevers, I sent for a half ounce of the tincture.

Not long after that we had a wave of splenic disturbances which lasted for some six months. The first case was a man, a hard drinker, about forty-two years of age. I found him in most severe agony, could scarcely get his symptoms. On examination found that the spleen almost completely filled the space between the ribs and the ilium, and as hard as a bone. The pain was sharp, cutting and changeable; was somewhat nauseated. I put about ten drops of *Ceanothus* in a half glass of water and gave teaspoonful doses every twenty minutes, with hot-water compresses externally; after three or four doses he was able to lie down and the medicine was given less frequently. In the course of twenty-four hours he was able to do without the hot-water compresses, and was quite comfortable, and the remedy then was given only as needed. In about six weeks the spleen was reduced so that only the edge of it was felt below the ribs, and the patient was able to be out and attend to light work. He kept a vial of medicated pellets with him for any disturbances that might arise. He never had another attack, but died some six years later of dropsy, so I was informed.

The next case was a woman about thirty-six, married, with four or five children. She called me for an intermittent fever. She seemed to be sick all over between the attacks, and as she did not get well as fast as she thought she ought to do she insisted on using quinine (which I seldom use); this time, however, I allowed it. It stopped the periodicity, but she lingered along about a month and called me again. The chills and fever had returned; there was a severe pain in the left side under the ribs. I found the spleen enlarged to about half way down the hip bone - hard and sore. Taking the case entirely into my own hands this time, I put her on *Ceanothus*, and in a few days the symptoms were all relieved, and in the course of three or four weeks she was well and never had another attack since.

These were the only two cases of spleen trouble I have had where the patients were confined to the bed. During the time of this epidemic, however, I had many come to the office with severe pain in the left side, under the ribs, indicating splenic disturbance; to all of them I gave *Ceanothus* in the form of medicated pellets. One vial sufficed in all cases. Since that time we have not had another wave of spleen disorders, nor have I had a case where *Ceanothus* was particularly indicated.

Most of our diseases here in the south run in this wave movement. I do not know as that is the case in the north. It is sometimes the case that for two or three months two or three remedies will be all that is needed; then a change will come, and something else will be called for.

My experience with *Ceanothus* at that time gave me perfect confidence in it for diseases of the spleen, and I should use it every time where the spleen is involved, and no contra-indications.

I never have experimented with it for any other symptoms; in fact, I can see no case for its

use, unless it would be in an indurated vascular gland, such as the uterus, testicles, mammary gland or liver, and as we have remedies which are indicated here, I have abstained from trying this one; and as it is every physician's duty to relieve his patients in the quickest possible time, with the least expense in pain and money, I have refrained from experimenting. In hospital treatment it might be different.

I have given no diagnostic symptoms of spleen troubles, as all physicians are familiar with them. Where splenic disorders are prevalent, I should strongly advise a trial of *Ceanothus*." (J. A. Whitman, M.D., Beaufort, S. C., What I know about Ceanothus, Medical Century vol. 3 (1895), p. 79)

1897 - Pain in Region of the Spleen - M. Powell

"Miss H., aet. 20. Says she has had this pain constantly, day and night, for more than two years. Occasionally, and only for a short time, the pain would be felt under the left scapula instead.

Clinical Symptoms: Aching, sore pain in region of the spleen, and worse when lying on right side and when sitting. Better when standing.

Ceanothus americanus ³⁰.

Remarks:

Pain less severe in twenty-four hours. On second day she came to me in alarm about her chest. Complained of pricking pains and difficult breathing, which all subsided in about two days. After one week entire relief."

(Dr. Milton Powell, Verifications, Reported at the February Meeting of the New York Homoeopathic Materia Medica Society, The North American Journal of Homoeopathy vol. 45 (1897), p. 722-723)

1901 - Experiences with Ceanothus in splenic cases in Bengal - A. W. K. Choudhury

"Bengal is a fertile field of hypertrophy and induration of the spleen; we can see here cases of acute splenitis and enlarged spleen with dull aching and tenderness under pressure. In our hands *Ceanothus* has wrought marvellously rapid and beneficial action in acute splenitis. In enlarged spleen with dull aching and tenderness under pressure its good action is remarkable. Chronically hypertrophied and indurated spleen is the least affected by the remedy." - "In most of our spleen cases we see constipation and irregularity in opening of the bowels. *Ceanothus* brings regularity in the action of the bowels, and patients get always daily one or two normal stools."

(Dr. A. W. K. Choudhury, Calcutta, India, Hydrastis and Ceanothus, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 16 (1901), *Ceanothus Americana*, p. 274)

1907 - Enlarged spleen in a cow - J. Sutcliffe Hurndall

"This case is that of a red cow, the property of a small milk seller in Liverpool. So far as I could discover from a superficial examination the animal did not appear seriously ill, but I was informed that she had refused food for three days, and that the lacteal secretion was gradually becoming less; the thermometer showed that her internal temperature registered 102° F., which for an animal kept under such conditions was quite a normal state of affairs; the pulse-beats numbered 52, also normal; the faeces were inclined to be slightly firmer than is usual in the cow, and there were no irregularities in the urinary secretion. This was all the information I could obtain. I therefore commenced to make a careful physical examination of the liver, lungs, and heart, but could find nothing wrong. On passing my hands over the seat of the spleen I found a large rounded body behind the ribs of the left side, but on manipulating it could make no impression; the animal did not even wince nor give the slightest evidence of pain, though I kneaded it with my knuckles pretty freely. So far I had not arrived at any satisfactory conclusion, but told the owner I would send him some medicine. After referring to one

or two text-books on veterinary medicine, from which I derived no light whatever, I turned to Hale's *New Remedies*, and there, under "Enlargement of Spleen," I found that Dr. Burnett had cured this condition with *Ceanothus Virginiana*; and having carefully perused a most interesting article from his pen, entitled "*Ceanothus Americanus in Relation to diseases of the Spleen*," I unhesitatingly prepared 12 doses of 10 drops each of the mother-tincture and sent the bottle, with instructions to give the cow a dose three times a day at intervals of four hours. The day but one following I called again, and on manipulating the swollen spleen the cow sprung forward as though I had struck her, which was pretty strong evidence that the organ was becoming tender to the touch. This being strictly in accordance with what I was led to anticipate from its recognised action in the human subject, I ordered its continuance, and in a week from that time the swelling had subsided, the cow resumed her ordinary diet, and the lacteal secretion returned in full quantity."

(J. Sutcliffe Hurndall, M.R.C.V.S., Homoeopathy in veterinary practice, *The Homoeopathic World* vol. 42 (1907), p. 158-159)

1920 - The New Jersey Tea

"*Ceanothus*, by the way, is a left-sided remedy and prominently affects the spleen. *Ceanothus*, by the way, is also known as New Jersey tea, for the reason that the patriots during the Revolutionary War used it as a substitute for the real *Thea Chinensis*, imported via England. *Ceanothus* was regarded by Burnett as an organ remedy, which, in truth, it is, as is evidenced at times, by its kindly action in simple splenic hypertrophy."

(R. F. Rabe, M. D., New York, Editorial, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 35 (1920), p. 334)

1920 - Enlarged spleen - H. Baker

"*Ceanothus* has reduced an enlarged spleen a number of times for me. It is a left-sided remedy and has an aggravation from lying on the left side. I use it in the tincture."

(Harry B. Baker, M. D., Richmond, Va., Notes in *Materia medica*, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 35 (1920), p. 532-533)

1996 - Cancer - Arthur Hill Grimmer

A remedy for cancer of the spleen, pancreas and liver.

(Repertory Rubrics for Kent's Repertory from Grimmer, Prepared by Ahmed N. Currim, in: *The Collected Works of Arthur Hill Grimmer M.D.*, edited by Ahmed N. Currim Ph.D., M.D., Hahnemann International Institute 1996, p. 864, 865)

Hering's Guiding Symptoms



Constantin Hering (1800-1880)

Hering's Guiding Symptoms

Ceanothus americanus

New Jersey Tea, or Red-root.

Rhamnaceae.

Extends from Canada to the Gulf, and west to Arkansas and Iowa.

The bark of this root is considered astringent by the Old School and is recommended in aphthous sore mouth and throat, accompanying scarlet fever. See Investigator, April, 1879. - J. L. Andrews.

AUTHORITIES. - L. Munyon, Am. Observ., 7, 100; clinical cases and a fragmentary proving by J. C. Burnett, in Mon. Hom. Rev., vol. 23, p. 155.

W. Geisse reported a case of chronic urinary trouble in an old man cured by the tea.

Mind

l Low-spirited, fears he will become unfit for work. θ Chronic splenitis.

π Great nervous excitement, with chilliness and loss of appetite; felt as if nerves were shaken; at dinner could scarcely hold knife and fork.

Inner Head

ii Headache in right side, with pain in region of spleen.

Inner Mouth

: Aphthous affections of mouth and fauces.

Hypochondria

ll Deep-seated pain in left hypochondrium.

l Pain and fulness in left side, with inability to lie on it.

l Severe pain in region of spleen, with low spirits.

l Pain in left side, for a long time with leucorrhoea and chilliness.

Pain in left side, headache right side; severe pain in left side, with inability (for years) to lie on that side.

l Swelling in left side, under ribs, with cutting pain, < in cold weather, with constant chilliness, must sit over fire. θ Chronic splenitis.

l Enlarged spleen, extending to within an inch of crest of ilium, with severe pain in side.

l Chronic hypertrophy of spleen. θ After intermittent.

Stool and Rectum

Diarrhoea.

: Dysentery.

Male Sexual Organs

: Syphilitic complaints.

Female Sexual Organs

l Leucorrhoea, profuse, thick and yellow, with pain under left ribs. θ Chronic splenitis.

π Menses appeared ten days too early, and very profusely.

l Catamenia appears every two weeks.

l Metrorrhagia, with pain in region of spleen.

Neck and Back

π Chilliness down back.

Rest. Position. Motion

Cannot lie down, on account of pain in left side.

Temperature and Weather

! Must sit over fire. θ Splenitis.

Cold weather: < swelling and pain in left side under ribs.

Fever

π Chilliness, principally down back; shivering; loss of appetite, and nervous excitement.

! Rigors at frequent intervals, with pain in left side. θ Chronic splenitis.

Intermittent, with chronic enlargement of spleen.

Attacks, Periodicity

Every two weeks, catamenia.

Locality and Direction

Right: headache.

Left: pain in region of spleen; deep-seated pain in hypochondrium; pain and fulness in hypochondrium, with inability to lie down, with leucorrhoea and chilliness; swelling in side under ribs; pain in side, with rigors.

Sensations

As if nerves were shaken.

Cutting: in left side under ribs.

Pain: in left side.

Fulness: in left side.

Stages of Life, Constitution

! Girl, aet. 14; splenic pain.

A young lady, aet. about 26; chronic splenitis.

A woman, aet. about 30, or 32, mother of several children, ill-fed and overworked; chronic hypertrophy of spleen.

A middle-aged, childless lady, of fresh complexion; chronic hypertrophy of spleen.

A lady, aet. about 55; chronic splenitis, chills and leucorrhoea.

A young man; chronic splenitis.

Relations

Berber. helped the pain in spleen when *Ceanoth.* failed.

Conium helped in second attack of metrorrhagia when *Ceanoth.* failed.

Myr. cerif. finished the cure of icterus, after *Ceanoth.* relieved the severe pain in left side.

(Constantin Hering, *The Guiding Symptoms of our Materia Medica*, vol. 3 (1881), *Ceanothus Americanus*, p. 470-471)

Leitsymptome und Charakteristika / Keynotes and Characteristics



Leitsymptome und Charakteristika / Keynotes and Characteristics

Übersicht / Overview

1900 - John H. Clarke

1915 - Cyrus M. Boger

1927 - William Boericke

1900 - John H. Clarke

Description. - New Jersey Tea, or Red-root. N. O. Rhamnaceae. Tincture of fresh leaves.

Clinical. - Diarrhoea. - Heart, disordered. - *Intermittent fever.* - Jaundice. - Leucorrhoea. leucocythaemia. - Menses, suppressed. - *Side, pain in.* - *Spleen, affections of.*

Characteristics. - Burnett, following Hale, is our chief authority for *Ceanothus*. It has been recently proved by I. C. Fahnestock (*Hom. News*, March, 1900), but its place had already been made clear by clinical use; and definite clinical symptoms have been observed.

Ceanothus is a spleen remedy *par excellence*; deep-seated pain in left hypochondrium; pain and fulness in left side; cutting pain. Pain, inflammation, enlargement of spleen, either alone or with other affections, indicate its use; chilliness, principally down back; shivering; rigors; must sit over fire; < in cold weather. Low spirits with splenic affection. Headache, right side, with spleen pain.

Diarrhoea and dysentery (compare *Cascara* and other Rhamneae) have been frequently observed in patients taking *Cean.* for spleen affections. Leucorrhoea, profuse, thick, yellow, with pain in left side; (I have frequently confirmed Burnett's experience in this last particular, as in most others, with this remedy.)

P. C. Majumdar cured with *Cean.* 3x a case which had been diagnosed as one of heart-disease (there was palpitation and dyspnoea on exertion). Majumdar found the spleen enormously large.

R. K. Ghosh has cured with it many cases of suppression of menses and leucorrhoea in patients from malarial districts. Menses too profuse and too early with pain in left side. Cannot lie down for pain in left side.

Fahnestock's two provers took repeated doses of the θ tincture, and both had severe symptoms. One had had malaria five years before, treated with Quinine allopathically. This prover suffered more acutely than the other, and in the end had to be treated. *Nat. m.* 30 soon put an end to his symptoms. The other prover had practically identical symptoms but less severe.

Relations. - *Ceanothus* is *followed well* by: *Berberis*, *Conium*, *Myrica cerif.*, *Quercus*.

Compare: *Cedr.*, *Agar.*, *Chin.*, *Nat. m.*, *Oxal. ac.* (pain in left side). *Cascara* (diarrhoea. *Syphilis*).

Antidote: *Nat. m.*

(John Henry Clarke, M.D., A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica, vol. 1 (1900), *Ceanothus Americanus*, p. 441-443)

1915 - Cyrus M. Boger

REGION.

Spleen.

WORSE.

Cold Weather.

Lying on left side.

Periodical neuralgias. Pain in left side, with dyspnoea, diarrhoea or leucorrhoea. Swelled spleen or liver. Green urine.

Complementary: Nat-m.

Related: Chin., Polym.

(Cyrus M. Boger, M.D., A Synoptic Key to the Materia Medica, 1st edition, 1915, Ceanothus, p. 161)

1927 - William Boericke

This remedy seems to possess a specific relation to the spleen. Ague cake of malaria. A left-sided remedy generally. Anaemic patients where liver and spleen are at fault. Chronic bronchitis with profuse secretion. Marked blood pressure, reducing powers. Active hemastatic, materially reducing the clotting of blood.

Abdomen. - Enormous enlargement of the spleen. *Splenitis*; *pain all up the left side*. Deep-seated pain in left hypochondrium, hypertrophy of spleen. Leucaemia. Violent dyspnoea. Menses profuse, and yellow weakening leucorrhoea. Unable to lie on left side. Pain in liver and back.

Rectum. - Diarrhoea; bearing down in abdomen and rectum.

Urine. - Constant urging to urinate. Green; frothy; contains bile, sugar.

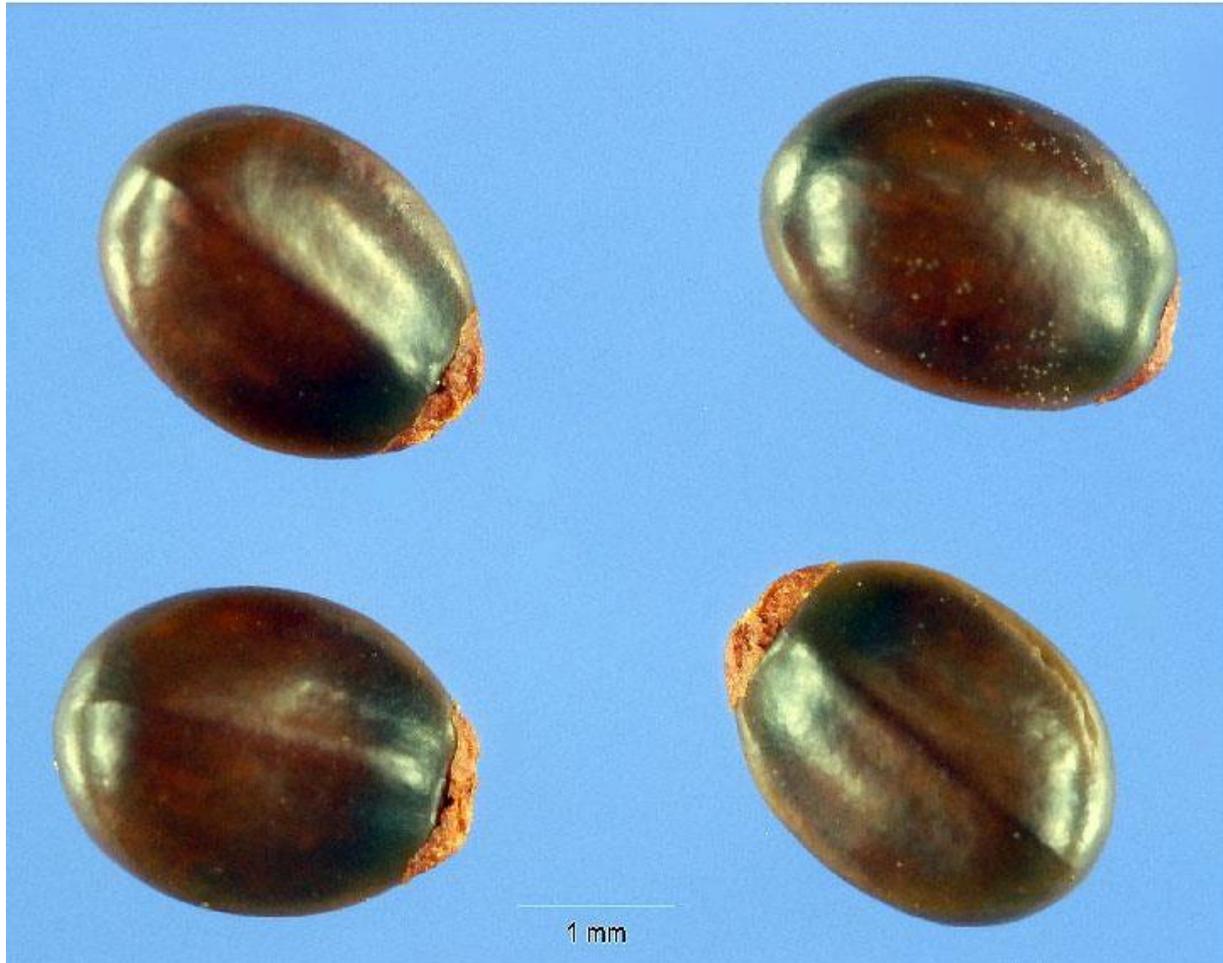
Relationship. - Compare: *Tinospora cordifolia* (a Hindoo medicine for chronic cases of fever with enlarged spleen). - *Polymnia uvedalia* - Bearsfoot (acute splenitis with tenderness over left hypochondriac region; spleen enlarged, ague cake. Vascular atony, tissues sodden, flabby and non-elastic. Enlarged glands; influences all ductless glands.) - *Ceanothus thrysiflorus* - California Lilac (Pharyngitis, tonsillitis, nasal catarrh, diphtheria. Tincture internally and as a gargle).

Compare: *Berberis*; *Myrica*; *Cedron*; *Agaricus* (spleen).

Modalities. - Worse, motion, lying on left side.

(William Boericke, M.D., Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica, Ninth Edition, New York 1927, Ceanothus, p. 184)

Kommentare / Commentaries



Kommentare / Commentaries

Übersicht / Overview

1879 - On *Ceanothus americanus* in its relations to diseases of the spleen - J. Compton Burnett

1900 - J. C. Fahnestock

1879 - On *Ceanothus americanus* in its relations to diseases of the spleen - J. Compton Burnett

"For several years I have been in the habit of using this drug in true Rademacherian fashion as an organ remedy. The perusal of Rademacher's *Magnum Opus* is one of the greatest literary treats that ever fell to my lot ; based on Hohenheimian bizzarries, avowedly and obviously merely an attempt at reducing his genial erratic *pretended* mysticism to the concrete form of a practice of medicine, by depolarising it, if I may so speak, it is nevertheless the most genial and most original production it is possible to find in medical literature. It is the most bare-boned lawless empiricism that one can conceive, and yet there are two leading ideas running through the entire work, and these are the *genius epidemicus morborum* and organopathy ; and, considered from the pharmacological side, the other two ideas of universal (general) and particular medicines. For Paracelsus there were only three universal remedies, and so also for Rademacher and for their followers. Hahnemann has but three fundamental morbid states, psora, syphilis, and sycosis. Von Grauvogl has but three constitutions of the body - they might have all been working out the fatherlandish proverb, *Aller guten Dinge sind drei !*

The *genius epidemicus morborum* is beyond question a fact in nature, but it is dreadfully eel-like, hard to get a grip of. The same maybe said of Hahnemann's tripartite pathology and of Grauvogl's three constitutional states.

Rademacher's organopathy (that an otherwise able modern writer appropriates with child-like *naïveté*) is no more and no less than the homoeopathic specificity of seat, with just a dash of a mystic psychic something in the several organs ; if we set aside this little particular soul for each organ, it is only local affinity, or elective affinity. And it is quite true in nature, and the mind that cannot, or will not, recognise it, is wanting in catholicity of perception ; and *in practice will often go a mile when three paces would have reached the goal*. Whatever else cantharis may be, it is first and foremost a kidney medicine ; whatever else digitalis may be, it is primarily a heart medicine ; and let belladonna be what it may, it is before all things an artery medicine, and just in this sense *ceanothus Americanus* is a spleen medicine.

The spleen constitutes a dark corner in the human economy, whether considered physiologically or therapeutically. I have heard it professorially very ably argued that the spleen is the principal manufactory of our blood corpuscles. I have heard that theory equally ably and professorially refuted, and in its stead the thesis set up that the spleen is, as it were, the *ultimum refugium* of the old and effete blood corpuscles, wherein they are broken up and their *débris* sent off again into the circulating medium. A third argued that all this was veritable nonsense, as the spleen had nothing whatever to do with either making leucocytes or breaking up their reddened descendants, that in fact the spleen had no other function than to act as a reservoir for the blood, being, indeed, a kind of living sac in the side, to swell or shrink according as the circulation required more or less of the circulating fluid.

I fondle this latter theory myself, and like to call it mine; whose it really is I do not know. Perhaps the erudite editors will kindly add a foot-note, and say what they think the spleen is good for beyond serving as the anatomical whereabouts of that enigmatical something that supposedly sends my dear fellow-countrymen in shoals off London Bridge into the Thames on a rainy or foggy day - I mean, of course, *le spleen!*

This great bugbear of our Gallic and Germanic brethren - as applied to ourselves *bien entendu!* for they consider it essentially a *morbis Anglicus*, just as we like to think it is principally those naughty French who commit suicide - is really only another name for being "hipped," or suffering from an attack of hypochondriasis, and there cannot be any sound reason for refusing it a habitat under the *left* ribs, since so many have welcomed it under the right ones.

My first and only literary acquaintance with *Ceanothus Americanus* is the very short empirical account of it in Hale's New Remedies, which I read some five or six years ago. Previously I had frequently felt a difficulty in treating a pain in the left side, having its seat, apparently, in the spleen. *Myrtis communis* has a pain in the left side, but that is high up under the clavicle; the pain that is a little lower is the property of *sumbul*; still lower of *acidum fluoricum*; a little further to the left of *acidum oxalicum*; more to the right of *aurum*; right under the left breast of *cimicifuga rac.*

These remedies promptly do their work when these left-sided pains are a *part* of the disease-picture, but they will not touch the pain that is deep in behind the ribs of the left side ; more superficially *bryonia* has it ; a little deeper than *bryonia*, *pulsatilla nuttal.* will touch it ; and so will *juglans regia*, which poor Clothar Müller proved as a student. But the real splenic stitch requires *china*, *chelidonium*, *berberis*, *chininum sulfuricum* or *conium*, or *ceanothus Americanus*.

Some years since I treated a lady in Chester for "violent vomiting, pain all up the left side, cough, with expectoration, profuse perspirations, and fever." She was not a Cestrian, but came only for a short visit, and took lodgings in a small house facing a meadow on the banks of the Dee ; the locality was at one time a part of the Port of Chester, but was many years ago reclaimed. At my first visit she told me she often got inflammations on the chest with cough, and finding considerable fever, cough, pain in left side, and dulness on percussion of the same side, I quickly ticketed it *pleuropneumonia sinistra*, and gave *acidum oxalicum*, which seemed to cover all the symptoms, and to correspond also to the supposed pathological state within. *Oxalic acid* somewhat relieved the vomiting, but nothing more, and I then gave various remedies, such as *aconite*, *bryonia.*, *phos.*, *ipeca.*, and thus elapsed about three weeks, but patient remained as ill as ever.

Then I went into the case with very great care, and examined my patient very thoroughly, and see, there was *inflammation of the spleen*. I gave her *ceanothus Americanus* in a low dilution, and all the symptoms, subjective and objective, disappeared right off, and my previously ill-treated patient was sitting up in a week, and quite well in a few more days. I had never before met with splenitis in the acute form, and have never since met with it.

A few cases of chronic pains in the spleen occurred subsequently in my Chester practice, and they rapidly yielded to *ceanothus*, one of which I well remember ; it is this : - -

Chronic splenitis. A young lady of about 26 consulted me for a chronic swelling in the left side under the ribs, with considerable cutting pain in it. She stated that it was worse in cold damp weather and she always felt chilly ; the chilliness was so severe and long lasting that she had spent the greater part of her time during the previous winter sitting at the fireside, and now she was looking forward to the winter with perfect dread. In the summer she had felt nearly well, but the lump and the chilliness and pain nevertheless persisted, but it being warm she did not heed it much, it being quite bearable. *Ceanothus Americanus* quite cured her of all her symptoms, and subsequent observation proved its permanency. Often during the following winter she called my attention to the fact that she was not chilly and-felt well.

One of the first cases I treated at the Wirral Homoeopathic Dispensary in Birkenhead was that of a young man somewhat similarly suffering.

Chronic splenitis. This young man was sent to the dispensary by the then manager of Messrs. Thompson and Capper's Birkenhead establishment, and was occupied in the Liverpool post office in some light but ill-paid employment.

His whole trouble consisted in *severe pain in the left side in the region of the spleen*, and he had long vainly sought relief of many, probably at dispensaries. He therefore put in an early appearance at my new dispensary to try the new doctor, probably on the well-known principle of the new broom. He had become quite low spirited and began to fear he would become totally unfit for work, and naturally that was a very serious matter for a young married man. He told me he had formerly helped his wife in her household matters, doing the heavy rough work, but the pain in his side had now become so bad that he could not carry a bucket of water into the house or even sweep up their little yard, as handling the broom pained him so dreadfully.

I was pressed for time and prescribed *ceanothus Americanus* in pilules of a low dilution, and promised to go into his case that day week, meaning to percuss the part and ascertain whether the spleen was enlarged. He returned that day week almost well, and the following week was quite well. At my request he again reported himself some time afterwards and he still continued well.

I resolved to begin my next case with the physical examination. My next case was this -

Chronic hypertrophy of the spleen. A middle aged lady consulted me, shortly after the above case, for a *severe pain in the left side and a large swelling in the same position*. Remembering the last case I said I must examine the side. She objected, so I declined to treat her, then she said she would think about it and consult with her husband on the subject. In a fortnight or so she returned (driven by the severe pain in the side), and I examined the side and found an enormous spleen occupying the entire left hypochondrium, and reaching inferiorly to about an inch above the crest of the ileum ; it bulged towards the median line and ran off to an angle laterally. It was of long standing. Gave *ceanothus Americanus* in a low dilution. This lady being very intelligent I begged she would allow me to examine the side again after I had finished the treatment. She promised to comply. Fourteen days after this she came full of gratitude and reported that the swelling was smaller and the pain considerably less. To continue the medicine.

She never consulted me again, but as she was a near neighbour of mine I often saw her, and somewhat six months afterwards she called to pay my fee, and then informed me that she had soon got rid of the pain entirely and the swelling was much smaller, so she had discontinued the medicine altogether, and did not deem it needful to trouble me again. This is the usual thing. People will not be at the trouble of seeing the doctor as soon as they are better, they seem not to understand any interest one feels in the case. We can only make periodical reliable examinations of patients in a hospital ; in private practice it is extremely difficult, as all practitioners know to their chagrin. Still, *faute de mieux*, we must put up with those fragments. This patient had had no children, and had a very fresh complexion.

My next case is also one of *chronic hypertrophy of the spleen*, though only about half the size of the one just narrated. Subject, a poor woman of about 30 or 32 years of age, whom I was requested to see by a very kind hearted benevolent lay minister well known in Birkenhead and the neighbourhood. She is the mother of several children, very poor, ill fed and overworked, but withal a good respectable woman and very clean. She had a considerable and very painful swelling in the left side under the ribs, that had been there for some time, and latterly she could not get up on account of the severe pain. I carefully examined the tumour and satisfied myself that it was a very much swelled spleen, and the pain seemed to me to be due to its pressing against the ribs. I marked its size on the skin with ink, made her engage not to wash off the ink mark, and promised her I would call in a week, having first prescribed *ceanothus*

as in the other cases. But the fates were against my laudable plan, for I received a message, the day before my next visit was due, to the effect that Mrs. - felt herself so much better than she was up at her housework, and begged me not to call again, as she thought it unnecessary.

Since then I have at times had cases of deep-seated pain in the left side to treat, and have mostly found it yield to *ceanothus*, though not always. In one case in which it failed the pain was cured with *berberis vulgaris*. In one case of jaundice, characterised by very severe pain in the *left* side, I gave *ceanothus*, with very prompt relief of the pain only; *myrica cerifera* then finished the icterus. Before giving the *ceanothus* I had given *chelidonium majus*.

In one case of severe metrorrhagia, characterised by pain in the left hypochondrium, *ceanothus* gave instant relief to the pain, and checked the hemorrhage. It failed me in a subsequent similar attack in the same person when *conium* was effective, and was suggested by Dr. Thomas of Llandudno.

Chronic splenitis, chills, and leucorrhoea. Some four years since, perhaps a little more, I treated a lady of about 55. She complained of rigors at frequent intervals, and pain in left side, both of long standing. The leucorrhoea had lasted some twenty years, and was profuse, thick and yellow. She had been for years under the best allopathic physicians of Chester, and finally given up as beyond the reach of medical art, evidently on Moliere's principle that " Nul n'aura de l'esprit que nous et nos amis." Nevertheless, the patient bethought her of homoeopathy, and came under my care. Her last physician had finally suspected cerebro-spinal mischief, and hinted at incipient paralysis.

The pain in the side was the most prominent and distressing symptom, and for this I prescribed *ceanothus*. In a month the pain was entirely cured, and also the leucorrhoea, while the cold feeling was very much diminished, but not quite cured. I have also never succeeded in quite curing it with any subsequent treatment. I watched the case for nearly four years, and am thus enabled to state that the pain in the side and the leucorrhoea never returned, and the chilliness never again became very bad, but still she had it a little when I saw her last.

Cases calling for this remedy are not very common with me, but every few weeks I meet with one. Thus, since coming to London, I have met with one such, viz., a girl, Ada, aet. 14, who came under observation on Nov. 29, 1878, with *pain in the left side for some months*, and right-sided headache. She received *ceanothus* 1 in pilules. Dec. 18. Cured of pain in left side, head better. Pergat. Did not return.

Ceanothus Americanus never having been proved, at any rate as far as I know, I have always used it about 1x or 1, and sometimes in the mother tincture. Most of the persons with these splenic disturbances were in fair condition, and many complained of nothing else ; many were women, and two of these were drunkards; many had " chills," but not all; none had ever had ague.

As a first contribution to a proving, I will add two or three data.

Pathogenesis of Ceanothus Americanus.

1. It very frequently relaxes the bowels, and I have known this even amount to diarrhoea.
2. *Ceanothus Americanus* 1, four drops in water three times a day was once given by me to a young lady (26) *for severe pain and fulness in left side, with inability (for years) of lying on left side.* In a few days she could lie comfortably on either side, and the pain in the side was said to be nearly well. This was my second visit, and I said, Go on with the medicine. She did, and I took these notes at my next visit: -
"Had been taking it for about a fortnight, when one day I felt *great nervous excitement, with chilliness, loss of appetite*; felt as if the nerves were shaken, and one day at dinner could scarcely hold knife and fork."

The chilliness was chiefly down the back; she *shivered with cold chills* (i.e., rigors). Thinking these symptoms were due to the medicine, she left it off for two days, and the symptoms entirely passed off. Then she resumed the medicine for one day, and the same symptoms again appeared; she again discontinued the medicine, and again the symptoms ceased. *Her bowels were relaxed.*

Subsequently her *menses appeared ten days too early, and very profusely*, a thing that had never happened before in her life, as her mamma informed me.

I mentioned this medicine to Dr. R. Hughes at the Manchester Congress, and Dr. Edward Madden and I partly agreed to prove it; I am not aware whether this gentleman has ever done it, if so, he has done more than I have in the matter, still it is obviously worth proving, for our good spleen medicines are not so very plentiful.

I have several times had the honour of calling attention to *Ceanothus Americanus* at the various meetings of the Liverpool Homoeopathic Medico-Chirurgical Society, but do not remember ever hearing any of the members mention having used it; they probably never need it, or very properly object to using an unproved drug as a remedy. Also as no notice of it ever appears in our journals it is probable that it is not a usual remedy with the profession.

We are overwhelmed with new remedies, and certainly need rather a better knowledge of what we have than the addition of any fresh ones. I therefore think it would be a useful undertaking for some one to prove the needlessness of *ceanothus* by showing how *deep seated pain in the left hypochondrium, acute and chronic splenitis, hypertrophy of the spleen, &c.*, can be more promptly cured than I here show. Some one living in a malarious district would have a good opportunity of showing its worthlessness in ague cases also."

(J. Compton Burnett, M. D., On *Ceanothus americanus* in its relations to diseases of the spleen, The Monthly Homoeopathic Review vol. 23 (1879), p. 153-160)

1900 - J. C. Fahnestock

"I wish to call the attention of the readers of the Medical Century to a very valuable remedy; a remedy very little used by most physicians and possibly never by many - *Ceanothus*.

This oversight is not strange, as it has only been used empirically and no proving has ever been made of it so far as I know. Its principal and almost sole use has been in splenitis, where it has accomplished much good.

During last summer and this winter I made several provings of *Ceanothus*. To my surprise the first symptom noticed was a sticking pain in the spleen, and after the continued use of the remedy there was quite an enlargement of that organ, worse by motion, but at the same time unable to lie on the left side ; following this there was pain in the liver, a congestion and enlargement, with sticking pains worse by motion or touch.

Pain in lumbar region with a desire to urinate.

The prover for several days and nights was unable to get any rest, owing to these aggravating pains in the sides; when lying on left side the pain in the spleen was so great I could not lie still and upon turning over I experienced the same difficulty on opposite side. At this time the urine had a green color, bile being found in the urine, urine frothy, traces of sugar with an alkaline reaction, sp. gr. 1030.

Pain and weak sensation in umbilical region. A generally weak sensation. Pain and soreness in muscles on exterior part of thighs noticed in every prover.

Tongue coated in the centre with a dirty white coating. Loss of appetite. Loss of flesh was noted in one prover. with general weakness, and paleness of face.

Stools become clay-colored, showing an action on the liver.

One prover who had malaria several years ago developed a beautiful case after a somewhat prolonged use of the drug.

Every physician using Ceanothus in splenitis following malarial fever knows full well its wonderful action. Where the spleen is affected from any cause, with enlargement, deep sticking pains, worse by motion, but at the same time unable to lie on left side, the case will generally yield quickly to Ceanothus.

I have at the present time a case of pernicious anemia, accompanied by spleen pains rapidly improving from the use of Ceanothus.

I would suggest the remedy in question for leukemia; pseudo-leukemia; splenic anemia, and Hodgkin's disease. Also, for the so-called bilious attacks, the patient having a dirty white coating on tongue, pain in liver and spleen, with or without clay-colored stools, possibly with pains in umbilical region and with it all a general tired feeling.

When this drug becomes thoroughly known it no doubt will be a great remedy for malaria and its effects."

(J. C. Fahnestock, M. D., Piqua, Ohio, Ceanothus, The Medical Century vol. 8 (1900), p. 110-111)

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[A man, aged 40, "contracted malaria in the army and has had attacks nearly every season since. Pain in the left hypochondriac region for years. Since some days sharp cutting pains there, worse by motion, or standing erect. On examination the spleen is found to occupy the whole left side of the abdominal cavity below." The author prescribed Bryonia, then Ceanothus, later both remedies in alternation, and then again Ceanothus. Result: The patient was able to resume his work, percussion "showing an enormous reduction in the size of the spleen. Some soreness in the left hypochondriac region yet remains, however."]
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