

Beech Drops or Cancer Root



Epiphegus virginiana

“While at the American Institute of Homoeopathy, at Put-in Bay, I obtained a specimen of this curious plant, and carried it in my pocket for two days. From this or some other cause, I escaped the nervous sick headache for nearly a year. From childhood had rarely escaped a month without at least one visit from my hereditary enemy. A short proving of this plant shows its action to be peculiarly, in the direction of the brain and nervous system. I hope our bureau of proving will give this plain, unpretending beech drop more than a drop of their attention. Our allopathic neighbors have used it in treating cancers.”

(E. C. Beckwith, 1879)

“A thorough proving of the remedy is needed, and without doubt it will be valuable in other cases where neurasthenia lurks at the bottom of the trouble or complicates it.”

(Horace P. Holmes, 1886)

„Cures headaches coming on after a hard day’s work, overfatigue from work or excitement, what is often called “tired headache.” Such cases are very frequent, and the patients volunteered to mention the fact that they always came on when they were “tired out.”

Of course on swallow does not make a summer, neither does one symptom always make a un-failing indication for a remedy, but a symptom often verified is always a valuable leader to the totality of symptoms. Epiphegus needs further proving.”

(Eugene B. Nash, 1901)

“A most excellent remedy and one that is seldom used. Most practitioners seem to be entirely ignorant of its virtues. It has never had a thorough proving, but the following are a few of its symptoms on which it is to be prescribed: At any sudden departure from the ordinary trend of her ways, headaches coming on after excitement. A woman goes shopping and returns with a violent headache with nausea, pressing pain in the temples with yellow tongue. A few doses of Epiphegus (30x) will soon correct the disturbance. It is also a good remedy for headaches resulting from eyestrain, and is more frequently indicated in women than in men. It acts best in the higher potencies, and seems to be especially suitable to chronic cases.”

(A. E. Hinsdale, 1908)

“Epiphegus has cured skin cancer.”

(Arthur H. Grimmer, 1996)

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1886 - G. E. Clark

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1899 - Nelson M. Wood

1899 - Edward E. Allen

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Die Pflanze / The Plant



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Übersicht

Epiphegus (Beech Drops)

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EPIPHEGUS (Beech Drops).

Epiphegus Virginiana, Bart.; *Epifagus Americanus*, Nutt.; *Orobanche Virginiana*, Linn.

THE PLANT.

“There is no plant in our newer materia medica that is attracting more attention at present than this curious member of the small natural order Orobanchaceae, the Broom-rapes.

This parasitic family of plants is represented by only 11 genera, containing in all about 150 species, all except 12 of which belong to the Old World. The characteristics of the family lie in the absence of foliage and green color in all its species ; and the presence of a two-lipped corolla, didynamous stamens, and a one-celled capsular fruit, having two or more many-seeded placenta attached to its inner walls ; this last character only, distinguishes its flowers from those of its nearest neighbor, the Scrophulariaceae or fig-worts. The genus *Epiphegus* - so-called from its species growing upon the roots of the beech tree (*Fagus* ; Greek *phegos*) - consists of slender herbs, having a purplish or yellowish-brown color, greatly branching stems, with only a few scattered scales to represent leaves, and long wand-like branches, with their flowers arranged more or less irregularly along the sides to the tips ; of these flowers the upper are tubular and generally sterile, while the lower have only a short corolla, seldom opening, but gradually torn off from its base by the developing fruit pod, which has been fertilized in the bud. The species under consideration, commonly known as *Beech-drops*, from its place of growth and the globular shape of its root, has a whitish and purplish corolla to the upper flowers, which is from one-half to one inch long, somewhat curved, and its free, open border shallowly cut into four unequal teeth.

This species has received many vulgar names in different localities, both from its mode of growth and its supposed medicinal qualities. Of these the following will be most frequently heard : *Broom-rape*, a name common to many species in this order, but not applicable to this, meaning a plant that preys upon the broom (*Cytissus scoparius*, Link), a woody shrub cultivated throughout Great Britain ; *Cancer-root*, from its efficacy in open cancerous sores ; *Clap-wort*, from a reputation the plant gained in the West as a specific in gonorrhoea and syphilis ; *Earth-club*, from the peculiar shape of its root-stalk ; and Flux plant, from its ability to check diarrhoea. The plant grows wherever the beech tree is found, from Canada to Florida, Mississippi, and Kentucky ; flowering in the north from August to September.

Mr. Fergus, who has made a study of the growth of this species, says : ⁽¹⁾ " The plant lives but a short time, perhaps not more than a month passing between germination and maturity. It has no true roots, and cannot live where there are no assimilating plants ; this would indicate its being a parasite, which, indeed, it is, but a curious one. Having no sucking rootlets, how does it live? This parasite takes a tight hold of the beech root with its grapplers (the antler-like apparent rootlets in our drawing), bending them over the host's root, as if to hold the plant in position. We break the grapplers, and find the bulbous portion of the root-stalk adhering to the root as if glued ; a thin slice and a microscope shows that the beech root has apparently reversed the order of things, and kindly mothered the parasite by throwing up into its bulb an

umbilical canal, terminated by a placenta-like enlargement, thus offering such a full supply of its juices that the bulb-cells (which hardly differ from those of the parent beech) always contain quantities of starch. If the beech root is small, that portion lying beyond the parasite withers away unnourished : if, however, the root is larger, and there is substance enough after the parasite is supplied, it will live, but will be retarded in its growth."

(1) Botanical Gazette, 1882, p. 11; 1883, p. 154.

It would seem that, as soon as the seed comes in contact with the beech root, and all proper conditions of heat and moisture are present, and germination begins, the root kindly lends its aid by furnishing a food supply from its own generous storehouse to its insignificant, half-starved, and beggarly pauper neighbor. Being thus dependent upon another for its support, and not having the faculties necessary to guide it in its choice of a host root, this species naturally differs much in its individuals. The four plants in my herbarium show well the forms which may be usually met with. No. 1, collected at Binghamton, N. Y., is 6 inches tall, has 13 branches, and no tubular, sterile flowers. No. 2, collected at Ithaca, N. Y., is 9 inches tall, has 9 thrifty branches, and but four sterile flowers. No. 3, also collected there, is 17 inches tall, spare, and apparently badly fed, has 7 scrawny little branches at the summit of a long stem, and but few of each kind of flowers. No. 4 is a fine specimen, healthy and decided in all its parts; it is over 2 feet high, and has eight fully developed branches, all well flowered and fruited. This individual was collected by my friend Prof. W. R. Dudley, at Ithaca, and the summit of its stem and root-stalk furnished the material for our drawing, where these portions are reduced once in all measurements.

HISTORY.

The empirical history of this plant is not an extended one, and as Prof. S. A. Jones, in Boericke & Tafel's BULLETIN, has fully covered the ground as far as I can find references, we can do no better than use his compilation :

1804. - Prof. B. S. Barton, *Collections for an Essay toward a Materia Medica of the United States*. Part Second, p. 6, et seq., says: "It has been celebrated as a remedy in dysentery, and that it is the chief ingredient of Dr. Martin's celebrated powder for cancer. The recent plant is 'considerably astringent,' and also has a 'peculiar and extremely nauseous bitterness.' "

1818. - Prof. W. P. C. Barton, *Vegetable Materia Medica of the United States*, etc., Vol. II., p. 25, et seq. This author adds nothing to our knowledge, but gives "An account of the late Dr. Hugh Martin's cancer powder, etc. By Benjamin Rush, M.D." This is the somewhat celebrated paper read before the Philosophical Society, and is well worthy of the student's attention.

1820. - Wm. M. Hand, *The House Surgeon and Physician*, p. 239. " Substance, infusion, and decoction, all good applied to foul ulcers, cancerous affections, sore mouths. Internally, in *secondary stages* of dysentery, diarrhoea." (Italics ours.)

1822. - Eberle. *A Treatise of the Materia Medica and Therapeutics*. The Fourth edition, Vol. I., p. 384, is now quoted. "In aphthous ulcerations of the mouth I have known it to be highly beneficial. I have also used a strong decoction of this root as a wash in an obstinate cutaneous affection of the herpetic kind with complete success. Internally I have never employed it ; I do not doubt, however, of its applicability to all the purposes for which vegetable astringents may be useful. In some parts of this country it is a common remedy for diarrhoea and dysentery."

1829. - Togno and Durand in Edwards and Vavasseur's *Manual of Materia Medica*, p. 94. In domestic practice used for diarrhoea, dysentery, and *haemorrhages* (italics ours). "We are, however, better acquainted with its external than its internal employment, and therefore it has been occasionally employed with some success in obstinate ulcers and in aphthous and in chronic cutaneous affections."

1830. - Rafinesque, *Medical Flora*, etc., Vol. II., p. 248. "Astringent, antiseptic and anti-syphilitic, deemed in the West a specific for gonorrhoea and syphilis. Useful for obstinate ulcers, aphthous and herpetic sores, diarrhoea and dysentery."

1830. - Elias Smith. *The Botanic Physician*, etc., p. 422. "The beech drops are a powerful astringent, and cancers have been effectually cured by the application of the fresh bruised root, frequently applied. It is very beneficial in the cure of St. Anthony's fire and canker in the throat. After proper evacuations, persons subject to the erysipelas may take a teacupful of this decoction (2) four times a day, at the same time applying to the inflamed part cloths wet with the decoction, not sweetened, and continued until well."

(2) Prepared by boiling down eight ounces of the herb to two quarts of water, and sweetening.

1881. - Prof. H. G. Piffard. *Materia Medica and Therapeutics of the Skin*, p. 51. This erudite author, who is exceedingly well versed in the literature of our indigenous remedies, recognizes its repute in "obstinate ulcers."

"Just here a brief digression concerning *curability of cancer* is appropriate. We who are guided by the law of similars are many of us too fond of "old clothes;" for what are prognoses deduced from the imbecility of "regular" practice other than the shabbiest and the seediest of "old clothes?" With a "regular" of the regulars the only unerring diagnosis of a "cancer" is that it has killed the patient. If a patient having a diagnosed "cancer" dies the diagnosis is valid and "scientific;" if, however, the said patient recovers under treatment, then the "cancer" diagnosis is ignominiously discarded. Of such "science" the world is weary, and the homoeopath should wash his hands of it. Consider the pathology of cancer: it is *terra incognita* wherein humoralist and solidist may fight their battles without end. It is, however, an anomaly of *nutrition* - on *that* all are agreed. To us a vaso-motor disturbance in the affected territory is the simplest hypothesis, for, if cancer is only a "humoral" product, why should it localize; what occult "affinity" attracts the "humors" to one special part of the organism? Then, again, the "humor" is a hypothesis - who has ever seen the "humor" - whilst the vaso-motor phenomena by which nutrition is effected and affected are visibly demonstrable. As a nutrition change (though, indeed, one of the most profound) cancer comes within the sphere of curable conditions, and *undoubtedly has been 'cured.'* "

"It is proper to mention," writes Prof. B. S. Barton, "that the Orobanche has been supposed by many persons to have formed a part of the celebrated cancer powder of Dr. Hugh Martin, whose success in the management of many cases of this dreadful disease has been acknowledged by the regular physicians of Philadelphia, etc. It may be said, and it is not impossible, that Martin added the vegetable matter merely to disguise the arsenic, reposing at the same time *all* his confidence in the arsenic alone. I think it more probable, however, that the superior efficacy of Martin's powder, and of the powders in the hands of other empirical practitioners, has been in part owing to the addition of something to the arsenic. If there be *no* foundation for this suspicion how has it happened that in the management of cancers the empirical practitioners have often succeeded so much better with their medicines than the regular physicians have done?" - *Both use arsenic.* (Our italics.)

The point is well taken, and rarely any substance which can thus energize the action of arsenic is worthy of serious consideration; and, further, that Martin's Cancer Powder was of singular efficacy is beyond question. Hugh Martin had been a student of the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Rush, and from personal observation Dr. Rush says: "It gave me great pleasure to witness the efficacy of the doctor's applications. In several cancerous ulcers the cures he performed were complete. *Where the cancers were much connected with the lymphatic system, or accompanied with a scrofulous habit of body, his medicine always failed, and in some cases did evident mischief.* Most of the cancerous sores cured by Dr. Martin were seated on the nose, or cheeks, or upon the surface or extremities of the body. It remains yet to discover a cure for

cancers that taint the fluids, or infect the whole lymphatic system. This cure I apprehend must be sought for in diet, or in the *long use of some internal medicine.*" He then gives this golden line : "TO PRONOUNCE A DISEASE INCURABLE IS OFTEN TO RENDER IT SO."

Lastly, we have from him this valuable practical observation : "It is not in cancerous sores only that Dr. Martin's powder has been found to do service. In sores of all kinds, and from a variety of causes, *where they have been attended with fungous flesh, or callous edges,* I have used the doctor's powder with advantage."

On analyzing all the evidence of its empirical applications we find *vaso-motor paresis* to be the *conditio sine qua non* of the action of Epiphegus, or Orobanche. In this connection note especially the observation of Tognio and Duraud that, in domestic practice, it was used in *haemorrhages*, and with that clue the pathological basis in all the conditions of its use is seen to be essentially one and the same. Attention is called to this fact because it affords the test by which one can determine the validity of any and every proving of Epiphegus. This test may be expressed in the following postulate:

The genuine "proving" of Epiphegus must evidence that the physiological action of this agent is primarily effected in and by the vascular mechanism.

We may add that, as Dr. Martin used his powder mostly in open cancerous sores, it is quite probable that he used Epiphegus as his vehicle for the arsenic, on account of its own powers exhibited in the cure of such open and ulcerous conditions. Our eclectic brethren use a decoction of the plant as a general astringent, but especially in haemorrhage of the bowels and uterus, in diarrhoea, in gonorrhoea, and in gleet. In erysipelas they claim that a decoction drunk freely, and at the same time used externally as a wash, has effected many cures. As a topical application in obstinate ulcers, aphthous ulcerations, leucorrhoea, etc., it is claimed also to be useful.

THE TINCTURE.

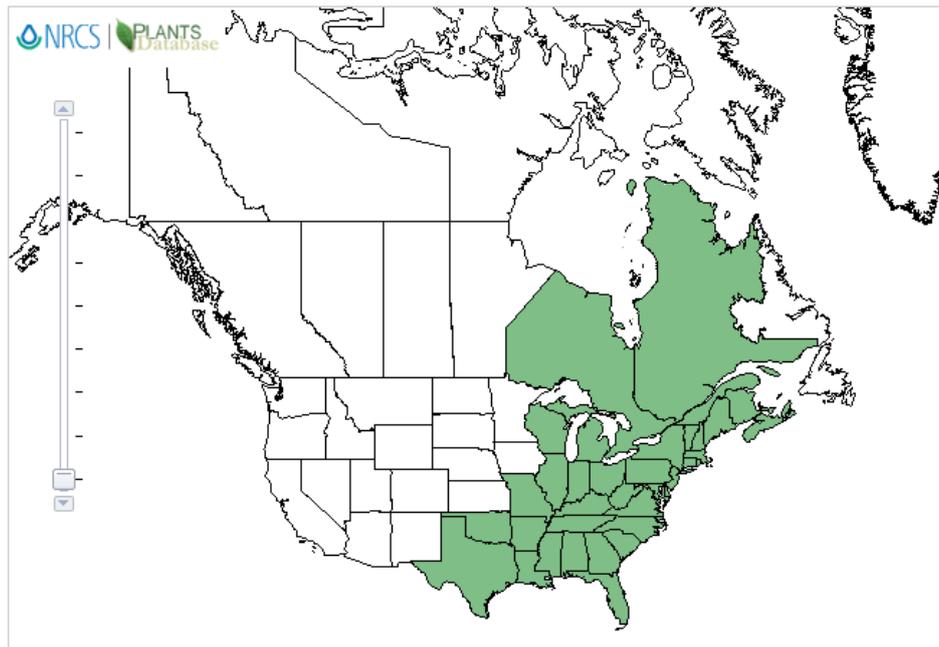
Our tincture is made from the fresh plant, gathered during the full flowering season, pounded to a pulp and weighed. Then two parts by weight of alcohol are taken, and after thoroughly mixing the pulp, with one-sixth part of it, the rest of- the alcohol is added, the whole poured into a well stoppered bottle, and allowed to stand for eight days in a dark, cool place, being shaken twice a day. The resulting tincture, after filtration, is opaque in quantities of an ounce or more, thin layers have a rich red-brown color by transmitted light. It has a woody, vinous odor, an acid reaction, and a slightly astringent taste, the astringency becoming more marked a short period after touching the tongue.

CHEMISTRY.

The intimate chemistry of this plant is as yet unknown. An analysis made for Tilden & Co. showed in 7000 parts of the plant: 286.96 albumen and gum ; 263.20 starch ; 898.72 bitter principle ; 338.40 extractive matter; 474.08 tannin; 175.04 soluble salts; 144.96 insoluble salts; 4414.64 lignin, etc. The large percentage of bitter principle and tannin, as well as the soluble salts, point to a drug that deserves a most thorough proving, in connection with which some inquiry into the beech itself would not be amiss."

(Epiphegus, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 4 (1889), p. 10-16)

Distribution of *Epifagus virginiana* in the United States



<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=EPVI2>

Hints to the medicinal use of *Epiphegus* and other Orobanchaceae by Native Americans

“The Iroquois use *epiphegus virginiana* as an antidiarrheal; an infusion of plants is taken for diarrhea caused by menstruating women.”

(William Herrick, 1977, Iroquois Medical Botany, State University of New York, Albany, PhD Thesis, 1977, p. 437)

Orobanche fasciculata Nutt., the Clustered Broomrape, is used by Natives of Montana in the cancer treatment; by the Navajos as a poultice applied to wounds and open sores, and the plant for birth injuries.

Orobanche ludoviciana Nutt., the Sand Broomrape, is used by the Blackfoot for wounds; by the Pima for open sores; by the Navajos for gunshot wounds.

(Native American Ethnobotany Database - <http://naeb.brit.org/>)

Prüfungen - Provings



Prüfungen / Provings

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1889 - Symptom-Register of Dr. Morden's provings with notes of S. A. Jones
1899 - Nelson M. Wood
1899 - Edward E. Allen
1900 - A. E. Goldsmith

1879 - E. C. Beckwith

„A few years since a prominent allopathic physician remarked that they looked upon a person who attempted to introduce a new remedy as a professional humbug; they had too many remedies and did not use half their old ones. Not wishing my friends to regard me as a humbug, I will not call the *Epifagus* a new remedy. Our allopathic neighbors have used it in treating cancers. While at the American Institute of Homoeopathy, at Put-in Bay, I obtained a specimen of this curious plant, and carried it in my pocket for two days. From this or some other cause, I escaped the nervous sick headache for nearly a year. From childhood had rarely escaped a month without at least one visit from my hereditary enemy. A short proving of this plant shows its action to be peculiarly, in the direction of the brain and nervous system. I hope our bureau of proving will give this plain, unpretending beech drop more than a drop of their attention. I find this remedy acts far better where given in a crude state. I have never used it higher than the sixth, therefore cannot speak of its actions in higher potency.”

(E. C. Beckwith, M.D., Columbus, Ohio, *Epifagus Americanus* - Beech Drop - Cancer Root, *The Medical Advance* vol. 6 (1879), p. 169-170)

1884 - Ralph Morden

Orobanche virginiana (Linn). *Beech Drops*. *Cancer Root*. *Earthclub*. *Clapwort*.
Nat. Ord., *Orobanchaceae*, Broom-Rape Family.

1. - 1882. - April 1st, 5:30 P. M., took one drachm of tincture.
6 P. M., some pain in right temple, also a very slight pain in left temple. Lasted until going to bed.
2. - May 15th, took half a drachm of tinc.
No marked symptoms for an hour; then took half a drachm more.
In fifteen minutes marked pain in right temple, with slight pain in left, which lasted for three hours, and then left a dull, heavy pain in temporal regions, worse in right side.
Also viscid saliva, and almost constant desire to spit.
No marked change in pulse.
3. - June 23d, took 60 drops of tinc. No symptoms for an hour; then repeated this dose.
Almost immediately felt slight pain in left temple, sensation of fullness in fore part of head, peculiar, sticky, viscid taste in the mouth.
3:30 p. M., marked pain in both temples as if from pressure of the finger-ends in the temporal fossae; worse in left side, and lasting until evening.
4. - 1883. - February 1st, 1:30 p. M., took one drachm of the 1x.
In twenty minutes slight pain in left temporal region; viscid taste and saliva.
2:30, repeated the dose.

In fifteen minutes sensation of fulness in the head, scalp felt tight, could not read because the words seemed to be blurred; and when I went to write could not make the letters I wished to; also found myself using the wrong words.

Occasional piercing pain in right temple.

By 8 P. M., had taken two more doses as above.

Headache in right temple, full feeling in fore part of head, eyes smarting, saliva viscid.

Had headache in left temple during the night, in bed, especially on raising up.

February 2d. - Morning: Felt better; no pain in head, but a sensation as though something was wrong there, especially in the fore part; very bitter taste in the mouth.

11 A. M., took half a drachm of 1x.

2:30 P. M., severe pain in middle of forehead which came suddenly and lasted only a few minutes.

2:45 P. M., took half a drachm more.

From that time until retiring had severe headache in fore part of head, worse in right temple.

5. - February 7th, feel as well as usual and free from pain.

At 8:40 A. M., took half a drachm of tinc.

In five minutes had severe pain in middle of forehead.

At 9 A. M. it was severest in the right temple.

Working in the open air makes it worse.

9:45 A. M., took another dose as above.

10:30, severe, continuous pain in right temple.

11 A. M., same pain still severe, some nausea, general languid feeling.

February 8th. - Headache occurred occasionally all day, with pain in left shoulder and knee.

Felt, for several days, uneasy feeling in fore part of head, also had difficulty in passing stool, although the faeces were soft.

6. - I induced a young friend of mine to take some of the drug, but as soon as the head pained he desisted, and could not be induced to go on with the proving.

He described his head pain as a pressing in the temples from without inwards; none on the left side.

He also had the peculiar condition of the saliva which I have endeavored to describe.

I find the 1x dilution produces more marked and lasting symptoms than the mother tincture.”

“The late Dr. E. C. Beckwith was the first to direct my attention to *Epiphegus*.

[Dr. Morden has made a very good beginning. Proving with the attenuations should now be made so as to bring out some of the finer characteristics of the remedy - Henry C. Allen.]”

(Ralph Morden, M.D., Groveport, A Proving of *Epiphegus Virginiana*, Read before the Ohio Homoeopathic Medical Society, *The Medical Advance* vol. 14 (1884), p. 387-390)

“My investigations of this interesting drug have been rather limited, the only additional proving I have to report was a very imperfect one by my brother, Mr. A. Morden, whom I induced to take a few doses of the 1 x. The symptoms were very soon displayed, even in from fifteen to twenty minutes after taking the drug, and he could not be persuaded to take any more. He complained of tight feeling in the forehead, burning in the eyes, pain in the temples, aching in the shoulders.”

(Ralph Morden, M.D., Circleville, *Epiphegus Virginiana*, Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Session of the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the State of Ohio, 1884, p. 129)

1886 - G. E. Clark

FIRST PROVING - CLASS I.

"Experiment made with a single dose of the attenuated drug, for the purpose of learning the place of beginning of drug action, and the order in which the various general functions of the body are disturbed thereby."

First Day, April 22, 1886, 7:30 a. m. - Pulse, sitting, 66; standing, 70; full and regular; respiration, 18 ; temperature, 98°; good health; half an hour before breakfast took 15 drops of the third decimal dilution. Frequent tests of the pulse and temperature discovered no abnormal results during this first day.

Second Day - No symptoms developed.

Third day, 7:30 a.m. - One-half hour before breakfast, took as above 15 drops of the third decimal dilution. No symptoms developed that day.

Fourth Day- Took no medicine. 7:80 a. m.- Pulse, sitting, 64; standing, 72; temperature, 97 ° ; arose with a dull, pressing headache in the occiput, which increased during the day till 4 p. m., when it became quite severe. From this time it declined, till at 6 p. m. it had entirely disappeared. The pain was that of a dull pressure from within outwards, accompanied by slight nausea. Aggravated by open air, motion, rising or stooping. Relieved in a warm room, while eating or sleeping.

CLASS II.

"Experiment with a single dose, in material quality- not dangerous- for the purpose of determining the primary and secondary action of the drug, uninterrupted by repeated doses of the same or by an antidote."

First Day, April 26, 5 p. m- Took 30 drops of the first decimal solution.

Second Day 6:30 a. m. - Loose stool with some griping in the bowels. Rest less sleep; dreamed much. 7:30 a. m.- Pulse, sitting, 60; standing, 70; temperature, 96 4/5 °. No further symptoms developed during the day. 5 p. m. - Took 60 drops of first decimal dilution. In 15 minutes dull headache in the occiput; slight nausea; trembling in knees and lower limbs. 5:30 p. m. - Sharp pain over center angle of right eye lasting 10 minutes. No further medicine was taken and no further symptoms developed.

CLASS III.

"Experiment with repeated and increasing doses, for the purpose of obtaining the cumulative action of the drug, in pathological changes of function and structure."

First Day, April 30, 7:30 a. m - Pulse, sitting, 60; standing, 70; temperature, 96 2/5 °. One-half hour before breakfast took 60 drops of the mother tincture. No alteration in pulse or temperature or other symptoms developing. At 10 a.m. took 60 drops of tincture. 1:30 p. m. - Dull pain in the head; face flushed and red. Took 60 drops of the first decimal dilution. Within a few moments noticed a slight accumulation of watery saliva in the mouth. Pulse unchanged. 5:30 p. m. - Took 120 drops of the first dilution. Saliva increased; general lassitude; lower limbs weak and trembling; head full and face flushed; difficulty in thinking correctly or in selecting the proper words or expressions; a confused sensation in the head. 8:30 p. m. - Took 120 drops of the first dilution. In 10 minutes fullness in the occiput and dizzy sensation in the forehead, very annoying for a half hour, then passed away; letters blurred in reading; conjunctiva red and smarting; pupils of the eye normal; dull, heavy weight in the stomach, as of a cold substance; slight acidity of the stomach with accumulation of flatus; constant spitting of clear, watery saliva; viscid taste in the mouth.

Second Day. - Rested well during the night; all unpleasant symptoms passed away. 7:30 a. m. - Pulse, sitting, 00; standing, 70; temperature 96 3/5 °. Took 120 drops of the 1x dilution. In 10 minutes slight return of the saliva with dull sensation in the head. No further symptoms were developed.

SECOND PROVING - CLASS III.

Mrs. E., a brunette, active and vigorous; in excellent health.

First day, April 27-7 a. m., pulse sitting, 70; standing, 74; temperature, 97 3/5 °. One half hour before breakfast took 60 drops of the first decimal dilution. No symptoms developing, at 10 a. m. repeated the dose. Within an hour very slight flying pains in the temporal regions.

12:30 p. m. - Again repeated the dose. In twenty minutes bright red flush on both cheeks, deepest on the left side. Full sensation in the head lasting one hour. Weak, trembling sensation in lower limbs.

4 p. m. - Sharp gnawing pain in the stomach, accompanied by slight increase of saliva. These passed away within an hour. The pain was aggravated by motion, relieved by eating and quiet.

5:30 p. m.- Further increased the dose by 60 drops of 1x dilution. With the exception of slight flush in the face no further symptoms were developed.

RESUME - SERIES I.

a. "Beginning of drug action." - Upon the circulation.

b. "Order in which the various general functions of the body were disturbed."

1. Diminished heart action. 2. Cephalalgia. 3. General depression of motor nerves, especially those of the lower limbs. 4. Gastralgia. 5. Excitation of the salivary glands.

SERIES II.

a. Primary action. - Vaso-motor depressant.

b. Secondary action. - 1. Irritation of the fibres of the pneumogastric and trifacial and possibly the great sympathetic as shown in diminished heart action, nausea and increased salivation.

2. Also irritation of the motor nerves of the cerebrospinal system; especially those supplying the lower limbs.

SERIES III.

Cumulative action. - Very slight. Indeed, after a certain definite action had been obtained, further exhibition of the drug had little or no effect upon the system."

"These provings, with the clinical cases appended, establish the range of action of the remedy, the organs involved, as well as the class of patients to whom the drug will be found remedial.

Class - The old chronic headaches that have outlived the physic and the physician that in vain have sought to palliate them - the patient that comes to you with anaemia stamped upon every feature, whose stock of vital energy is not sufficient to withstand any extra demand. It is the headache of exhaustion, neurasthenia.

Locality - Anterior third of cerebrum, more markedly the temples, generally unilateral, and upon the right side.

Sensations - Fullness of the head; dull, heavy pressure, increasing in violence.

Aggravation - From motion, especially in outer or cold air; light and noise, rising from a supine position or stooping, from any extra exertion or excitement.

Amelioration - Warmth, rest and sleep.

Concomitants - Profuse flow of saliva, viscid taste in the mouth, confused cerebration, eyes blurred and smarting, nausea and general languor.

Potency - The best proving was obtained from the third decimal dilution, and the first decimal dilution was found to possess more pathogenetic power than the mother tincture. The 15x was tried with unsatisfactory results. The third was the one ordinarily used."

(G. E. Clark, M.D., Stillwater, Proving of *Epiphegus virginiana* with clinical notes, The Minnesota Medical Monthly vol. 1 (1886-1887), p. 176-179. Read before the Minnesota Homoeopathic Institute, session of 1886)

1889 - Symptom-Register of Dr. Morden's provings with notes of S. A. Jones

“(1) Effects of a drachm of the tincture ; (2) Effects of 1 drachm of the lx; (3) Effects of half drachm of the tincture; (4) Effects of half drachm of the lx; (5) The effects of the drug (dose not stated) on a friend who would not repeat the experiment on account of the headache caused ; (6) Effect of overdose in a case of headache in .Mrs. 8 ; (7) Effects of dosage in Mrs. D .

Mind. - When writing could not make the desired letters. ² Found himself using wrong words in writing. ² Sensation as though something was wrong in his head, especially in the forepart (morning after headache). ² Fears death from the palpitation of the heart. ⁶ Fears injury to her health from the drug. ⁷

Head. - Pain in right temple. ^{1 2} Slight pain in left temple, lasted until bed-time. ^{1 2} Marked pain in right temple, with slight pain in left, which lasted for three hours, and left a dull heavy pain in the temporal regions, worse on the right side. ¹ Pain in both temples as if from pressure of the finger-ends in the temporal fossae, worse left side, and lasting from 3 p.m. until evening. ² Piercing pains in right temple. ² Headache in left temple during the night while in bed, especially on rising up. ² Headache worse in right temple. ² Pressing in right temple from without inward. ⁵ Sensation of fulness in the forepart of the head. ^{1 2} Severe pain in middle of forehead ; ^{3 4} came on suddenly and lasted only a few moments. ⁴ Severe headache in forepart of head for several days. ³ (Clinical) headache brought on by visiting and over-exertion.

External Head. - Scalp feels tight during the headache. ³

(Notes by Prof. S. A. Jones.)

[NERVOUS HEADACHE. - *Vide Day. Headaches; their Nature, Causes and Treatment*, Chapter VII., Third edition. The victims of this species of headache are not equal to any unusual demand upon their energy; any slight departure from "the even tenor of their way" determines an attack. It is the headache of exhaustion - *neurasthenia*, as it is termed, hence the slight excitement of a visit, or a day's shopping, or an unwonted over-exertion, exhausts their limited capital of energy and precipitates an attack.

Locality. - Anterior third of cerebrum. Notably the temples, and probably more markedly the right side.

Direction of Evolution. - From right to left, and probably upper right and lower left, thus following the physiological law of decussation. (This element affords valuable "internal evidence " as to the genuineness of a proving.)

Sensations. - Fulness (forepart of head) ; dull, heavy pain (ultimately becoming severe); *pressure from without inwards* (as if compressed with finger-tips); tight feeling of scalp.]

Eyes. - Could not read because the words seemed to be blurred. ² Smarting. ²

(Note by Prof. S. A. Jones.)

[The proving is incomplete, as the pupils were not observed, but, *caeteris paribus*, *pressure from without inwards* denotes cerebral anaemia from vaso-motor spasm.]

Mouth. - *Saliva viscid.* ^{1 5} Almost constant desire to expectorate. ¹ Sticky, viscid taste in the mouth. ^{1 2} Bitter taste in the mouth (secondary). ³

(Note by Prof. S. A. Jones.)

[The adept will have seen before this that *Epiphegus* is unique, and that it is most distinctly distinguished from all other known remedies by the feature: *Almost constant desire to spit*; SALIVA VISCID.]

Heart. - Palpitation which makes her feel very weak. ⁶

Stomach. - Nausea. ³

Stool. - Passed with difficulty although the faeces were soft. ³

Superior Extremities. - Pain in left shoulder. ³

Inferior Extremities. - Pain in left knee. ³

General. - Languid feeling. ³

Aggravation. - Headache aggravated by working in the open air; ³ rising up in bed. ²

(Note by Prof. S. A. Jones.) [*Aggravation.* - On rising up from supine position. "Walking in the open air. (If the pathology is correct which ascribes the symptoms in *Epiphegus chiefly* to cerebral anaemia (quantitative not qualitative), then the aggravating element is in *temperature*, not *motion*.)]

Amelioration. - After sleeping. ² Morning. ¹

(Note by Prof. S. A. Jones.) [*Amelioration.* - A good sleep. (Simply a restoration of energy.)]

(*Epiphegus*, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 4 (1889), p. 17-18)

1899 - Nelson M. Wood

“After having used this remedy with the most gratifying success for over a year, I decided to make some provings myself on a small scale. The result is as follows :

I took teaspoonful doses of the tincture in 1/3 of a glass of water, every two hours the first day, and after every dose had a distinct nauseated feeling which after a few minutes passed away and a sense of stimulation was felt. This in turn seemed to gradually grow into a general nervous, uneasy state, and I could not concentrate the mind easily on any single subject. About half an hour after beginning the proving a sharp boring pain was felt in the base of the nose, and back through the right side of the forehead. Later, pain was felt through the left temple and the whole head felt constricted. One thing noticeable about the pain, was that it felt as though it came from without, inward, and the sharp pain was not constant, although the constriction and confusion were present for several hours. After one dose of two drams of the tincture, a general headache, including marked pain in both ears and shooting upward in front of them, was felt within fifteen minutes there was particularly heavy pain back of the eyes. Nothing could be done to relieve the symptoms.

The provings I continued several days with smaller, but more frequent doses, and the results were practically the same. The pain was usually felt first through the right side, but sometimes came first, in the left side, and then was followed by a general headache.

I am positive that these headache symptoms with me, were not the product of imagination, as several times I went out on my regular calls, and every few minutes when I had entirely forgotten what I was doing with the drug I would experience sharp pains through my forehead which passed backward into the head.

Another proving, made upon a friend, a young women of nervous temperament, gave almost identical symptoms with the above, with the addition of a general numbness of the right side, but more pronounced in the arm. She also had very frequent, loose stools which lasted several hours. This person did not know, or even suspect that I was trying to get a proving of a drug, and voluntarily told me a few days afterwards how she felt after taking the tonic I left her.

Another healthy young woman, 22 years of age, took one dose of one dram of tincture well diluted, and in half an hour she had a severe headache, involving the whole head, but particularly hard in the forehead, and in left side. Pain was felt in, and in front of both ears, with a marked ringing in the ears, with dizziness. She was decidedly nervous and experienced considerable nausea. She felt like shutting her eyes, but when doing so, felt as if her head was full and in a whirl inside. This latter symptom I experienced several times.

The general picture given by these observations is practically the same as those recorded in the *Cyclopedia of Drug Pathogeny*, but lacks many of the less important symptoms, most of which were not experienced by any of my provings.”

(Nelson M. Wood, M.D., Charlestown, Mass., A similitum for nervous headaches, *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Homoeopathic Medical Society*, vol. 13 (1899), p. 93-94)

1899 - Edward E. Allen

“I have made three provings of this remedy upon myself, with a view to ascertaining if it was a true similitum that we were using. I knew from past experience with drugs that a large dose would be necessary before I could hope for the best results, hence my first two attempts were not so satisfactory as the third.

The first time I took one half ounce of the tincture in teaspoonful doses, about half an hour apart. Each dose was diluted with about a tablespoonful of water.

Immediately after the drug was swallowed I felt slightly nauseated, and this was especially noticeable, when the drug was taken without much water. This passed off in a short time, without any desire to vomit. After I had taken the whole half ounce there came over me a decided sense of stimulation, which later became a true sense of nervousness, amounting to an inability to concentrate my mind upon anything without considerable effort, and with a desire to get out of doors. At this time I began to feel a slight pressing pain in the right parietal region, which lasted about an hour and disappeared. My proving had not given me a true headache, and I resolved to try again.

Two days later I took an ounce in divided doses as before, with no further result except that all of the above symptoms were intensified.

The third trial I took one and one-half ounces between 3 and 6.30 P. m. All of the symptoms experienced during my two previous attempts returned and about 5 o'clock a headache commenced in the right parietal region, pressive in character as if a hand was pressing downward in this region. The area of pain gradually extended, became much more severe in character, until the whole right side of my head was involved, the pain being worst just above the right eye, and extending backward into the head. There was also a particularly painful spot low down in the occiput. The pain soon passed over to the other side of the forehead where I felt occasional shootings from before backwards. There was a constant pressive pain with every now and then, a shoot, always from the forehead, backward. The whole head was involved, but it was decidedly worse on the right side during the whole course of the proving. During all this time I had a strong sense of nervousness and confusion the latter being especially well marked upon closing the eyes. While the headache was at its height I felt occasional severe twinges of pain, shooting in character, just beneath the right eye, which seemed to involve the supra orbital nerve ; there was also pain and tenderness upon pressure here.

The pain continued up to the time I retired at 10 P. M. but was gone when I awoke at 7. My head now felt somewhat heavy and dull, but otherwise I felt as usual until about 11 A. M. At about this time I was taken with quite severe crampy pains in the abdomen, which continued for about fifteen minutes or so, when I had a large yellowish diarrhoea movement containing a large quantity of bile, accompanied by a good deal of tenesmus which soon passed away after it.

It seems to me that we have here a remedy that will prove to be of great benefit to us in the treatment of many of the headaches that occur in nervous women due to nerve tire, or fatigue from whatever cause.

A more extended proving upon many persons with a careful tabulation of the results, may reveal other important spheres of action, among which I think the liver will be found affected to a not inconsiderable degree.”

(Nelson M. Wood, M.D., Charlestown, Mass., A similitum for nervous headaches, Proceedings of the Massachusetts Homoeopathic Medical Society, vol. 13 (1899), Discussion, by Edward Everett Allen, M.D., Charlestown, Mass., p. 96-97)

1900 - A. E. Goldsmith

„During last winter, with some members of my class in Materia Medica at Pulte Medical College, I endeavored to make a proving of *Epiphegus*. Though the results of the effort were not very satisfactory, yet I obtained some symptoms which I think may be considered reliable.

They tend to confirm some of the symptoms in Allen's Handbook of Materia Medica.

I was disappointed in getting so few head symptoms, as the drug has been found clinically so useful in a certain form of sick headache; but the symptoms undoubtedly show the drug to affect chiefly the digestive tract, from which no doubt the head symptoms arise.

The tincture was used in the proving, and the doses varied from five to hundred and fifty drops three times a day, before eating.

Symptoms

Tongue coated yellowish, with a sense of gastric discomfort. Bitter taste in the mouth.

Saliva thick.

Dull frontal headache.

Drowsiness after meals.

A feeling of weight over the sternum.

Palpitation of the heart at night.

Sharp, shooting pains in abdomen, increased by inspiration and motion. Worse about 3 A.M. (a large dose of the medicine had been taken just before retiring).

Stools loose, urgent. In one prover involuntary stools.

One prover reported the return of a dyspeptic condition from which he had suffered a year or two previously, but which had been remedied by treatment.

Another prover reported his digestion as much improved.

It was towards the end of the college year when the proving was attempted, and the students were pushed with their studies. They were not, therefore, in the best condition to carefully observe the effects of the drug.

Several of them (women), when the stomach and bowel symptoms manifested themselves, became frightened and abandoned the task.”

(A. E. Goldsmith, M.D., Greenfield, *Epiphegus virginiana*, A partial proving, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 15 (1900), p. 551-552)

Heilungen / Cures



Heilungen / Cures

Übersicht

- 1884 - Clinical experiences in headaches - Ralph Morden
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1884 - Clinical experiences in headaches - Ralph Morden

“1. Mrs. S., aet. about 26: Nervous temperament. Slight figure; dark hair and eyes.

For a long time has been subject to headache whenever she went from home "a-visiting," or was subjected to any excitement or from any extra physical exertion.

The pain was through the temples, and all over the head; it was always accompanied by great nausea and vomiting, which did not relieve.

Gave Epiphegus 3x, 5 gtt., in water, twice a day between the attacks; and when she felt the paroxysm coming on I directed her to take the above dose every twenty or thirty minutes.

She complained that the medicine gave her palpitation and made her feel very weak. Said she thought it would have killed her. I then reduced the dose. Result: entire relief, and for a long time she would always carry her "headache medicine" with her when she went visiting, which she can now do with an immunity before unknown to her.

This case occurred over a year ago, and only once has she had an attack, and then it was in a mild degree.

2. Mrs. D., set 35 or 40, consulted me last fall. Said she had been subject to "sick headache" from her girlhood whenever she went away from home, or underwent any unusual exertion. She had never found any relief until she had a night's rest.

Prescribed as in Case 1, and did not hear from her for several months, when she said she was very much better, but had not continued with the medicine "for fear it would injure her health." Has since, under direction, continued the remedy, and is now entirely exempt from her headaches.

3. Mr. N. came in the night for medicine for his wife. Said she had come from town with a terrible headache. Could give no symptoms. Prescribed Epiphegus 3x, which entirely relieved after the third dose.

4. Mr. K., aet. 38, had been complaining of headache for some time, I had given Nux vom., on account of gastric disturbances, with only temporary relief. Epiphegus 3x cured permanently after the second dose.

I have treated a number of other cases with marked benefit, and have not failed in any case where the headache was induced by going from home, or from exertion. Have tried it in cases of headache coming on at the menstrual period, but have failed to obtain any results.

The late Dr. E. C. Beckwith was the first to direct my attention to Epiphegus.”

(Ralph Morden, M.D., Groveport, A Proving of Epiphegus Virginiana, Read before the Ohio Homoeopathic Medical Society, The Medical Advance vol. 14 (1884), p. 389-390)

“Of the cases treated the following are the most decided:

Mrs. F., aged about 40, German, figure slender, sallow complexion, one adult child. Had suffered for a long time with headache, beginning in the temples, sometimes worse in one side and sometimes in the other, would occur upon any unusual exertion of mind or body; but would sometimes occur without any apparent cause; bowels constipated habitually. Eyes sensitive to light during headache, so she always went into a darkened room which ameliorated the trouble. I gave her Epi. 3 x dil., 5 drops twice a day between paroxysms, and every 30 minutes when she felt the headache coming on. This prescription was made in the early part of 1883 and I heard from her a few weeks ago and received her thanks for the cure; she has had no headache for over eight months.

Miss F., aged about 17. Figure full, complexion clear, very nervous, daughter of case one; was exceedingly troubled with headache similar to that of her mother, only not affected with light. Had been brought on by excessive noise, viz: during explosion of fire works or being near where a band of music was playing; was aggravated by practicing upon the piano. Prescribed the same as for mother; results were not quite so good as she would not give up excessive practicing; but finally greatly relieved.

Mrs. M., aged 28, mother of four children, figure slim, blond, delicate features, looks like a consumptive, has excessive and premature menses; had long suffered from "spells" of sick headache, beginning in temples, causing nausea and vomiting; very much prostrated. Gave Epi. 3x 5 drop doses as before with relief of paroxysm. The prescription was made over a month ago. I have not heard from the case tried.

I think Dr. S. A. Jones has hit it in his theory that this drug acts upon the capillaries of the cerebrum causing temporary anaemia, for, I find it to be just such cases where it does the work. I have not used the drug for any other trouble but this peculiar kind of headache. I have no doubt but what it has a much wider sphere of action, and I wish someone would take hold and help prove it."

(Ralph Morden, M.D., Circleville, Epiphegus Virginia, Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Session of the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the State of Ohio, 1884, p. 129-130)

1886 - Clinical cases - G. E. Clark

1. Mrs. B., age 35. Figure slight, nervo-bilious temperament, eyes blue, complexion fair, mother of four children, the last one 8 months old; confinements quite difficult, and followed by long recovery; suffers much from headache, throbbing, beating in the sinciput and temples, accompanied by nausea and vomiting of bilious matter; bowels constipated; headaches most often in latter part of the day, and always from any excitement or fatigue - as shopping, a ride or a visit, lasts from one to three days, *very severe*. Gave *Nux.* 3x cc, which relieved first attack, then lost all affect. So also *Iris*. Finally gave *Epiphegus* 3 and 15x. No recurrence of the headaches for a period of five months, when the family left town. Whenever threatened by an attack she would take the medicine and ward it off. She never had such an immunity from the headache since a child, though doctors many and physic freely had in vain been applied. Her mother suffered in the same way till the menopause came and closed the headaches.

2. Mrs. Wm. B., age 30. Very slight, frail build, nervous temperament, blue eyes, fair complexion; mother of one child, suffered very much at confinement, has never been well since. Examination disclosed a unilateral laceration of the cervix. She flows very freely at the monthly period and has suffered for some time from a very profuse epistaxis from the right nostril, blood very dark. A great variety of remedies were resorted to for this trouble and the accompanying pain in the right parietal region, but of no avail till the remedy in question was resorted to. She had very little hemorrhage after that. The headache involves the whole top and right side, streaking down the neck, very intense, and keeps her in bed three or more days.

The attack is preceded by a fluttering and trembling, accompanied by nausea; the sensation is that of pressure from within outward ; the pupils are usually quite large; aggravations from work, excitement, motion, cold air, and before and during the menses; relieved by quiet, pressure, and sleep. *Epiphegus* 2x has very greatly relieved this condition and will often ward off an attack.

3. Mrs. J. L. C, aged 54. A brunette, figure short and stout, complexion pale, eyes pale blue. Her menstrual flow is still very profuse, lasts from one to two weeks, appears too often and leaves her very much prostrated. This has been her experience since early life. She is the mother of a considerable family of children. The catamenia are followed by sick headache, beginning over the left eye and temple, and thence spreading over the entire left side and top of the head, resting finally at the base of the brain; with great nausea, but no vomituration; profuse flow of watery nauseating saliva. Preceding the headache, sleep is dull and heavy. She has palpitation of the heart, with much pain in the cardiac region. Pulse very faint and easily excited. The headache is aggravated by light, noise, bad odors, tobacco, coffee, and any excitement or overwork, also cold and motion will much excite the pain. The odor of tobacco will instantly produce the headache at any time, relieved by warmth and sleep. I gave 10 drops of 2x dilution of *Epiphegus*, with relief within an hour, and subsequent marked improvement. “

(G. E. Clark, M.D., Stillwater, Proving of *Epiphegus virginiana* with clinical notes, The Minnesota Medical Monthly vol. 1 (1886-1887), p. 178-179. Read before the Minnesota Homoeopathic Institute, session of 1886)

1889 - A lad awoke in the morning with severe headache - C. F. Millspaugh

“B. M , a lad of 10, awoke in the morning with a very severe frontal headache, so severe as to keep him groaning and moaning when not sharp enough to cause him to cry outright. He kept up a constant spitting of frothy saliva, and once remarked, " How my spit does stick in my mouth." He also complained of a taste in the mouth "like sour, greeny, mouldy bread." The pupils were dilated, his usually quite red cheeks blanched, and, as he expressed it, there was a " thick, sickly," full feeling in his throat. He also complained that yawning (which was quite a prominent objective symptom) made his headache "twice as bad." I prepared and gave him a disk of *Epiphegus* 1x every twenty minutes for three doses. An aggravation followed the first dose, then a spell of quiet ; greater aggravation followed the second dose, and I decided not to give the third. Relief of all symptoms soon followed, and no further complaint was heard. This was the first headache the lad ever had, except during a catarrhal cold, a type that always yielded either to Bell, or Calc. carb. The headache this time seemed to follow three day's excessive playing.”

(*Epiphegus*, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 4 (1889), C. F. Millspaugh, Case 6, p. 10-20)

1897 - Severe headache since childhood in a woman aged 45 - William A. Yingling

“March 10, 1896. Mrs. M., aet. 45, small, dark.

She has had a severe headache all her life from childhood, except during pregnancy. Several members of her family have had the same headache, but none of her three children. Generally, not always, feels it coming on for several days. Scarcely ten days pass without a spell. She has never found any relief and expects never to be cured. Has tried all kinds of treatment.

Commences with a very hungry, stupid, dull condition ; she has a tired feeling, then pain begins in whole length of spine, then back of head, and settles down over the eyes ; eyes inclined to close, lids heavy ; eyes sensitive to the light. After two or three hours nausea comes on, then the nausea predominates and she vomits several times. Before the headache her legs ache, a dull, heavy feeling. A *craving appetite* before ; worse about 3 P. M. Compels herself to wait till 4:30 P. M., and then she eats her supper. Could eat and sleep all the time.

Headache always comes before or after her menses, more often before, but at any time. She is bothered with general itching if warm ; worse under arms and around waist; worse scratching. Menses : flows two days, stops two days and then flows one or two days. Profuse, dark red, bad odor; bearing down ; not much pain. Flows more at night. Itching of the vulva before. Inclined to constipation.

Sanguinaria^{cm} (F.), one dose.

April 10. Has had a bad headache for several days. Stiffness in the neck and a very severe pain going from neck over the whole head, but worse on the left side, left temple and left side of face. Eyes very weak ; can hardly hold them open. Some nausea, but no vomiting. Restless and nervous. No appetite ; averse to eating. Constipation always bad ; hard, dry, large stool. Stool recedes. Noise worries her and aggravates the head. Lies down and thinks she is better from doing so, then the pain drives her up ; change of position temporarily gives a little relief. A *sudden surprise*, as the coming of company for dinner, has often entirely relieved the head for hours at a time. Diversion of the mind also relieves. Some little dizziness. Feels as if head would split or burst open, with intense nausea.

Epiphegus^{cm} (Sw.), in water.

There was soon some relief, and she thought she was going to get over the spell at once, but it returned again and lasted until the next day. The pain was not so severe and she felt generally better.

April 15. Constipated. Stool dry, hard, impacted. Always before the headache the stomach is out of order. Nausea, feels like a load, or as if something was in the stomach that should not be there. Bad taste in the mouth. Wants to swallow all the time. When having the headache she used to vomit bile, now it is foam or water, running out of her mouth in large quantities. Eyes weak and ache. Head feels as if it would split open ; feels like the pain of a felon, she says. *Any unusual exertion or excitement*, like a party, being in a crowd, shopping, etc., brings the headache on. Always comes on at her menses, but has it at any time. Otherwise she has been seemingly well. (?) She was a two and one-half pound baby. Wakes up at night feeling so well, but feels bad during the forenoon.

*Epiphegus*³⁰ (B. & T.), six powders, one each day.

April 22. Threatened today with same headache. *Epiphegus*³⁰ (B. & T.), in water.

May 22. Last attack entirely warded off and none since ; doing well and feeling greatly encouraged. The longest she has ever been without an attack since early childhood. *Menses came on time with no sign of the headache*. Feels generally so much better. No medicine.

June 11. Two weeks ago had a slight headache which was relieved promptly by *Epiphegus*³⁰. The only time she has been threatened. Today has very slight indications of a headache, and feels as though it *might* come. Has a "carbuncle under the left arm as large as a hen's egg, a large knot" ; quite painful, a shooting pain, throbbing ; abscess *very sensitive* ; some soreness across chest.

A little constipated all the time. *Hepar*^{55m} (F.), one dose.

August 6. No headache, and did not have any at the last date above, and hence took no *Epiphegus*. The abscess broke in a couple days, but did not discharge freely, then came a cough, worse at night; coughs more or less all the time. Tickling in the throat-pit. Especially worse during the morning, some during the day and night. Expectoration thick, yellow pus. Cough much worse and dry *when in a cool cellar*, and from cold washing. Aching through the chest from cough. Cough worse lying on the back, riding in buggy, exertion. Holds chest when coughing. Cough dry at night. Catches cold very easy, very unusual. Very weak in the morning till about 11 A. M. ; feels better after dinner. Very stupid and sleepy during the day. Soles of feet burn and ache, mostly at night, some during day ; better by rubbing them. A kind of nervous feeling. Two sisters and a brother died with consumption, aet. 35 to 45. All

commenced in the same way the patient is now, and she fears she is going into quick consumption, and looks like it. Menses easy and regular. *Moved into a freshly plastered house and the cough began soon afterward.* Has not been really well since having the grippe three years ago ; has a bad cold every Spring. Dark yellow blotches all over the chest and neck and shoulders. Show much more plainly since present cough. Leucorrhoea corroding. Unusual appetite, seemingly from weakness.

Natrum sulf. ⁵⁰⁰ (B. & T.), night and morning for three doses.

Aug. 14. Has been very much better and stronger. Cough is less ; not so much tickling in throat. Expectoration not so much like pus. Lungs more sensitive to the cough; aching after coughing. Menses came on the 11th inst., and she is surprised that she feels so well and strong, and not a sign of the headache. No medicine.

September 1. The same night when at the office last, from the long walk and excitement, she had a slight headache; none since (Took no medicine). Feeling much better in every way. Cough much better. Gaining strength right along and going about a great deal, visiting, shopping, etc., and no bad results and no headache. Takes cold easily, or the chest feels tight. But little leucorrhoea. Dark yellow blotches, *copper-brown color*, on chest, neck and shoulders. Teeth serrated. Nervous. *Luesinum* ^{dmm} (Sw.), one dose.

October 12. No indication of the headache. No cough; feeling well. Leucorrhoea about well. No medicine.

December 1. Had quite a bad headache on November 28 and 29. Same as before. Headaches are always worse in winter. Knows of nothing that brought on the spell unless being in doors so much ; this used to bring it on.

Epiphegus ³⁰ (B. & T.), six powders, one each day.

December 22. Had a headache, though not so severe as formerly, on the 19th inst. Over work and running the sewing machine may have brought it on.

Epiphegus ³⁰ (B. & T.), eight powders, one a day.

March 12, 1897. Has had no indications of the headache since the above date, and feels perfectly well, although always before so much worse in winter. Does a great deal of work and is actively exercising without bad effect.

This case proves that those who claim *Epiphegus* will only act in the tincture and in massive doses are greatly mistaken. Like all other remedies it acts in the high potency, and will likely act in the higher and highest potencies. It is a remedy that should be better known and proven. May 10. No return of headache since December. Have seen patient several times lately, but she has not required any further medicine.”

(William A. Yingling, M. D., Emporia, Kansas, Clinical cases, Proceedings of the International Hahnemannian Association 1897, p. 274-279)

1907 - Headache in a bookkeeper - Cyrus M. Boger

“M. E. M., bookkeeper.

1. Dropping of white mucus from posterior nares into throat.
2. Anemia. Tarsal edges red.
3. Accumulation of tartar on the teeth. Is sensitive to cold weather.
4. Dull headache on vertex coming on mostly on Sunday while resting from the week's work. Sometimes the headache is preceded by an action of the bowels; it is generally accompanied by intense nausea, accumulation of saliva in the mouth and a bad taste, and is relieved by sleep.

Feb. 13, 1906. *Epiphegus*, one drop of tincture.

Has had no headache since.”

(Clinical cases, C. M. Boger, M. D., Parkersburg, W. Va., *The Medical Advance* vol. 45 (1907), *Epiphegus virginiana*, p. 147)

1907 - Attacks of petit mal with headache in a man - J. B. S. King

“Mr. H., subject since boyhood to attacks of *petit mal*. Of late years, they had become less frequent. A bad tooth with abscess at the root and loss of sleep brought them on again, with headache in temples. Restless sleep; moves and talks in his sleep, according to wife. Seems to get no good out of sleep. Poor appetite. The headache is in both temples equally. It is a beating or throbbing, and is accompanied with much spitting of thick, stringy saliva, and occurs frequently when excited.

Epiphegus 3x cured this condition completely so that he is now without symptoms and does his usual work as a janitor.

Remarks. - Epiphegus has headache in temples; headache from excitement; headache withropy saliva. The peculiar, uncommon symptoms of headache with constant spitting of thick, viscid saliva first called attention to this remedy. We have only an incomplete proving of Epiphegus, but as far as it goes it is valuable, being of great service in neurasthenic headaches.”
(J. B. S. King, M. D., Headache - Epiphegus, The Medical Advance vol. 45 (1907), p. 733)

Klinische Hinweise / Clinical Hints



Klinische Hinweise / Clinical Hints

Übersicht

- 1886 - *Epiphegus* in sick headaches - Horace P. Holmes
- 1899 - Clinical experiences in headaches - Nelson M. Wood
- 1911 - Subinvolution of the uterus
- 1996 - A remedy in skin cancer - Arthur H. Grimmer

1886 - *Epiphegus* in sick headaches - Horace P. Holmes

“There are few things which will more effectually advertise a homoeopathic physician in a community than to help a few cases of so-called “sick headache.” They are to be found everywhere, and our step-brothers of the old school do not pretend to do anything for them. Consequently the physician who succeeds in making a favourable impression on one of these cases (usually the mother of the family) soon becomes established as the family physician. The fact soon becomes patent that a physician who can handle a sick headache that everyone else has failed on *must* understand his business. I think it a fact generally conceded by our school that sick headache can be handled, and very nicely too, by the proper homoeopathic treatment. Such has been my experience, and I claim nothing for my successes except honours for the grand law of homoeopathy, and thanks for the good men who have placed so rich a *Materia Medica* at our disposal.

With this prelude I wish to report my experience with one of our new remedies, *Epiphegus Virginiana*. This remedy is indicated in that form of sick headache where the trouble is very evidently due to nervous exhaustion or neurasthenia. Its use was first brought to my notice by Dr. Morden in a short article in Boericke and Tafel’s Bulletin of January, 1884, page 788. I was struck at once by the remarkable similarity of the provings of this remedy and its indications to a case of sick headache in a lady friend. This lady had for years been a martyr to sick headaches. Almost without exception she would have an attack every time she went from home. Let her go to church - which she did regularly, - go shopping, take a day's visit, entertain company at home, or in fact do anything which called for a little extra or unusual exertion on her part, and the headache was sure to follow. The pain was located in the forehead, there was a blurring of vision, inability to sit up or go about, and great nausea attended by vomiting. A period of rest, like a night's sleep, always dissipated the trouble. Here was a case for experiment which plainly called for *Epiphegus*. The remedy in the third dilution on discs was sent to her with the directions to take one disc for a dose when the first symptom of headache was felt. Repeat the dose every twenty or thirty minutes until three doses were taken. Then stop and await results. For years this lady had seldom missed having an attack of sick headache once a week, and very frequently several times a week. What was my surprise and delight to hear at the end of two months that every attack had been warded off by taking a few doses of *Epiphegus*! Added to this was the statement that it had helped every case in which it had been tried, and there were orders for the remedy from three other parties, one of them the bitterest opponent of homoeopathy in the community. *En passant*, I might add, the latter party has twice since ordered a supply of the medicine, and declares they cannot be without the remedy in the house. My friend, who has now used the remedy for over two years, reports that she has had but one attack of sick headache since using the remedy, and that was when she was out of it.

The many orders coming in, and the almost universal good results, make me feel it a duty to help to put the remedy more prominently before the homoeopathic profession, and to extend the good work which Dr. Morden has started.

The following are a few facts concerning our new remedy:

It is known as *Epiphegus Virginiana* (Michaux), *Epifagus Americanus* (Nuttall), Orobanche *Virginiana* (Linnaeus), Beech Drops, Cancer Root, etc. This little plant grows in the rich soil in the beech woods, and, as the name implies, is usually found growing parasitic on the roots of that tree, although it may be found growing away from these trees in the rich compost of decayed beech leaves. About the only thing known of its medical history is concerning its supposed virtues in a cancer powder. This is the only reference made to it in the United States Dispensatory. But were there no other place for it than its use in certain forms of sick headache, it is of enough importance to hold first rank among our homoeopathic remedies. From the short series of provings given it by Dr. Morden we find it causes severe pain in forehead, with fulness; dull heavy pain, becoming more severe; tight feeling of scalp; blurred vision; eyes smart; makes wrong letters and uses wrong words; nausea and general languor; almost constant desire to spit; *saliva viscid*; worse by rising up and going about, and always better by rest in a supine position and by sleep. The kind of cases in which it proves beneficial are those who bring on the headache by any unusual demand upon the system. Undoubtedly it is the headache of nervous exhaustion, as rest or sleep invariably brings relief. For bilious headaches, or those due to menstrual troubles, it is not reliable, and seldom gives any relief. In the cases of such nature where it has seemed to do some good, I am inclined to think there was an element of nervous exhaustion playing a certain part.

I should be pleased to have the readers of the *World* give *Epiphegus* a trial, and report the result. Like our other remedies, it is not a cure-all, and it must be indicated, or no good can be expected from its use. A thorough proving of the remedy is needed, and without doubt it will be valuable in other cases where neurasthenia lurks at the bottom of the trouble or complicates it.”

(H. P. Holmes, M.D., Sycamore, Ill., *Epiphegus* in sick headaches, *The Homoeopathic World* vol. 21 (1886), p. 491-493)

1899 - Clinical experiences in headaches - Nelson M. Wood

“In the proper selection of the similimum for the varying symptoms met in common diseases, lies a very important part of the physician's work. Each new case may present new symptoms or pathological conditions quite different from others that seem upon the first glance to be just the same, or nearly so.

To be a successful prescriber, and I mean by that, one who relieves or cures his patients quickly and easily, he must carefully study each case from its pathological standpoint, and then make his selection from a *few* remedies having a close pathogenetic condition in general, rather than a great *many* of an entirely different general picture but having a few symptoms like the case to be dealt with.

Many of our oldest and most common remedies continue to be our most valuable aids. The better we understand them, the more we value them and look to them to relieve our cases. A few new ones, however, that have not yet been extensively proved, are doing great service in places that the old ones have not entirely filled. Such new ones as are of real service we cordially welcome but do not wish to accept too many, if by doing so we forget or neglect the old ones.

Perhaps no more common trouble exists or is presented to the general practitioner for relief by selection of the proper remedy, than that included under the broad term "*Headache*." I shall not endeavor to treat this subject very extensively, but shall mention only a class of cases that have particularly interested me, because of the relief afforded them by a favorite remedy.

I do not expect to edify older and more experienced practitioners than myself, but do hope that some younger ones may be helped by some suggestions given as experience upon this subject.

The neurasthenic headaches that constitute such a large percent of the cases in American women, especially those who are subject to constant nervous exhaustion from grief and anxiety, as well as to those given to society excitements and pleasures, are frequently met and often hard to relieve. They occur frequently in women not particularly active in society or under any great mental strain, but from simply going shopping, receiving callers, hearing unpleasant news, etc.

No special pathological lesion can be found in most of these cases, but there is always some nervous depletion and as is frequently expressed, a "general run down condition."

These headaches are usually diffuse with a general tired, confused feeling, more or less sensation of constriction or squeezing, and if the patient is hysterical, sharp boring pains are felt. These symptoms vary greatly according to the different constitutions and environments of different patients.

The main part so far as symptoms go, is to distinguish them from neuralgias and migraine, and it can usually be done.

For this class of headaches, the remedy that has proved most useful with me, is *Epiphegus Virginiana* or the Beech Drop. This is a low perennial parasitic herb, and grows upon the roots of beech trees. It is found all through the Eastern part of North America." (...)

"A typical clinical case, is as follows :

Mrs. L , age 35, American, has had headache every two to four weeks for several years. She has grieved a great deal over the loss of her husband, who died six years ago. After any nervous strain or overwork, she has a general headache of the type previously described, beginning usually in the right side, at the back of the head, and then becoming general with a tired fulness and feeling, as if her head was in a tight case. These lasted from one to three days with the old remedies, including Bromo-Seltzer, Phenacetin and all the other remedies in common use. Since taking *Epiphegus*, which is about one year, she has had but one headache that could not be relieved by it, and that time it had been aching several hours before using it. Complete relief is usually obtained in from one to three hours in this case.

The method of administration of the remedy employed in most of my cases is to put from 20 to 30 drops of the tincture in a half glass of water and give two teaspoonfuls every 15 to 60 minutes, according to the severity of the case. In order to get the most pleasing results it should be used as soon as the headache is known to be coming on.

Many patients that are subject to very frequent headaches of functional character, are greatly benefitted by taking five drops of the tincture in water, three times a day. It lessens the frequency and severity of the attacks to a very marked degree.

In regular sick headaches that are not controlled by *Iris Versicolor*, *Sanguinaria* or *Melilotus*, *Epiphegus* may many times be used to alternate them with very beneficial results. This I believe to be particularly true with *Iris Versicolor*. Both need to be used low and frequently.

Another interesting case was Mrs. K., 62 years, had suffered with nervous headaches, which usually lasted about 24 hours, as often as every three weeks, at least, for forty years. She did not believe in Homoeopathic medicine at all, but one day while visiting another patient of mine, she was induced to take a few doses of *Epiphegus* and greatly to her surprise, in less than two hours she was entirely relieved. Many times since she has been relieved just as quickly, and now will not be without the remedy; and is a believer in Homoeopathy.

One more case I wish to mention. Mrs. J., American, 27 years of age, fairly healthy, but of nervous temperament, had general diffuse nervous headaches about every week, or after any little excitement. *Epiphegus* always gave relief, and after taking it for a few months, it has apparently broken up the habit, and she has not had any headache for several months.

A great many cases could be given where it has proved equally efficacious, but these suffice to prove that it has some merit worthy of trial by those who have not used it, if there are any who have not.

It cannot be claimed that it is a specific for all such cases, as I have found some that it did not relieve to any great degree, but it has given relief in such a large percent of the cases, that to my mind, no other known remedy can compare with it in the good results obtained.”

(Nelson M. Wood, M.D., Charlestown, Mass., A similitum for nervous headaches, Proceedings of the Massachusetts Homoeopathic Medical Society, vol. 13 (1899), p. 92-95)

1911 - Subinvolution of the uterus

“Subinvolution of the uterus, accompanied with painful menstruation and congestion, should be met with one minim dose of the tincture of *Epiphegus*. administered four times daily for three months.“

(Notabilia, *Epiphegus* in Subinvolution, The Journal of the American Institute of Homoeopathy vol. 4 (1911-1912), p. 606)

1996 - A remedy in skin cancer - Arthur H. Grimmer

Epiphegus has cured „skin cancer.“ “Epithelioma.”

(The Collected Works of Arthur Hill Grimmer M.D., edited by Ahmed N. Currim Ph.D., M.D., Hahnemann International Institute 1996, Homoeopathic remedies that have cured patients suffering from cancer, p. 828; Repertory rubrics for Kent’s repertory from Grimmer, p. 874)

Leitsymptome und Charakteristika / Keynotes and Characteristics



Leitsymptome und Charakteristika / Keynotes and Characteristics

Übersicht

1886 - G. E. Clark
1890 - S. A. Jones
1900 - John H. Clarke
1901 - Eugene B. Nash
1908 - A. E. Hinsdale
1915 - Cyrus M. Boger
1927 - William Boericke
1929 - N. M. Choudhuri

1886 - G. E. Clark

“These provings, with the clinical cases appended, establish the range of action of the remedy, the organs involved, as well as the class of patients to whom the drug will be found remedial.

Class - The old chronic headaches that have outlived the physic and the physician that in vain have sought to palliate them - the patient that comes to you with anaemia stamped upon every feature, whose stock of vital energy is not sufficient to withstand any extra demand. It is the headache of exhaustion, neurasthenia.

Locality - Anterior third of cerebrum, more markedly the temples, generally unilateral, and upon the right side.

Sensations - Fullness of the head; dull, heavy pressure, increasing in violence.

Aggravation - From motion, especially in outer or cold air; light and noise, rising from a supine position or stooping, from any extra exertion or excitement.

Amelioration - Warmth, rest and sleep.

Concomitants - Profuse flow of saliva, viscid taste in the mouth, confused cerebration, eyes blurred and smarting, nausea and general languor.“

(G. E. Clark, M.D., Stillwater, Proving of *Epiphegus virginiana* with clinical notes, The Minnesota Medical Monthly vol. 1 (1886-1887), p. 179. Read before the Minnesota Homoeopathic Institute, session of 1886)

1890 - S. A. Jones

“In addition to the remedies, mentioned in our March number, for that almost national complaint among the American ladies, "sick headache," *Epiphegus vir.* deserves consideration. Dr. S. A. Jones thus outlines the kind of headache and character of victim for whom this remedy is especially suited:

" Class. - NERVOUS HEADACHE. - The victims of this species of headache are not equal to any unusual demand upon their energy; any slight departure from 'the even tenor of their way' determines an attack. It is the headache of exhaustion - *neurasthenia*, as it is termed, hence the slight excitement of a visit, or a day's shopping, or an unwonted over-exertion, exhausts their limited capital of energy and precipitates an attack."

(*Epiphegus Virginiana*, The Homoeopathic Envoy vol. 1 (1890), p. 5-6)

1900 - John H. Clarke

Epiphegus Virginiana. Beech Drops. Cancer-root. N. O. Orobanchaceae. (A slender branching herb without leaves, of a dull purple or yellow-brown colour growing as a parasite on the roots of beech-trees. - H. R., iv. 10.) Tincture of whole fresh plant in full flower.

Clinical. - Cancer. Diarrhoea. Gonorrhoea. Headache. Palpitation. Salivation.

Characteristics. - The Orobanche family to which *Epiphegus* belongs is nearest to the Scrophulariaceae in botanical features. In addition to the name of "cancer-root" it is also called "clap-root" and "flux-plant," showing the virtues with which it is popularly accredited. Its homoeopathic use has been almost exclusively confined to the treatment of headaches of the neurasthenic type, brought on by any extra exertion, relieved by a good sleep. The pain is pressing from within outward. A very characteristic symptom is: "Constantly wants to spit, saliva viscid;" when this symptom occurs in connection with a headache *Epiphegus* will almost certainly cure. It is said to have entered into the composition of "Martin's Cancer powder," and has been used by eclectics as a local application in obstinate ulcers and aphthae. Symptoms take the direction : Right to left; right upper, left lower. Right temple more affected than left. It has been used mostly in the 3x potency. It has been proved by Dr. Ralf Morden. Dr. S. A. Jones has been chiefly instrumental in defining its place in therapeutics. I have cured with it many cases of headache, some of them desperately severe. The conditions are : < from working in open air; from rising up in bed; > from a good sleep.

Relations. - It is allied to the Scrophulariaceae. *Compare*: Phos. in. > from sleep (Lach., Sulph., and Nat. mur. have the opposite < from sleep in the most marked degree); Fagus.

Causation. - Physical or nervous over-strain. Any unusual exertion or excitement, as going on a visit, or doing a day's shopping.

Symptoms

Mind. - Makes wrong letters or words in writing. - Fears death from palpitation of heart. - Fears injury to her health from the drug.

Head. - Pain in temples; mostly in right; in forehead; pressing from without inward; piercing pains; fulness; pain coming on suddenly; scalp feels tight during headache.

Eye. - Smarting. - Could not read because the words seemed to be blurred.

Mouth. - Saliva viscid. - Almost constant desire to spit. - Sticky viscid taste in mouth. - Bitter taste.

Stomach. - Nausea.

Stool. - Stool passed with difficulty though faeces soft.

Heart. - Palpitation which makes her feel very weak.

Upper Limbs. - Pain in left shoulder.

Lower Limbs. - Pain in left knee.

Generalities. - Languid feeling."

(John Henry Clarke, M.D., A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica, vol. 1 (1900), *Epiphegus*, p. 706-707)

1901 - Eugene B. Nash

„Cures headaches coming on after a hard day’s work, overfatigue from work or excitement, what is often called “tired headache.” Such cases are very frequent, and the patients volunteered to mention the fact that they always came on when they were “tired out.” Of course on swallow does not make a summer, neither does one symptom always make a unfailing indication for a remedy, but a symptom often verified is always a valuable leader to the totality of symptoms.

Epiphegus needs further proving.”

(Eugene B. Nash, M.D., Leaders in Homoeopathic Therapeutics, 3rd edition, Philadelphia 1901, p. 468)

1908 - A. E. Hinsdale

“A most excellent remedy and one that is seldom used. Most practitioners seem to be entirely ignorant of its virtues. It has never had a thorough proving, but the following are a few of its symptoms on which it is to be prescribed: At any sudden departure from the ordinary trend of her ways, headaches coming on after excitement. A woman goes shopping and returns with a violent headache with nausea, pressing pain in the temples with yellow tongue. A few doses of Epiphegus (30x) will soon correct the disturbance. It is also a good remedy for headaches resulting from eyestrain, and is more frequently indicated in women than in men. It acts best in the higher potencies, and seems to be especially suitable to chronic cases.”

(A. E. Hinsdale, M.D., Ann Arbor, Mich., Headache, The Homoeopathic Envoy vol. 18 (1908), Epiphegus, p. 15)

1915 - Cyrus M. Boger

REGION.

Nerves.

Stomach.

Liver.

WORSE.

Fatigue; Nervous; of Shopping.

Eyestrain.

BETTER.

Sleep.

Confusion. Like fingertips pressing into temples. Compressive (right) headache, going backward; < until 4 P. M. then >; **with spitting of viscid saliva** and nausea. Weekly headaches. Neurasthenia. Tartar on teeth.”

(Cyrus M. Boger, M.D., A Synoptic Key to the Materia Medica, 1st edition, 1915, Epiphegus, p. 191)

1927 - William Boericke

“A remedy for sick, neurasthenic, and nervous headaches, especially in women, brought on or made worse by exertion, shopping, etc. Tongue coated yellow; bitter taste. Drowsy after meals. Loose stools. *Subinvolution*, with painful menstruation and congestion.

Head. - Pressing pain in temples *from without inwards; worse, left side. Viscid salivation*, constant inclination to spit. Sick headache coming on when deviating from ordinary pursuits. Headaches from nerve tire caused by mental or physical exhaustion, *preceded by hunger*.

Modalities. - *Worse*, from working in open air. *Better*, from sleep.

Relationship. - Compare : *Iris; Melilotus; Sanguinaria. Fagus - Beech-nuts* - (headache and salivation; swelling on mouth; dread of water).”

(William Boericke, M.D., Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica, Ninth Edition, New York 1927, Epiphegus - Orobanche (Beechdrop), p. 267)

1929 - N. M. Choudhuri

Notes

- Neurasthenic headaches brought on by strenuous exertion and preceded by hunger; relief after a sound sleep.
- Constant desire to spit a rosy, viscid salivation.

“The other names for this remedy are Cancer-root and Clap-root. It is comparatively little known, but as homoeopaths we cannot neglect it; occasions may arise when *Epiphegus* and nothing but *Epiphegus* will help.

The only use that I ever made of this remedy was in cases of headaches of a very peculiar nature. These headaches are neurasthenic in type, brought on by strenuous exertion, such as going on a visit, doing a day's shopping, etc. The patient suffers from a constant desire to spit a rosy, viscid salivation. Vision too gets a bit blurred. It is always worse on rising from the supine position and in the open air. there is a decided relief after a sound sleep.

The pains of *Epiphegus* are pressing in character and they are generally referred to in the temples, travelling inwards; they are worse from working in open air. The headaches are, as has been pointed out before, nervous headaches caused by mental and physical exhaustion, and they are preceded by hunger.”

(N. M. Choudhuri, M.D., A Study on *Materia Medica*, Second Edition 1929, *Epiphegus*, p. 397-398)