

Frederick Kopp

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1893 - *Stellaria media* - A Proving

"In the HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD of June last there appeared a very interesting letter on the subject of "A Plea for the Proving of our Native Wild Plants," the contents of which I, as a homeopath, do heartily endorse. There is not the least doubt in my mind that in some of our meanest weeds are to be found some of our most valuable remedies, and that they only require proving. I am not in the least surprised at the wondrous effect of *Stellaria media* (chick-weed) in rheumatic gout in the case of your correspondent, and also in that very remarkable one of his wife. The following symptoms proved by me from the drug in September last, will show at a glance its homoeopathic relation to diseases of a rheumatic nature or tendency:

Head - Pains of a rheumatic character over the right side of the head, especially towards the back; parts sore to the touch. Rheumatic-like pains darting through the whole head, worse on right side. Rheumatic-like pains through left half of forehead, over the eye; sore to the touch. Neuralgic pains right side of face. Right eyeball sore to touch; flushes of heat below right eyelid; dimness of vision. Darting pain in the right eye. Dryness of the nostrils. Slight heat and burning sensation of the lower lip. Persistent taste of the drug for over two hours after taking, with slight acrid feeling; heat and dryness in the mouth, with numbness of lower gums and tip of tongue. Sensation as if the teeth (incisors) were on an edge.

Throat - Numbness and dryness in the throat, followed later on by sharp stitches in left tonsil.

Chest - Tickling in upper part of chest, inducing short cough, intensified by taking a long breath; hawking up of phlegm of a semi-transparent viscid character, having a saltish taste. Constrictive feeling in chest, with dyspnoea and oppression; sensation of heat in the chest.

Stomach and Bowels - Slight nausea, within frequent eructations, tasting of the drug. Stomach and bowels sore to the touch; soreness and dragging pains in lower bowels; navel sore to the touch. Wandering pains around the navel, afterwards remaining stationary between the navel and the liver. Loose dark-brown motions, attended with slight pains.

Liver - Sensation as if the liver were too large for the body; burning pains all over the liver; liver sore to the touch; burning pressure in the region of the liver. General bilious feeling.

Kidneys - Both kidneys sore to the touch.

Extremities - Rheumatic-like pains in the left foot; rheumatic-like pains in the ankles; sharp, darting, rheumatic-like pains in the left knee, gradually extending above along the thigh; similar pains below the right knee-cap; darting pains through various parts of the body, especially down the right arm and the middle and finger next to thumb of left hand. Stiffness of the joints in general. Rheumatic-like pains in the calves of the legs, which are sensitive to the touch. Rheumatic-like pains in right hip; rheumatic-like pains across small of back,

aggravated by bending; stiffness in lumbar region, with soreness. Darting pains through right thigh. Rheumatic-like pains in right groin. Dull pain under right shoulder-blade.

Generalities - Pulse slightly raised, but temperature normal. The pains are worse on motion, and the parts sore to the touch. The first symptoms come on rapidly, often within half-an hour after taking the drug. Next morning, on rising, a bruised feeling all over the thighs, as if from over-exertion. Felt unrefreshed, although had slept well the night before.

It will be noticed that the rheumatic symptoms take a prominent place throughout the proving, which should at once mark the drug as one of the most valuable and reliable remedies we possess for that often very obstinate disease, rheumatism. In the case of a patient suffering from this complaint - the part affected being just below the right knee - I applied the remedy (*Stellaria media*) locally, giving it internally at the same time. The effect was marvellous. Although the patient could with difficulty walk, owing to the severe pain of placing his right foot on the ground, in less than two hours improvement set in, and the pains completely left within twelve hours, without again returning.

Stellaria media, on account of its action on the liver, should prove of great service in hepatic complaints, characterised by congestion and enlargement of that organ.

Given to patients suffering from cardiac disease, *Stellaria media* in large doses (say 30m. θ , and sometimes less) appears to increase the intensity of the pains.

In conclusion, I would strongly recommend it to my fellow-homeopaths as a valuable addition to the new remedies of our comprehensive *materia medica*, and well worthy of their notice."

(Frederick Kopp, Greenwich, New South Wales, Australia, *Stellaria media* - A Proving, The Homoeopathic World Vol. 28 (1893), p. 560-562)

1894 - The Proving of *Stellaria Media*

"In accordance with a wish expressed by a correspondent, "F. H. B.," in January's HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD, I now here give some further particulars of my proving of *Stellaria media*, which first appeared in last December's number of this journal. I am afraid that the patience of "F. H. B." must have been somewhat taxed in awaiting my reply; but, as I am residing far away from the good old Mother Country, here in "sunny" New South Wales, he will at once see that I am blameless of any delay that may have appeared apparent to him on my part, especially as the January number containing his letter did not arrive here until near the middle of February.

My proving, and the symptoms developed thereby, originally were brought to light by swallowing the extracted juice of the weed, about half a dram every hour for 8 hours, then every 2 or 3 hours afterwards. It was, perhaps, more out of curiosity, and with some doubt, that I undertook the proving of *Stellaria media*. I doubted that such a common weed possessed any power of producing any ill effects on the human body in a state of health. I was surprised that the fact of a plant being but a mere weed is no reason which it should not be possessed of valuable medicinal properties. I afterwards prepared the strong θ tincture, of which I took from 15 to 25 min. every half-hour, which gradually brought on the same symptoms, although not so severe. But the strongest and most violent symptoms were developed by chewing the weed and swallowing it continually for two or three days. I continued the proving for three days, when I thought it advisable to desist, on account of the intense pain resulting from the congestion and enlargement of the liver, which organ, before the commencement of the proving, was normal in size and in perfect health, without having the least painful symptom.

The proving of *Stellaria media*, as published by me in the HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD for December, has all the symptoms peculiar to that drug faithfully described. They are the result of

several provings, and therefore can be all the more relied on, and will be found well worthy the study of those interested in the introduction of our new remedies for the alleviation and subsequent cure of the pains and ailments of suffering humanity.

I am fully convinced of the wonderful curative power of *Stellaria media* in inflammatory affections of the liver, and should with the greatest confidence prescribe it in inflammation, congestion, or enlargement of that organ. The symptoms so prominently developed in the proving, namely "sensation as if the liver were too large for the body; burning pain all over the liver; liver sore to the touch; burning pressure in the liver," are very prominent symptoms in both enlargement and congestion of the liver. In fact, as I have before mentioned, the above symptoms were so severe on the third day of the proving that I found it necessary to cease taking any more of the drug. The above symptoms continued without abating for fully a week, and then were only removed by the use of *Nux vomica* 1x and *Bryonia alba* 1x, 2 drops taken alternately every 4 hours for three of four days. It will be seen in the proving that there first appeared a dull pain under the right shoulder-blade, and it is my firm belief that the drug acts on the liver primarily by causing torpidity of that organ, gradually inducing congestion, and, lastly, enlargement. The hepatic symptoms generally appear on the second day of the proving, gradually increasing in intensity till they become almost unbearable. In several cases of hepatitis recently I have used the 2x dilution, 1 drop every 3 or 4 hours, and also the 1x dilution, 1 drop every 6 hours, with the best results. The 3x dilution acts best in the more chronic case.

The great power of this remedy over rheumatic affections is an undoubted fact. No drug more fully demonstrates the truth of the law of similars. In the proving not only the sharp, darting pains peculiar to rheumatism are experienced in almost every part of the body, but also the stiffness of the joints, the soreness of the parts to the touch, and even the intensifying of the pains on motion - a prominent symptom in some forms of that dreaded and obstinate disease. There is no mistaking these symptoms; they are very decided and severe, coming on rapidly, often without half an hour after first taking the drug. On the other hand, in the actual use of the drug in disease, where the symptoms were strictly homoeopathically related to those of *Stellaria media*, I have never had any cause to complain of the action of the new remedy. The action has always been speedy, and, above all, the rheumatic symptoms have never returned. I have great faith in *Stellaria media*, and feel certain that this new drug will play a most important part in the future of the treatment of rheumatism.

The persistency of the taste of the drug is very remarkable, not being removed even by the drinking of coffee, as was experienced by your correspondent. A new symptom developed since the publishing of my proving is *a darting pain in the left ear*.

Stellaria media being such a prompt and powerful drug, I do not recommend the using of the θ tincture internally. The strong tincture is best employed for external purposes. In this way it may be employed either as an ointment (30 drops θ tincture to 3j of pure lard), a liniment (30 to 40 drops θ tincture to 3j of pure olive oil), or a lotion (30 to 60 drops to a tumbler of water). The ointment and liniment may be rubbed well into the affected part; or cloths, steeped in the lotion and renewed when dry, may be applied.

Past experience in the prescribing of this drug has taught me that for the internal purposes the 2x dilution, in from 1 to 2 drop doses, taken every 2, 3, or 4 hours, according to the severity of the symptoms, have proved the most successful. By using this dilution the unpleasant symptoms experienced by "F. H. B.", successful though he was in curing his affection of the liver, would have been avoided. For the sake of suffering humanity, however, I do not regret his first experience with the internal use of the θ tincture of *Stellaria media*, as there is now one more witness to the powerful and prompt action of the new drug, and one more link in the chain of evidence that our illustrious founder, the great German physician, the immortal

Hahnemann, when he first gave to the world his great discovery in the medical world (which Hippocrates and other great men centuries before had caught but a faint glimpse of), told but the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, when he boldly and fearlessly proclaimed the only true and scientific law in the art of healing to be "*Similia similibus curantur*" - "Likes are cured by likes!"

I also must congratulate "F. H. B." not only on being a fellow-homoeopath, but as being the first to bring under the notice of the medical profession in the June number of this journal (1893) this so-called common weed; it was also through the reading of his interesting letter on "A Plea for the Proving of Our Native Wild Plants," that I was first led to undertake the proving of *Stellaria media*, although I was rather doubtful at the time as to its possessing any valuable medicinal properties, at least so far as to qualify it for a place in our *materia medica*. It is needless for me to add that I have been agreeably surprised, and am perfectly satisfied with the new remedy for rheumatic and hepatic affections.

In conclusion, I shall always be ready and glad to answer questions or supply further information on any of the new drugs or remedies proved by me and published in this journal, of requested to do so by interested correspondents. But I cannot, on any account, answer or reply to them by letter. For my reply they must watch and refer to the pages of the HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD. By doing so, not only they, but others, will reap the benefit of the information required and imparted."

(Frederick Kopp, Greenwich, New South Wales, Australia, The Proving of *Stellaria Media*, The Homoeopathic World Vol. 29 (1894), p. 216-220)

1896 - *Stellaria Media* in Rheumatism

"SIR, - In accordance with a promise made by me in THE HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD, Vol. XXIX, No. 341, p. 219-20, to the effect that I should always be glad to answer questions or supply further information concerning any of the new drugs or remedies proved by me and published in this journal, if requested to do so by interested correspondents, I now take up my pen to fulfil that promise. I must apologise for keeping my correspondents so long waiting for my reply. The erection and fitting out of a small laboratory for the preparation and triturations of new drugs prior to proving, has lately taken up a very large share of my time, but I trust that by the end of May I shall have a little more leisure, and shall be able to resume my provings, which at present I have had to relinquish. It has proved to me a matter of impossibility to answer all the letters that have been sent to me by readers of THE HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD on the subject of the use of *Stellaria Media* in the treatment of rheumatism, but I trust that the information given below will satisfy all the correspondents. It will be remembered by my readers that the new drug was first proved by me in 1893, consequent on my attention being drawn to the weed by our esteemed friend, the Rev. F. H. Brett. I made a thorough proving of the drug, not only once, but several times, so as to satisfy myself beyond a doubt as to the symptoms peculiar to it, and the excruciating rheumatic-like pains developed at the time are still vividly remembered by me; in fact, they were so severe and intense as not to be easily forgotten when once experienced. There is no mistaking the *rheumatic* symptoms of the drug. They come on very rapidly, and the sharp darting pains, so peculiar to rheumatism, are experienced, not only in almost every part of the body, but the symptoms of soreness of the parts to the touch, stiffness of the joints, and aggravation of the pains by motion, are also present. These pains may be described as follows:

Rheumatic-like pains over the right side of the head, especially towards the back, with the parts sore to the touch; rheumatic-like pains darting through the whole head, worse on right side; rheumatic-like pains left half of forehead, over the eye, with the parts sore to the touch; rheumatic-like pains in the left foot; rheumatic-like pains in the ankles; sharp, darting,

rheumatic-like pains in the left knee, gradually extending above along the thigh; rheumatic-like pains below the right knee-cap; rheumatic-like, darting pains through various parts of the body, especially down the right arm and the middle and index fingers of the left hand; stiffness of the joints in general; rheumatic-like pains in the calves of the legs, which are sensitive to touch; rheumatic-like pains in the right hip; rheumatic-like pains across the small of the back, aggravated by bending or stooping; stiffness in lumbar region with soreness; darting rheumatic-like pains through right thigh; rheumatic-like pains in right groin.

It will be seen by the above symptoms that almost every part of the body in which it is possible for rheumatic pains to occur is affected, the rheumatic-like pains darting from one part to another. My correspondents all being readers of THE HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD will remember a case reported in the January number of the journal (1896), by Mr. R. H. Bellairs, in which the pains were "now in ankle, now in knee, now in arm, wrist, or fingers," This case fully illustrates the symptoms borne out in my proving of the drug, and it but naturally followed, according to the law of similars, that the disease should yield to the month's treatment with *Stellaria Media*. Mr. Bellairs says he thinks that possibly "shifting pain" is a keynote, and I am glad that I am able to inform him that he is correct in his supposition. I am pleased to hear that he has often given *Stellaria Media* in chronic rheumatism, and now looks upon it as a specific. It is these things that gladden the heart of the prover of new drugs - the news of the practical triumph of a new drug over symptoms of disease similar to those it is itself capable of developing in a healthy body - and one feels amply repaid for the hours and days of pain and suffering that one has inevitably to put up with in the vocation of "proving". I heartily congratulate Mr. Bellairs on his success in curing the above case.

I have been asked by one correspondent whether a changeable climate - one with sudden changes of temperature occurring every day, for instance - would prevent the drug from taking effect in the treatment of rheumatism. To this question I can promptly return an answer in the negative. I have proof upon proof lying before me to testify that *Stellaria Media* is just as efficacious in a changeable climate as in any other. Reports of cases cured have come to me from various parts of the world, under varying changes of climate, and the result has always been the same, namely, "the cure of the case."

For *internal* administration I have always found the 2x tincture the most efficacious, given in from one to two drop doses every two, three, or four hours, according to the severity of the symptoms. For *external* purposes I strongly advise the θ tincture. It may be employed either in the form of a lotion (30 to 60 minims of θ tincture to a tumblerful of water), the ointment (30 minims of θ tincture to 3j of pure lard), or the liniment (30 to 40 minims of the θ tincture to 3j of pure olive oil). Clothes steeped in the lotion and renewed when dry may be applied to the painful parts, or the ointment or liniment may be rubbed well in. Experience has taught me that external treatment combined with internal greatly assists in hastening the cure. In the treatment of rheumatism *Stellaria Media* is a very active drug, acting very promptly; a low dilution or the mother tincture of the drug taken internally is very apt, therefore, to intensify the pains, and these should therefore be avoided, and the 2x dilution used.

In conclusion, I wish to notify that I shall in a future paper give a few practical illustrations of the brilliant results achieved by the new drug, both in the treatment of rheumatism and in hepatitis. In the meantime any further information sought for I shall only be too happy to supply through the medium of THE HOMOEOPATHIC WORLD. - I remain,

Ever faithfully yours,
FREDERICK KOPP

Greenwich, N. S. W., March 4, 1896."

(Frederick Kopp, Greenwich, New South Wales, Australia, General Correspondence - To the Editor of the The Homoeopathic World, *Stellaria Media* in Rheumatism, The Homoeopathic World Vol. 31 (1896), p. 236-238)

1896 - The Action of *Lobelia cardinalis*

"LOBELIA CARDINALIS is one of the most beautiful members of the *Lobelia* tribe, natural order, *Campanulaceae*. It has large, deep-red, showy flowers, which have a somewhat one-sided appearance. The leaves are oblong, lanceolate, and somewhat toothed. The tincture should be made from the plant while in bloom.

The following are the most prominent symptoms developed during a recent proving of the mother tincture of the drug:

Stiffness in the nape of the neck, throbbing pain in the forehead and occiput, accompanied with a hot perspiration on the forehead. Painful fulness in the base of the occiput, and fulness in the forehead, accompanied with a dull headache of a very distressing character; pains increased on moving the head. Light feeling in the head, accompanied with a pain of a dull character in the occiput and forehead. All the headaches developed during the proving of the drug were either in the forehead or in the occiput. While out walking an uncontrollable desire to sing seemed to be constantly present; had never experienced such a disposition before. There was lachrymation of the eyes, which felt sore upon shutting them; the eyes generally felt sore, with watering and smarting, being unable to stand the glare even of artificial light.

In the nose there were great dryness and fulness, accompanied with sneezing. There were aching pains in the molar teeth, accompanied with dull pains in the right and left upper maxillary bones. The tongue was blistered at the tip, and very red; the rest of the tongue was red, sore, and raw. There was a stinging and a burning feeling in the mouth and fauces. The fauces were sore, and a burning and pricking sensation could be felt right down in the pharynx and oesophagus. There was a raw feeling in the throat, which extended right down to the epigastrium. The throat itself was dry and sore, and there was a great disposition, not only to hawk up phlegm, but also to swallow it. In the morning there was a decidedly unpleasant taste in the mouth.

There was also oppressed breathing, accompanied with a dull pain under the lower portion of the sternum, of a very distressing character, which could be relieved by gently slapping the part with the hand. On taking a deep breath a stitch was felt in the chest, accompanied with oppressed breathing. Severe stitches in the left side of the chest, catching the breath, relieved by pressure with the hand. Pains of a pricking character in the left side of the chest, in the region of the left lung.

Sensation of heaviness in the epigastrium, accompanied with dull and heavy pains. Feeling of heaviness in the stomach, accompanied with sticking pains. Dull pain, of a very distressing character, a little below and to the left of the epigastrium. Great thirst and loss of appetite. Nausea, accompanied with a feeling of distress in the epigastrium. Violent and almost unbearable pains, of a sticking nature, in the region of the hypochondrium, left side. Thin, loose stools. A rawness and dryness, extending from the mouth in the throat, and from thence to the stomach. General languor and a feeling of weakness across the region of the kidneys.

The lower extremities are in a state of debility, and appear unable to support the weight of the body; the knees feel weak, and bend under the weight. There is a pricking sensation, as if the parts were being pricked with needles, in the left heel, sole of the left foot, and in the calf of the left leg.

The left side of the body appears to be the most severely affected by the action of the drug, as will be seen by the foregoing symptoms, namely, "pains, of a pricking character, in the *left* side of the chest, in the region of the *left* lung"; "severe stitches in the *left* side of the chest, catching the breath, relieved by pressure with the hand", "dull pain, of a very distressing character a little below and to the *left* of the epigastrium", "violent and almost unbearable pains, of

a sticking nature in the region of the hypochondrium, *left side*"; "pricking sensation, as if from needles, in the *left heel*, sole of the *left foot*, and in the calf of the *left leg*."

The dryness and rawness, extending from the mouth to the stomach, are very distressing and persistent symptoms, and are highly characteristic of the action of the drug. The feeling of heaviness in the stomach and the epigastrium, as if there were a heavy load or weight lying there, is also very distressing. The stools are but temporarily thin, and soon return to their natural consistency. The nausea is but slight, at the same time, is accompanied with a feeling of great distress in the epigastrium. The feeling of weakness across the kidneys, in the small of the back, somewhat resembles that resulting from a sprain, and is accompanied with very great languor.

Great languor, general debility, much thirst, and loss of appetite, dryness and rawness from the mouth to the stomach, and great distress in the stomach, are the most prominent symptoms peculiar to the action of the drug; it is, therefore, a very useful and valuable remedy in the treatment of those diseases in which the above are prominent symptoms. As a vermifuge *Lobelia Cardinalis* also possesses very valuable and effective properties."

(Frederick Kopp, Greenwich, New South Wales, Australia, The Action of *Lobelia cardinalis*, The Homoeopathic World vol. 31 (1896), p. 26-28)

1897 - The Abuse of Eucalyptus

"The unfortunate too common practice of the Australian public in flying to the *Eucalyptus Oil* bottle on the occasion of every cold, irrespective of its symptoms, cannot fail to be productive of much harm, from a homoeopathic physician's point of view, and the sooner the lesson is taught and learned that *Eucalyptus Oil* is not a catholicon in the treatment of colds, but is only curative in those cases in which the symptoms correspond with those brought out in the proving of the drug, the better will it be for the welfare of the patient and the reputation of the drug. *Eucalyptus Oil*, taken, as it invariably is, in doses of from five to fifteen minims, and repeatedly in most cases every two, three, or four hours, undoubtedly in time must develop its own symptoms, in the same way as every other drug. Experience certainly has taught and proved that the members of the natural order *Myrtaceae* are no exception to the general rule, as many in the past have found to their cost. The administration of *Eucalyptus* in cases bearing no homoeopathic relation whatever to the drug would have the same result as prescribing *Phosphorus* for a *Spongia* cough, or *Kali-bich.* in one indicating *Bryonia*.

The following are the most prominent symptoms developed during a proving of *Eucalyptus* (*E. globulus*) from the mother tincture, ten minims every two hours for three weeks, which I prefer to the oil:

A dull and heavy feeling in the head. Frontal headache, of a dull and heavy character, accompanied with fulness of the head. Congestive headache, preceding symptoms of a feverish character. Hot, burning, and smarting sensation in the eyes. Noes feels all stuffed up, with a sense of tightness across the bridge; coryza, thin and watery. Flushed, and even congested appearance of the face. Great thirst, with a burning sensation in the mouth, extending to both the pharynx and the oesophagus. Pale and relaxed appearance of the throat. Very profuse secretion of saliva. Full feeling in the throat, with great soreness on swallowing. Continuous feeling in the throat as if there were a large accumulation of phlegm there. Expectoration of a frothy mucus, thick and white. Quickening of the respiratory movements. A general feeling of faintness, dimness of sight, vertigo, and sensation as if epistaxis would set in.

I would draw particularly attention to the symptoms: "Very profuse secretion of saliva; full feeling in the throat, with great soreness on swallowing; nose feels all stuffed up, with a sense of tightness across the bridge; frontal headache, of a dull and heavy character, accompanied

with fullness of the head; hot, burning, and smarting sensation in the eyes; great thirst; and expectoration of a frothy mucus, thick and *white*." The above are prominent symptoms in one variety of cold, but they are not the symptoms of every cold. If the latter were the case *Eucalyptus* would prove curative in every cold, with it certainly does not.

I have said that I prefer the tincture to the oil, and this I do for several reasons. First of all, as the proving has been made from the tincture, it but naturally follows that we should make use of the tincture in treating disease. Secondly, the oil, as procured from druggist's stores, is far from being in its pure state. A chemist only recently honestly admitted to me that the *Eucalyptus Oil* that he retailed over the counter at sixpence per ounce contained fully two-thirds of *Oil of Turpentine*! The pure oil, he explained, could not be sold at a less price than eighteenpence per ounce. But the public demand was in favour of a *cheap* oil, and this could not be sold at the price without first adulterating it with some cheaper substance, and *Oil of Turpentine*, being sold at the retail price of only ninepence per pint, became a very convenient vehicle for adulterating the pure *Eucalyptus Oil*. Truly it seems to be that there are a great many people living in this world who require more than a lifetime to understand and grasp the great truth that the *best* is the *cheapest* in the end, and that is the height of folly to make use of inferior and adulterated drugs in the treatment of disease. As a homoeopath, I should decidedly object to make sweat of this so-called *Eucalyptus Oil*, even in the sixth decimal trituration, as it, being a compound containing two drugs, cannot possibly cover the symptoms peculiar to the pure oil. To use it in the treatment of disease with any hope of success, a proving of it would have to be made to discover its own symptoms, and as I firmly hold the opinion that we have quite enough to do in proving our own *single* drugs, without turning our attention to the *compounds* of the old school, I believe the wisest plan to be to have nothing to do with it.

As a homoeopath, I also condemn the indiscriminate use of the various oils. According to popular opinion, it matters little whether the oil used is procured from *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, *Eucalyptus obliqua*, or *Eucalyptus citriodora*. Now all these certainly are members of the *Eucalyptus* family, natural order *Myrtaceae*, yet experience has proved that, although various plants may be members of one family and one natural order, it does not always follow that the symptoms developed in their proving are identical one with the other. As an illustration of the truth of this, compare the symptoms peculiar to *Eupatorium purpureum* with those of *Eupatorium perfoliatum*. *Lobelia cardinalis* differs in its symptoms from *Lobelia inflata* and *Lobelia cerulea*. The most prominent symptoms peculiar to the mind in *Lobelia cardinalis* is a "disposition to sing whilst walking"; in *Lobelia cerulea* there is an "unhappy state of mind, and great depression of spirits"; whilst in *Lobelia inflata* there is a "great dejection, accompanied with sobbing, exhaustion, and fear of death." In short, one plant may have some of the symptoms peculiar to another member of the family, but it seldom or hardly ever has all the symptoms similar, as each has symptoms peculiar only to itself. The folly of making use of several drugs indiscriminately, for the simple reason that they are members of the one family, will thus be self-evident to the merest novice who knows anything about the law of similars or of the action of drugs.

The most common symptoms generally resulting as the outcome of administering the oil in cases not homoeopathically related, or else in too large doses, are: "A faint sinking sensation at the stomach; a feeling of weight in the epigastrium, diarrhoea (often of a purging character); a feeling at the bladder as if its expulsive forces were paralysed, and pains generally of a rheumatic character, which may be either tearing, stitching, or jerking, and increasing in intensity at night-time; these pains may also be followed by swelling in various parts of the body."

The external use of the drug has also been greatly abused. As I am writing these lines one case flashes across my memory of a man who, every time that he was plagued with a sore throat, applied the oil (the adulterated, of course) externally to such an extent as to highly inflame the

part and almost raise a blister, which he asserted was the proper and most effectual mode of using the oil. To me such a treatment savours most strongly of the heroic one so fashionable with and beloved by the members of the old school. Homoeopathy never has any need of substituting an external inflammation so as to be able to cure one internally.

In conclusion, let me not be misunderstood. I do not by any means intend or wish to depreciate the value of *Eucalyptus* as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of disease, and especially of colds; but I hold this to be in consistency with the first law of scientific healing, that that drug, just the same as any other drug in our materia medica, can only prove curative in those cases in which the symptoms of the disease correspond with those peculiar to the drug itself. As homoeopaths, it is our constant duty to hold this great truth continually and unwearyingly before the eyes of the public, that all may see and comprehend. Let us bear in mind the old motto - "*Suppressio veri, suggestio falsi*," which in plain English signifies that "a suppression of the truth is the suggestion of a falsehood."

(Fredrick Kopp, Greenwich, North South Wales, The Abuse of Eucalyptus, The Homoeopathic World vol. 32 (1897), p. 120-123)