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Galaxy Pub. Co Philada.

1856 - Proving of *Zizia aurea*

“This plant must not be mistaken for the *Phellandrium oenanthe* or the *Conium virosa*, which have also received the appellation of Water Hemlock. The *zizia aurea* may readily be distinguished from all other plants to which the appellation of hemlock has been applied, by its orange-yellow flowers, ternate radial leaves, the external brown, and internal yellow color of the root, and its warm, aromatic taste. The fresh root has a somewhat strong, unpleasant, and nauseating odor, not unlike that of conium. It has an aromatic pungent taste, and is disagreeable and loathsome to the stomach. If a small piece of the root be chewed, or a few drops of the tincture be applied to the tongue, it produces a sense of faintness and exhaustion. On one occasion, after filtrating some of the tincture, the eyelids became somewhat inflamed, accompanied by smarting, itching, and prickling pains, - the right eye being affected more than the left. On bathing the face with a lotion, made by adding a few drops of the tincture to a pint of water, a creeping, smarting and itching sensation was felt in the cheeks and lips.

The seeds of *zizia aurea* have been successfully employed in domestic practice for the cure of epilepsy.

Judge Gray, of Chatauque, N. Y. states that a gentleman of his acquaintance chewed a piece of the *zizia* root for the purpose of testing its properties, and was immediately seized with nausea, vomiting, spasms, general convulsions, and fainting fits, which terminated in death at the expiration of three hours.

The Judge relates another instance in which a young lady of his acquaintance, ate a large root of the *zizia*, supposing it to be sweet sicily root. Soon afterwards she was seized with violent vomiting, spasms, swooning, and convulsions. The speedy discharge of the poison by vomiting, enabled her to resist the toxic influence, and regain her usual health in a few days.

The odor of the root has been known to produce such an effect upon the system as to confine the subjects of its influence to bed for days. In these instances, nausea, faintness and lassitude, were the symptoms produced.

The following effects were observed in an ox, after having eaten the top of the plant, early in the spring : vomiting and staggering about, as if intoxicated. The animal continued sick, - reeling and staggering about for three days, and then recovered.

A fistulous ulcer of long-standing in a horse, was speedily cured by introducing daily into the sinus, a small piece of the root. The quality of the discharge was promptly improved, healthy granulations appeared, and an effectual cure resulted.

One case of chronic ophthalmia, with ulcerations of the cornea and granulated lids, was cured in six weeks by the use of the first dilution.

The writer has cured one case of epilepsy of more than ten years' duration, the fits occurring upon the average as often as once in eight or ten days, by the third decimal dilution of the *zizia*. Drop doses were prescribed morning and evening, every alternate week for two months, since which period, (nearly three months) all unpleasant symptoms have disappeared, and there has not been the slightest indication of a convulsion. During the treatment of this case, the patient, on several occasions took more than the prescribed dose, and in each instance he observed the following results : unusual exhilaration of spirits; lightness and pain in the head; sensation of tightness around the forehead, and at the back of the head; increased physical strength, with inclination for muscular exertion.

It is proper to remark, that while under the influence of the drop doses, there was a marked improvement in spirits of the patient, which had been habitually depressed.

Another case of epilepsy, in a lad of seven years of age, has apparently been cured by this remedy. In this instance, the boy had been afflicted with convulsions, at intervals of from one

to three weeks, for a period of five years. Six weeks have now elapsed without a recurrence of the malady - a much longer interval than has ever before occurred. Excellent cures have also been made of the following maladies, with the *zizia* : tic-douloureux; three cases of neuralgia in the head - two of them semi-lateral, and the other one affecting the forehead and vertex; one case of intermittent neuralgia of the left ovary; two cases of ordinary sick-headache with acid and bilious vomiting; one obstinate case of hypochondria[sis], accompanied with disgust of life, and almost constant inclination to commit suicide; sleeplessness; hysteria; spasmodic twitchings; tight coughs, accompanied with stitches in the chest, - worse in the evening and during the night; cold in the head, with sneezing and watery discharge; chronic catarrh, with yellow and fetid discharge; leucorrhoea, retarded and suppressed menses.

The provings which have hitherto been made with *zizia* are quite limited. The writer has made use of the 3d dilution exclusively, taking five drops at a dose, and repeating every four hours until some effects were produced. Three other gentlemen and one lady have likewise taken the drug for the purpose of ascertaining its pathogenetic effects. These provings have been made with the 3d dilution, with one exception, (Dr. O. Fullgraff) who used the 1st dilution and tincture.

We arrange the following symptoms, not as a complete proving, but to call the attention of the profession to a new remedy of great value, and to induce others to enter the field of physiological and clinical experiment. The present provers will continue their experiments as opportunities offer, so that when *zizia* is presented at its proper place in the appendix, we shall have accumulated a creditable pathogenesis, and a goodly number of clinical facts.

We will most cheerfully supply any member of the profession with the *Zizia* in tincture or dilution, provided he will endeavor to return some physiological symptoms from its use, or some interesting clinical facts.

Symptoms derived from the third dilution of *Zizia aurea*

Mind and Disposition. - Depression of spirits, with disgust of life; depression of spirits, followed by great exhilaration, and desire for conversation; dreamy, imaginative mood; exhilaration like intoxication, from the 1st dilution; irritability with lowness of spirits, and indifference to everything; laughing and weeping moods in alternation; sense of exhilaration lasting twelve hours and then succeeded by great depression, which lasted for several days.

Head. - Sensation of tightness around the head; giddiness; acute aching pain in the whole left side of the head, increased by light or noise; shooting pains through the orbits; rush of blood to the head and face, with feeling of fulness; pressure upon the top of the brain; dull pains in the occipital region, extending down the muscles of the neck; severe pain in the right temple, with nausea; swimming in the head; drowsiness.

Eyes and Nose. - Redness of both eyes; eyes sensitive to light; sharp pain in the right orbit, increased by moving the ball, by stooping or stepping; shooting pains through both orbits; eyes watery; smarting of the lids; eyelids adhere together on rising in the morning, in consequence of a yellowish muco-purulent secretion; sty on the right lid; irritation of the schneiderian membrane, with discharge of mucus, and sneezing; obstruction and soreness of the right nostril, which is painful to the touch; burning and smarting sensation in the nostrils and eyes.

Face. - Face pale and puffy; redness and heat of the cheeks, following the use of a single drop of the 3d dilution; sense of fulness and heat in both cheeks; dull pains in the jaws; boring pains in the cheek bones.

Pharynx and Oesophagus. - Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the pharynx; slight redness of the tonsils and palate, with soreness of the throat; increased secretion of mucus in the throat.

Appetite and Taste. - Loss of appetite; bitter taste; craving for acids and stimulants; thirst; tongue covered with a whitish fur; redness of the tongue, with unusual sensitiveness to cold or warm drinks.

Gastric Symptoms. - Nausea; acid and bilious vomiting; stomach sensitive to the touch; - pressure causing nausea and faintness.

Male Genital Organs. - Excitement of the male genital organs; sexual power enhanced; in one instance where great lassitude and prostration had long been habitual after connection, the drug appeared to effect an entire change for the better; involuntary emissions for two nights in succession while taking the drug.

Female Sexual Organs. - Acrid leucorrhoea; bland and profuse leucorrhoea; sudden suppression of the menses; profuse menstrual discharge for one day, followed by an acrid leucorrhoea.

Larynx and Trachea. - Roughness in the upper portion of the larynx when inspiring or coughing; sensitiveness of the trachea to the touch; tight cough, caused by taking a deep inspiration; tight cough excited by dryness of the larynx; raw and smarting sensation in the larynx from coughing.

Chest. - Dry cough, with shooting pains in the chest; pleuritic stitches in the right side, much increased by coughing, or taking or attempting to take a long breath; bruised feeling in the muscles of the chest; pressure excites pains in the intercostal muscles; sharp pains extending from the sides of the chest to both shoulder-blades; respirations accelerated and oppressed; asthmatic respiration, with inability to retain the recumbent position; short, dry cough, excited by tickling in the throat-pit; short, dry cough, attended with severe stitching pains in the right side, and a sense of suffocation.

Back. - Dull, aching pains under the right scapula; severe shooting pain extending from the front part of the thorax to the scapula; smarting, burning pain in the small of the back; dull pains in the loins, increased by movement.

Superior Extremities. - Lameness in the muscles of both arms, from the shoulders to the elbows; prickling sensation in the right arm, with slightly diminished sensibility of the part.

Lower Extremities. - Dragging sensation in both hips; unusually tired feeling of the legs after the slightest muscular exertion; great desire to move about, with apparent increase of strength, but slight exercise causes fatigue.

Sleep. - Drowsiness, with a sense of lassitude and fatigue; exhilaration of all the faculties, followed by strong desire to sleep; sleep disturbed by unpleasant dreams; spasmodic twitching during sleep; talking during sleep.

Fever. - Feverish symptoms, accompanying severe stitching pains in the chest; fever with headache, pain in the back, thirst; dryness of the mouth, yellow fur upon the tongue, and oppressed respiration; chilliness and heat alternating, with faintness, nausea, pain in the right

temple, redness of the eye-balls, dry and red tongue and thirst for cold-water; hot flushes in the face and head, followed by perspiration; chilliness, accompanied with spasmodic twitchings of the muscles of the face and upper extremities, followed by fever; flushed cheeks, hot head, visible pulsations of the carotid and temporal arteries, coldness of the hands and feet, drowsiness, and irritability.

Skin. - Surface of the whole body paler than natural; face and ankles oedematous; itching pimples upon the forehead, wrists and legs; sensitiveness of the entire surface of the body to the touch; redness of one cheek and paleness of the other; white and puffy appearance of the whole body.

General Symptoms. - Pains, increased by movement, noise, light or contact; spasmodic movements of the muscles of the face and extremities; affections of the brain and nervous system; uterine affections characterized by increased vascular and nervous excitement; catarrhal, asthmatic and pleuritic maladies; convulsions; epilepsy.

The following proving of Zizia Aurea, by inhalation, was made under the superintendence of Dr. M. E. Lazarus, to whom we tender our cordial thanks. The common employment of homoeopathic remedies by olfaction and inhalation, renders drug-provings by inhalation especially valuable. By presenting to the profession occasional provings by this method, we hope to do our cause good service. The provings of Phosphorus and Zizia, in our present issue, will, we trust, awaken the attention of physicians to this mode of testing drugs in health, and of administering them in disease.

ZIZIA AUREA.

Proving by Inhalation, under the inspection of M. E. Lazarus, M.D.

At each inhalation, four drops of the 3d dilution were added to four table spoons full of water, and inhalation performed four times a day for six days, for ten minutes each time.

The prover, Miss J. L. is in her twenty-third year, of fair complexion, delicate skin, auburn hair, eyes light brown, slight frame, habit neither spare nor full, gentle and lively temper, regular though delicate in her vital functions, has suffered in years past from dyspepsia, and difficulties of the kidneys, and from asthma. During the two years past, chiefly from occasional paroxysms of nervous and sick headache, with pains between the shoulder-blades, and disorders of the uterine function, without any serious organic change or displacement, but only such as are common among unmarried females. The headache and back-ache have been commonly attributed to uterine influence.

During a first proving of four days, the symptoms of indisposition were so much like those, which she had often observed before in her constitutional difficulties, that she hesitated to register them as Zizia symptoms. - They were all however reproduced with increased severity in this second proving, and as there was no other appreciable cause or reason to expect them, we infer that, if they are not specifically Zizia symptoms, they have been due to a diminution of the life-force by Zizia, which favored their invasion or their return. Of this character were the uterine and asthmatic symptoms as well as the cephalalgic.

The actual state of health at the time of commencing this second proving is in every respect good.

FIRST SERIES; *Sensorium Commune.*

a. *Aromal group.* - On the first day only of both provings, slightly manifested 1. Swimming in the head, 2. Drowsiness.

b. *Psychical group.* - 1. Indolence with contentment. After the first day these give place to

2. nervous irritability and depression of spirits, which increase throughout the proving, and on the sixth evening, culminate in a paroxysm of self-dissatisfaction, with weeping.
3. The behavior throughout is quiet, with much apparent suffering and sadness. The sleep is sound, until the sixth night, when it is prevented by pains.

NEURO-CEPHALIC GROUP.

This group is suspected to be sympathetic with the Uterine, yet not wholly so, as there is a hereditary predisposition to headache, from the father's side, from which only two members of a large family are exempt.

Headache sharp, over the right eye, begins slightly on the second day and increases until the eighth.

Pulsatilla 6°, which promptly relieves it on the third day, acts but feebly on the seventh.

In its full development on the seventh day, the headache is grievous, with nausea, inclination to bilious vomiting, need to lie still in a darkened and quiet room; light, noise, and jar aggravate; differs from the usual type only in the pain being permanent on the right side, instead of shifting.

It abates twenty-four hours after discontinuing the inhalations, leaving much sensitiveness, a bitter taste in the mouth and a susceptible and feeble stomach for several days longer. While inhaling, the headache was worse in the evening, after stopping the inhalations, its aggravations occurred in the morning in accordance with the constitutional predisposition.

When at its worst, the pain descends behind the right ear into the neck.

It leaves the lips parched as from fever.

It is consociated with severe back-ache, between or at the borders of the shoulder-blades.

The forehead is affected by a sharp cutting pain by the jar of coughing on the ninth day after the cough pain had ceased in the chest.

CATARRHAL SERIES.

1. Nasal catarrh, with sneezing and coughing, from the first inhalation.

Nasal discharge of thick mucus.

The right nostril only is affected, it becomes sore and tender to the external touch.

2. Consociated with this, was observed a diffused injection of the mucous membrane, covering the arches of the pharynx, with the ordinary sensations of catarrhal sore-throat.

3. The conjunctival membranes exhibited a similar diffused injection.

OPHTHALMIC SERIES.

While both eyes exhibit a diffused injection, the right eye is more particularly the seat of painful and quite unaccustomed symptoms.

A sty developed in the middle of the upper lid, and gave to much pain on the fourth day, that she sought relief from an antidote. - Carbo-animalis, four doses at hour intervals relieved promptly, and in twenty-four hours the sty had vanished.

Still the right eye continued burning, smarting and weeping, and both eyes continue on the fifth day after stopping the inhalation, very weak, and painful, if they are used at night.

FACIAL SERIES.

The face exhibits throughout the proving a pale puffy state, quite morbid.

Painful tenderness over the lower jaw-bone an inch below the root of the ear, observed only on the seventh day.

THORACIC SERIES.

- a. *Pleural group.* - The symptoms are severe, painful, regularly developed from the first inhalations, reach their acme on the seventh day, and are still very troublesome on this, the

tenth.

1. The cough is hard, dry and short, with stitching pain on the right side, from the region beneath the sixth rib down as far as two inches below the ziphoid cartilage.
 2. Over the ziphoid cartilage and at circumscribed spots on each side about the size of a fifty-cent piece, two inches below, there is painful tenderness to the external touch.
 3. She cannot draw a full breath without severe pain, in the latter days of the proving from the fourth day, worst on the seventh, and sensible on the tenth.
- It catches her about the sixth rib in front and pierces through to the back - like the other pains, confined to the right side.

b. *Asthmatic group.* - Not very severe, or remarkable by other persons, but recognized by the prover as a reproduction of symptoms, which have been latent for years.

It is now six years, since the critical acme and sudden disappearance of a chronic asthma. Since then she remembers only one short attack about two years ago - merely a fit of half an hour.

After each inhalation, she felt almost stifled for about ten minutes, although the inhalation itself was made easily and freely. *This annoyance augments as the proving proceeds*, and becomes *more constant* though less severe *since discontinuing the inhalations*. It is still felt on the thirteenth day, although faintly.

Its seat is central, beneath the sternum on a line with the axillae.

There is no audible wheezing, yet the same sensations in the chest, as during her former fits of asthma; sometimes so serious as to keep her up for hours at night.

c. *Dorsal group.* - The symptoms are painful - perhaps sympathetic with the uterine sphere. They begin to be felt on the second day of the proving, increase in severity until the seventh evening, and are still felt on the thirteenth day.

They are ordinary with her, at any time when her vitality is depressed, as by prolonged nervous headaches or other causes. She had no reason to expect them from any such cause before commencing the Zizia proving.

Their seat is at the posterior lateral margins of the scapulae, generally worst on the left side. During the inhalations, it was the right side which chiefly suffered; since leaving off, it is the left.

The pains are aching, smarting and stinging - when worst, there is also aching in the small of the back.

UTERINE SERIES.

Leucorrhoea commences on the second day and continues slight as to quantity, and at first acrid; afterwards more bland and copious.

This is another constitutional disorder, and was observed during both provings. It ceased on the seventh day.

The catamenia appeared in due time, but ceased after only twelve hours. This is altogether unusual with the prover.

ASSIMILATIVE SERIES.

No well marked or apparently idiopathic symptoms.

1. The appetite diminished as the drug illness became more and more serious.
2. The thirst was increased.
3. The tongue was broad, furred in the middle and reddened at the tip and sides.
4. After the sick headache, on the seventh day, there was a bitter bilious taste in the mouth.

General Remarks on this Proving.

1. The drug action has been almost exclusively upon the right side of both the head and the trunk.
2. The exacerbation assumed the evening type. - The morning is, on the contrary, the time at which the prover's constitutional disorders are generally most severe.
3. The pains of Zizia have been fixed : those, to which the prover is at other times subject, are oftener shifting.
4. The general aspect and sensations of the prover were those of a grave and chronic deterioration of health.
Most of the functional disturbances persist after ceasing the inhalations, and very gradually abate during fifteen days.
5. Clinical remark : an ordinary catarrh with sore throat, on the prover's brother, was promptly dispelled after two inhalations of Zizia third dilution, about two minutes each time.

Queries on the foregoing.

It remains for other provers to decide how far the uterine group of symptoms are characteristic of a Zizia pathogenesis, and if they are so, whether they tend, as with this prover, to consociate sympathetically with the headache and scapular or dorsal pains above mentioned. In connection with the marked or otherwise causeless depression and nervous irritability, observed throughout the proving, after the first day, the prover remembers, that all her serious disorders of health during later years, pivoting, as she believes, in the uterine function, are attributable to a period of prolonged moral or social depression of her life-force or spontaneity, by adverse circumstances.”

(Erastus E. Marcy, M.D., New York, Proving of Zizia Aurea, The North American Journal of Homoeopathy vol. 4 (1856), p. 52-62)