

## **Das Stinktier - The Skunk**



***Mephitis putorius***

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## **Das Stinktier - The Skunk**



## Das Stinktier / The Skunk

### 1864 - Ein ungemütlicher Gesellschaft - Alfred Brehm

"Man kann nicht eben sagen, daß irgendein Mitglied aus der Familie der Marder Wohlgerüche verbreite; wir finden im Gegenteil schon unter den bei uns hausenden Arten solche, welche von dem Volke mit dem Namen "Stänker" bezeichnet werden und diesen Namen auch mit Fug und Recht tragen. Was aber ist unser Iltis gegen einige seiner Verwandten, welche in Ostindien und Amerika leben! Wenn man liest, was für ein Entsetzen sie verbreiten können, sobald sie sich nur zeigen, begreift man erst, was eine echte Stinkdrüse besagen will." (...)

"Alle Berichte von amerikanischen Reisenden und Naturforscher stimmen darin überein, daß die eigentlichen Stinktiere (Mephitis) die eben genannten Verwandten und Gesinnungsgenossen <sup>(1)</sup> noch weit übertreffen. Wir sind nicht im Stande, die Wirkung der Drüsenabsonderung dieser Tiere uns gehörig ausmalen zu können. Keine Küche eines Scheidekünstlers, keine Senkgrube, kein Aasplatz, kurz, kein Gestank der Erde soll an Heftigkeit und Unleidlichkeit dem gleichkommen, welchen die äußerlich so zierlichen Stinktiere zu verbreiten und auf Wochen und Monate einem Gegenstande einzuprägen vermögen. Man bezeichnet den Gestank mit dem Ausdruck "Pestgeruch"; denn wirklich wird Jemand, welcher das Unglück hatte, mit einem Stinktiere in nähere Berührung zu kommen, von Jedermann gemieden, wie ein mit der Pest Behafteter. Die Stinktiere sind trotz ihrer geringen Größe so gewaltige und mächtige Feinde des Menschen, daß sie Denjenigen, welchen sie mit ihrem furchtbaren Saft bespritzen, geradezu aus der Gesellschaft verbannen und ihm selbst eine Strafe auferlegen, welche so leicht von keiner andern übertroffen werden dürfte. Sie sind fähig, ein ganzes Haus unbewohnbar zu machen und ein ganzes Vorratsgewölbe, gefüllt mit den kostbarsten Speisen, vollkommen zu entwerten. Mehr brauche ich wohl nicht über diese Tiere zu sagen, um ihnen die Teilnahme meiner Leser, wenn auch nicht im guten Sinne, zu sichern.

Die Stinktiere unterscheiden sich von den Dachsen durch den gestreckten, marderartigen Leib mit langem, buschigen Schwanz, durch die kleinen halb nackten Pfoten und die schwarze Färbung mit weißen Längsstreifen. Die Schnauze ist sehr gestreckt und spitzig; die Beine sind niedrig und die fünf Zehen an beiden Füßen mit starken, langen Grabkrallen versehen. Hinsichtlich des Zahnbaues zeigen sie noch große Ähnlichkeit mit den Dachsen. Ihre Stinkdrüsen sind von bedeutender Größe und öffnen sich innen in dem Mastdarme. Durch einen besonderen Muskel können sie zusammengezogen werden. Das Tier vermag, je nachdem der Druck schwächer oder stärker ist, seinen Pestsaft von zwei bis auf sechs, ja acht Fuß weit von sich zu spritzen. Dieser fürchterliche Saft ist bei älteren Tieren und bei Männchen stärker, als bei Jungen und bei Weibchen, und seine Wirkung steigert sich während der Begattungszeit.

Alle eigentlichen Stinktiere sind Bewohner Amerikas und zwar eben sowohl des Nordens als des Südens. Bei Tage liegen sie in hohlen Bäumen, in Felsenspalten und in Erdhöhlen, welche sie sich selbst graben, versteckt; nachts werden sie munter und springen und hüpfen höchst beweglich hin und her, um Beute zu machen. Ihre gewöhnliche Nahrung besteht in Würmern, Kerbtieren, Lurchen, Vögeln und Säugetieren; doch fressen sie auch Beeren und Wurzeln. Nur wenn sie gereizt werden oder sich verfolgt sehen und deshalb in Angst geraten, gebrauchen sie ihre sinnbetäubende Drüsenabsonderung zur Abwehr gegen Feinde, und wirklich besitzen sie in ihrer stinkenden Flüssigkeit eine Waffe, wie kein anderes Tier. Sie halten selbst die blutdürstigsten und raubgierigsten Katzen nötigenfalls in der bescheidensten Entfernung, und nur in sehr scharfen Hunden, welche, nachdem sie bespritzt worden sind, gleichsam mit Todesverachtung sich auf sie stürzen, finden sie Gegner. Abgesehen von dem Pestgestanke, welchen sie zu verbreiten wissen, sind sie dem Menschen nicht eben schädlich;

ihre Drüsenabsonderung aber macht sie entschieden zu den von Allen am meisten ghassten Tieren.

Schon während der Vorzeit waren Stinktiere über Brasilien verbreitet, und gegenwärtig sind sie noch in ganz Amerika keineswegs seltene Erscheinungen. Die vielen Arten, welche man unterschieden hat, sind wahrscheinlich auf einige wenige zurückzuführen, weil alle neueren Beobachter darin übereinstimmen, daß sie sämtliche hinsichtlich ihrer Färbung außerordentlich abändern. Neuere Naturforscher ordnen sie in zwei Untersippen, welche sich hauptsächlich durch den Zahnbau und die behaarten oder nackten Sohlen unterscheiden.

Unserem Zweck genügt es vollkommen, wenn wir das Leben und Treiben einer der bekanntesten Arten, der **Chinga** (*Mephitis Chinga*), betrachten.

Dieses Tier ist ungefähr von der Größe einer Hauskatze, hat einen kleinen, breiten Kopf, eine spitzige Schnauze mit nackter Nase und kurze zugerundete Ohren, einen nicht besonders gestreckten Leib und einen dicht- und lang behaarten, deshalb länger, als er wirklich ist, erscheinenden Schwanz. Die Länge des Leibes beträgt etwas über einen Fuß, die des Schwanzes etwa die Hälfte, während die Höhe am Widerrist sich auf fünf und einen halben Zoll beläuft. Der glänzende Pelz hat Schwarz zur Grundfarbe. Von der Nase zieht sich ein einfacher, schmaler, weißer Streifen zwischen den Augen hindurch, erweitert sich auf der Stirn zu einem rautenförmigen Flecken, verbreitet sich noch mehr auf dem Halse und geht endlich in eine Binde über, welche sich am Widerrist in zwei breite Streifen teilt, die bis zudem dem Schwanzende fortlaufen und dort sich wieder vereinigen. Am Halse, an der Schultergegend, and der Außenseite der Beine, seltener auch an der Brust und am Bauche treten kleine, weiße Flecken hervor. Über den Schwanz ziehen sich entweder zwei breite, weiße Längsstreifen, oder er erscheint unregelmäßig aus Schwarz und Weiß gemischt.

Die Chinga ist wegen der rücksichtslosen Beleidigung eines unserer empfindlichsten Sinneswerkzeuge schon seit langer Zeit wohlbekannt gewesen und macht noch heut zu Tage fast in allen Reisebeschreibungen von sich reden. Ihr Verbreitungskreis ist ziemlich ausgedehnt; am häufigsten wird sie in der Nähe der Hudsonbay gefunden, von wo aus sie sich nach dem Norden verbreitet. Im Süden findet sie vollkommen ebenbürtige Genossen, welche sie in jeder Hinsicht ersetzen. Ihre Aufenthaltsorte sind höher gelegene Gegenden, namentlich Gehölze und Wälder längs der Flussufer, oder auch Felsengegenden, in deren Spalten und Höhlen sie wohnt.

Der Erste, welcher eine ausführlichere Beschreibung des Stinktieres gibt, ist Kalm. "Das Tier", sagt er, "ist wegen einer besonderen Eigenschaft bekannt. Wird es von Hunden oder Menschen gejagt, so läuft es Anfangs so schnell, als es kann, oder klettert auf einen Baum; findet es keinen Ausweg mehr, so wendet es noch ein Mittel an, welches ihm übrig ist; es spritzt seinen Feinden seinen Harn entgegen, und zwar auf große Entfernung. Einige Leute haben mir erzählt, daß ihnen von diesem schändlichen Saft das Gesicht ganz bespritzt worden wäre, obwohl sie noch gegen achtzehn Fuß davon entfernt gewesen seien. Diese Feuchtigkeit hat einen so unerträglichen Gestank, daß kein schlimmerer gedacht werden kann. Ist Jemand dem Tiere zur Zeit des Ausspritzens nahe, so kann er wohl kaum Athem holen und es ist ihm später zu Mute, als wenn er ersticken sollte. Ja, kommt dieser Pestsaft in die Augen, so läuft man Gefahr, das Gesicht zu verlieren, und aus Kleidern ist der Geruch fast gar nicht wieder herauszubringen, man mag sie waschen, so oft man will. Viele Hunde laufen davon, sobald sie der Guss trifft, richtige Fänger hören aber nicht eher auf, dem Flüchtigen nachzusetzen, als bis sie ihn tot gebissen haben. Sie reiben jedoch ihre Schnauze auf der Erde um den Gestank einigermaßen zu vertreiben."

"Der widrige Geruch geht selten vor einem Monat aus den Kleidern; doch verlieren sie das Meiste davon, wenn man sie vier und zwanzig Stunden lang mit Erde bedeckt. Auch die Hand und das Gesicht muß man wenigstens eine Stunde mit Erde reiben, weil das Waschen Nichts

hilft. Als ein angesehenener Mann, der unvermutet bespritzt wurde, sich in einem Hause waschen wollte, schloss man die Türe und die Leute liefen davon. Bespritzte Hunde läßt man Tage lang in kein Haus. Wenn man in einem Walde reitet, muß man sich oft lange Zeit die Nase zuhalten, falls das Tier an einer Stelle seinen Pestgeruch verbreitet hat. Ich schlief einmal auf einem Hofe, wo ein Lamm getötet lag, und es schlich sich ein Tier heran; der Hund sah und verjagte es. Da entstand plötzlich ein solcher Gestank, daß ich glaubte, ersticken zu müssen; sogar die Kühe blökten aus vollem Halse. Die Köchin bemerkte, daß verschiedene Tage nach einander das Fleisch im Keller benascht worden war; sie versperrte deshalb alle Zugänge, um die Katzen abzuhalten. Allein in der folgenden Nacht hörte sie einen Lärm in dem Keller und ging deshalb hinab. Da sah sie ein Tier mit feurigen Augen, welches sie ganz ruhig zu erwarten schien. Sie fasste sich jedoch ein Herz und schlug es tot. Plötzlich aber entstand solch ein abscheulicher Gestank, daß sie einige Tage krank wurde und man alle Esswaren im Keller samt Brod und Fleisch wegwerfen mußte."

Das Stinktier ist sich seiner furchtbaren Waffe so wohl bewußt, daß es keineswegs scheu oder feig ist. Alle seine Bewegungen sind langsam. Es kann weder springen, noch klettern, sondern nur gehen und hüpfen. Beim Gehen tritt es fast mit der ganzen Sohle auf, wölbt den Rücken und trägt den Schwanz nach abwärts gerichtet. Trifft man nun zufällig auf das Tier, so bleibt es ganz ruhig stehen, hebt den Schwanz auf, dreht sich herum und spritzt den Saft gerade von sich.

"Als mein Sohn", so erzählt Siedhof, "eines Abends langsam im Freien herumging, kam plötzlich ein Stinktier auf ihn los und biss sich in seinen Beinkleidern fest. Er schüttelte es mit Mühe ab und tötete es durch einen Fußtritt. Als er aber nach Hause kam, verbreitete sich von seinen durch das gefährliche Tier benetzten Kleidern ein so durchdringender, abscheulicher Knoblauchgeruch, daß augenblicklich das ganze Haus erfüllt wurde, die befreundeten Familien, welche gerade zu Besuch anwesend waren, sofort davonliefen und die Einwohner, welche nicht flüchten konnten, sich erbrechen mußten. Alles Räuchern und Lüften half Nichts; selbst nach einem Monate war der Geruch noch zu spüren. Die Stiefel rochen, so oft sie warm wurden, noch vier Monate lang, trotzdem sie in den Rauch gehängt und mit Chlorwasser gewaschen wurden. Das Unglück hatte sich im Dezember ereignet. Das Tier war im Garten vergraben worden, aber noch im nächsten August konnte man seine Ruhestätte durch den Geruch auffinden."

Auch Audubon erfuhr die Furchtbarkeit des Stinktieres an sich selbst. "Dieses kleine, niedliche, ganz unschuldig aussehende Tierchen", sagt er, "ist doch im Stande, jeden Prahlscham auf den ersten Schuss in die Flucht zu schlagen, so daß er mit Jammergeschrei Reißaus nimmt. Ich selbst habe einmal, als kleiner Schulknabe, so ein Unglück erlitten."

"Die Sonne war eben untergegangen. Ich ging mit einigen Freunden langsam meinen Weg. Da sahen wir ein allerliebstes, uns ganz unbekanntes Tierchen, welches gemütlich herumschlich, dann stehen blieb und uns ansah, als warte es, wie ein alter Freund, um uns Gesellschaft zu leisten. Das Ding sah gar zu unschuldig und niedlich aus, und es hielt seinen buschigen Schwanz hoch empor, als wolle es daran gefaßt und in unseren Armen nach Hause getragen sein. Ich war ganz entzückt, griff voll Seligkeit zu - und patsch! da schoss das Höllenvieh seinen Teufelssaft in die Nase, in den Mund, in die Augen. Vom Donner gerührt, ließ ich das Ungeheuer fallen und nahm in Todesangst Reißaus."

Fröbel hörte einmal ein Geräusch hinter sich und bemerkte, als er sich umwandte, das ihm unbekanntes Stinktier, welches, als er sich nach ihm hinkehrte, augenblicklich zu knurren begann, mit dem Fuße stampfte und, sobald er seinen Stock ergriff, ihm Kleider, Gesicht und Haare mit seiner entsetzlichen Flüssigkeit bespritzte. Voller Wut schlug er das Tier tot, eilte über den Platz und wollte dem Hause zu, verursachte aber allgemeine Furcht. Die Thür wurde verrammelt, und nur aus dem Fenster rief man ihm guten Rat zu. Wasser, Seife, kölnisches

Wasser half Nichts; endlich wurde ein kräftiges Feuer angebrannt, und der arme, verstämkerte Reisende legte die ihm von einem Ansiedler geborgten Kleider an und räucherte die bespritzten, nebst Gesicht und Haar, im dichten Qualm einige Stunden lang, worauf dann wirklich der Geruch verschwand.

Zuweilen greift das Tier auch ganz ungereizt an, jedenfalls aber bloß dann, wenn es glaubt, gereizt worden zu sein. So wurde ein an einem Zaune dahinlaufendes Stinktier durch eine vorbeifahrende Kutsche erschreckt, versuchte zu fliehen, kam aber nicht gleich durch den Zaun und spritzte jetzt seinen ganzen Saft gegen die Kutsche, an welcher unglücklicher Weise die Fenster offen standen. Eine gehörige Ladung drang in das Innere und dort verbreitete sich dann augenblicklich ein so fürchterlicher Gestank, daß mehrere von den mitfahrenden Damen sofort in Ohnmacht fielen.

Die in Südamerika lebenden Stinktiere unterscheiden sich, was die Güte ihres Pestsaftes anlangt, durchaus nicht von den nordamerikanischen. Azara fand ein Stinktier in Paraguay, wo es Yaguaré, zu deutsch, "stinkender Hund" genannt wird, und berichtet, daß es im Freien von Kerfen, Eiern und Vögeln lebt, und sowohl bei Tage als bei Nacht still umherschleicht. Es ergreift niemals die Flucht, nicht einmal vor dem Menschen. Sobald es bemerkt, daß man ihm nachstellt, macht es Halt, sträubt sein Haar, hebt den Schwanz in die Höhe, wartet, bis man ihm nahe gekommen ist, dreht sich plötzlich um und schießt los. Selbst der Jaguar soll augenblicklich zurückweichen, wenn er eine gehörige Ladung von dem teuflischen Gestank bekommt, und vor Menschen und Hunden ist das Tier fast ganz gesichert. Selbst nach zwanzigmaligem Waschen bleibt der Gestank noch so stark, daß er das ganze Haus erfüllt. Ein Hund, welcher acht Tage vorher bespritzt und mehr als zwanzig Mal gewaschen und noch öfter mit Sand gerieben worden war, verpestete eine Hütte noch derartig, daß man es nicht in ihr aushalten konnte. Azara glaubt, daß man den Gestank wohl eine halbe englische Meile weit riechen könne.

Ungeachtet des abscheulichen Geruches ist das Stinktier doch nützlich. Aus seinem Pelze machen sich die Indianer weiche und schöne Decken, welche man trägt, obgleich sie sehr schlecht riechen. Um es zu fangen, gebrauchen dieselben eine List. Sie nähern sich ihm mit einer langen Gerte und reizen es damit, bis es wiederholt seine Drüsen entleert hat; hierauf springen sie plötzlich zu und heben es beim Schwanz empor. In dieser Lage soll es dann nicht weiter spritzen können und somit ganz gefahrlos sein. Ein einziger Schlag auf die Nase tötet es augenblicklich. Dann werden die Drüsen ausgeschnitten und die Indianer essen das Fleisch ohne Umstände. Aber auch Europäer nützen das Tier, und zwar das Allerfürchterlichste von ihm, nämlich die stinkende Flüssigkeit selbst. Sie wird in derselben Weise gebraucht, wie unsere Damen wohlriechende Wässer anwenden, als nervenstärkendes Mittel. Aber da der Aberglaube in Amerika noch etwas stärker ist, als bei uns in Deutschland, so glaubt man, wunderlich ein vortreffliches Mittel erhalten zu haben, wenn man stinkende Flüssigkeit sich vor die Nase hält. Daß dabei Unannehmlichkeiten mancherlei Art vorkommen können, zumal in Gesellschaft, ist leicht zu erklären. So erzählt man, daß ein Geistlicher einmal während der Predigt sein Fläschchen herausgezogen habe, um seine Nerven zu stärken, die Riechnerven seiner andächtigen Zuhörer dabei aber dergestalt erregte, daß die gesamte Versammlung augenblicklich aus der Kirche hinausstürmte, gleichsam als wäre der Teufel, den der würdige Diener Gottes mit ebenso viel Achtung, als Liebe vorher behandelt, leibhaftig zwischen den frommen Schafen erschienen, und zwar mit allem Pomp und allen höllischen Wohlgerüchen, welche ihm als Fürsten der Unterwelt zukommen.

Es ist noch nicht ausgemacht, ob die Stinktiere auch einander anspritzen, und es wäre jedenfalls wichtig, Dies genau zu erforschen. Freilich finden wir, daß die Gerüche, welche ein Tier verbreitet, ihm gewöhnlich durchaus nicht lästig fallen, ja sogar gewissermaßen wohlriechend erscheinen. Dem ungeachtet wäre es doch möglich, daß ein Stinktiermännchen durch eine gehörige Ladung Pestsaft von einem von ihm verfolgten Weibchen hinlänglich

abgeschreckt werden könnte.

In der Gefangenschaft entleeren die Stinktiere ihre Drüsen nicht, wahrscheinlich, weil man sich sorgfältig hütet, sie zu reizen. Sie werden nach kurzer Zeit sehr zahm und gewöhnen sich gewissermaßen an ihren Pfleger, obgleich sie anfangs mit dem Hinterteil vorangehen, den Schwanz in die Höhe gerichtet, um ihr Geschütz zum Losbrennen immer bereit zu halten. Nur durch Schlagen oder sehr starke Beängstigung sollen sie veranlaßt werden, von ihrem Verteidigungsmittel Gebrauch zu machen. Heu ist ihr liebstes Lager. Sie machen sich ein ordentliches Bettchen und rollen sich dann wie eine Kugel zusammen. Nach dem Fressen putzen sie sich die Schnauze mit den Vorderfüßen, denn sie sind reinlich und halten sich stets zierlich und glatt, legen auch ihren Unrat niemals in ihrem Lager ab. Man füttert sie mit Fleisch; am liebsten fressen sie Vögel. Sie verzehren oft mehr, als sie verdauen können, und erbrechen sich dann gewöhnlich nach einer solchen Überladung. Ihre Gier ist aber immer noch so groß, daß sie das Erbrochene wieder auffressen, wie es die Hunde auch tun. Bei reichlicher Nahrung schlafen sie den ganzen Tag und gehen erst Abends herum, selbst wenn sie keinen Hunger haben. Ein gefangenes Stinktier bleibt jedoch unter allen Umständen ein ungemütlicher Gesellschafter, weil er in einem Augenblicke schlechter Laune dem Menschen immer noch gehörig zu schaffen machen kann."

(A. E. Brehm's Illustriertes Tierleben, Erster Band, Hildburghausen 1864, S. 502, 505-509)

<sup>(1)</sup> die ostindischen Stinkdachse und der Balisaur der Gebirge von Bhutan und Indien - siehe S. 503-505.



## Vergiftungen / Poisonings



## Vergiftungen / Poisonings

### 1874 - Rabies Mephitica

"Rabies Mephitica. - It is cruel to add aught to the odium already attached to the common skunk (*Mephitis mephitica*, Shaw; *M. chingu*, Tiedman), but, clearly, he is as dangerous as he is disagreeable. The facts now collated will show, it is thought, one of two things, - either that the hydrophobic virus is both generated and communicated by some of the Mustelidae, as well as the Felidae and Canidae, or else that a new disease has been discovered, which generally resembles *Rabies canina*, while differing from it specifically.

An adventure while on a summer tour amid the Rocky Mountains first called my attention to the novel class of facts about to be presented. Our camp was invaded by a nocturnal prowler, which proved to be a large coal-black skunk. Anxious to secure his fine silky fur uninjured, I attempted to kill him with small shot and failed. He made characteristic retaliation, and then rushing at me with ferocity, he seized the muzzle of my gun between his teeth. Of course the penalty was instant death. An experienced hunter then startled us by saying that the bite of this animal is invariably fatal, and that when in apparent perfect health it is always rabid. Since returning to Kansas City, I have had extensive correspondence with hunters, taxidermists, surgeons, and others, by which means the particulars have been obtained of forty-one cases of *Rabies mephitica* occurring in Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and Texas. All were fatal except one.

Instead of burdening this article with a mass of circumstantial details, a few cases only [two of which we quote] will be given, best fitted to show the peculiarities of the malady, and those are preferred that are located on the almost uninhabited plains of Western Kansas, because there the mephitic weasels would be least liable to be inoculated with canine virus. A veteran hunter was bitten on the thumb by a skunk. Fourteen days afterwards singular sensations caused him to seek medical advice; but it was too late, and after convulsions lasting for ten hours he died. This case is reported by an eye-witness, Mr. E. S. Love, of Wyandotte, Kansas, who also gives several similar accounts.

Dr. J. H. Janeway, army surgeon at Fort Hayes, was called to see a young man living in a "dug out" a few miles from the fort. He had been bitten by a skunk seventeen days previous, in the little finger of the left hand. His face was flushed and he complained that his throat seemed to be turning into bone. On hearing the sound of water poured from a pail into a tin cup, he went into convulsions that followed each other with rapidity and violence for sixteen hours, terminating in death.

It is evidently the opinion of Dr. Janeway that the malady produced by mephitic virus is simply hydrophobia. Should he be correct, then all that is established by these facts would be this, viz. that henceforth the varieties of *Mephitis* must be classed with those animals that spontaneously generate poison in the glands of the mouth, and communicate it by salivary inoculation. From this as a starting-point, we might go further and see a solution of the whole mystery of hydrophobia in the theory that this dread malady primarily originates with the allied genera of *Mephitis pulorius* and *mustela*. widely scattered over the earth, being from them transferred to *Felulce* and *Catiitlce*, and other families of animals.

*And then if it could be proved, experimentally, that the characteristic mephitic secretions contained an antidote for the virus of the saliva, we should have the whole subject arranged very beautifully.* Dr. M. M. Shearer, surgeon in the 6th U. S. Cavalry, notes in his case-book

four cases in which persons have died from the bite of the skunk; and he also mentions additional instances reported to him by other observers. He thinks there is a marked difference between the symptoms of this malady and those of hydrophobia. He says, " I regard this virus as being as peculiar to the skunk as the venom of the rattlesnake is to that creature, and not an occasional outbreak of disease as the oestus veneris of the wolf or the rabies canina." Singular as this theory may seem, it is not wholly without support. It is remarkable that of all the cases thus far reported to me. there is but one instance of recovery. It is stated in Watson's Physic (Vol. I, p. 615) that of one hundred and fourteen bitten by rabid wolves only sixty-seven died; and of those bitten by rabid dogs the proportion is still less. But mephitic inoculation is a sure death. Then, again, it is to be observed that the only peculiarity noticeable in these biting skunks is the arrest of their effluvium. They approach stealthily, while their victims are asleep, and inflict the deadly wound upon some minor member, - the thumb, the little finger, the lobe of the ear, one of the alae of the nose. How different from the fierce assault of a mad dog! how subtle and snake-like! It may be remarked also that dogs are generally as cautious and adroit in attacking these odious animals as they are in seizing venomous snakes. But we must remember, on the other hand, that thousands of skunks are killed annually, partly as pests and partly for the fur trade; and it is incredible that an animal, whose ordinary bite is as venomous as that of a rattlesnake, should so seldom resort to that mode of defence, if it be his. The resulting disease resembles hydrophobia more than it does the effect of ophidian venom. But here, as observed at the outset, the likeness is only generic, while specifically there are marked differences.

1. The period of incubation is alike in *R. mephitica* and *canina*, it is indefinite; but during the incubating period of *R. mephitica* no perceptible changes take place in the constitution as in hydrophobia. In every case where there was time for it, the wounds healed over smoothly and permanently, and in several instances not even a scar was visible. In no case was there the recrudescence of the wound always seen in hydrophobia; indeed, there were even so few premonitions of any kind that in most instances the attendant physicians themselves supposed the ailment to be simple and trivial, until the sudden and fearful convulsions came on, to baffle all their skill.

2. Characteristic pustules form, in hydrophobia, beneath the tongue and near the orifices of the submaxillary glands (see Aitkin, Science and Practice of Medicine, Vol I, p. 653). These were not reported in a single case of *R. mephitica*. Dr. Shearer looked for them carefully in all his cases, but did not find them.

3. The specific action of hydrophobic virus affects the eighth pair of cranial nerves and their branches, especially the oesophageal branch, the result being great difficulty in swallowing; and the motor nerve of the larynx, causing sighing, catching of the breath, and difficulty in expelling the frothy mucus accumulated in the throat. These invariable accompaniments of *R. canina* are usually wanting in *R. mephitica*.

Dr. Shearer's patients had no such trouble A taxidermist, who had seen four dogs die from *R. mephitica*, in Michigan, says they did not seem to have any fear of water or other signs which he had supposed were characteristic of *R. canina*. Ordinary hydrophobia, again, is marked by constant hyperaesthesia of the skin, so that the slightest breath of air will precipitate convulsions. But in *R. mephitica* fanning the face affords relief, and even cloths dipped into water and laid on the forehead were soothing.

4. In hydrophobia the perceptions are intensified, so that the deaf are said to have their hearing restored; the pupils are strongly dilated, imparting to the eyes a wild, glaring expression; the spasms are tonic, i. e. steady and continuous; the pulse is feeble, and delirium is occasionally relieved by lucid intervals. But the symptoms are wholly different in *R. mephitica*; there is oscillation of the pupil, the spasms are clonic, i. e. marked by rapid, alternate contraction and relaxation of the muscles; small but wiry, radial pulse and rapid

carotids; positive loss of perception and volition throughout, until delirium ends in persistent unconsciousness, simultaneously with cold perspiration and relaxation of the splinters.

5. The mode of death is by asthenia in both forms of rabies; but in *R. canina* the frightful struggles of nature to eliminate the poison are more prolonged than in *R. mephitica*, and in the latter they may, on occasion, be further abridged by the use of morphine, which has no narcotic effect upon the former even in the largest doses, and injected into the veins.

I have thus endeavored to describe, and also to explain, these strange and painful phenomena. I must leave the reader to form his own decision, only hoping that someone may be induced to follow this pioneer work in a new path by further and more able investigations of his own. - *Am. Jour. Science and Arts*. May, 1874."

(*Rabies Mephitica*, *New England Medical Gazette* vol. 9 (1874), p. 426-429)

## Prüfungen - Provings



# Prüfungen / Provings

## Übersicht

1837 - Prüfungen von Becker, Bute, Hering, Kummer, Lingen, Wohlfahrt

1863 - Notes of a partial proving of Mephitis putorius - D. A. Colton

1877 - Symptom Register - Timothy F. Allen

## **1837 - Prüfungen von Becker, Bute, Hering, Kummer, Lingen, Wohlfahrt**

"Wir erhielten den bekannten Saft des Stinktiers (mephitis putorius) durch Doktor Sachse, jetzt in Pittsburgh, und sind ihm besonderen Dank schuldig, dass er sich diesem äußerst unangenehmen Geschäfte mit Sorgfalt unterzog.

Doktor Bute in Philadelphia hatte schon früher die Prüfung vorgeschlagen, das Mittel wurde durch die Ärzte in Philadelphia 1834 gewählt und vorgeschlagen, hierauf ebenfalls durch die Northampton-Gesellschaft geprüft.

Fast alle Zeichen sind nach dem mehrmaligen Einnehmen einiger Streukügelchen der 30. Potenz bewirkt worden.

Mehrere entstanden vom Riechen des Saftes und der Verdünnungen beim Bereiten.

Bei den Heilungen diente bisher nur 30.

Aufs Neue im August 1836 zur vervollständigenden Prüfung gewählt, wird dieses Mittel angelegentlich empfohlen und gebeten, gelungene so wie mißlungene Heilversuche ebenfalls einzuschicken.

Ganz besonders ersuchen wir nicht nur um Einsendung des Tieres, lebend oder tot, frisch oder in Spiritus, sondern auch um Einsendung des Stinksaftes, damit wir eine wiederholte chemische Untersuchung des Saftes veranlassen und eine anatomische des Tieres selbst anstellen können.

## **Zeichen von I. C. Becker, Bute, Hering, Kummer, Lingen, Wohlfahrt - im Auszuge** (\* bedeutet Heilwirkungen)

Verdrießlich über Kleinigkeiten, oder nur Eingebildetes.

Unaufgelegt zu Geistesarbeiten, wegen störender Lebhaftigkeit der Phantasie.

Sehr gesprächig und fast wie trunken.

Aufgeregt, bei Wärme des Kopfes.

(5) Schwindel beim Bücken; plötzlich im Sitzen; bei manchen Bewegungen des Kopfes; beim Umwenden im Bette.

**Dumpfe Eingenommenheit**, als vergrößerte sich der Kopf, mit Mißmut und Übelkeit.

Heftig Kopfweh, nach oben drängende Vollheit; wie Schwere, dumpfer Druck, besonders im Hinterkopfe, hie und da wie mit Fingern hineingedrückt.

### **Schmerz über den Augen.**

Kopfweh beim Fahren.

(10) **Stiche in den Augen**, wie mit Nadeln.

Schmerz der Augen bei manchen Drehungen; als wäre etwas im Auge; wie von Anstrengung.

Hitze, **Brennen** und brennendes Drücken, besonders Morgens und Abends.

Drücken auf die Lider, Brennen der Ränder, als wollte ein Gerstenkorn entstehen.

Rote Äderchen im Auge.

(15) **Röte der Bindehaut**, wie von Blut unterlaufen.

\* Dasselbe geheilt.

Kurzsichtig, **er kann die Buchstaben nicht unterscheiden**, sie fließen zusammen.

Trübheit.

\* Kann nur feinen Druck lesen.

(20) (Nachtblindheit.)

Bei Schwäche im Sehen gewöhnlich auch Schmerz in den Augen oder im Kopfe.

Reißen im Ohr oder in der Kinnlade und Zähnen.

Ohrenzwang.

Jucken, Hitze, Röte und Rose mit Bläschen am rechten äußeren Ohr.

(25) Nase trocken - blutet.

**Schmerzen in hohlen Backenzähnen** besonders im Unterkiefer; plötzliche Rucke in der Wurzel; Reißen, Ziehen.

**Übelkeit**; mit Kratzen am Gaumen; bei Gefühl als sei der Kopf aufgetrieben, bei Leerheit.

Schluchsendes Aufstoßen; erleichterndes Aufstoßen bei Blähbeschwerden.

Verschluckern bei Trinken und Sprechen.

(30) Lästiger Reiz zu vergeblichem Räuspern.

Kupfergeschmack.

\* Neigung zu stark Gesalzenem.

Bald viel, bald wenig Appetit.

**Morgens ohne Appetit**, selbst nicht zum Tabakrauchen.

(35) Nach dem Essen zerschlagen und schläfrig.

Schmerz in der Lebergegend; in der rechten Seite, rheumatischer; in der linken wie von Blähungen.

**Druck im Magen und Leibweh.**

Leerheitsgefühl und Übelkeit.

Leibweh wie zu Durchfall, ohne Stuhl.

(40) Drücken und Winden im Leibe wie von Erkältung, mit Kältegefühl, Schütteln und Harndrang, besser am warmen Ofen.

**Der Stuhl selten aber dünn.**

Durchfall.

Harndrang, sehr oft Harnen, mehr Nachts, Harn hell; nach dem Abendfieber des Morgens trübe mit Bodensatz.

Jucken am Hodensack; Wärme der Geschlechtsteile.

(45) Wundheit der weiblichen Geschlechtsteile, und Geschwulst der Schamlippen.

Langer Reiz zum Niesen.

Fließschnupfen und Husten mit Wundheit in der Brust.

Husten beim Lautlesen, bei Sprechen, nach Trinken von Verschlückern.

\* Morgenhusten mit Auswurf, von Katarrh übrig geblieben.

(50) \* Schleimaushüsteln alle Morgen.

\* Frische Katarrhe und **langwierige Reste** derselben.

Schmerz links an den letzten Rippen, bei Berührung, Druck, besonders Husten und Niesen.

Wundschmerz hinten an den letzten Rippen und innen in der Brust hinauf, bei Tiefatmen und Bewegen des Rückens.

Schmerz an der rechten Halsseite; Spannen in den Nackenmuskeln, rechts.

(55) Schmerz im Rücken und allen Gliedern, mit Art Lähmung.

Stiche im Rückgrat bei Bewegung.

Müdigkeit im Kreuze, Morgens.

**Rheumatische Schmerzen in den Armen**, lähmend Ziehen, besser bei Bewegung; Reißen oder wie zerschlagen in den Knochen.

**Unruhe im linken Arme**, der wie gefühllos.

(60) Zittern des Arms beim Aufstemmen.

\* Zucken mit der Hand.

Unangenehmes Gefühl im ersten Gelenke des Zeigefingers, was zum Dehnen und Knacken nötigt.

Ziehende, rheumatische Schmerzen in Schenkel und Hüfte bis zum Fuß, besonders im Unterschenkel.

Knie wie zerschlagen.

(65) Plötzlicher krampfhafter Schmerz im linken Fuße, der zum Herumhüpfen nötigt.

\* **Unruhe in beiden Unterschenkeln**, als sollten sie gefühllos werden.

Stiche im Fuße.

Schmerz in der Ferse wie Gicht.

Pucken in der großen Zehe wie Abkneipen.

(70) Brennen in der kleinen Zehe.

Anhaltende **Schmerzen und Brennen der Hühneraugen**.

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**Rheumatische Schmerzen** verschiedener Art kehren wieder bei verschiedenen Prüfern; - herumfliegende Schmerzen, mit Harndrang. - Manchmal Gefühl dabei wie elektrischer Schlag.

**Lähmigungsgefühl**, besonders bei den Schmerzen.

Größte Mattigkeit und Müdigkeit, wobei die Muskeln schmerzen bei Berührung und Bewegung.

(75) **Arbeitsunlust mit Neigung zu Dehnen und zu Renken**.

Unruhe innen im ganzen Körper, mit unbeschreiblichem, höchst unangenehmem Gefühl.



**Sehr beunruhigende feine Nervenschwingungen**, wie bis ins Innere der Knochen.

Schläfrigkeit, schläft mitten in der Gesellschaft; - schläft den größten Teil des Tages, nach gutem Nachtschlaf.

Öfteres Gähnen, dass die Tränen laufen.

(80) **Sehr lebhaft, erinnerliche Träume**, von Wasser, Feuer, Blutspeien, betrübenden Verlusten.

**Alpdrücken.**

Erwachen bei Nacht, mit **Blutandrang nach den Unterschenkeln**; Hitze darin.

**Ärgste Verschlafenheit des Morgens**, stundenlanges Dehnen, wie betäubt, mit Brennen in den Augen, Reißen in allen Gliedern; es erquickte ihn ungemein, sich auf die andere Seite zu legen.

**Viel zeitiger Erwachen.**

(85) \* Zeitiger Erwachen, mit Wohlsein, in mehreren Fällen.

Kälte des Abends und Harndrang mit Leibweh wie zu Durchfall.

Wärme am Kopf, den Geschlechtsteilen, den Unterschenkeln, Nachts.

**Vermehre Wärme, besonders des Morgens**, friert weniger in der Kälte, scheut kaltes Wetter nicht.

Eiskaltes Waschen wird sehr angenehm.

(90) Jucken am Haarkopf, Gesicht, Kinn; Blütchen an der Stirn, Unterkiefer, Rücken, Hintern, innen **an den Oberschenkeln**.

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Abends Schwindel, Kopfweh, Augenbeschwerden, Zahnweh, Leibweh, Kältegefühl, Unruhe.

\* Viele Morgenbeschwerden geheilt.

Die Zeichen wechseln rasch mit gegenteiligen oder ganz anderen, während der ersten Tage, werden dann mehr anhaltend, bis sie endlich nach mehreren Wochen erlöschen.

Die heilende Einwirkung war in vielen Fällen nach 30 auf wiederholte Gaben nur von kurzer Dauer.

(95) Riechen an Kampher erleichtert nur kurze Zeit, ohne aufzuheben."

(Correspondenzblatt der homöopathischen Ärzte in Allentaun, Zweites Heft, Nr. 1 (1837), p. 4-6)

### **1863 - Notes of a partial proving of Mephitis putorius - D. A. Colton**

May 20th, 1860. Took gtt. ij. of 1st dec. preparation of Mephitis Putorius. Was well during the day. Slept well during the following night.

21st. Morning. Am miserable, having an indescribable malaise. Dull, heavy pain in the head, in forehead, and through the temples; weakness of the eyes; indifferent appetite; dull pain in the back, at the promontory of the sacrum; chilliness in the cool air. Quite feverish and uncomfortable while sitting; when the head aches most, have slight dizziness with nausea; great aversion to physical and mental exercise; much despondency. Excitement and activity remove the symptoms.

At 10, A. M., took gtt. ij. In four hours, dull head-ache, with fullness of the head; the eyes injected, watery and weak; heat and heaviness of the limbs while in a warm room, but chilly feeling on exposure to the cool air; pain in the back, in the lower lumbar and upper sacral regions; dull pain in the upper and lower extremities; pressure and soreness in the muscles of the forearms and legs; dull pain in the lower third of the thigh, first in the left and then in the right; occasional sharp pains just above the right knee; cold in the room, when others are warm; slight nausea, with pains in the head and limbs; very uncomfortable; indisposed to labor; mental exercise very irksome; dry, biting feeling in the throat, and sensation of roughness when breathing; pain in the angles of the lower jaw; dull pain in the teeth; severe pain passing down through the knee and lower third of the thigh of the left side; dull pains in the knees and just above the knees; very uncomfortable, as at the commencement of an ague chill; yawning; no thirst; miserable; restless and feverish in the night; bed very hard; soreness in the flesh; uncomfortable heat all over, but on throwing off the bed-clothes at once too cool; numbness in the feet and legs.

22nd. Morning. Felt unable to get up, or dress when out of bed; at breakfast, loathed food, yet, eating slowly, made out a tolerable meal. Have slight cough, and feeling of roughness, rawness, and tickling in the throat; the urine is diminished in quantity.

At 11, A. M. Much roughness, rawness, soreness and tickling in the throat, with a hacking cough.

P. M. Took Rhus. tox 3d, Ars. 3, alternately, at intervals of two hours.

23rd. Morning. Slept better last night, though awake the first three hours after retiring; great despondency while awake; lascivious dreams and dreams of trouble when asleep. This morning, have coryza, much sneezing, restlessness and discomfort; but, upon the whole, decidedly better than yesterday. Continue the Rhus. and Ars.

June 30th. Have a little pain in the teeth, otherwise well.

At 10, A. M. Took Mephitis Putorius, 1st gtt. iij. At evening very much depressed in spirits, scarcely ever as much so; seems as though nobody were friendly; have great disinclination to labor of any kind, especially mental.

April 29th, 1863. In good health with the exception of a slight catarrhal affection in the region of the inferior turbinated bones.

At 11, A. M. Took gtt. j. of Mephitis Putorius, 1st dec. dilution. This having had no appreciable effect, at 4, P. M., took gtt. ij. In an hour and a half, much despondency, with out assignable cause, in the way of business, &c.; anxiety; dull pains in the fore-arms, knees and legs; rather sharp pain shooting down through lower third of the thigh, and the knee of the right side; dull pain in the back, in the region of the lower lumbar and upper sacral vertebrae.

April 30th. 3 ½, P. M. Took gtt. ij. In fifteen minutes pains in the epigastric and left hypochondriac regions as if from the accumulation of wind.

May 1st. Had lascivious dreams the latter part of the night.

At 10, A. M. Took gtt. iij. In ten minutes, pain in the epigastric and umbilical regions, as from the accumulation of gas; in half an hour, pain in the teeth, most in those of the left superior maxilla.

At 5, P. M. Took gtt. viij. In ten minutes, pain in the epigastric and umbilical, and also in left hypochondriac regions, as from pressure of wind. In half an hour, pain in the left wrist, also in lower third of right leg; in three fourths of an hour, pain in the hollow of the left hand, quite severe for a few minutes; about same time, pain in the first and second metacarpal bones of the right hand.

At 9, P. M. Aching pain in the forehead and around the head, and in occiput, as from a band; dull pain in small of the back.

Saturday, May 2nd, 9, A. M. Took gtt. vj., after which, took active exercise in the open air, and had no marked symptoms.

At 5, P. M. Took gtt. v. In twenty minutes sharp and severe pains for a minute or two, in region of the diaphragm, a little below and to the left of the cardiac region; it is in part relieved by eructation of wind; afterwards, pain in same part of left hypochondrium. Pain in right side of chest, rather sharp and severe, so as to affect the breathing a little; after a few minutes, dull pain in same place, and in right hypochondriac region; also in left hypochondrium; quite sharp pain for a few minutes, at the flexure of the arm; slight pains in fore-arms and legs; transient pains in right knee; slight pain in sacral region.

8 ½, P. M. Occasional pains in right shoulder, right arm, then in left arm.

May 3rd. 10, A. M. Took gtt. vj. In twenty minutes rather sharp pain in the epigastrium, somewhat relieved by emission of flatus; pain continues in epigastrium, and extends to left hypochondrium; then in right hypochondriac region, and up in right side of the chest; pain in the chest as of wind incarcerated, and concentrating in a point, becomes sharp so as to affect the breathing a little; also the pain is generally diffused over right side of the chest, and of a dull, aching character. In one hour, dull aching pain in the right hypochondriac region.

5, P. M. Took gtt. vj. Pain in epigastric region as of accumulated gases; it continues of a dull, pressing character for four hours.

Monday, May 4th. 9, A. M. Took gtt. vj. Directly, pain of a dull, aching character in the epigastric region, more toward right hypochondrium; while sitting, have a dull, heavy, disagreeable pain over right lobe of liver, relieved a little by emission of flatus.

At 10, A. M. Very despondent.

May 4th. 5, P. M. Took gtt. viij. In twenty minutes, pain in the epigastric and right hypochondriac regions, lasting one and a half hours; then slight pain in the back at the sacral promontory; very despondent; wanting in energy or hope to set about doing anything.

Tuesday, May 5th. 9, A. M. Took gtt. viij. Active exercise in the open air prevented any marked, appreciable effects of the drug.

4 ½, P. M. Took gtt. x. In twenty minutes, pain in the right hypochondriac region, in the back, at the sacral promontory, and in the right thigh, of a dull, aching character; pain rather severe in the upper two-thirds of the right thigh. In one hour, steady, dull pain in region of right lobe of the liver; also slight pain in left hypochondrium, partly relieved by the emission of flatus.

Wednesday, 6th. 5, P. M. Took gtt. x. Had a brisk walk for half an hour. and no marked symptoms except great despondency; gloomy, as from physical depression, more than

mental; labor, both mental and physical, next to impossible to undertake; a little thing seems of great magnitude. Slept well at night.

Morning, 7th. No good relish for food; tongue coated.

At 9, A. M. Wish to do nothing; very much depressed; no great desire for drinks.

In the regional arrangement and *resume* of the symptoms noted, we have in the

Head: dull, heavy pain in the forehead and through the temples, with fullness in the forehead, and around into the occiput as of a band.

Eyes: injected, watery, weak.

Teeth: slight pain, most marked in left superior maxilla.

Catarrhal symptoms: coryza, sneezing.

Appetite: indifferent, rather loathed food.

Tongue: coated.

In the gastric and hypochondriac regions: nausea, with pains in the head and limbs; pain in the epigastric and hypochondriac regions repeatedly, as from flatus; pains in the epigastric and umbilical regions, as from same cause; dull, aching pain in the epigastric region for four hours.

Urine: diminished.

Throat: dry, biting sensation; sense of roughness in the throat when breathing; sense of roughness, rawness and sore ness in the throat.

Larynx: tickling, with slight cough.

Chest: pain rather sharp in region of diaphragm, to the left of the cardia; pain in the right side of the chest so as to affect the breathing; pain rather sharp in right side of chest, feeling like confined gas.

Back: dull pain repeatedly in region of sacral promontory, and at the lower two lumbar and upper sacral vertebrae.

Extremities: pressure and soreness in the muscles of the forearms and legs; pain first in the left then in the right leg; rather severe pain passing down through the knee and lower third of the thigh of the left side; dull pains in the knees and just above the knees; numbness in the feet and legs at night; dull pains in fore-arms, knees and legs; rather sharp pain in lower third of thigh and in left wrist, and lower third of right leg; pain in hollow of left hand, quite severe; also in first and second metacarpal bones of right hand; pain in flexure of right arm; transient pain in right shoulder.

Fever symptoms: chilly in cool air; uncomfortable heat all over at night, but on throwing off the bed-clothes at once too cool.

Night: very great despondency while in bed.

(D. A. Colton, M. D., Chicago, Notes of a partial proving of *Mephitis putorius*, Transactions of the Illinois Homoeopathy Medical Association, Ninth Annual Meeting in Chicago, May 20 and 21, 1863, p. 90-95)

## 1877 - Symptom Register - Timothy F. Allen

*Mephitis putorius*; *M. chinga*, Tied.

*Class*, Mammalia.

*Order*, Carnivora. *Family*, Mustelidæ.

*Common names*, Skunk, Stinktier.

**Authorities.** Hering, Corresp. Blatt., symptoms obtained from 30th dilution, and several from inhaling the substance while preparing the dilutions. (Dr. Neidhard's report of the effect of the substance on a young man "*afflicted with symptoms of consumption*," producing a spasmodic cough with a crowing sound, lasting all night and returning several times, N. Am. J. of Hom., 3, 505, is not admitted).

### MIND.

#### Emotional.

Excited mood, with warmth of the head, [1].

(Very talkative, almost as if intoxicated), [1].

Fretful about trifles or only fancied occurrences, [1].

#### Intellectual.

*Disinclination to work, with inclination to stretch*, [1].

Aversion to mental labor, on account of distracting fancies, [1].

### HEAD.

#### Confusion and Vertigo.

Dull confusion of the head, as if it became enlarge, with ill-humor and nausea, [1].

Vertigo on stooping; suddenly while sitting; on various motions of the head; or on turning over in bed, [1].

#### General Head.

Feeling of heaviness; a dull pressure, especially in the occiput, as if here and there pressed in with the finger, [1].

Headache on riding a carriage, [1].

(10) Violent headache follows fulness, which presses upward, [1].

### EYE.

Red vessels in the eyes, [1].

Pain as from exerting the eyes, [1].

Pain as if something were in the eye, [1].

Heat, burning and burning pressure in the eyes, especially in the morning and evening, [1].

*Stitches as if with needles in the eyes*, [1].

*Pain above the eyes*, [1].

Pressure upon the lids, a burning in the margins as if styes would develop, [1].

*\*Redness of the conjunctivæ, as if injected with blood*, [1].

Pain in the eyes on turning them in various directions, [1].

#### Vision.

(20) Weakness of vision; also, usually, pain in the eyes or head, [1].

Dimness of vision, [1].

Short-sighted; *he is unable to distinguish letters*; they run together, [1].

(Night-blindness), [1].

## **EAR.**

Earache, [1].

Tearing in the ear, or in the jaws and teeth, [1].

## **NOSE.**

Fluent coryza and cough, with soreness of the chest, [1].

Nose-bleed, [1].

Nose dry, [1].

Long-lasting irritation to sneeze, [1].

## **MOUTH.**

(30) *Pains in the hollow back teeth*, especially of the lower jaw; sudden jerking in the roots of the teeth; tearing drawing, [1].

Coppery taste in the mouth, [1].

## **THROAT.**

Distressing irritation to ineffectual hawking, [1].

Choking while drinking and talking, [1].

Pain in the right side of the throat, [1].

Tension in the cervical muscles of the right side, [1].

## **STOMACH.**

### **Appetite.**

Appetite at one time great, at another slight, [1].

*No appetite in the morning*, not even for smoking, [1].

### **Eructations.**

Eructations relieving the flatulent troubles, [1].

Hiccough-like eructations, [1].

### **Nausea.**

(40) Nausea, with a feeling as if the head were distended; with emptiness, [1].

*Nausea*, with scraping in the palate, [1].

### **Stomach.**

Feeling of emptiness and nausea, [1].

*Pressure in the stomach, with colic*, [1].

## **ABDOMEN.**

Pain in the hepatic region, [1].

Pain as from flatulence in the left side, [1].

Colic as in diarrhœa, without stool, [1].

## **STOOL.**

Diarrhœa, [1].

*Stool infrequent but thin*, [1].

## **URINARY ORGANS.**

Urging to urinate, very frequent micturition, especially at night; urine clear, [1].

(50) Urine turbid, with sediment, in the morning after the evening fever, [1].

## **SEXUAL ORGANS.**

Warmth of the genitals, [1].

Soreness of the female genitals, with swelling of the labia, [1].

## **RESPIRATORY ORGANS.**

Cough on reading aloud, while talking, and after drinking; caused by choking, [1].

## **CHEST.**

Rheumatic pain in the right side, [1].

Sore pain behind the last ribs and posteriorly, extending up into the chest internally, on deep breathing or moving the back, [1].

Pain in the lowest ribs of the left side, to touch, pressure, especially on coughing and sneezing, [1].

## **BACK.**

Stitches in the spine on moving, [1].

Weariness in the small of the back, in the morning, [1].

## **SUPERIOR EXTREMITIES.**

Trembling of the arm, on resting upon it, [1].

(60) *Uneasiness in the left arm*, which seems insensible, [1].

*Rheumatic pains in the arms*; paralytic drawing pains, better on moving, [1].

Tearing a bruised feeling in the bones of the arms, [1].

In the first joint of the index finger, a disagreeable feeling, that obliges him to stretch and crack it, [1].

## **INFERIOR EXTREMITIES.**

*Woke at night with rush of blood to the legs*; heat in them, [1].

Drawing rheumatic pains in the thighs and hip, especially in the lower leg, extending down to the foot, [1].

The knees feel beaten, [1].

\**Uneasiness in the both lower legs*, as if they would become insensible, [1].

Sudden cramplike pain in the left foot, that compels him to hop, [1].

Stitches in the foot, [1].

(70) Pain like gout in the heel, [1].

Burning in the little toe, [1].

Throbbing like a pinching in the great toe, [1].

*Burning and pain in the corns*, [1].

## **GENERAL SYMPTOMS.**

Great weakness and weariness, whereby the muscles are painful to touch and motion, [1].

Prostrated and sleepy after eating, [1].

Uneasiness of the whole body internally, with an indescribable extremely unpleasant sensation, [1].

*Paralyzed sensation*, especially with the pains, [1].

Pain in the back and all the limbs, with paralysis, [1].

Wandering pains, with desire to urinate, [1].

(80) Rheumatic pains of various kinds in different provers, [1].

Frequent sensations like electric shocks, [1].

*Very fine nervous vibrations causing great uneasiness*, as if extending into the interior of the bones, [1].

In the evening vertigo, headache, symptoms in the eyes, toothache, colic, a feeling of coldness, uneasiness, [1].

Some of the symptoms rapidly alternate with others quite different, during the first days; afterwards they become more constant, until at last, after several weeks, they disappear, [1].

Smelling Camphor relieved for only a short time, without removing the symptoms, [1].

Washing in ice-cold water is very agreeable, [1].

### **SKIN.**

Pimples on the forehead, lower jaw, back, nates, and the inner side of the thighs, [1].

Itching, heat, redness, and erysipelas, with vesicles on the right external ear, [1].

Itching on the scalp, face, and chin, [1].

(90) Itching on the scrotum, [1].

### **SLEEP AND DREAMS.**

#### **Sleepiness.**

Frequent yawning, so that the eyes fill with tears, [1].

Sleepiness, sleep in the midst of society, [1].

Sleep the greater part of the day, after good sleep at night, [1].

*Extremely sleepy in the morning*, stretching for an hour as if stupefied, with burning in the eyes, tearing in all the limbs; he was uncommonly refreshed by turning upon the other side, [1].

#### **Sleeplessness.**

*\*Woke earlier than usual in the morning*, [1].

#### **Dreams.**

*Very vivid remembered dreams* of water, fire, spitting, blood, of disheartening loss, [1].

Nightmare, [1].

### **FEVER.**

#### **Chilliness.**

Pressure and chills in the abdomen, as from taking cold, with a feeling of coldness, shivering, and desire to urinate, better by a warm stove, [1].

Coldness and desire to urinate, with colic as before diarrhœa; in the evening, [1].

#### **Heat.**

(100) *Increased warmth, especially in the morning*; is less chilly in the cold air, and does not dread cold water, [1].

Warmth in the head, genitals, and legs, at night, [1].

### **CONDITIONS.**

#### **Aggravation.**

(*Morning*), No appetite; weariness in small of back; *warmth*.

(*Evening*), Vertigo, etc.; coldness, etc.

(*Night*), Frequent micturition; rush of blood to legs; warmth in head.

(*Motion*), Pains in arms.

(*Riding in carriage*), Headache.

#### **Amelioration.**

(*Washing in ice-cold water*), Is very agreeable.

(Timothy F. Allen, The Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica, Boericke & Tafel, New York and Philadelphia, vol. 6 (1877), Mephitis, p. 191-193)



## Heilungen / Cures



# Heilungen / Cures

## Übersicht

1858 - Whooping Cough - A. M. Cushing

### 1858 - Whooping Cough - A. M. Cushing

"Dr. A. M. Cushing, Bradford, Vt., reports the next cases to which we wish to call attention. Two cases of Whooping Cough, treated successfully by him with the *Mephitis putorius*, related in a letter to the REVIEW, bear out the favorable opinion of many of our best practitioners of this drug in this disease.

Dr. Cushing was called on the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1857, to visit and prescribe for a child five months old, who had been suffering for two weeks from a very severe attack of Whooping Cough. The little patient had been subject to the varied treatment of several physicians of the precise nature of whose prescriptions Dr. C. was unformed. The multitude of counsellors had, however, failed of any essential service to the sufferer, and the family at length consulted our correspondent. *Mephitis putorius* in the third dilution was ordered - two globules every two hours. The child visibly improved after the first two doses, and after twenty-four hours' use of the remedy, the cough entirely ceased, and the patient rapidly convalesced. The *peculiar* symptomatic phenomena which constituted the indications for the *Mephitis*, in this case, are not given, but in the following one they are evident.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1857, Dr. Cushing was called to visit a boy ten years of age, living in a town adjoining where Dr. C. resides. The patient had been given up by most of his friends. It was supposed he must die of Whooping Cough, and our professional brother seems to have been called in a sort of last resort. The excellent success which followed his prescription fully justified the experiment, if such it was, on the part of those who had the care of the boy.

When first seen, the patient had been ill with Whooping Cough for eight weeks. He had had the disease very violently for all the latter part of this period, and was now the subject of half-hourly paroxysms, of extreme severity. The poor little fellow had become pale and emaciated; his eyes were blood-shot and askance, through the violence of his cough. Every paroxysm was very severe, accompanied by vomiting, and followed by great prostration. The pulse was quick and weak, and the little fellow showed signs of approaching exhaustion.

*Mephitis putorius* 3<sup>rd</sup> was prescribed. Half a drop of the third dilution was placed in half a tumbler of water, to be administered in doses of a teaspoonful every hour until decided improvement took place, when the intervals were to be lengthened. Those having charge of the administration of these doses were so discreet, and the good effect of the solution was so immediately manifest that the Doctor was not again called to see the case. Another patient in the same house, however, having been in need of his services ten days after the above prescription, the little patient was found quite well, playing out of doors, and with no sign of the cough about him.

Dr. Cushing writes that he has never seen the *Mephitis* fail in the cure of Whooping Cough, and is satisfied it is to be preferred to *Hypericum perforatum*, *Drosera* etc., inasmuch as no lingering cough is left behind after the worst symptoms disappear. We are ourselves disposed to think that this disease as found in any particular epidemic and in any particular locality, follows the same law as to its therapeutics, as do all other diseases of endemic character. That the endemic of one section and of one season will require *one* remedy, and that that *one* remedy, *in some one or other of its potencies*, will cure *every* case were do not doubt. And we are equally sure that another epidemic, occurring in another locality and during another

season, may require a different remedy, which different remedy will cure all the cases as did the first. Mephitis was evidently the remedy in the cases above narrated, and would doubtless have cured *all* the cases occurring during that particular epidemic. We do not mean to say that no *other* remedy than the purely homoeopathic one will cure a case of Whooping Cough in an epidemic to which Mephitis is antidotal, but the proper drug is more certain, and in our view should always be exhibited. If it fails in the lower potencies as it may, it is best to give it in the higher, et *vice versa*.

With us, in New York the present epidemic of Whooping Cough seems to correspond very nearly to Belladonna. In one case accompanied with very serious convulsions, in which Mephitis in the third dilution had failed to make any impression in the disease, a single dose of Belladonna 200 accomplished a perfect cure. Whooping Cough in cities, however, is very apt to be complicated with Psora, and we hardly ever expect a cure of the lingering cough, which is apt to remain after the worst symptoms have subsided, without Sulphur, Calcarea, or some one of the great antipsorics."

(Clinical Contributions, Dr. A. M. Cushing, Bradford, Vt., The American Homoeopathic Review vol. 1 (1858-1859), p. 206-209)

## Klinische Hinweise / Clinical Hints



## Klinische Hinweise / Clinical Hints

### Übersicht

1870 - Mephitis in Whooping Cough - Carroll Dunham

1878 - Sleeplessness from "fidgets" - R. M. Theobald

1892 - Severe cough - Malcolm McFarlan

1901 - Constant hacking cough - T. M. Stewart

1931 - Asthma - W. W. Wilson

### 1870 - Mephitis in Whooping Cough - Carroll Dunham

"Whooping cough at night and after lying down; also with convulsions.

*Aggravations.* - During the night.

*Concomitant Symptoms.* - Complete suffocative feeling; he cannot exhale. Vomiting of all the food, some hours after eating. Bloated face. Convulsions. [Ad. Lippe, M. D.]"

(The homoeopathic treatment of Hooping cough, by C. von Boenninghausen, translated with additions by Carroll Dunham, M. D. (1870), p. 82)

### 1878 - Sleeplessness from "fidgets" - R. M. Theobald

"Sleeplessness from 'fidgets' in left side, both legs and arms, was promptly arrested by *Mephitis* 3. Restlessness in the legs and arms is produced by *Calc.* also, but only *Mephitis* defines the locality as on the *left* side in the upper extremity. - 'Uneasiness in the left arm, which seems insensible."

(R. M. Theobald, Note on Mephitis putorius, The Organon vol. 1 (1878), p. 300)

### 1889 - Weak sight - A. M. Cushing

„Dr. A. M. Cushing (*Physician's and Surgeon's Investigator*) foreshadows great possibilities from *Mephitis* in cases of weak sight. A gentleman of his acquaintance once received a dose of that remedy, direct from the skunk, into his eye. It was as though fire had entered his eyes, and for a time he was totally blind; but when his sight returned, it was so keen that he could count the panes of glass in the window of a house claimed to be two miles away."

(Publisher's Department, The Homoeopathic Recorder vol. 4 (1889), p. 237-238)

### 1892 - Severe cough - Malcolm McFarlan

"*Mephitis* <sup>1M</sup> cured frequently very severe, hoarse, hollow, deep cough, with soreness in the chest (often verified); convulsive, teasing, tickling cough without expectoration. The medicine causes this cough in those not afflicted with it."

(Malcolm McFarlan, M. D., Philadelphia, Proving and clinical observations with high potencies, The Homoeopathic Physician vol. 12 (1892), p. 56)

### 1901 - Constant hacking cough - T. M. Stewart

"Patient, male, aged 47. Constant hacking cough; often required to cough during a conversation of only a few moments' duration; feels that he must cough to dislodge something; slight relief on coughing up plugs of gluey mucus.

Elongated uvula was first amputated. After recovery from the operation, and allowing some time to elapse, patient reports 'Cough after reading aloud or drinking any fluid; cough is spasmodic, hollow and hoarse, worse at night and on lying down; cough loose in mornings.'

*Ambra, Chamomilla, Kali bichromicum, Rumex* and *Phosphorus* failed to give decided relief. *Mephitis* 1M relieved promptly, and a few doses are all that have since been needed at infrequent intervals."

(T. M. Stewart, *Mephitis*, *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 16 (1901), p. 71)

### **1931 - Asthma - W. W. Wilson**

"I remember a woman who came to me with a bad heart condition. Her son brought her to me one evening by automobile and succeeded in getting her into my house. I gave her one dose of *Mephitis*. She said she had never had anything in her life that worked the way that did.

Dr. Ironsides of Camden, New Jersey, when talking in one of our state society meetings, asked me if I had ever been hit by a skunk. He said he had been. He said, "I know all the symptomatology of *Mephitis*, with all the asthmas in the world, the paralysis of the whole respiratory tract practically. It is the most awful thing I ever experienced." He had been hit by a skunk."

(Eugene Underhill, Jr., M. D., *Asthma and its Homoeopathic Treatment*. Read at the I. H. A. Bureau of Clinical Medicine, June 1931. Discussion, W. W. Wilson. *The Homoeopathic Recorder* vol. 46 (1931), p. 882)

## Hering's Guiding Symptoms



Constantin Hering (1800-1880)

# Hering's Guiding Symptoms

## 1888 - Constantin Hering

(Constantin Hering, The Guiding Symptoms of our Materia Medica, vol. 7 (1888),  
Mephitis putorius, p. 336-341)

*Skunk.*

*Mustelidae.*

The alcoholic dilution is prepared from the liquid contained in the glands of the animal. Introduced by Hering; symptoms obtained from the 30th dilution, and from inhaling the substance while preparing the dilutions.

Also proved, in 1853, by Cowley, through Neidhard, MSS. (not contained in Allen's Encyclopedia).

"If the facts collected since 1851, which are numerous, do not prove that Mephitis will supersede all other remedies in whooping cough, it certainly may be considered a valuable specific. In order to insure its full success, it should be exhibited in the lower dilutions, from one to three, at least in severe cases. " - NEIDHARD.

CLINICAL AUTHORITIES. - *Spasm of glottis*, Searle, Raue's Path. and Therap., p. 334; *Asthma*, MSS.; Cough, Blake, Hahn. Mo., vol. 10, p. 375; *Pertussis*, Moore, N. E. M. G., vol. 4, p. 446; (23 cases), MSS., Neidhard, N. A. J. H., vol. 3, p. 504; Cushing (9 cases out of 10), MSS.; Knerr (numerous cases), MSS.; *Sleeplessness*, Theobald, Org., vol. 1, p. 300.

### Mind

Fancies so vivid they unfit for labor.

Talkative, as if drunk; excited, with heat of head.

Angry about trifles or imaginary things.

ii Disinclination to work, with inclination to stretch.

### Sensorium

Vertigo : sitting, stooping, turning in bed.

Numb and dull, with sensation as if head became enlarged, with ill humor and nausea.

### Inner Head

ii Pain above eyes; violent pain in head, as if a fulness was pressing upwards.

Fulness of forehead and front part of head.

Fulness in head, more on vertex, agg from studying.

Headache while riding in a carriage.

Heaviness in back part of head, as if fingers were pressing on it.

Slight pain like pulsation or undulation in front part of head, left side, amel on stooping reading, agg on writing steadily.

Strange feeling in right side of cerebellum.

### Sight and Eyes

Inability to read fine print.

ii Letters become blurred, he is unable to discern them, they run together.

Weakness of sight, with headache and pain in eyes.

Pain in eyes : when turning them in certain directions; as from a foreign body; as from overexertion.

ii Stitches in eyes as from needles.

Stinging and itching in eyes, evening and morning.



Inflammation of eyes and lids, especially right side.

I Redness of conjunctivae.

Heat and burning of eyes.

Pressing on lids, with burning of margins as if a sty would form.

### **Hearing and Ears**

Fetid discharge from ears.

Erysipelas of ear, with itching, heat, redness and blisters.

Neuralgic pain in and about ears; deafness.

### **Smell and Nose**

Dry nose; bleeding from nose; swelling.

Fluent coryza, cough and soreness in chest.

### **Upper Face**

Bloated face.

### **Teeth and Gums**

Sudden jerks in roots of teeth; strumming toothache.

ii Pains in hollow back teeth.

### **Taste and Tongue**

Taste in mouth : coppery; as after eating onions.

Want of sensation in tongue.

### **Appetite, Thirst, Desires, Aversions**

Wants every dish very much salted.

ii No appetite in morning.

### **Hiccough, Belching, Nausea and Vomiting**

ii Nausea, with emptiness in stomach and sensation as if head was distended.

### **Scrobiculum and Stomach**

ii Pressure in stomach, with colic.

### **Hypochondria**

Rheumatic pain in region of liver.

Pain under short ribs.

### **Abdomen**

Colic from cold, amel near warm stove.

Stool and Rectum

ii Stool infrequent but thin.

### **Urinary Organs**

Difficulty in urinating, all day; stream interrupted.

Frequent micturition : with clear urine; with rheumatic pain; with chill.

Urine turbid in morning, after evening fever.

### **Male Sexual Organs**

I Dwindling of testicles from masturbation.

Heat of genitals at night.  
Itching of scrotum.

### **Female Sexual Organs**

Burning leucorrhoea.  
Soreness of genitals and swelling of labia and uterus.

### **Voice and Larynx, Trachea and Bronchia**

When drinking or talking, liability to have something get into larynx.

### **Respiration**

Asthma : as from inhaling vapor of sulphur; in sleep; of drunkards.

Inhalation difficult, exhalation almost impossible, or barking.

I Suffocative feeling, with inability to exhale; bloated face and convulsions. ð Spasm of glottis.

I When drinking or talking, liability to get foreign substance into throat. ð Asthma thymicum.

I Asthmatic paroxysm at night on lying down, also sometimes waking him in morning; at 10 P.M. had to sit up in bed, got to sleep at 12 P.M., but was wakened by paroxysm exactly at daybreak; had to get up and walk about, whereby a slight cough was excited, the more he coughed the worse the breathing became, but each cough brought up a little transparent phlegm, like white of egg, with sourish taste; urine turbid on standing a few minutes, of fetid smell and depositing brickdust sediment; sensation during paroxysm as from inhaling fumes of sulphur, and a general oppression of front part of chest, especially behind upper part of sternum; agg from ice water, wine, horseback riding. ð Asthma.

### **Cough**

Cough : after drinking, talking or loud reading; with fluent coryza and soreness in chest; spasmodic, hollow or deep, with rawness, hoarseness and pain through chest; with suffocative feeling when inhaling; cannot exhale; vomits all food some hours after eating; bloated face; convulsions; agg at night and after lying down; in morning it is loose, with some expectoration.

I Whooping or any kind of cough which is very violent, coming on spasmodically, and seeming as though each spell would terminate life.

I Spells day and night; child must be raised, gets blue in face and cannot exhale; convulsions; fetid diarrhoea.

II Eight or more paroxysms of cough every night; rattling of phlegm during cough, with vomiting after eating.

II After slight catarrh, whooping cough; during day cough slight, but in night paroxysm every ten minutes, with frequent vomiting and fever.

I Spasmodic cough of phthisical girls (where Dros. failed).

### **Inner Chest and Lungs**

Pains in chest (last left short rib) when touching it; when coughing and sneezing.

Strange feeling like that produced in throat when taking the preparation is felt in right lung and hypochondrium.

### **Neck and Back**

Stitches in spinal column during motion.

Pain in back and all limbs, with lameness.

Tension and pain in right side of neck.

### **Upper Limbs**

Sensation in right arm, over deltoid muscles, similar to that produced by substance on throat.

Rheumatic pains in arms, amel on motion.

Restlessness in left arm, with sensibility.

Trembling of arm when leaning on it.

Painful twitching of left hand.

Feels impelled to stretch fingers and make them crack.

### **Lower Limbs**

ii Rush of blood to legs on getting awake at night.

ii Rheumatic pains from hips to feet; arthritic pain in heel.

I Legs restless as if becoming insensible; knees feel bruised.

Peculiar spasmodic pain in left foot.

Stitches in feet.

Pain in big toe as if being pinched off.

ii Burning and pains in corns.

### **Limbs in General**

Rheumatic wandering pains in limbs, with much pressure to urinate and shocks.

Stretching of limbs.

### **Rest. Position. Motion**

Lying down : asthmatic paroxysm; cough agg.

Had to sit up in bed : asthmatic paroxysm.

Child must be raised : whooping cough.

Sitting : vertigo.

Stooping : vertigo.

Leaning on arm : trembling in it.

Motion : stitches in spinal column; rheumatic pains in arms amel.

Turning in bed : vertigo.

Stretching of limbs.

Had to get up and walk about : asthmatic paroxysm.

Disinclination to work, inclination to stretch.

### **Nerves**

ii Very fine nervous vibrations, causing great uneasiness.

Convulsions.

Inclination to stretch one's self, with disinclination to do anything.

Restlessness.

ii Lameness, especially with the pains.

### **Sleep**

Frequent yawning; lachrymation.

I Extremely sleepy in morning, during day, even in company.

Cannot sleep whole night.

I Sleeplessness from "fidgets" in left side, both legs and arms.

ii Nightmare.

ii Awakens in night with congestion to legs.

Night walking, open eyes, angry gestures; hair on head rises, cannot be made conscious.

Vivid dreams which he recollects.

Asthma during sleep; not waking; continues after he has waked up.

**Time**

Morning : stinging and itching in eyes; no appetite; urine turbid; asthma waking him; cough loose; extremely sleepy; increased warmth.

Day : occasional spells of whooping cough; cough slight.

All day : difficulty in urinating; extremely sleepy.

Evening : stinging and itching in eyes; fever; chilliness.

Night : heat of genitals; asthmatic paroxysm; cough agg; spells of whooping cough; on getting awake rush of blood to legs; cannot sleep.

10 P.M. : asthmatic paroxysm; got to sleep at 12 P.M., but was wakened by paroxysm exactly at daybreak.

**Temperature and Weather**

Warm stove : colic from cold amel.

Feels less chilly in cold weather; feels pleasant after ice cold washing.

Ice water : asthma agg.

**Fever**

Cold feeling predominates; evening chilliness, with desire to urinate; colic as if diarrhoea would set in.

ii Increased warmth, especially in morning.

**Attacks, Periodicity**

Every ten minutes : paroxysms of cough at night.

Every night : eight or more paroxysms.

**Locality, Direction**

Right : strange feeling in side of cerebellum; inflammation of eyes and lids agg; strange feeling in lung; tension and pain in side of neck; sensation in arm over deltoid muscles, similar to that produced by substance on throat.

Left : undulation in side of front part of head; pains under short ribs; restlessness in arm; painful twitching of hand; peculiar spasmodic pain in foot; "fidgets" in side.

**Sensations**

Strumming through body; anxiety.

Feels as if threads had been drawn through head and trunk.

Wandering pains with pressure to urinate.

Fine nervous vibrations in bones.

A kind of burning feeling as from raw onions, in stomach, nose, head, right arm, right lung and down oesophagus.

As if head became enlarged; as if a fulness was pressing upwards in head; as if fingers were pressing on back of head; pain as from a foreign body in eyes; as from overexertion; stitches in eyes as from needles; as if a sty would form; as if head was distended; as if inhaling vapor of sulphur; legs as if becoming insensible; as if big toe was being pinched off; as if diarrhoea would set in.

Pain : above eyes; in eyes; in hollow back teeth; under short ribs; through chest; in back and all limbs; in r. side of neck; in big toe in corns.

Violent pain : in head.

Stitches : in eyes as from needles; in spinal column; in feet.

Neuralgic pains : in and about ears.

Rheumatic pain : in region of liver; when urinating; in arms; from hips to feet; wandering, in limbs.

Arthritic pain : in heel.

Spasmodic pain : in left foot.

Slight painlike pulsation in front part of head.

Painful twitching : of left hand.

Sudden jerks : in roots of teeth.

Stinging and itching : in eyes.

Soreness : in chest; of genitals.

Burning : of eyes; of margins of eyes; in corns.

Heat : of eyes; of ears; of genitals.

Pressure : in stomach.

Fulness : of forehead and front part of head; in head.

Heaviness : in back part of head.

Tension : in right side of neck.

Pressing : on lids.

Lameness : in back and limbs.

Suffocative feeling : in larynx.

Strange feeling : in right side of cerebellum; in lungs.

Restlessness : in left arm.

Fidgets : in left side, both legs and arms.

Trembling : of arm.

Itching : of ears; of scrotum.

Touch, Passive Motion, Injuries

Touch : on last short ribs, pain.

Riding in a carriage : headache.

Horseback riding : asthma agg.

Skin

Pimples on thighs, forehead, face, neck and nates.

### **Stages of Life, Constitution**

Baby, aet. 20 mos.; pertussis.

Boy, aet. 1; pertussis.

Child, aet. 2; pertussis.

Boy, aet. 3; pertussis.

Boy, aet. 4; pertussis.

Girl, aet. 6; pertussis.

Boy, aet. 6; pertussis.

Boy, aet. 6; pertussis.

Two children, aet. 8 1/2 and 5 1/2; pertussis.

Girl, aet. 9; pertussis.

Man, aet. 26; bilious temperament, while in army two years previously had suffocative catarrh; asthma.

### **Relations**

Compare : in asthma, *Drosera*, *Rumex* and *Sticta*; in pertussis, *Coral. rubr.* and *Drosera*; in vertigo, *Carbo veg.*; in loquacity, *Amanita (Agaric.)* and *Laches.*; in effects on nervous system generally, *Castor.* and *Moschus*; in chorea, with fidgety feet and legs, *Act. rac.*, *Amm. carb.*, *Arsen.*, *Asaf.*, *Aurum*, *Sticta* and *Tarent.*

## Leitsymptome und Charakteristika / Keynotes and Characteristics



Henry Newell Guernsey (1817-1885)

# Leitsymptome und Charakteristika / Keynotes and Characteristics

## Übersicht

1887 - Henry N. Guernsey  
1887 - Ernest A. Farrington  
1902 - John H. Clarke  
1915 - Cyrus M. Boger  
1927 - William Boericke  
1929 - N. M. Choudhuri

### 1887 - Henry N. Guernsey

“Whooping, or any kind of cough, which is *very violent*, coming on spasmodically and seeming as though each spell would terminate life.”

(Henry N. Guernsey, M.D., Key-Notes to the Materia Medica, Philadelphia 1887, *Mephitis putorius*, p. 132)

### 1887 - Ernest A. Farrington

“Next we have here the product from the animal which you all know as the skunk, *Mephitis putorius*. This *Mephitis* also acts powerfully on the nervous system. If taken in a low potency when one is exhausted, it tones up the nervous system and relieves the exhaustion.

The main use of *Mephitis*, however, is in whooping-cough. It produces a well-described hard cough, with well-marked laryngeal spasm, and a distinct whoop.

I have found in using this medicine, that it often apparently makes the patient worse, while it really tends to shorten the course of the disease. When the catarrhal symptoms are slight and the spasmodic whoop is marked, *Mephitis* is to be selected.

The cough is worse at night and after lying down. There is a suffocative feeling; the child cannot exhale. It vomits its food, sometimes hours after eating.

In whooping-cough you should compare with *Mephitis*, *Corallium rubrum*, which has, however, smothering before the cough, and great exhaustion afterwards. The gasping progresses into repeated crowing inspirations until the child becomes black in the face.

*Drosera* should also be thought of. This remedy has spells of barking cough, which come so frequently as not to give the patient an opportunity to recover the breath. They are especially worse after 12 p.m. The child holds each hypochondrium during the cough and if sputum is not raised, Vomiting and retching ensue. The patient may have a diarrhoea with stools containing bloody mucus.

*Mephitis* has also been recommended in the asthma of drunkards. It may also be used in the asthma of consumptives when *Drosera* fails. In the last named condition, you may think also of *Rumex* and . The former of these is to be given when there is aggravation at 2 a.m. The latter remedy has been recommended by Dr. E. T. Blake, when the trouble is associated with splitting headache.

*Mephitis* seems to have the power of enabling the patient to stand extreme cold. He feels less chilly than usual in cold weather. Washing in ice-cold water causes a pleasant sensation.

Other symptoms of the drug which are worthy of notice are the following: Wandering pains with pressure to urinate, fine nervous vibrations reaching to the bones, causing anxiety ; awakes at night with congestions to the legs (see *Aurum*) ; legs uneasy as if they would become insensible; vivid fancies unfitting him for mental labor ; talkative, as if intoxicated ; violent pain in the head after a fulness which was pressing upwards; head dull and numb; head feels enlarged; heaviness and pressure in the back of the head as from a finger pressing; redness and injection of the conjunctiva; dimness of vision ; letters blur and run together.

(Ernest A. Farrington, M.D., A Clinical Materia Medica, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Philadelphia 1887, p. 27-28)

## 1902 - John H. Clarke

### Characteristics

"Mephitis was proved by Hering in the 30th. Among the symptoms he developed was "choking while eating or drinking," and "cough on reading aloud, while talking, and after drinking; caused by choking." Lower ribs painful to touch or pressure, esp. < on coughing or sneezing.

Neidhard gave Meph. to "a young man afflicted with symptoms of consumption," in whom it produced "a spasmodic cough with a crowing sound, lasting all night and returning several times."

This homoeopathic aggravation suggested to Neidhard to use Meph. in whooping-cough, and this is his conclusion, quoted by Hering : "If the facts collected since 1851, which are numerous, do not prove that Meph. will supersede all other remedies in whooping-cough, it certainly may be considered a valuable specific. In order to ensure its full success, it should be exhibited in the lower dilutions, from one to three, at least in severe cases."

Guernsey gives it as: "Whooping, or any other kind of cough which is very violent, coming on spasmodically, and seeming as though each spell would terminate life."

Farrington says the note of Meph. is nervous exhaustion.

In whooping-cough the catarrh is slight, whoop decided; < at night and after lying down. Suffocative feeling; cannot exhale; vomits food sometimes hours after eating. Asthma of drunkards; of consumptives (after Dros.).

T. M. Stewart reports (H. R., xvi. 71) the case of a man, 47, who had a constant hacking cough coming on during conversation. For this the uvula was amputated. As soon as he recovered from the operation the condition was this : "Coughs after reading aloud, or drinking any fluid; cough spasmodic, hollow, hoarse, < at night and on lying down; loose in mornings." Ambr., Cham., Kali-bi., Rumex, Phos., failed to relieve; Meph. 1m. cured promptly.

Another point about Meph. is the rush of warmth it causes to various parts. It enables patients to endure extreme cold; makes them less chilly in cold weather. Washing in ice-water is pleasant. Awakens at night with congestion to legs. Legs uneasy as if they would become insensible. Fidgety feet. A short sleep seems to refresh.

A. M. Cushing calls attention to the possibilities of the remedy in weak sight (H. R. iv. 237), and tells of a friend of his who had a dose direct from the skunk injected into his eyes : "It was as though fire had entered his eyes." For a time he was totally blind; but when his sight returned it was so keen that he could count the panes in a window said to be two miles distant.

In another case, after getting the poison out of the eye, there was for weeks after a sensation on opening the lids as of breaking glass. On Farrington's advice it was antidoted by Crotal.

Rest and lying down <. Sitting up and motion >. < Night and daybreak. Warm stove > colic from cold. > Cold washing. Ice-water < asthma. Touch <.

### Relations

According to Hering, Meph. has a very short action. - *Antidoted* by: Camph., but only temporarily. Crot-h. relieved eye symptoms. - *Follows well*: Dros. (in cough of consumptives). - *Compare*: Whooping-cough, Cor-r. (Cor-r. has smothering before the cough and great exhaustion after). Dros. (Dros. has frequent spells of barking cough; < after twelve midnight; holds sides; vomits if cannot raise sputa). Cough < from reading or writing, Aur., Nux-v., Plat. Cough in night, Rumex (< 2 a.m.), Sticta (with splitting headache). Awakes at night with congestion to legs, Aur. Short sleep seems to refresh, Fl-ac., Menth. Night-



blindness, Bell. Aversion to tobacco-smoke, Ign. Easy choking, Lach. Fidgety feet, Tarent., Meny., Zinc., Caust., Ars., Asaf., Asar., Cimic., Aur., Sticta. Loquacity, Agar., Lach. Nervous symptoms generally, Castor, Mosch.”

(John Henry Clarke, A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica, vol. 2, London 1902, Mephitis, Characteristics, p. 432-433)

### 1915 - Cyrus M. Boger

<i>REGION</i>	<i>WORSE</i>
Nerves.	Lying. Night. After Menses. <b>BETTER</b> <b>Cold Bath</b> or Weather.

**Spasmodic effects.** Foul breath and expectoration, Debility after severe illness. Trembling and twitching of exophthalmos.

Excitable. Loquacious. Vivid fancies. Violent vertigo. As of a finger pressing on occiput. Food goes the wrong way. **Chokes easily.** Can't exhale. Asthma. Asthma of consumptives or drunkards. Cough; violent; spasmodic; nervous; suffocative; whooping; < talking or drinking. Choking cough.

Related: Cor-r. Mosch.

(Cyrus M. Boger, M.D., A Synoptic Key to the Materia Medica, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1915, Mephitis, p. 245)

### 1927 - William Boericke

“A great medicine for *whooping-cough*. Suffocative feeling, asthmatic paroxysms, spasmodic cough; cough so violent, seems as if each spell would terminate life. Child must be raised up, gets blue in face, cannot exhale. Mucous rales through upper part of chest. Patient wants to bathe in ice-water.

**Mind.** - Excited, full of fancies. Can neither sleep nor work.

**Eyes.** - Pain from overexertion; blur; unable to distinguish letters; conjunctiva red; eyes hot and painful.

**Mouth,** - Painful jerks in root of teeth. Bloated face. Coppery taste, as after eating onions.

**Respiratory.** - Sudden contraction of glottis, when drinking or talking. *Food goes down wrong way.* False croup; *cannot exhale. Spasmodic and whooping-cough. Few paroxysms in day-time, but many at night;* with vomiting after drinking. Asthma, as if inhaling sulphur; cough from talking; hollow, deep, with rawness, hoarseness, and pains through chest. *Violent spasmodic cough; worse at night.*

**Sleep.** - Awakes at night with rush of blood to lower legs. Vivid dream of water, fire, etc.

Relationship. - Compare: *Dros., Cor-r., Stict.*”

(William Boericke, M.D., Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica, Ninth Edition, New York 1927, Mephitis, p. 430)

## 1929 - N. M. Choudhuri

### Notes

- Power of withstanding extreme cold; thrive in cold weather; washing in ice water relieves all sufferings.
- Talk incessantly.
- Fidgetiness of legs due to congestion, giving a sensation of heat.
- Spasmodic cough brought on by reading aloud, talking and drinking.

"This medicine is prepared by dissolving one part by weight of the liquid obtained from the anal glands of the Skunk or the Polecat to ninety nine parts by weight of alcohol. This substance, secreted in a pouch near the anus, from the follicular gland is highly pungent and disgusting in odor. It nearly stifles when smelt. The peculiarity of this medicine lies in the strange constitution of the patient. They seem to have a power of withstanding extreme cold. In fact they thrive in cold weather. Washing in ice water is very agreeable to them, and relieves all their suffering.

Very lately, I helped an elderly lady suffering from asthma with Mephitis. The symptom, that led to the prescription, was the relief she had from bathing, which she did five to six times a day.

They frequently wake up at night time suffering from a peculiar congestion of the legs which gives them a sensation of heat in those parts. This brings on an uneasy feeling in the legs and makes them fidgety. This fidgetiness of the legs also reminds us of Zincum met.

Like Lachesis, Stramonium and Podophyllum, the Mephitis patient talk incessantly. They are led from subject to subject by the vividness of their fancy.

It is a valuable remedy in cough of a certain type. The cough is brought on by reading aloud, talking and drinking. In this respect it is similar to Rumex and Sticta. Dr. Stewart cured with Mephitis a constant hacking cough in an elderly man, who could hardly talk because of the cough. Ambra grisea, Rumex, Kalium bich. and Phosphorus were used without much success but Mephitis 1M cured him promptly. It has been recommended very highly in whooping cough when the catarrhal symptoms are more or less absent and spasmodic symptoms are most prominent. It is so violent and spasmodic that each spell would seem to terminate life. The cough is worse at night and after lying down and is attended with a suffocative feeling. To exhale is very difficult. Food taken hours before is vomited. Mephitis thus resembles Drosera and Corallium rub."

(N. M. Choudhuri, A Study on Materia Medica, Sec. Ed. 1929, p. 651-652)

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[Aus dem Correspondenzblatt der homöopathischen Ärzte zu Allentaun, 2. Heft, Nr. 1]
  
- C. Neidhard, M. D., Philadelphia, Mephitis putorius, and other remedies in Hooping-cough, The North American Homoeopathic Journal vol. 3 (1853), p. 504-511  
[Very satisfactory results from Mephitis during an epidemic of Whooping cough in Philadelphia: "If the above facts do not prove that mephitis will supersede all other remedies for the hooping-cough, they certainly may be considered as establishing its claim to rank as a very valuable specific in that disease. But in order to insure its full success, it should be exhibited in the lower dilutions from one to three; at least in the severer cases."]
  
- Pertussis, The American Observer Medical Monthly vol. 4 (1867), Dr. A. M. Cushing, Lynn, Mass., p. 107  
["Within the past ten years I have treated a great number of cases of whooping-cough, and as in other diseases have tried to give the remedy that would correspond best, still in nine out of ten I have shortened, controlled and cured them with the third decimal of Mephitis putorius either in globules or in water. Sometimes every hour, usually once in two hours at first and lengthen the intervals as the patients improve."]
  
- Clinical Report, The New England Medical Gazette vol. 4 (1869), D. F. and J. C. Moore, Mephitis in Pertussis, p. 446  
["Two little children were attacked with severe whooping-cough, and after treating them for two or three weeks with *Bell.*, *Dros.*, *Nux.*, etc., with but little benefit, we were led to give *Meph.*, with the most gratifying success. Two prescriptions were all the cases required."]
  
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[Symptom-Register of the pathogeneses of Hering 1837 and Erna Schindler 1977. - Differential diagnosis. - Clinical Diagnosis.]
  
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[Asthma in a 5 year old boy. A very impressive case!!]