

VISCUM ALBUM—AN ORIGINAL PROVING

DRS. FRITZ STOCKBRAND AND KARL ANTON KASS, JR.,
GERMANY (WEST)

The mistletoe is a half parasitic plant of the family Loranthaceae. It grows in round wintergreen-like bushes about 3 feet in diameter on many kinds of trees, especially on apple and poplar trees but seldom on oak.

The original tincture is made in equal parts from the leaves and berries—the preparation "Plenosol" of madaus is made from fresh leaves only.

Toxicology

Up to this time only two accounts of fatal mistletoe poisoning have been reported. Two women who died on the 8th and 9th day from muscle and intestinal failure, after taking large amounts of mistletoe as laxatives (abortive?). Other symptoms of mistletoe poisoning are dizziness, color hallucinations, loss of consciousness, pulse irregularities, loss of feeling, disturbances of breathing, staring pupils, tonic and clonic cramps. First the central nervous system is disturbed and then the blood circulation.

Composition (Substances)

The most important components are Viscotoxin, a still unnamed necrosis-producing substance, choline and acetylcholine-like substances, and resins.

Experimental Pharmacology

Viscotoxin is a true phytotoxin. After parenteral administration, an organism produces antitoxins and can gradually withstand a many times greater than fatal dose. Viscotoxin is probable the agent which affects the heart. It acts like digitalis, at first producing bradycardia followed by an arrhythmic tachycardia with heart arrest in tonic contraction. Some authors take it for granted that the action on the heart is exclusively harmful.

As homœopathic physicians, we cannot accept this; it is, as is so often true, a question of dosage. From past pharmacological examinations, it can only be concluded that, if used parenterally, high potencies must be given from the beginning (according to our experience D12 to D15).

According to the experiments of Koch, the necrosis-producing material can be separated from Viscotoxin. Choline and acetylcholine are known to be related to circulation and blood pressure regulation.

Mistletoe in General Medicine

Mistletoe is an ancient medicinal plant. It plays a large part in the mythology of many ancient peoples, especially the Germanic tribes and the Celts. The central point of worship by the Druids was the cult of the mistletoe.

Results of the Newest Proving

Since the previous provings of *Viscum album* had not made a clear enough picture, a new proving was made by Landesverband Nordheim-Westfalen. The D1, D2, D3, D14, D15 and D30 were proven. The provers were almost exclusively doctors (male and female). In comparison with the provings of the last century, it is noticeable that people of our day react more sensitively to the remedy.

REPROVING

Mentals

Preponderance of depressed moods. Tired. Sad. Aggravated from consolation. Apathetic. Lack of courage and ambition. Grouchy, with anxious excitability and irritation. Hastiness. Restlessness. Sensitivity to noise. Aversion to people. Fear of the telephone. One prover cried over trifles, torturing herself and others, the perfect picture of irritable weakness. Delayed effects are: passing feelings of elation. A feeling of increased strength with the desire to communicate with others. Optimism, Abnormally awake and alert. Full of plans and projects. Time moves quickly. Balanced, almost too quiet moods. "Outstand"

ing symptoms are a feeling of disgust upon seeing the medicine bottle. Thoughts keep returning to previous unpleasant experiences.

Nervous System

Frequent vertigo, followed by: nervousness, inner jitteriness, a tendency to stumble, motor restlessness, tiredness, feeling wornout, unsureness and stiffness of the limbs. Mistakes in speaking and writing. Forgetfulness. Loss of memory. A pulling sensation in the sciatic nerve. Pain in the ulnar nerve. Itching like flea-bites. Tingling in the feet.

Peculiar Symptoms

Feels light, as if floating. As if under the influence of alcohol. When placing things in low places, he put his arm higher than he had intended to do. When trying to take hold of a drinking cup, he pushed it over with the back of his hand. (Incoordination.)

Sleep and Dreams

Late falling asleep. Early waking. Sleep is not deep enough. Poor sleep in spite of exhaustion. Feels beaten-up in spite of good sleep. Sees strange figures upon falling asleep. Vivid, restless dreams of wartime air attacks, or of difficult bicycling. Wakes early in the morning. After falling asleep again, can reawaken only with difficulty. Hard to rouse in the morning.

Later after effects: Deep sleep. Falls asleep at once with his clothes still on in spite of several cups of coffee. Relatively alert in spite of sleepiness.

Skin

Itching and tickling (once worse on the right side). Increased perspiration. A scrotal eczema improved (questionable whether this is a proving effect).

Head

The greatest number of symptoms were shown in the head. Fifteen of the 17 provers developed headaches, some very strong.

Pains were usually in the forehead, temples and vertex. Occasionally they were in the whole head. Pains were dull and pressing, with a feeling of being dazed. Frequently, also, they were congestive, beating, pulsating and hammering. Aggravated by bending forward, warmth and mental activity. Ameliorated by pressure, lying quietly and motion in the open air. A feeling as though the head would burst. A feeling of hollowness and emptiness. Then, again, the fullness of the head was associated with cold extremities. In one case, the headaches improved during the menses. Once the head felt particularly clear.

Peculiar symptoms: Feeling as though the brain were loose. Headache with nausea, sweating, and a feeling as though one would fall backward. Headache with a stiffness of the neck.

Eyes

Increased pressure in the eyes. Everything is seen more clearly at first, later things appear more hazy. Eyelids feel as if they want to close again in the morning after waking, without any particular tiredness. Lachrymation from tiredness upon rising. Very sensitive to light; poor accommodation.

Ears

Increased sensitivity to sounds and noises. Tinnitus. The heartbeat is felt in the ear. (Congestive symptom).

Nose

Watery catarrh. Purulent catarrh. Epistaxis.

Face

Itchy redness in patches. Bluish discoloration, as if over-fatigued.

Mouth

Dryness. Cracking of lips. Inside of the mouth feels as if it were tanned, as from too much tea.

Peculiar symptom: Desire for whiskey. Cigarettes taste differently.

Throat

Catarrh with dryness. Burning and glairy mucous. Warm drinks ameliorate. *Constriction.*

Stomach

(Very marked symptoms). Nausea ameliorated by vomiting. Heartburn. Cutting pains ameliorated by eating. Eructations. Pressure sensation, like a stone in the stomach. Wakes up at 1-3 A.M. with nausea, heartburn and sticking pains. Burning pains. Burning pain in the morning, ameliorated by eating. Much thirst.

Later effect: increased appetite, ravenous hunger.

Abdomen

Intense rumbling; painful meteorism ameliorated passing odorless flatus or bending backwards. The pressure of the belt is unpleasant so that he has to loosen his clothes. Sensation of being distended like a drum. Burning in the abdomen. The symptoms are localized mostly in the upper abdomen, particularly on the right side (liver or biliary system).

Rectum

Constrictive sensation. Ineffectual desire for stool. Sensation of incomplete evacuation. Anal itching and burning. Sticking pain. Bleeding hemorrhoids, bright red. Constipation and diarrhea (probably diarrhea primary, constipation secondary). Watery, pappy stools; offensive, foaming explosive, spurting, voluminous, driving out of bed at night. Later hard, lumpy stools.

Urinary

Intense desire for urination. Feeling as though the bladder were paralyzed while passing urine. Urine, passes, but slowly upon pressing. Involuntary urination while coughing.

Genitalia

Libido increased or decreased. Priapism. Atonic pollutions. Cramp in the prostate. Menses bright red, too early, stronger than usual. Prolonged menstrual cramps.

• Secondary effect: menses weaker. Bleeding prolonged but weaker.

Respiratory

Spastic cough with dyspnea and irritation. Dry bronchitis.

Cough painful and barking. Burning behind the sternum. Expectoration tough, gray, yellow. (*Clinical*: Bronchial asthma. E.W.)

Heart and Circulation.

Intense effects. Palpitations. Skipping beats. Restlessness. Vibratory sensation in the heart area. Feeling of pressure and constriction. Noticeable extrasystoles and irregularity. Pulse rapid (in one case slowed down to 30/minute) with a fear of dying. Pulsation in the chest, throat and upper abdomen. A feeling of circulatory failure. Threatening with cold perspiration on the forehead. Aggravated lying down. At first a rise, later a fall in blood pressure. Once an immediate fall to 80/50. In one prover it removed previously existing symptoms of skipping and fluttering.

Back

Tearing pains, worse from motion. Intense torticollis. A lumbago is improved during the proving. Feeling for hot coals under the right scapula. Feeling as though the muscles were pulled and extended on relaxing in bed.

Extremities

Extreme weakness. Heaviness. Soreness. Cramps of the calves and the toes. Sensation of stiffness in the legs, as in strychnine poisoning. Difficulty in driving a car. Feet cold, or sometimes hot and burning. Sensation of shortness of the flexor muscles of the thighs.

Modalities

Ameliorated in the open air. Desire for motion. Rheumatic symptoms ameliorated by rest. Generally worse in the morning, better in the evening. Headache, heart symptoms and cough are worse lying down. Sometimes the headache is better by lying quietly. Usually headaches are worse bending forward, from warmth, mental exertion, tobacco smoke and excitement. Better from cold washing, pressure, and open air. Vertigo never while lying, worse rising, motion, looking sideways, moving head.

quickly. Tendency to fall backwards. Cardiac and nervous symptoms temporarily better by sleep. Cough worse on lying down or on entering a warm room, better in the open air. Meteorism better passing odorless flatus, bending backwards. Menstrual bleeding worse at night. Emptiness in the stomach worse 11 A.M. Motor restlessness worse at night. Premature waking at 2-6 A.M.

—*Jourl. of the Am. Inst. of Homœopathy, May-June, '60.*

A PROVING OF TRIOSTEUM PERFOLIATUM

•(Continued from Page 554)

Frontal headache	(7)
Occipital headache	(8)
Headache on temple	(4)
Irritation of eye and eyelids	(5)
• Pain in the eyes	(7)
Flushing of face	(2)
Painful sinusitis	(3)
Dryness of lips and mouth	(5)
Nausea	(6)
• Thirst for ice-cold drinks	(2)
Abdomen distended	(5)
Pain in L.I.F.	(2)
Constipation	(6)
Pain in chest and heart	(5)
Dry cough	(6)
Itch or irritation of extremities	(8)
Itch or irritation of scalp or body	(9)
Restless sleep	(7)

—*The Brit. Homœo. Jourl., Oct., '60.*