

PAINS OF THE HEAD

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Pains of the head by A. R. McMichael

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A. R. MCMICHAEL

**PAINS OF
THE HEAD**

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BY

A. R. McMICHAEL, M.D.

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PAINS OF THE HEAD.

(A COMPARATIVE STUDY.)

BY ARKELL ROGER McMICHAEL, M.D.

LOCATION of pain, like color of stools in diarrhœa, is a symptom which is always present, consequently one which can always be relied on as a guide to the remedy, and unless this one symptom of the trouble is covered by the drug it cannot be considered strictly homœopathic to the condition. Character of pain, causes, direction, aggravation and amelioration must stand secondary to location.

The present study includes clinical material which will be found extremely valuable and suggestive. The repertory has been divided into six parts giving a wider field for choosing the remedy, and the suggestions offered in the study on diarrhœa (see June number) for using the repertory will apply equally well here.

The pathogenetic symptoms found here are only those which have been verified sufficiently to be considered characteristic of the drug.

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OCCIPITAL PAINS.

AGARICUS.	ARG. NIT.
<i>Pathogenesis.</i> —Aching, tearing, boring, burrowing, stitching in occiput.	<i>Pathogenesis.</i> —Intermittent digging, cutting motion in occiput, extending through left hemisphere to frontal protuberance, increasing and decreasing rapidly.
<i>Clinical.</i> —Head constantly falls backward as if a weight were attached to occiput. Nervous headaches from overwork; of those subject to chorea; from spine affections.	<i>Clinical.</i> —Sensation as if the head were enormously large; as if the bones of the skull separated. Periodical headaches.
<i>Aggravations and Ameliorations.</i> —Worse sitting quietly. Better by moving slowly about.	<i>Aggravations and Ameliorations.</i> —Worse from mental labor and coffee. Better by pressure or tight bandaging; after dinner and from wine.
<i>Concomitants.</i> —Distention of abdomen with rumbling, emission of much inodorous flatus. Aching along spine and limbs. Muscular twitching of eyelids, face and extremities. Itching and burning in various parts of body.	<i>Concomitants.</i> —Nervous and tremulous sensation. Red tip of tongue, with pain. Painful swelling of pit of stomach. Sensation as if head were in a vise. Palpitation of heart with anxiety. Sleeplessness.

OCCIPITAL PAINS.—Continued.

BRVONIA.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput, with drawing down into neck. Pain in occiput like a heaviness which pressed upon a sore spot, in morning when lying on back, extending to shoulders. Pain in forehead above left eye, extending backward to occiput.

Clinical.—Gastric, rheumatic and congestive headaches. Pain in head always shifts to the side lain on.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse when opening or moving eyes in morning; from stooping; motion; coughing; anger; after dinner. Better from closing eyes; from external pressure and tying up head.

Concomitants.—Anxiety. Ill humor. Weakness of mind. Vertigo on rising. Face red; hot. Tongue white. Taste bitter. Excessive thirst. Sensation of a stone in stomach. Constipation.

CARBO. VEG.

Pathogenesis.—Aching in occiput and on lower part. Drawing in left side of occiput, with tearing.

Clinical.—Dull pains at back part of head, with great mental confusion. Pains from occiput through base of brain into and over the eyes, with dull, heavy aching.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse in a warm room; in morning.

Concomitants.—Vision of black floating spots. Epistaxis. Face pale. Eructations, the simplest food distresses. Distention of abdomen with offensive flatus. Burning in chest.

CHELIDONIUM.

Pathogenesis.—Drawing in occiput extending from left side to forehead. Tension in right occiput. Heaviness in occiput, with drawings downward in nape at night, as if it could not be raised from pillow.

Clinical.—Sensation of coldness in occiput ascending from nape of neck. Shooting pains in occiput extending through ears.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse when moving. Better when at rest.

Concomitants.—Dirty yellow color of whites of eyes. Face yellow. Tongue yellow. Taste bitter. Sickness in pit of stomach extending through to back. Sticking pain beneath right scapula. Stool bright yellow. Urine dark yellow or dark brownish red.

CIMICIFUGA.

Pathogenesis.—Soreness in occiput caused by pain through the whole brain. Pain in occiput extending to vertex.

Clinical.—Aching pain in head, especially in occiput and down the spine. Headache of drunkards and students; nervous; rheumatic; menstrual. Sensation as if a bolt were driven from neck to vertex.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse by moving eyes and by worry; while indoors; in evening, and from motion. Better in open air.

Concomitants.—Tremors over whole body. Restlessness. Bruised feeling or soreness of whole body. Feeling as if top of head would fly off. Rheumatic pain in muscles of neck and back. Pain in eyeballs.

CONIUM.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput as if pierced with a knife at every beat of the pulse.

Clinical.—Headache from forehead to occiput as if something were loose when shaking head.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse mornings; when fasting; sitting bent; during motion or from any sudden jar or shock. Better sitting erect.

Concomitants.—Inability to sustain mental effort. Vision weak, with dazing. Vertigo, which is worse from motion, as turning over in bed or rising up. Hardness of right breast, with pain on touch. Sticking in left mamma. General debility, especially in arms and legs, so that he staggers.

CROTALUS HOR.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput.

Clinical.—Occipital headache recurring several times a day. Soreness of back of head. Congestive headaches. Headache in dysmenorrhoea. Headaches accompanying zymotic or septic diseases, especially the extreme headache in diphtheria.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse lying down again after rising.

Concomitants.—Weakness; tired by slight exertion. Memory weak. Eyes yellow. Tongue swollen. Intolerance of clothing in epigastric region. Yellow color of whole body.

GELSEMIUM.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput at night, occasionally extending into os frontis.

Clinical.—Headache as from a band around head; the pain is mostly seated in the posterior part of head with muscular soreness of neck; pain extending to shoulders and spine. Headache at base of brain extending through head to eyes. Menstrual headaches; nervous. Sun headache. Headaches from astigmatism; diplopia.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse in morning and from any excitement; from heat. Better from discharge of profuse watery urine or shaking head; temporary improvement from alcoholic stimulants.

Concomitants.—Weakness and trembling through the whole system. Bruised sensation in head with heaviness. Vertigo with blurred vision. Drooping of eyelids. Labor-like pains in uterine region extending to back and hips.

OCCIPITAL PAINS.—Continued.

GLONIN.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput extending to eyes and temples; headache from back to front. Bending in head from occiput forward as if it would crowd everything out at forehead.

Clinical.—Headache begins with warm weather and lasts all summer; increases and decreases daily with the sun.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse by bending head backward; in damp weather; from application of cold water; from shaking head; from pressure. Better in open air; from uncovering head.

Concomitants.—Throbbing through whole body. Confusion of mind. Fulness in head with full, quick pulse and red face; throbbing.

HELLEBORE.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput.

Clinical.—Stupefying headache in occiput from nape of neck to vertex.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse from moving the head. Better when lying quiet with closed eyes; in open air; from diverting the mind.

Concomitants.—Thirst. Weakness. Anxiety with restlessness. Stupefaction with slow actions. Face pale during heat of head. Pulse small and tremulous; slow.

HEPAR SULPH.

Pathogenesis.—Sticking in occiput as if a nail or plug were driven in. Pain externally in right side of occiput, gradually extending to nape, throat and scapulae.

Clinical.—Headache following the use of mercury, of a neuralgic character.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse from motion or stooping. Better when walking in open air; by tightly binding the head.

Concomitants.—Sensitiveness to open air. Sticking in throat as from a splinter on swallowing. Abdomen distended. Unhealthy skin; slight injuries suppurate. Sweat on slightest motion; offensive.

HYDROCYANIC ACID.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput in open air. Pain in occiput and forehead, worse on right side. Pain in occiput extending to anterior surface of head; to frontal sinuses. Pain on right side of forehead extending to occiput.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse at night. Better in open air.

Concomitants.—Unconsciousness. Anxiety. Fretful. Thought difficult. Pulse weak, irregular. Limbs cold.

IGNATIA.

Pathogenesis.—Pain in occiput and right side; in right half of occiput all day.

Clinical.—Neurasthenic hysterical headache. Periodical headaches returning every two weeks. Migraine brought on by mental labor or by any work that is irksome or more severe than usual; strong odor; emotion.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse from coffee; tobacco; alcohol; after eating; evening when lying down; in morning when getting up. Better when sleeping; from a profuse flow of urine; momentary relief by change of position.

Concomitants.—Sensitiveness. Inconstant. Impatient. Irresolute. Changeable mood. Anger at slight blame or contradiction. Sour taste. Aversion to tobacco-smoking. Frequent micturition of watery urine. Femoral weakness in pit of stomach and pallor of face. Jerkings in extremities on falling asleep.

LACHESIS.

Pathogenesis.—Leadens heaviness in occiput in morning; on waking can hardly raise it, with vertigo.

Clinical.—Headaches from exposure to cold. Chronic neuralgic headaches. Headaches from disordered stomach or bowels and of zymotic diseases.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse in morning on rising; from exposure to cold; in sun; from mental and bodily exhaustion; depressing emotions, especially grief. Better from warm applications.

Concomitants.—Intolerance of slightest touch. Weakness in morning on rising. Vertigo in morning. Vision dim, with black flickering. Abdomen sensitive even to weight of clothes.

MEZEREUM.

Pathogenesis.—Boring in occipital bones. Stupefying pain in occiput through right hemisphere of brain to forehead.

Clinical.—Neuralgic headaches beginning in occiput extending over whole brain, with tenderness of scalp, the pain burning and boring. Headaches of serofulous or syphilitic origin.

Aggravations and Ameliorations.—Worse in open air. Better by stooping.

Concomitants.—Hypochondriac. Scalp covered with thick, leather-like crusts. Inflammatory redness of face. Burning of tongue and fauces.

NATRUM MUR.

Pathogenesis.—Sticking, throbbing heaviness in occiput.

Clinical.—Periodical headache, comes on with menstruation. School children's headache. Headache from sunrise to sunset. Stitches in occiput as with knives.