Veratrum Album
(Also known as False Hellebore, White Hellebore, European White Hellebore, White Veratrum). Liliaceae.

Hear No Evil (Feigned Deafness), See No Evil (Feigned blindness), Speak No Evil (Feigned dumbness)

Understanding a bit about the plant helps to grasp the pathology of its poison and also lends itself to getting a bit of a glimpse at this remedy's overall signature and essence. The root and the seeds are the most poisonous parts of the plant, containing strong steroidal alkaloids, chief among them veratridine and cevadine (veratrine), strong neurotoxins that act upon the sodium ion channels in cellular membranes, causing an increase in intracellular calcium concentrations. Both of these toxins are found in Sabadilla. Similar in its action to aconitine on peripheral nerve endings, it gives rise to numbness, tingling, and coldness (icy cold skin, cyanosis). It has direct action on muscular tissue, causing spasms of the intestines (bloody, bilious, copious, watery stools) and exaggerated contractions of the bladder (constriction of the bladder and urethra), uterus (spasmodic labor-like pains, coldness, prolapsed, swollen, placenta previa), and bronchioles (asthma, constriction, spasms, bronchial inflammation, hemorrhage of the lungs, paralysis of the lungs). These poisons also have a significant vasoconstrictive action, affecting pulmonary, coronary, and cerebral vessels. Its immediate effect on the heart is to slow it slightly, then quicken the pulse and increase systolic pressure and can cause rapid cardiac failure if ingested or taken into the bloodstream (complaints of the heart after collapsed state, chest constriction, heart palpitations, angina pectoris, paralysis of the heart, heart failure, complaints of blood circulation, anemia, congestion of blood). In skeletal muscles, veratrine acts to increase irritability of the muscles and increase their capacity for exertion (Runs about, wandering, senseless roving). It doesn't take very much at all for poisoning to be fatal. Strong coffee or other stimulants are used to antidote its effects.

Native Americans used the juice from the roots of this plant for poison arrows (Hears drums which announce his execution), and also were well aware of its birth-defect causing properties (aborted pregnancy). The dried powdered root of this plant was also used as an insecticide. Veratrum species are an important source of life-saving medications used in modern medical preparations which lower blood pressure and slow the heartbeat. Cyclopamine (an alkaloid that is believed to cause one-eyed (cyclops) birth defects in lambs) derived from Veratrum species is reported to be a strong teratogen (anti-deformative) used as an allopathic treatment for several kinds of cancer.

The plant is least toxic in the winter months and is generally gathered during this time. It is most highly toxic during active growth stages. It prefers sunlight (all is dark) and deep, moist soils and is commonly found in swamps and along rivers and streams (fear of water, suicidal disposition by drowning).

The name of this species of plant
thought to be derived from the Latin Vere (truly) ater (black) (owing to the color of the root) or from the Latin verare, speaking the truth (interesting there is even rubrics that suggests this might be so: blackened tongue root, Lies, - never speaks the truth, does not know what she is saying; untruthful.

As might be expected with the name “False Hellebore”, Veratrum Album does not share much in common with Helleborus (approx. 700 very large, general rubrics, slightly over 10 percent of the remedy’s rubrics). Causative factors in the remedy are numerous, with many “ailments from” rubrics that are oddly not present in Sabadilla, a remedy it is often compared to and with which it shares several toxic substances. In fact, the remedy shares approximately 1500 rubrics with Sabadilla, among them being cruelty, feigning illness, religious affections, haughtiness, mania, and delusions of pregnancy – but none of the extremely religious symptoms of thinking oneself Christ or the Virgin Mary, talking to God, feigning deafness, blindness, or dumbness, etc. These symptoms are unique and belong to Veratrum Album.

Veratrum Album is in super-bold type for Insolence and Desire for Salt. Its religious affections, preaching, praying, and so forth are offset by despair of salvation, moroseness, wailing and moaning, and thinking oneself a criminal. There is a sexual, erotic and/or lewd element here as well and propensities for alcoholism which may well serve to deepen the fear of punishment from God. Nash sums up the remedy in a single word: collapse. He gives a grand keynote of cold sweats, regardless of illness, stating the whole body will be icy cold, and there will be cold sweat on the forehead. The skin will be wrinkled and blue, remaining tented when pinched up (dehydration, fear of water). Morrison describes the state as ‘hardened’ and states that the patient becomes more haughty and self-righteous as the pathology deepens, eventually ending the feverish manic, religiously delusional state for which the remedy is so well known.

Please see accompanying Veratrum Album illustration.

Matthew 1:23

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, “God with us.”

Matthew 13:13

Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Please see accompanying Veratrum Album illustration.
Ezekiel 16:39

Then I will deliver you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your mounds and destroy your lofty shrines. They will strip you of your clothes and take your fine jewelry and leave you naked and bare.

Malachi 4:1

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi 4:2,3

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.
Bibliography


Bible, King James Version


VERATRUM ALBUM RUBRICS: AILMENTS-FROM, DELUSIONS, FEARS (Synthesis)

MIND - DELUSIONS - people - seeing people
MIND - DELUSIONS - possessed; being
MIND - DELUSIONS - power - all-powerful; she is
MIND - DELUSIONS - pregnant, she is
MIND - DELUSIONS - prince; he is a
MIND - DELUSIONS - proud
MIND - DELUSIONS - pursued; he was
MIND - DELUSIONS - rank; he is a person of
MIND - DELUSIONS - religious
MIND - DELUSIONS - ruined - is ruined; he
MIND - DELUSIONS - scream - with screaming
MIND - DELUSIONS - sick - being
MIND - DELUSIONS - specters, ghosts, spirits
MIND - DELUSIONS - squanders money
MIND - DELUSIONS - strange - familiar things seem strange
MIND - DELUSIONS - strange - land; as if in a strange
MIND - DELUSIONS - suicide; impelled to commit
MIND - DELUSIONS - thieves - frightened on waking and thinks dream is true; dreams of robbers
MIND - DELUSIONS - thieves - seeing
MIND - DELUSIONS - turn - everything turned - circle; in a
MIND - DELUSIONS - unfortunate, he is
MIND - DELUSIONS - visions, has
MIND - DELUSIONS - visions, has - fantastic
MIND - DELUSIONS - vivid
MIND - DELUSIONS - voices - hearing
MIND - DELUSIONS - vow - keep it, must
MIND - DELUSIONS - walked - had walked; she - too far
MIND - DELUSIONS - wealth, of
MIND - DELUSIONS - whirled around - things - circle; in a
MIND - DELUSIONS - words - think of words; she cannot
MIND - DELUSIONS - work - hard; is working
MIND - DELUSIONS - wrong - done wrong; he has
MIND - DELUSIONS - Nose - longer; nose seems
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - nose
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - morning
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - evening
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - night
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - alone, of being
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - apoplexy, of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - apoplexy, of - stool, during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - bad news; of hearing
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - black - everything
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - breath away; takes
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - cancer; of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - chill, during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - damned, of being
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - death, of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - death, of - cholera asiatica; during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - death, of - heat, during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - death, of - menses - during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - death, of - perspiration, during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - diarrhea - fear; with
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - diarrhea - from
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - disease, of impending
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - doctors
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - dogs, of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - driving him from place to place
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - escape; with desire to
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - evil; fear of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - fright - previous fright; because of a
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - full of fear
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - imaginary - things; of imaginary
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - insanity
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - job, to lose his lucrative
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - menses - during
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - misfortune, of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - poisoned - being poisoned; fear of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - robbers, of
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - social position; about his
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - starting, with
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - stool - involuntary stool; of - flatus or urinating; when passing
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - stool - involuntary stool; of - green, gushing, exhausting
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - terror
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - tremulous
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - vexation; after
MIND - FEAR - FEAR - water, of

MIND - AILMENTS FROM - ambition - deceived
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - anger
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - anger - anxiety; with
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - anger - silent grief; with
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - anger - vehemence; with
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - anticipation
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - death of loved ones
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - death of loved ones - children; in
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - deceived; from being
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - disappointment
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - emotions
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - excitement - emotional
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - excitement - emotional - children are ill at certain moments
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - excitement - religious
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - fear
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - fright
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - fright - menses; during
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - grief
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - honor; wounded
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - love; disappointed
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - mental shock; from
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - money; from losing
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - mortification
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - neglected; being - father; by one's
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - quarreling - father; with one's
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - scorned; being
MIND - AILMENTS FROM - unhappiness
MIND - DELUSIONS
MIND - DELUSIONS - abraod, being
MIND - DELUSIONS - animals
MIND - DELUSIONS - anxious
MIND - DELUSIONS - bells; hears ringing of
MIND - DELUSIONS - blind; he is
MIND - DELUSIONS - calls - someone calls
MIND - DELUSIONS - cancer, has a
MIND - DELUSIONS - Christ, himself to be
MIND - DELUSIONS - crime - committed a crime; he had
MIND - DELUSIONS - criminal, he is a
MIND - DELUSIONS - criminals, about
MIND - DELUSIONS - curing, with
MIND - DELUSIONS - deaf and dumb
MIND - DELUSIONS - die - about to die; one was
MIND - DELUSIONS - dirt, eating
MIND - DELUSIONS - disease - deaf, dumb and has cancer; he is
MIND - DELUSIONS - distinguished; he is
MIND - DELUSIONS - dogs - sees
MIND - DELUSIONS - doomed, being
MIND - DELUSIONS - dumb, he is
MIND - DELUSIONS - enemy - surrounded by enemies
MIND - DELUSIONS - engaged - occupation; he is engaged in some
MIND - DELUSIONS - fancy, illusions of
MIND - DELUSIONS - figures - seeing figures - strange
MIND - DELUSIONS - fire - world is on
MIND - DELUSIONS - flying - must fly; as if he
MIND - DELUSIONS - God - communication with God; he is in
MIND - DELUSIONS - God - messenger from God; he is a
MIND - DELUSIONS - great person, is a
MIND - DELUSIONS - head - motion - within head were in motion; all
MIND - DELUSIONS - hear, he cannot
MIND - DELUSIONS - heaven, is in
MIND - DELUSIONS - heaven, is in - talking with God
MIND - DELUSIONS - home - away from home; he is
MIND - DELUSIONS - house - own house; not being in one's
MIND - DELUSIONS - hunter, he is a
MIND - DELUSIONS - identity - errors of personal identity
MIND - DELUSIONS - images, phantoms; sees
MIND - DELUSIONS - influence; one is under a powerful
MIND - DELUSIONS - intoxicated - is; he
MIND - DELUSIONS - labor or thinks she has pain; she pretends to be in
MIND - DELUSIONS - laughter, with
MIND - DELUSIONS - loquacity, with
MIND - DELUSIONS - Mary; Virgin - she is
MIND - DELUSIONS - misfortune - approaching; as if some misfortune were
MIND - DELUSIONS - misfortune - incommunicable over imagined misfortune
MIND - DELUSIONS - murdered - will be murdered; he
MIND - DELUSIONS - noise - hearing noise
MIND - DELUSIONS - noise - making noise; delusions with
MIND - DELUSIONS - people - conversing with absent people