

'Gubb, A'

Publication/Creation

1908-1909

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March 21st, 1908.

Dear Dr. Gubb,

I should be glad to know if you could oblige me by procuring and sending to me some specimens of what is known as dis-ergot, which, I am informed, grows on a wild grass in Algiers, and which has been used as a substitute for ergot of rye.

I am desirous of obtaining specimens not only of dis-ergot itself, but of the fungus growing in situ on the grass.

I should also appreciate any information concerning this drug that you could send me, namely, where it is used by the natives, in what form, and for what purpose, and any other details connected with it.

With kind regards, and trusting you are well,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. A. S. Gubb,
Mustapha Superieure,
Algiers.

Gubb

Gubb (Dr.)

Gubb.

AIX-LES-BAINS.
MAY TO SEPT:

MUSTAPHA SUPÉRIEUR
ALGIERS.
OCTO TO APRIL.

RECP
ANSWR

6 APR 1908

April 1st 1908

Dear Mr Wellcome

I have enquired about Diss ergot and find that it grows in large quantities all over the country. It has been experimented at the School of Medicine laboratory and is said to be approximately of the same strength and physiological action as rye ~~rg~~ ergot. It is reputed to cause abortion in cattle and the native women make use of it to procure abortion but not for any other medicinal purpose.

It is much larger than rye ergot the spurs measuring 6 or 7 cm in length. I am promised samples tomorrow which I will send along and if there be any literature on the subject I will send you the references.

The season is rapidly approaching its close and in another three weeks or so I shall be travelling to Aix probably via Tunis as I have sold my car and am reduced to the vulgar modes of transport.

What do you think of my third edition on Algiers a copy of which I forwarded the other day?

With kind regards believe me

Yours very truly

Mustapha Supérieur

TÉLÉPHONE { ALGIERS 5.64
AIX-LES-BAINS 1.47

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS :
DR. GUBB, ALGER-MUSTAPHA.

AIX-LES-BAINS
MAY-SEPTEMBER

MUSTAPHA-SUPÉRIEUR,
ALGER.

April 13 1908

Dear Mr Wellcome

I have just taken cognizance of a thesis defended before the Paris Faculty in 1882 by Dr GERMAIX on Diss Ergot which contains all that one can wish to know respecting this substance. It is published by Davy Editeur 31 rue Monsieur le Prince Paris but I hardly suppose that he will have any in stock at this late date. You could however have it syn optised or copied and if you have any difficulty no doubt I could fix it for you. I enclose a copy of his conclusions.

I trust you received the sample of ergotised Diss grass dispatched a few days since. There appears to be plenty of it growing about the country (though Dr Germaix excuses the small number of his observations on the ground that owing to the season he was unable to procure a sufficient quantity) but it is almost unobtainable in Algiers and I had to apply to a great many people before I could get that one sample.

A chemist's assistant here however tells me his brother, a farmer, can get me as much as I like so I have commissioned him to set to work and no doubt I shall hear from him early in May.

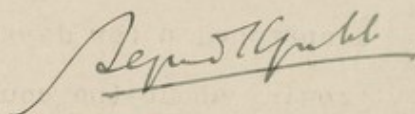
Diss grass grows all over the place - though I have never yet recognized it but shall keep a look out in future.

I enclose a photograph thereof (your specimen) also one of
the flower of the PHILODENDRON PERTUSUM, the fruit whereof
is highly esteemed, just to show what results can be obtained
by means of the tabloids photographic preparations. I was
just wishing I had some by me because I am off to Constantine
on the 20th whence I shall radiate to the famous ruins of
Timgad, to Hammam Meskoutine (the celebrated boiling springs)
and then on to Tunis taking much photographs on the way. But
there is no time now so I must do as best I can with cumbrous
solutions.

If there be anything more you would like to know pray
command me. I can always work the oracle even at a distance.

I arrive at Aix about the 2nd prox where I shall
be delighted to treat any friends of yours suffering from
rheumatism gout &c. With kind regards believe me

Yours very truly



Gubb

April 16th, 1908.

Dear Dr. Gubb,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter of the 1st inst. with reference to *diss ergot*, and for the small sample which you have been so good as to send me.

If not putting you to too much trouble I should be very glad if you could procure for me a liberal supply of the specimens of *diss*, as I should like some showing not only the full growth, but also the partial development, of the ergot on the ear.

The subject is one of considerable interest to me, and I should like the fullest possible details about it.

If you could also, at your convenience, supply me with the following information I should be very grateful:-

I wish to know where the chief centres of supply of *diss ergot* are located; also if you could obtain for me any literature on the subject, either ancient or modern, or let me know whether any is likely to be found in the libraries of Northern Africa.

Any other details with which you could supply me with respect to the use and collection of *diss ergot* would greatly oblige me.

I am pleased to note that your work on Algiers has been so successful, as I am sure it must be one of considerable use to travellers.

Thanking you very cordially for the trouble you have taken, and with kind regards,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. A. S. Gubb,
Mustapha Superieur,
Algiers.

TELEPHONE ALGIERS 5.64
AIX-LES-BAINS 1.47

copy to Mr Wellcome 7/5/08

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS :
DR. GUBB, ALGER-MUSTAPHA.

ALGIERS
OCTOBER-MAY

RECR 7 MAY 1908

AIX-LES-BAINS.

ANSWR

5 May 1908

Dear Mr Wellcome

I sent you yesterday from Marseilles a sample parcel of Diss grass just gathered. As soon as the fungus develops I have made arrangements for further samples to follow, that is to say in some six weeks. I find there are many acres of Diss in the immediate neighbourhood of Algiers so that we can keep its growth under observation. At the same time I am having enquiries made as to its existence in other parts of Algeria.

I am informed that the barley is badly infected ~~there~~ with (with ergot) in western Algeria and the military authorities have decided to refuse all samples of barley containing more than 2 per cent of ergot so that no doubt plenty could be obtained by purchasing the bad barley at the price of good barley. That of course is a matter to be threshed out.

You will no doubt have received my letter from Algiers giving details of the bibliography of the subject with extracts therefrom.

I received on my arrival a letter from your literary department enquiring as to the corrected proofs of the French Hemisine booklet. This I corrected in the train on my way to Tunis and posted from El Guerrah under registered cover on or about the 21st ^{April} so it should have arrived long since. In the contrary event will they let me know and I will find out.

I had a splendid trip to El Kantara, Hamman Meskoutine Constantine and Tunis and made a number of very interesting photographs which I developed on the spot so as to make sure. Tunis in particular is a very interesting town and of natural pheno-

mena the boiling springs at Hamman Meskutine most excited my attention - a hundred million litres in the 24 hours of water at 96 C! and in such a picturesque neighbourhood too.

I find that enquiries have already been made of our Consul at Algiers concerning Diss ergot and I am writing him to get to know how far he ^{went} ~~got~~ with his investigations so I may have more to say shortly.

With kind regards believe me

Yours very truly

Sept 11/1911

P.S. Please excuse stairs - the machine is full of vaseline placed there last season on leaving.

Envoi du Dr GUBB

AIX-LES-BAINS

8761 NNP
6 JUN 1968

June 4/68

RECD

Messieurs

I am sending under
registered cover sample of
growing ergot as requested.
I am promised "a lot
more" in days hence.

I rather expected to
have heard from you in
acknowledgment of
several communications
on the subject.

Yours truly
Dr Gubb

Why do you not make a square
head to your glass hypodermic syringes
to prevent rolling. I have broken two
for lack of this simple precaution & now
choose another model.

* Expédié par

M
Demi à

Rue

* L'inscription du nom et de l'adresse de l'expéditeur est facultative.

N°

de l'expéditeur

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

CARTE POSTALE

Ce côté est exclusivement réservé à l'adresse



M J Wellcome Es

Burroughs Wellcome Co

Snow Hill Bldg

Londres

cc

611

4th June, 1908.

Dear Dr. Gubb,

I desire to thank you very cordially for the trouble you have taken in connection with the Diss grass, and for the interesting sample you have sent me. I am hoping still to receive from you some much larger parcels of the same, and also of barley infected with ergot, if it is obtainable.

I am glad to know you had such an enjoyable trip to El Kantara and Tunis, and trust you will have a very successful season in Aix-les-Bains.

I am,

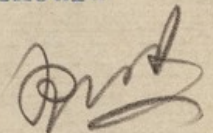
Yours very truly,

Dr. Gubb,
Aix-les-Bains.

Mr C.J.S.Thompson.

You may perhaps like to have for reference a copy of Dr Gubb's letter of the 12th May which I send you herewith.. I have told him that if he is agreeable we propose to keep the two sets of correspondence quite separate. For your information I would mention that I have asked him to get us the 20-lbs Diss Ergot which I asked him for on the 9th May in addition to any specimens he may be getting for you. I have also asked him for a substantial specimen of Barley Ergot and, if possible, also of Ergot of Oats which the British Consul mentioned to us some time ago should be available in the province of Oran.

B.
9. June. 1903.



Copy.

Aix-les Bains

May 12 1908.

Dear Sirs,

Yours of the 9th inst. just to hand which, by the way, seems to ignore my previous correspondence with your firm on the subject of Diss Ergot. As Diss Ergot is not an article of commerce it is unlikely that any can be found on hand and it does not form until the end of June or thereabouts. I have the matter in hand and have made arrangements to secure specimens of the growing and the completely formed Diss Ergot as soon as available.

I referred in my letter of last week (to Mr Wellcome) to the possible desirability of utilising barley ergot which I am told could be had practically at the price of barley. If you think proper I will see what can be done in the way of obtaining a substantial specimen. It is not a question of cost for it is literally a "drug in the market" except that it isn't in the market at all.

I think I mentioned to Mr Wellcome that in the course of my enquiries I learned that enquiries had already been made some year or two since of the British Consul in reference to this very subject and I wrote him last week asking him how far he went with his enquiry and with what results.

I shall await your reply to this and my previous letter before taking any further steps. I have placed you in possession of the literature and bibliography of the subject.

Yours faithfully,

signed :- Alfred A. Gubb.

Guerra

Gubb

9th June, 1908.

Dear Dr Gubb,

I desire to thank you very cordially for the sample of *Dise Ergot* which duly came to hand this-morning. Unfortunately, it got considerably knocked about in transit, and when you are sending the larger sample, which you promise on your postcard, would you kindly pack it in a cardboard box with some wool, so as to preserve it in good condition.

My letter of the 5th inst., acknowledging yours, evidently crossed yours in the post, absence from London having prevented me from replying to you earlier.

I thank you for the suggestion with reference to the head of the hypodermic syringe, to which I will give careful consideration.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Dr. Gubb,
Aix-les-Bains.

18th August, 1908.

Dear Dr Gubb,

I desire to thank you very cordially for the specimens of ergotized oats which have duly come to hand, and will form an interesting addition to the specimens I wish to collect. If you can obtain any other ergotized grasses for me, I should be most pleased to have them.

Trusting you are having a pleasant season, and with kind regards,

I am,

Yours very truly,

Dr Gubb,

Aix-les-Bains.

Translation.

=====)

Sidi-Bel-Abbes,

8th September, 1908.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your esteemed letters of the 21st August and 9th inst. respectively. I must apologize for not having answered your request for particulars as to the possibilities of gathering ergot from oats in this district, sooner.

I am sorry to be obliged to inform you that this parasite exists only in very small quantities, and under conditions of excessive moisture.

We have not been able to obtain any practical result, the fungus being so very scarce, only a small decimal part being found in a hundred-weight of oats even in a particularly favourable year. It is the same with the Diss.

Always at your service,

Faithfully yours,

Signed (name undecipherable.)

Secretary.

Dr Gubb,

Aix-les-Bains.

SYNDICAT PROFESSIONNEL AGRICOLE

ET

Caisses de Crédit Mutuel Agricole

de

SIDI-BEL-ABBÈS

(ALGÉRIE)



Sidi-Bel-Abbès, le 8 Septembre 1905

Monsieur Dr. Guibé
à Aix les Bains.

J'ai bien reçu vos é honoraires des états
et j'ai couramment et je vous prie de m'excuser
si je n'ai pas répondu plus tôt à votre
demande de renseignements au sujet de la
possibilité de faire l'ergot des avoines de
cette région.

J'ai le regret de vous annoncer que
ce parasite n'existe qu'en très petites quantités
et seulement certains années sous l'influence
de l'humidité excessive.

Après ce qu'on obtiendrait avec le résultat
pratique les siliques de ce champignon étant
très peu nombreuses, ; quelques grammes à peine,
par quintal d'avoine dans les années particulièrement
favorables à son développement. Ceci est de
même pour le blé.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance
de ma parfaite considération.

Le Secrétaire.

Quadr.

Quadr.

Mr. C.J.S. Thompson.

Extract from Mr. Hallawell's letter dated from Santander the
2nd inst fol. 35:-

"re Specimens of Ergotised Ears of Rye.

"Rep. has received from the Prof. of Botany of the Orense University
"(Senor D. Firmin Bescansa y Casares) a reply to his letter re
"above. This gentleman says that being away on vacation, he could
"not now undertake the commission, nor could he name anyone capable
"of properly collecting the specimens as great care and some knowledge
"of the subject is necessary. If, however, there is not any great
"urgency in the matter, he will undertake to supply you with the
"specimens as requested, and when ready advise you. Please let
"representative have your instructions so that he may inform the
"gentleman. Representative has also approached a few chemists
"to see if they could assist, but it seems to be quite out of their
"province."

September 17. 1908

T.Y.

Hallmark

20th October, 1908.

Dear Dr Gubb,

During our interview the other day, you asked me to let you have a list of the queries respecting ergot, the answers to which might help to elucidate many obscure points in the history of the use of the drug. The following are some of the matters on which I should like to have light thrown:-

- (1) Were barley and rye used by the Arabs at any time, and are they now used, and to what extent? Have these grains been diseased or ergotised to any extent, and have the properties of the ergot of barley and rye been noticed, or have they been used medicinally or otherwise?
- (2) Is maize affected by any disease or fungoid growth in the North of Africa? Have the properties of this diseased maize been found to be similar to that of the ergot of other grains, and is this ergot of maize used medicinally or otherwise?
- (3) Were there any epidemics or plagues among the Arabs in any way traceable to the grain eaten? Please get particulars of all grains which have been found to be ergotised, and the symptoms which the eating of the grain are alleged to have produced; the treatment, etc. Also to what extent they were used medicinally, and, if possible, the origin of their application in medicine and for what purposes.
- (4) Are there any obscure diseases at the present time known to be produced by grain?
- (5) In what form is ergot used by the Arabs, and for what purposes?
- (6) To what extent is ergot derived from each of the following grains respectively, Diss, Wheat, Barley, Rye, Oats, etc., and/or any other grains.
- (7) Any particulars about its use in antiquity by the Arabs.
- (8) What is the geographical distribution of the ergotised grains in Northern Africa, and to what extent have any epidemics, such as

Dr A.S. Gubb.

(continued)

20th October, 1908.

St Antony's Fire, etc., etc., corresponding geographically with the localities in which the grains are ergotised, and respectively which grains?

- (9) Are there any ancient Arabic M.S.S. or printed works relating to this subject? If so kindly procure what is possible in this direction. Also any historical relics of pictures associated with the subject.
- (10) What legends or traditions are there amongst the people or the native medicines on this subject?

This is only a very rough and hasty memoranda of the principal points, and some of them, as you will observe, overlap. However, they will give you, I think, a pretty general idea of the information I am seeking.

I am sorry not to have seen more of you, but I have been specially pressed with work just before my long journey abroad, and I know you have not been idle.

With kind regards and best wishes,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) HENRY S. WELLCOME.

To

Dr A.S. Gubb,
Savage Club,
Adelphi Terrace,
London, W.C.

Duplicate.

22nd September 1908

Dear Dr Gubb,

I am greatly indebted to you for so keenly following up the enquiries for me in regard to oat-ergot and dis-ergot. I most earnestly hope you will be successful in getting this information, as to fill this gap in my investigations I am relying upon you entirely.

Trusting to have the pleasure of seeing you very soon after your arrival in London, and with kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Dr A. S. Gubb,
Aix les Bains,
Savoy.

Recd
18 SEP 1908

Aix les Bains Savoie

Sept 16 1908

Dear Mr Wellcome

I have just received the enclosed letter which seems to show that there is nothing to hope for from oat ergot, though I am not quite convinced that this reply is final. There remains the Dis ergot as to which my informant is silent but I have various enquiries on foot. It is remarkable what a lot of hammering it takes to get the slightest acknowledgment. In every instance it has taken at least three letters, the last one registered to give it greater weight.

I am leaving here on the 25th and shall ~~to~~ hope ^{to} reach London in time for a hospital dinner on the 1st October.

Until then VALE

with kind regards

yours very truly

Repsol Gubb

12th January 1909

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6th January addressed to Mr Wellcome.

Mr Wellcome is at present travelling abroad, and your letter has been forwarded to him.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Alfred Gubb Esq., M.D.,
Mustapha Superieure,
Algiers.

Duplicate.

5th July 1909

Dear Dr Gubb,

I am sorry that owing to ill health and absence I have delayed writing to you. I only recently returned, having been abroad since early Winter.

I now take the opportunity of thanking you for all the trouble you have taken on my behalf in collecting information respecting *diss ergot* in Algeria. From the report you have sent me, I gather the facts obtainable are somewhat meagre. I still am of the opinion that the medicinal use of ergot must have been known to the Arabs from a very early period. Should you come across any further information on this subject, especially of an historical nature, I should be glad if you would kindly let me know.

Herewith I enclose a cheque value ten pounds for matters you have been kind enough to undertake on my behalf, and to cover the cost of the maps of Algeria and Tunisie, which you kindly obtained for me.

Thanking you for the trouble you have taken, and trusting you are in good health and will have a good and prosperous season in Aix this year,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

P.S. At one time last Winter I hoped to get to Algiers, but a severe attack of influenza, from which I am still suffering, prevented me.

To
Dr Alfred S. Gubb,
Aix le Bains,
Savoy.

g.c.
Miss Perraton
=====

Extract from Mr. Wheeler's letter dated from Aix les Bains the 26th ult.
fol. 14:-

"Dr. Gubb, Place du Revard, Aix les Bains." X

"He also desired that it should be mentioned that he enquired after the
"health of Mr. Wellcome."

1st July 1909

D.A.

Miss Perraton.

How card received from
Dr. Alfred Gubb of Aix les Bains and
Mustapha Supérieur, Algiers.

He complained about rep: that no
reply had been received to communications
sent by him to the firm. We were unable
to trace having received any & advised him
of the fact. This is his reply.

JUL 8 1909

JUL 8 1909

D.A.

July 1/09

AIX-LES-BAINS

①

~~L. A.~~
C. G. - 1. 05

Dear Sir

In answer to yours
of the 30th ult the acknow-
-ledgment I have been
awaiting is to several
communications addressed
to Mr Willcove personally.
All my letters to you since
Nov^r 1908 are still
unacknowledged.

I thank you for the
sample of Toccini.

Yours truly
Régis Aublet
RAB

09
E

WINS
1003

Mrs. Brough Wellcome No

Know Hill ¹⁰⁰³ CG 105

JUL 3 09E

7. 15 AM

LONDON E.C.

CG 105	
3 JUL 09	
London	
TERMS	ROUND
	u

WINDY

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