

Comparative Materia Medica Integrating New and Old Remedies

By Richard Pitt

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This paperback, in an attractive matt blue colour, was published in 2015 and holds 527 pages.

The first thing I would like to say is that this book should be a standard in every homeopathic school or college. Not only because this is the author's intention—he writes in his preface: 'The goal of this book is to help students and practitioners with their study of materia medica and cases. One important way of doing this is to study the comparison between remedies, to explore the similarities and differences that allow us to make the finer distinctions between remedies in our prescription'.—but this is one of those books that the profession has been waiting for, for a long time!

Comparing remedies is highly effective in studying them and, not unimportantly, in remembering them. Through comparison, we will get a much more refined and deeper understanding of the remedies. It is a well-proven way of learning things that we start with from an early age.

'This is...? your mouth and what is this...?, yes your nose. They are both a part of your face, but with the one you eat and with the other you smell'.

In Holland we have the saying—'A child can do the laundry', meaning that things well explained make doing them easy.

It must have been in the author's mind that this was something missing, while important to have. To set out on a task like this, he must have a conviction and a dedication toward our beloved profession. Besides, one must realize that books on this subject are virtually absent in our homeopathic education. How long do we have to go back to find something slightly similar? I vaguely remember a comparative materia medica done by an old master that I read in the beginning years of my study, some 30 years ago, the name of which I have forgotten now.

Readers of this review might remember more, if so please excuse my bad memory.

In any case I am glad to say that Richard Pitt has seen the need for such a book! From the subtitle we can read that he aimed toward integrating contemporary new remedies with the well-known classical ones. I can say that this has been very successfully done. Through this process, we have here a wealth of information on over 700 remedies.

An outline on the content of the book:

In its 'Introduction', we find a range of important topics that are being addressed, such as:

Stages of Remedy Pictures, Which Case-taking Route to Follow, Knowledge of Medicines, Oversimplification of Constitutional Images, Plant, Mineral and Animal Consciousness and much more!

The backbone of the book consists of 36 well-known remedies. Together with their comparative remedies and the integration with new remedies, more than 700 remedies in total are being described thoroughly.

Here is the list of remedies: *Aconite, Agaricus, Apis, Argentum nitricum, Arnica, Arsenicum album, Aurum metallicum, Baryta carbonica, Calcarea carbonica, Carcinosis, Causticum, Ferrum metallicum, Graphites, Ignatia, Kali carbonicum, Lac caninum, Lachesis, Lycopodium, Medorrhinum, Mercurius solubilis, Natrum muriaticum, Nux vomica, Opium, Phosphorus, Platinum, Psorinum, Pulsatilla, Sepia, Silicea, Staphysagria, Stramonium, Sulphur, Tarentula hispanica, Thuja, Tuberculinum, Zingiber.*

Now, do not make the mistake of thinking that you know these remedies. The value of this book lies in the comparison with all the other remedies that you more likely do not know so well!

To give one example on the remedy *Agaricus*:

The chapter covers Keynotes, Intrinsic/Compensated state and their DD remedies, Decompensated state and their DD remedies; Progression; Eccentricity; Innocent;

Naive; Courageous; A clear description of the type of people needing this remedy, addressing the nature of Fungi and Orchids; Themes of Orchids; Symptom comparison of four Orchids; Drug-like State; Enlarged feeling; Truth; Wisdom; Spirituality; Lies; Superhuman control; Confusion; Intoxication; Alcohol; Stupor/Wildness; Neurological; Spiders and Mushrooms; TB and Nerves; Death; Decay; Disgust; Weakness; Fears; Cancer; Persecution; Coition; Coldness; Frostbite.

The above shows that all the important issues regarding this remedy are being addressed on 12 pages.

In this way, the 36 remedies are done, and believe me also the experienced homeopath will be able to use the information to his advantage.

In Index 1, we find the impressive amount of remedies.

Index 2 shows the topics as mentioned under Agaricus above, which offers a direct and useful overview for reference.

Index 3 is a therapeutic index.

It now has become useful to have this book at hand for quick reference.

The author has incorporated his 30 years of experience in this book and on reading, one can see the richness of that experience, because it is not mere repetition of what is already known or the quoting of others, but a full integral work, in which personal experience is largely available. This, above all, makes this book an educational one worthy of—no, needed in every educational institute. In this way, I will end my review where I began and the circle is round.

To add a small criticism to this overall positive review—here and there I found that the reference given in the index was not always to be found in the text.

Thank you Richard Pitt for having gone to all this trouble on our behalf.

Cancer in Animals: What Is to be Cured?

The Veterinary Homeopathy Oncology Series 1

By Sue Armstrong

Narayana Verlag 2016, 192 pages, hard bound; Price €35, ISBN: 978-3-95582-101-2

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Sue must have worked and studied devotedly for many years to produce this phenomenal contribution to homeopathy. Personally I have read nothing like it.

Despite the veterinary title, any homeopath dealing with cancer would greatly benefit from the knowledge contained within. Drawing on the writings of numerous homeopaths from Hahnemann to the present day, and on and her own extensive experience, Sue has produced a work of weight. Clearly written, strongly bound and beautifully printed this is going to withstand years of re-visiting, reference and study, and that is what it is for.

This book is no work of philosophy or fascinating and tempting concepts. It is about serious medicine for homeopaths dealing with the most complicated, one-sided, life-threatening cases.

This is a book encouraging us to achieve results that many would regard as impossible.

Cancer and its causes are explored, alongside the remedies that we can use to halt or reverse these processes. Families of remedies most indicated in cancer are highlighted, together with an extensive list of remedies known for their affinity for this multi-miasmatic affliction.

Illustrated case studies demonstrate the application of the science.

The evidence for homeopathic cancer treatment is explored.

The materia medica and history of *Carcinosin* and *Scirrhinum* are detailed.

This is not an easy book; it is heavy. It requires concentration and deep study. That is why I started again from the beginning shortly after finishing it. I want to do what Sue does. I await the rest in the series with excitement.

[The book is also available in German. "Grundlagen der homöopathischen Krebstherapie bei Tieren"; price €49.]

The Poisoned Well: Discovering the Homeopathic Genus Epidemicus

By Maria Jevtic

Winter Press, London 2016, Paperback 192 pages; price £11.50 / €15.95, ISBN 9781874581734

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The subject matter of this book is daunting, 'we are racing at an exponential rate toward the abyss of our own destruction.' 'We are literally losing our minds' The author has a vision of impending apocalypse which she attempts to view with a homeopathic imagination, using mainly the miasms and the vital force as heuristic devices. It is a continuation of her first book, *From Cave to Computer*.¹ While the book reads well with a flowing style, the ideas are complex so I have read the book twice before attempting a review.

The 'Well' is a metaphor for our planet and its inhabitants. We are poisoned and doomed to suffer with eating disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, gluten sensitivity, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), multiple allergies, MRSA¹, addictions, autism, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, a totality of dangerous epidemic chronic diseases and contaminated food and water. We have traversed the gamut of miasms and are in an era of the cancer miasm. Individual sporadic homeopathic treatments will not do much to help us survive. We need more than what lawyers might call a class action – we need a genus epidemicus.

The overall argument makes much sense although I do not fully agree with some small details. Jevtic denotes sugar addiction as benign. I would direct her to *Pure White and*

Deadly by John Yudkin.² OCD is described as being in the cancer miasm but in my experience compulsive handwashing for example is syphilitic.

There is no index and the footnotes are not gathered into a bibliography. *Bookfinder.com* does not record the general availability of the book but it is on sale at Narayana in Germany and Serpentina in the United Kingdom. I could not locate the publisher's Web site.

Overall her descriptions of our predicament make a great deal of sense and for these alone the book is worth reading. I am less confident about the genus epidemicus; is a new miasm creeping up on us? What will be the remedy? The genius of the book is optimism that it will be up to us to think further and create the answers which will lead to transformation to a post-miasmatic age.

References

- 1 Jevtic M. *From Cave to Computer: A New Perspective on the Homeopathic Miasms*. Winter Press; London 2012
- 2 Yudkin J. *Pure White and Deadly How Sugar Is Killing Us and What We Can Do to Stop It*. Harper Collins; New York 1972 (reprinted Viking; 1986 and Penguin; 2012)

¹ Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is a bacterium responsible for several difficult-to-treat infections in humans.