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**Dr. Pratima Mandal**

Post-Lecturer Department-  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology.  
College name-Kharagpur  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
and Hospital, West Bengal,  
India

**Dr. Soumyabrata Dogra**

Post-Lecturer Department-  
Community Medicine.  
College name-Kharagpur  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
and Hospital, West Bengal,  
India

**Corresponding Author:**

**Dr. Pratima Mandal**

Post-Lecturer Department-  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology.  
College name-Kharagpur  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
and Hospital, West Bengal,  
India

## A book review on a manual of homoeo-therapeutics an introduction to the study and practice of homoeopathy by Edwin A Neatby and Thomas Stonham

**Dr. Pratima Mandal and Dr. Soumyabrata Dogra**

**Abstract**

A manual of Homoeotherapeutics, An introduction to the study and practice of Homoeopathy is a book which is not available presently. This book contains therapeutic indications as well as the pathogenesis of the drugs which is much useful for today's practitioners. This book is published for not only the homoeopathic practitioners but to the physicians of old school those who wish to know the therapeutics.

**Keywords:** Therapeutics, homoeopathy

**Introduction**

A Manual of Homeopathic Therapeutics-an introduction to the study and practice of homeopathy by Edwin Awdas Neatby. (1858-1933) and Thomas George Stonham (1859-1925) was originally published in 1927. Contains a large materia medica with clinical indications. There is a Clinical Index-a clinical repertory and a repertory of aggravations and amelioration.

The book includes many remedies in alphabetical order of A-Z. The Section of each remedy covers common name, Pathogenesis, Therapeutics and Leading indications. Later part of the book has section on Clinical Index and Aggravation and Amelioration which serves as a convenient reminder of innumerable points.

In the introduction part the author gives explanation to the readers that this book is offered to professional readers who wish to make a first study of homoeo therapeutics and to the students of Missionary school of medicine. The author mentions that experiences alone can settle that question for any individual inquirer. he gives few explanations regarding homoeo therapeutics., gives definition of homoeopathy and considers certain terms like similia similibus curentur proving records and how to interpret the symptoms, explains the value of symptoms and details about the modalities and the general and local symptoms, personification of a drug mental symptoms internal or general ersus external or local conditions, mode of action of homoeopathic remedies. Prophylaxis arndt's law, disease or disease conditions, provings amplified by clinical results, dosage and administration some axioms to be followed while selecting the dose mode of dilution and their administration and alteration of remedies are discussed and at last a brief summary is given about the things discussed. The author strongly advises beginners not to endeavour to prescribe upon the" leading indications or the symptom index alone, but to read in extension the drug and drugs referred to.

**Foreword**

E. Wheeler says "GOOD WINE needs no bush" and I cannot believe that this work needs any recommendation beyond its own excellence, but I feel it an honour to add one or two comments which the authors are too modest make for themselves. The admirable introduction supplies a reasoned statement of the claims of Homoeopathy, the body of the work gives the means to test those claims. To those who know the value of Homoeopathic Therapeutics but are skilled in their practice, this book will supply in my judgement the best introduction possible to the materia medica. finally even to homoeopathic experts this book is a more than convenient remember of the innumerable points which every human memory is likely from time to time to let slip. The index of aggravations and ameliorations will be of the greatest value even to the most expert of the physician.

### **Preface to the Second Edition**

In the body of the text an article on Ranunculaceae bulbosus has been substituted for that on Xanthoxyllum in the first edition. The index of Aggravations and ameliorations -an original and unique feature-has been somewhat added to, where necessary corrected. We hope it will again prove useful and sometimes save the necessity the necessity for reference to ponderous and complicated repertories.

### **Authors Preface to the First Edition**

This volume has been written in hope that this may meet the needs of two classes of readers -missionaries to foreign countries who have had a year's training in the elements of surgery and students and members of the medical profession inquiring into the subjects of homoeopathy. It is an attempt to present in readable form, a reliable account to the powers of medicinal substances to produce diseased conditions of the healthy body and to stimulate the tissues to resist similar diseased conditions due to other causes. We have made use of the large and small works on homoeopathy and on general pharmacology which are easily accessible. The list of the works referred to are mentioned here.

### **General Therapeutic Articles**

Starts from acid Benzoicum ends with Zincum. Below each drug the chemical formula, common name, family parts used, preparation, preparations used are given.

Introduction is given, proving records and some ancient uses are given. Pathogenesis heading contains pathogenesis of the drugs, system wise action of the drugs, proving records are given in some drugs. Therapeutics is given system wise. In the leading indications arranged on by one, in modalities heading aggravation and amelioration are given.

### **Appendix**

Explanatory remarks are given. indexes are designed to facilitate reference to and study to the text, not to provide a short cut to homoeopathic prescribing such indexes having some of the features of a repertory (in the technical homoeopathic sense of the term) are intended to save time and labour in view of the plethora of detail in the homoeopathic materia medica. To prescribe on the names of diseases or of single symptoms would risk delay and disappointment. Students and professional inquirers into in to homoeopathy are therefore very earnestly recommended not to pursue so unsatisfactory a course.

### **Glossary**

For the use of students of the missionary school medicine

Arranged in alphabetical order

List of meaning are mentioned under each alphabet.

### **List of Drugs and Abbreviations**

Arranged in alphabetical order

Starts from acid benzoicum to zincum.

Name of the drugs and abbreviations used are mentioned

If two different abbreviations are used both are mentioned

Example-croton tig-crot.t; croton

### **Clinical Index**

Based on the therapeutic sections of the manual. The index refers to named diseases, disease conditions and some important symptoms. It does not claim to be exhaustive.

Starts from abortion to yellow fever

References and comparisons are given after the clinical conditions Drugs are mentioned after this. In brackets of some drugs additional information is given Example-coryza-all. c (acid); euph (bland); graph (chr); naj (acid); phyto (either side); sang (acute); sec (ac=unilat., chr.)

### **Index of Aggravations and Ameliorations**

Explanatory note is given to the plan adopted. The plan adopted has been first to set fourth all of the drugs which generally aggravate or ameliorate the symptoms of the patient under the heading (G) and then those that affect him in a single part or function only under heading (P). A drug appearing under (G) is however, repeated under (P) when the aggravation or amelioration produces by it in the particular symptom is well marked. if it is not repeated it must not on that account be concluded that the drug does not affect that symptom for all drugs placed under (G) being of general application are presumably though not certainly applicable to any of the symptoms mentioned under(P). Marked exceptions to this will be found under (p) pf ameliorations.

The meaning attached to the word general in this index is a) when the patient feels better or worse in himself from taking the drug apart from any effect in definite regions of the body and b) when the majority of his symptoms are similarly modified by it. Therefore "general" here means (a) or (b) or a combination of the two.

Starts from Air, cold ends in Yawning.

Aggravation (G); (P); then Amelioration (G); (P)<sup>[1]</sup>.

This part of book have innumerable important points for clinical use, praised by Dr. J.N. Kanjilal<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **Conclusion**

This book is useful to the readers to know about the basics of the homoeopathic system of medicine, preparation and pathogenesis of the medicines and the leading indications of the drugs. The therapeutic indications given are useful to the practitioner if used correctly. Modalities are vividly described and clinical index gives the list of remedies for each condition, nothing but the repertorial index of the drugs. Proper utilization of this work will give immense knowledge to the readers. Each repertory is based on a conception as to how to approach a case and to use each repertory with skill it is necessary to know the thinking behind it <sup>[4]</sup>. It is our modest intention in this write-up to focus on the one time-tested component 'modality' of Boenninghausen's quad-Amelioration. Let amelioration be another feather in the cap of the 'marathon methodology' of prescribing and studying remedies <sup>[3]</sup>. Dr. P. Sankaran writes about this book along with other in the essay "The study of materia medica" to the eager reader who wishes to follow this line of study of the Materia Medica, I may suggest the following literature<sup>[2]</sup>.

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