

## ORIGINAL PREFACE

*from the 1846 English edition (TPi)*

It is now more than fifteen years since I first introduced the form of a “Repertory” of the homœopathic remedies, which either through my original editions, or the Manuals of our indefatigable *Jahr*, by whom it has been adopted without any material alteration, has been widely spread and thereby proved its undoubted usefulness.

A constant use of it during that period has been more than sufficient to judge of its advantages as well of its defects, and the publication of similar works up to the present day and their ready sale clearly show, that there is still a want of them. Beyond doubt, the diligent and careful study of the “Materia Medica Pura” cannot be fully supplied by any Repertory whatever; nor have I ever had the intention of making the former superfluous, on the contrary I am of opinion, that all works, having such a tendency, unquestionably do a great deal of harm.

On the other hand it cannot be denied, that the homœopathic physician can only devote himself to such studies in his hours of leisure, which are few indeed, and that in his practice he is in need of a work, containing an abridged, easily to be overlooked combination of the symptoms, pointing out at the same time their characteristics, in order to aid his memory, so that he may be able, in every concrete case of illness, to select with certainty and without too great a loss of time from amongst those remedies, which are indicated in general, the one, which is homœopathically the most suitable.

According to my opinion the defects of the Repertories hitherto published consist principally in their being confined to what is offered in the *Materia Medica Pura*, to which — certainly not without a careful examination — they add the results of the practice: but they have never been made use of together, to afford the means of judging of the value of each symptom, of completing the imperfect ones amongst them and of filling up the numerous vacancies, the practitioner at every moment meets with.

If there remain a great many symptoms incomplete, either because the part of the body or the sensations

are not clearly indicated, or — which often happens — because it is not stated, whether the case through time and circumstances be grown worse or better; the difficulties in judging of the value of the symptoms with regard to the healing art are the more increased, as the characteristic never shows itself in a *single* symptom, be it ever so complete, as the individuality of the person, examining the value of the same, has always a considerable, easily misleading influence on the examination, as moreover consecutive effects slip in, besides many alternate ones of an inferior order, and as in general the value or the uselessness of most symptoms can only be judged of by a laborious comparison of the whole, but never merely from the *Materia Medica Pura* at the moment they are wanted without previous study. Therefore not only the dispersion of many more or less important symptoms under different rubrics, by which the conception of the whole was rendered more difficult, but also a great many vacancies, for the filling up of which every basis was wanting, which Analogy might have rested upon, have been the inevitable consequences of the old arrangement of the Manuals. This uncertainty and imperfection, besides all the prolixity, which are sufficiently known to every homœopathic physician, induced me several years ago to search for an arrangement, which would set aside the above mentioned defects at least so far, as this was possible, according to the state of our science, and I have gratefully to acknowledge the excellent advice, my late friend and master, *Hahnemann*, has given me in an uninterrupted correspondence.

Being afraid of carrying the division of the symptoms farther, than it had hitherto been done and which often has been disapproved of, it was at first my intention to retain the form and arrangement of my original Repertory, which *Hahnemann* repeatedly assured me, he preferred to all others: at the same time I intended to compress it into *one* volume, to define every part of it with greater accuracy and to complete it as much as possible from Analogy as well as from experience. Having, however, finished about half of the Manuscript, it had, contrary to my expectation, grown to such a size, that I the more

willingly relinquished my plan, as I saw, that most likely the same object might be attained in a more simple and even more satisfactory manner, if, by showing the peculiarities and characteristics of the remedies according to their different relations, I opened a path hitherto untrodden into the extensive field of combination.

In order to avoid increasing the homœopathic literature with a useless work, experience was first to be consulted: I therefore made use of a work similarly arranged, but confined only to polychrest medicines. The result proved favourable beyond expectation and our late Master having pronounced my idea to be an excellent and eventful one, I did not hesitate any longer to finish the work, which I now present to the homœopathic public, requesting them at the same time to excuse its inevitable defects and errors.

The object of this Pocketbook, as it has been stated on its title-page, is a double one, viz: to aid the memory of the practitioner at the sickbed in the selection of the remedies and to serve the student of the *Materia Medica Pura* as a guide, by which he is enabled to find his way, to judge of the greater or minor value of each symptom and to complete and define them with greater accuracy.

As almost under every rubric there are a great number of remedies, it has been with regard to this double object deemed indispensable to point out their relative value by means of a different print, as I had done in my former Repertories and which *Hahnemann* had repeatedly declared to be requisite. The reader therefore will find throughout the whole book the remedies divided into five classes, indicated by the print, of which the four principal ones occur in the first part (*Mind* and *Soul*) under the head: "covetousness" and which may serve as an example. The word *Puls.*, given in italics printed apart, takes the first, the most prominent place. It is followed, in a descending order, by the words *Ars.* and *Lyc.*, printed in simple italics, as being less distinguished, but still much approved of by the characteristic of the remedies as well as by practice. Of a still inferior order are the words: *Natr.* and *Sep.*, given in roman letters printed apart, and the last place with regard to the value of the remedies takes *Calc.*, which word is printed in roman letters. The fifth order contains the dubious remedies,

which require to be more closely ascertained and which occur the most seldom: they are enclosed in crotchets, as for e.g. page [in this edition, rubric no.484] the words: (Arg.) (Asar.) (Bism.) (Cic.) and some others.

It is evident, that the limits of these classes, to increase the number of which seemed neither agreeable to the purpose, nor easily to be accomplished, could not be fixed with anything like mathematical certainty: nay, I could not even intimate the greater or lesser inclination to the preceding or the following order and only thus much could I attain, that the mistake remained something less than half a degree. Without being presuming enough to maintain, that everywhere within the stated limits I have hit the mark, I may be allowed to say, that no assiduity, no care, no circumspection has been wanting on my part, to avoid errors as much as possible. Therefore I not only took upon myself the tedious task of correcting the proof-sheets, but I had at the same time an English and a French translation prepared, so that wherever the alphabetical order and the stock of types permitted it, only the rubric words were taken away and changed, whilst the other, carefully revised text remained stereotypically. The English translation I owe to one of the most eminent German homœopathic physicians, who is perfectly acquainted with the English language and literature, but who does not wish to be named. The French translation I made myself and if particularly in the latter there should be found any mistakes with regard to the genius of the language, which is not a very copious one, I, as a foreigner, hope to meet with indulgence. What a difficult task, moreover, it was, to correct the proof-sheets, the sixth may serve as a specimen, which on account of an indispensable journey I gave to another person to correct and wherein especially many misplaced letters will be found, which, however, leave no doubt as to the sense. The few misleading printing faults and omissions of entire words are given at the end of the book.

The arrangement of the work is easily understood: but few explanations will therefore be necessary. It is divided into *seven* distinct *sections*, in each of which, to facilitate the use of the book, the systematic and the alphabetical order have been as

much as possible united. Although each section may be considered as a whole in itself, it nevertheless gives each time only one part of a symptom, which first becomes complete through one or several of the other parts. In the case of toothache, for instance, the seat of the pain is to be found in the second section, the kind of pain in the third, the *increase* or *decrease* of the pain according to time and circumstances in the sixth and whatever of concomitant symptoms [Nebenzeichen] may be necessary to complete the picture of the disease and to select with certainty the suitable remedy, is in a like manner to be found in the different sections.

It is necessary to observe with regard to the *first section*, that our *Materia Medica Pura* contains nowhere more consecutive effects, than amongst the symptoms of the mind and that on the other hand most of the tyros are apt to make mistakes, or very often overlook this part of a complete picture of the disease. I have therefore deemed it advisable, to give here only the most essential and predominant points under as few rubrics as possible, in order to make them more easy to find them out. The rubric "Intellect" I have also been able to simplify in a great measure, many signs being clearly defined in other places, as for instance "Madness" through the different dispositions of the mind.

In the *second section* "Parts of the Body and Organs" I have also contracted, whatever I could, as according to the tendency of the whole work one part is to be explained by the other. There will on the contrary in this section be found several signs, which in practice have proved of importance — e.g. under "exterior head, face, cough" — which one would in vain look for in any other work. Moreover this section serves essentially to point out the medicines, which, in a higher or lesser degree, have an influence on the different parts of the body and organs, and only in the case of some organs I have stated some other signs, which are merely confined to these and for which there was no suitable place to be found elsewhere.

The *third section* contains in an alphabetical order all the sensations and complaints, 1. in general, and then in particular, 2. of the glands, 3. in the bones and 4. of the skin and exterior, and is to show the more or less characteristic in the kind of the complaint, in the like manner as the preceding one

the affected part of the body.

The *fourth section* treats of sleep and dreams, as the fifth of fever, and indeed both only according to the essential and minutely pronounced qualities by which they differ from each other.

With regard to the second, *fourth* and *fifth sections* the following explanation of the rubric "Concomitant complaints" will be necessary. Convinced of the importance of the signs, which coincide with others and form with them a group of symptoms, I have been collecting during a great many years to the concomitant symptoms [Nebensymptomen], which occur in the *Materia Medica Pura*, every thing appertaining to them that was offered by my own experience as well as by that of others, and their number increased so incredibly, that I was able to abstract from them general rules. By these it was proved with great certainty, that one remedy inclines much more than another to such concomitant complaints [Nebenbeschwerden]; that then, however, these last do not consist exclusively of this or that, but that in general *every kind* of complaint, which belongs to the sphere of activity of the remedy, — though the characteristic ones oftener than the others — may be its attendant. This discovery proved by long experience to be true, led me to put the "Concomitant complaints" together under one rubric, whereby I have again pointed out the order of the remedies by means of a different print, and whenever they are to be taken into consideration, they must be looked for under the peculiarities of the more or less concurring remedies.

The *sixth section*, containing the changes in the state of the patient according to *time* and *circumstances*, is not less important than any of the preceding ones, but in the application requires the greatest precaution. One has particularly to avoid considering as an aggravation of the malady, what is only a secondary [Nachwirkung] (or alternating [Wechselwirkung]) effect of the remedy, even though the state of the patient in general should be worse. Diarrhœa for instance, appearing only in the morning, is very often cured by Bryonia, although obstruction and getting worse in the evening belong to the primary effect of this remedy. Of such appearances, which in trying the effects of the medicines are called consecutive or alternate effects,

there are also a good many in natural diseases, where a state occurs, opposed to the original complaint, but not the less a state of suffering, which may easily mislead the ignorant in the choice of the remedy. In another respect the connection between the stated conditions of aggravation or amelioration and the whole complaint and its single symptoms is by far greater, than is generally supposed and they are never limited exclusively to one symptom or another: on the contrary the choice of the right medicine very often depends principally on them. I will give a single instance. During my absence from home my patients are always given over to a friend of mine, Dr. *Lutterbeck*, of this place. One of them I had cured of a deeply rooted phthisis tuberculosa and in order to remove some remaining complaints, amongst which a disagreeable smoothness of the teeth with a good deal of slime on them was predominant and which every time he shaved, became worse for two days together, my friend gave him Carb.an.  $\bar{30}$  with the most decided and lasting effect, although the only skin-symptom of the face (152), which had been observed by Dr. *Adams*, did not present itself. The experienced homœopathist will therefore easily find, that I have bestowed a particular care upon this section and that I have given in it many results of my own experience, which will be looked for in vain either in the *Materia Medica Pura* or anywhere else.

The *seventh* and last *section* gives under the head: "Concordances" the results of a comparison of the effects of all the medicines in use, 1st in reference to the preceding sections, marked with the corresponding number, 2dly at the end (VII) according to the remedy drawn from it, whereby their value has always been stated in the same manner, as in the preceding sections. This laborious, time demanding work — through which, however, my knowledge of the *materia medica* has been considerably increased and rectified — is to supply the place of the "Relations" (*Verwandtschaften*), which I published in early 1836; imperfect as they were, yet my critic (*Hygea*, IV. p. 369 ff.) has in contradiction with himself acknowledged their usefulness by copying them literally with all their defects and errors and with few, for the most part faulty additions, in his "Manual of the Homœopathic *Materia Medica*" (Leipzig, *Schumann*) without naming the source, from which he had taken them,

and which, before the publication of his book, he had ridiculed.

I may therefore hope, that nobody will consider this section as useless and superfluous, now, that it has been improved and cleared as much as possible from errors. To me, who for the last fifteen years have considered the *Materia Medica Pura* the head point of Homœopathy and made it my principal study, these Concordances have been of the most decided importance, as they not only led me to understand the *Genius* of the medicines, but also to secure the choice of the different remedies and to fix their order, particularly in chronic diseases. A certain familiarity with the *Materia Medica Pura*, it is true, is thereby indispensable: but the use of the Concordances is greatly facilitated for the beginner by the polychrests — which are full of symptoms — presenting a great many points of contact, wherefore an intimate acquaintance with the latter when it will enable him to use them with great ease and advantage. — At the end I have given the known Antidotes (*Antid.*) as well as the noxious remedies (*Noc.*) — I have to observe that the same reasons, which induced me in 1835, to omit, besides *Osmium* several other remedies, still continue and that I did not wish to mix up the certain and tried with the uncertain and doubtful.

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It may be necessary to add a few words, respecting the use of this Pocketbook, for beginners in homœopathy, for whom it is principally intended.

In studying the *Materia Medica Pura* I have found it the most simple and most expedient way to mark with a pencil — according to the order of this Pocketbook — all the characteristic signs, which have been indicated by the different print, either in the original works, or in one of the Repertories, and to add those which are wanting: this requires but little time and trouble and gives at the same time an easy survey, which according to farther experience may by degrees be completed. In this manner one not only acquires a thorough knowledge of the most important symptoms and of the *Genius* of each remedy, but also a lasting written collection of everything necessary to be known, which becomes deeply impressed on the memory may, afterwards be consulted in difficult cases and will not seldom

be of the most important service in the right choice of the remedy.

In making use of this work at the bedside of the patient much depends, whether one is quite a beginner, or already more or less versed in the homœopathic art of healing. He, who as yet knows nothing at all, must necessarily make a careful search for everything without exception. The more anyone knows, the less he has to look for and, indeed, needs only here and there to assist his memory. This may be best shown by an example: I have chosen for that purpose a case from my latest practice, where the choice of the remedy was, indeed, not difficult and at first appeared quite easy, though through want of attention the right one might have been missed. It will at the same time serve many a beginner to try his own skill.

E. N., of L., a gentleman about 50 years of age, of a healthy, almost too florid complexion, generally of a cheerful temper, during severe attacks however, inclined to break out into fits of passion, with a decided nervous irritability – (having been allopathically treated for a so-called rheumatic pain in the right orbit by external remedies, which remedies could not be ascertained), suffered for the last couple of months a peculiar kind of violent pain on the lower part of the right thigh, comprising all the muscles of the back part of it, viz. from the calf down to the heel, with the exception of the joints of the knee and ankle. The pain itself he describes as very acute, crampy, twitching tearing [zuckendes Reissen], often interrupted by stitches from inside outwards. In the morning, however, the pain overall is more tolerable [erträglicher], dull burrowing [dumpf wühlend], and as if beaten (bruised, aching) [wie zerschlagen]. It increases towards evening and at rest — particularly after previous motion, in sitting and standing, and particularly during a walk in the open air. During the walk itself the pain often flies from the right calf to the upper part of the left arm and is again most insupportable, if the patient puts his hand into his pocket or bosom and keeps the arm quiet: by moving the arm the pain is lessened and often quickly returns to the right calf. He finds the greatest relief in moving up and down in the room and rubbing the affected part. The concomitant complaints consist in sleeplessness before midnight, often repeated attacks of a quickly overrunning heat with thirst in the evening, without a preceding shivering, a disagreeable, greasy taste in the mouth, with nausea in the throat and an almost continual, pressing pain in the lower part of the chest and the pit of the heart, as if something were forcing its way through.

No homœopathic physician, who is familiar with the effects of his remedies, having so complete and so accurate a picture of the disease before him, will long be in doubt as to the most suitable remedy in this case, as all those signs together answer only to one of them homœopathically: the beginner on the contrary will be obliged, to look for almost every single symptom and will only after a long investigation find the right one amongst the concurring medicines. Between those two extremes of knowing and *not*-knowing there are numerous degrees of half-knowledge, which require a more or less frequent consultation of the Manual.

One, for instance, knows that those pains, which fly from one part to another, being worse towards evening and in repose, the greasy taste in the mouth, sleeplessness before midnight and some other of the symptoms, which have been mentioned, are pre-eminently the effect of *Pulsatilla*: he is, however, not sure, whether also the rest of the symptoms belong to it, and wishing to act conscientiously, he will not mind the trouble of comparing the same, when he will soon find, that *Pulsatilla* cannot be the right homœopathic remedy, as many of the symptoms, besides those of the mind, are not similar to *Pulsatilla*, nay even are directly opposed to it.

Another has studied more the peculiarities of pains and clearly recollects, that the principal effects of *China* are laming and as from being beaten (bruised) [Zerschlagenheits-Schmerzen], cramping [klammartigen], twitching tearing [zuckenden Reissen] and stitching outwards, as well as pains, jumping from one part to another: he believes, moreover, that other symptoms, as sleeplessness before midnight, aggravation in quiet, amelioration through moving and rubbing, flying heat with thirst, are also caused by *China*: but with regard to the other symptoms he is not sure and he is therefore obliged to consult a Repertory, when he will soon, like the first, meet with contradictions, proving to him, that in the present case *China* is not the fit remedy.

Now, neither of them will think of making a trial and of giving the patient a remedy, the effect of which in this case is so uncertain; but as conscientious homœopathic physicians they will consider and compare, and with the assistance of this Pocketbook they will soon find, without a great deal of trouble, the only fit and truly homœopathic remedy.

But suppose, there was a third, who understood enough of homœopathy, to know at once that *Pulsatilla*, *China* and other concurrent remedies are not the right medicines, but who does not sufficiently know *Valeriana*, which corresponds to the principal symptoms, and therefore is doubtful as to the fitness of this less often used remedy: he will only have to look for some dubious symptoms to convince himself, that this must be the best amongst all known medicines, which was proved by the result, as after a single, highly diluted, very small dose, dissolved in water, the principal complaint with all the concomitant ones was within three days completely removed. A smatterer, however, who will only consult authorities and refuses every sort of Repertory, will not easily think of looking for this remedy, which is seldom used in similar complaints, in the second volume of the "Archiv", and will, before doing so, waste much time and labour in comparing other remedies, which might have been better employed. And if at last it should occur to him, to consult the Archiv, he will even there meet with doubts and uncertainties, which the uninitiated without some assistance will not easily overcome, as most of the symptoms, which here are to be taken into consideration, require to be more or less completed through the characteristic of the remedy, in order to be suitable, and as many consecutive effects, which are not marked out as such and not easily recognised, besides several printing faults in the notes, increase the uncertainty.

But it is by far more difficult still for the less experienced homœopathic physician, to cure *without a Repertory* a disease with few symptoms, for which a great many remedies concur. In this place and its neighbourhood, for instance, there is at present a malignant whooping-cough raging amongst the children and it is only in single cases and exceptionally, that the well known symptoms for *Drosera* present themselves, and never those for the remedies, which are usually given for whooping-cough. However, there was always in the beginning a remarkable puffiness and swelling to be found, not so much on the face but particularly of that part immediately above the eyes, between the lids and eyebrows, where it often appeared like a thick, little bag, a symptom which hitherto has only been observed in *Kali. carb.* (219), and, indeed, in the beginning of the present epidemy this was the

only quick and sure remedy. Only in the last period the disease took another form, which required *Veratrum alb.*, on account of the cold perspiration on the forehead during vomiting.

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This is not the place to speak about the quantity and the repetition of the doses, a subject, on which, moreover, opinions are still divided. I think it, however, necessary to direct the attention of the English homœopathic physicians to what we have experienced in this respect within the last two years. Several practical physicians of the highest order have found by a number of the most careful experiments, that not only the high dynamisations, such as  $\overline{200}$ ,  $\overline{400}$ ,  $\overline{800}$ , far from being inefficacious, continue to operate with a force, sufficient to cure every kind of disease, but that also the totality of the power of the medicines and the extent of their peculiarities develop themselves by this means in a more perfect manner, and that very often a disease is cured with high dynamisations, which had been attacked in vain with the lower dilutions of the same remedy.

Convinced of the truth of this most important discovery, I have used for two years those high dynamisations, the results of which were so satisfactory, that during the last year I have scarcely given any other: since this time my practice, always a successful one, has become still more so and all those, who have taken my advice, are enthusiastic in their approbation of this progress.

There are some, who pretend to have found — more by reasoning, than by experience — that the high dynamisations, though capable of curing some kinds of disease, particularly those of the sensitive sphere, are not applicable in those attacking the vegetative sphere. For my part, I think myself authorised, by a number of incontestable facts, absolutely to deny this assertion. It is just in the diseases of the skin, of the glands and of the bones, that I have observed the most surprising effects from dynamisations of the highest degree and my journals contain a great many perfect cures, particularly of those kinds of diseases, which had for a long time resisted the larger and often repeated doses of the same remedy. Caries, osteomalaxy, exostosis, the curvature of the spine, as well as the different species of cutaneous

eruptions, of tetter and ulcers are not less curable with high dynamisations, than the different kinds of mania, epilepsy and all the other natural diseases, provided one be experienced enough in homœopathy, to choose the remedies, which under all circumstances are the most fit, and firm enough, to allow them to operate as long as it is necessary. Every homœopathic physician, who is able to make choice of the right medicine and avoiding the great fault of precipitation, which is always injurious, will soon perceive, that the high dynamisations,\* given in long intervals and without a repetition, are generally much to be preferred to larger doses, repeated or changed too often.

\* As the preparation of the high dynamisations (Hochpotenzen) is not without difficulties and, besides being expensive, requires a great deal of time, it may be worth while to know, where they may be had *genuine*, which is of the greatest importance. I therefore recommend the medicines, prepared by Mr. *St. Jenichen* of *Wismar*, in the Grandduchy of Mecklenburg – Schwerin, which unquestionably surpass all others in strength and purity.

Nothing now remains, but to recommend this work, which is the fruit of about three years labour, to the just, unprejudiced and friendly criticism of all those, who, like myself, are determined to devote their lives entirely to homœopathy and to suffering humanity.

Münster, Octbr. 1845.

**C. de BÖNNINGHAUSEN**

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“It is by balancing the concomitant symptoms whether good or bad, that one is to form a prognosis; for thus it will most probably prove to be a true one.”

*Hippocrates*

Prognostics (400BC), §15

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