

Textbook of Homeopathic Materia Medica

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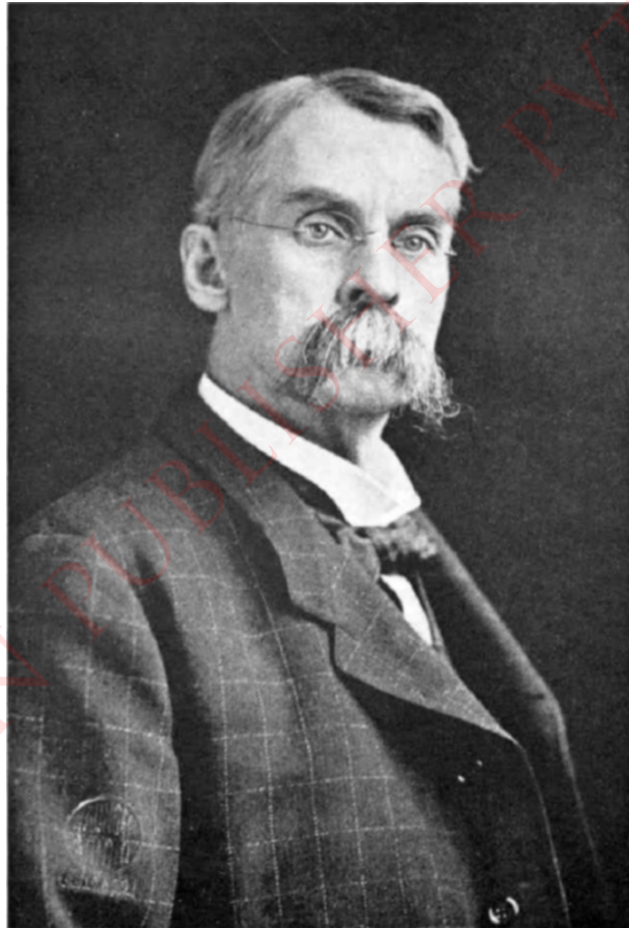


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Dedication

This book is humbly dedicated
to



PROFESSOR JAMES TYLER KENT

Born on 31 March, 1849, New York State

Deceased on 5 June, 1916, in Stevensville, Montana

Foreword

It is really an amazing feeling once you get done with writing a book. The ecstasy is analogous with the nine hard months of patience and pain before the delivery of a baby. The hardships, the passion and the care that the author or compiler bestows upon their writing are clearly visible once the product is out in the market for the wellbeing of its beneficiaries.

I can easily fall in love with any beautiful new book. The never ending widening of the horizons of knowledge are still not quenched with the available material on any subject and there stands a very potent gap between availability of good reading material on any given subject.

With the advent of computers and internet there seems to be plenty of material available for knowledge seeking folks. One may also question the effect of e-books on the market of printed books, but I have a clear vision that the nostalgia and ease which the printed version of any book gives us is inexhaustible and hence, immortal.

I have always been an admirer of alternate sciences. I personally feel that no two therapeutic sciences annihilate each other. There can only be one possibility in the vast ocean of various therapeutic sciences that is, a healthy coalition for the betterment of sick masses.

We, at the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences have been keeping our mission and vision clear to develop the best of health alliances between the medical sciences. Our researches and fund allocations clearly aim to achieve high standards in the field of health care through unity in medicine.

Now that we have stepped in the growing phase, as a university and as a nation, it is very satisfying to find Dr J. D. Patil, our very own students welfare director at the M.U.H.S., Nashik, to have come up with a fascinating book on the subject of homeopathic materia medica. This subject, as I have been informed is the heart and soul of the homeopathic system of medicine. Having such a systematic, organised and complete book on the subject should help the students and the practitioners of the science and art of homeopathy.

I wish this book and its readers a great time reading this work and may the pious efforts of Dr J.D. Patil help you to acquire some essential knowledge in the field of homeopathic materia medica with this book.

Wishing you all the very best of learning and health.

Yours truly,
In health and knowledge,

Dr Mrudula Phadke
Former Vice Chancellor,
Maharashtra University of Health Sciences,
Nashik.

Prologue

The story of following one's own dreams is beautifully told in 'the Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho. All those who have gone through this book must have realised how tough it really is to follow a dream. It takes a long journey, churning and almost endless efforts before a dream is realised. If I say that the same is the story with this book, I might not be very wrong. This book, a dream seen since the young days of my teaching career, has been compiled and recompiled numerous times before it could take the present shape. The whole process took many years, but the dream has finally been realised.

The most important highlights of this compilation are:

- ❑ The entire compilation follows a similar pattern
- ❑ It includes almost all polychrest drugs included in the B.H.M.S. and M.D. syllabus prescribed by the Central Council of Homoeopathy
- ❑ In the introductory session, students will find important discussions on the subject of homeopathic materia medica
- ❑ The appendix section includes therapeutic index, glossary and remedy relationship chart for ready reference of clinicians
- ❑ The materia medica section includes all available details on the polychrest homeopathic remedies with many details rearranged and highlighted for easy reference of students
- ❑ The language is kept easy and lucid for an average student to comprehend the subject details minutely
- ❑ The entire book is designed to serve as an all in one ready reference and quick review material during the short time available before examinations

To the students, this book might serve the purpose of a good companion during their undergraduate course and postgraduate studies but this does not decrease its value for teachers and practitioners. This compilation shall prove equally handy to the busy practitioner to match symptoms, to peep in remedy relations or to seek for time modalities, tongues of various drugs or other minute details.

This book is based on the details obtained by the standard texts and works of pioneers on homeopathic materia medica. No efforts have been spared to keep this compilation free from errors. However, several errors might have been left behind. I would be highly obliged if the same are conveyed to me for corrections.

The only wish I make for this book is, may it find its place in the hearts and book shelves of true lovers of homeopathic materia medica! If this is realised, I would feel blessed and honoured.

– Dr J. D. Patil

Acknowledgements

First let me thank Lord Almighty for fulfilling my long cherished dream of publishing this book. This book holds the most important place in my life.

I am greatly obliged to Dr Mrudula Phadke, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik, for going through the entire book and for penning down a few words in the foreword. Her ideas for establishing unity of medicine inspires every faculty of M.U.H.S. to remain knowledge oriented, research-minded and updated.

I must thank to Dr Ramji Singh, President Central Council of Homeopathy and Dr Arun Bhasme, Vice-President Central Council of Homeopathy for their valuable guidance. I am also thankful to my long time friends Dr V. R. Kavishwar, Dean, Faculty of Homeopathy, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik; Principal, Panchsheel Homoeopathic College, Khamgaon. Dr Kishorji Malokar, Senate Member MUHS, Nashik, Principal Janata Homoeopathic Medical College, Akola, Dr Anupama Pathrikar, Medical Director Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad, Mr Dwarkadasaji Pathrikar, President and Mr Bhausaheb Rajale, Secretary, Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad, Dr Balasaheb Pawar, Senate Member MUHS Nashik, Dr Sonali Pathrikar, Dr Leena Gunjal, Dr S. M. Desarda, Member CCH and Principal, D.K.M.M. Homoeopathic College, Aurangabad, and Dr (Sou.) Kanchan Desarda, Vice Principal, D.K.M.M. Homoeopathic College, Aurangabad. Special thanks to Mr Kuldeep Ji Jain, B. Jain Publishers, New Delhi.

My verbal thanks shall not match the efforts and hard work put in by Dr Ankur Desai who took every pain to rearrange and format the entire book. He also added many details and compiled many remedies to make this book upto date as per the new syllabus prescribed by the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi. His efforts are worthy of more than a mere mention. He has the privilege of my heartfelt thanks and million blessing for his bright future.

I had the longest association with homeopathic education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. My heartfelt thanks are always due for the teaching and non-teaching colleagues at Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad.

I had the pleasure of guiding many students through their postgraduation during my tenure as the postgraduate director at D.K.M.M. Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad. Dr P. Karthik Reddy and Dr Krushna Chandra Biswal need special mention as they helped me a lot during the initial phase of this work.

Last but not the least, my late mother Tulsibai Patil, my wife Shalini Patil, my brother Rajendra Patil, Sau. Deepali Patil, my beloved son Abhijeet, my

nephew Abhishek and Abhinav and all family members. Their lovely endurance to bear with my long outings for job responsibilities keep my spirits elevated to offer my services to my profession. Their love and care are the best blessings bestowed on me by God Almighty.

It would be extremely selfish on my part if I don't mention that my thanks shall always be due to each and everyone who studied, taught, researched or improved the subject of homeopathic materia medica because this book would never have been possible without their help.

– Dr J. D. Patil

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WHAT IS HOMEOPATHY

Definition

Homeopathy is a specialised system of medicine for treating human beings and animals, discovered by Dr Samuel Hahnemann on the basis of the simple principle – **Similia Similibus Curantur**.

The word 'homeopathy' is derived from the Greek word '**homoeos**' meaning 'like' or 'similar' and '**pathos**' meaning 'suffering.'

Dr Samuel Hahnemann discovered it in 1790 in Germany.

According to Haffen and Julian, homeopathy is a medicine based exclusively on the principle of similarity or analogy. Homeopathy consists of giving a sick person a minimum dose of the medication that produces the respective symptoms in a healthy person.

Homeopathy is a medicine based on the similia principle. This formulates a parallelism between toxicological and pharmacological forces of a medicine on a healthy sensitive person and its therapeutic power on a sick person, who shows a similar set of symptoms.

Homeopathy is based on **seven cardinal principles** or doctrines:

1. Law of Similia.
2. Law of Simplex.
3. Law of Minimum.
4. Doctrine of Vital force.
5. Doctrine of Drug proving.
6. Doctrine of Drug dynamization.
7. Doctrine of Chronic diseases.

The Rise, Fall and Rise of Homeopathy

The Rise of Homeopathy

Dr Samuel Hahnemann discovered homeopathy in 1790 in Germany and officially declared it in 1796. After that homeopathy spread throughout Europe, America and Asia. Despite significant oppression from the orthodox medical profession, homeopathy survived and even thrived in the 1800's and early 1900's. By 1900 there were twenty two homeopathic medical schools, more than a hundred homeopathic hospitals and over a thousand homeopathic pharmacies in the US. These impressive numbers alone do not provide an accurate perspective on the significant impact that homeopathy had on American life.

Homeopathy attracted support from many of the most respected members of society. Its advocates included William James, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Daniel Webster, William Seward, Horace Greeley and Louisa May Alcott. William Cullen Bryant, the famous journalist, was President of the New York Homeopathic Society. John D. Rockefeller referred to homeopathy as, 'a progressive and aggressive step in medicine.'

Homeopathy's popularity amongst the respected classes was also evident in Europe. Besides its patronage by Britain's Royal family dating from the 1830's, homeopathy could count among its supporters Charles Dickens, W.B. Yeats, William Thackeray, Benjamin Disraeli, Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Pope Pius X.

Statistics indicate that the number of homeopaths in New York doubled every five years from 1829 to 1869.

Homeopathy was also disproportionately popular amongst women, not only as patients, but as its practitioners. The first women's medical college in the world was The Homeopathic Boston Female Medical College, founded in 1848. Four years later it became New England Female Medical College, and in 1873, it was merged with Boston University, another homeopathic college. Homeopaths also admitted women physicians into their national organization considerably before orthodox physicians did. Homeopaths admitted women into the American Institute of Homeopathy in 1871.

The press was often very supportive of homeopathy, as the *Journal of the American Medical Association* regretfully acknowledged.

It is no wonder that Henry James, another advocate of homeopathy, portrayed this medical science in such a positive light in his novel *The Bostonians*.

Although homeopathy was particularly popular among the educated and upper classes, it also had a good reputation amongst the poor. Some of this support, no doubt resulted from the free homeopathic dispensaries in many cities.

However, probably the most important reason that homeopathy developed such immense popularity was its success in treating of various infectious epidemic diseases that raged throughout America and Europe during the 1800's.

The training of nineteenth century homeopaths compared favourably to that of their orthodox physician colleagues. Many homeopaths attended orthodox medical schools. Eventually, homeopaths developed their own medical schools or maintained departments of homeopathy within other medical schools. Boston University, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Hahnemann Medical College and University of Iowa were but some of the schools teaching homeopathy. Historians today consider the education offered at the homeopathic medical colleges at par with the orthodox medical schools of the day.

It is impressive to note that a higher percentage of graduates from homeopathic medical schools passed the medical board examinations than their counter parts from the orthodox medical colleges.

Homeopaths showed impressive scholarships, both in books and journals. According to a US Commission on Education in 1898, three of the four medical schools with the largest libraries were homeopathic colleges. And at the turn of the century, there were as many as twenty nine different homeopathic journals.

Homeopathy's popularity in United States was obvious and deep seated.

The Fall of Homeopathy

It is quite remarkable in itself that homeopathy survived the incessant and harsh attempts to destroy it. After the turn of the century, however, the AMA became increasingly effective in suppressing homeopathy. The AMA chose to 'allow' graduates of homeopathic medical schools to join the AMA as long as they denounced homeopathy or at least didn't practice it.

In 1910, The Carnegie Foundation issued the famous/infamous Flexner Report. The Flexner Report was an evaluation of American medical schools chaired by Abraham Flexner. The report placed the highest value on those medical schools that had a full time teaching faculty and those schools that taught a pathological and physio-chemical analysis of the human body. Homeopathic colleges were faulted because of their preference for employing professors who were not simply teachers or researchers but also in clinical practice, although homeopathic schools included many basic science courses.

As one might easily predict, homeopathic colleges on the whole were given poor ratings by the Flexner Report. As a result of the report, only graduates of those schools which received a high rating were allowed to take medical licensing exams. There were twenty two homeopathic colleges in 1900, but only two remained in 1923.

These schools were not the only ones hurt by the Flexner Report. Of the seven black medical schools, only two survived.

Although they offered better education on these subjects, their homeopathic training suffered greatly. As a result, graduates from these homeopathic colleges were not able to practice homeopathy well. Instead of individualizing medicines to a person's totality of symptoms, many homeopaths began prescribing medicines according to disease categories. Consequences from this type of care were predictably poor results. Many homeopaths gave up homeopathic practice.

There were other reasons for the sharp decline of homeopathy after the turn of the century. Orthodox medicine was no longer as barbaric as it was in the 1800's, and because of this, it didn't drive as many patients away. Orthodox physicians also began incorporating several homeopathic medicines into their practice. Although they didn't prescribe the same small doses as the homeopaths,

their use of certain homeopathic medicines confused the public, who were having increasing difficulty in distinguishing orthodox physicians from homeopathic physicians.

Another factor in the decline of homeopathy was its economic viability. Good homeopathic practice required individualization of the patient which demanded more time than most orthodox physicians gave to their patients. Since economics governs the way medicine is practiced more than is commonly recognized, the fact that physicians in the twentieth century could make more money practicing orthodox medicine is a significant factor that led to homeopathy's decline.

The drug companies' antagonism to homeopathy continued significantly to the collective efforts to suppress this form of medicine. Because the drug companies published medical journals, they could use them as mouthpieces against homeopathy and in support of orthodox medicine.

Along with the various external factors that hindered homeopathy's growth, there were problems amongst homeopaths themselves. Disagreement within homeopathy has a long tradition.

The most famous homeopaths in the US were primarily Hahnemannians. However, the majority of homeopaths practicing in this country did not prescribe their medicines on the basis of the totality of symptoms, but primarily according to the chief complaint. These homeopaths prescribed medicines for specific diseases, and sometimes they prescribed one medicine for the person's headache, another for the digestive disorder and another for the skin problem. Hahnemann and his followers were particularly adamant about the use of only one medicine at a time, and Hahnemann referred to those practitioners who used more than a single medicine as 'pseudo-homeopaths' and other less kind things.

After Hahnemann's death, a vast majority of Hahnemannian homeopaths adopted higher potencies. Low potency homeopaths, however, were not converted, and the stage was set for yet another disagreement between homeopaths. The high and low potency schools of thought developed separate organisations, hospitals and journals. In 1901, because of the various disagreements amongst homeopaths, Chicago had four different homeopathic medical societies.

The poor training that the homeopathic schools offered after the turn of the century ultimately discouraged the rigorous approach that the Hahnemannian method required.

By 1950, all the homeopathic colleges in the US were either closed or no longer teaching homeopathy. There were only 50-150 practicing homeopathic physicians, and most of these practitioners were over 50 years old.

And yet, it is hard to suppress the truth. Homeopathy has risen again, and this time, history will be rewritten.

The Present Status of Homeopathy

Homeopaths throughout the world experienced varying degrees of opposition from orthodox physicians, but not anywhere near the systematic or intense attacks as those beset upon them by American doctors. When homeopaths have been given a relatively free environment to practice, homeopathy has been able to grow and flourish.

At present, in India the number of homeopathic medical colleges and number of homeopathic practitioners are highest in the world. Now-a-days, homeopathy is flourishing significantly throughout the world.

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WHAT IS HOMEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

The word '**materia medica**' literally means medical matter. The ordinary medical dictionary defines it as that branch of medical science that teaches the origin and preparation of drugs, their doses and their mode of administration. Homeopathic materia medica is differently constructed as compared to other materia medicas.

Essential and complete knowledge of drug action as a whole can be supplied only by qualitative synoptic drug experiments on healthy persons and this alone can make it possible to view all the scattered data in relation to the psychosomatic whole of a person.

The homeopathic materia medica consists of a schematic arrangement of symptoms produced by each drug. It should be studied synthetically, analytically and comparatively.

So, a homeopathic materia medica can be defined as a record book of the effects of drugs on human beings. This is a store house of every action and reaction of the drug that it incites in human beings, especially healthy ones. Homeopathic materia medica is the unit of the knowledge of actions of drugs in any quantity.

Homeopathic materia medica is a study of drugs, medicinal materials for the cure of the sick. It is a book, which contains collected facts from different experimentations, clinical experiences, including their pharmacodynamic effects and method of application and doses.

Or

It is a book containing the systematic record of drugs which have been proved on healthy human beings of both sexes and of different ages.

The Principle

It is known to all that the principle behind the formation or application of homeopathic materia medica is drug proving that is, recording of those symptoms, which were observed on healthy human beings by the (prolonged) administration of drugs in sub-physiological doses.

Also those symptoms which were cured in sick persons by the use of the drugs were also included in the materia medica although they were not found during drug proving for one reason or the other. These symptoms are called **clinical symptoms**.

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF MATERIA MEDICA

History of Materia Medica

The Pre-history

Dr Hahnemann has accepted in his codex of homeopathy – **Organon of Medicine** that it was Abrecht Von Haller (1708-77) who suggested that medicine should be proved on human beings and the symptoms thus obtained will form the basis of a real materia medica, useful in the treatment of human beings. Haller's suggestions were of no use; probably it was not known to Hahnemann that in 1829, Johannes Evangelista Purkinje (1787-1869) of Bohemia, a renowned physiologist of Purkinje's fibres fame experimented upon himself the action of camphor, belladonna, stramonium and turpentine.

However, it was Hahnemann who started this new line of materia medica by testing the drugs on himself, his friends and family members. He called this process by the name of **drug proving** which literally means proving the (curative) properties lying in drugs.

The History

After coming across that remark of William Cullen about Cinchona bark, which he was translating in 1790, Dr Hahnemann tested drugs one after another and this process of drug proving became the basis of his '*Materia Medica Pura*', the first part of which containing drugs was published in 1811. In his *Organon of Medicine*, he describes the process in detail in regard to selection of the provers, their mode of life, food, regimen and the recording of symptoms in paragraphs 105-145.

Dr Hahnemann called his materia medica – *Materia Medica Pura* – because it contains the pure effects of the drugs as observed on healthy human beings of different ages and both the sexes. It did not contain any information collected from any other sources. After him, many individuals, like Dr Hering and several others started proving drugs. Thus, a vast materia medica for homeopathy was created. Later on, symptoms other than those found during the proving were also incorporated.

Evolution of Materia Medica

Evolution of materia medica starts from the writings of Dr Hahnemann.

1. Fragmenta De Viribus (1805)

Dr Hahnemann has given pathogenesis of twenty seven drugs in this materia medica.

2. Materia Medica Pura (1811 – 1821)

In this Dr Hahnemann has recorded purely the proven symptoms of the drug, which were proved by Dr Hahnemann on himself, friends, disciples, colleagues and relatives. He recorded all these symptoms in a systematic manner and according to anatomical schematic representation. As the book contains pure proved symptoms of the drugs in the language of the patient, this book is named *Materia Medica Pura*.

Initially *Materia Medica Pura* was published in six volumes (1811-1821) but for the sake of convenience it has now been published in two volumes. The first volume was published in 1830 and the second in 1833.

3. Chronic Diseases (1828- 1830)

After a long practice of thirty years, Dr Hahnemann observed the obstacles on the way of treatment and recovery. He found the obstacles on the dynamic level obstructing the path of cure. He considered that something like a fundamental cause played the biggest role in complication of diseases.

He classified this fundamental main cause behind the chronic diseases as psora, syphilis and sycosis. Thus, he discovered the doctrine of miasm as a concept and placed it in his book *Chronic Diseases*.

4. Proving by the Austrian Society (1842-1846)

Members of the Austrian society had started proving and reproving drugs in their own way in (1842-1846). These valuable provings were in a journal.

5. Encyclopaedia of Pure Materia Medica (1874-1880)

The provings carried out by Dr Hahnemann were verified by Dr T. F. Allen. He also added some new symptoms from poisoning and overdosing available in the prevalent literature in the post Hahnemannian era.

6. The Guiding Symptoms of Our Materia Medica (1879-1891)

Hering collected verifications and confirmations from all the reliable sources. He presented the world a voluminous book, containing only the verified symptoms through cure in the form of characteristics which he made from all available resources and this work of Dr Hering is a great contribution in the evolution of materia medica.

7. Cyclopaedia of Drug Pathogenesis (1886)

In the year 1883, the British society organized a meeting to revise and represent the existing material. The result of this conference was to recommend the formation of '*A Cyclopaedia of Drug Pathogenesis*' with the following instructions:

They have narrated all the provings stating the symptoms in the order of their appearance. The drugs were headed under scientific names, synonyms and natural order; experiments were done on lower animals, and no drug that has not shown any pathogenetic power in two or more than two persons. They included the symptoms only coming from the proving of 12x potency.

8. Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica (1900)

Dr J. H. Clarke has arranged all the drugs in this book in the Hahnemannian schema. Each remedy is given in such a fashion that it may be at once distinguished and recognized from other medicines. He also included indications of some medicines according to nosological diagnosis. He has tried his level best to give the keynotes and predominating symptoms of the medicine.

SOURCES OF HOMEOPATHIC DRUGS

In the homeopathic materia medica, medicines are prepared from different sources.

The sources of homeopathic drugs are as follows:

1. Vegetable kingdom or plant kingdom.
2. Animal kingdom.
3. Mineral kingdom or Chemical kingdom.
4. Nosodes.
5. Sarcodes.
6. Impoderabilia.
7. Synthetic source.
8. Ophiotoxins.

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DIFFERENT SOURCES OF HOMEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

Following are the sources of homeopathic materia medica:

1. Proving on healthy human beings.
2. Proving on healthy animals.
3. Clinical observations.
4. Accidental source.
5. Toxicological source.
6. Chemical source.
7. Empirical source.
8. Proving on plants.
9. Doctrine of signature.

1. Proving on Human Beings

- i. We can obtain signs and symptoms of homeopathic medicines by proving them on healthy human beings.
- ii. This is the real and scientific way of getting signs and symptoms of the medicine.
- iii. By this we can record the same in a systematic way.
- iv. It is a very good source to build up a materia medica.

2. Proving on Healthy Animals

- i. By proving homeopathic drugs on healthy animals we can get a few objective symptoms, up to some extent.
- ii. By proving on lower animals we can also get a knowledge of the pathological changes that have taken place in the animal's body.
- iii. It is also a source to build up materia medica.

3. Clinical Observations

In practice, after the application of medicine to the patient, we can observe some new symptoms produced by the medicine which has not been observed in the proving of that medicine.

4. Accidental Source

By this source some medicines are prepared from those substances whose action is accidentally known, for example, *Blatta orientalis* in asthma.

5. Toxicological Source

Signs and symptoms produced due to toxic effects can be obtained by unfortunate overdosing of drugs, from which we can understand the drug up to a certain extent.

6. Chemical Source

- i. We can understand and get some clue about the signs and symptoms of the drugs by studying its chemistry that is, physical and chemical properties, action, etc.
- ii. But as the human being is itself a big chemical factory, the actual signs and symptoms produced by the drugs in the body may be different, but by studying the chemistry of drugs we can get an idea about its action on the body.
- iii. It is a good source to understand drugs.

7. Empirical Source

- i. It is a traditional source.
- ii. This can be observed from the general therapeutic study of a drug. Since olden day's that is, from the discovery of the drug, we know the medicinal properties of drugs; for example, potentised *Calendula* is used for injury, it is best used as an antiseptic.

8. Proving on Plants

- i. Some symptoms of the drugs can be studied by proving them on plants because homeopathic drugs act on all living things like animals, plants, etc.
- ii. By performing experiments on plants and by studying the morphological and histological characteristic changes occurring in them due to the action of drugs on plants, we can get an idea about the action of that drug up to some extent.
- iii. We can also see the pathological changes caused by the drug on the plant.

9. Doctrine of Signature

- i. It is the relation between the external physical properties of the drug substance and the signs and symptoms present in the patient.
- ii. Doctrine of signature is one of the sources of materia medica.
- iii. This is present in a few drugs and by this we can remember and learn the materia medica of that drug up to a certain limit.
- iv. This can be observed from the general therapeutic study of a drug. Since

olden day's that is, from the discovery of drug, we know the medicinal properties of drugs. Here, it deals with the doctrine of signature, for example:

- a. A drug prepared from plants flowering during the summer season produces an aggravation during summers.
- b. Drugs prepared from yellow flowers of *Gelsemium* act better in jaundice.
- c. All red looking plants or the red extract of plants acts better on blood.
- d. *Tarantula hispanica* is prepared from Spanish spider, which is sensitive to drum beats; similarly the patient is oversensitive to music.

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SOURCE BOOKS OF HOMEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

Homeopathic materia medica is a record of the symptoms produced by the drugs on healthy human beings. The sole approach of homeopathic materia medica is a study of individualistic action of drugs. The main source books of homeopathic materia medica are as follows:

1. *Materia Medica Pura* written by Dr Hahnemann and published during the year 1811 – 21.

Year of Publication	Volume
1811	I
1816	II
1817	III
1818	IV
1819	V
1820	VI

2. *Chronic Diseases* written by Dr Hahnemann and published in 1828.

As per Dr Boericke, the final source books of homeopathic materia medica in which all the homeopathic medicines up to the year 1929 were compiled from are as follows:

- i. Dr T.F. Allen's *Encyclopaedia of Pure Materia Medica* (10 volumes).
- ii. R. Hughes and J.P. Dakes *A Cyclopaedia of Drug Pathogenesis* (4 volumes).
- iii. Hering's *Guiding Symptoms of Materia Medica* (10 volumes).
- iv. J.H. Clarke's *A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* (3 volumes).
- v. Dr Constantine Hering's *Condensed Materia Medica*.
- vi. Proving's by American Prover's Union.
- vii. Proving's of Dr Jorg's, Professor of Leipzig University.
- viii. *Pathogenesis* by Hartlaub and Trinks.
- ix. Dr E. N. Hale's contribution in his *Special Symptomatology of New Remedies* (2 volumes).
- x. Proving's done by the American Institute of Homoeopathy and State Societies which have been published in journals from time to time.
- xi. *Drugs of Hindoostan* by Dr S. C. Ghosh.
- xii. *Drugs of India* by Dr D. N. Chatterjee (4 volumes).
- xiii. Proving's done by the Austrian Society.

Now let us discuss a few of these books:

1. Samuel Hahnemann in his *Materia Medica Pura* (1811-21) includes 67 medicines and his *Chronic Diseases: Their Peculiar Nature and Their Homoeopathic Cure* (1828) contains 48 medicines of which 15 are also included in *Materia Medica Pura*.
2. C. Hering in the *Guiding Symptoms of Our Materia Medica* (1878-1891) includes 410 medicines but C.B. Knerr's *Repertory of Hering's Guiding Symptoms of Our Materia Medica* includes only 408 medicines. Hering's *Condensed Materia Medica* (1877) contains 208 medicines and his *Analytical Repertory of the Symptoms of the Mind* (1881) contains 665 medicines.
3. Boger's *Boeninghausen's Characteristic Materia Medica and Repertory* (1937) contains 140 medicines. His *Repertory of Antipsorics* (1832) contains 52 medicines and his *Therapeutic Pocket Book* (1848), though it contains no list of medicines refers to 342 medicines.
4. T.F. Allen's *The Encyclopaedia of Pure Materia Medica* (1874-1879) contains 691 medicines, his *General Symptom Register* (1880) contains 820 medicines. *A Handbook of Materia Medica* (1889) contains only 387 medicines and in *A Primer of Materia Medica*, he gives only 265 medicines.
5. Richard Hughes and J.P. Dake in their *A Cyclopaedia of Drug Pathogenesis* (1888) included 412 medicines. Richard Hughes in his *A Manual of Pharmacodynamics* (1868) described 300 medicines.
6. J.H. Clarke's *A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* (1900) contains 1002 medicines whereas his *Clinical Repertory* (1904) contains 919 medicines but 11 medicines have been duplicated under 4 headings; as such there are only 908 medicines in his *Clinical Repertory; The Prescriber* (1947, reprint) contains 427 medicines.
7. W. Boericke's *A Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* (1927) contains 1414 medicines.
8. M. Bhattacharya and Co's *Leading Symptoms of Thousand Remedies* (1953) contains 1000 remedies.
9. M.E. Douglas's *Characteristics of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica* (1901) describes 771 medicines but the same medicines have been described twice.
10. M.W. Van Denburg's *Therapeutics of the Respiratory System, A Work on Repertory and Materia Medica* (1960) contains 782 medicines.
11. A.C. Cowperthwaite's *A Textbook of Materia Medica* (1887) contains 246 medicines.
12. Carrol Dunham in his *Lectures on Materia Medica* includes 53 remedies.
13. Adolph Lippe's *Textbook of Materia Medica* (1975) contains 230 medicines.

14. M.L. Tyler in her *Homoeopathic Drug Pictures* (1952) includes only 125 medicines.
15. Edwin M. Hale's *Materia Medica and Special Therapeutics of the New Remedies* (1880) contains a total of 548 medicines.
16. Otto Lesser's *Textbook of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* (1935) contains 125 medicines.
17. J.T. Kent's *Lectures on Homoeopathic Materia Medica* (1904) contains 174 medicines; his *New Remedies* contains 28 medicines, but his immortal work on *Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica* (1889) contains 584 medicines.
18. John Gilmore Malcolm and Oscar Burnham Moss's *A Regional and Comparative Material Medica* (1893) contains 260 medicines.
19. N.M. Choudhuri's *A Study on Materia Medica* contains 442 medicines.
20. S.C. Ghosh's *Drugs of Hindoostan* (1959) contains 47 medicines.
21. O.A. Julian's *Materia Medica of the Nosodes* (1982) contains 66 drugs; his *Materia Medica of New Homoeopathic Remedies* (1979) contains 106 medicines and *Dictionary of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* (1984) contains 131 medicines.
22. T.F. Allen's *A General Handbook of Symptom Register*, as mentioned earlier, contains 820 medicines.

CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING OF HOMEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

Hahnemann called his materia medica 'pure' (Pura) because it consists of the collective statements of the positive and perceptible reactions of the healthy human body recorded in the words of persons acted upon by drugs and admits no misinterpretations with changes. So Hahnemann's materia medica of the early nineteenth century can be as intelligently read by a medical student of today as by a physician contemporary with its first publication. Hahnemann followed an anatomical schema (from head to foot) in recording the positive drug effects and under each rubric or heading he collected and put all the symptoms from as many provers as there were in each case.

Dr Hughes is an exception to Hahnemann's schematic method in writing his materia medica. He commented, 'It is an unnatural and artificial arrangement of the features of many allied morbid portraits as though an artist should paint a family group arranging all the eyes of all the members of the family, in one part of the picture all noses in another, the ears all together and so on.'

Construction of a homeopathic materia medica is based on Organon philosophy. In the birth of a remedy, a complete picture of the remedy emerges from drug proving and all other sources like, toxicological literature, clinical observations, etc. Once such a complete image is available, only then can the remedy be included in a materia medica.

In order to discover the true curative powers of the remedy to treat diseases, one must ascertain the special artificial disorder it develops in the healthy human body, and then utilize it to treat similar morbid conditions.

Every homeopathic medicine is of true dynamic nature. Homeopathic materia medica contains such remedies which have a spirit-like dynamic force or power in potent form, through which they act upon our spirit-like vital force, everywhere present in the organism. Hence, it is only by their dynamic action that health and vital harmony is restored.

Individuality forms the basis of homeopathy. The key to do this individualization is the Organon of Medicine, which deals with all necessary instructions for the same. According to §106 of Organon of Medicine, 'The whole pathogenetic effects of the several medicines must be known; that is to say, all the morbid symptoms and alterations in the health that each of them is specially capable of developing in the healthy individual must first have been observed as far as possible, before we select suitable homoeopathic remedies for most of the natural diseases.' This is the greatest scope of homeopathic materia medica.

According to §143, Organon of Medicine, 'If we have thus tested on the healthy individual a considerable number of simple medicines, and carefully

and faithfully registered all the disease elements and symptoms they are capable of developing as artificial disease producers, then only we have a true materia medica – a collection of real, pure reliable modes of action of simple medicinal substances, a volume of the book of nature, wherein is recorded a considerable array of the peculiar changes of the health and symptoms ascertained to belong to each of the powerful medicines, as they were revealed to the attention of the observer, in which the likeness of the (homoeopathic) disease elements of many natural diseases to be hereafter cured by them are present.....?’

1. Drug Types

Once the fundamental homeopathic theory has been mastered, the next primary concern is the homeopathic remedy itself, the tool by which the process of cure is put in motion. To be effective, the tools must be highly refined in preparation and accurately tested. For homeopathy to advance, it is necessary to perform proving on new remedies so that the therapeutic armamentarium can be further expanded. In §21 Hahnemann explains the basic principle of the drug. Thus, we see that the purpose of conducting a proving of a remedy is to record the totality of morbid symptoms produced by that substance on healthy individuals.

Drugs for the purpose of proving may be classified into—heroic, moderate and weak. In such experiments only well known drugs are to be used of whose purity, genuineness and energy we are thoroughly assured of.

2. Preparation of Drugs or Pharmacy

The essential matter that would characterize a drug experiment is that the drug should be in its natural form and absolutely unadulterated, either by adding or taking anything from it.

3. Prover, Physician

The best prover is the physician himself. The reasons are:

- i. The physician is sure of the symptoms he has experienced on his self. Hence, there is no uncertainty about the exact changes in health.
- ii. Proving the medicine on a physician guarantees reliable knowledge of the true value and significance of drugs.
- iii. Induce in him the tendency to observe minutely.
- iv. They do not produce any lasting injury to health.

- v. Proving acquires a resistance against artificial and natural diseases, which helps him in escaping them.

4. Restrictions

During the course of proving, the prover must avoid:

- i. Spices, green vegetables, root salads; as far as possible all things of medicinal nature.
- ii. Exertion of body and mind should be avoided.
- iii. Take a simple, nutritious diet.
- iv. Careful self-observation without feeling disturbed.

5. Experiment with Potentised Drugs

It has been observed that medicines, when experimented in the crude form do not release their full medicinal virtues. Hence, the experiment is performed with potentised drugs.

6. Single Dose Experiment

The sequence of events in the evolution of symptoms, structure, relation and interrelation between the primary, secondary and alternating effects, time taken for their appearance or disappearance can be accurately observed, and the genuineness of the drug thus, be thoroughly understood.

7. Multiple Dose Experiment

However, sometimes, a single dose is not sufficient to excite symptoms, for this reason gradually increasing doses would be necessary.

8. Modalities

The different sensations that develop during a drug experiment should be studied to see if they disappear, increase, decrease or reappear under different conditions.

9. Evolution of Symptoms

To get all the symptoms of the drugs, it is necessary that drugs should be proved as exhaustively as possible on both sexes, of different constitutions

and age groups. A drug can thus be taken to have been thoroughly proved when after repeated provings, no new symptoms are found, only the old symptoms go on appearing (§133-136).

10. Dose in Drug Proving and its Primary and Secondary Symptoms

Dosage of medicine is an important factor. The more moderate the dose, the more clearly the picture of the drug is known. On the other hand, when massive doses are used, primary symptoms appear rushing along with the early secondary symptoms, presenting a confused image of the drug (§137).

11. Drug Record

Recording of symptoms in the chronological order of appearance, combination and relation should be carried out carefully every day, when they are fresh in the memory of the prover.

12. Registration

When, according to the method described above, a large number of medicines have been tested and changes they produce correctly recorded, then it can be claimed that pure, unbiased, accurate and complete data of each single medicine has been collected, to construct a true materia medica. Such a materia medica constitutes the real image of drugs, as they reveal through the expressions of the prover and as such become the voice of nature.

13. Diet and Regimen

Proper knowledge regarding diet and regimen is mentioned in the Organon of Medicine, §259-263. The scope of materia medica is limited if it is not followed.

14. Dose and Potency

Knowledge of proper dose and potency is important while dealing with the sick individual.

TYPES OF HOMEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

Since Dr Hahnemann, many homeopaths have written different types of homeopathic materia medicas from Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* in 1811 till today.

Since homeopathy has advanced, the field of materia medica too has become wide from a limited number of 128 remedies during Hahnemann's time to more than 4000 drugs today. More than 372 books in English and other languages on materia medica have been published. Each one of them has its own usefulness and limitations. Many authors have written materia medica in different fashions. According to the content of these books, they can be classified as follows:

1. Materia Medica of Proving

These materia medicas contain purely proven symptoms.

i. **Materia Medica Pura**

In the beginning, Dr Hahnemann had published six volumes of *Materia Medica Pura* in between 1811– 21. In these books, Dr Hahnemann has recorded purely the proven symptoms of the drug, which were proved by Dr Hahnemann on himself, friends, disciples, colleagues and relatives. He recorded all these symptoms in a systematic manner and according to anatomical schematic representation. As the book contains only the pure proved symptoms of the drugs, the name of the book is *Materia Medica Pura*. Previously, *Materia Medica Pura* was published in six volumes but for the sake of convenience it is now published in two volumes. The first volume was published in 1830 and the second in 1833.

ii. **Hering's Guiding Symptoms and Condensed Materia Medica by Dr C. Hering**

It is mainly a materia medica of proving but some clinical symptoms have also been included. In these books, Dr C. Hering has tried to incorporate all proven symptoms, making them renowned and reliable prestigious books of materia medica in homeopathy.

2. Physiological Materia Medica

This is a different style of writing homeopathic materia medica on the basis of the physiological action of drugs. During the latter part of the last century

and early part of this century, this was very popular and still maintains its popularity. Different physiological materia medicas written by different authors are as follows:

- i. Physiological Materia Medica by Dr W. H. Burt.
- ii. Materia Medica and Therapeutics by Dr Shoemaker.
- iii. Materia Medica and Pharmacology by Dr Culbreth.
- iv. Botanical Materia Medica and Pharmacology by Dr S. H. Aurand.
- v. Materia Medica and Therapeutics by Dr C. J. Hempel.
- vi. Therapeutics, Materia Medica and Toxicology by Dr. H. C. Wood.
- vii. A Manual of Pharmacodynamics by Dr Richard Hughes.
- viii. Materia Medica by Dr Das Gupta.

3. Clinical Materia Medica

It is unfair and wrong to claim that there is any book consisting purely of clinical symptoms only. These books include and give more stress on clinical symptoms of the medicine.

Many homeopaths have written such clinical materia medicas. Some renowned authors like T.F. Allen and Dr Clarke have described clinical symptoms under separate captions and it is easy to understand and identify them but subsequent authors mix them and in such works like that of H. C. Allen, Farrington, Boericke, etc. it is impossible to identify or distinguish the clinical symptoms from the symptoms of proving.

The important books on clinical materia medica are as follows:

- i. Clinical Materia Medica by Dr E. A. Farrington.
- ii. The Prescriber by Dr J. H. Clarke.
- iii. Keynotes and Characteristics by Dr H.C. Allen.
- iv. Clinical Repertory by Dr Shedd.
- v. Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by Dr W. Boericke.
- vi. Pathology and Diagnostic Hints with Therapeutics by Dr C. G. Raues.
- vii. Handbook of Materia Medica by Dr T. F. Allen.
- viii. The Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica by Dr Clarke.

4. Comparative Materia Medica

Many homeopathic medicines are similar to each other and it is very difficult to differentiate them in order to prescribe a correct medicine to the patient.

It is essential to be able to differentiate one medicine from the other and this can be done only through the comparative study of drugs. The important works on these lines are done by Dr Farrington, Dr Gross and Dr Pierce.

The important books on comparative materia medica are as follows:

- i. Comparative Materia Medica by Dr E. A. Farrington.
- ii. Comparative Materia Medica by Dr H. Gross.
- iii. Plane Talks on Materia Medica by Dr Pierce.

5. Therapeutic Materia Medica

In day to day practice, knowledge of therapeutics is essential for every practitioner for that knowledge of applied materia medica is a must. Thus, some authors prepared books on this line.

Some important books on therapeutic materia medica are as follows:

- i. Pathology and Diagnostic Hints with Therapeutics by Dr C .G. Raues.
- ii. Therapeutics, Materia Medica and Toxicology by Dr H. C. Wood.
- iii. Materia Medica and Therapeutics by Dr Shoemaker.
- iv. Practical Homoeopathic Therapeutics by Dr Dewey.
- v. Textbook of Materia Medica and Therapeutics by Dr Cowperthwaite.
- vi. Homoeopathic Therapeutics by Dr S. Lilienthal.

6. Descriptive Materia Medica

This is the most popular and easiest way to remember the materia medica. The authors have described the drugs as if they were some living being. They have described everything very systematically. The whole pen picture of medicine is described in a unique way. The technique is wonderful in the hands of a master of the subject. Many authors do the most important work on descriptive type of materia medica.

Some important books on descriptive materia medica are as follows:

- i. Lectures on Homoeopathic Materia Medica by Dr J. T. Kent.
- ii. Homoeopathic Drug Pictures by Dr M. L. Tyler.
- iii. Textbook of Materia Medica by Dr N.M. Choudhury.
- iv. The Essence of Materia Medica by Dr Vithoulkas.

