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DEE MCLAUGHLIN

SEPARATION AND RETURN – A CASE

GEORGE VITHOULKAS

A B S I N T H I U M

RENÉ DOCKX & GUY KOKELENBERG

ACUTE ASTHMA REMEDIES

EDWARD WHITMONT

OPENING DOORS

BOB FORDHAM & RAJESH SHAH

A N A N T H E R U M

JEREMY SHERR

CEREUS BONPLANDII – THE GOOD PLANT

However these points should not detract too much from its value as a superb reference book.

My biggest disappointment was over the use of case examples from old sources. I am amazed at the decision to do this. The main reason Vithoulkas is so respected is because of his vast experience. To present so much new information and support it with cases from the last century that often do not illustrate the points he has made is an extraordinary thing to do.

It may be the Scottish blood in me but I do feel the book is over priced. There is a long list in the acknowledgements of people and organisations that have given financial assistance to the project and the book costs at least £50. Considering that there may be as many as 30 volumes eventually, it is going to be out of the reach of many practitioners. Dare I say it but the desirability and the price combined could well lead to illicit copies being made. My advice is to start saving now, these books are going to be an essential part of every conscientious homœopaths library.

RAJESH SHAH

MY EXPERIENCES WITH *FERRUM METALLICUM*

First edition 1992

Shree Publishers, Bombay, India

123 pages, hardback, cost £9.00

Reviewed by Bob Fordham
and Tricia Griffin

We must begin by saying how much we liked this small volume. Dr Rajesh Shah presents a new view of the remedy *Ferrum metallicum*, though the usefulness of the book goes beyond the simple development of a new aspect of this remedy.

The book itself is well-produced and well-printed. It looks as if it will outlast most of the books imported from India in our possession! The text is very readable, containing less than the usual number of idiomatic expressions of the sub-continent. Some readers may well consider that a disadvantage however!

Rajesh is a leading homœopath in Bombay where he is Honorary Physician at two large homœopathic hospitals and

an Honorary Lecturer at the CMP Homœopathic Medical College. Many people reading this review will be familiar with him through his teaching in the UK, USA and Europe. This book displays the same meticulous attention to detail which is to be discovered in Rajesh's teaching.

Here we find a very different *Ferrum metallicum* from that described by Kent in his lectures. While Kent relates the remedy through a discussion of its weakness, Dr Shah emphasises that the provings demonstrate many manifestations of tremendous strength of character. The term 'Iron will' has been given a new context. This helps us to balance Kent's view. A whole section is devoted to this aspect of the remedy, so that with Kent's material we have a remedy which combines both great strength and great weakness, a view which accords very well with the provings.

Rajesh gives a tantalising glimpse of his own innovation: the Phenomenological Approach to the understanding of materia medica and case analysis. He explores the remedy through its facets and phenomena. We hope a book will follow which develops these ideas fully as they merit discussion by as wide an audience as possible.

One of the major strengths of the book is the section on differential diagnosis. *Ferrum metallicum* compared with many polychrests and lesser known remedies like *Kali ferrocyanatum*, *Manganum* and *Acetic acid*.

Sections follow on the various organ systems of the body. Repertory additions are included along with over forty pages of case histories which help to illustrate the ideas presented.

The clinical experience contained within these pages is vast. Another of the contributions which Rajesh makes here is to skilfully weave the fabric of the text using quotes from Allen's *Encyclopaedia*, rubrics from the *Synthetic Repertory* and the patients' words. This juxtaposition will help the reader to translate freely between repertory, materia medica and patient. Thus a very worthwhile outcome of studying this book will be to improve accuracy in rubric selection and in recognition of remedy characteristics in the provings – and this will apply to any patient and any remedy.

In our opinion Rajesh has succeeded in his aim of helping every homœopath to perceive *Ferrum metallicum* in its broadest perspective.

Bob Fordham RSHom practises in Tyne & Weir and Tricia Griffin RSHom practises in Yorkshire.

ROBIN MURPHY

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL REPERTORY A MODERN ALPHABETICAL REPERTORY

Hahnemann Academy of North America
1993, 1590 pages hardback Bible
paper, £60. Reviewed by Louis Klein

I have always been a supporter and promoter of creative thinking within a verifiable construct in homœopathy. I believe this is part of the art of homœopathy and allows the practitioner to absorb and utilize information in an effective way. This *Repertory* is a step in the creative direction. It is an attempt at making a lot of technical information more readily accessible. Robin Murphy's creative organization of the material affords more readability especially for new practitioners and students. He has added some new sections in the *Repertory*, such as the section on 'Emergency' which can be very helpful. It is why this repertory has become very popular with new students of homœopathy.

Unlike repertories, most materia medicas reflect our creative understanding and clinical application of information. Therefore, each practitioner and teacher of homœopathy is going to have a different perspective of each remedy from his own understanding and experience. Within materia medica descriptions there will necessarily be some room for differences and creative impressions.

I believe, though, that the only room in a repertory for creativity or art is in the organization of the material under general headings, since the repertory is fundamentally a technical book reflecting our scientific rigour. The science, the other aspect of homœopathy, demands that we faithfully make our changes to the technical information with accuracy and consistency. We need to take very seriously any changes or additions to this fundamental information. Technical information in the repertory includes both rubric titles and remedies, with their grading, contained within each