

Zahed Mir

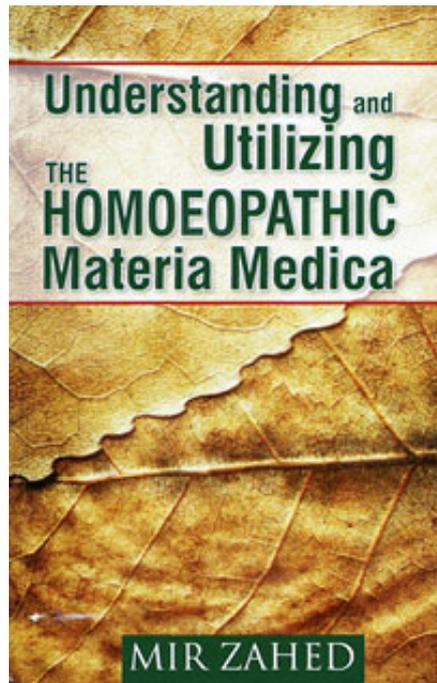
Understanding and Utilizing - the homeopathic materia medica

Reading excerpt

[Understanding and Utilizing - the homeopathic materia medica](#)

of [Zahed Mir](#)

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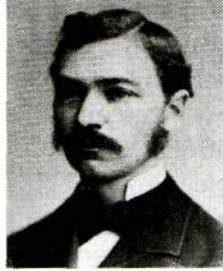
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POCKET MANUAL OF THE HOMOEOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA



William Boericke, M.D.

Homoeopathic profession owes great debt to Dr. William Boericke for preserving and translating into English the sixth edition of the *Organon*— the ripe fruit of the life work of our venerable master.

Boericke was born in Austria in 1849 and received his primary education in the public schools of Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated in 1863 and then engaged in the Homoeopathic pharmaceuticals with the celebrated firm Boericke & Tafel in Philadelphia. In 1876 he entered the Hahnemann Medical College where he was graduated in 1880. He served as editor of the *California Homoeopath*, founded the *Pacific Coast Journal of Homoeopathy* and edited it until 1915. He was one of incorporators of the Hahnemann College. He was a member of the California State Homoeopathic Society, and of the American Institute of Homoeopathy. Dr. Boericke was one of the board of trustees of Hahnemann College Hospital. Besides translation of *Organon's* sixth edition William Boericke presented the following books to the profession.

1. *Pocket Manual of Materia Medica with Repertory.*
2. *A Compend of the Principles of Homoeopathy.*
3. *Regionals of the Boericke's Materia Medica.*

Excerpt from M. Zahed.

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Boericke's Pocket Manual of Materia Medica became so popular that it went through 9 editions in life of the author. Basically it is a reference book but when the reader is well acquainted with the principles of Homoeopathy and values of different types of symptoms, it is equally a useful study book of Materia Medica. The book covers over 600 remedies including all polychrests and many rares. Two types of letters, roman and italic, have been used to indicate relative value of symptoms. He starts a remedy by describing its general action followed by its symptoms in schematic form. While describing symptoms he mentions comparable remedies so that the reader compare relevant remedies. It is a comprehensive and handy book for day to day practice; used by beginning and experienced homoeopaths. It also contains a useful reportorial section as well as a therapeutic index. Essential information of the included remedies has been given in a compact form. Boericke says,

"In its present compact form it contains the maximum number of reliable Materia Medica facts in the minimum space."

(Boericke, Pocket Manual of Materia Medica, Preface)

Regarding Boericke's Materia Medica beginners must know that it contains some medicines not fully proved according to homoeopathic principles. Such remedies are devoid of characteristic and individualizing symptoms upon which a homoeopathic selection always depends. We know that proving on healthy human beings is one of the basic principles of homoeopathy. We must abide by the principles. They are universal laws and we cannot practice homoeopathy confidently and successfully without following the laws. Characteristic and individualizing symptoms cannot be achieved/known without thorough provings and a confident and successful prescription cannot be secured without such symptoms. Thus, being homoeopaths, we can rely only on those remedies which have been well proved and their characteristic and individualizing symptoms have

been known. Those remedies which have only pathological or common symptoms are useless for homoeopathic purposes. Many people in homoeopathic circles use unproved medicines. I feel pity for those ignorant fellows who take non-homoeopathic medicines for homoeopathic ones and blame homoeopathy for the consequent failures. This happens due to lack of knowledge. When we have knowledge of well proved medicines and prescribe them precisely according to the law of similia similibus curentur the success is sure. We must have a sound and confident basis for prescription to be confident of cure.

On the other hand if we prescribe only on pathological symptoms (without characteristic and individualizing ones) based on the so-called pathological reports of the *Materia Medica*, then failures will be unavoidable. Many people prescribe such medicines as *Passiflora* for insomnia, *Avena Sativa* for nervous weakness, *Echinacea* for septic conditions and so on. Each of such pathological and common things is due to numerous causes and accompanied with varied symptoms. How a medicine can cure a disease in different patients with different causes and symptoms. Medicines devoid of characteristic and differentiating symptoms cannot be used for homoeopathic purposes and unproved medicines are not homoeopathic at all. Boericke has not introduced or suggested such medicines for homoeopathic practice. He has mentioned them only for the sake of future provings. If a remedy happens to produce clear, characteristic and homoeopathically essential symptoms then it can be used for homoeopathic purposes. But this is neither practicable nor advisable for beginners. This can be done with extensive knowledge and lot of experience. Thus beginners are strongly advised to follow the law and bring into practice only well proved remedies so that they may be sure of results. Boericke makes his plea for including unproved medicines into his *Materia Medica* as follows,

"I have tried to give a succinct resume of the symptomatology of every medicine used in Homoeopathy, including also clinical suggestions of many drugs so far not yet based on provings, thus offering the opportunity to experiment with these and by future provings discover their distinctive use and so enlarging our armamentarium.

I am aware that there is a difference of opinion about the advisability of further introduction of remedies, especially of such as seem obsolete or to some minds illusory. But it is not for the compiler to leave out any substance that received the clinical endorsement from a reliable source."

(Boericke, Pocket Manual of Materia Medica, Preface)

Now we have a more developed and practical book of Boericke's style. It is Frans Vermeulen's "Concordant Materia Materia Medica". Vermuelen has collected symptoms from Boericke, Boger, Clarke, Lippe, Phatak, Pulford, Cowperthwaite, Allen and Kent and compiled them in such a way that all the authentic material of these books has become available to the reader without repetition. So Vermeulen's Materia Medica being categorically like that of Boericke has become a more practical book.

LYCOPODIUM CLAVATUM (CLUB MOSS)

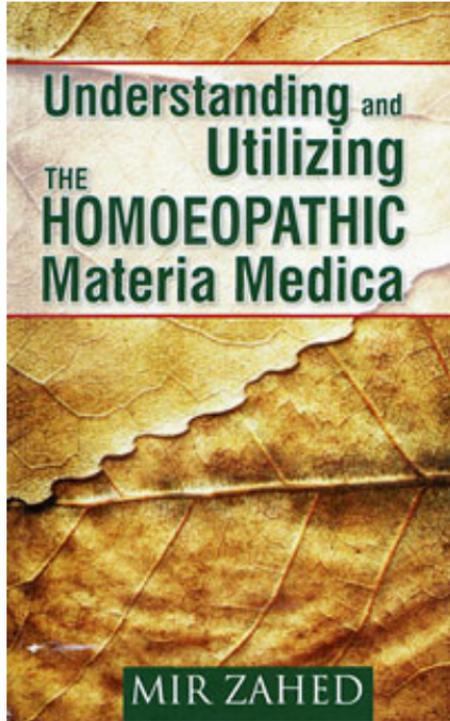
This drug is inert until the spores are crushed. Its wonderful medicinal properties are only disclosed by trituration and succussion.

In nearly all cases where Lycopodium is the remedy, some evidence of urinary or digestive disturbance will be found. Corresponds to Grauvogel's carbo-nitrogenoid constitution, the non-eliminative lithaemic. Lycopodium is adapted more especially to ailments gradually developing, functional power weakening, with failures of the digestive powers, where the function of the liver is seriously disturbed.

Atony. Malnutrition. Mild temperaments of lymphatic constitution, with catarrhal tendencies; older persons, where the skin shows yellowish spots, earthy complexion, uric acid diathesis, etc; also precocious, weakly children. Symptoms characteristically run from right to left, acts especially on right side of body, and are worse from about 4 to 8 pm. In kidney affections, red sand in urine, backache, in renal region; worse before urination. Intolerant of cold drinks; craves everything warm. Best adapted to persons intellectually keen, but of weak, muscular power. Deep-seated, progressive, chronic diseases. Carcinoma. Emaciation. Debility in morning. Marked regulating influence upon the glandular (sebaceous) secretions. Pre-senility. Ascites, in liver disease. Lycop. patient is thin, withered, full of gas and dry. Lacks vital heat; has poor circulation, cold extremities. Pains come and go suddenly. Sensitive to noise and odors.

Mind: Melancholy; afraid to be alone. Little things annoy, Extremely sensitive. Averse to undertaking new things. Head strong and haughty when sick. Loss of self-confidence. Hurried when eating. Constant fear of breaking down under stress. Apprehensive. Weak memory, confused thoughts; spells or writes wrong words and syllables. Failing brain-power (Anac; Phos; Baryt). Cannot bear to see anything new. Cannot read what he writes. Sadness in morning on awaking.

Head: Shakes head without apparent cause. Twists face and mouth. Pressing headache on vertex; worse from 4 to 8 pm, and from lying down or stooping, if not eating regularly (Cact). Throbbing headache after every paroxysm of coughing. Headaches over eyes in severe colds; better, uncovering (Sulph). Vertigo in morning on rising. Pain in temples, as if they



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