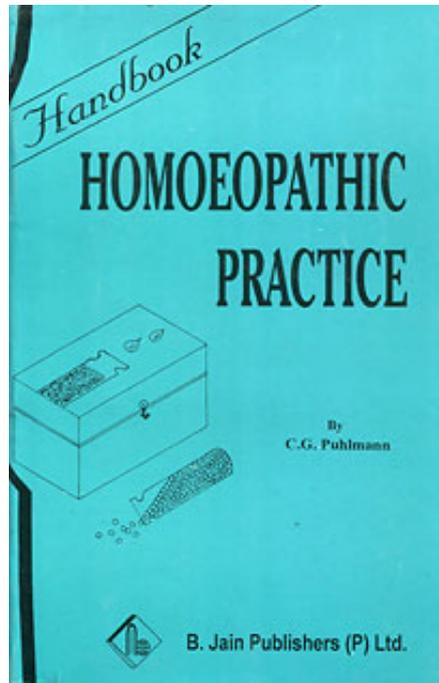


C.G. Puhmann Handbook of Homoeopathic Practice

Reading excerpt
[Handbook of Homoeopathic Practice](#)
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PREFACE.

This work is based on the experience obtained in the course of about thirty years of homoeopathic practice. Owing to the circumstance that no observer has himself seen and examined the whole of the subjects, covering the entire range of medicine, on which he writes, and that in the short space of human life it is impossible to have witnessed all that is described in a complete therapeutic treatise, the author has from the commencement of the work, extending over a period of more than ten years, obtained both the direct and indirect co-operation of skilled and judicious observers who possess a thorough knowledge of materia medica and are experienced in therapeutics; for the determination of therapeutic results is always to be attained if those who have experience can also observe correctly. For this reason the confirmation of the efficacy and the practical use of homoeopathic therapeutics is only exceptionally sought where it is customary to look for it, that is, in professional journals, for the cases of cure which are published are almost exclusively an exhibit of successes, and it is not reported that to half a dozen cases of cures there are as many cases of failures. Much more use therefore has been made of the clinical journals, for to many questions they furnish more prompt and candid information; and there have also been brought into service the journals, dating for twenty-two years past, of Dr. Rohowsky, the senior staff physician of the homoeopathic poliklinik of Dr. Schwabe's Central Pharmacy in Leipzig, which up to 1889 was under the management of the well-known and efficient pharmacologist and homoeopathic therapist, the late Dr. C. Heinigke, whom the author assisted for many long years. Besides these, there are in part the clinical journal

of the late Dr. Pfeil and also the private journal of Dr. Heinigke and other practical homoeopaths, so that the number of cases on which the therapeutic portion of this work is founded exceeds 80,000. From this wealth of material, only indisputable cases, as far as possible, that is marked cases of improvement and cure are taken for this work. And hence adherents of the investigation of the materia medica may deem it somewhat meagre. But we feel it important not to insert what we find is not proved or is only asserted, or this work would be a fallacious guide in the treatment of the sick, for it is evident that the same results should follow if the cases treated are accessible to homoeopathic therapeutics. For this reason, other works as those of Farrington, Heinigke, etc. are of service only for the filling up of therapeutic gaps and to furnish precise indications for remedies.

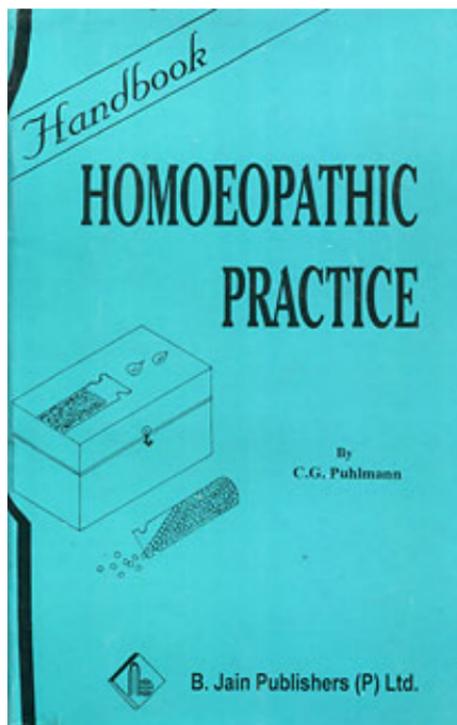
The advice given in the present work in respect to homoeopathic therapeutics should render the way plain to the beginner in homoeopathy and enable him later on, on the basis of good materia medicas, as those of Farrington and Heinigke, to study the homoeopathic method of cure with success; and this has been proved by many others, for more than a hundred physicians in the course of a year repair to the above-mentioned poliklinik for homoeopathic clinical instruction and both by letter and by word of mouth the author is enabled to supply them with practical information. By means of the simplified form comprised in the materia medica forming Part XI. of this work, and which is free from superfluous ballast, those who are not conversant with the matter may often obtain correct advice from the beginning, and especially is this the case when physicians who enter on the study of homoeopathy with some mistrust or are repelled by the prolixity of homoeopathic symptomatology in compendious works are thereby fettered. One other effect, it should be expressly observed, this work should not have, at least for physicians. They will learn to avoid those who only engage in theoretical disputes and make no practical trial of the value of homoeopathy. And if they first acquire confidence in what this work sets forth they will by degrees make more or less use of other homoeopathic works, and from the instruction thus obtained their steps will lead to a deeper knowledge of homoeopathy, and they may then proceed with much greater safety from the more objective to the subjective signs which

have characterized the ground work of this mode of cure up to the present time. And this concerns not merely the medicinal indications in themselves but also the medicinal quantity or potency which may be arrived at in the application of homoeopathic practice. This will be found treated of in a separate Part at pp. 38 to 51, which should be referred to. Thanks are due to the above mentioned Drs. Heinigke and Pfeil, as we find that their therapeutic results commonly arose from administration of the higher potencies up to the thirtieth, although they not infrequently employed lower potencies. To exclusively recommend the former and to place the latter in the second line appears to us for two reasons to be impracticable. For, from our computation, the middle and lower potencies were employed in two-thirds of the 80,000 cases referred to, and in infectious diseases they were used with decidedly greater effect. But again, as before observed, hardly any one who is unable to reflect with the knowledge obtained by a homoeopathist can resolve to begin practical researches with the high potencies. But practice and many other circumstances lead him in time to the correct standpoint.

In respect to the pathological portions of this work, the very different arrangement and treatment of the matter from that followed in all other works of the kind is justified by the fact that it approximates homoeopathy to the scientific discoveries of the time. At the same time it is not a work for experienced homoeopathists, or the matter would have been followed out in this respect much more fully. The object is to satisfy two kinds of readers; not only professional ones who are already familiar with homoeopathy, but also educated persons in general who wish to be instructed in medicine and in homoeopathic therapeutics. And the experienced physician may rest assured that the latter will certainly not be misled by study of this work. For, on the contrary, many who undervalue medical science because therapeutic knowledge is unfortunately very often not on a par with it, will hence understand what a radically scientific education every homoeopathic physician must have received. Besides this, when illness occurs, not every one is able to repair to a doctor, to say nothing of finding a physician experienced in homoeopathy; and officers on board vessels, missionaries, etc. require a certain acquaintance with medical knowledge. For this reason especial consideration is needed for persons

resident in the tropics, where diseases are developed with extreme vehemence, which in a temperate climate are manifested only in a moderate degree; and this circumstance has been taken into consideration in this work so as to render it serviceable for the purpose. This has required the insertion of illustrations, some of which have appeared in the "Lehrbuch der homoeopathischen Therapie" (Guide to Homoeopathic Therapeutics) which is issued by the same publisher in five large editions of 3500 copies, and which serve to show the various necessary localizations, which are in their turn taken from Beigel's excellent "Atlas der Frauenkrankheiten" (Atlas of Diseases of Women), from Luschka's "Anatomie des* Menschen" (Human Anatomy) and from Wesener's "Medicinisch-klinischer Diagnostik" and are also newly inserted, but in part by permission of the publishers of the excellent "Handbuch der physikalischen Untersuchungsmethoden" (Handbook of the Methods of Physical Examination) of Dr. Herm. Eichhorst For the latter category of readers a hygienic section is comprised in each Part; and if for many this work is at least from this arrangement a lever to raise to a higher level of instruction and a better condition of health, its object will not have failed.

The Author.



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609 pages, hb
publication 1994



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