

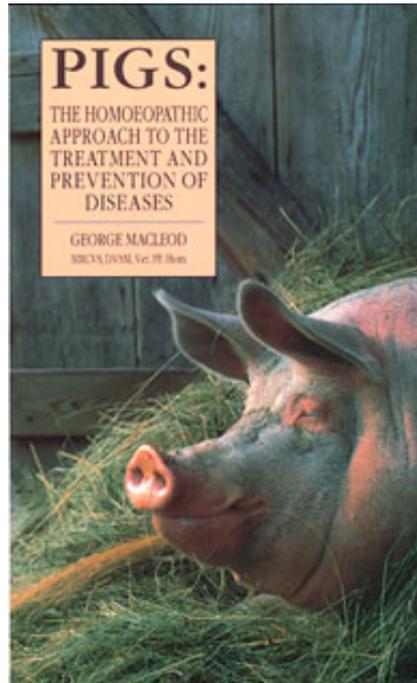
George MacLeod

Pigs: The Homeopathic Approach to the Treatment and Prevention of Diseases

Reading excerpt

[Pigs: The Homeopathic Approach to the Treatment and Prevention of Diseases](#)
of [George MacLeod](#)

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INTRODUCTION

THE TREATMENT of pigs by homoeopathy presents difficulties which do not arise when the same form of treatment is carried out in other species. This is because oral administration is particularly difficult in older animals, although this method is relatively easy in piglets and other young animals.

As the great majority of pig diseases are specific in nature (i.e. bacterial or viral orientated) it was decided to omit a general description of non-specific conditions affecting the various body systems as is the case in other publications by the author relating to other species.

The exceptions to this are the chapters dealing with affections of the skin, reproductive and urogenital systems.

We would emphasise the importance of the prophylactic approach to disease control of pig diseases by homoeopathic means. This relies on the use of nosodes against the various conditions (see chapter on nosodes).

Although the following pages concentrate on the treatment and prevention of disease it must be emphasised that management and proper housing are of paramount importance in maintaining an environment which is favourable to the employment of the remedies. In other words any system which produces stress and overcrowding together with inadequate ventilation will inevitably reduce the efficacy of the remedies. It is essential therefore that management practices will take this into account.

Not all of the diseases discussed in the text are of interest to pig producers in the United Kingdom but they have been included in the hope that they may be of interest to pig farmers in other countries. Also some of the diseases discussed are subject to restrictions under the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders, but they have been included in the hope that owners may recognise the cardinal symptoms of these diseases and take action accordingly.

The nature of Homoeopathic Remedies

Homoeopathic remedies are obtained from all natural sources, e.g. the plant and animal kingdoms and also minerals and their compounds. Homoeopathy is frequently referred to — quite erroneously — as herbal medicine. Nothing could be further from the truth as consideration of the above remarks will show. While herbal medicine employs many plants successfully it is unable to exploit the intrinsic merits of plants in the way that homoeopathic medicine is able to do.

Preparation of Remedies

Preparation of homoeopathic remedies is a scientific procedure which is best left to a qualified pharmacist trained in the essential techniques. Homoeopathy is too important for remedies to be prepared in any way but the best obtainable.

Briefly the system is based on a series of dilutions and succussions (see below) which is capable of rendering even a poisonous substance safe to use.

To prepare a potentised remedy, a measured drop of a solution called mother tincture - expressed as the Greek letter 0 - derived from plant or other material is added to 99 drops of a water/alcohol mixture in a test tube. The resultant solution is subjected to a mechanical shock which is

called succussion. This process which is essential to the preparation imparts energy to the medium which is then rendered stable. One drop of 0 to 99 parts of water/alcohol mixture is represented by 1c on the centesimal scale. Preparations are also made on the decimal scale (one drop to 10 parts alcohol/water). These are marketed as 1x (on the continent as D). Repeated dilutions and succussions yield higher potencies releasing more energy in the process. It will be appreciated therefore that homoeopathy is a system of medicine which concerns itself with energy and not with material doses of a drug.

Selection of Potencies

Once the simillimum or 'most likely' remedy has been selected the question of which potency to use arises. As a general rule in the author's experience the higher potencies (1m-10m) which are more energised than the lower should be employed in acute infections while the lower (6c-30c) should be reserved for chronic conditions with or without pathological changes being present. It will be found occasionally that there are exceptions to this point of view and indeed many practitioners especially on the continent rely mostly on lower potencies for general use.

The potencies mentioned under each remedy in the text are a guide only. Higher potencies will necessitate professional advice.

Administration of Remedies

Remedies are marketed as medicated tablets and powders and also as tinctures and water dilutions. When treating piglets and weaners it should be relatively easy to treat the individual animal orally by emptying the remedy (preferably in powder form) directly on to the animal's tongue when

PIGS: HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES

the essence of the remedy will quickly be absorbed into the system. The treatment of large animals necessitates a different approach and in this case the remedy should be given in drinking water. This also applies to the prophylactic use of nosodes (see below).

Care of Remedies

The delicate nature of homoeopathic remedies which is inherent in their preparation renders them subject to contamination by strong-smelling substances, e.g. camphor, scents, disinfectants, etc. and also by strong sunlight. It is essential therefore that they be kept away from such influences and stored in a cool dry place out of strong sunlight. The use of amber glass bottles is helpful in this connection for the storage of tablets.

Nosodes and Oral Vaccines

It will be noticed in the text under treatment of various specific conditions that reference is made to the term 'nosode', and it is necessary to explain fully to what the term refers. A nosode (from the Greek NOSOS, meaning disease) is a disease product obtained from any part of the system in a case of illness and thereafter potentised in the same way as for ordinary remedies, e.g. respiratory secretions from a case of Pasteurella Pneumonia or bowel secretions from a case of Swine Dysentery. In specific (bacterial, viral and protozoal disease) the causative organism may or may not be present in the material and the efficacy of the nosode in no way depends on the organism being present. The response of the tissues to invasion by bacteria or viruses results in the formation of substances which are in effect the basis of the nosode.

Oral vaccines are prepared from the actual organism

which causes a disease and may derive from filtrates containing only the exotoxins of the bacteria, or from emulsions containing both bacteria and their toxins. These filtrates and emulsions are then potentised and become oral vaccines.

There are two ways of employing nosodes and oral vaccines:

1. THERAPEUTICALLY AND 2. PROPHYLACTICALLY

When we employ nosodes therapeutically we may use them for the condition from which the nosode was derived, e.g. Swine Dysentery in the treatment of that disease. This may be termed isopathic (treatment with a substance from an animal suffering from the *same* disease): or we may employ the nosode in any condition the symptoms of which resemble the symptom-complex of the particular nosode, e.g. the use of the nosode *PSORINUM* in the treatment of the particular form of skin disease which appears in the provings of that nosode. This may be termed homoeopathic (treatment with a substance taken from an animal suffering from a *similar* disease). In this connection it must be remembered that many nosodes have been proved in their own right (each has its own particular drug picture). Many veterinary nosodes have been developed but no provings exist for them and they are used almost entirely in the treatment or prevention of the associated diseases.

AUTONOSODES

This particular type of nosode is prepared from material provided by the individual patient, e.g. pus from a chronic sinus or fistula and after potentisation used for the treatment of the same patient. Autonosodes are usually employed in refractory cases where well-indicated remedies have failed to produce the desired results and frequently they produce striking results.

ORAL VACCINES

As with nosodes oral vaccines may be used both therapeutically and prophylactically. If the condition is caused wholly by bacterial or viral invasion the use of the oral vaccine is frequently attended by spectacular results, but this is less likely when there is an underlying chronic condition complicating an acute infection. Here we may need the help of constitutional and/or other remedies.

BOWEL NOSODES

The bowel nosodes comprise a special group derived from the non-lactose fermenting bacteria of the bowel, viz. the *Salmonella* and *E. coli* families. Research on this subject by the late Dr. John Paterson showed that an increase in the number of such organisms followed treatment by particular homeopathic remedies. He therefore concluded that these particular nosodes were associated with particular remedies.

The bowel nosodes which concern us in veterinary practice are as follows:

1. MORGAN
2. PROTEUS
3. GAERTNER
4. DYS Co
5. SYCOTIC Co

MORGAN Clinical observations have revealed the symptom-picture of the bacillus Morgan to cover in general digestive and respiratory systems with an action also on fibrous tissue and skin. It is used principally in the treatment of inflammatory skin conditions combined with an associated remedy, these being one of *SULPHUR*, *GRAPHITES*, *PETROLEUM* and *PSORINUM*.

PROTEUS The central and peripheral nervous systems figure prominently in the clinical picture of this nosode, e.g. convulsions and seizures together with spasm of the peripheral circulation; cramping of muscles is a common feature; angio-neurotic oedema frequently occurs and there

is a marked sensitivity to ultra-violet light. Associated remedies are *CUPRUM METALLICUM* and *NATRUM MURIATICUM*.

GAERTNER Marked emaciation and/or malnutrition is associated with this nosode. Chronic gastroenteritis occurs and there is a tendency for the animal to become infested with worms. There is an inability to digest fat. Associated remedies are *MERC CORR*, *PHOSPHORUS* and *SILICEA*.

DYS CO. This nosode is chiefly concerned with disturbances of the digestive and cardiac systems. Pyloric spasm occurs with retention of digested stomach contents leading to vomiting. There is functional disturbance of the heart's action, usually as a result of tension. Associated remedies are *ARSENICUM ALBUM*, *ARGENTUM NITRICUM* and *KALMLA LATIFOLIA*.

SYCOTIC CO. The keynote of this nosode is sub-acute or chronic inflammation of mucous membranes especially those of the intestinal tract where a chronic catarrhal enteritis develops. Chronic bronchitis and nasal catarrh have also been noted. Associated remedies are *MERC CORR*, *NITRIC ACID* and *HYDRASTIS*.

MAIN INDICATIONS FOR THE USE OF BOWEL NOSODES

When a case is presented showing one or two leading symptoms which suggest a particular remedy we should employ that remedy, if necessary in varying potencies, before abandoning it and resorting to another if unsatisfactory results ensue. In chronic disease there may be conflicting symptoms which suggest several competing remedies and it is here that the bowel nosodes may be used with advantage. A study of the associated remedies will usually lead us to the particular nosode to be employed. The question of potency and repetition of dosage assumes special

importance when considering the use of bowel nosodes. The low to medium potencies, e.g. 6c—30c are more suitable for this purpose than the higher ones and can be safely administered daily for a few days. Bowel nosodes are deep-acting remedies and should not be repeated until a few months have elapsed since the previous prescription.

I am indebted to the late Dr John Paterson for his observations on and research into the bowel nosodes.

Vaccination procedure

This is based on the use of nosodes and/or oral vaccines. There is no hard and fast rule concerning frequency of administration but a system which has yielded satisfactory results is to give a single dose - preferably in powder form - night and morning for three days, followed by one per week for four weeks. This is the procedure which should be followed for piglets up to weaning stage. Where young pigs are to be kept for breeding this regime can be extended to cover a further dose monthly for six months.

In the case of adult animals — sows, gilts and boars — vaccination should be carried out via the drinking water. A suggested course of action which has proved satisfactory is first to dissolve ten powders in 500ml of distilled water, preferably in an amber glass bottle. From this stock solution 10ml can be added to the drinking water per week for eight weeks. After an interval of two weeks this procedure can be repeated. This should build up an adequate resistance to most of the commoner infections.

There is a fundamental difference between conventional vaccination and that using the oral route. The former involves the subcutaneous or intramuscular injection of an antigen (vaccine material) which after an interval of ten or twenty days produces antibodies in the blood stream against

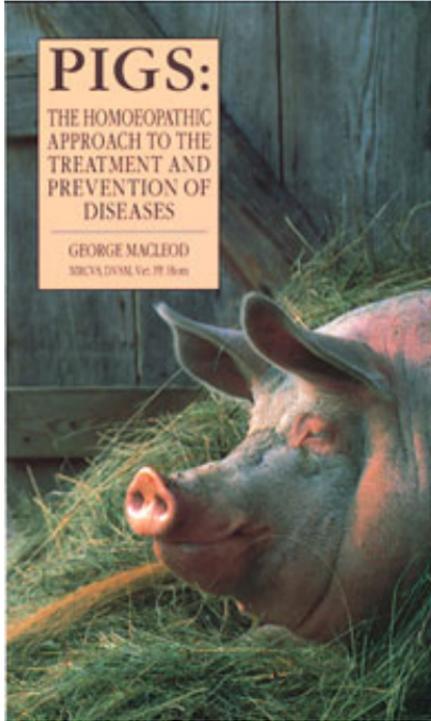
the particular antigen - described usually as humoral antibody response. While in most cases by this method a degree of protection against the particular disease is established, the procedure can be criticised on two grounds:

1. The defence system is not fully incorporated by this means and
2. there is a risk of side-effects due to the foreign nature of the protein factor involved in the vaccine. This aspect of conventional vaccination has been well documented in other species.

By contrast oral vaccination gives a more solid immunity inasmuch as it incorporates the entire defence system which is mobilised as soon as the vaccine is taken into the mouth and builds up protection with each further dose. This buildup leads on from tonsillar tissue through the lymphatics finally engaging the entire reticulo-endothelial system. This procedure is equivalent to what is known as "street infection" viz. ingestion of virus etc. during daily contact with animals which are already infected or shedding virus from time to time. Another advantage to protection by homeopathic means is that piglets can be treated in the first week of life if necessary which removes the necessity of waiting until maternal antibodies have been eliminated from the system, as nosodes can produce their protection even in the presence of these antibodies.

VACCINATION FAILURE

Even though they have been vaccinated some animals may develop disease and this could occur on account of various factors e.g. incubation of disease may be taking place at the time the vaccine is administered. Again contamination of the vaccine may be a factor. Occasionally also immunosuppression may be a factor preventing successful vaccination.



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