INTRODUCTION

WHETHER AMATEUR PRESCRIBER, beginning practitioner, or well-known professional homoeopath, who amongst us hasn't at some time struggled to answer the questions: Has the remedy acted and is it still acting? How long should I watch and wait? Is the patient experiencing new symptoms, a return of original (presenting) symptoms, or old symptoms from the past? Is there such a thing as the "standstill" phase? Why hasn't the patient responded to a well-indicated remedy?

When was the last time you racked your brain struggling for clarity in a situation where patient and symptoms suddenly went haywire, or the patient suddenly went into a serious, rapid decline and you didn't know why or what to do next? All these questions and ponderings amount to what is probably the most difficult aspect of homoeopathic treatment, when and how to make the successful second prescription.

Drawing on the most reliable classical sources, this book endeavors to lead the reader step by step through the complicated process of evaluation and decision-making after the first homoeopathic prescription has been made. In this book you will find the most common remedy action scenarios accompanied by evaluation criteria and recommendations for further action and the philosophical principles on which they are based. I have
quoted liberally from the classical sources and, for the sake of fluency, have also paraphrased quotes within the text, giving the references so that the reader may seek out the exact wording.

If you are a practitioner or student, this book will serve as a guide and constant companion. If you use homoeopathy, caring for your family’s first aid needs, or are a homoeopathic patient seeking to understand your therapeutic process, this book will give you practical guidance and a clear understanding of homoeopathy.

At the moment of the second prescription, patients are at a critical crossroad in treatment. Since everything rests upon the practitioner’s understanding of exactly what has happened to the patient after administration of the first prescription, success or failure to cure is in delicate balance. For some, the second prescription is the phase of homoeopathic practice that causes the greatest anxiety, consternation, and confusion. To avoid its becoming the biggest obstacle to cure calls for artistry and skill.

When decisions are made following the fundamental principles of classical homoeopathic practice, the second prescription treatment phase is the moment that holds the greatest promise of truly healing the sick, as Hahnemann instructs, gently, rapidly, and permanently. In modern practice we are faced with increasingly complicated cases, the result of lifelong suppressive treatment* and the inevitable imbalances of stressful lifestyles.

* See pages 27-28 for explanation of suppression.
To reduce suffering, homoeopathic practitioners must possess the most comprehensive understanding of our healing art. In this regard, to be successful, it is extremely important to be conscious of what we rely on to guide our understanding and decisions during the second prescription evaluation process. Should we rely solely on intuition, the vagaries of our psychic abilities, and forget logical thinking?

If you talk with a great many physicians concerning the observations you have made after giving the remedy you will find that the majority of them have only whims or notions on this subject and see nothing after the prescription is made.¹

Surely, for the patient's sake, we should better rely on something with substance; something with a proven track record of success utilized by great homoeopaths again and again in every imaginable circumstance—Hahnemann's clearly comprehensible, fundamental principles of practice. Far from being someone's pet theory, they originate and have their roots in ancient medical and philosophical writings. Their application was researched and developed by the founder and the greatest practitioner/teacher of homoeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. They are explained in his Organon of Medicine and were practiced with confidence and tremendous success by his dedicated students and followers including Boenninghausen, Hering, Kent, Dunham, Close, the Farringtons, Wright-Hubbard, and many others.
Confronted daily with perplexing situations, wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to phone, fax, e-mail, and download any of these great practitioners for quick, calm advice on how to unravel confusion and rapidly reduce the patient's suffering?

In the present climate of impatience and constant rush to develop "new improved" versions of everything, let's not risk ignoring the meticulous, valuable work of the great, past masters of classical homoeopathy. Jam-packed with precious jewels of information, their wealth of writings are based on a clever combination of the clearest understanding of Hahnemann's work, together with their own massive clinical experience and careful research.* True scientists don't reject past experience; they build on what has gone before and try to come to a greater understanding of it. No one need revolutionize or reinvent the homoeopathic wheel. The comprehensive work of these great practitioner/teachers is as valuable today as it was when written and forms the firmest foundation on which to build the classical homoeopathy of the future. As Kent eloquently put it:

Some of experience make lesser blunders and some make few, but how many have made none? All these blunders I have made, as I had

* As an example, see the low versus high potency prescription experiment conducted at Leopoldstadt Hospital, Vienna from 1850 to 1859, described in Dunham's *Homoeopathy, the Science of Therapeutics*. 
no teacher, until I blundered upon the works of
the great Master.2

Practicing homoeopathy without the guidance of
our most experienced and successful predecessors, we
are travelers without a map, wandering aimlessly about,
unable to reach our destination. Such confusion is a di-
saster for the patient. If we carefully examine Hahne-
mann's expert system we'll find all the clarity and tools
necessary for the restoration of health to people the
world over and once again raise confidence in the effi-
cacy of homoeopathy.

In the current worldwide resurgence of interest in
homoeopathy, it is vital to remember that homoeopathy
itself is constantly being judged. In all aspects of prac-
tice, as homoeopaths of today and tomorrow we hold
in our hands the success or failure of Dr. Samuel Hahne-
mann's simple, scientific, complete, and beneficial  sys-
tem of medicine. As he says in the Organon:

Thus homoeopathy is a perfectly simple sys-
tem of medicine, remaining always fixed in its
principles as in its practice, which, like the doc-
trine whereon it is based, if rightly appre-
hended will be found to be complete and there-
fore serviceable.3*

To let the voices of the great masters ring in your
ears and to help you make accurate and effective second
prescriptions, I humbly offer this work and passionatel

* Preface to the Organon. Most quotes are from the sixth edi-
tion of this work, translated by Boericke.
urge you to take up the precision tools of your trade: The original works of Hahnemann and his early followers. Study for the first time or reacquaint yourself with their writings. Let them become to you, as they have become to me, reliable, true friends and colleagues. I guarantee, in your hour of need, they'll never let you down.

INTRODUCTION

1. Kent, Lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy, Lecture 35, Pg. 244
2. Kent, Minor Writings, pg. 2.36.
Nicola Henriques

**Crossroads to Cure**
The Homoeopath’s Guide to Second Prescription

190 pages, pb
publication 1998

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