

Veterinary Homoeopathy – An Historical View

by STEVEN KAYNE

I was prompted by the Association's involvement at Cruft's and by the fact that this year is the 150th anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann's death in Paris in 1843, to take a brief look at the early development of veterinary homoeopathy.

The full publication of a hitherto unknown manuscript by Hahnemann⁽¹⁾ gave a fascinating insight to the thoughts of the Founder with respect to the veterinary applications of homoeopathy. The original document comprised twelve hand written pages prepared for a lecture entitled 'The homoeopathic science of healing domestic animals'. It is not clear whether Hahnemann actually presented the lecture, nor the occasion on which it might have been delivered.

There has been considerable dubiety over the precise date of the manuscript, with commentators' estimates ranging from 1811 to 1829. It started with a statement of the basic principles of homoeopathic veterinary medicine, including emphasis on a requirement for carrying out provings on healthy animals. Unfortunately, this latter aspect is generally overlooked in modern times.

Currently, most veterinary remedies are used on the basis of either their human applications, or the prescriber's clinical experience. There are few instances of drug pictures that account for different species. Apart from the polychrests, this leads to variable results in unskilled hands.

Hahnemann stated that 'animals can communicate the symptoms of their illnesses as aptly and certain as 'humans', and 'animals' symptoms of disease are very obvious to the observing eyes'. Although he did not mention the obstacles that arise in treating animals holistically, he did refer to the problems of overcoming the traditional medical thinking of the day.

Hahnemann concluded 'They (*animals*) do not lie to us or deceive us, as humans do when they indulge secretly in what is harmful to them without letting the physician know it. In one word, animals can be cured homoeopathically at least as safely and certainly as humans'.

Some 30-40 years after Hahnemann's manuscript was written, veterinary homoeopathy reached its greatest popularity, being practised mainly by owners as an alternative to the use of emetics, expectorants and blood letting⁽²⁾.

In 1889 James Moore and Son of London published their tenth edition of *Outlines of Veterinary Homoeopathy*⁽³⁾ comprising horse, cow, hog, sheep and dog treatments. The book was aimed at both practitioners and the general public. The authors claimed homoeopathy to be superior to other medicines because:

1. small doses of medicines were utilised, resulting in

- financial savings
- the animals recovered more quickly and could resume work
- the animals were treated in a more kindly way
- many diseases (including milk fever and pneumonia) that would not respond to medicines of the day apparently could be cured by homoeopathy.

The text described disease progressions, listing appropriate remedies in great detail. It was thought that medicines should not be mixed, but that treatment could begin with one medicine and end with another.

A year later the *Handbook to Veterinary Homoeopathy* by John Rush appeared, with an appendix of early English case records⁽⁴⁾. The book was based on a German text, and in common with other contemporary works did not give any guidance on the treatment of cats.

Homoeopathic veterinary treatment subsequently fell out of favour for many years, but began to enjoy a substantial revival during the 1980's⁽⁵⁾. This may have been due to owners' perception of enhanced risk/benefit ratios, lack of residue problems in farm animals or dissatisfaction with the treatment offered by allopathic vets.

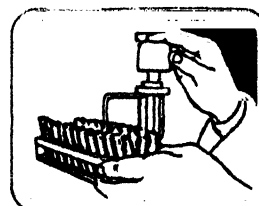
As far as practitioners are concerned it is being realised that homoeopathy provides a wider range of medicaments with which to treat, for example, fright symptoms in nervous breeds of companion animals or neonatal scouring in calves. Veterinarians have been shown to favour the six common remedies *Arnica*, *Rhus Tox*, *Arsen alb*, *Pulsatilla*, *Hypericum* and *Sulphur* more than others⁽⁶⁾.

In the first 88 years of this century there were 620 reports published on proofs of veterinary efficacy. An analysis has demonstrated that only six of these represent scientifically acceptable evidence, the rest suffering from defects in methodology⁽⁷⁾. However, modern methods are now improving⁽⁸⁾ and more recent work aims to satisfy the sceptics. A review of this research will be provided later in the year.

References:

- 1) Kaiser D. A rediscovered manuscript of one of Hahnemann's basic writings. *CHQ*, 1991; 4: 66-71
- 2) Coulter DBC. Veterinary homoeopathy: the implications of its history for unorthodox veterinary concepts and veterinary medical education. *Journal Veterinary Med.* 1979; 6: 117-122.
- 3) Moore J, Editor. *Outlines of Veterinary Homoeopathy*. London: Leath & Ross, 1889.
- 4) Rush J. *The Hand-Book to Veterinary Homoeopathy*. Philadelphia: Hahnemann Publishing House, 1890.
- 5) Kayne SB, Maguire A. Attitudes to homoeopathy amongst veterinarians. *Journal Complementary Medicine* 1993; (in print).
- 6) Kayne SB. Homoeopathic veterinary prescribing. *British Homoeopathic Journal* 1992; 81: 25-28.
- 7) Kowalski M. The administration of homoeopathic preparations as described in the literature of veterinary medicine. *Homoeopathy International R&D Newsletter* 1991; 2(1): 2.
- 8) Fisher P. Remedies on trial. *Chemist & Druggist* 1992; 237: 615-616.

(See Book List for further reading – Ed.)



Book Review

The Women's Guide to Homoeopathy

by Drs. ANDREW LOCKIE and NICOLA GEDDES

351pp, published by Hamish Hamilton Ltd.,

ISBN 0-241-13151-0

hard-back price £18.99 --- by post £22.75

Andrew Lockie was author of the best selling highly acclaimed work "The Family Guide to Homoeopathy", published both in hard-back and soft-back form.

Confronted with this 351 page follow-up, the appraisal is similar to that of all book-shop browsers and library subscribers.

A look at the fly sheet --- What is the book about?

"Women's ailments have tended to be neglected by conventional medicine as either psychosomatic and thereby untreatable, or simply part of the burden of being a female. This detailed and practical guide to homoeopathy for women aims to redress this imbalance by covering women's ailments from PMS to the menopause, cystitis to obesity (and much else besides). . . . At all points in the female cycle of development - birth growth and maturity - subtle symptoms of constitutional weakness can be picked out by careful homoeopathic analysis and treated before they turn into chronic disease. This book shows how women can help themselves. . . ."

Sounds interesting. The authors are GPs and registered medical practitioners --- encouraging! So what does the contents list contain that would be of interest?

Part 1: An explanation of homoeopathy and the way the licensed medicines are prepared and administered.

- The role of homoeopathy in medicine.
- The ways in which homoeopathy may be used in conjunction with conventional medicine.
- An outline of case-taking.
- Finding a doctor, etc.

Altogether a complete review of many of the questions that arise.

Part 2: Has detailed sections on choosing medicines for a wide variety of ailments and conditions.

- Weight problems
- Fatigue
- Pre-Menstrual Syndrome
- Thrush
- Cystitis
- Menstrual problems
- Sexual and relationship problems
- Fertility and Pregnancy
- Childbirth and Postnatal problems
- Special problems in infants
- Menopause
- Mental and Emotional problems
- Beauty care problems

Part 2 is headed by a statement on how to use the section. More importantly, a set of symbols is detailed to determine the degree of urgency of treatment required. For example:

- 999 --- Emergency --- call GP or ambulance
- 2 --- Consult your doctor if no improvement in 2 hours
- 12 --- Consult your doctor if no improvement in 12 hours
- 24 --- Consult your doctor if no improvement in 24 hours
- 48 --- Consult your doctor if no improvement in 48 hours

Thereafter each situation is dealt with in detail and when one says **detail**, it is thorough detail. The particular homoeopathic medicines to suit the specific symptomatology are listed with the symptoms of significance.

Part 3:

Is an A-Z of "Other Conditions" and runs from Abdominal distension to Varicose veins.

Part 4:

Deals in a common-sense way with Nutrition, encompassing Nutritional Supplements and Special Diets. Not only sound advice on the constituents of good nourishment but food for thought concerning the use of "food supplements", "vitamins and minerals", etc.

This completes the main substance of the work and there follow three appendices:

- A. General Remedy Finder
- B. Homoeopathic remedies and their sources
- C. 60 chosen remedy pictures

By the time the prospective buyer has scanned thus far and understood that this work can readily be used with the previous best-seller "The Family Guide to Homoeopathy", he or she may feel well inclined to part with £18.99, the published price for the book.

No doubt there are many would-be buyers, but if equipped with the previous work some may hesitate to part with a fairly substantial sum at the present time.

JBLA



News from 27A

For us the year started with four days at Crufts Dog Show at the NEC, Birmingham. Interest was greater than ever and it brought joy to the heart to hear the tales of success from previous years and even meet some canine friends we had met before. People queued four and five deep to speak to the vet and our thanks go to Mr. Day, Mr. Hoare, Mr. Lockyer and Mr. Macleod for their sterling work and to all who helped make our stand such a success.

BBC 2 has been filming at 27A and a nearby homoeopathic pharmacy but the programme will go out before this magazine reaches members therefore I am unable to tell you when to view.

As you know, The Royal London Homoeo- April 1st. This means that the hospital will be Department of Health and the hospital is being includes a new telephone system and new details). NHS Trust status has enabled the days of pre-1974, when the hospital had its own the hospital has its own Chairman, the Rt. Hon. of State for Health. The hospital's Trust Board non-executive directors.



pathic Hospital becomes an NHS Trust from recognised as an independent body by the reorganised in readiness for "the off". This numbers for all departments (see back page for RLHH to turn full circle, back to the good old management board. With NHS Trust status, Dr Dickson Mabon, appointed by the Secretary consists of four executive directors and four

1993 sees the 150th anniversary of Hahnemann's death. We thought it fitting to pay tribute to this great man in our first issue of the year. He had such foresight and depth of compassion for human suffering which put him well ahead of his time and his thinking is still ahead of modern science in many respects.

A very happy and prosperous year to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Enid Segall

A Message from the Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing every one all good wishes for this new year of 1993.

We have achieved much in 1992. We have had some problems (which occur in all walks of life) but it was no 'Anno Horribilus' for the BHA.

Great progress was made especially with the crowning event - our *Birthday Celebrations* with The Queen Mother, which was a most gracious occasion.

There is now a greater interest in homoeopathy, both human and veterinary, increasing the workload at the office, but our staff under Enid always rises to the occasion, ably supported by the Officers and Council.

May 1993 be an even greater year than 1992.

Again all good wishes,
MERVYN MADGE,
Chairman.



*David Bellamy, Patron of the BHA,
signing his book 'World Medicine'
at the NAHAT Conference, Harrogate.*