

A Homeopathic Guide to Partnership and Compatibility

by Liz Lalor

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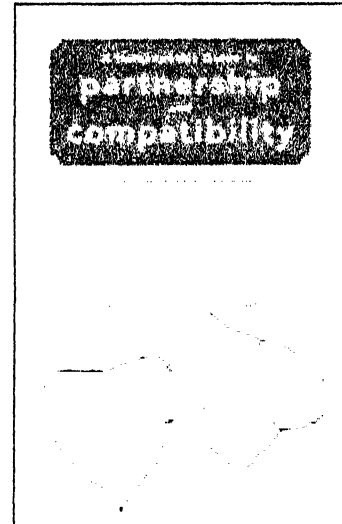
Reviewed by Mitchell A. Fleisher, MD, DHT, DABFP

This is an interesting little book about the comparative materia medica of partnership relationships, reminiscent of the style of Dr. Philip Bailey, author of *Homeopathic Psychology: Personality Profiles of the Major Constitutional Remedies*, who curiously enough wrote the forward, and wittily regretted not having seized the opportunity to write it himself, though he is generous with praise for a job well done. I can second that opinion.

Ms. Lalor has done a nice piece of work of summarizing the portraits of the essential elements of nineteen homeopathic polychrest remedies. It was clever, and thoroughly useful, to enumerate the "Key Mental and Emotional Characteristics" and "Key Physical Characteristics" of each remedy, an excellent review for novice and 'long in the tooth' practitioner alike. She takes poetic license with some of her descriptions; e.g., *Arsenicum's* desire to "surround themselves with *objets d'art*," *Sepia's* "love of space and freedom is often expressed in a love of dance, movement, or exercise," but again, these are intelligent and utilitarian.

It might have been helpful to include the corresponding key mental, emotional and physical clinical rubrics; however, since that information is readily available from other sources; e.g., Frans Vermeulen's *Synoptic Materia Medica*, Roger van Zaandvoort's *Repertory in ReferenceWorks*, etc., she cannot really be faulted for its absence in this text.

The "Partnership Combinations" section is a veritable homeopathic horoscope of personality typologies, extrapolating upon the sometimes perverse, and often poignant, pros and cons of their intimate intertwinings. One such 'born under a bad sign' combo is *Mercurius* and *Carcinosinum*. It is a wonder how these two widely divergent types could ever come together, except in a Hitchcock movie or, perhaps, 'Friday the 13th' serial. On the other hand, it is very common to see, in America at least, the rela-



tively stable marriage of *Calcarea carbonica* women and *Lycopodium* men. The former dependent upon the security and comfort supplied by the latter, and the latter reliant upon the admiration provided by the former.

Another heart-rending, rare marital pair, that Liz's book does not borrow the space to embrace is that of *Carcinosinum* and *Aurum sulphuratum*, which I've observed twice so far in my career. This is the very portrait of malignant codependent psychopathology; i.e., *Carcinosinum* seeking to define herself through excessive, selfless, self-destructive caretaking, amalgamated with the self-inflicted, driven, immense burden of responsibility for family carried woefully on the shoulders of *Aurum sulphuratum*. The need for perfection and control in both remedy types leads to much interpersonal torment and existential angst.

I found Liz's employment of film character analogies in the narratives of the remedies quite intriguing and colorfully rich. She has certainly imbibed a broad repertoire of international cinematic art, enriching her portrayal of homeopathic material medica. She must've eaten tons of popcorn sitting through all those flicks. Film connoisseurs will definitely be envious.

There exists a subtle danger, though, in portraying what appear to be fixed characteristics of a remedy type. Nature is far more vague and malleable, and often frustrates the prejudices of intellectual

simplification. The manner in which a given remedy expresses itself may fall on the far ends of the spectrum of its diverse constellation of possible psychological and/or physical symptomatology, denying the homeopathic practitioner a ready grasp of the commonly anticipated typology. An open mind, actually an empty mind in the Zen sense, is requisite to capturing the refined essence of the unique representation of a constitutional homeopathic remedy in a given individual. The modern works of Sankaran, Chhabra, Scholten, Mangialavori, et al., have made us more aware of this reality.

That being said, I believe *A Homeopathic Guide to Partnership and Compatibility* is a constructive intro-

duction to practical, homeopathic social psychology, as well as enjoyable reading for the voyeur, the lover and the seeker of truth in us all.

About the reviewer: Mitch Fleisher, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., Dc.A.B.C.T., practices classical homeopathic medicine, nutritional therapy and chelation therapy in Nelson County, Virginia. Formerly an Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Practice at the University of Virginia Dept. of Family Medicine and Medical College of Virginia, Dr. Fleisher currently is involved in clinical teaching programs with the National Center for Homeopathy and teaches introductory-level homeopathy to students at the Medical College of Virginia and University of Virginia medical school. **MFH**

Clinical Snapshot Answer

UTI Case (continued from page 77)

Prescription: *Cannabis sativa* 200C, in liquid attenuation; one dose TID prn; stop on definite improvement; repeat prn relapse.

Result: I called the patient the next day at which time she was delighted to report a dramatic amelioration of all symptoms. She was instructed to stop the remedy and repeat only for relapse, to call me back if her symptoms relapsed, and to obtain a follow-up urinalysis in one week (she was traveling to another state). To the best of my knowledge, as of this date, one month later, she remains well.

Discussion: A repertorization of this case appears below.

What stuck me as most characteristic of this case was the aggravation of the urethral pain on walking. Narrowing the remedy search to those remedies having that specific aggravation focused the possibilities upon two remedies, *Staphysagria*, certainly a very respectable choice given the recent increase in

sexual activity, and *Cannabis sativa*. When considering the latter remedy, I asked the patient if there was an amelioration by walking with the legs wide apart, a striking characteristic of the remedy in cystitis and urethritis; her affirmative answer, as well as her more detailed description of the urethral burning as occurring at the very close of urination, confirmed *Cannabis sativa* and gave it precedence over *Staphysagria*. And the results provided the ultimate confirmation.

A further brief comment about the homeopathic treatment of urinary tract infections might be of interest. In my career I have enjoyed a pretty long string of successfully treated UTI's with homeopathy; however, most of that success occurred a goodly while ago before home naturopathic treatment of simple UTI's with such agents as cranberry, uva ursi, vitamin C, berberine, etc. became popular. Now it seems the norm for patients is to call four to seven days into a urinary tract infection, with partially relieved symptoms from their naturopathic regimen, seeking a final solution with homeopathy. These cases have

Total Rubrics Family	Canth.	Berb.	Lep.	Merc.	Chim.	Cann-s.	Staph.	Merc-c.	Mux-b.	Hep.	Nat-m.	Sep.	Nit-ac.	Thu-j.	Petros.	Caust.	Lach.	Ign.	Sil.	Sph.	Lyc.	Mrg-n.	Acon.	Clem.	Equis.	Petr.	Apis	Caps.	Colch.	Puls.	Kali-c.	Ber.	Uva.		
P; PAIN; Burning; urination; during (192)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
P; PAIN; Burning; walking, while (1)	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Urethra; P; PAIN; Walking agg. (11)	□	□	□	□	□	□	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Urethra; P; PAIN; Sore, bruised (69)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Urethra; P; PAIN; Burning, night (5)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
P; PAIN; Pressing; urination; during (28)	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Bladder; M; URINATION; During (118)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Urethra; P; PAIN; Touch, on (6)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Urethra; P; ITCHING (108)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bladder; T; NIGHT (296)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

proved to be far more difficult to successfully treat; I find that the invaluable characteristic and peculiar symptoms that might have been present earlier are lacking. Thus I am forced to resort to more common homeopathic remedies, such as *Cantharis*, *Pulsatilla*, *Nux vomica*, etc., prescribed on somewhat shaky ground, and with much more limited success. It might well be best in such cases to ask patients to suspend their self treatment, beyond increased water intake, for a few days and to return once their symptoms have more fully reasserted themselves, if we hope to avoid having to prescribe antibiotics.

Reported by George Guess, MD, DHt 