

The Integrity of Homeopathy

By Sheilagh Creasy

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Reviewed by George Guess, MD, DHT

This reviewer is grateful for the many books that have been published recently about miasms, especially since my earlier homeopathic education was deficient in that area. I can now increasingly see the utility of analyzing cases miasmatically and establishing a blueprint for initial and subsequent treatment.

Ms. Creasy's contribution to this body of literature is equally appreciated. Terse is the first adjective that comes to mind as I think of this book; the bulk of the information is provided in somewhat of an outlined form, with few complete sentences. This economy of words contains a wealth of information, however, as it details very succinctly the symptomatic characteristics of the psoric, sycotic, syphilitic and tubercular miasms. After each introduction to a miasm, materia medica highlights of many of the principle remedies in each miasm are provided, complete with a miasmatic analysis (called a "miasmatic reading" – example below) of the remedy (i.e., which symptoms of the remedy correspond to which miasm). Illustrative cases follow, demonstrating miasmatic treatment. Remedy relationships are also emphasized.

Here is an example of a Miasmatic Reading of *Dulcamara* :

Dulcamara Miasmatic Reading

Psoric; Sycotic; Syphilitic; Tubercular

Sycotic

Rages

Catarrhal discharges. Snuffles. < Cold, damp.

< cold, damp conditions = diarrhea.

Rheumatic pains and aches < cold, damp > MOTION

Neuralgic pains. Suppressed catarrhs.

Warts on hands, fingers, face.

Coryza > MOTION.

Loquacity (extreme).

Tubercular

Hayfever in autumn – 3 miasms

Tubercular -- Ringworm of scalp

Bright's Disease

Respiratory tendencies

Taking cold easily.

Psoric

Various herpetic eruptions

< cold. > Warm, dry weather

Tendency for colds and coughs

Coryza < cold air

Moaning. Groaning

Loquacity

Boils

Eczema of infants

Syphilitic

Skin ulcerations

Necrosis, especially tibia

Phagedenic ulcers

"According to Allen and Kent, *Dulc.* is a deeper tri-miasmatic remedy than was originally thought. It belongs to the same family SOLANUM (NIGRUM – *Dulcamara*) as *Stram.* And *Hyos.*

Kent states first attack looks like *Bell.*; *Bry.*; *Ferr-p.* Treat the underlying constitution, the change which takes place in this patient. Sensitive to cold, damp.

We must observe the time of year hayfever comes on: < Spring or < Autumn.”

The book offers a level of detail of miasmatic characteristics that many will have forgotten or, perhaps, not even been exposed to, since the current trend is to focus solely on apparent central trends of the psyche or highly generalized disease themes; eg, deficiency, overproduction or excess, destructiveness.

The most impressive section of the book is that covering the tubercular miasm, the contents of which are basically Creasy's accumulated notes gleaned from her study of the subject. The content is extensive and incredibly thorough and replete with detailed guidelines for the treatment of actual tuberculosis (something few of us in the western world will be faced with, but interesting nonetheless). I wonder how many of us know the distinguishing characteristics of *Tuberculinum bovinum* versus *Bacillinum*, or of *Tuberculinum residium* or *Tuberculinum aviare* or *Tuberculinum Koch*?

I had the good fortune quite a while back to review some of this information from Ms. Creasy, courtesy of Catherine Coulter. It helped me on an asthma case once when, after *Tuberculinum bovinum* proved incomplete to the case, *Tuberculinum aviare* finished the cure.

The book, minimally indexed at present, would benefit from an expansion of the index.

Certainly, a bit less condensed expression in this book would have been appreciated; greater exposition would have added to the readability of the text and enhanced the reader's enjoyment and interest. Yet, it is enough as it is – a comprehensive and highly practical handbook of miasmatic prescribing. It should serve well as a study and reference text. I recommend it!

About the Reviewer: George Guess, MD, DHt, practices homeopathy in Charlottesville, Virginia. His is editor of the American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine and Vice-President of the American Board of Homeotherapeutics. AHH

Herbal Medicines – Third Edition

By Joanne Barnes, Linda A Anderson, and J David Phillipson

Pharmaceutical Press: Chicago/London. 2007.

Hardbound. 720 pages. \$150 (US)

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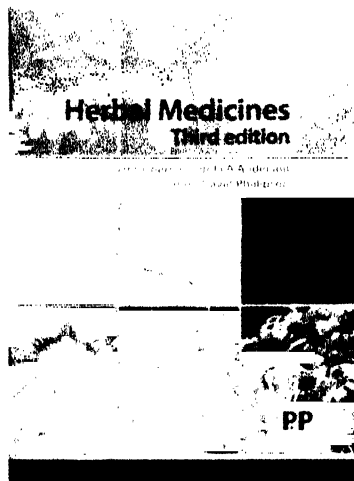
Reviewed by George Guess, MD, DHt

Three experts in herbal pharmacology have penned their third edition of an impressive review of 120 botanical medicines, having added four monographs to their past efforts and revised 20 other monographs. The book is beautifully hardbound and printed, containing numerous color photographs of the plants covered.


While not a guide to herbal therapy per se, the book should serve as a valuable reference to the major Western botanical medicines. Each monograph begins with a summary; subsequent sections describe the phylogeny, plant parts used, legal categorization, chemical composition, food use, medicinal uses, dosages, pharmacological actions (in some of the monographs these are quite extensive), clinical studies (also often very extensive), toxicity and side-effects, contraindications and warnings (including drug interactions), names

of various preparations containing the agent in countries around the world, and references. It's a smorgasbord of very useful and highly researched, scientifically presented information.

Several appendices containing valuable information follow. Appendix One consists of a chart of potential drug-herb interactions; the second appendix charts the pharmacological activities and con-



stituents of herbal ingredients; the third defines the category designations given for natural flavorings as deemed by the Council of Europe; the fourth is a manufacturer directory of the various preparations mentioned in the text; and fifth and last is a botanicals supplier directory. An extensive index ends the book.

Herbal Medicines, Third Edition should prove an invaluable reference text for pharmacists and healthcare professionals in need of evidence-based information on botanical medicines commonly utilized by consumers. 

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- "Everyone who practices homeopathy would greatly benefit from Dr. Saine's practical and thorough teaching. His knowledge of and enthusiasm for homeopathy are contagious. The in-class patients really brought the teaching to life." **Louise Harvie, R.N., New York**

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