

MENTAL SYMPTOMS IN HOMOEOPATHY

BY DETINIS

Review by Dr. Alain Horvilleur in 'L'Homeopathie Europeenne'

Our previous reviewer, Dr. Lee Holland felt that Mental Symptoms in Homoeopathy by Detinis failed to live up to his expectations. However Dr. Alain Horvilleur begs to differ and this is what he has to say:

'I have known John Churchill for several years, an agreeable English publisher who sends me from time to time those of his books which may be of possible interest to French readers. This is the case with the English-language translation of the work by Dr. Detinis of Buenos Aires, a pupil of Dr. Tomas Paschero.

Here one finds in alphabetical order 194 rubrics drawn from the repertoires of Kent and Barthel, corresponding to the most characteristic mental symptoms, and accompanied by a commentary. This is not merely a simple dictionary definition to explain the meaning of the significant words, but contains the author's opinion on the value of a symptom and how it should be used. Let us take for example the following example of the rubric "Jealousy".'

"Great care must be taken in assessing this feeling, for it is very common, which detracts from its value as a symptom. Children and young couples frequently show signs of jealousy in one way or another, and in such cases it must exist to an unusual degree before one can consider it to be a true symptom.

One or more of the following characteristics should always be present:

- * the jealousy is groundless. If a motive exists it is not a symptom.
- * the feeling is intense and obsessive.

* the jealousy causes feelings of suffering.

* the patient is reproachful, and this leads to rows with the partner.

Although there is always an element of envy in the jealous individual, one needs to make a distinction between the two feelings. A young woman whom I was treating with Sepia told me, at the time of her first consultation, that during her childhood she was jealous of her brother. When I demanded why, she replied, "he was the boy and because of this was allowed to do things like coming home late, or using bad language, while I was the baby who had to play with her dolls." In this case the main feeling is clearly envy and not jealousy.

To lead to a better choice, the remedies of the rubric are accompanied by key extracts from Allen's Encyclopaedia, which gives a clearer description of the symptom under discussion, (in the above example one can then read the materia medica of *Anantherum*, *Lachesis*, *Nux Vomica* and *Opium*). The cross reference to other and similar rubrics is a further aid to reflection.

The last hundred pages are given over to six consultations given before a medical audience, reproduced verbatim, with the purpose of showing how to interrogate the patient, and chosen for the importance of their mental symptoms. This book will be useful not only to translators of homoeopathic texts and to those who remain faithful to Kent's Repertory, but also to all homoeopaths who care to 'weigh' the symptoms.