

Group Study in Homoeopathic Materia Medica

By

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Dedication

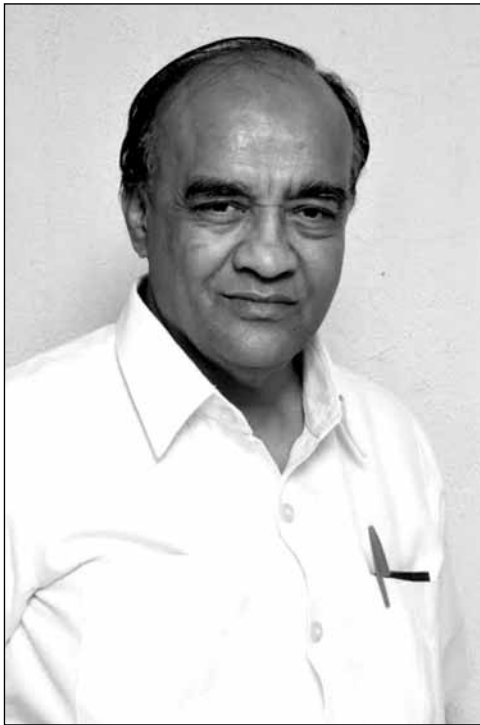
Father of group study



Dr E.A. Farrington

1828–1880

My Inspiration
who inspired me to write something on
Homoeopathic materia medica



Dr S.M. Desarda

Foreword

It is really an amazing feeling once you are done with writing of a book. The ecstasy is analogous with the nine hard months of pain and patience before the delivery of a baby, the hardships, the passion and the care that the author or compiler bestows upon his writing, is clearly visible once the product is out in the market for the wellbeing of its beneficiaries.

I can still easily fall in love with any new book. The never ending widening of the horizons of knowledge is still not quenched with the available material on any subject and there stands, a very potent gap, between availability of good reading material on any given subject.

With the advent in the field of computers and internet, there seems plenty of material available for the knowledge seeking folks. One may also question the effect of the trend of e-books on the market of printed version of books, but I have a clear vision that the nostalgia and ease which the printed version of any book avails us, is inexhaustible, and hence immortal.

I have always been an admirer of the alternative sciences. I personally feel that no two therapeutic sciences can annihilate each other. There can only be one possibility in the vast ocean of various therapeutic sciences, which is a healthy coalition for the betterment of the sick masses.

The Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) have been keeping our mission and vision clear—to develop the best of health alliance between the medical sciences. Our researches and fund

allocation clearly aims to achieve the high standards in the field of health care through the unity in medicine.

When we have stepped in the growing phase as a university and as a nation, it is very satisfying to find Dr J. D. Patil, our very own student welfare director at the MUHS, to have come up with a fascinating book on the subject of group study in Homoeopathic materia medica. This subject, as I have been informed, is the heart and soul of Homoeopathic system of medicine. To have a systematic, organised and complete book on the subject should help the students and the practitioners of the science and art of Homoeopathy

I wish the readers have a great time reading this work and may the pious efforts of Dr J.D. Patil help them acquire some essential knowledge in the field of Homoeopathic materia medica with this book.

Wishing you all the very best of learning and health.

Yours truly in health and knowledge,

Dr Mrudula Phadke

Former Vice Chancellor,

Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik.

Acknowledgement

Firstly, I would like to thank Lord Almighty for fulfilling my long cherished dream of publishing this book. This book holds the most important place in my life. I am greatly obliged to Dr Mrudula Fadke, former Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik, for going through the entire book and for penning down a few words in the foreword. Her ideas for establishing unity of medicine inspires every faculty member of MUHS to remain knowledge oriented, research-minded and updated.

I must thank Dr Ramji Singh (President, Central Council of Homoeopathy) and Dr Arun Bhasme (Vice-President, Central Council of Homoeopathy), for their valuable guidance. I am also thankful to my friends Dr V. R. Kavishwar (Dean, Faculty of Homoeopathy, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik; Principal, Panchsheel Homoeopathic College, Khamgaon), Dr S. M. Desarda (Member, Executive Committee, CCH, New Delhi; President, Guru Mishri Homoeopathic College, Shelgaon, District Jalna, Maharashtra) and Dr (Sou.) Kanchan Desarda (Member, CCH, New Delhi), Dr Kishorji Malokar (Senate Member, MUHS, Nashik; Principal, Janata Homoeopathic Medical College, Akola).

Special thanks to Dr Anupama Pathrikar (Principal, Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad), Hon. Dwarkadasaji Pathrikar (President, Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad), Mr Bhausahab Rajale (Secretary, Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad), Dr Balasaheb Pawar (Senate Member,

MUHS, Nashik), Dr Sonali Pathrikar, Dr Leena Gunjal, Mr Kuldeep Jain, Mr Manish Jain (B. Jain Publishers, New Delhi).

My verbal thanks shall not match the efforts and hard work put in by Dr Ankur Desai, who took a lot of pain for the first edition of this book. His efforts are worthy of more than a mere mention. He has the alignment privilege of my heartfelt thanks and million blessings for his bright future. Dr P. Karthik Reddy and Dr Krushna Chandra Biswal need special mention as they have helped me a lot during the initial phase of this work. I am also thankful to Dr Hanisha Jadhav and Dr Kavita Chavan from Mumbai, for assisting in the proof reading.

Many new groups and remedies have been added to make this book up to date as per the new syllabus prescribed by the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi. I have had the longest association with Homoeopathic education at undergraduate and postgraduate level. My heartfelt thanks are always due for the teaching and non-teaching colleagues at Foster Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad.

Last but not the least, my father Late Shri Dattatrya Patil, my mother Late Shrimati Tulsibai Patil, my wife Sau Shalini Patil, my brother Rajendra Patil, Sau Deepali Patil, my beloved son Abhijeet, my Nephew Abhishek and Abhinav and all my family members. Their lovely endurance to bear with my long hours of job responsibilities, keep my spirits elevated to offer my services to my profession. Their love and care are the best blessings bestowed on me by God Almighty.

It would be extremely selfish on my part if I do not mention that my thanks shall always be due to each and every one who studied, taught, researched or improved the subject of Homoeopathic materia medica, because this book would never have been possible without their help.

Dr J. D. Patil

Publisher's Note

B Jain has always tried to get the most updated and complete information on all the subjects of homeopathy for the students of this field. This book on Group study is an integral part of this effort. It had been taken up as it is a unique compilation of the works of stalwarts who have introduced group study in Homoeopathy.

A dire need was felt for a new edition of this book after an increased demand from the students all over the country. Through this edition, the author has tried to explain each kingdom keeping in tandem with the new researches in the field. The book is a good resource material for the students of the field to comprehend the theme of ever expanding materia medica. This second edition of the book has been edited and enlarged. Many new groups have been added in the three kingdoms. Also, it includes information about the Sarcodes, Nosodes and the Bach flower remedies.

We are sure that it would be equally appreciated by the students as the previous edition.

Kuldeep Jain

CEO, B. Jain Publishers (P) Ltd.

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Introduction

Basics of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Introduction

‘Materia medica’ is a Latin medical term which means ‘medical material’ or ‘medical substance’. It is the study of different drug materials that are prepared from plants, animals, minerals, chemicals, nosodes, sarcodes, etc, used in the treatment of diseases.

It is a branch of medical science that deals with the source, nature, origin, properties, preparation, dosage, and administration of drugs.

Hence, it can also be defined as that branch of medical science which is concerned with the study of drugs used in the treatment of diseases.

It includes pharmacology, clinical pharmacology, physical and chemical properties of drugs.

Evolution of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

After coming across the remark of William Cullen about *Cinchona* bark, Dr Hahnemann proved it on himself and thus discovered the concept of *Similia Similibus Curentur*. Then after, he started proving drugs one after another. This process of drug proving became the basis of his ‘Materia Medica Pura’, the first part of which was published in 1811.

Materia Medica Pura contains the pure effects of the drugs as observed on healthy human beings of different ages and both the

sexes. It did not contain any information collected from any other sources. After him, several individuals, like Dr Hering and others started proving drugs. Thus, a vast materia medica for Homoeopathy was created.

Evolution of materia medica starts from the first writings of Dr Hahnemann.

1. *Fragmenta de viribus* (1805)

Dr Hahnemann has given the pathogenesis of 27 drugs in his book of materia medica.

2. *Materia Medica Pura* (1811–1821)

In this book, a record of purely the proven symptoms of the drugs has been kept. These were proved by Dr Hahnemann on himself, friends, disciples, colleagues and relatives. He recorded all these symptoms in a systematic manner and according to anatomical schematic representation. As the book contains pure, proved symptoms of the drugs, that is why the name of the book is *Materia Medica Pura*.

Previously, *Materia Medica Pura* was published in six volumes (1811–1821), but for the sake of convenience, now it is published in two volumes. The first volume was published in 1830 and the second in 1833.

3. *Chronic Diseases* (1828–1830)

After a long practice of 30 years, Dr Hahnemann observed the obstacles in the way of treatment and recovery. He found that the obstruction in the path of cure is at the dynamic level. He considered that some fundamental causes played the highest role in the complication of diseases.

He classified this fundamental cause behind the chronic diseases as psora, syphilis and sycosis. Thus, he discovered the doctrine of miasm as a concept and placed it in his book *Chronic Diseases*.

4. *Provings by the Austrian Society* (1842–1846)

Members of the Austrian Society started proving and re-proving of the drugs in their own way and published these valuable provings in a journal published by the Austrian Society

5. *Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica* (1874–1880)

The provings which were done by Dr Hahnemann were verified by Dr T. F. Allen. He also added some new symptoms from

poisoning and overdosing, available in the prevalent literature in the post Hahnemannian era.

6. ***The Guiding Symptoms of our Materia Medica* (1879–1891)**

Hering collected verifications and confirmations from all the reliable sources. He presented a voluminous book to the world that contained only the verified symptoms through cure in the form of characteristics, which he made from all available resources. This work of Dr Hering has had a great contribution in the evolution of Homoeopathic materia medica.

7. ***Cyclopedia of Drug Pathogenesis* (1886)**

In 1883, the British society had organised a meeting to revise and represent the existing material. The result of such conference was to recommend the formation of a ‘Cyclopedia of Drug Pathogenesis’

They had narrated all the provings, stating the symptoms in the order of their occurrence. The drugs were headed under scientific names, synonyms and natural order.

8. ***Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* (1900)**

Dr J. H. Clarke had arranged all the drugs in this book in the Hahnemannian schema. Each remedy was given in such a fashion that it may be at once distinguished and recognised from other medicines. He also included indications of some medicines according to nosological diagnosis. He had tried his level best to give the keynotes and predominating symptoms of the medicine.

Classification and Types of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Dr Hahnemann went on to develop the materia medica along with Homoeopathic philosophy and then continued this work to produce great volumes of Homoeopathic materia medica.

There are many books on Homoeopathic materia medica. All these books are written and organised in different fashion. Since materia medica is full of detailed information about a medicine, it is essential to study each and every medicine in a systematic way so that anybody can collect information about it, as much as possible. Generally, each individual develops his or her own systematic way to study

the materia medica. One common method is to memorize the key mental and physical general symptoms along with the characteristic symptoms. Some people concentrate on remedies and characteristic symptoms, some people prepare picture of the person who really need the medicine, some people make up mnemonic devices. A real systematic way to learn about a drug is group study, in which we can discuss the most characteristic mental and physical symptoms along with other general symptoms.

Since the discovery of Homoeopathy and proving of symptoms, different authors have represented them in different ways. If we see the history of materia medica, it can be noticed that as the time has passed, the number of proved drugs has been increasing and a lot of clinical symptoms have been added by different Homoeopaths.

Many stalwarts after Hahnemann, like Dr Hughes, Dr Hering (Father of American Homoeopathy, 1800–1880), Prof Dr Ernst Albert Farrington (1847–1885), Dr Henry C. Allen (1836–1909), Dr Timothy Field Allen (1837–1902), Dr J.T. Kent (1849–1916), Dr Nash (1838–1917), Dr William Boericke (1849–1929), Dr Clarke (1853–1931), Dr J.H. Allen (1854–1925), Dr S. Close (1860–1929), Dr Boger (1861–1935), Dr H.A. Roberts (1868–1950), Dr Hubbard (1896–1967).

They tried to systematise the writing of materia medica symptoms which resulted into different types of materia medica.

Approximately more than 400 books in English and other languages on materia medica have been published. Each one of them has its own utility and limitations.

It is very difficult to classify or describe the types of materia medica, but according to the content, they can be arranged into different types.

Broadly speaking, materia medica can be classified into:

1. Fundamental or Unmodified Type of Materia Medica

In this, symptoms are mentioned in an unmodified form because these symptoms are directly obtained from the provers in their own language.

E.g. *Materia Medica Pura*

2. Applied or Modified Type of Materia Medica

In this, symptoms taken from drug prover's language are modified into author's language. Various materia medica under this type are as follows:

- Materia Medica of Proving
- Schematic(Anatomical) Type of Materia Medica
- Physiological Type of Materia Medica
- Clinical Type of Materia Medica
- Keynotes Type of Materia Medica
- Comparative Type of Materia Medica
- Picture Type of Materia Medica
- Therapeutic Type of Materia Medica
- Regional Type of Materia Medica
- Specialised Type of Materia Medica
- New Generation Type of Materia Medica
- Group Study Type of Materia Medica

3. Materia Medica of Proving

- *Materia Medica Pura* – Dr Hahnemann
- *A Cyclopedia of Pathogenesy* – Dr Richard Hughes
- *Condensed Materia Medica* – Dr Constantine Hering

4. Schematic (Anatomical) Type of Materia Medica

In this type of materia medica, the drugs are systematically written against each organ, so that it facilitates to memorize such multitude of symptoms of each drug. A ready reference can be made easily and quickly for a particular symptom while searching it for a particular part of the body:

- *Materia Medica Pura* – Dr Hahnemann
- *Encyclopedia of Pure Materia Medica* – Dr T. F. Allen
- *The Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica*- Dr J. H. Clarke.
- *Textbook of Materia Medica* – Dr Lippe
- *The Guiding Symptoms of our Materia Medica* – Dr C. Hering
- *Hand book of Materia Medica and Homoeopathic Therapeutics* – Dr T. F. Allen
- *Textbook of Materia Medica* – Dr Cowperthweite
- *Materia Media and Special Therapeutics* – Edwin Hale
- *Manual of Materia Medica* – Dr W. Boericke

5. Physiological Type of Materia Medica

It is a different style of writing Homoeopathic materia medica on the basis of physiological actions of the drugs. From this we can know on which tissues and organ the remedy acts.

- *Physiological Materia Medica* – Dr W. H. Burt
- *A Manual of Pharmacodynamics* – Dr Hughes
- *Characteristic Materia Medica* – Dr Das Gupta
- *Botanical Materia Medica and Pharmacology*– Dr S. H. Aurand
- *Materia Medica and Therapeutic* – Dr C. J. Hempel
- *Materia Medica of Therapeutics and Pharmacology* – Dr Blackwood
- *Materia Medica and Pharmacology*– Dr Culbreth
- *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* – Dr Shoemaker
- *Therapeutics, Materia Medica and Toxicology* – Dr H. C. Wood
- *A Manual of Pharmacodynamics* – Dr R. Hughes
- *Text book of Materia Medica and Therapeutics* – Dr Cowperthweite

5. Clinical Type of Materia Medica

In this type of materia medica, quick selection of remedy can be possible by comparing the medicines at the clinical aspect.

- *A Clinical Materia Medica* – Dr E. A. Farrington
- *Handbook of Materia Medica* – Dr T. F. Allen
- *The Dictionary of Materia Medica* – Dr Clarke
- *A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* – Dr J. H. Clarke
- *Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* – Dr W. Boericke

7. Keynotes Type of Materia Medica

After the era of schematic materia medica, a new school of thought was founded, which introduced the keynote type of materia medica. In this, they have given special importance to the peculiar, rare, uncommon, striking and characteristic symptoms. When the prescriber becomes acquainted with these keynotes, they will be able to find the simillimum more quickly.

- *Keynotes and Characteristics* – Dr H. C. Allen
- *Keynotes of Leading Remedies* – Dr H. C. Allen

- *Symptomatic Key to Materia Medica* – Dr C. M. Boger
- *Characteristics Cards* – Dr Hering
- *Booklet on Materia Medica* – Dr Noel
- *Quiz Compendium* – Dr Dewey
- *Keynotes and Redline Symptoms* – Dr A. V. Lippe
- *A Primer of Materia Medica* – Dr T. F. Allen
- *Characteristic Materia Medica* – Dr Hawke

8. Comparative Type of Materia Medica

Many homoeopathic medicines are very similar to each other so it is very difficult to differentiate them from each other, which is very much essential in order to prescribe a correct medicine. This can be possible only by the comparison of the drugs. In this type of materia medica, drugs having similar pathogenesis are compared in reference to their differentiating points at different levels.

- *Comparative Materia Medica* – Dr H. Gross
- *Leaders in Homoeopathic Therapeutics* – Dr E. B. Nash
- *Study of Remedies by Comparison* – Dr H. A. Robert
- *Plain Talks on Materia Medica with Comparison* – Dr Pierce
- *Comparative Materia Medica* – Dr E. A. Farrington

9. Picture Type of Materia Medica

In this type of materia medica, the pathogenesis of drug is presented in a simple manner so that the individual picture of a drug can be very clear.

- *Lectures on Materia Medica* – Dr J. T. Kent
- *Homoeopathic Drug Pictures* – Dr M. L. Tyler
- *A Textbook of Materia Medica* – Dr N. M. Choudhary
- *Leaders in Therapeutics* – Dr E.B. Nash
- *Homoeopathic Materia Medica of Graphical Drug Picture* – Dr Pulford
- *Children's Type of Materia Medica* – Dr Borland

10. Therapeutic Type of Materia Medica

In daily practice, knowledge of applied materia medica and therapeutics is essential for the quick selection of remedy

- *Leaders in Typhoid Fever* – Dr E. B. Nash
- *The Prescriber* – Dr J. H. Clarke
- *Practical Homoeopathic Therapeutics* – Dr Dewey
- *Homoeopathic Therapeutics* – Dr Lilienthal

11. Regional Type of Materia Medica

- *Regional Leaders* – Dr E. B. Nash

12. Specialised Type of Materia Medica

This type of materia medica is more or less specialised with Indian medicine.

- *Drugs of India*– Dr D. N. Chatterjee
- *Drugs of Hindustan* – Dr S. C. Ghosh
- *Materia Medica of New Homoeopathic Remedies*– Dr O. A. Julian

13. New Generation Type of Materia Medica

This type of materia medica is very popular in new generation.

- *Textbook of Inorganic Materia Medica* – Dr Otto Lesser
- *Essentials of Materia Medica* – Dr George Vithoulkas
- *Descriptive Materia Medica* – Dr Catherine Coulter
- *Tautopathic Materia Medica* – Dr O. A. Julian
- *Materia Medica of Nosodes* – Dr H. C. Allen
- *Sole of Homoeopathic Remedies* – Dr P. Sankaran
- *Lotus Materia Medica* – Dr Robin Murphy
- *Materia Medica Viva* – Dr George Vithoulkas
- *Symposium Volumes* – Dr M. L. Dhawale

14. Group Study Type of Materia Medica

Group study is a way to study materia medica, simpler and livelier to us. The process of understanding the general character of a particular segment of event, phenomenon or experience can be considered as a group study.

Since Homoeopathic remedies come from the natural world, they can be categorised into the kingdoms of nature, e.g., Plants, Animals and Minerals. Drugs belonging to the same family or group or same species bear many similar relations as symptoms are concerned, e.g.

- *Clinical Materia Medica* – Dr E. A. Farrington
- *Homoeopathy and Homoeopathic prescribing* – Dr Harvey Farrington (He made groups according to his own choice, not including drugs of same family but drugs bearing similar spheres of action as a group.)
- *Textbook of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* – Dr Otto Lesser (He grouped alkalis, halogens, carbons, heavy metals, etc.)
- *Elements in Homoeopathy* – Jan Scholten

- *Mineral in Homoeopathy* – Jan Scholten
- *Elements and Plant Kingdom in Homoeopathy* – Jan Scholten
- *The Soul of Remedies* – Rajan Sankaran
- *The Sensation in Homoeopathy* – Rajan Sankaran
- *The Substance in Homoeopathy* – Rajan Sankaran
- *The Synergy in Homoeopathy* – Rajan Sankaran

Mode of Action of Homoeopathic Remedies

In spite of miraculous progress made by Homoeopathic science in general, it is still very difficult to demonstrate the actual mode of action of Homoeopathic remedies. We can demonstrate the efficacy of the Homoeopathic remedy only clinically.

Our body has its own defense mechanism, the reticulo-endothelial system and psycho-neuro endocrinal system. Immunity is an antidotal substance or an antibody present in the living organism, which resists the stimuli of advance nature. There is a specific antibody reaction to specific stimuli generated by the defence mechanism of the body. Susceptibility is a fundamental attribute of life, upon which depends all the functions, all vital processes, physiological and pathological. We understand susceptibility as a general quality or capability of the living organism to receiving impressions—the power to react to stimuli.

Action of Medicine

We understand the ability of the drug to produce disease-like condition in a healthy state through proving. Proving is the positive effect of the drug on the healthy human, which constitutes the actual drug action- the pathogenesis in Homoeopathy.

The information thus collected through proving data, constitute our Homoeopathic materia medica. The sum total effect of the drug is pharmacodynamics.

The drug has three-fold action on the human organism.

1. **Chemical action:** It exhibits the affinity of the drug to the body tissue. This is independent of the body vitality. For example, strong nitric acid will produce a considerable burning and sloughing of the skin.
2. **Mechanical action:** This is exhibited by the effort of the body to throw away the offending substance. For any foreign body entering the organism, there is a tendency to throw it away through the mechanical action.
3. **Dynamic action:** This dynamic action—body response to any external stimuli, depends upon the relation of the property of the drug to the susceptibility of the healthy living organism. They are known as non-pathognomic symptoms. For example fear of death in Aconite, 4–8 p.m. aggravation in Lycopodium, are the non-pathognomic or dynamic expressions of the drug.

Hahnemann recognises these expressions by primary and secondary action. While the chemical and mechanical actions belong to the category of primary action, the dynamic action corresponds to the secondary action. This is the action or response of the body to the Primary action. It is the secondary action which is curative in nature.

Science and Philosophy of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

The word *Science* is derived from the Latin word *Scientia* which means knowledge. Science is the study of nature and behaviour of natural things and the knowledge that we obtain about them. It is a systematic enterprise that builds and organises knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe.

From classical antiquity through the 19th century, science as a type of knowledge was more closely linked to philosophy than it is now. In the Western world, the term ‘natural philosophy’ once encompassed fields of study that are today associated with science, such as astronomy, medicine, and physics.

There are two different aspects of Homoeopathic materia medica as given in following sections.

Science of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Science is systematised and coherent knowledge based on observation, experimentation, analysis and classification of facts. The ultimate aim of science is to work out a descriptive formula which is short, simple and complete, and from which the concept is verifiable, communicable and explainable with scientific reasoning through scientific methods. The scientific method is the process by which scientists with collective efforts construct an accurate, reliable, consistent and non-arbitrary observation for interpretations of natural phenomena.

Homoeopathy aims at accuracy and preciseness of knowledge. Homoeopathy and Homoeopathic materia medica are sciences that have been developed through Inductive method of reasoning. It requires exact observation, correct interpretation, rational explanation and scientific construction. Inductive logic was incorporated in building the *Law of Similar*. The discovery of the *Principle of Potentisation* was also through the application of Inductive logic.

Drug proving and symptom record:

Hahnemann's insight led him to experiment with drugs (which started with proving of *Cinchona*) and make them available for people suffering from like symptoms in (natural) disease syndromes. He was the first person to prove drugs on healthy human beings and to apply that knowledge in curing the sick. He proved approximately 99 medicines in his life. After five to six years of extensive study he was satisfied to build up his materia medica on solid scientific ground.

As mentioned in aphorism 105, "The second point of the business of a true physician related to acquiring a knowledge of the instruments intended for the cure of the natural diseases, investigating the pathogenetic power of the medicines, in order, when called on to cure, to be able to select from among them one, from the list of whose symptoms an artificial disease may be constructed, as similar

as possible to the totality of the principal symptoms of the natural disease sought to be cured”.

Materia medica is the branch of science which studies the origin and preparation of drugs, their doses and their mode of administration, also the drugs themselves. Horizons of Homoeopathic materia medica bring to us the remedy, description, articles and papers related to Homoeopathic materia medica and potential to explore the world of Homoeopathic medicines.

Characteristic of drug is rarely shown in a single symptom by a prover or patient, e.g. *Pulsatilla* has aggravation in a warm room, is a generalisation drawn from the observation of particular symptoms in numerous cases both in proving and clinical verification. The same is true for every aggravation and amelioration given in Boenninghausen’s repertory.

Generalisation proceeds by bringing together similar and related phenomena into groups, considering these in their relation to each other and other groups, deducing their general features and stating them in simple, comprehensive form. Hence the process of Inductive logic is followed when constructing materia medica, similarly the same logic is followed when treating a patient.

Different criteria to prove the Scientificity of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Fixed principle: Hahnemann was exasperated by the *Principle of Drug Action* in Allopathic materia medica. Thus, he left Allopathic practice. He was the scientist who introduced the basic and fixed principle of Homoeopathy, *Similia Similibus Curantur*. Homoeopathy was founded on principles that are based on natural laws. It is based on 8 cardinal principles:

1. *Law of Similia*
2. *Law of Simplex*
3. *Law of Minimum Dose*
4. *Doctrine of Drug Proving*
5. *Doctrine of Drug Dynamisation*
6. *Doctrine of Chronic Diseases*

7. *Doctrine of Vital Force*

8. *Doctrine of Individualisation*

Registration of data and facts: The base of Homoeopathic materia medica is completely scientific. Homoeopathic materia medica started with a philosophical background and later on developed to be precise, methodical and systematic following a definite principle throughout, with records of actual tested, confirmed, verified facts, free from ambiguities and satisfying all the parameters of science. So, Homoeopathic materia medica has, no doubt, a philosophical and scientific background.

Comprehending the mass of data collected through proving by analysing, comparing, classifying and generalising, helps to develop individuality as a whole. This method is employed in construction of materia medica from the proving.

Accuracy: Drug symptoms are accurately registered by human proving. It is the main element of science. To observe the accuracy, the facts must be observed and tested from time to time by different scientists to decide whether to accept the truth or throw out the wrong facts. While proving of Homoeopathic drug to determine the drug action, Dr Hahnemann was very particular and accurate at the time of recording the symptoms, so that nothing went wrong. This procedure was re-verified by the disciples of Dr Hahnemann like Constantine Hering, Richard Hughes, etc, to make it more accurate because a true science always accepts only the facts.

Hering's *Guiding Symptoms* is a scientific book in which he has maintained the quality and clearness. He has tried to avoid ambiguities and controversial facts by replacing many symptoms of *Materia Medica Pura* which were not clinically confirmed by him.

Manifestation of signs and symptoms: Every science has a particular subject matter limited to definite area or particular specialty. Every scientist wants detailed, precise and accurate knowledge of a particular subject of his study. The law of ascertaining the action of drug is very specific. The Homoeopathic materia medica is a perfect science which deals with drug action through proving on healthy human beings of different ages and both sexes for a long period, till the signs and symptoms of the drug is manifested.

Uniform methodology of recording symptoms: Hahnemann recorded the symptoms of proving of each drug in a uniform way while writing materia medica, making it more comprehensible for getting the facts. It is necessary and requires accuracy, consistency and impartial observation against biased opinion. Science always follows the careful scientific methodology before concluding the facts. Hahnemann and his disciples, named the symptoms precisely, by a systematic methodology and thus a new scientific therapeutic system of medicine became known to the world.

Philosophy of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Philosophy is generally divided into philosophy of social science and philosophy of natural science. Concept of philosophy and science is amalgamated; philosophy helps to solve the problems with the help of explanation with broad reasoning whereas science does it with facts and figures. Dr B K Sarkar said, “Thus, every science begins as philosophy and ends as an art. It arises in hypothesis and flows into achievements”. In the practical sense, the philosophy of science is almost synonymous with the scientific method. It is the philosophy and idea that the scientists hold and that they believe they should ascribe to. No science can grow or expand without a sound philosophy as its foundation.

Philosophy is the study of general principles, laws or rules and regulations that furnish the rational explanation of any part of knowledge. It aims at comprehensiveness and wholeness, synthetic in its approach, it restores parts into whole. It aims at gaining wisdom.

Science without philosophy is like a fact without perspective. It explains why and how things act—quantitative as well as qualitative approach, criticism of categories. Philosophy watches over the step of science.

Homoeopathy and Homoeopathic materia medica are influenced by western philosophers like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Bacon. The relationship of Homoeopathic materia medica with logic and philosophy is very deep.

In Homoeopathic materia medica, logic gives explanation of philosophy. It provides physical structure to essence of philosophy. Everything arises as hypothesis and logic leads it to the road of achievement. Logic is the interpreter of philosophy into science.

Philosophy of materia medica depends on the use. According to the Homoeopathic principles, remedy which is similar to the symptoms of the individual case of disease should be selected. For this purpose, a comparative study of many remedies should be made from materia medica. In prescribing a simillimum, Hahnemann gave a detailed description of materia medica in aphorism 143 for making this selection. He said, “If we have thus tested on the healthy individual a considerable number of simple medicines and carefully and faithfully registered all the disease elements and symptoms they are capable of developing as artificial disease-producers, then only have we a true materia medica—a collection of real, pure, reliable modes of action of simple medicinal substances, a volume of the book of nature, wherein is recorded a considerable array of the peculiar changes of the health and symptoms ascertained to belong to each of the powerful medicines, as they were revealed to the attention of the observer, in which the likeness of the (homeopathic) disease elements of many natural diseases to be hereafter cured by them are present, which, in a word, contain artificial morbid states, that furnish for the similar natural morbid states the only true, homeopathic, that is to say, specific, therapeutic instruments for effecting their certain and permanent cure”.

Hahnemann continued his research and experiments for six years on himself and other family members and friends with about 99 drugs. After that he formulated the principle, which was given in Vedas and by Hippocrates and Paracelsus, *Similia Similibus Curentur* as the basic nature’s law to cure the helpless and suffering human beings. Thus, a new therapeutic medical science was discovered

Hahnemann had given all principles in the *Organon of Medicine*. Aphorism no. 213 of this book, is directly connected to materia medica. Dynamically acting medicines cure diseases only according to the similarity of their symptoms. So he advised to understand the *Organon* first and then after match the symptoms in Materia

Medica with the symptoms of the sick individual. Hahnemann had clearly written in *Materia Medica Pura* that his instructions to use the medicines were given in *Organon*. The mere knowledge of medicines and their drug properties for selection of remedy would not be sufficient as from their drug proving, selection of remedy, administration and second prescription. One needs to have a thorough understanding of the *Organon of Medicine*. Even the profile of each drug has been understood on the basis of its general features, peculiar and particular symptoms. The drug proving has given the raw data which has to be processed according to the principles laid down in the *Organon*, so that we shall have a materia medica in the systematic manner. *Organon* helps us to place each symptom in the drug at its right position according to its value based on the knowledge of classification of symptoms.

Even the clinical symptoms, incorporated in source books and other materia medica, are the fruits of great Homoeopaths' efforts in treating the sick. They have been arrived at by the knowledge acquired from the clinical medicine and *Organon* as the new symptoms appeared or old symptoms disappeared after the administration of the remedy belong to this category. So, to understand a drug in detail one needs to have the knowledge of philosophy and at the same time, *Organon* alone could not be useful without the knowledge of materia medica, as mere principles will not cure the sick.

Materia Medica is the beautiful building built on the strong edifice of *Organon*.

Scope and Limitations of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Homoeopathic materia medica is completely different. It is an encyclopaedia of the therapeutic properties of drugs. These properties are obtained through proving on healthy human beings. It is the knowledge of the action of the drug on healthy human beings in relation to the psychosomatic person as a whole.

There are many Homoeopathic materia medica which are written and organised in different styles. Since, materia medica are detailed

information regarding a Homoeopathic drugs, it is necessary and important to study each and every medicine in a systematic way so that we can retain as much information as possible. Everybody has different style of studying the materia medica. One common method is to memorise the key mental and physical general symptoms along with the characteristic physical symptoms. Thus, it is very clear that Homoeopathic materia medica provides great scope in the field of medicine.

Every science has scope and some limitations. Scope and limitations of the materia medica help the Homoeopathic physician to be more confident while prescribing.

Scope of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

As mentioned in various aphorisms of *Organon of Medicine*, the rationality of Homoeopathic materia medica and its accuracy is beyond any doubt. Homoeopathic materia medica is constructed differently as compared to other materia medica. Essential and complete knowledge of the drug action can be obtained only by qualitative synoptic drug experiments on healthy human being; this can make it possible to view all the scattered data in relation to the psychosomatic as a whole person. In this way the Homoeopathic materia medica provides great scope in the field of medicine.

- **Holistic approach:** Holistic and individualistic approach is found only in Homoeopathic materia medica.
- **Drug proving:** Homoeopathic materia medica has been constructed on the symptoms which are recorded by proving the drugs on healthy human beings of different ages, both sexes and at different places, the exact sensation, location, modality and concomitants are recorded. This type of proving is not found in other systems of medicine.
- **Miasms:** Miasmatic evolution of Homoeopathic drugs can be studied with the help of materia medica.
- **Rationality and Accuracy of symptoms:** As mentioned in the aphorism no. 106, 143, 144 and 145 of *Organon of Medicine*, the accuracy and the rationality of Homoeopathic materia medica is beyond any doubt that authenticity of symptoms of Homoeopathic materia medica is perfect, as the symptoms are

extracted from human pathogenetic trials.

- **Relationship of drugs:** Relationship between various drugs can be ascertained with the help of materia medica.
- **Prophylaxis:** Prophylactic drugs can be selected by determining the temperament, diathesis and disposition of a person through the materia medica.
- **Case taking:** Homoeopathic materia medica is stable and not supposed to change. It helps to formulate the questions at the time of case taking.
- **Large number of drugs:** The Homoeopathic materia medica comprises of a large number of remedies for the physician to determine or select the correct similimum for the disease condition. Such type of scope of the materia medica is not found in other system of medicine.
- **Symptoms of Homoeopathic Materia Medica are verified and confirmed:** Symptoms are confirmed by reproving and are verified on sick individuals.
- **Symptoms similarity:** In Homoeopathy, drugs are applied on the patient, on the basis of symptom similarity. As per the law of individualisation, no two humans are alike. Also susceptibility differs from person to person.
- **Prevention and cure of any epidemic at the very onset:** Many epidemics like chikungunya, flu, conjunctivitis, etc., were controlled quickly at the time of Hahnemann and thereafter, because of genus *Epidemicus*.
- **Large number of symptoms:** We get a large number of symptoms during drug proving which can be applied on sick individuals in different disease conditions.
- **Pathogenesis:** Without knowing the pathogenesis of a drug substance and its effect upon healthy human beings, it is not rational to apply it on human beings for curative purposes.
- **Choice of drug:** There are many deep acting remedies in Homoeopathic materia medica with a broad sphere of action. Hence, there is no problem in choosing the similimum. The materia medica has a large number of drugs with many symptoms. So it is possible to find a simillimum without any problem.
- **Organic changes:** Drugs are used to cure the structural changes before irreversible pathology is established. During drug

proving, the drug is withdrawn before any organic changes take place. The altered symptomatology is purely functional. Hence, Homoeopathy is useful for treatment before any pathological changes can take place.

- **Subjective symptoms:** In Allopathy, drugs are proved upon lower animals, thus, only objective symptoms are obtained. Subjective symptoms are those which are felt by the patient himself. They are considered during the treatment of the patient because they are found during proving. While receiving a case, the patient usually narrates his subjective symptoms.

Limitations of Homoeopathic Materia Medica

Every science has its own limitations as like the scope. Homoeopathic materia medica is no exception to this dictum. As we discussed about the scope of Homoeopathic materia medica, let us discuss its limitations.

- **Vast number of drug symptoms:** A human brain cannot remember all the symptoms of Homoeopathic remedy as the number of symptoms in the materia medica are very vast.
- **Lack of female provers:** During Homoeopathic drug proving there were fewer female provers. Hence, female symptoms are less.
- **Limitation in pathological condition:** No dynamic Homoeopathic drug is proved with an intention to get pathological changes. There are no drug proving records for pathological changes in Homoeopathic materia medica. Very often we come across pathological symptoms, but these are not of great importance. In many instances of cure, like very difficult advanced pathological conditions, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, hemiplegia, tumours, etc., are cured by Homoeopathy. But Homoeopathic drugs are not proved to such an extent applying higher potency for prolonged period on susceptible provers to produce such state, and are to be dependent upon clinical symptoms for prescribing such cases.
- **Acute emergency:** There is a very limited scope for Homoeopathic drugs in an acute emergency case.

- **Complete book:** There is no materia medica which we can claim to be complete and contains all the information.
- **Sensation:** During Homoeopathic drug proving, sensation holds an important place. For example, sensation of pain is described using words like, tearing, tingling, aching, boring, etc. But practically in many cases, the patients rarely represent the sensation in words.
- **Irreversible pathology:** There is a lack of characteristic pathological symptoms in Homoeopathic materia medica. Pathological symptoms can be obtained from records of poisoning or from clinical practice after being cured, as there is no proving of dynamic drugs with an intension to get pathological symptoms. It has no scope when advanced structural damages take place or when irreversible organic changes take place.
- **Rare remedies:** Utilisation of some remedies is very difficult as in Homoeopathic materia medica some drugs are partially proved. These remedies are called rare remedies.
- **Lack of authenticity:** Most provers who participated in Homoeopathic drug proving were non-medicos and laymen. Thus, many symptoms lack authenticity in drug proving.
- **Drugs in surgery:** In Homoeopathic materia medica, there are no dependable specifics or of pre-operative, post-operative or preventive drugs available. Hence, there is very little scope in the field of surgery, anesthesia, contraception, drug induced abortion, etc.
- **Imperfect materia medica:** There are hundreds of venomous snakes and thousands of scorpions, but only few have been properly proven.

It is evident that there is a very thin line of demarcation between the scope of Homoeopathy and its limitations. The physician may very well understand the scope and limitations of Homoeopathy, but each physician must also be governed by his own individual judgment and the circumstances of the case. Hence, there will always be differences of opinion between individual physicians under such circumstances.

Introduction to Group Study

Group as a noun, means a number of persons or things together, number of individual things related in some definite way differentiating them from the others. What is true for the mass will be true to the entity because a drop of water ultimately reflects the ocean.

Group study is a way to study materia medica in a simpler and livelier form. The process of understanding the general character of a particular segment of event, phenomenon or experience can be considered as a group study.

Group analysis refers to the method of thematic prescribing. The method involves identifying key themes, which relate to minerals and elements, enabling them to be matched to similar themes in patients. The result is that whole group of remedies, such as calcium and ferrum, may be studied together and remedy differentiation and selection will be made considerably easy.

Kent said, “There is no royal road to a perfect understanding of materia medica”. The Homoeopathic materia medica is a very fascinating and yet exasperating subject and can be studied in various ways of which the comparative study of drugs is very important and useful.

Need for Group Study

During Dr Hahnemann’s time in 1830, there were approximately 100 remedies in the Homoeopathic materia medica. In 1850, the number went up to 200. In 1921, it was approximately 1600. In 1955, it was

close to 2000 and later in 2002, it was more than 3500. At present there are more than 4500 remedies in the Homoeopathic materia medica and the great challenge of remembering billions of symptoms still stands. With this continuous expansion in the materia medica, complexity itself tempts the Homoeopath to remain inside this range of remedies. This has led to the evolution of a new concept in student materia medica, study of drugs in groups. Here drugs originating from the same source or drugs having the same basic structure are included in a group and studied together. This method has made the entire study of materia medica easier and comprehensible, as well as time saving. Thus, in group study we analyse a group of remedies which contains characteristic symptoms

Remedies are divided into groups for several reasons like ease of study and memorisation. Another reason is that it is based upon philosophical assumptions. If remedies with similar physical attributes are administered together, a similar medicinal effect is seen, which can be used advantageously. Because people like to look for associations in order to understand the nature of the healing action of remedies, Homoeopaths have explored many types of groupings in order to shed light on our understanding of the impenetrable mechanics of healing. People who need remedies from animal sources will have different characteristic symptoms as compared to people who need remedies from mineral or plant sources.

There are two directions; we could take to verify the correct way to group remedies. First one of which is a top-down approach, that is to understand how remedies heal and then group the remedies that heal similarly together. However, we do not know how remedies heal although we have plenty of theories. You could choose one theory and apply a categorisation of remedies to see if they fit in, but it would be mostly an academic exercise. Another way to verify a correct grouping is to go upwards from bottom. We group a bunch of possibly related remedies together according to their relationship to understand the system and then see if it holds up to scrutiny. If it does not, then perhaps we will end up with a nice mnemonic system.

Thanks to the pioneering works of Dr Jan Scholten and Dr Rajan Sankaran, the vast materia medica today can be summarised and

understood through the method of group analysis. This not only offers new aspects to well-known remedies, but also highlights the smaller, not so well known remedies, resulting in a more comprehensive understanding of the materia medica.

To validate systems by borrowing accepted concepts and create more modern sounding explanations, some shy away from the simplistic idea of groups and invade the more mystical world of Carl Jung. The use of the word ‘archetype’ is consistent with how Homoeopaths used to talk about the genius or the keynote of the remedy, but there is a layer of metaphysical philosophy that is usually added for justification in creating a modern Doctrine of Signature.

The Doctrine of Signature is an attractive system, as it is easily understood and useful for recalling remedy attributes. People assume that an accumulation of memorisation aids over the centuries is enough to corroborate the authenticity of the system, but it falls apart once you try to expand it to other remedies.

History of Group Study

The first classification was made by Dr Hahnemann himself, based on the nature of drug and miasm namely psora, sycosis and syphilis. For a long time after the initial development of Homoeopathic materia medica, much significance was not given to group study and no one realised its value during selection and understanding of the remedy.

This history dates back to Dr Kent, who studied and wrote on this subject for the first time. Earlier Dr Farrington, Dr Clarke and others tried to study drugs in groups. Some botanist also studied the remedy classifying them into classes, sub-classes and families. Understanding of the kingdom the drug belongs is vital to Homoeopathy.

Historically, Dr E.A. Farrington used kingdom analysis in 1880 in his classical book *Clinical Materia Medica*, where he made an attempt to study the remedies by classifying them in various groups. Dr Clarke, in his *Clinical Repertory*, attempted to give the remedy relationships according to various groups. In 1935, Otto Lesser, in his *Textbook of Homoeopathic Materia Medica*, attempted to study inorganic materia medica by dividing medicines in to different groups, according to the

periodic table. The prime mover of group analysis of the modern era is Dr M.L. Dhawale, followed by Jan Scholten in his book *Homoeopathy and Elements* and *Homoeopathy and Minerals*. The work has been further continued by other stalwarts like, Roger Morrison and Rajan Sankaran. Dr Jeremy Sherr by proved the elements from the periodic table and now recently Nancy Herrick's proved animal remedies.

Group study has gained importance and popularity in the recent years. Many stalwarts of Homoeopathy have come out with various new ideas of group study and its utility in treating the sick. Homoeopathic scientists all over the world are sponsoring and developing this intricate study of drugs groups (group analysis) to explore the complex relationship between various drugs, as well as its utility in prescribing the remedy. The pace with which the study and research is expanding the knowledge of materia medica, group analysis will certainly help in giving a wider base to knowledge and understanding of the materia medica.

It is only during the past few decades that group analysis has become an independent, full-fledged subject. When it was used by practitioners, it served as an effective method of prescribing a remedy. There are several scientific experiments that explain the intricacies of group analysis.

Scientific Classification of Group Study

Group study provides us with the best understanding and enables us to travel from generals to particulars, i.e. conveying general common group features and then the differentiating particular features of the individual drug of a group.

In Homoeopathy, the definition of a group can be modified as a number of similar drugs or remedies taken or considered together, related in some definite way. Drugs having similar characteristic structures, family, are considered together in a certain group. Copper and Iron are both hard in nature, conduct electricity and are found in the mines. Hence the scientist have kept them in the same group—metals.

The group analysis is a relatively new approach to Homoeopathic prescribing. It is an attempt to identify a mechanism for understanding groups of related remedies used in Homoeopathic practice according to the natural classification of various sources. In the group analysis, therefore, we look at groups of remedies and try to extract the common from these groups.

This is a process that classifies and differentiates Homoeopathic remedies in order to ease the selection of the simillimum.

Kingdom-wise Classification of Remedies

Study of the natural sciences and Homoeopathy go hand in hand. This includes the assessment of the mineral remedies, elements of the periodic table, the plant remedies with the study of the botanical families, the animal remedies and study of their groups

We come to believe that categorising according to the kingdom can be very useful. It is not a vital tool in finding the correct remedy for the patient, but in figuring out the characteristics that we might expect from remedies in the different kingdoms. It is important to look at the characteristics of the members of each kingdom as they appear in nature. Although no one person will have all of the characteristics, enough will often be present to identify him predominantly with one kingdom.

In our daily practice, we use only symptoms of the remedy for selection, without really considering the source of the drug. For example, if we were to differentiate *Ignatia* from *Natrum muraticum*, it would usually be on the basis of the symptoms alone. It is, however, becoming very clear that the symptomatology of any drug is intimately related to the source it is drawn from, and that each drug has in it the essence of its source. For example, in *Lachesis* we find that the symptoms are left sided. The person cannot bear pressure, constriction around the neck and has a darting movement of the tongue. It cannot be a mere coincidence that the Surukuku snake has all its organs on the left side of the body. It is most vulnerable around the neck region and has, like all snakes, the darting movements of the tongue. Such examples are being used by teachers to bring alive

the materia medica in all Homoeopathic medical colleges throughout the world.

However, this knowledge has not been properly used in differentiating remedies by studying their organs. If properly understood, this study could enable us to observe the *Law of Similars*. From the very beginning, I found that such an understanding is extremely useful in practice. I have attempted to identify and explain the main differentiating features of the four major kingdoms from which our medicines are derived, i.e. animal kingdom, plant kingdom, mineral kingdom, nosodes and sarcodes. From this we will have at least some idea from which kingdom we are to choose our remedy. This certainly makes our task much easier.

Such differentiation is neither final nor full proof, and is not always clear while selection of the remedy. This study could be elaborated and could lead us to a great height in exploring new dimensions in the study and understanding of materia medica.

We can classify the Homoeopathic materia medica into the following kingdoms:

- Animal kingdom
- Plant kingdom
- Mineral kingdom

Various Concepts of Group Classification

The general group study and analysis concept is based on characteristics of an element as the main ingredient of drug substances, characteristics of natural relationships of minerals, vegetables and animals as main co-relatives between groups of drug substances. It is also based up on characteristics of inorganic chemical substances (elements in increasing atomic numbers) as main ingredient of drug substance.

The concepts of group study in detail are as follows:

- In the Animal kingdom, concept of group analysis is based upon characteristics of the animal group and their ingredients

of drug substances. Among animal remedies, there are different groups and classes, e.g., snakes, insects, mammals, etc. They all represent their own general features.

- In the Plant kingdom, concept of group analysis is based upon characteristics of the botanical natural orders, i.e. families from plant kingdom, as main group of drug substances. Some important families and higher orders are:
 - *Apocynaceae*
 - *Anacardiaceae*
 - *Berberidaceae*
 - *Compositae*
 - *Coniferae*
 - *Cucurbitaceae*
 - *Euphorbiaceae*
 - *Hamameliceae*
 - *Leguminosae*
 - *Liliflorae*
 - *Papaveraceae*
 - *Ranunculaceae*
 - *Rubiaceae*
 - *Solanaceae*
 - *Umbelliferae*, etc.
- In the Mineral kingdom, concept of group analysis is based up characteristics of minerals as the main ingredient of drug substances, i.e. cations and anions. Major series and groups of mineral kingdom are:
 - Hydrogen series
 - Carbon series
 - Silicon series
 - Ferrum series
 - Silver series
 - Gold series
 - Uranium series

The periodic table elements:

1. Group IA : Alkalies
2. Group IIA : Earthy alkalies
3. Group IIIA : Boron–Aluminium
4. Group IVA : Carbon

5. Group VA : Nitrogen
6. Group VIA : Sulphur
7. Group VIIA : Halogens
8. Heavy metals

Advantages of Group Study

- **Simplifies burdensome data in materia medica for study:** Homoeopathic materia medica is the study of every individual drug from every angle. Everybody knows how difficult it is to remember all the signs and symptoms of thousands of remedies individually. However, in group study the common signs and symptoms are generalised giving better perception of the drug and making it easier to remember all the signs and symptoms. This helps in the quick and easy memorisation of the most similar remedies.
- **Proper selection of Homoeopathic remedy:** Homoeopathy is the science and art of healing, which is based on a philosophy where body, mind and spirit are connected and discussed not in isolation but as a whole. The study of groups helps to arrive at an accurate and constitutional remedy in general. Here group study is required because of the following reasons:
 - One sided diseases pose a problem for selection of the most similar remedy due to scanty data which does not lead to the accurate selection of a remedy. Group analysis helps us in such cases.
 - In case of mental diseases where the mind and behaviour of the patient are mainly affected since childhood, group analysis leads to the group of drugs which, most likely, will lead to the correct remedy.
 - Through group analysis, we know the rationality and practicality of Homoeopathic medicines for treating the sick individuals.
 - Group analysis creates awareness amongst the Homoeopathic fraternity (especially, students, teachers and practitioners) regarding materia medica and its utility.
- **Tool for study:** The concept of group analysis or group study is an extremely wise instrument evolved by experts. Beginners will

find this somewhat tough but by practicing this skill, a physician's confidence increases and the task becomes easier and enjoyable. After a thorough practice, application of group analysis becomes spontaneous and automatic. An expert physician himself starts implementing it at the time of case taking. However, one must take special note of the fact that group study is not the only way of prescribing; it is one of the ways of studying and applying Homoeopathic materia medica.

- In order to get good results, physician must be an expert in this aspect. He must be able to differentiate between cases, which can be treated by this approach and cases which require other methods of prescribing.
- Physicians should know the scope and limitation of group study and must be able to differentiate between cases which can be handled clearly by this approach and which require other methods of prescription for efficient results on patients in some difficult and mysterious cases.
- **Extrapolate remedy relationship (of the particular group of remedy):** Study of materia medica in groups helps to get a clear-cut view regarding the sphere of action of the members of the same group, to understand the basic emotional, intellectual and moral status of the members of the group and to know their basic pathological affection. In some cases when data is not informative enough the knowledge of group study may hint towards the probable remedy. In cases where there is masking of symptoms due to over medication, hence, loss in the actual flavour, this method can lead the physician closer to the simillimum. This can be true for one-sided cases also. It hints the evolution of miasmatic phases in individual remedies.
- **Enrichment of materia medica:** Group study enables us to see how far logical interpretation plays a role in the conceptual building of the portrait of a remedy in materia medica. It helps the practitioners to derive unknown aspects of the remedy and apply them in practice by verification through adequate clinical experience. It helps in enriching materia medica by formulation of concepts and their verification through experimentation for further study.
- **Verification of results and data:** The process of group study

helps to confirm the work done by researchers and verify it in clinical practice. It empowers the practitioners to obtain conceptual data by thinking logically and to make a portrait of the remedy in the absence of a drug proving. Group study is beneficial in development of the study of radicals, cations/anions, their inter-relationship and their correlation with data in the materia medica.

- **Saves time:** The core of many drugs can be studied simultaneously, saving time for individual study of the case. Once a group is derived, individualisation of a remedy is very easy.
- **Helps in understanding of psychosomatic concept of disease:** Group analysis helps us evolve a new dimension to grasp the psychosomatic concept of the disease. Many psychiatrists of the modern era have supported our so-called hypothetical explanation of a given situation and many have adopted this pattern to evaluate a case in their clinical practice. This could prove immensely beneficial to attain popularity and support for our newer concepts of natures—*Law of cure*.

Limitations of Group Study

Some homoeopaths doubt the study of Homoeopathic remedies in groups. There is even a resistance to the system of classification in Homoeopathy, coming from the idea that it is theorising.

- Study of materia medica through group study invariably requires the process of generalisation. In this process, one has to neglect or sacrifice individual attributes that are not homogenous and this is where the problem develops. This may affect the efficacy of the remedy. What one can achieve with the study of individual remedy in its totality, one cannot achieve with group study. The chance of getting prejudiced towards the symptomatology of remedies in a group is more.
- Deriving the conclusions that a particular case in hand needs a particular group and out of that group a particular remedy, may appear simple and uncomplicated, but this is a very intricate procedure that involves multi-dimensional aspects having philosophical base. It requires analytical skills of high degree, which is not with neophytes.

- It is one of the ways of prescribing, it is case specific. So, cannot be true always.
- Group study is one of the ways of studying materia medica.
- This study abstracts the individual drugs.
- Group study provides a very broader way of understanding which may not be true for every member of the group (Acids are prostrated but fluoric acid is an exception).
- Group study is general. One should be familiar with the individual feature of each remedy.
- Group study cannot give the idea of potency, doses and repetition.

We need to take a balanced view, towards the study of materia medica with a group consideration. One should not rely too much on group study as the contents of group study excluded the individual features of the remedy to be studied.

At present, group study is in its juvenile age, much remains unexplored. My request and appeal to all Homoeopathic fraternity is to take up this research task, arrange more seminars, group discussions and symposia. Let us gather material from all possible sources, put it in most scientific form and let the beginners get attracted to this subject. This exercise shall surely benefit Homoeopathy and the generations to come.

Animal Kingdom

Animal Kingdom

Theme

- Playful
- Animated
- Dogmatic
- Productive
- Mischievous
- High sexuality
- Issues of survival
- Struggle for power
- Jealousy and suspicious
- Dominating and dominated
- Conflict
- Deceitful
- Attractive
- Intelligent
- Competitive
- Living in group
- Issues of hierarchy
- Two sided personalities
- Protective and aggressive
- Alert and quick to react

Introduction

Nature offers the most exquisite system of natural classification—mineral, plant and animal kingdom. The three kingdoms of nature are the source of Homoeopathic materia medica.

A considerable part of the Homoeopathic materia medica consists of medicines derived from the animal kingdom. Animal remedies present a group picture, which have some similarities with the plant families and some with the mineral groups. They do not affect the structure in the same way as the mineral remedies. The animal kingdom is prone to crisis and violence, reflecting energetic and

rapidly moving states. They are suitable for very destructive forms of acute and chronic diseases.

The animal kingdom is all about survival-to be the prey or the predator. Thus, we find some of the most basic emotions in the animal kingdom. *How we relate to one another and compete for our existence* is the basic theme of the animal kingdom. As there are various species within the animal kingdom, there are different behaviours.

The study of zoology and Homoeopathy is vast. To understand the nature of animal remedies, we must study the nature of the animals and their habitats. Remedies derived from the animal kingdom act energetically and rapidly. They vary in intensity from the fatal snake bite to corals, sponges, etc. Animal temperament is competitive, instinctive, possessive, jealous and aggressive especially when cornered. They possess animal magnetism and vitality. There are a few inimical remedies in the materia medica derived from the animal kingdom.

Some animal poisons are distinguished by the violence and intensity of their action and some by the different alterations they produce in structure, function with composition and quality of blood. Also, the nervous system suffers and the lower tissues are affected. Here we see that the entire tendency of these drugs is to produce diseases, which are never of an asthenic character and are of a destructive form, tending to local as well as to general death of the body.

These animal poisons are apt to affect the mind, especially emotions. They arouse the lowest qualities in human nature and produce a condition, which is truly shocking. Some of them arouse the filthiest lust, intense anger and passions of a kindered nature.

Common to the animal remedies is a 'conflict' which has at its basis a 'split' in the self – the animal side and the human side. The animal side is concerned with competition and a need for attention from other people. They may try attracting attention by doing abnormal things like, purposely dressing in a way different from others. Their actions are often suggestive about their attention seeking