

Book Reviews



The Last Series

Author: Margriet Plouvier-Suijs, 2012,

Emryss Publishers, The Netherlands.

ISBN: 9789076189390

Hardcover. 236pp.

Weight: 495g.

Price: approx. 40AUD / €29

Reviewer: Ai-Ling Su Makewell
'The essence of communication lies in the French words 'comme-une' (as one)

A healing moment occurs when, during the consultation, communication connects at that point

Then the patient, the therapist, the patient's state and inner consciousness, and the medicine are 'as one', a single communicating energy.'

Yes! Just by riding on the strength of this little poem alone, I recommend this book to all homœopaths and students who are passionate about our healing art. Those few words revealed the author's understanding of her subject with a deep appreciation of the art of homœopathic healing, and most of all it is that sense of oneness of all life force without separation that connects us to the spirit of healing.

Actinides, a group of elements that is radioactive has the

potential to destroy and vaporise all life forms on Earth, but as its intrinsic **power** is so great for destructive purposes, the power for good can be equally deep, depending upon how these elements are utilised and applied. The former has been witnessed in the devastating destruction of life by the explosion of the atomic bombs dropped in Japan during World War II, and the latter has been demonstrated to a certain extent by the case studies here.

This book does not disappoint. It is rich with information of and insight into the elements of this last series in healing with homœopathy. I thoroughly enjoyed the 'Foreword' written by *Deborah Collins* and 'The 7th Period' by *Jeremy Sherr*, both of which provide a unique perspective on the Actinides, their symbolic meaning and their literal connection with our human evolutionary path.

The all-important **theme** of the seventh series is laid out clearly at the beginning of the book, which provides a most essential parameter for understanding how these radioactive elements could be applied by way of *Scholten's* Element Theory in concepts, themes, and analysis. The concepts associated with the theme of the 7th series include: altruism; to communicate; wisdom, intuition; to observe, to perceive; overview, transparency; old age; etc. Each of these concepts is explained concisely in relationship to how one could recognise these in an individual leading to a prescription of the Actinides that is curative. The 7th series'

theme concepts are also presented in each individual element, providing clarity and making it easy to follow the rationale given in her case studies.

The elements from Radium (2nd stage) to Californium 252 (stage 13) are explored considerably, that is accompanied by case studies (except Californium). The remaining Francium (1st element in the Uranium series), and the Actinides, Fermium (14th), Mendelevium (15th), Nobelium (16th), and Lawrencium (17th) are yet to become known for their applications in homœopathic healing. Moreover, *Plouvier-Suijs'* case studies permit one to learn and understand the reason for her prescriptions in each of the cases.

That being so, my attention is drawn particularly to the case given by *Anton Kramer* (p. 66) – 'Case Protactinium metallicum'. Kramer traced this case from his 'failure' in the initial prescription to realise that the patient may have needed another remedy, i.e. *Protactinium*, which has brought about healing for his patient. What I found of particular value in mentioning this case is the transparency and honesty in Kramer's account of his experience. As practitioners we often learn the most from our (others') 'mistakes' than from our successes. 'Transparency and honesty' definitely give this book a sense of authenticity that engages my attention and interest.

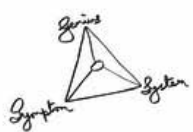
In addition, in *Plouvier-Suijs'* exploration of the Actinides she included the symptoms, in

some of the elements, derived from provings from her and others' work, and the extraction of *Dr. Sujit Chatterjee's* extensive proving of *Uranium nitricum* is given separately in Addendum 1. The proving symptoms can be useful as these could further confirm one's choice of a medicine when the theme of an element is perceived to be present in an individual patient when applying the Element theory.

Having introduced the many merits of this book, there are a few minor points I have cause to mention. First, it is perhaps a typo (p.24) – 'The central words of these series are' – could it be 'this', meaning the 7th series and not all the seven series? Second, the listed 'Archetypes: the testifier, the joker, the clown, ...' under each section of the elements discussed appear to be a bit superfluous when they lack contextual relationship to the rest of the contents in the book. My reason for saying this is that I was looking for their meaning in relationship to the cases and how these archetypes are connected to the elements under consideration. I did not find any.

Third, similarly, on p.65, presumably, *Plouvier-Suijs* discusses her 'Personal experience with Protactinium Muriaticum' relates to the very popular counselling technique, spread widely in Europe, of 'Family Constellation'? For me, the Family Constellation technique used in counselling can be helpful to homœopaths and individuals who wish to gain insight into the properties of a medicine or an element,

and particularly the personal issue. It would be equally helpful if this technique were explained in some detail, so to assist homœopaths and students alike, outside of Europe, to obtain contextual meaning and understanding of her experience. The information of Plouvier-Suijs' experience with Protactinium has left me unfortunately none the wiser. Also, a brief explanation of the 'Oedipal phase' (p.138), a term used in psychology, and the functional value of the chakras (p. 125) in relationship to our individual's evolution of consciousness and state of health may also be called for towards our gaining insight as well as having a broader understanding of homœopathy as a healing modality of a far more encompassing nature. Otherwise, these are just words. These above mentioned are minor points that do not detract from this book's overall excellence addressing them could enhance a more coherent understanding in context for some readers.



The Synergy in Homeopathy - An Integrated Approach to Case Taking and Analysis

Author: Dr. Rajan Sankaran

Publisher: Homœopathic Medical Publishers. Mumbai, India, 2012.

ISBN: 9789380355849

Indian Hard cover.

313pp. Weight: 575g

Price: approx. 65AUD / €49.50

Reviewer: Shilpa Bhouraskar

Dr Rajan Sankaran is a practitioner, thinker, teacher, and writer on the homœopathic system of medicine. His concept that disease originates from a false perception of reality (delusion) was the subject of his first major book. He then discovered that our experience could exist on one of seven levels, beginning with the name and culminating in its sensory or energy experience. Here is a review of his latest book.

Most of Dr Rajan Sankaran's previous books describe his journey of going deeper and deeper into the patient's core through the process of his case-taking and analysis system.

The emphasis was on being able to elicit the basic delusion or sensation in a patient and he created a system based on that, which can help the prescription.

In so doing he has creatively evolved newer and refined approaches in pursuit of improving the success rate. On the one hand he has been applauded for creating some groundbreaking approaches in homœopathy but on the other he has often been criticised for diverting away from so-called Hahnemannian or classical homœopathic approaches.

This book is refreshingly different because it is not about another new concept but about bringing together the old and the new. So in a way it is very realistic. He acknowledges that the Sensation idea holds true but he is not rigid about that approach of case taking.

He does not see the new and traditional knowledge as separate but as complementing each other in a natural evolution of a homœopath's practice.

Hence as the book cover denotes this book is all about understanding the synergy between the symptom, the system and the genius in our cases.

The best part of the book is in the cases where he has been able to look at the same case using the old and the new approaches. Here he explains clearly how symptoms and the system are two sides of the same coin and speak the same language from two angles. He explains how they are not mutually exclusive and can be used in parallel during case taking and analysis. Further he elaborates how the understanding of the medicine too can be integrated similarly through a combination of four resources i.e. the Toxicological, Materia Medica, Repertory and the System (classification and miasm).

There are some interesting sections on dealing with psychiatric cases, children's cases and acute situations with a kit of his favourite acute medicines.

For me the best part about this book is the way he acknowledges and appreciates that his process has come full circle from where he started in his first book i.e. from the symptom towards a system and now back to connect with the symptom and the genius of the case and medicine.

Personally it evokes memories of his teaching during his OPD clinic when I was a student in 1996, where this synergetic approach was something I had seen him use practically in that busy clinic.

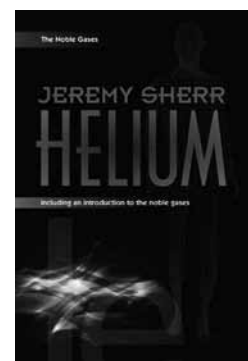
So it's wonderful to see it in book form for the first time. We definitely need many more books in homœopathy such as these with more examples and cases where homœopaths work using the integration of various approaches to give the best for their patients.

What I found missing are those cases where the symptoms and system do **not** come together. It would have been very useful to have his say on the way he would approach such cases, if he were to use either of the

approaches, and his thought process.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is a serious student of homœopathy, especially for those who consider that contemporary approaches are divorced from Hahnemannian Homœopathy.

It is an open, honest book. It's both thought-provoking and inspiring to being flexible and tap into the tremendous potential of what homœopathy is.



Helium - Including an introduction to the noble gases

Author: Jeremy Sherr

Saltire Publishers, Scotland.

ISBN: 978-1-90812-7023-7

Hardcover. 236pp. 495g.

Price: approx. 40AUD / €29

Reviewer: Jenni Tree

'The noble gift of perfect existence is also *Helium's* Achilles heel. Perfectionism wraps *Helium* in an isolating layer, preventing contact with the grimy joys of life.'

Jeremy Sherr's journey with the noble gases has so far taken twenty years, starting with the proving of *Neon* in 1993. *Helium* was proved in 1995 and *Argon* and *Krypton* both in 1997. In 2012 he reprovved *Xenon* and is yet trying to source pure *Radon* to reprove this.

I met with salivating anticipation the opportunity to review this book. Jeremy Sherr publishes rarely: I have awaited a 'Gas Book' for many years now. And his books are a feast of many courses. In this