

**A STUDY ON**

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# **MATERIA MEDICA**

(An ideal text-book for homoeopathic students)



**Dr. N.M. Choudhuri**

A  
Study  
on  
Materia Medica

SAINT GERMAIN

**N.M. Choudhuri, M.D.**

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(AN IDEAL TEXT-BOOK FOR HOMOEOPATHIC STUDENTS)

by

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**B. Jain Publishers (P) Ltd.**

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USA—EUROPE—INDIA

## **PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

**I**n homoeopathic fraternity, when one comes to talk about the guiding lights, a few names automatically come to mind who have shown the way, right from the first step when, as a student one starts and later on, when one seeks specialized, mature recommendations, in his professional endeavors. Dr. N. M. Choudhuri's materia medica needs no introduction in this regard.

This book, over the years has been of utmost help for the students and practicing physicians alike. However in our continuing quest to improve the 21<sup>st</sup> century homoeopathy and to bring it in unison with the present day demands, it was deemed necessary to bring about a few changes in this edition which were felt to be long since overdue.

To begin with, the book has been printed in a new computerised font, moving away from the routine to highlight important aspects in every drug and their therapeutics, specially illustrating the actual case recordings and thus strikingly exhibiting the practical applications when used in a given case.

In doing so, special care has been taken not to change the text or the original writings of Dr. N. M. Choudhuri even while writing the 'keynotes' in the beginning of each drug. Readers can now look forward to a quick reference with the help of 'keynotes' which strike out even while turning the pages.

Since this is a populist oriented work, the above mentioned changes will be appreciated by one and all, and the absence of the

repertory will not be missed, considering that it was merely being used.

Also, in order to internationally standardize the drug names and abbreviations, the Synthesis Repertory has been followed. For other medical terminology, Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, 28<sup>th</sup> edition has been referred to.

'Contents', in the beginning of the book has replaced the 'Index' at the end of the book.

Two corrections made in this revised edition are:

a) In *Ocimum canum*, page 742, the introduction given was that of Holy Basil which is actually the common name for *Ocimum sanctum*. This has been corrected to Brazilian Alfavaca or Kalatulsi.

b) A judicious attempt has been made to more clearly differentiate between *Tarentula hispanica* and *Tarentula cubensis*, since their symptoms were found camouflaged under a common heading *Tarentula cubensis* in the previous edition.

Finally a note of thanks to Dr. Taru J. Bhagat, our Director, Editing without whose hardwork and persistence for quality, this edition could not have acquired the present shape.

We also thank Mrs. Nandini Sharma for typesetting and book designing.

As this edition reaches the reader's desk and undergoes several readings thereafter, it is bound to improve further, provided you keep providing us with your views and suggestions to help us keep pace with the changing face of homoeopathy around the globe.

—B. Jain Publishers

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

**T**he first edition of "*A Study on Materia Medica*" is exhausted and a second edition of the book has taken the place of the first. We are enjoined to do the best we can according to the light that is thrown on us. Judging from this standard, I feel that the first edition has been a success.

In accordance with the newer light and the fresher revelations to the soul, the new edition of the book has been so reformed and altered that it might as well have been a different book with a new nomenclature. It is a great improvement, on the first, inasmuch as it covers a vastly bigger field and embodies the experience of the last twenty years of my practice. The remedies have been arranged in an alphabetical order, and a great endeavor has been made to rectify many of the defects in the previous edition. Almost all the known remedies have been embodied in this volume with the exception of a few, a very few minor ones of empirical and unauthenticated nature.

In my capacity as the Principal of the Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College, I have to deal very largely with materia medica, and this treatise, properly speaking, is the outcome of the lectures delivered to the students.

It has therefore done its day's work in the propagation of the principle of "*similia*." I too have been amply repaid for the night after night of toil by the satisfaction it has already afforded me, that though the way has been long and dreary, it has been traversed in

the wake of the immortals—of my loving preceptors here as well as abroad, whose standard it has been my good fortune to carry in the field of their glory.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to express my heart felt thanks to some of my colleagues for the valuable service rendered by them, chief among whom must be mentioned the names of doctors K. M. Banerji, J. N. Hazra and M. N. Banerjee. To Dr. K. M. Banerji is due great credit for many of the practical suggestions I received from him. Drs. J. N. Hazra and M.N. Banerjee have great claim on me for the untiring devotion, zeal and earnestness with which they have served me during these tedious months of hard mental labor.

Calcutta:

*The 1st June, 1929.*

**N. M. Choudhuri**

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

**T**his work on materia medica, the result of years of patient labor, has its origin in my by-gone student days, when as an alumni of the Hering Medical College, that fountain, since dried up, of true and pure homoeopathy, I used to sit at the feet of apostles like Drs. Allen, Taylor, Tom Hagen and Farrington. The principle of differentiation and assimilation then inculcated in me by these expounders has been given the greatest importance in this work. I will consider myself satisfied and my duty fulfilled, if I in my turn can impress on students and practitioners on this side of the hemisphere the essential importance of this most pivotal principle of this true science of the healing art.

To the teachings of those Masters of the west, I have added many important practical hints from my preceptor, Dr. P.C. Mojumdar, with whom I had the good fortune to spend a few years of my early career.

I have further enriched this volume with the experiences of our eastern Masters such as Drs. B. L. Bhaduri, Salzer and M. L. Sarkar. I have not only clothed many of the abstract principles of the *Organon* in flesh and blood but given them rich and attractive apparel in the form of illustrations and anecdotes to make them interesting and impressive.

I must acknowledge obligation to the following authors, whom I consulted often and from whom I picked up many valuable information:—Drs. H. C. Allen, T.F. Allen, J.H. Clarke, H.N. Guernsey, J.B. Bell, C.M. Conant, N.B. Bose, E.M. Hales, J.T. Kent, E.B. Nash,



Samuel Lilienthal, P.C. Mojumdar, Salzer, Constantine Hering and E.A. Farrington. I have also taken many hints from the American Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia.

In this connection I like to add that my heart felt obligation is due to Kali Pada Pathak, but for whom this book would never have seen light and to whose whole hearted devotion, sincere love and patient helpfulness I owe not only this treatise on materia medica but a great part of my personal comfort and a big share of my energy.

Finally, let me mention that I cherish no anxiety about the future of this volume, for a fate worse than what has been predicted by a great friend and sincere well wisher of mine, "It will at least be popular amongst vermin if not amongst human being," can never befall this volume.

Calcutta:

*The 1st December, 1916.*

**N.M. Choudhuri**

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## LAC CANINUM



### NOTES

- *Changeability of symptoms; pain changes location, discharges are not the same every time.*
- *Very forgetful, mind becomes a total blank due to absent-mindedness.*
- *A chronic blue condition, loses interest in everything, fears of going insane.*
- *Delusions, about snakes, wearing someone else's nose, etc.*
- *Chief sphere of action in affections of the throat; diphtheria, membrane alternates sides; shiny glazed appearance of the fauces.*
- *Violent palpitation while lying on the left side, better lying on the right side.*

**H**ere is one more of the homoeopath's indispensable remedies. It is prepared from the Dog's Milk. It has a few very characteristic symptoms that should be carefully studied. The grand keynote of this remedy is found in its mental symptoms. The patient is very forgetful. Sometimes his mind becomes a total blank; he buys things in the market and walks away without them. He omits letter or letters of a word when writing. While speaking, he unconsciously and inadvertently substitutes objects seen instead of objects thought of. This is due to absent-mindedness. With him concentration of mind is difficult. In this respect it can be compared favorably with **Acidum phos.**, **Anacardium**, **Baryta carb.**, **Cannabis indica**, **Glonoinum**, **Lycopodium**, **Medorrhinum** and **Thuja**. Of course all these remedies have peculiarities of their own and differentiation should be mainly based on individual characteristics.

**Acidum phos.**, like **Natrium phos.** and **Caladium** has marked forgetfulness after sexual excesses.

In **Anacardium** the forgetfulness is to be accounted for by excessive mental exertions; also in this remedy the forgetfulness is most marked in the morning hours.

**Baryta carb.** is indicated in forgetfulness of old people where age has taken the keenness of all mental faculties.

**Cannabis ind.** is so utterly forgetful that he has to stop while speaking because of his forgetfulness.

In **Glonoinum**, forgetfulness renders the patient ludicrous. He forgets the name of well known streets, the number and the location of his own house, although he has been living in the same for years.

**Medorrhinum** forgets even his own name. Symptoms like these may seem ludicrous to an allopath who prescribes on generalisations, but to a homoeopath, taking detail of each minute occurrence, these symptoms will be of immense benefit. In **Thuja** as in **Kalium bich.**, the patient becomes very forgetful, specially after waking up from sleep. As time elapses, his memory gradually dawns on him.

We also find him suffering from a chronic blue condition. He loses interest in everything. World seems to him too dark and cheerless a place to live in. Destitute of hope and ambition, he becomes very irritable and cross. Very often he fears as if he is becoming insane.

Another peculiar mental condition of **Lac caninum** is found in a strange delusion about snakes. He imagines as if he is surrounded by snakes. He falls asleep thinking of snakes; during sleep, dreams of snakes and wakes up from sleep in fright as if about to be beaten by snakes. Another symptom that this remedy is credited with, consists of a peculiar state of mind in which he thinks that he is wearing someone else's nose. This is not all. We find him possessed of a few other absurd notions. He feels as if he is too light and as though walking through the air without his feet touching the ground. While lying down his body does not seem to be touching the bed.

The next characteristic of **Lac caninum**, is to be found in its changeability. In rheumatism, the pain and the swelling keep on changing the location every few hours or days. In diarrhea the stools are not the same every time. In sore throat, tonsillitis, diphtheria, the same changing of sides is noticeable. I remember having cured with **Lac caninum** scrofulous swellings of the axillary glands that used to alternate sides very frequently.

Its chief sphere of action is found in affections of the throat. In diphtheria the membranes leave one side and go to the other side alternately. Pains too repeatedly shift from side to side and shoot into the ear on each attempt at swallowing. In spite of this difficulty he feels like swallowing all the time. The breath smells horrible. Profuse salivation, external sensitiveness of the throat as in **Lachesis**, a shining glazed appearance of the fauces and of the diphtheritic deposit, are all additional indications. One nostril feels quite stopped up, while the other keeps free and discharging. Dr. Nash cites two cases of tonsillitis in one house that were put under the two opposite systems of treatment, allopathic and homoeopathic. He cured one case with **Lac caninum** on this great symptom of constant changeability of sides, in such a short time, that on the same evening of the prescription, when he visited the patient, he found her taking oyster broth. The other case under expert allopathic treatment progressed on to suppuration and took a week longer in getting round.

The other important indications of this remedy are the following: Great sinking feeling in the epigastrium and faintness in the stomach. Inflammation of the breast worse from the least jar and movement; so she holds it fast and firmly while moving, to prevent the jar from reaching them. Intense, unbearable backache felt more in the supra-sacral region. Like **Rhus tox.** this backache is worse from rest and on first moving. In fact, the whole spine becomes painful from coccyx to the base of the brain and is very sensitive to touch and pressure.

Violent palpitation while lying on the left side, better lying on the right side. While lying down, she feels as if her breath would leave her and she has to get up and walk about.

## LAC FELINUM



### NOTES

- *Terrible headache, penetrates the left eyeball to the center of the brain.*
- *Ciliary neuralgia; pain appears to be in the interior of the eyeball.*

- *Constriction along the bridge of the nose.*

**T**here is no limit to the great possibility of expansion of the homoeopathic materia medica. The entire organic and inorganic kingdom, all conceivable objects, must have in them great potentialities which, when properly utilized, may develop into great remedial agencies. We have one such instance in **Lac felinum**. Like milk from many other animal, the Cat's Milk too has been brought into prominence by Dr. Swan who conducted elaborate provings with it. Personally speaking, I have had no opportunity to verify his experiences about **Lac felinum** but then that should be no reason why this remedy should be left out of this materia medica.

Most of its symptoms, at least important ones, are located in the head and the eyes. The headache is terrible and it penetrates the left eyeball to the centre of the brain. The pain is acutely felt on the vertex as well. A sensation of constriction along the bridge of the nose is prominent. One of the provers felt her head drawn down so that the chin pressed heavily on the chest and in her agony which was great, she rushed from room to room screaming and holding her head firmly in her hands. We also have pain in the eyes and a sensation, as if the eyes were drawn back. It thus makes an important remedy in ciliary neuralgia. The indications are sharp lancinating pains in the centre of the left eyeball, extending externally to the temple and frontal region over the eye, with intense photophobia, redness of the conjunctiva and lachrymation. The symptom on which most stress is laid, is that the pain appears to be in the interior of the eyeball and thence extends backwards as well as to the temple and forehead. Dr. Berridge used it with great success in a case of keratitis, where the pain was so excessive for three nights and days, that the patient did not have a wink of sleep, and the pain felt like a knife running from the affected left eye to the left occiput. **Lac felinum 40M** potency every hour, not only relieved the pain but brought on a steady recovery. In this respect it may very well be compared with **Mercurius, Ruta** and **Spigelia**.

## LAC VACCINUM DEFLOMATUM



### NOTES

- Great fatigue is felt from the slightest exertion, disinclination to exertion.
- Constantly chilly due to great anemia.
- Restores the flow of milk in cases of deficient milk secretion.
- Periodical sick headache, first felt in the forehead and extends to the occiput; worse movement, better frequent and profuse urination.
- Deathly nausea.
- Intensely chronic constipation with headache; stool is dry, hard and large, lacerating the anus.
- Restores menstrual flow after it has stopped, due to the patient having put her hands in cold water.

**T**his remedy owes its origin to Dr. Swan who in his turn got the idea of potentizing Skimmed Milk upon reading “Donkin’s Skimmed Milk Treatment of Diabetes and Bright’s Disease.” The patient feels completely tired and worn out. Great fatigue is felt from the slightest exertion; hence there is a marked disinclination to exertion of any kind. It also has a marked effect over the secretion of the milk which it diminishes to a great extent; hence it is used in cases of deficient milk secretion in young mothers which it restores in an incredibly short period by virtue of the principle of “*similia similibus curantur.*”

It is a noted remedy for sick headache. The pain is first felt in the forehead from which place it extends to the occiput. The pain is most excruciating and unbearable and is associated with intense photophobia, nausea and vomiting. It is aggravated by movement and is relieved by frequent and profuse urination. The pain is also periodical in its nature and it frequently occurs in patients who have a tendency to constipation. Menstrual time is also a critical time with these patients inasmuch as that this headache occurs mostly at that time. Due to great anemia, these patients are constantly chilly even when near the fire. Nausea is almost as characteristic of **Lac defloratum** as it is of **Ipecac**. It is intense and can be aptly described



as a deathly nausea. The patient first brings up undigested food of intense acid taste and then a brownish fluid which looks very much like coffee ground. The constipation, already referred to, is an inveterate constipation. It is intensely chronic and is associated with headache, as has been said before. We use it in cases where the most powerful purgative fails. The feces are dry, hard and large, and it lacerates the anus extracting cries as well as a considerable amount of blood. In this way it is greatly alike **Sulphur**.

It has a certain amount of influence on the female sexual system. It is useful in restoring the menstrual flow after it has stopped, due to the patient having put her hand in cold water. It relieves the consequent congestion of blood to head and the pressing, bearing pain in the ovaries.

## LACHESIS



### NOTES

- *A left sided remedy.*
- *Adapted to thin, emaciated persons or to those who have changed physically and mentally through their illness.*
- *Great sensitiveness of the surface of the body with intolerance to touch and light pressure; hard pressure and rubbing are not minded.*
- *Aggravation of all troubles from sleep.*
- *Suppression or non-appearance of discharge aggravates; amelioration from the onset of a discharge. Thus an admirable remedy in climacteric ailments.*
- *Discharges are ichorous and offensive.*
- *Affects circulation, causes flushing of the face.*
- *Sensation of a ball anywhere, specially in the bladder.*
- *Very sensitive to the heat of the sun.*
- *Mind full of ideas, jumps from subject to subject.*
- *Excess of imagination prevents sleep at night.*
- *Suspicious, suspects everyone around him.*
- *Insane jealousy.*
- *Derangement of the time sense.*
- *Muttering delirium.*
- *Conscientiousness in the form of religious mania; feels as if he is in the hand of a superior power.*
- *Dreads society and is quite solicitous about his future.*

- *Headache due to suppression of some natural discharge. Pressure on the vertex.*
- *Meningitis after suppressed exanthema.*
- *Trembling, mapped tongue; it is dry, black and stiff like leather.*
- *Lower jaw drops showing a great drain in the vital force.*
- *Sore throat, tonsillitis and diphtheria; swelling and purplish color of fauces with sensation of a lump in the throat which descends on swallowing but returns soon. Gangrenous sore throat.*
- *Difficulty in swallowing liquids, saliva; solids swallowed easily; pain aggravated by hot drinks.*
- *Sensation of a crumb of bread in the throat.*
- *Aphonia caused by paralysis or oedema of vocal cords.*
- *Dry hacking cough on touching the throat; sensation as if some fluid had gone into the wrong passage.*
- *Tormenting urging for stools but cannot pass any thing as anus feels closed; protruding piles complicate.*
- *Stools contain decomposed blood which looks like charred straw.*
- *Pain in rectum as from the beating of little hammers.*
- *Sense of constriction in the heart, weight in the chest.*
- *Atheromatous condition of arteries; induration of veins with cellular inflammations.*
- *Urine dark, almost black due to presence of decomposed blood; also contains albumin.*
- *Typhoid fever; malarial fever with chills, wants to be held tightly and pressed.*
- *In ulcers, carbuncles, abscesses, etc., affected part looks bluish.*

**T**he medicine is prepared from the virus of Surukuku, the deadly bushmaster of South America. It grows to a length of about seven feet and more; the fangs are nearly an inch in length. The skin is reddish brown, marked along the back with large rhomboidal spots of a blackish color. The poison is inodorous, tasteless and somewhat greenish white in color. This medicine was first proved by Dr. Constantine Hering at a great risk to his life. It has some very grand characteristics and I will discuss them in order of their importance.

The first and the foremost keynote of **Lachesis** is the aggravation of all troubles from sleep. We find this in headache, diphtheria, heart affections, laryngitis, peritonitis, pyemia and many other affections where **Lachesis** is indicated.

**Selenium, Spongia, Stramonium** and **Sulphur** are a few more with a similar modality. I remember the case of a young gentleman



who wanted to be treated for a severe pain in his heart, that always used to bother him while falling asleep. He told me the pain was so severe and the fright so great that he used to sit up night after night, to be free from this pain. A dose of **Lachesis 200** cured him permanently.

It is difficult to explain this aggravation of **Lachesis**. It may be partly due to its action on the pneumo-gastric nerve or partly to its influence on the centres of respiration. Whatever may be the true reason, the fact remains. As we are concerned with facts alone, we leave it to the students of science to speculate, investigate and verify deductions arrived at by themselves as to the real essence of these symptoms. We are glad to be satisfied with symptoms that are always our guide, our sole guide and the only guide.

Next in importance, is the great sensitiveness of the surface of the body with intolerance of touch and light pressure. They cannot stand hard and tight collars on the neck. They dislike tight bandage on their waist. Dr. Hering, who first proved this drug and as a result of which, he became delirious and unconscious, could never tolerate hard and tight collars about his neck all throughout his life. So great is this sensitiveness that **Lachesis** patients even dislike the weight of bed clothes on them; hard pressure and rubbing they do not mind so much.

The third point is, that it is a left-sided remedy. It principally affects the left side of the body. We cannot advance any explanation for this phenomenon but it is a fact just the same and we have to accept it.

The fourth point about **Lachesis** is the amelioration of all its symptoms from the onset of a discharge. The suppression or non-appearance of discharge always makes **Lachesis** patients worse. This is what makes **Lachesis** such an admirable remedy in climacteric ailments. When the period stops, all kinds and sorts of troubles make their appearance such as hot flushes, headache, mania, etc.

**Lachesis**, although it may be indicated anywhere and when

indicated should be prescribed for all types of conditions and constitutions, is adapted to thin emaciated persons or to those who have changed physically and mentally through their illness. These patients are generally choleric in their temperament and have a vivid imagination. Their complexion is generally of a sickly hue. This remedy is particularly suited to drunkards, who suffer from a bad head and hemorrhoids and are prone to erysipelatoid inflammations.

The mental side of the **Lachesis** patient is no less striking. His mind is so full of ideas that he jumps from subject to subject. Ideas flow very rapidly in his head and he goes chatting about them. In this it is similar to **Agaricus, Mephitis, Actaea, Paris, Hyoscyamus, Caladium, Teucrium, Cannabis indica, Lachnanthes** and **Podophyllum**. This excess of imagination prevents sleep at night.

The **Lachesis** mentality as has been mentioned before, is characterized by a spirit of suspiciousness. He suspects everyone around him—servants, wife and children are no exceptions. Even the poor doctor attending on him, is looked upon with dread. He will not take medicine from anybody thinking that they would poison him. He is afraid to even taste his food as he believes that to be merely a bet for his destruction. At times, this suspicion takes the form of fear and he imagines as being followed by enemies. He would run in desperate anxiety, to escape them. There is indeed, no limit to which he would not go and unless good precautions are taken, he would throw himself out of the window. He gets the most absurd ideas into his head. He imagines himself to be dead and believes everybody about him making preparations for his funeral. Like **Natrium mur.**, we find him, at times, believing in robbers being in the house whom he would try to avoid by jumping out of his window.

**Lachesis** patient is subject to insane jealousy. He suspects the fidelity of his wife. I remember treating a case of puerperal insanity in a lady whose entire mental phenomena revolved round one idea of her husband being faithless to her. **Lachesis** cured the case. In this