

# The Lacs

A Materia Medica  
Repertory



Patricia Hatherly

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## Reviewed by Linda Gwillim

Linda Gwillim RSHom has a busy practice in Machynlleth, in Mid-Wales. She is the clinical director of the Welsh School of Homoeopathy and regularly teaches throughout the UK and Ireland. She coordinated the proving of *Placenta* in 2000 and has been very involved with the proving of the other Matrimonial remedies.

# The Lacs – A Materia Medica and Repertory

by Patricia Hatherly

This is a collection of twenty mammalian milk remedies. It is a thorough piece of research, well presented with beautiful lino cut illustrations for each remedy.

There is a good general introduction to the substance - milk - and the crucial role that it plays in sustaining the life of the infant of each species. I like the way the uniqueness of each of the remedies is emphasised by including a look at how the constituents of each milk differ, according to the needs and environment of each of the different mammals. Perhaps the only section that seemed a little inappropriate in the context of this book is the discussion around breast and other milk substitutes – although it is obviously a subject that Patricia is passionate about!

The materia medica section is clearly laid out with appropriate information gained easily with good use of italicised and bolded significant rubrics.

Each remedy is introduced by a list of key words leading to a keynote essence. There are also sections on causation, miasm, affinities, modalities, and remedy differentiation. I really like the way she has gone back to the source of the provers' journals and language rather than relying on interpretation, any additional comments based on clinical experience or other homeopaths' perspectives being clearly highlighted.

The remedy pictures are very comprehensive with often more than one proving for each remedy being used, with clear referencing and annotation. There is also clear reference to other similarities and differences within the *Lac* group of remedies.

There is good use of additional reading lists at the end of each remedy including journal articles as well as homeopathic books.

The repertory section is a valuable resource. It is extremely accessible with clear sub sections including the main themes (both Mind and General), affinities, modalities and a particularly useful section, 'sensations as if' – as well as the usual repertory layout. It is really good to have the occasional use of the modern vernacular rather than the usual language of the traditional repertories.

My only criticism of the repertory section is that there is no indication of the 'intensity' of each of the remedies in each rubric - all the remedies being presented in plain type. Patricia says that this is a work in progress and the intensity will be added after there is more clinical experience gained of each of the *Lac* remedies but I would still have found some indication of intensity, even if only from the proving notes, useful.

As Roger van Zandvoort says in his foreword – in order for a proving to be of real use to the homeopathic community, we need clinical information to enrich and endorse the proving symptoms and create a full remedy picture. I really hope that this book enables homeopaths to understand and prescribe these remedies and provide the clinical information that is needed to demonstrate the full potential of this important group of remedies.

This is a great resource, which I would whole-heartedly recommend. As someone who uses this group of remedies a lot in my practice, I am really grateful for this book - thank you Patricia.