

# M.K. Sahani

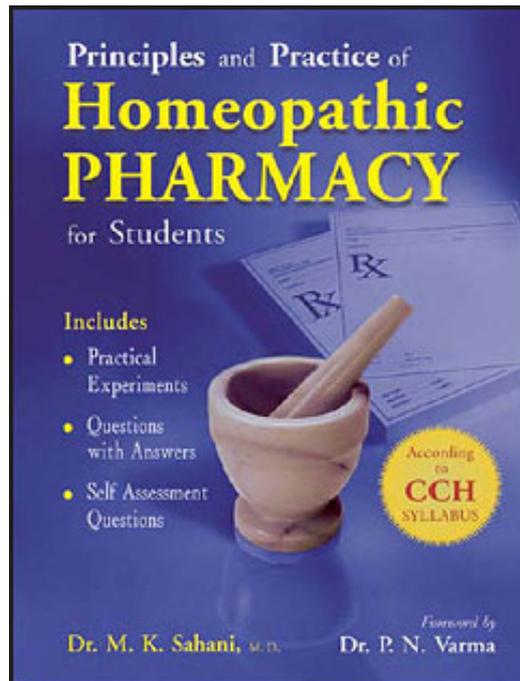
## Principles and Practice of Homeopathic Pharmacy for Students

Extrait du livre

[Principles and Practice of Homeopathic Pharmacy for Students](#)

de [M.K. Sahani](#)

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Narayana Verlag GmbH, Blumenplatz 2, D-79400 Kandern, Allemagne

Tel. +33 9 7044 6488

Email [info@editions-narayana.fr](mailto:info@editions-narayana.fr)

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## MEDICINE

- « The science of diagnosing, treating or preventing disease and other damage to the body or mind.
- The branch of science encompassing treatment by drugs, diet, exercise and other non-surgical means.
- The practice of medicine.
- An agent, such as a drug, used to treat disease or injury.
- Something that serves as a remedy or corrective medicine for rebuilding the economy; measures that were harsh medicine.
- Shamanistic practices or beliefs, especially among native Americans.
- Something, such as a ritual practice or sacred object, believed to control natural or supernatural powers or serve as a preventive or remedy.
- Among the North American Indians, any object supposed to give control over natural or magical forces, to act as a protective charm, or to cause healing; also, magical power itself; the potency which a charm, token or rite is supposed to exert. The North American Indian boy usually took as his medicine, the first animal of which he dreamed during the long and solitary fast that he observed at puberty. —F. H. Giddings.
- 1: The branch of medical science that deals with non-surgical techniques; 2: something that treats or prevents or alleviates the symptoms of disease; 3: the learned profession that is mastered by graduate training in a medical school and that is devoted to preventing or alleviating or curing diseases and injuries; "he studied medicine at Harvard"; 4: punishment for one's actions; "you have to face the music"; "take your medicine": treat medicinally, treat with medicine.

## REMEDY

- Something, such as medicine or therapy, that relieves pain, cures disease or corrects a disorder.
- Something that corrects an evil, fault or error.
- Law. A legal order for preventing or redressing a wrong or enforcing a right.
- The allowance by a mint for deviation from the standard weight or quality of coins.
- That which relieves or cures a disease; any medicine or application which puts an end to disease and restores health; — with for; as, a remedy for the gout.
- That which corrects or counteracts an evil of any kind; a corrective; a counteractive; reparation; cure; — followed by for or against, formerly by to.
- What may else be remedy or cure to evils which our own misdeeds have wrought, He will instruct us — Milton.
- Legally, it means to recover a right, or to obtain redress for a wrong.

*Synonym:* Cure; restorative; counteraction; reparation; redress; relief; aid; help; assistance.

## DRUG THERAPY

It involves, a great deal more than matching the name of the drug to the name of disease (group of symptoms in homeopathy). It requires knowledge, judgement, skill and wisdom, but above all, a sense of responsibility. It is evident that patients are not treated in a vacuum and they respond to a variety of subtle forces around them in addition to the specific therapeutic agent.

When a patient is given a drug, the responses are the resultant of the following factors:

- The pharmacodynamic effect of the drug and interaction with any other drug, the patient may be taking.

- The pharmacokinetics of the drug and its modification in the individual due to genetic influences, disease or other drugs.
- The physiological states of the end organ which may be over or under active.
- The act of medication including the route of administration and the presence or absence of the doctor.
- The doctor's mood, personality, attitudes and belief.
- The patient's mood, personality, attitudes and belief.
- What the doctor has told the patient.
- The patient's past experience of doctors.
- The patient's estimate of what has been received and what ought to happen as a result.
- The social environment, e.g., whether supportive or dispiriting.

## EFFECTS OF DRUGS

Since drugs are the substance which have the capacity to bring a change in the state of health, its effect may be either positive or negative to the feelings of the patient. Drugs can be good, if it brings a desirable change such as avoidance of sleepless night or effecting a life saving state in a serious acute infection or in the prevention of life devastating disability from severe asthma, from epilepsy or from blindness due to glaucoma.

The drug can do harm with a negative response by creating life destroying situations, as in the rare sudden death following an injection of penicillin or by destructing the quality of life that occasionally attends the use of drugs that are effective in asthma and rheumatoid arthritis. There are risks in taking medicine just as there are risks while eating food and during transportation. There is also risk in not taking medicine when it is needed, just as there are risks

in not taking food. Efficacy and safety do not lie solely in the molecular structure of a drug. The drugs are used and applied not only in relation to their properties but also to those of the patients and their disease.

In homeopathy, dynamized drugs may be considered as those medicines which will bring a dynamically good action or a harmful action on the vital plane. Thus, it is a matter of serious thought to consider the harmful effects of the homeopathic potentised medicines.

## USE OF DRUGS/MEDICINES

*Drugs are used in three principle ways:*

1. Cure.
  2. Suppression.
  3. Prevention.
- 1. Cure:** It implies primary therapy when the disease is eliminated and the drug is withdrawn.
  - 2. Suppression:** It implies continuous or intermittent use of drug to maintain health without attaining cure (as done by modern medicine in hypertension, diabetes, epilepsy or asthma). It also implies control of symptoms while waiting for recovery from the causative disease.
  - 3. Prevention (Prophylaxis):** In primary prevention, the person does not have the condition and is to be prevented from getting it. In secondary prevention the patient has the disease and the objective is to reduce risk factor and to retard progressions.

## CLASSIFICATION AND NAMING OF DRUGS

The world is moving towards a uniform policy of one drug, one official name. This is a

# Relation of Homeopathic Pharmacy to National Economy, Materia Medica and Organon of Medicine

### RELATION OF HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY TO NATIONAL ECONOMY

In developed countries, government spends around 9-10% of its Gross National Productivity (G.N.P.) for medical facilities, while in a developing country like India only 2-4% of the G.N.P. is spent on medical facilities.

*Out of this 2-4% of G.N.P.:*

- Around 85% is for allopaths.

<sup>1</sup> Around 12% is for homeopaths. <sup>1</sup>

3% for other system of medicine.

*This money is spent by the government on:*

- Hospital infrastructure.
- Man power.

<sup>1</sup> Diagnostic facilities. <sup>1</sup>

For medicare.

Demands for all these facilities are increasing day by day because of the more ageing population and more awareness of people towards health.

Hence, if we can attract more and more people towards homeopathy, we can reduce the health care expenditure, because in homeopathy:

- Medicine is less costly.
- Vehicles used are also less costly.
- Method of preparation is simple, hence less expenditure on costly instruments.
- Application of medicines is simple.
- Packaging of medicine is also simple and less costly.
- We can keep the medicine for a longer duration because it can retain its medicinal power for a longer period.
- Single medicine and few doses are used, so no side effects.

So, if we adopt homeopathy, we can reduce the cost on national economy and then reduce the burden on our economy.

### RELATION OF HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY WITH MATERIA MEDICA

#### KNOWLEDGE OF PHARMACY HELPS US

##### 1. Knowledge of the Source

Sources help in understanding the different action of medicines, e.g.:

**Vegetable Source:** Short acting. Hence, used in acute cases, having a superficial action.

**Minerals/Nosodes/Sarcodes:** Deep acting. Used in chronic diseases.

**Nosodes:** Being toxins, should not be given above 200 potency.

- *Doctrine of Signature:* It is the relation of the habitat of the plant to the symptoms of the medicine prepared from them. (Refer to chapter, Doctrine of Signature).
- *Knowledge of Collections:* By this, we know the method and time of collection.

E.g., Plants are collected in the morning after the morning dew, in dry, sunny weather.

*Exception:* Rhus tox. is collected in rainy weather, in evening.

## 2. Knowledge of Preparation and Potentisation

Different scales of preparation i.e., centesimal scale, decimal scale and 50 millesimal scale of potentisation helps us to know:

- Repetition.
- Quantity of administration i.e. dose.
- Mode of administration.

E.g., 50 millesimal is repeated frequently at less interval.

## 3. Knowledge of Vehicles

Helps us to know the method of dispensing in a better way. Impurity tests help us at the time of purchase.

## 4. Knowledge of Action

Helps us to know the antidote and inimicals of certain medicines, which helps us in prescribing.

E.g., Some drugs should not be repeated after one another i.e. inimical drugs. E.g.

- Bryonia and Sulphur.
- Silicea and Mercurius.

- Apis and Rhus tox.
- Phosphorus and Causticum.
- Nux vomica and Ignatia.
- Belladonna and Dulcamara.

## 5. Knowledge of Standardisation

Helps us to know the purity and authenticity of the drug substance and finished drugs.

## 6. Knowledge of Prescription Writing

Prescription writing is also known by the knowledge of pharmacy.

## 7. New Medicinal Preparation i.e. Research

Knowledge of the new medicine is also known by the method of drug proving, which is known by the knowledge of pharmacy.

## RELATION OF HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY WITH ORGANON OF MEDICINE

*Organon of Medicine* mentions Master I Hahnemann's instructions regarding pharmacy in aphorisms 264 to 285. The contents of the section are as follows:

§ 264-266: Selection of the most energetic, ] genuine medicine.

§ 267: Preparation of most powerful and durable forms of medicine from fresh plants.

§ 268: Dry vegetable substances.

§ 269-271: The mode of preparing crude medicinal substance peculiar to homeopathy, to develop their curative power.

§ 272-274: Posology.

§ 275-283: Strength of doses for homeopathic use, how it may be increased or diminished, danger of too large doses. §

284-285: Pharmacology.

*Besides these:*

§ 105-145 : Drug proving.

§ 246-252 : Doses and repetition.

# Nomenclature of Plants

In a general way the term 'Nomenclature' is used to cover any system of names or indeed, the names in use whether or not they follow a system. Naturally a system of nomenclature might exist that would be independent of classification. Such a nomenclature would supply a name to each individual. In botany, this would be impossible. It is natural that the name given to a plant shall, to some extent, describe it or suggest something or some one related to it. The name may state its appearance, as Buttercup, Monkshood; to its habitat, as Water cress, Water lily, Meadow grass; to its properties, as Chokecherry, Bitter cucumber; to some person who has been associated with it, as Johnson grass. Such terms have a meaning only to people familiar with that language, and indeed in the evolution of a language the meanings of terms are often forgotten.

The method of naming and describing a plant accurately, forms one of the chief objects of Systematic botany. This method involves the use of certain technical terms which can be easily recognized by any one who has a knowledge of these terms even when the plants are unknown to him.

### **BOTANICAL OR SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Like every science, botany also has developed a terminology of its own and uses a set of technical terms, peculiar to the subject matter of this science. In Systematic botany, these technical or botanical names of plants number, many thousands and are far in excess to the common names. For a correct conception of scientific names, we must understand something of their composition.

Many of the older names are Greek in origin but are now used in Latinized form. The names adopted later are derived from Latin. But the early Greek or Latin were, in reality, the common names used in these countries. The name of each plant consists of two parts, e.g., *Aconitum napellus*, *Aloe socotrina*, *Baptisia tinctoria*, etc. The first part indicates the *genus* and second, the *species* of the plant. Thus *Aconitum*, *Aloe* and *Baptisia* are the genus while *napellus*, *socotrina* are the species. The first part of each name is called *Generic* and the second, *Specific*. The Generic name is a noun and the *specific* epithet takes the form of a modifying adjective indicating which of the several members of the genus is

being considered. More than one species belonging to the same genus are allotted the same generic name.

This system of nomenclature of plants is known as the '*Binomial* (consisting of two words) *Nomenclatures*'- The abbreviated form of the name of the person who described the plant for the first time is put after the specific name of the plant. It is done to denote the name of the person who described the plant first of all and also to avoid confusion arising out of the description of the same plant by other authors.

Thus, the botanical name of the common mango is *Magnifera indica* Linn. Here *Magnifera* is the genus and *indica* is the species, and Linn, is the abbreviation of the name of the famous Swedish botanist, Linnaeus. Similarly the botanical name of common onion is *Allium cepa*, L. and that of garlic is *Allium sativum*, L. in which *Allium* is the genus, *cepa* and *sativa* are the species and L. stands for Linnaeus, the botanist.

#### ORIGIN OF BINOMIAL SYSTEM

The present binomial system of nomenclature had a history of long evolutionary development. Gate, in his '*DE RE RUSTICA*', written two centuries-before Christ, used names for each plant although he was not aware of the modern conception of genera and species.

Later on two methods evolved. One was to translate the descriptive Greek nouns used for genera into Latin, in the form of two words, i.e. binary generic names. The other was to give a descriptive phrase for the specific name. But the ultimate result of both these methods was to begin Polynomial Nomenclature. Brunfels, in the middle of the 16th century, changed many binary generic names to single ones. A few years later, Dononaeus followed for the most part binomial usage similar in principle to that of today. Gaspard Bauhin published his '*Pinax*' in 1623

and described 6000 plants with binomial names very extensively but not exclusively. However, botanical works using binomial and polynomial systems of Nomenclature continued. It is Carl Von Linnaeus who in his "*Species Plantarum*" published in 1753 used one generic and one specific names, although some of it was followed by a varietal name. Each plant species possesses a name by which it is distinguished from all other species of plants.

#### RULES OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

The rules and recommendations of botanical nomenclature are too complicated. A short summary of the important rules is given below:

- Each plant can have one valid scientific name.  
The name of plants must be binomial, consisting of the generic name followed by a specific name.
- If two or more names have been given to a species, the valid one is the earliest epithet proposed that in harmony with the rules (but not earlier than Linnaeus '*Species Plantarum*' (1773) preceded by the name of the genus to which the plant belongs.
- The initial letter of the generic name should be capitalized, but the initial letter of the specific epithet should not be capitalized unless it is derived from the name of a person or from a generic name.
- The full specific name of a plant includes the name of the author or authors and is written after the specific epithet.
- *Nomina Conservanda* (mostly generic names) have been established, and others may be added, if authorized. These are declared valid, usually because of long-established use, even though in violation of one or more of the rules.

- When two groups are united because of their similarity, older group-name is retained.
- When two groups are divided because of the dissimilarity of its members, the group that contains the type on which the original group was based, must retain the original name.
- The process of standardization of botanical names began after Paris code of 1866. Many of the very old names which were in much use, had to be abandoned.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF BOTANICAL NAMES**

- They are same among the scientific people of the whole world.
- They are uniformly binomial.
- These two advantages have few exceptions.
- Its exactness is its greatest advantage. Each plant is called by only one binomial name that means the same species to all botanist. This is applicable to the great majority of plants that have been discovered and named but in unexplored regions, especially in the tropics, there are many species that have not yet received botanic names and the names of some of those that have been studied are still in controversy.
- It can claim to be descriptive of the plant.
- It is governed, in some measure, by international rules of nomenclature and many names given in violation of these rules have been rejected.

#### **DISADVANTAGES OF BOTANICAL NAMES**

- Since majority of botanists today do not know Greek or Latin, they are unable to understand the value of these botanical terms, even if they are descriptive and self-explanatory.
  - Usually botanical names are long and hard
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to learn because of their unfamiliar sound and combinations.

- Botanical names are unusable by laymen because they require exact delineation of species, and while some species are clearly defined with easily recognizable features, others look so much alike that technical skill is essential for differentiating them.

#### **THE SOURCES OF GENERIC AND SPECIFIC NOMENCLATURES**

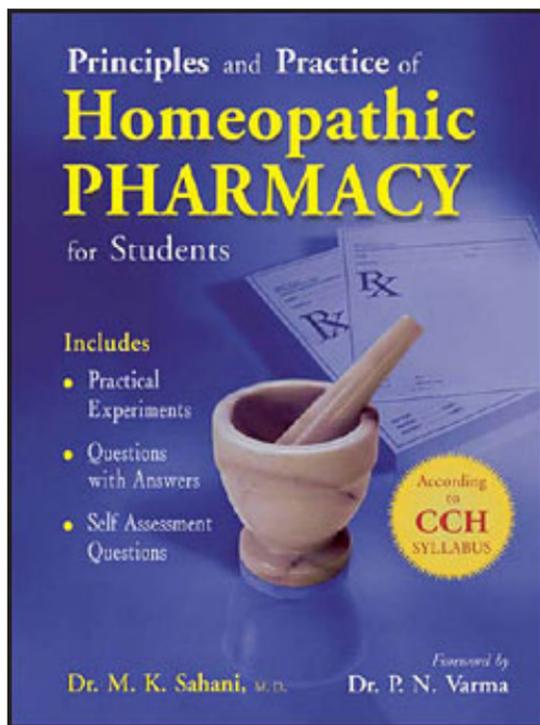
The name of Classes, Divisions, etc. are based on some permanent characters of the plants and refer either to the structure or the mode of development. Thus, for example Dicotyledons and the Monocotyledons indicate the permanent features of having two cotyledons and one cotyledon respectively.

Some genera are very bold, clear-cut, natural groups that they are easily recognized even by the laymen, e.g., Pinus (pines), Vitis (Grapes) and Rosa (roses). Others are distinguished from their relatives by mere obscure character and are not easily recognized by untrained persons. The trained botanist has less difficulty in recognizing genera than species.

#### **THE KINDS OF BOTANICAL NAMES**

##### **Generic Names**

When used in a technical sense, the generic name should always begin with a capital letter. But some are also used as Common names. Such as Crocus, Iris, Spirea rhododendron, etc. and when so used they begin with small letters. The early people or botanists recognized and named it as was convenient to them. These names did not originate from any scientific principle but by simple descriptions which could help its identification. The generic names are derived from various sources and with various objects in view.



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