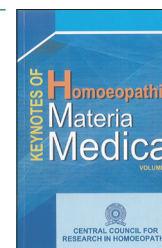


BOOK REVIEW



Keynotes of Homoeopathic Materia Medica Volume-1

Publisher: Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy

Price: INR 120; Pages: 153

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Understanding a drug is quite an arduous task especially for the students of 1st and 2nd semester of BHMS. All the drugs appear similar to the beginners the way all the sheep in a flock appear similar to a casual onlooker. It is the shepherd who recognises each and every sheep individually. Because he remembers distinctive phenotype features (visible characteristics) of each sheep. Thus, a Materia Medica of 'keynotes and characteristics' becomes an essential tool in the hands of students to identify and comprehend the drug picture or to differentiate it from other similar looking drugs. For the practitioners/clinicians also keynotes and characteristics are equally important. On repertorization one gets a list of closely running similar remedies, it is the keynotes and characteristics that play a final decisive role in order to arrive at the similimum.

Keeping in view the syllabus of 1st BHMS and importance of keynotes and characteristics the Council's compilation volume-1, "Keynotes of Homoeopathic Materia Medica" using authentic reference books is just appropriate and worth recommending. It is a student-friendly primer text book. The drug description regarding their *source, pharmacological details, proved by, clinical conditions and ailments etc. from* are the highlights of the book and are interest generating. The schema followed

to describe a drug though conventional yet striking. Another highlight of the book is referencing, though erratic, is not only informative but educative also as it imparts the relevance of references.

Uniformity in description-schema of each drug is well maintained except under few drugs where introduction part and physical generals have been missed out. Isolated singular mistakes generally do not call for any cognizance, like 'Female sex' on page 77; 'sex' needs to be deleted.

A chapter on GLOSSARY if appended at the end would certainly enhance the quality and comprehensibility of the book. Since, the book is meant for beginners, words such as panaritium, carbuncle, indignation, mortification, vexation, chagrin, phagedenic, scarlatina, ichor, scrofulous, venery, nervous erethism, angio-neurotic edema, apoplexy, erysepalous, puerperal, amaurosis, phlegmasia and scores of others, unless defined are beyond ones understanding.

The Council has really brought out a nice handbook on Materia Medica at an affordable price. The book is syllabus oriented; it caters to the needs of 1st BHMS students. Preface (1st and 2nd para) and Introduction are the must read sections of this hand book. It is strongly recommended for students as well as the practitioners. The practitioners can make use of this book as a ready reckoner while working out *field of differentiation* popularly called PDF. The only drawback is that limited drugs are given; they will have to wait for subsequent volumes.

If I am to rank this book, I will rank **** out of 5*. If a chapter on glossary is appended then four and a half stars.

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