

Book Review

Study of Homoeopathic Medicines Through Clinical Verification-A New Perspective (Volume-I & II)

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The books on Clinical Verification are a first of its kind to be published in India. Clinical Verification is an important tool and a pre requisite to develop a dependable Materia Medica. Recognizing the importance of Clinical Verification, the Council has been conducting the Clinical Verification Programme since its inception. Under this programme, the drugs of Indian origin and the drugs with fragmentary proving were taken up for verification. First volume of the book catalogues the data of 36 indigenous and rarely used medicines and second volume of 16 medicines which are exotic and less frequently used in clinical practice. The study is based on facts and results and was conducted at various Units/ Institutes of the Council over a period of more than two decades. The number of patients for each drug prescribed is in thousands and symptoms improved in hundreds. This multi-centric study has engaged more than twenty senior investigators and their teams. The advisory and writing committee comprises of able and astute physicians.

The books are well structured covering all the important information of the medicines under relevant headings. The scientific name, family, common name(s), and active principle(s) or alkaloid(s) according to the source of the medicine are mentioned. The information about the number of patients who were prescribed with the said medicine, along with all the potencies used is given. Introduction includes the history with description of the medicine, its identification, distribution and preparation of the medicine. The Clinically verified

symptoms are well represented in a tabular form. The character, modalities and the associated/concomitant symptoms which are the parts of the clinically verified symptoms and emerged as clinical symptoms, are mentioned in italics along with the main symptom in the second column. Clinical symptoms are also distinctly mentioned. Guiding features of a medicine have been delineated based upon the definite criteria of the clinical trial analysis. The side affinity of the medicine is mentioned where it could be established and the modalities are given under two separate headings, i.e. General modalities and Particular modalities. The sphere of action and clinical conditions verified are also written. The salient features of the medicines are mentioned under discussion. This is followed by comparison where few similar remedies are discussed. The important feature of the book is that every symptom is supported by definite data, based on which the guiding symptoms have been delineated.

These medicines which were rarely used due to fragmentary proving or scattered literature can now be confidently used by the practicing physician thus helping the patients at large. The collective efforts of the investigators have culminated in the publication of these two volumes and have enhanced the reliability of Materia Medica for the medicines under trial. These books have opened a new vista to study Materia Medica in the future from the perspective of clinical verification.

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