

The Lacs: A Materia Medica & Repertory by Patricia Hatherly

Ms. Hatherly's *The Lacs: A Materia Medica & Repertory* is a tome — very large, comprised of a vast array of characteristics and symptomatology of twenty milk remedies, and academic. Rather than being a 'clinical' materia medica, one based upon one's own experience with these remedies (with certain exceptions, especially regarding *Lac humanum* and *Lac maternum*, with which the author has much experience and about which has already written [see *The Homoeopathic Physician's Guide to Lactation*]), the information contained in this volume stems primarily from provings, with some references to materia medicas and journal articles.

This large, attractively hardbound volume covers, as mentioned, twenty milk remedies — the more common milk remedies, plus some relative newcomers; such as, the milk of the ass, camel, llama, kangaroo, rabbit, pig, harbor seal, and the sus (if that one perplexes you, you are not alone — the sus remedy derives from the blood, milk, saliva and semen of a pig bred for xenotransplantation and xenografting).

The book is written in somewhat of an outline form consisting of symptom lists covering the mind, as well as generalities and physical symptoms, interspersed with interesting observations and elaborations set apart in highlighted text boxes. Miasmatic associations, modalities, causations, and clinical affinities are covered as well. Mind symptoms are organised into a variety of themes. Ms. Hatherly also offers a brief phrase as a 'keynote essence' for each remedy. (Such terse summations this reviewer typically does not find to be very helpful in developing an understanding of materia medica, in that they usually indicate but a small part of the varied symptomatology of most remedies.)

This work is very thorough, well-organised, and thoroughly researched; as such, it stands as the definitive reference volume for milk remedies —an extensive yet readily accessed 'data base' of milk remedy symptoms and themes.

A very appealing addition to this work is that of a 354 page repertory of milk remedy symptoms, consisting of the following sections: Themes, Affinities, Modalities, Generalities, Sensations As If, Mind, all the usual physical sections, Sleep, and, lastly, Dreams. This repertory is a most valuable contribution to the homeopathic community and should be immediately secured by our homeopathic computer software companies for inclusion in their programs.

I consider this book a reference volume primarily. The condensed format Ms. Hatherly has chosen compromises somewhat, in my opinion, the reader's ability to form a cohesive overarching understanding of the remedies, and, while the material contained within this work both interesting and extensive, the reading of it is a rather numbing experience. Yet, I appreciate Ms. Hatherly's intention here, clearly being the offering of a vast amount of collated information regarding the subject matter in a single volume, and I most heartily commend her for this beautiful fruit of her exhaustive labor.

The Lacs: A Materia Medica & Repertory is currently the definitive reference for milk remedies; as such it is, in my opinion, a must addition to all practicing homeopaths' libraries.

Reviewed by: George Guess, MD, DHT. He is the previous Editor of the *American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine* and Vice-President of the American Board of Homeotherapeutics
AJHM Summer 2012 Volume 105 Number 2; 93-94