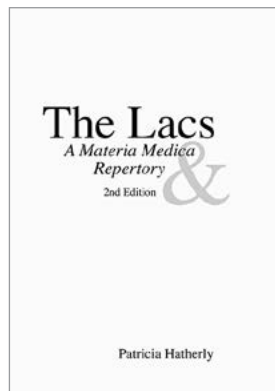


The Lacs: A Materia Medica & Repertory 2nd edition

Patricia Hatherly

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Reviewer: Jenni Tree



Patricia Hatherly's first edition of *The Lacs*, which contained the provings of 20 milks, was published in 2010. At the time it was the only book in such depth dedicated to the basic nourishment of life, on both physical and emotional levels, and covering so many milks. I admit my bias, as I edited this book (and have since edited others on milks) and was given the privilege of writing *The Last Drop*, the final page of what is now 795 pp. in the second edition.

The difference between the editions is the incorporation of two more provings, that of the Sri Lankan elephant and the sheep. In Patricia's original repertory (a monumental work in itself) she did not ascribe a level to the remedies. Through the passage of time and meticulous poring over cases from many sources; Patricia has now graded all rubrics using all four levels (Bönninghausen-style).

The initial chapter, 'Milk Matters', informs us of the composition, growth factors, fat content, benefits of milk, and the drawbacks of substitutions (too much aluminium, manganese, lead, cadmium, iron, soy, yeast, fungi, to say nothing of the Enterobacter found in 14% of tinned milks). She continues with paragraphs on miasms, spiritual growth and the "Stairway to Heaven". In a few paragraphs her breadth of thinking, research and understanding is very fine.

The Materia Medica is alphabetical. Milks included – in English for brevity – are: Ass, Dromedary Camel, Dog, Goat, Dolphin, Sri Lankan Elephant, Horse, Cat, Human, Llama, Lion, African Elephant, Grey Wolf, Kangaroo, Mother, Rabbit, Sheep, Seal, Pig, Cow, Skimmed Cow milk, and Sus – a synthesis of the blood, milk, saliva and semen, of the pig bred specifically for xenotransplantation and xenografting.

I love the clarity of the layout for each remedy. Keynotes, Themes, a few relevant quotes, Affinities, Causation, Miasm, Modalities and then the Mind and Body – each symptom on a single line. Brilliant. Lots of room for notes too.

The repertory layout is useful to know. The pages are numbered on the outer edge of each page, which show as black lines on the book block, so that you know immediately if you are in Repertory or Materia Medica.

It begins by ascribing the milks to possible miasms.

This is followed by the Themes, in alphabetical order, e.g.: 'Controlled' lac-eq., 'Embarrassment' lac-d, lac-m, lac-mac, lac-ovi. 'Forsaken: left alone, friends by: lac-d, lac-h, lac-o, lac-suis. Etcetera.

Then Affinities: the affinities particular remedies have for parts of the body or nervous system.

Modalities: Aggravations (Lac-lup types are < breathing, chilli peppers, church music, noise and the colour yellow – amongst other hassles! Luckily, they are ameliorated by being out and about walking alone in the open air. "Desire to run at a lope" is a keynote.)

Generalities and 'Sensations as if' follow. The repertory, laid out Kentian fashion, begins on page 421, giving 411 pp. of repertory – and all this is milks, taken from provings, and every entry referenced. This in itself is an exhaustive piece of very detailed research. Patricia's work is fully listed in Complete Dynamics and complements Roger van Zandvoort's Complete Repertory.

The book itself is heavy, each remedy illustrated with woodblock-style drawings by Catherine Appleton, and beautifully laid out with space for contemplation, and shadowed text to highlight important points. The information is almost completely homeopathic, and not burdened with biological detail, distribution, social organisation and behaviour, which can be easily accessed online. This is the sphere of Vermeulen, whose book *Mammals*, at 1611 pp. carries no reference to Hatherly's *Lacs*, despite its being the most comprehensive book in print of all the milk provings.

In *The Last Drop* I wrote the following:

'Mother's milk is the glue of the world that sticks, binds, draws and hugs all life together in its gift of unconditional love. With the milk connection one feels the thread that binds one to humanity. To feel forsaken, as do six of the milk remedies, and to feel isolated, is to be beyond connection. Once truly nurtured, we are no longer separate.'

The Lacs is Patricia Hatherly's great gift to the world, and specifically to the world of homeopathy. Patricia says milk is the most valuable medicine we have at our disposal. It is the true Universal Remedy. In Japan, Patricia Hatherly would be addressed with the honorific of Sensei. She is definitely a National Treasure when it comes to *The Lacs*.

About the reviewer



**Jenni Tree, BEd, MA, FRSA, FSHom (Hon),
WCMTFellow**

After an English degree and work with a London publisher, homeopathy arrived, with children, in my busy life in 1983. Since then I have studied and lectured world-wide, run a practice, edited many authors, including Vermeulen, Yakir, Wichman, Bailey, Evans, Hatherly, Tumminello, Tabrett, Chappell and van der Zee, Lustig, and journals (Similia, Homeopathic Links, Spectrum, The Homeopath). I am currently enjoying editing the New Homeopath for the UK Society of Homeopaths. And writing for myself.