

The Homeopathic Therapeutic Subject Reference, A Homeopathic Practice Guidebook for Physicians and Health Care Practitioners

By Sandra J Perko Benchmark Homeopathic Publications, San Antonio TX, 2008, paperback, 615 pages, \$55.00 ISBN 9780965318730 Reviewed by Jean Duckworth

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The *Homeopathic Therapeutic Subject Reference*, a paperback, just over A5 size, has 615 pages, printed on good quality paper. Perko says that this book has been developed over a long period of time, and is the one that she wished she could access whilst in practice.

For me the tension about when we use therapeutics in our practice is evident, and Perko acknowledges this when she quotes Elizabeth Wright Hubbard as stating “One fundamental principle drilled into every good Kentian homoeopathic student is that one must not prescribe pathologically We realize that pathology is an ultimate, exteriorization, a protective out-throwing, an excrescence, or discharge on the part of the organism. Our tendency is, then, to throw pathology overboard and to disregard all such symptoms and organic facts that we class under this heading. If we do not take great care we find we are not succeeding as we should, that we are giving remedies on functional symptoms only, and that these remedies do not have the power to produce, and so cure, the given pathology... So, little by little, our own experience, as well as that of many master prescribers, will bring it home to us that pathology is to be considered in prescribing - not as a sole basis, but as an important factor in the totality of symptoms.”

Perko is also at pains to highlight how this book should be used, and more important how it should not be used. This element is important and this book is not simply a list of remedies for specific conditions but is to be used for guidance and to provide insight into the use of some of the smaller or less well-proven remedies. The entries are referenced so it is possible to track down the source of the entries if further information is needed, although much of the information is from Boericke. There are omissions however, and just because a remedy is not listed does not mean to say that it should not be considered. One example of this is that neither *Calcareo sulphurica* nor *Myristica* are listed as remedies for abscess.

This notwithstanding, some homeopaths may find the book a very useful resource to confirm remedies or to choose a remedy that they may otherwise have overlooked.