

## Example

An example of the methods presented in this book might clarify a lot of points.

A manager had several minor complaints: spots on his chin, grinding of the teeth, athlete's foot, hair loss along the margin of the forehead and redness and pain in the penis. He wanted to become managing director and he had been planning the various steps of his career from a very early age onwards. At the age of 35 he had come quite a way on his road to the top in one of the ministries. Osmium seemed to be the indicated remedy but when it was repeated the complaints came back. Further analysis was obviously called for. The theme of the Gold series was obvious: management and career. This was confirmed by the nature of his complaints: hair loss and trouble in the genital area. He hadn't reached the top yet, so he was somewhere in between Stage 1 and Stage 10. He wasn't almost at the top either, as we might expect to see in Stage 9. We had already tried Osmium, Stage 8. He had started his career in management without any hesitation or doubt, so he was beyond Stage 4, the beginning. He had also passed the stage of preparation and wondering whether he should start or not, Stage 5. So we are down to a choice between Stage 6 and Stage 7. Stage 6 didn't seem to fit all that well: it has a certain hardness that is needed to take on the challenge. He hadn't said anything about it being a challenge. That leaves only Stage 7, Rhenium, the stage of practising and trying things out. But he hadn't told me anything about practising, learning, feedback or co-operation. So I had to find out more about his work and the way he deals with it.

He said he needs to be structured in what he does: he wants to have an overview of what he does and how it works. When his boss becomes angry he holds himself in and doesn't answer back. Can he stand and be assertive? He is in two minds about it [Stage 5?], he doesn't want to fail, so he is quite careful. In complex or stressful situations he becomes uncertain. He feels that he isn't good enough and that he will be rejected. How about criticism? He sees it as an opportunity to improve his performance [Stage 7]. People think he is quite modest. How about compliments? He finds them very stimulating but does want to feel that he has deserved them. He also sees compliments as a way to stimulate other people, 'because people would rather get a compliment than a critical remark, compliments unite people [Stage 7], criticism chases them away'. He likes to have a grip on the situation. When it gets too complex he tends to observe and try to reason it out. He is still capable of learning [Stage 7] and improving. After taking Rhenium he gradually starts to feel better and calmer. He no longer feels the need to tread carefully all the time, because he has finished some important work to everyone's satisfaction. His complaints are disappearing, he doesn't grind his teeth anymore and the redness and pain in his penis have gone. Going back to the Materia Medica we can now broaden the general picture of Rhenium. The concept of 'overview' turns out to be an important aspect of this remedy. This patient wanted to have a general overview of what was happening. Overview means seeing [Gold series] things together [Stage 7] in the overall structure [Gold series]. The other side of this is an aversion to complex and confused situations. So we can add to the picture of Rhenium the symptom: overview, <- complex situations.

This man also liked to bring people together, to let them co-operate in a larger structure [Gold series] by stimulating them in their work [Stage 7]. So we can add to Rhenium: stimulating, to work together.