

The Lac Remedies in Practice: A clinical materia medica with cases

Dr. Philip Bailey

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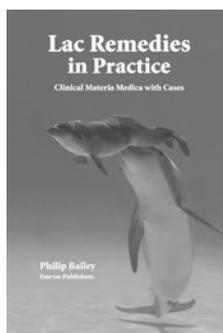
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Reviewed by Liz Lalor

Bouquets:

Dr. Philip Bailey was one of the first homœopaths to write about the mental and emotional persona, and psychological patterning (themes) within the constitutional medicines in his first book *Homeopathic Psychology* (North Atlantic Books). *The Lac Remedies in Practice* sees Bailey return to his clinical strengths of old. Bailey writes: "My experience using *Lac* medicines has shown me that it is not the birth trauma that produces a *Lac* picture constitutionally. If that were the case, we would only need one *Lac* medicine." Bailey's strength lies in his understanding of the clinical distinctions between the *Lac* medicines and the exact nature of the presenting trauma that is crucial to his individual case analysis. Bailey's clearly identifies psychological patterning and psychological development of the trauma in each of the individual *Lac* medicines. Bailey's psychological understanding is based on good clinical case analysis, and this book confirms his thorough clinical experience. Bailey's understanding of the child's "giving up" and withdrawal from connection to their mother, and the psychological dissociative consequences for the adult have previously not been explored by any other writer on the *Lac* medicines.

Bailey writes: "Equally common is a history of difficulties in breastfeeding. It does not seem to matter whether the difficulties appeared to come from the mother (e.g. Lack of milk) or from the child (e.g. poor attachment to the breast)." The importance of this statement is that it highlights the need for the homœopath to arrive at the choice of the simillimum from understanding the psychodynamic trauma within the patient, rather than making a prescription on the 'cause'. It is a mistake to prescribe a *Lac* medicine for an adult who has been deprived of being breastfed. In homœopathy we do not prescribe on the individual disease, or the 'event'. Homœopaths prescribe on the individual interpretation of the trauma in the patient's life patterning. The presenting case history in the two *Lac delphinum* cases could not be more different but their emotional disconnection to others is the same. The strength of this book on the *Lac* medicines lies in Bailey's ability to remind us that we are prescribing different *Lac* medicines based on individual interpretations of differing trauma states. Bailey's strength is his individual cases.



Bailey's clinical knowledge of the co-dependent relationship between the mother and child and the subsequent outcomes for the child is crucial reading for a true understanding of the emotional polarity that is evident within the *Lac* medicines. He identifies important co-dependent themes and forms some important hypotheses around the development and maintenance of the sub-conscious need to maintain the emotional co-dependency in mother and child. The psychotherapeutic understanding of the patient's need for the co-dependency have previously not been highlighted in any other books on the *Lac* medicines.

Recognizing the psychological understanding that Bailey identifies within the *Lac* persona will assist homœopaths in finding the individual *Lac* simillimum. Bailey's book *The Lac Medicines in Practice* fills a gaping hole in the psychological understanding of the *Lac* medicines and should be a 'must buy' for all homœopaths.

Brickbats:

I found the capitalization of particular words to distract from the text.

Bailey's continual use of the word "picture" to describe a personality persona is a grammatically and psychologically incorrect word usage that I find distracting.

In his chapter on *Lac delphinum* Bailey continues the practice of using movie stars (Marilyn Monroe) for personality profiling, which could mislead a homœopathic student, or young homœopath from understanding the presenting trauma within the persona of *Lac delphinum*. Bailey's clinical cases and case analysis stand in their own right and his description: "A sex kitten, not a cat", distracts from the strength of his writing and his sound clinical case knowledge.

Bailey makes the point in the introduction that "The materia medica in this book are derived entirely from my own clinical experience using *Lac* medicines in my homœopathic practice." On the one hand this is the strength of this book, and on the other hand it is a weakness. I would have liked references to individual rubrics in his case analyses.

The Lacs A Materia Medica & Repertory

Patricia Hatherly 2010

Available from: patricia@patriciahatherly.com
ISBN 9780975203217
Price AUD\$110 (incl. GST)

Reviewed by Lesley Lee

For such instinctively obvious medicines, it is surprising that it has taken so long for the milk medicines to become popular in the homœopathic pharmacopœia and Patricia Hatherly has done us great service in completing a comprehensive documentation of 20 medicines from this fascinating



homœopathic medicine group. While there are 19 straight milk medicines, there is one proving summary of 'Sus,' a synthesis of the blood, milk, saliva and semen of the pig bred for xenotransplantation and xenografting.

The layout of the book makes both the materia medica and the repertory easily accessible. The usual headings in the materia medica, such as Generalities, Mind etc, are supported by subheadings that summarise the main traits in a tabular arrangement that is easy to reference. In addition, Patricia Hatherly has included valuable notes throughout the materia medica, ranging from mythological themes and historical references to biochemical information. These make interesting reading and are a wonderful supplement to the usual dry format of most materia medicas.

The repertory forms about half the volume and is presented in the usual style, with some notable and useful additions. These include a small chapter on homœopathic medicine affinities, a short summary of the miasms each homœopathic medicine is believed to fit into and a longer section on themes. "Sensations as if" has been separated into a section on its own under the usual Materia Medica and Repertory headings, making it easy to consult.

Patricia Hatherly notes in the Acknowledgements that this is a foray into making the milk medicines more accessible. She also states that this is a work in progress. For example, she does not list homœopathic medicine strengths for each rubric in the repertory and notes that this anthology is only a preliminary venture into the extensive subject of mammalian milks.

While milk would seem to be a very obvious candidate for homœopathic research, several provings of mammalian milks have only recently indicated a surge of interest in this area. It always seemed strange to me that *Lac caninum* was the only notable milk medicine in the old materia medicas. Dr John Henry Clarke in *A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* gives *Lac felinum*, *Lac vaccinum* and *Lac vaccinum defloratum* relatively little space compared to *Lac caninum*, which has had polycrest status. This homœopathic medicine, however, was probably made popular largely because of its dramatic curative effect on some cases of diphtheria, in an era when this was a dangerous, often fatal, illness. In the late 1800's between 32 and 50% of those diagnosed with this disease died when treated using conventional medicines. Homœopathic treatment, by contrast, was remarkably successful. In the winter of 1860, Lippe, Hering and Reichhelm treated 240 confirmed cases of this condition and all were cured. In 1911, Dr Dewey compiled the treatment results from 28 European and American Homœopathic physicians for diphtheria occurring between 1883 and 1891 and reported a mortality rate of 4%¹.

Dr Finke (1821 – 1906) included this homœopathic medicine as part of a small gift pack of 20 medicines, all in the 900th potency, that he sent to his patents. *Lac caninum* was included for the prevention of diphtheria for which he recommended one dose three nights in succession².

Swan, one of the first provers of *Lac caninum*, also proved a variety of unusual substances.