

Imagine homeopathy
A Book of Experiments, Images, and Metaphors

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In this unique book, homeopath Chris Kurz offers a highly effective approach to learning and retaining all of the important concepts of homeopathy. Using vivid analogies and informal language, Kurz emphasizes the importance of true insight rather than rote memorization. An intense example of a common lemon brings home the notions of totality. He invites us to investigate a lemon (cut, taste and smell it) and then meditate on the lemon. Write down the experience. In the words of the author - "On one level it is almost impossible to describe a lemon in minute detail, yet on another it is almost trivial.....In fact in everyday life we often tend to think in totalities. Pretty much every object that surrounds us is a totality.....If I just say "fruit, yellow, tart, juicy" I bet you will discover pretty quickly that I was thinking of a lemon....Our mind works well with incomplete information and, by filling in the blanks, conjures up a rich, detailed, and life-like image which we recognize immediately".

An interesting analogy of suppression of symptoms in a sick individual with a leaky water hose is mentioned in the fourth chapter – "As sick individuals we behave like a leaky water hose. You suppress one symptom and the result is that in some other place a new symptom comes up. If you never look beyond the spot where your thumb is, you will never realize that you have not solved the problem by plugging one hole. Suppression does not make the disease go away, it only makes matters worse".

The miasms are revisited. He starts with the historical background and then moves on to the concept of new miasms. He believes in the multi-miasmatic aspect of remedies. He uses the road map as an example to unlock the mysteries of miasms.

An interesting aspect of polarities in a polychrest remedy is discussed in the tenth chapter which deals with the remedy process and evolution. When we study one of the well-known polychrest remedies we are usually presented with an image rich in detail. But there are many more symptoms which seem to support an entirely different picture. To almost every modality we find its opposite. Kurz uses a metaphor to understand the situation better – “Just as every plant undergoes a process of maturation which changes every aspect of its appearance profoundly, a disease is a process which follows a similar path. Since our remedies are linked to diseases through degrees of similarity, by analogy the same must hold true for homeopathic remedies”.

Kurz discusses the importance of doctrine of signature by narrating a case which could not be solved with routine repertorization. He wants homeopaths to be unprejudiced and not fit the patient into some remedy picture. He wants us to accept the fact that some cases definitely need a different approach and maybe a remedy that is unproved or not available in the materia medica. But he also warns us about the disadvantages of using doctrine of signature in an impulsive manner for any kind of case – “The danger in doing this lies in the temptation to give in to one’s own speculation rather than doing the sometimes hard labor of repertorization”.

‘A historic detour of posology’ in chapter fifteen gives a brief but much thought provoking idea about potency selection and repetition. The author compares the changes in the thought process of Hahnemann as he evolved over the years. In fact the fifth edition of Organon should be read and compared with the sixth edition by all homoeopaths. Kurz mentions the preparation of LM potencies and also case management

with this scale of potencies. He also lists some of the advantages of LM potencies.

In the sixteenth chapter he discusses the subject of vaccination and genus epidemicus. He does not condemn vaccinations. But he wants people to become aware of the whole situation. The available clinical and research data do not support the claims about vaccination being the safe and effective preventive measure. The author prefers homeoprophylaxis as they are safer than conventional vaccination.

He finally discusses the placebo effect with all its controversies in the last chapter.

It is a book which any homoeopath will enjoy reading as one can choose any topic from any of the chapters without any break in the link. The contents of the chapters are brief and yet the message is very clear. The author is successful in providing the reader with intelligent analogies to explain various concepts of homoeopathy.