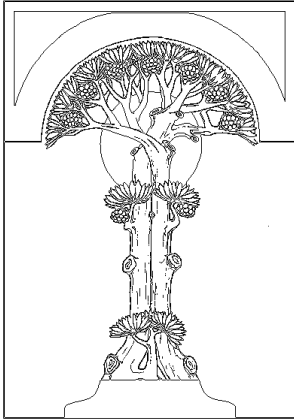


Centre for Integrative Medical Training



Intermediate Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Modular Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

Unit 34

Principles and Practice Supplement -Week 2

Preparatory Ideas for the Study of the Mineral Realm

Welcome to Unit 34.

Before we embark on thematic prescribing and group analysis we will briefly recap the methodologies you have covered so far.



A: THE PRACTICAL PROCESS

In the first semester we began with case studies that were amenable to 'pattern recognition' and then gradually moved towards cases that required analysis.

Both pattern recognition and analysis will remain important as a means of remedy selection for as long as you remain in homeopathic practice.

In a mixed general caseload, the symptom picture sometimes conforms to a well-known constitutional stereotype, which leads directly to an indicated remedy.

Sometimes the symptom picture has highly characteristic modalities that repertorise clearly to an indicated remedy.

Sometimes, however, the patient presents with a cluster of symptoms that isn't immediately recognisable. On occasion, a cluster of symptoms can subtend a small group of remedies which appear to 'cover the case'. When this happens the final match sometimes requires a materia medica check. Sometimes the remedy short-list that arises from a keynote analysis simply prompts pattern recognition from learned cases, or from your clinical experience.

So remedy selection can involve both inductive and deductive reasoning based around applied knowledge and experience and the use of our decision support tools.

B: THE SUPPORTING CONCEPT-BASE

We have summarised below some of the concepts that you have been introduced to. These concepts can influence your choice of analysis method for any given presentation.

The relevance of each of the concepts listed overleaf, to each individual presentation, can influence how you use clinical data from the case history and determine how you prioritise the available information in your analysis.

CONCEPTS ALREADY COVERED ELSEWHERE

AFFINITIES

Tissue affinities - tissues or structures influenced most by the remedy action

Locality - a similar idea but relating more to regions of the body

Laterality - an association with one side of the body or another

SYMPTOMS

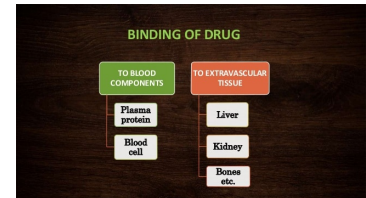
Characteristic sensation - the dominant sensation reported during provings of the remedy

SRP - strange or idiosyncratic symptoms which subtend a small number of remedies

Leading symptom - something expressed by the patient which brings a remedy into focus

Keynote symptom - a characteristic symptom strongly associated with a remedy

Genius symptom - a symptom or modality (sometimes polar) that is so strongly associated with a remedy that it can become a contraindication for that remedy if the patient's expressed symptomatology runs contrary to the genius symptom.



CURRENT STATE

A treatment based on the Current State is often strategically timed to contribute for a limited duration to certain acute presentations, including transient disturbances, remittent or intermittent problems. Sometimes a current state prescription is used to address an acute or subacute exacerbation of a deeper or more chronic problem. (The so-called Acute-on-Chronic presentation).

An awareness of the difference between acute, sub-acute and chronic clinical scenarios usually influences the practitioner's strategic choices for 'case management' including the posology for the case and the timing of follow-up appointments.

CONSTITUTIONS

Constitution - a recognisable set of characteristics: symptoms, responses, motivating factors, behaviours, typologies and modalities that are used as a predictor of the patient's individual sensitivity to a particular polychrest.

Polychrest - a remedy whose sphere of action is general or systemic, and whose affinities are not limited to one tissue, location or system. Sometimes the materia medica description for these remedies alludes to a particular type of patient (constitution) who have been observed to have a special sensitivity to the remedy.

MIND PICTURE

Highly individualising mind content that provides a conceptual framework for remedy choice.

Often narrative-based, the mind picture needs to be understood in relation to the particular life context of the patient.

MOVING ON ...

The concepts listed above should be fairly familiar to you by now. Many of these established ideas will already inform your approach to repertorising your case.

Overleaf we are going to provide an introductory outline of Group Analysis and Thematic Analysis.

Historical Notes:

These methodological refinements are relatively new to homeopathy. Mineral groups were explored in the mid-20th Century by Otto Leeser and others and later codified by Jan Scholten.

Plant and animal groups were discussed thematically by Ralph Twentyman in the 1970s and several practitioner/teachers have provided additional opinions since then, including Massimo Manglialiavori, Rajan Sankharan, Jonathan Shore, David Lilley and Jonathan Hardy (who has particular interest in the animal remedies).

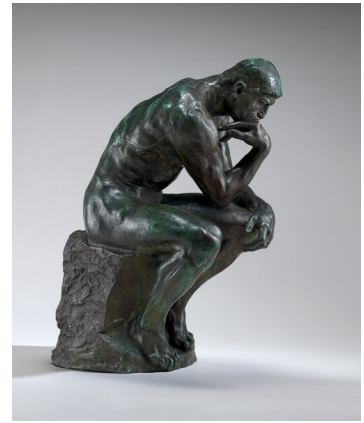
Practical Notes

Group analysis using themes can inevitably become an abstract process and always requires a high level of case-taking skill. Although it is important that you are introduced to these methods at this point in your studies, we strongly encourage you to continue using repertorisation as your principle means of analysis for the time being.

By the end of this semester, you will find that mineral group analysis can add to the discriminatory power of some of your Kentian repertorisations.

But beware that Boenninghausen-style analyses and Polarity Analysis should be used alone and not in combination with Group Analysis. ie do not use Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book and then filter the results using mineral themes.

Boenninghausen's data-set is not designed for this and Polarity Analysis provides its own filtering, using its own intrinsic data-set.



'New' Ideas for Attention this Semester

THEMES

A theme can be thought of as a 'thought motif' (an inculcated or acquired belief) which forms part of the patient's long-term view of the world and their place within it. These thought motifs consistently influence their life choices and how they apportion their resources.

These ideas, and the way they determine the persons ambitions, their endeavours and their own perspectives on success and failure, can become intrinsic to their identity ie. who the patient believes they are. Life-long themes of this kind can determine their constitutional sensitivity to a remedy.

Thematic prescribing involves the recognition of entire 'value-systems' and 'thought motifs', which are determined from what the patient says about themselves. The practitioner then matches each theme to a group of remedies.

The cross matching of two or more themes usually leads to a specific remedy - one which conforms to those patterns of thought which 'ensnare' or 'skew' the patients choices, relationships or endeavours.

Effective thematic prescribing allows the patient to perceive other possibilities and choices and opens them to a happier and more functional relationship with themselves, their endeavours and others.

GROUP ANALYSIS

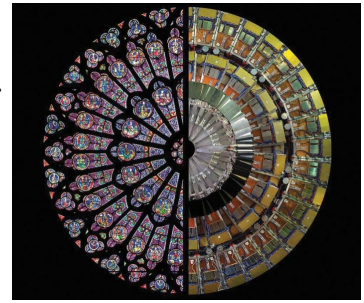
Group analysis involves cross matching two or more themes for a case.

Minerals

For mineral group analysis, the themes usually centre around the patient's sense of purpose and how this governs rational life choices - particularly, but not exclusively, around work, money, time and relationships.

Plants

For plant remedies the cross matching usually involves a characteristic sensation known to be linked to a taxonomic plant family (group), which is then cross-matched with a 'miasmatic' concept (defined by a broad illness category and the patient's passive and active responses to their illness). The Sensations Method of Rajan Sankharan will be described at a later stage in your studies.



Cyclamen europeum

Animals

Certain headline classes have a strong thematic influence:
eg vertebrates / invertebrates

Additionally, the fundamental nature of their natural environment:
sea dwelling / land-dwelling / birds

Each genus has characteristics of response within spectra of, for example:

individuality vs community
hidden vs exposed
passive vs active
static vs mobile
vulnerable vs predatory
monogamous vs polygamous
open dwelling vs 'home-making'
herbivorous vs omnivorous / carnivorous

Within each genus there are often different male and female themes. These are often expressed in the sexual behaviours and the nurture roles for offspring.

Other animal remedy grouping with identifiable themes include:

Lacs (milks)
which are the remedy representatives of mammals

Venoms (insect, amphibia, serpents etc.)

Microbiota

Exclusively human groups include:

Matridonal Remedies, a subset of sarcodes
Nosodes and Autonosodes
DNA
and human derived specifics:
(eg Insulin, HCG, Human growth hormone)

The Lacs and Matridonal remedies will be introduced during the forthcoming Women's Health Days



Peregrine Falcon