

Monera are bacteria, a life form divided into two kingdoms, the Archaeobacteria and Eubacteria. This book investigates both of these groups as well as viruses. The materia medica of over 100 remedies is discussed in 848 pages.

Bacteria are the most numerous organisms on earth. Originating over 3.5 billion years ago, they were the only life form on earth until 1.5 billion years ago. They are also the most numerous of life forms.

Vermeulen points out that a gram of garden soil contains 2.5 billion bacteria. To further elucidate the importance of this kingdom, he mentions that a human body contains approximately 100 trillion cells, 10 trillion of which are human and the other 90 trillion of which are bacteria. Since 9/10 of our bodies are made up of this other life form, perhaps this kingdom does bear investigation!

Bacteria are usually considered to be part of the animal kingdom but Vermeulen makes a case for classifying them in a separate kingdom, that of Monera. He also suggests a six kingdom system, which is the generally accepted classification system, including Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae, Animalia, Mineralia. Protista are unicellular nucleated organisms, on the borderline between plants and animals (algae, molds, amoebae, Plasmodium, etc.). Fungi, which most homeopathic literature considers as part of the plant kingdom, are now classified in their own separate kingdom in many other fields of science.

Hence the title of this book, *Monera*, a work dedicated to the homeopathic understanding of this diverse kingdom. There are currently 80 remedies listed in our materia medica, most of them not well documented. Only a few have thousands of symptoms, mostly the nosodes associated with bacterial diseases, such as *Medorrhinum*, *Syphilinum*, *Tuberculinum*, etc.

The remedy names used in the book are taken from the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria, based on the *Approved List of Bacteria Names* (Skerman, et al, 1980). Vermeulen points out that the current homeopathic abbreviation system doesn't follow clear rules, sometimes referring to a genus, sometimes a species. He recommends the use of the Latin binominal name first, then the genus. For instance, *Belladonna* would become *Atropa belladonna*.

The scope of this book, and the new information it covers, are enormous. The table of contents alone is 24 pages; the bibliography is four, the glossary seven, and the index 13. The taxonomy map on the inside front cover is a good guide to the Bacteria phylum, order, family, genus, species and remedy name. The back cover does the same for the Virus family.

This book is the first in a new series that Vermeulen is working on, called *Spectrum*. Future books will cover the other kingdoms, from the single-celled to the complex animal kingdom, the periodic table, plants, as well as manmade substances, the imponderable, and the unclassified. Vermeulen aims to group comprehensive information on these substances into one series of books. Information has been gleaned from websites, encyclopedias, cases, provings, old homeopathic texts, lectures, and libraries, including previously unpublished articles from Pierre Schmidt's collection.

The book also includes a discussion of the history of disease, vaccines, medicine, and religion. It provides answers, as well as demanding that we ask questions, about the origin of life and what it means to be human.

This is a fascinating and complex book, an important reference tool covering a list of remedies that has not been previously collected and organized as such. Armed with this important reference book for the consultation table, I look forward to the other volumes of *Spectrum*.

Reviewed by - Melanie Grimes -