

The

LESSER

Writings
of

C.M.F. von Boenninghausen

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COMPILED BY

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PREFACE.

Because a number of physicians desired to obtain certain essays by Boenninghausen and because of the difficulty in obtaining them, Messrs. Boericke & Tafel decided some years since that it would be a favor and advantage to the homœopathic profession to collect the shorter writings of the old practitioner, many of which had never been before published in English, in book form.

The result is thus presented. This book includes presumably all the magazine articles by Boenninghausen, and a few of the smaller of the pamphlets written by him.

The translations were made by Prof. L. H. Tafel especially for this book.

It has been the pleasure of the editor to collect the articles and in order so to do, all the German and French journals have been examined very carefully.

These articles have been translated from the original journals, and the phraseology has been left intact.

It is the hope that the book will be of some advantage to those of our school who have not advanced so far as to consider Boenninghausen's opinion *behind the times*.

T. L. BRADFORD, M. D.

Philadelphia, Pa.,
June 1, 1908.

PREFACE TO INDIAN EDITION.

As long as the method of curing diseases by drugs according to the principles of Homœopathy exists, the name of Boenninghausen will always be associated with that of Hahnemann, with whom he was intimately connected. His contribution to Homœopathic science and literature was made between the years 1828-46. Many of the writings of this period were collected and published by Messrs Boericke & Tafel, New York, under the title 'Lesser Writings'. The book was out of print for a long time and owing to the incessant demand of the Homœopathic Physicians and Students, we approached the publishers who has kindly given us permission to print an Indian Edition, which we now present to the profession.

The book will be immensely helpful to those who advocate medicinal characteristics and peculiarities and also those who use high potencies. Boenninghausen was almost a pioneer and certainly instrumental in delineating and proving the truths of these two addition and supplementation of the Homœopathic Materia Medica.

PUBLISHERS.

THE LESSER WRITINGS OF C. von Boenninghausen

A Reproof.—Smelling of Medicines.

Allgemeine homoeopathische Zeitung, Vol. XII. p. 359.

Among the more *causeless* defamations of the founder of the homoeopathic school, which we read in the *Hygea*, is an attack by Dr. Griesselich found in the third volume (pp. 256 and 257), entitled "Contribution to the History of Smelling Medicines." He there protests against the "authorship" of the discovery, assigned to him by Hahnemann, that smelling of the highly potentized Mercury may incline the vital force which has become diseased by abuse of Sulphur, so as to again admit a benificent effect of Sulphur upon it. Not only this, but he says in conclusion: "I was with Hahnemann in the last days of April, 1832, and that the preface alluded to is dated only a few days later, was the more surprising, as it was impossible that he should have the time in these few days to verify my enormous discovery."

Little is to be said against this statement as here laid down, and there is not the least doubt that Dr. Griesselich has a perfect right to decline the honor of this discovery, since I am assured by very creditable men, whose names, if necessary, I can give, that he devotes himself so little to practice that it is difficult in Karlsruhe to find out his place of residence, so that he must be devoting his time especially to theoretical studies.

But, in order to present history in its true light, I must add the following, and I feel myself the more called upon to the truth, as I alone am able to indicate the exact circumstances, though I am fully resolved not to answer in future any attack made upon myself personally.

The remarks made in the appendix to the preface to the letter of Hahnemann of August, 1832 (following p. 24), that this is the third matter inserted, and that it was impossible for him to communicate to the world anything of which he was not convinced, would have caused any unprejudiced person to entertain the supposition, that this smelling of *Mercurius* to cure the abuse of *Sulphur*, was among the matters inserted later. And that this is really the case the writer of this article can prove from the original documents, which have been preserved; and this is actually the second point inserted, sent in by Hahnemann on June 15, 1832. In the preface dated May 6, 1832, there is as yet not a syllable about smelling of *Mercurius*, nor in the first matter inserted, which speaks of the use of *Sulphur* in psoric patients suffering from intermittent fever, and which is dated May 28. Not before June 15, 1832, had sufficient time elapsed to verify the observation as it now stands, and not before that time was it sent in by Hahnemann for publication.

But as these facts could not be definitely known to Dr. Griesselich I do not want to state this as a reproach to him, but only in order to wipe out the undeserved stain that he has thrown on the power of observation and the love of truth of Hahnemann. But what ought to have moved him not so easily to charge this honorable old gentleman with credulity, in contradiction to the extract published above from the letter of Hahnemann of August 21, 1832, is the fact that in the second edition of the year 1833, which had been enlarged by the addition of many remedies, the preface written by Hahnemann was, indeed, wholly rewritten, but that passage was preserved verbatim, and this has given to it a very important confirmation. We cannot, therefore, well see what his phrase about "discoveries which are unconfirmed" can mean, especially as the correctness of that observation has surely been recognized in numerous cases by all good homœopaths, who only allow their patients to smell the *Mercurius* in cases where it corresponds with the *Sulphur* symptoms, as is very often the case; while in other cases they take their refuge to other remedies (as the honorable editors of the *Archiv* will testify*) although Dr. Griesselich, in case he should have tried it, may have been as unsuccessful with it as in the case of *Silicea* 30 (according to his own confession in *Hygea* III, 17,) which, to be sure, is not suit-

* If it needs any confirmation we gladly give it.—GR (GROSS.)

able in all cases where merely the scholastic, pathological name of the disease may point to it.

Münster, January 17, 1838

Concerning the Curative Effects of Thuja in Small-pox.

Allg. hom. Zeit., Vol. XXXVII, Page 21.

Epistolary Communication from the Royal Councilor, Dr. von Boeninghausen, in Münster, to Dr. Rummel (Editor).

I think I ought to inform you of an experience of mine during the course of this winter, as it seems to me worthy of a more extended publicity.

Since the last six months small-pox has appeared here and in the environs, in several places with considerable violence and, although in consequence of our wise laws about segregation, etc., the disease was in many cases kept secret, yet numerous cases came under my treatment.

The observation, repeatedly made, that during such epidemics malanders are frequently observed in horses, brought me to compare with the symptoms of small-pox the specific for this disease in animals (*Thuja*), and the result proved so decidedly favorable that I used the same in the first case of small-pox* that was entrusted to my treatment. It exceeded all my expectations. On the fourth day the pustules were all dried up; on the eighth day they had fallen off and no pockmarks were to be seen.

This decidedly favorable result caused me not only to use the same remedy with all the following small-pox patients, but to also use the same remedy in several houses where small-pox had broken out, as a prophylactic, and lo! also here the result was favorable, and no case came to my knowledge where, after using *Thuja*, any other member of the family had been infected.

As I have hardly used anything for five years but high potencies, and with such good results that I shall probably never again return to low potencies, I also used in small-pox cases only the 200th potency of *Thuja*, giving a few pellets as a dose every other evening, and only in two cases, where it seemed to be indicated, I interjected a single dose of *Mercurius* 200, whereby, as it seemed, the efficacy of *Thuja* was increased.

* This was that of a girl of twenty-four years of age, whom I had cured the year before of a chronic crusty herpes on both cheeks. At this day her face is quite smooth and clean and the picture of health.

Most manifest was the absence of pockmarks, which otherwise are so unavoidable and disfigure so many pretty faces, and even the redness of the spots disappeared more quickly.

Whether the same results may be obtained in every epidemic of small-pox must be found out by later experience. If this should be the case, vaccine matter, which in careless hands is so dangerous, and which has doubtlessly caused an enormous infection with the scrofula-poison, might find a most valuable substitute.

Of course, none of my small-pox patients died. Although the epidemic was not one of the most dangerous a number of patients treated by allopaths died, and all the rest will carry a reminder of it in their faces; and with them the course of the disease was, as usual, long drawn out. So much at this time.* . . .

The following note is by the editor of the *Zeitung* :

"Von Boenninghausen brought up vaccination at the meeting and considered that as practiced now it is the chief cause of the disquieting spread of scrofulous diseases. All the physicians present agreed in this view and promised to give especial attention to this important subject so as to be able to follow up the matter next year. There has not as yet been any opportunity to test the discovery of Von Boenninghausen concerning the curative power of *Thuja* in small-pox; this has also been confirmed in France, and it is to be expected that we may have opportunities in the course of the year to test this also here."

The High Potencies. †

Allg. hom. Zeit., Vol. XXXVIII, page 358.

High potencies have produced a division, especially among German homœopaths, which still exists and is in no way conducive to the progress of science. A war in our own camp has thus been caused, far worse and more dangerous than a war against an external foe—a war of *specificists* against the *Hahnemannians*, of

*Whether *Thuja* will be efficient as a prophylactic might perhaps be seen by giving this remedy to persons before they are vaccinated, and then observing whether the vaccination "takes" with them. We would request vaccinating physicians to make this experiment.—RUMMEL.

†According to my opinion, there is no more need to establish the *action* of high potencies, for very few homœopaths will question this; yea, I even know from Griesselich, who, as is well known, is their chief opponent, that he experimented with them on himself; thus, he must not have considered