

**Dimension of
Homoeopathy**

Dietmar Payrhuber

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Reviewed by Heinz Wittwer, Switzerland

I volunteered to write this review because the author, *D.Payrhuber*, was by chance the lecturer at the first seminar I have attended many years ago as a young homeopathic doctor. What I did not know then (but have learned from the first pages of his book) is that though we live in different countries, it had been an encounter with the same person, a homeopathic physician from Vienna, that led both of us to decide to dedicate our lives to homeopathy.

'The Dimensions of Homoeopathy' was first published in 1997 in German and is now available in English as well. According to the preface, this book tries to illustrate what homeopathy is all about and what its potential might be for public health. Of course it starts out with a brief historical look at the life of Samuel *Hahnemann*. Then the author dedicates a chapter each to the basic principles of homeopathy, to casetaking and to homeopathic remedies and their *Materia Medica*. He continues to show how effective homeopathy can be in acute, chronic and psychiatric cases, often emphasizing the difference between the allopathic and homeopathic way of thinking and treating. With many examples, he demonstrates how deep the action of a homeopathic remedy can be and that it has the potential to cure the body, and the soul as well. Then the basis for the selection of a remedy, as well as *Hering's law* and *G.Vithoulkas'* hierarchic order of diseases are discussed in detail. The contributions to homeopathy by *J.Scholten* and *A.Masi-Elizalde* are explained and honored next. Finally the concepts of miasms according to *S.Ortega* are presented and illustrated by a miasmatic analysis of the main character of several well-known movies.

'The Dimensions of Homoeopathy' is basically an introduction into classical homeopathy. It is well-written, detailed and easy to comprehend. Certain passages with additional information are given in small print and can be

skipped if desired. The text is rich and colorful because every aspect discussed is instantly illustrated by examples from the author's practice. Thus it contains 30 of the most remarkable and impressive cases the author has witnessed so far, many of them given briefly, others in full detail. At least four of them have been published before (see the Gases of *Silicea* and *Calcium iodatum* in 'Homœopathic Links', Winter 1993, Vol.6 (4), p.37 and p.38, or in 'Homœopathic Links', Compilation Issue 1987-90, p.32 and p.33 and the Cases of *Ammonium causticum* and *Ferrum iodatum* in 'Homœopathic Links', Summer 1998, Vol.11 (2), p.88 and p.90).

These example cases are the heart of the whole book and they make it worth reading. 'The Dimensions of Homoeopathy' however does not only give insight into the principles of homeopathy but just as much into the author's personal way of case solving. His method is mainly based on the teaching of *G.Vithoulkas* and *R.Flury*. Later he expanded his skills by adding the findings of *J.Scholten*, which sometimes led to astonishing results. Whereas the ideal of *Vithoulkas* and *Scholten* are generally well-established within the homeopathic community, I believe this is not the case with the Works of *R.Flury*.

Flury's idea was to take the four basic temperaments according to *Aristoteles* into consideration for the prescription of a constitutional remedy; as well as other elements of the human physiognomy. My personal interest in this type of analysis was raised by the lecture of *D.Payrhuber's* book and I will try to learn more about it.

'The Dimensions of Homoeopathy' is not just a book to explain to laymen what homeopathy is all about, as there are too many methodological details in it. But it is not a book for the education of young homeopathic colleagues either, because many of the cases are only sketched very briefly. So what kind of book is it really? It is the author's very personal ode to homeopathy: He describes all the aspects and details, that he found valuable in his career as a homeopathic healer in an objective way without mentioning his own emotions. And yet between the lines, his love for homeopathy is always present. I feel the author is sharing all the things that are most precious to him and which give him deep satisfaction in the work with his patients. I hope this book will find many readers; there is something in it for everyone.