

**THREE LECTURES ON  
HOMOEOPATHIC  
PHARMACEUTICS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649273461

Three lectures on homoeopathic pharmaceuticals by F. E. Boericke

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Cover @ 2017

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**F. E. BOERICKE**

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HOMOEOPATHIC  
PHARMACEUTICS**



THREE LECTURES

OR

HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACEUTICS

BY

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PUBLISHED BY

BOERICKE & TAFEL,

NEW YORK: 145 Grand Street.

PHILADELPHIA: 635 Arch Street.

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## PREFACE.

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The following three lectures, delivered a number of years ago to the classes of the Homœopathic College of Philadelphia, I have concluded to publish, under the impression that I may thereby confer a service on many. The immediate reasons, however, for doing so, are the many inquiries and questions which we receive in our extended business on the preparation of our remedies. These questions often require long letters, and cannot after all be so fully and exhaustively answered as it is done in these lectures.

It was my aim to make these lectures as plain and simple as possible, and to the point; they are printed just as they were read before the classes, with the exception of a part of the third lecture, where I wished to bring the preparation of tinctures still more in accordance with the *pharmacopœia polyglottica*. This work has since been adopted by nearly all the Continental (European) Homœopathic Societies, and is also, as I have

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reason to believe, in accordance with the forthcoming Homœopathic Dispensatory of the American Institute. Here and there further explanations have been added as foot notes, and also as indications of such changes as have since been made.

These lectures on *General Pharmaceutics* are intended merely for the doctor's office, for which purpose I think they will be found sufficient; they were not intended when held, nor are they intended now for pharmacists. The lectures on *Special Pharmaceutics* have not been included in this pamphlet, else it would have acquired more the nature of a pharmacopœia, a work which I do not feel called upon to furnish on my own responsibility.

F. E. BOERICKE.



## LECTURE FIRST.

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GENTLEMEN :

The Art of Preparing Medicines is a branch of the Art of Healing.

In former centuries the physician had to spend a large part of his time in the preparation of the medicines which he administered to his patients, in fact he had to be part pharmacist. But soon there came a division of labor; the manual work was given to the apothecary in order to give the physician more time for the mental part of his task; the physician then wrote out his prescription and sent it to the man who was skilled in making such preparations, and who was able to procure the necessary ingredients to better advantage.

This is the practice followed by the Old School to this day. In the New School, though we cannot boast of many centuries, we see something similar: Hahnemann and his immediate disciples made their own medicines, but the Homœopathic profession at this day are in some countries even compelled by *law*, while in other countries like our own, they are led by *choice* to obtain their medi-

cines or at least the greater part of them from the pharmacies.

Now, gentlemen, a man may be a very good marksman, without being able to construct a rifle himself or without ever having made powder; he buys his ammunition in the gunshops; but it is essential to him to know (to be a *judge* of) the qualities of a good rifle, or of those of good powder and of a perfect cartridge, or else he will have but poor success in spite of all his skill. Therefore, just as it is important for the marksman to have a good rifle and perfect ammunition, so it is important for the physician, and in fact a thousand times more so, to have perfect medicines, or else he may miss fire in a most critical moment, and from the want of a genuine or properly prepared medicine, lose his patient, and his reputation in the bargain.

A Homœopathic physician at the present time, as just said, is not any more obliged like Hahnemann and his immediate followers to *make* his own tinctures, triturations and dilutions, but under all circumstances he ought to know *how* they are made, so that if he prefers, or in case of need he may be able to make them himself, and also to be able as far as that is possible, to distinguish the spurious from the genuine article.

To explain and to show these two things, will be the object of my lectures.

Before however discussing these objects *practically*, let me first lay down the *principles* which must guide us in the preparation of our medicines, and which principles we have to follow *under all circumstances* if we would not fail utterly.

By comparisons we often see things in a clearer light; let us therefore take a glance at the medicines of the Old School.

An Allopathic physician in his attempt to cure his patients, looks to classification; the name of a disease answers with him for a certain whole range of symptoms, and the medicines therefore by which he expects to cure his patient, are also divided into certain general classes. We read in the *Materia Medica* of the Old School of stimulants, astringents, tonics, etc. The stimulants are again subdivided into arterial stimulants, cerebro-nervous stimulants and anti-spasmodics. Then again they have sedatives, emetics, cathartics, diuretics, diaphoretics, expectorants, and so on, and so on. By studying the principles of this classification, we find that in the Old School they have respect only to the general and most marked symptoms of a medicine, disregarding all peculiarities. It is true, one of the remedies may have two or more, or many of the properties just mentioned, but still according to these or like general symptoms their *Materia Medica* is arranged, and according to such knowledge and means their medicines are classified. The specific difference between the various astringents or purgatives in their eyes, is simply one of more or less violence, of vehemence or of mildness.

If then an Allopathic physician prescribes his medicine or compound (mixed up *secundum artem* very often into something very nauseous), and this has the expected and desired effect of an emetic, a purgative, a tonic or diuretic, he has every reason