

**A THERAPEUTIC GUIDE TO
ALKALOIDAL-
DOSIMETRIC-
MEDICATION**

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A Therapeutic Guide to Alkaloidal-Dosimetric-Medication by John M. Shaller

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A THERAPEUTIC GUIDE
TO
Alkaloidal—Dosimetric—Medication

(SECOND EDITION)

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PREFACE.

The following pages are offered to students and practitioners of medicine simply as a guide to the practice of "Dosimetry," or Alkaloidal Medication. The book does not contain a complete, scientific exposition of the physiological actions of the active principles of all plants, upon men and animals. Only such prominent physiological effects are described as will enable practitioners to prescribe them intelligently. Attention is particularly given to the application of remedies in the treatment of the sick.

Since the literature on the subject of these remedies is still meager in amount, the writer has been obliged to draw chiefly from his personal experience. The dosage for children, especially in the case of aconitine, has been particularly difficult to ascertain and, only after prolonged experimentation, not unaccompanied with considerable anxiety, has a safe and efficient dose been determined upon.

The text contains the subject-matter of two courses of lectures on "The Uses of Dosimet-

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ric Medicines," delivered in connection with lectures on Clinical Medicine to the students of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery."

The thirty-odd remedies, an account of which formed the basis of these lectures, are considered the most important in general use, and are usually sufficient to enable a general practitioner to treat successfully such cases as present themselves to him.

The writer does not, however, wish to convey the idea that the list of alkaloidal granules contains all the medicines prescribed by dosimetric physicians. There are a great many excellent medicines which cannot be prepared in granules or even in tablets, and there are others, prepared in this way, which cannot produce any effect whatever when given in such doses as these granules contain. This much, however, is certain, that the more important remedies are prepared in granule form, and that the majority of diseases are treated more successfully by giving small and frequently repeated doses of active principles, than by giving cruder preparations in large doses at long intervals of time.

Not all the medicines used in dosimetry are alkaloids. Among them are found resinoids, glucosides, acids, salts of various metals, extracts and various chemical combinations and other substances which cannot be classed with the above, as pepsin, diastase, iodoform, nitroglycerin (glonoin), camphor monobromate, etc.

If a perusal of the following pages shall enable medical practitioners to apply the active principles of plants, successfully, for the alleviation and cure of disease, the object for which they have been written will have been accomplished. In recasting the lectures into the present form, frequent recourse was had to the works of Burggræve, Castro, Bartholow, H. C. Wood, Potter and Waugh, and to "The National Dispensatory," Sajous, "Annals of Universal Medical Sciences," and to the "Reference Handbook of Medical Sciences."

DEDICATION.

I dedicate this book to my wife, whose assistance and advice have always been valuable to me.

THE AUTHOR.