

Homeopathy in Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine

By Michael Frass & Martin Bündner (eds) translated by Heather Ferlicchia.

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Reviewed by Francis Treuherz

This book is an unusual masterpiece for so many reasons. It manages to succeed in its aims of appealing to both allopaths and homeopaths, demonstrating the life-saving role of homeopathy for patients suffering many dangerous conditions. The evidence is there in 145 detailed case studies, that homeopathy is effective, despite heavy drug medication or when the patient refuses conventional medicines, or is unconscious. The editors have contributed many cases themselves and set high standards. There are 19 authors in total, but the style is remarkably consistent and it is hardly evident that the book is a translation. This large volume is well-produced with the text in double columns - and so is excellent value.

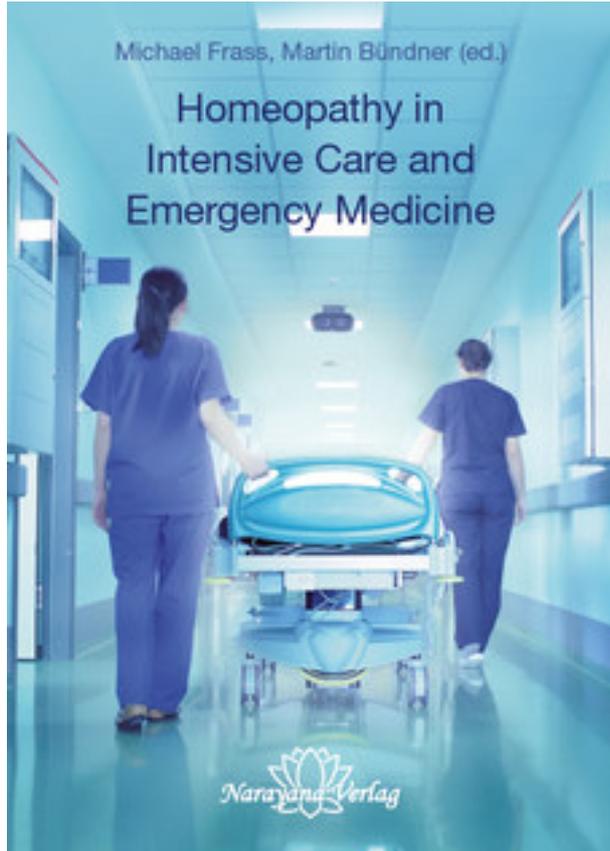
There are four introductory chapters which introduce homeopathy to readers not trained in it, or in the contexts of Accident and Emergency Departments (A&E) and Intensive Care Units (ICU). A very detailed chapter explains homeopathic pharmacy, remedy production, potency and posology. Equally detailed is the outline of how homeopathy can be used as an 'adjuvant' to conventional care and how A&E and ICU functions for homeopaths not accustomed to this work.

There follow 18 chapters on different aspects of health care such as trauma, toxicology, neurology, lungs, gynaecology and many more. Each chapter outlines the definitions and depths of the pathology, followed by descriptions of how allopathy and homeopathy might view or respond to these; then there are repertory rubrics and focused *materia medica* outlines, which lead into some very very detailed cases: an anamnesis, an analysis, some rubrics and the rationale for the choice of remedy. It is interesting to note the repertories used: *Kent*, the *Synthetic*, the *Lieth* (a German card repertory) the *Complete* and the *Synthesis* are the main ones; there are references to classic C19 *materia medica* by Hahnemann and Jahr. After an account of the progress of the patient there is an evaluation of the case and, most important, a critical commentary.

The results are so clear that this is more than placebo. For example, the patient was unconscious and the homeopath did not previously know the patient – and the treatment was successful. Or the patient condition was deteriorating fast and drastically despite medication, and a homeopathic remedy or remedies created a change when there were no other factors or interventions. Nothing will change the minds of the 'skeptics' – our detractors. But a doubting but open-minded physician might accept this as evidence. It is striking also that the case narratives from Europe, South America and India incorporated in this exciting volume, reproduce similar conditions and approaches. The final chapter is a *materia medica* round up of the remedies featured here. There are excellent bibliographies and indices. Homeopaths in general practice can extend their experience in acute prescribing from studying these cases. I have specialised in acute prescribing for over 20 years and I can say that the editors have done their job really well.

Michael Frass, Martin Bündner (ed.)

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519 words.