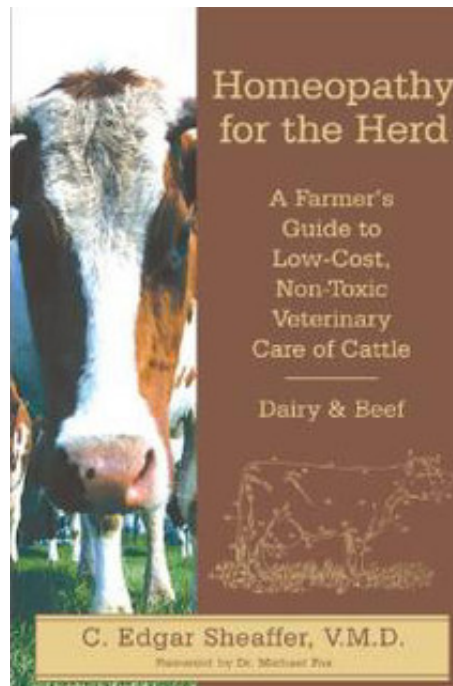


# C. Edgar Sheaffer Homeopathy for the Herd

Reading excerpt  
[Homeopathy for the Herd](#)  
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## 8.

# The *Materia Medica*, Keynotes & Nosodes

While a student at the Penn State University main campus in 1965, I became fascinated with the library. There were volumes that I had never found at Gettysburg or any of the other colleges in central Pennsylvania. My future bride was over 100 miles away completing a tour of duty at a hospital in another state. Hence I had time to spend in the library.

Library research was not a new avocation for me. As a farm boy, any available time was devoted to reading. Hours recuperating from various on farm injuries were filled with the reading of books and magazines on various subjects. Veterinary medical texts were of special interest. Penn State library provided a myriad of old veterinary journals. On one occasion, I stumbled upon two older bound texts that I had never seen. The titles at first meant nothing to me. I had to think about the titles and explore the pages because the names therein were foreign—completely unfamiliar. The titles of those two old texts were *Materia Medica* and *Veterinary Materia Medica*. I had not a clue what I was looking at and returned them to the shelf after a brief review. That seed of information laid dormant in my psyche until that initial homeopathic course at Millersville University.

*Materia Medica, Keynotes & Nosodes* 139

The term *materia medica* refers to those texts that contain the listing of medical materials that a medical practitioner will incorporate into his practice. Julian Winston in his text *The Heritage of Homeopathic Literature* describes the homeopathic *materia medica* as being, "Quite different from that of its allopathic counterpart, in that it is not only a listing of the chemical makeup of the material and its possible uses, but, most importantly, it is a detailed listing of the symptomatic response of a healthy person under controlled circumstances [proving] to the medicinal influence." Each *materia medica* that was written after Hahnemann's work (with the exception of other provings) is essentially a record of personal experiences with the remedies that Hahnemann outlined or remedies that were added through new provings.

These types of texts are at the core of any serious medical discipline. Every physician of every age had a *materia medica*. Hippocrates used a *materia medica* in his practice. Hahnemann while translating Cullen's *Materia Medica* from English to German questioned the author's references to Cinchona bark being the cure of Malaria because of its bitter taste. That query caused Dr. Hahnemann to travel down the discovery road to homeopathic principles.

## The Medicines

### *Abrotanum (Southernwood)*

Clinically, this remedy has been helpful in the control of roundworms (Ascaridae) and oxyuris. The southernwood plant grows on sunny hills in southern Europe and is cultivated in gardens. It is thought to destroy worms. Dosage: 3X or 6X potencies given daily for 14 days.

### *Aconitum napellus (Monkshood)*

The common name is monkshood, but is also called *Aconite*. The active principle is a potent alkaloid. Keynote symptoms are: fever, sudden fever after stress, chill or shipping, grooming (a haircut). Accompanying the fever there is fearfulness, restlessness and increased thirst. The pulse is hard and accelerated, and respiration may be labored. It is best to give *Aconite* early in the course of dis-

ease. Use this medicine first for eye injuries and infections, shipping diseases, laminitis (acute founder) and acute mastitis. The harsh dry cough is a predominant symptom. Symptoms are generally worse at night. *Aconite* should be strongly considered for the early stages of any respiratory disease. Other possible characteristics are a hot, dry muzzle; hard, dry, insufficient evacuations; irregular or suspended rumination. Administer *Aconite* 12C, 30X, 30C or 200C three or four times daily for three days immediately upon arrival to the farm. *Aconite* has shown itself to be helpful in preventing illnesses brought on by the stress of shipping.

### *Antimonium tartaricum*

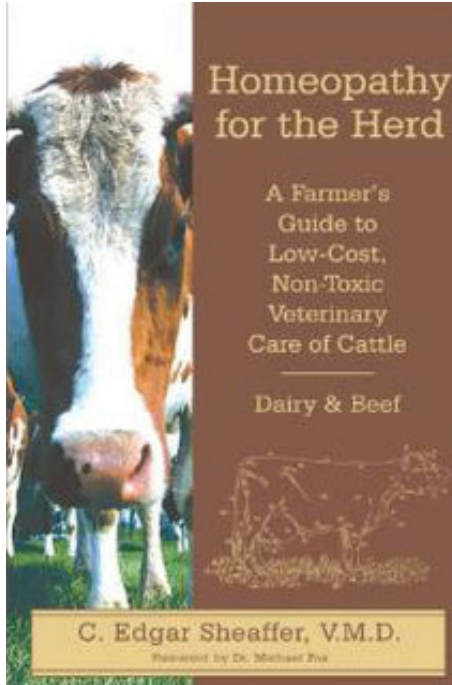
The keynote is moist cough with no expectoration. The debilitated patient has drowsiness and is not able to clear the airway because the cough is so weak. The rattling respiration is characteristic and can be detected without a stethoscope. General dosing is TID for up to five days.

### *Apis mellifica (Honeybee)*

Indicated for swellings (internal and external dropsy), udder edema, hard quarter mastitis, right-sided ovarian cysts, and when manure is watery brown. Affected areas are worse from warmth and external heat and better from washing or moistening affected area with cold water. Cattle will seek shade, but will not drink even though they need to be rehydrated. One or two doses often will remind them to drink. General dosing is TID for three days. For reaction to insect stings, dose every one-half hour to affect.

### *Arnica montana*

The medicine of first choice in any case of trauma of any kind. Injuries to soft tissues, worse to touch, trauma to body and mind. Use first in bruising, bleeding and disorders of muscle and the heart. Concussions, contusions, hematomas, nose bleeds. Oral and topical preparations are available. Better from rest and lying down. Worse from work, touch, motion. General dosing: in cases of bleeding, hourly for three doses; in cases of trauma, three times daily for three days. Potencies of 30C and 200C are available in the homeopathic farm kit. With these potencies, withdraw meat zero days, milk zero days.



C. Edgar Sheaffer

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