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# Foreword

BY PIETER KUIPER

During the last 25 years or so the science of homeopathy has developed so rapidly that many students and even teachers could not comprehend and integrate all the insights and possibilities in the homeopathic healing art.

Most of these developments, though, are not very difficult to grasp. On the contrary, they are based on very simple principles. The difficulty seems to be, however, that the number of homeopathic remedies has grown immensely, and that has been too much for many practising homeopaths. It's a pity, though, that one only seems to see a chaos of remedies and not the simple order and clarifying principles behind it.

In the impressive development of the last two decades, Jan Scholten has been leading with his presentation of the Element theory of the Mineral kingdom and the Plant theory, categorising the vast flora of our planet in homeopathic terms. Both theories are built on the same universal principles and are in fact reflecting and revealing basic laws of creation.

These laws refer to the 7 series and 18 stages in the periodic table, which also form the basis and structure in the Plant theory. This similarity is so striking that both may reflect a universal structure of life.

The art of healing then is nothing other than a tentative categorising of the problem of the patient in similar terms. Because, after all, our 'outer world', with minerals, plants, animals and so on, is nothing other than an 'externalisation', a folded out version of our own 'inner world'. What we do in homeopathy is apply the intrinsic information of our outer world to similar pictures in ourselves – nothing other than the law of similars. Both theories and their parameters enable us to have a better and more complete understanding of the old polychrests as well as many new remedies. Our new and evolved materia medica is no longer a kind of random collection of phenomena from nature as in the past.

Now, more than ever, it is categorised using simple laws and principles. Plant theory can be understood much more easily when you understand the main idea of Element theory in the periodic table, and also the other way around!

And thus all the old and new remedies are much easier to learn and recognise when understanding these few basic principles.

Therefore I'm very happy that Deborah Collins offers us such a clear presentation of the Plant theory with this book. It is a bridge for everyone who is interested in the new theories and may have thought that the theories were 'a bridge too far'.

She explains these principles with great patience and many examples. The second part is the practical part, with many cases. These cases illustrate how one can apply the Plant theory. It is so good to see how a theory can gradually become a practice for many homeopaths all over the world after just a few years. In fact, this repeatability is a main characteristic of science in general.

I hope that this book can be that real bridge for those hesitating students and teachers in homeopathy who feel the truth in both the Element and Plant theory and have felt able to take the next step to go into it.

Indeed, one needs courage and perseverance to understand and apply it. But my experience with it is that the rewards are incomparable. It will bring deeper insights in the understanding of the whole materia medica and case taking. That means that we may get a better overview of all our remedies and we can better apply to them to our patients.

So the paradox is that the outcome of studying the Plant theory is just the opposite than you expected it to be: rather than chaos, clarity!

