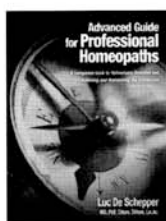

Reviews



Advanced Guide for Professional Homeopaths
by Luc De Schepper
Full of Life Publishing, Santa Fe NM;
2008. Hardback, 240 pages, £39.00.
ISBN 0942501152.

Reviewed by Wendy Howard

Wendy Howard graduated in 1998 from the Edinburgh College of Homeopathy, the first cooperative to rise from the ashes of LCCH Edinburgh. Currently taking a sabbatical from practice to pursue research, she researches and writes on anything connected with homeopathy and health, and is a serial prover. She lives in the Scottish Borders with her 3 children, an assortment of cats and rodents, and far too many houseplants. Email: wendy@smeddum.net.

Luc De Schepper is a well-known Belgian homeopath, author, scholar and teacher, resident in the USA since 1981. He is a staunch Hahnemannian, advocating a methodology based on the 6th edition *Organon*, while bringing aspects of Jungian psychology and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) into his teachings.

The book is printed in the US with sturdy binding and a substantial and beverage-resistant cover. Text is large and legible though pages are crowded and typographically confusing.

Its purpose is to create a bridge between De Schepper's earlier works – *Hahnemann Revisited* and *Achieving and Maintaining the Simillimum* – and his next book, *Beyond Jung: Delusions, Dreams and Homeopathy*. There are two parts: Advanced Case Taking and Advanced Management, the first taking up roughly two thirds of the book.

The opening premise is that there are a number of questions homeopaths fail to ask in case taking which, if they did, would solve any challenge they are likely to meet. Each of these 11 questions are then dealt with in turn through the subsequent chapters, bringing in common versus characteristic symptoms, layers, aetiology, core delusion, constitution, Jung's psychological types, miasmatic states and the relevance of pregnancy to childhood pathology.

The second part covers potency selection, miasms again, and a discussion of Hering's observations on direction of cure, introducing a TCM perspective.

This book is comprehensive, informative, well researched and distilled, and clearly explained. It is full of good solid advice, both theoretical and practical, very much in the mould of Hahnemann, Kent, Close and Vithoulkas. Yet it is also a book of disconcerting contradictions, which intrude uncomfortably on the narrative. De Schepper talks of avoiding conceptual boxes, of 'going with the flow', which he claims comes naturally and instinctively to him, yet for much of the book he is writing in a highly prescriptive, systematised vein, talking about what a homeopath "must" do. Glowing testimonials on the book cover, to his warm, deeply caring nature, sit uneasily with text that barely misses an opportunity to dismiss the work of other homeopaths. His thorough research into Hahnemann's methods is let down by frequent comments like "most homeopaths do not ...", which appear to be unsupported assumptions.

Advancing the perceived superiority of your own perspective and experience by denigrating other, often equally valid, approaches is a well-established tradition in homeopathy (e.g. Hahnemann, Kent, Vithoulkas) but good work should be capable of standing on its own merits.