

posology? Duration? Any contra-indications? When do we bring in the simillimum? What signs do we look for? Will Dr Joe run a practical seminar? Tell me what to do to use these medicines – I may not agree but tell me anyway. I want an instruction manual!

If you want a comprehensive journey into Organotherapy and Drainage and Detoxification, this is your book. The author has an easy, occasionally humorous style, which makes for enjoyable reading. You may not want an instruction manual as I have suggested, in which case you will find this book very useful and practicable. If there is another edition, I think that filling the book with generous case snapshots would give it the 'Wow!'



Homeopathic Mind Maps - A trilogy.

Volume 1: Medicines of the Animal Kingdom [115pp]

Volume 2: Medicines of the Mineral Kingdom [89pp]

Volume 3: Medicines of the Plant Kingdom [162pp]

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Reviewed by Jenni Tree

Alicia Lee wrote to ask me for some technical advice some years ago, when this daunting project, begun as part of her Auckland College of Classical Homeopathy course, was in its infancy. I was interested to follow her progress and she sent me the proofs of each book, so that what I am reviewing may not be the final version.

In short, each book is A4 size, necessary for the visual mind map layout, and spiral bound to lie flat for ease of reference. The paper is a good quality semi-gloss to carry the photos, and a serif font is used.

Each medicine has one page devoted to it. The information is laid out with the most important mentals at the top, leading to the emotions, and the physicals lower down the page. 'Thought' arrows connect them, and Lee is at pains to explain that these are her personal connections. The books are her interpretation and understanding of materia medica, as she has been taught, and from her wide reading in many sources, most of which are credited. It is interesting to see a modern student's eye view of 'Maximum information in Minimum space', and to understand the themes, connections, language and information felt necessary for a differential prescription now, in comparison with Vermeulen's Silver Book, the *Synoptic*

Materia Medica of 1992. Lee's *Animal Kingdom* in particular contains outlines of many medicines not available 20 years ago, such as the majority of the birds and snakes, the sea horse and salmon, to name a few.

The medicines in the *Animal Kingdom* are arranged alphabetically by family, from Bears through Birds to Spiders. This book also contains the Fungi and the Nosodes, which, it is true, are often characteristically animal in behaviour. The *Mineral Kingdom* starts with Acids, continues with the Halogens, and then reverts to *Hydrogen*, making its way down the periodic table in rows, with some magnificent tables of differentials for the salts in each series; and ending with *Hecla lava*, *Natrum glutamate* [monosodium glutamate], *Sanicula*, *Aqua Camelford*, *Aqua Sulis* and *Aqua Taosca* and a list of the Mineral waters. There are also overviews of the Lanthanides and Actinides.

Plant Kingdom information is arranged alphabetically in families from the Anacardiaceae to the Violales, and ends with a section on Trees. Much of the *Plant Kingdom* layout follows the teachings of *Rajan Sankaran's* Sensation Method, but is easily balanced by rubrics, delusions, physicals, herbalism, myth and pharmacology.

The running order of the books shows the influence of *Scholten* and *Sankaran* in that we are now expected to have a working knowledge of the Periodic Table, and some rudimentary understanding of which plants belong in which family, to say nothing of their miasmatic affiliation. *Sherr* and *Shore* have provided much new material and indeed kingdoms. Lee has drawn on a huge range of resources, from unpublished lecture notes, seminar material, online resources, and many old and new homeopathic texts in order to collate this material into three extremely useful books, appositely illustrating each medicine. For those who like their information in a visual, succinct, full-colour, contemporary way, for whom mind maps make sense, these three books are a fascinating read for keynotes and clinic. There is nothing else like them on the market.

The Periodic Table in Homeopathy The Silver Series

Ulrich Welte

Narayana Publishers,
Kandern, Germany
www.narayana-publishers.com
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324 pages.
€33

Reviewed by Ana Lamaro

Ulrich Welte singles out the Silver series of Jan Scholten's Element Theory, and applies forensic attention to the stages of this series. Silver's themes - the presentation of the individual's work to a wide and sophisticated audience, and the challenges encountered by the maker/writer/musician/artist/thinker at each of the psychological 'ports-of-call' along this journey are explored and given a high degree of definition - enhancing our

understanding of Scholten's ground-breaking original work.

Those who have seen the genius of Scholten's Element Theory recognise that the themes ascribed to the series offer us unique clinical direction. The series give us the arena of the patient's particular goal or focus and are distinctive – so that recognition of the case-appropriate series is rarely a clinical stumbling block. From within the stages delineated in Element Theory, homeopathy can address the specific obstacle the patient encounters: here these can be identified and the simillimum applied. Where an inadequate response (or delusion, or fixed idea) blocks the individual's path and goes on to manifest illness, the 'psychological chemistry' (p 302) presented by Element Theory can catalyse the patient's awareness, facilitating change and offering the possibility of health. But it is the identification of the precise stage displayed in the patient's dilemma which so often confounds the practitioner.

Herein lies the strength of Welte's offering - he schools the reader in the subtle differentiations between the eighteen stages of the series. This skill, once realised, can be applied across the table, giving Welte's book wide clinical relevance. In the evolving application of Scholten's paradigm to the families of plants and to the animal medicines too, the theory of the stages may go on to universal use within the homeopathic materia medica.

Welte's detailed explorations occur within sixty-one case studies, offering a depth of understanding to the shifts of emphasis from one stage to the next. He describes the variously gradual psychological changes (stages 1-3 and 16-18), and the contrasting precariously steep challenges (5-6 and 13-15) along the 'Gaussian curve' (p 217) of the table, which provide a 'new type of differential diagnosis' (p 216), richly complementing traditional homeopathic methods. Welte sifts out the nuances and guides our thinking to the mode of expression - behavioural and attitudinal, verbal and non-verbal - which we may anticipate in living form before us, in the patient.

Differential characteristics are further described in a chapter on the stages (and one on the series too) in the second half of the book. Particularly helpful here is Welte's diagrammatic representation (p 218), where dilemmas are 'chunked' in a way that can direct case analysis to one side of the table or another, or within either left or right sides, to one grouping of the stages or another: as Welte puts it, 'first approximately, then precisely' (p 217). The varying gauges which Welte applies are the levels of confidence displayed by the patient, the degree of commitment shown to their projects, the state (beginning, middle, end) of the work in which they are engaged, or an assessment of the expression or stance which the patient adopts in response to their situation. We may be consciously or unconsciously employing similar 'filters' in our case-receiving – what Element Theory, and here, Ulrich Welte, offers us is a highly targeted direction for our analyses – delineating the specific site/element on the Table wherein profound therapeutic benefit may be found.

