

**THE PRESCRIBER: A  
DICTIONARY OF THE  
NEW THERAPEUTICS**

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The Prescriber: A Dictionary of the New Therapeutics by John H. Clarke

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# THE PRESCRIBER:

A Dictionary

OF THE

NEW THERAPEUTICS.

BY

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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS book has been written in the hope of meeting what the Author believes is a generally felt want. There is no study in the medical curriculum which intelligent students find so wearisome and disgusting as the study of *Materia Medica*. The long categories of pompous-sounding names, embodying exploded theories, are felt to be ridiculous; but yet they have to be learned, by any device of mnemonics which the ingenuity of students can invent. The effect of this enforced drudgery has been to produce in the minds of those subjected to it a profound distrust in the powers of drugs as taught in the schools, if not an entire scepticism as to their usefulness in disease at all. But the human mind can never be satisfied with scepticism; hence in the general break-up of the old medical faith there is an uneasy craving for something to take its place. What that something is which alone can satisfy the craving is indicated by the great popularity of such books as RINGER's "Handbook of Therapeutics." It is no secret to what that popularity is due: it is due to the fact that the book contains something new and better than the old orthodox works on *Materia Medica*; and that new and better thing is not the discovery of Dr. RINGER—it is the Specific Medicine of HAHNEMANN. This is THE NEW THERAPEUTICS.

When I first came to see that the power of *corrosive sublimate* to cause and to cure dysentery, and the power of *ipecacuanha* to cause and cure vomiting, of *arsenic* to cause and cure various diseases of the skin, and of *bromide of potassium* to cause and to cure acne, not to mention other well-known examples, were no mere curiosities of therapeutics, but the expression of a general law, I soon found it was much more satisfactory to study the bearings of the law in the works of its discoverer, HAHNEMANN, and of those who, like HUGHES, frankly acknowledged its existence and its discoverer, than to rely on such second- or third-hand sources as RINGER'S "Handbook."

But a difficulty arose: I wished to practise the new system at once; and works so crowded with facts as those of HAHNEMANN and HUGHES are not to be mastered in a week or a year. I had accepted a subordinate post at a homœopathic dispensary, and I wanted a book where I could, under the guidance of one experienced in the new method, at once find the medicine likeliest to suit any case I might have to treat, and the dose most likely to prove effective, leaving me opportunity to study my cases in the larger books afterwards at my leisure. Books were put into my hand—notably RUDDOCK'S "Clinical Directory"—in which, under the names of the various diseases, the names of the most appropriate medicines, with hints for their selection, were given. These were undoubtedly of great use; but I did not find them just what I wanted. The hints were insufficient; and often there was a list of names of medicines without any indication which of them to choose.

Admitting fully the obligations I am under to the authors of these works, I have endeavoured to supply



what I then felt and still feel is a want in them. With every medicine named in *THE PRESCRIBER* will be found the symptom or symptoms which indicate the choice of it in preference to others named under the same heading; and where no symptom-indications for choice can be given, I have numbered the medicines in the order of their importance.

In addition to students and younger practitioners, this volume may, I think, be found useful by those whose position compels them to be doctors to a certain extent, such as colonists who live far away from medical aid, travellers and those at sea without a doctor, and clergymen and others, who, like *SIDNEY SMITH*, are obliged to be amateur practitioners. For these the book will in no way take the place of the various excellent manuals of domestic medicine, as it does not profess to give help in diagnosis. But when they have made out the condition they have to treat, a reference to *THE PRESCRIBER* will show at once the medicine, dose, and frequency of repetition of dose, most likely to be of service.

And there is yet another class by whom I trust *THE PRESCRIBER* will be found useful—my fellow-practitioners. The recommendations of dose and frequency are, of course, not for them; but I think they will find epitomized under the various headings the teaching of the best experience of the present day as to the treatment of disease—an epitome which may serve to refresh memories overburdened as ours generally are.

But by whomsoever used, I wish it to be distinctly understood that the book in no way professes to be final, or to take the place of any other. It is a book for the prescriber's desk, not for the study. It is dogmatic, as

all books of the kind, to be useful, must be. It discusses nothing, but takes for granted that readers will refer at their leisure to works like HAHNEMANN'S "Materia Medica Pura" and HUGHES' "Pharmacodynamics" and "Therapeutics"—works to which I must here acknowledge my infinite indebtedness—for a full account of the actions of drugs whose use I recommend.

To my friend Dr. BYRES MOIR I am greatly indebted for his kindness in helping me to prepare those portions of this work relating to diseases of the eyes.

In conclusion, I wish to say, that whilst I have not scrupled to avail myself of the works of others, I have set down nothing that I have not fully weighed in my own mind, and in great measure tested in my own experience. I am not insensible of the many imperfections that must necessarily attach to a work of this kind; at the same time, I think it is calculated to meet the want I have indicated above, and I am not without hopes that it will prove useful in no small degree to all who wish to learn and practise THE NEW THERAPEUTICS.

JOHN H. CLARKE.

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September 1885.

## INTRODUCTION.

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### PLAN OF THE WORK.

THE plan of the work is simple. The names of the diseases are given in alphabetical order; and where a disease has more names than one, each name is given with reference to the one under which the treatment is prescribed. This will generally be found to be the name by which it is most commonly known. Under each heading the names of the medicine or medicines most useful in the particular disease are given. When more medicines than one are named, there will be found prefixed to each the symptoms which would lead the prescriber to choose that in preference to the rest. Where no such differentiating symptoms can be given, the medicines are named in the order of their general applicability, and numbered; it is intended that the prescriber shall use them in that order.

Where a number of symptoms are given as belonging to one medicine, these will be found separated either by commas or semicolons. All those only separated by commas belong to a single group, and these must all be present in order to indicate the medicine. For example: under *Sciatica* will be found, "Pains made worse by sitting, relieved somewhat by walking, entirely by lying down, *Am. mur.*:" this means that *Ammonium muraticum* is indicated when the pain of sciatica is marked by all