

ANIMALS AND HOMŒOPATHY

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One of the greatest exponents of the homœopathic art was Baron Carl Von Boenninghausen, an intimate friend of Hahnemann, and I believe his favourite disciple.

Like many other shining lights in the homœopathic firmament, Boenninghausen was brought into the homœopathic field through having had his life saved by homœopathy.

In 1827 two celebrated physicians decided that he had purulent tuberculosis. In 1828 when all hope of recovery had been abandoned, he wrote a letter of farewell to an old botanical friend, Dr. Weihe of Hervorden, who was then the first homœopathic physician in the provinces of Rhineland and Westphalia; but Boenninghausen only knew him as an enthusiastic botanist.

As Dr. Weihe was so distressed at the news, he wrote and asked him for a detailed description of the disease, and expressed the hope that he might by means of a newly-discovered method in medicine, be able to cure his friend, Boenninghausen.

Under Dr. Weihe's treatment Boenninghausen was entirely cured, and became not only a firm believer in homœopathy, but its active missionary.

Some years later, on account of his great learning, King William IV, in July 1843, issued a cabinet order bestowing upon Boenninghausen all the rights and immunities of a practising physician.

Boenninghausen's "Therapeutic Pocket Book" first published in 1846 is undoubtedly the progenitor of the repertories we have today.

He was blessed with a brilliant brain, and homœopathy will ever be in his debt for not only clarifying, but presenting the Homœopathic Materia Medica so that the chief characteristics of each remedy might be thoroughly understood by the practitioner, and all his writings are mostly devoted to that object.

During his lifetime he was made a member of nearly all

existing homœopathic societies. The Emperor of France appointed him a knight of The Legion of Honour in 1861. He died in 1864 at the age of seventy-nine.

In his "Lesser Writings" are recorded a number of remarkable cures made by him of animals; and I give hereunder a small selection which should be of great interest not only to the animal lover, but to the farmer.

These cures were made in the years 1862-63, nearly a century ago. The last case, one of "Foot and Mouth" disease should prove of the greatest interest to the farmer, when nowadays large herds of cattle have to be destroyed, involving great financial loss.

In regard to potency Boenninghausen states: "In all animals great or small, the dose used was always the 200th potency."

"The dose (three or four drops of the 200th potency) was dissolved in pure spring water or river water, by shaking it up for the horse in half a bottle of water; for others in a quantity proportioned to their size. The shaking of the mixture was continued for one minute and the whole solution was given in one dose."

Here are his cures.

January 22nd. Kemper's horse has been broken-winded for nine months, worse from getting cold. *Arsenicum alb.* cured.

February 16th. Kinnebrock's pigs have a white diarrhœa; *Mercurius* in two doses, one for every four pigs. Cured.

February 23rd. Twenhoever's hog had "dropping out of the bristles" around the neck and had quite lost its appetite. *Arsenicum* cured.

March 9th. Sudhoff's pigs have for some days been ailing with white diarrhœa. *Mercurius* cured.

March 14th. Samson's seven-year-old horse is asthmatic; *Arsenicum*. April 3rd much improved, and only shows its ailment when starting out; *Thuja* cured completely.

March 24th. Luelf's mare for the last two years has had, in spring, itching and loss of the hair, *Sulphur*. April 28th, it was better but now it starts again; *Thuja*. May 23rd, not improved by *Thuja*, and is much tormented by flies; *Sulphur*.

June 2nd, neither was there a success this time, and it bleeds where it rubs itself; *Mercurius* effected a complete cure.

April 11th. Heissing's horse had a sun-stroke; *Helleborus* cured.

April 25th. Borgert's gelding, afflicted with the quiet staggers, with trembling but only in the stable; *Pulsatilla* cured.

May 21st. Hoelling's cow had a calf two weeks ago, since then she is lame and does not eat; *Pulsatilla* cured.

May 29th. Wolmer's mare has itching in the tail and the mane; *Sepia* cured.

June 3rd. Several animals, horses, cows and hogs were bitten by a mad dog. *Belladonna* and *Hyoscyamus* in alternation. One dose every five days. They remained well.

June 10th. After receiving a medicine from the veterinary surgeon, Milte's mare has become asthmatic and coughs; *Arsenicum*. June 27th, considerable improvement, but she has grown worse again; *Thuja*. July 9th, almost wholly restored, but she still coughs. *Arsenicum* finally cured completely.

June 17th. Hermann's bullock has first hæmaturia (blood in urine), the obstinate constipation. *Nux vom.* every twelve hours cured.

July 21st. Leppermann's cow was seized with the malignant mouth and hoof diseases. One dose of *Arsenicum* and two of *Thuja*, one dose every third day. In eight days she was perfectly cured. During the last years there have been several such cases here, which were quickly cured in the same way.

In regard to the vexed potency question, I will conclude with a further extract from Boenninghausen.

"When I first began twenty years ago (in 1843) my experiments with the 200th potency, I limited these experiments both for these reasons (and also for others) exclusively to animals, but by the most surprising successes, I soon gained courage to transfer them also to man. The successes were of such a kind, and they still remain of such a kind, that I at this day never descend as low as the 30th potency."

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