

Animalia – A Synthesis of Homeopathic Themes, Mappa Mundi, Provings & Clinical Cases
By Luke Norland, Published by Saltire Books, Glasgow Scotland 2021

Reviewed for the New Homeopath by Francis Treuherz

This is a huge, useful and likeable book about many remedies from the animal kingdom, but some much-used specimens are missing, notably amphibians. Badger, Mole and Rat but no Toad! The book is superbly bound on good quality paper.

Luke has an ingenious, subtle and detailed way of presenting the remedies, obviously in families. These verbal pictures expand on the routine existing materia medica textbooks. After the general introduction, there are detailed introductions to each section, outlining mythology, mappa mundi, and themes, for each class of remedies: spiders, birds, insects, milks & mammals, snakes, and sea animals. If, as I found at first, the chapter introductions are confusing, they make more sense after reading each remedy's family chapter and then the introductions. These introductions include complex coloured diagrams which I found mysterious rather than enlightening (but I am colour-blind). Original modern and historic provings are cited and the remedies become clear from Luke's pen. Best of all are the remedies which have cases which of course bring life to the descriptions.

There is a final chapter on myths and miasms. I found the very thorough remedy pictures and cases easier to grasp than the myths, mappa mundi and astrology. The repertory charts at the end of the case reports are very helpful to explain the prescriptions and include ingenious 'reverse repertorisation' which provides more confirmatory symptoms for the chosen remedies.

Each chapter is well-referenced. There is a detailed index, but it would be helpful to see an alphabetical list of all the included remedies in the contents, I think in a future edition – or as a download from the publisher's website. Many references are to texts in a software application, RadarOpus. Since not all readers have access, such references should also include open sources.

I look forward to having this superb encyclopaedic book close to my desk for easy reference.