

## Book review — Boekresensie

### Textbook of veterinary homeopathy

By J Saxton and P Gregory

2005. Beaconsfield Publishers, Beaconsfield, Bucks, UK, 312 pp., paperback. Price £27.00, ISBN 0 906584 574.

John Saxton qualified from the Royal Veterinary College, London, in 1964, began his career in mixed practice and subsequently set up his own companion animal practice. He now combines complementary veterinary referral practice with teaching. He is President and Veterinary Fellow of the British Faculty of Homeopathy and an Examiner for the Faculty. He is a past President of the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons and a recognised Teacher and Examiner for the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy.

Peter Gregory qualified from the Bristol University School of Veterinary Science in 1972 and worked in a mixed practice in the UK before spending seven years in mixed practice on the coast of North Queensland. He now works in a holistic veterinary referral practice centre in East Sussex. He is a Veterinary Fellow and Examiner of the Faculty of Homeopathy and President of the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons. He is also a Recognised Teacher for the Interna-

tional Association for Veterinary Homeopathy.

This book is intended as an introduction to homeopathic medicine for veterinarians who would like to introduce this type of therapeutics into their practice. It is divided into two sections. The first deals with the history and development of homeopathy and the philosophy and underlying principles of homeopathy. There is a valuable chapter on research in the field of veterinary homeopathy, which includes a discussion of the various scientific techniques used to evaluate the efficacy of conventional drugs and their usefulness in evaluating the effect of homeopathic remedies. This chapter is well supported with reference material and provides a welcome source of accessible data for both those interested in using homeopathy in practice and sceptics looking for information about homeopathy. The authors have provided brief descriptions of how and from what sources homeopathic remedies are made and have discussed in depth the method

of homeopathic case taking. The concept of 'obstacles to cure', theory of miasms, bowel nosodes and the homeopathic approach to vaccination are also covered.

The second section deals with the practice of homeopathy and starts with a chapter on communication with colleagues and clients, ethical considerations and a warning about using a 'cookbook' approach to homeopathy. Surgery and first aid remedies are mentioned and body systems matched with commonly used remedies and their major prescribing symptoms follow. The section concludes with chapters on a homeopathic approach to behavioral problems, the geriatric patient, and neoplasia.

I found this book to be well organised with concise and helpful information which will be of use to any veterinarian considering incorporating homeopathy into his/her practice.

**S E Hayes**

*Secretary*

*Complementary Veterinary Medicine Group*

*Cape Town*

*E-mail: drsehayes@hotmail.com*