



THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#16)

There is an interesting term called the “black box theory”. It speaks about an object which can be analyzed in terms of its input and output, but there is no knowledge of its internal workings. Many of us probably don’t know that in our Archives here in Rome we have more than 200 black boxes. Some of those treasures have seen the light of day in many publications, but there are still others waiting to be seen...

(*Pulsatilla* #16)

There is a special small black box which unfortunately doesn’t belong to our Roman Archives but to the museum of the Sisters of the Resurrection in Rome. In the past that box belonged to Fr. Peter Semenenko and it contains about thirty small vials...

For our summer edition of BBT I’ve decided to keep the content of the newsletter very “light”. I chose just one topic which will be developed over the next three editions of BBTs. This information will invite us to see Fr. Peter Semenenko from a little bit different perspective...

We all know that he was a co-founder and General of the Resurrectionists, a leading Polish theologian in the 19th century, confessor and spiritual director of many and creator of the main ideas of our spirituality. He was a man of many gifts and many interests. Among those interests there was one of particular importance to him... homeopathy.

There is one entry in the Archives which contains about 29 pages of notes he kept (ACRR 3983). On every one of those sheets Fr. Peter wrote the name of his patient and he described in great detail the medical symptoms of those sick people. On the back of the files he kept the notes of the treatment and the homeopathic remedies used (like a “pulsatilla” a plant of a genus that includes the pasqueflower - Easter flower).

Among those patients were some abbots, priests, brothers, lay people. There was “a canon priest from the town”, “Sister Francesca”, “brother Paul”, “tailor Orzechowski”, a certain “count” and... Fr. Eugene Funcken. Some of the files were kept in French and some in Polish. Fr. Peter maintained the same order when it came to describing symptoms.

Today I would like to share with you some of those “patient files”: the file of a certain brother Thomas (below you can find its partial translation into English) and then the file of Fr. Eugene Funcken (in French). Enjoy!

Fr. Eugenius Funcken.

Generacyp. Bien à l'air. - Mal au sirocco. - Desillatisme subite.
(Cyphus) (Palomel) Exaltation nerveuse.

Peau. Vyraty

Sommaire. Versants, avec gouvante de mourir. Attaques.

Fievre. Chaleur dans le courant d'air.

Moral. Angoisse. Néanmoins - Envie de la société.
(Visions) 14-15 ans. Spectres

Glowa. Vertiges tournoisements

Ory Obnubilatio

Udzy

Nos. Prurit à la base des narines

Twarz Chaleur dans le courant d'air.

Usta zęby. "nieprzyjemności" w ustach - "ślabość" - "ciągłość" -

Gardło Boleń pod brodą (napuchnięty gruczoły)

Uchty (Gonito w ustach).

Zołazda. "ślabość" "pauze" (domyślenie) - po jedzeniu

Bruki ~~dwie ramy na dzień~~ "ślabość".

Opatek. Dworamy na dzień "ślabość"

Krtani. Świst ciągły i nieprzerwany.

Piersi (Włóki w lewym boku) boleń w klatce piersiowej, nieprzerwany
(Dziwne serce było - wykształcał i biała - białka - nieprzerwany) nieprzerwany

Kadłub Boleń w tyle między plecami
w klatce piersiowej... na około - po jedzeniu najbardziej

Ręce noży. "ślabość" "trzęsienie" w udach - w prawym dołki i nieprzerwany
dawny trzęsienie rąk.

X. Prat Comasz.

Ogólne. (Czarna Krew. 1. podnieś katar z nosa) - Nadmigię chiny.

~~zinnu~~ semilatinal (czarna krew strona)

Kora (dawniej wierzb.)

Sen. smy starsze, sdatany, mibozymki. Wzdrygania

Gorska zimno, drewno. - zimno rzezi.

Moral smutno, nieśmiały. Usposobienie kłopotliwy. Kłopotliwy
Chci wzmocnienia

Głowa krew do góry - zawroty, rdzenie ze wyrostki - młodość
Jeszcze strona płała. Nacięciu (koloni) Narywanie jaskrawe -
Wzrost dokona. - małe umysł. trzęsła.

Oczy

Nos Sen w lewym uchu.

Nos

Trawy

Usta

Gardło

Chładek ciemny - oddychanie - Nie po jęczeniu i nieca opiera. -

Wzrosty

Prat zatward.

Krtani

Pierci. (Pression).

Kadlub

Ręce

Nogi

1853 24^{to} Decembra Antino (Dobruvatsky)

N^o 1 27. (Katar.) zgorajsha. - Aconit.

28 - Merkur z rana

6 Styc. mes, tri dni potio Specac.

26, 28 Styc. - Pulsatilla. 30. ter.

2 Lutego - id. semel.

24 Maja Pulsatilla.

17 wnesnia. Puls. 1x5.

1854. - 17 Lut. - Acon.

(ACRR 3983)

Brother Thomas

General: (black blood during running nose) - abuse of "china"

Skin: in the past - scabies

Sleep: terrible dreams, Satans, dead people. Shivering

Temperature: cold, fever, chills. - cold hands and legs

Mood: sad, filled with anxiety, [lack of?] willingness to socialize

Head: dizziness, vomiting - nausea, as if the head were bursting. Intense making mental work difficult

Eyes:

Nose:

Face:

Mouth:

Throat:

Stomach: burning, belching, bad after eating, a bit of burning sensation

Guts:

Defecation: constipation

Larynx:

Breast: (pressure)

Skeleton:

Hands:

Legs: