

Biography of **Clemens Maria Franz Von Boenninghausen**

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Clemens Maria Franz Von Boenninghausen (1785-1864)

From the '*Algemeine. Homeopatische Zeitung*' volume 68, page 56:

"As we send our journal to the press, we receive the very sad news that on the 26th of January, 1864, our C. von Boenninghausen succumbed, in his seventy-ninth year, to a stroke of apoplexy. Under the first impression of this news, which will find among all our colleagues an equally sad echo, we are only able to exclaim to day a farewell to the noble departed. Our science has lost in him one of its first leaders, our journal one of its best co-laborers, the *Society of the Physicians of the Rhineland and Westphalia* its head and its pillar, our *Central Society* a much honored member, and we, personally - a faithful friend and loving teacher. *May the earth rest light upon him.*



And in the following number volume 69, we find his biography

- Our sense of fervent gratitude and high esteem for our departed friend and colleague C. von Boenninghausen, the constant and esteemed contributor to our journal, lays upon us the sad duty of accompanying his bier with a few words of love and acknowledgment, and to set him a monument which no one who has come to know and comprehend his efforts and labors may pass without feeling the deepest sadness and the greatest respect.

And if we view this life and consider with what excellent qualities and virtues it was equipped, the constant activity in the endeavor to benefit his fellow men and posterity, surely, the all-consuming death cannot wipe out this life, for it will live in the history of our science, it will continue to be a glorious example for our young men, who will be able to kindle the torch of their courage and vigor at his activity even in his old age.

Let us not delay, therefore, to bring before our readers this life, faithfully and truly, as the deceased himself described it to us about two years ago.

Clemens Maria Franz von Boenninghausen, Doctor of Laws and of Medicine, was born on the 12th of March, 1785, at Heringhaven, an estate belonging to his parents in Overijssel, a province of the Netherlands.

His father, Ludwig Ernst von Boenninghausen, lieutenant colonel and chamberlain of the Prince of Münster, Knight of a Dutch Order, *van de Unie*, died as early as May 5th, 1812 ; his mother, Theresia, née baroness of Weichs on the Wenne, died April 7th, 1828.

Of his five sisters and brothers, among whom there was only one older, all have preceded him for several years.

His ancestors whose name and coat of arms are found even in the thirteenth century, and one of whom as an Austrian General Field Marshal was raised by Emperor Ferdinand, by a diploma dated May 20th, 1632, to the estate of imperial baronet, belong to the oldest nobility of Westphalia and the Rhineland.

Since nearly all the Boenninghausens in the last 300 years had devoted themselves to the military career, their possessions were only of moderate extent.

The first years of his youth Boenninghausen constantly lived in the country, where his body, indeed, was well developed by riding, swimming, hunting and similar bodily exercises, but his mind was only sparingly developed by his tutor. When he, therefore, in his twelfth year came to the gymnasium (High School) in Münster he received a place very near the bottom of the class, but he worked his way up even in the first term, so as to rise to the first bench, a place which he continued to hold.

After attending the gymnasium at Münster for six years, he entered the Dutch University of Groningen, where he spent three years, attending not only the judicial

lectures but with especial predilection the more important lectures in natural history and medicine.

On the 30th of August, 1806, he defended his inaugural dissertation, *De Jure venandi*, and received the diploma of *Doctor utriusque juris*.

On the 1st of October of the same year he was appointed lawyer at the Supreme Court at Deventer, and thus entered on his judicial career, which was, however, a brief one.

In the autumn of 1807 he accompanied his father to Utrecht, whither his father was deputed as the representative of the Electoral Committee of Oberijssel to Louis Napoléon, who was then King of Holland and residing at Utrecht.

The son was admitted to the audience as the speaker, he being better acquainted with the French language.

A consequence of this was the undesired nomination of Auditor of the Privy Counsel : this nomination arrived afterwards very unexpectedly.

His career at the Dutch Court from that time on took a very unusually rapid course. Leaping over his colleagues who were in part older, he was within a year nominated to be Auditor to the King, and hardly fourteen days afterwards as *General Secretary des requêtes*.



In this position, influential but very laborious, which was rendered more burdensome during his last half year through his function as Royal Librarian and Chief of the Topographical Bureau, as well as by the *treasurership des secours*. Boenninghausen remained until the resignation of the King of Holland, on the 1st of July, 1810.

When Boenninghausen through this act which caused him the severest grief, hard lost his extremely kind and benevolent master, he refused all further employment in the Dutch Civil Service, and in September, 1810, he returned to the paternal hearth, to devote himself to the study of agriculture and of the sciences more closely connected therewith, and especially to botany, which gradually became his favorite study.

Having married in the autumn of 1812, he in the spring of 1814 removed to his hereditary estate of Darup, to develop its resources, and he gradually entered on correspondence with the most prominent agriculturists of Germany, especially with Thaer and Schwerz. This gave occasion to several contributors to the "*Macglin sche Annalen*", among which his article on "the Culture of Rye according to Twent," seems to call for especial mention, as Thaer caused a separate edition of it to be printed (Berlin, A. Ruecker, 1820) ; by his counsel and example, he continued to labor for the improvement of agriculture in Westphalia.



Among these works we would mention the establishment of the Agricultural Society for the District of Muenster.

This was the first society in the western part of our kingdom and in an enlarged form it is still in existence.

Its first meeting took place on the 3^d of May, 1819, in the capital of the district of Coesfeld, then under his charge.

Besides several other pamphlets in this department, we would mention "Statistics of Westphalia Agriculture in 1828 (242 pages, 8 vol.)", published at Munich in 1829.

At the reorganization of the Prussian Provinces, Rhineland and Westphalia, he was offered, in the year 1816, the position of President of the Provincial Court of Justice for the Westphalia district, in Coesfeld, where his estate of Darup was situated ; he accepted the position and retained it till 1822.

During this period the necessity of registering the surveyed lands in the provinces of Rhineland and Westphalia was recognized, and Boenninghausen as the sole judicial President was called to the conferences held about it at Godesberg near Bonn, so as to give in his opinion, as a practical and theoretically cultivated agriculturist, with respect to the technical part of the valuations.

In consequence, Boenninghausen and Mr. Bolshausen were appointed General Commissaries for the registration for these provinces.

This new office caused almost continual travels in the communities to be registered, but at the same time an increased opportunity of investigating the Flora of these provinces, which was diligently made use of and enabled Boenninghausen to publish as the first fruits a "*Prodromus Florae Monasteriensis*," concerning the abundant floral riches of these provinces.

This contained much that was new and showed the similarity of our Flora to that of England.

About this time the direction of the Botanical Gardens at Münster was transferred to him ; this he conducted for a number of years and it brought him into communication with many of the first botanists of Europe.

His agricultural and botanical writings found sufficient applause, to cause him to be honored not only with the diplomas of many learned societies, but to receive also the highest botanical distinction, as C. Sprengel (*Syst. veg. III, p. 245*), and Reichenbach (*Uebers des Gewaechsreichs, p. 197*), each named a genus of plants after him.

A serious derangement of his health, hitherto so firm, took place in the fall of 1827 ; this was declared by two of the most celebrated physicians to be the purulent tuberculosis and became even more desperate in the spring of 1828 ; this was the first occasion of his becoming acquainted with Homoeopathy.

For when all hope for his recovery was given up, he wrote a farewell letter to his old and never forgotten botanical friend A. Weihe, M. D., at Herford, who was the first homoeopathic physician in the whole of the provinces of Rhineland and Westphalia, though Boenninghausen was ignorant of it, since their frequent correspondence had only touched botanical subjects.

Weihe, deeply moved by the news, answered at once and requested an exact and detailed description of the disease and its concomitants and expressed the hope that he might be enabled by the newly discovered curative method to save a friend whom he valued so highly.

Boenninghausen of course followed most conscientiously the kindly advise given hint and received medicine from Weihe and gradually recovered, so that at the expiration of the summer he could be considered as cured.

From this time onward Boenninghausen was not only a firm believer, but also an active promoter of Homoeopathy.

After exhorting and attempting in vain to create an interest among the physicians of Münster, with whom he came into frequent contact as being himself a member and one of the founders of the Medical Society, he himself put his hand to the work, refreshing with industry and zeal the half forgotten medical lore acquired at the University of Groningen, and had the pleasure of becoming of use to many a one who sought his aid.

Only two of the most aged of the physicians, Drs. Lutterbeck and Tuisting, whose attention had become fixed on Homoeopathy, owing to some surprising cures of their own patients, who eventually had turned to Boenninghausen for aid, because converted to Homoeopathy, continually sought counsel and instruction from Boenninghausen, and remained faithful to the newly-found truth even till their death.

Some foreign physicians of France, Holland, America, etc., were also attracted by Boenninghausen's growing fame, and were gained for the new doctrine.

But not being an approved physician, and, therefore, not entitled to a medical practice, he had to fear great trouble and obstruction in his career; he, therefore, during his first year directed his activity chiefly to literary work by which he endeavored to make more easy and thus to further the practice of Homoeopathy ; finally, however, by a royal order of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV., dated July 11 th, 1843, he was empowered to practice without any restraint.



Dr. Justus Weihe sen. in Herford.
Geb. 8. August 1808, gef. 31. Juli 1892.

Most of the works of Boenninghausen date from this first period, works which were then in the hands of all German Homoeopaths and were used exclusively even by Hahnemann till his death, and which have found many imitators, translators and plagiarists.

For he soon recognized the fact that the foundation of all true healing rests on an exact knowledge of the virtues of the medicines ; he, therefore, made it his chief aim to discover the characteristics of the remedies and to place these side by side so that the investigator could without great loss of time either refresh his memory or find in the original sources what was need.

Boenninghausen, in the beginning devoted to this work his winter months when he was more at leisure, but after completing the registry of the surveys and having requested and received his dismissal from Civil Service, he devoted all his leisure to these literary works and to his homoeopathic practice.

This is fully proved by his independent works, as well as by his communications in the *Archiv* and in the *Zeitung* and in the *L'Homoeopathe Belge*.

As Boenninghausen had formerly corresponded with Thaer and Scherz and later with Sprengel, Koch, Link, Decandolle, etc., so since 1830. Boenninghausen regularly and constantly corresponded with Hahnemann himself and with Stapf, Gross, Muhlenbein, Weihe, etc., till their death.

After the decease of the venerable founder of our school and of the " Veterans of the Old Guard," he continued his correspondence with the celebrities of this science both in his native land and in foreign parts.

In the year 1848, he instituted a yearly assembly of the homoeopathic physicians in Rhineland and Westphalia ; this continues to the present time.

In consequence he was elected member of most of the homoeopathic societies still in existence, as well as of the few that have already passed away; the Homoeopathic Medical College at Cleveland (North America) made him *Medicinae Doctoris* by a diploma dated March 1st, 1854, and the Emperor of France appointed him a knight of the *Legion of Honor*, April 20, 1861.

'Wilbur Price Armstrong - A pioneering American Physician'

The Homeopath, volume 73, April 99 pages 38-41

In spite of his having already entered on his 78th year, his health, thanks to Homoeopathy, leaves nothing to be wished for, and his mental as well as his physical powers permit his constant activity in a science to which he has dedicated the remainder of his life of continued action.

Of his seven sons two have followed the example of their father.

The older (Carl, born November 5, 1826,) has now for several years been living at Paris, and, indeed, in the most prosperous surroundings, having married the amiable adopted daughter of the highly respected widow of Hahnemann with whom he lives, and by his access to the library legacy of this celebrated man he will soon be able to communicate to his colleagues much of interest from the manuscripts and diaries left behind.

The younger son (Friedrich, born April 14, 1828,) had first entered the judicial career, and after completing his studies at the University, he had passed with honor through the first two examinations, first for the *Auscultatur* and then for the *Referendariat* ; when he determined to devote himself to the medical career.

He accordingly passed through the required university course in this department and through the official examination. As is right and proper he desired first to see with his own eyes the success achieved by both schools before he will decide for the one or the other.

The result is even now, however, no more a question, and Boenninghausen may confidently count on having two thorough and faithful successors in Homoeopathy, as he also, from his other five sons, has only joy, such as is rarely the portion of a father of so large a family.



The Cleveland Homoeopathic Hospital College offered a co-educational four year course of study

This is the image of the long and rich life of our excellent Boenninghausen, is he himself sketched it down, full of thankfulness to fate which preserved him from external misfortune, and full of the highest reverence to our teacher and master to whose grand creation he consecrated half his life.

From the moment when he saw his shattered health restored by means of the then little-known Homoeopathy, he vowed to himself that he would study the new curative method, in order to be able to work for its diffusion.

And how well he fulfilled this vow ! Surely not in the manner of most men, but with an unselfishness and strength of character such as is found but rarely nowadays among men.

Having received a truly classic education, intimately familiar with the natural sciences, he found no difficulty in spite of his advanced age in acquiring the necessary medical knowledge to successfully begin the study of Homoeopathy.

Soon he had received its principles "*in succum et sanguinem*", and with the clearness of his insight, he had felt that the *Materia Medica* of Hahnemann forms the basis and most important element of the whole of Homoeopathy. In consequence he made this domain the almost exclusive subject of his studies.

With what zeal and with what success he devoted himself to it is shown by his extensive, exceedingly successful practice, as well as by his many literary works and labors.

His knowledge of the effects of the remedies became ever more enlarged and deeper, so that after the death of Hahnemann there was no one who could vie with him in this knowledge.

Very often in our extended correspondence with the deceased we had occasion to admire, yea, to be amazed at his mastery in this respect.

Distinguishing clearly, even to a hair's breadth, was his diagnosis of the remedies, and this was not based on mere external and secondary symptoms, but it seized upon the internal and the totality of the effects of the remedies.

A brilliant example of this he gave, in his parallel between *Causticum* and *Calcarea*, contributed to this journal.

He was well aware of the fact, that a number of those Homoeopaths, who by all means wish to reform Homoeopathy, without possessing the knowledge and the true comprehension of the subject necessary thereto, were opposed to his endeavors, and in many ways defamed him ; but neither reviling's nor sarcasm were able to turn him from the path after he once had seen it to be the right one.

From the beginning of his activity for Homoeopathy he stepped in the footsteps of Hahnemann, and he followed the same path most strictly and conscientiously to his last breath.

But he did not follow the maxims and doctrines of the master blindly or without free determination.

Honoring him above all and protecting him from every defamation, he, nevertheless, did not consider him infallible in every point, while he recognized his great discovery as without blemish and perfect.

Therefore all his endeavors were expended toward making the practical side of Homoeopathy perfect and to facilitate its practice at the sick bed.

The greater number of his independent works, as well as his more numerous articles and treatises, with which he furnished especially *Stapf's Archiv* and our journal, especially aim at this one point.

As the first and highest commandment in the successful homoeopathic treatment of a patient, he with Hahnemann considered the strict and exact individualization ; the accurate examination of patients and the detailed sketching of the image of the disease, which he shortly before his death warmly recommended to all the younger physicians in a special treatise.



DR. JOH. ERNST STAPF.

Even in the last years of his life he published a second edition of his *Therapy of Intermittent Fever*, the first part of which has just now appeared in a totally revised and augmented form.

Thus our departed friend labored for half a century with restless activity for our Homoeopathy with an energy which belongs to a man who has devoted his life to a holy truth.

As such he considered the doctrine of Hahnemann, as a precious inalienable jewel, which must be carefully cherished and guarded from every impure admixture.

Ever more glorious, so he wrote us in one of his letters, will Homoeopathy unfold its banner, ever more brightly will it beam in the firmament of science, ever more full of curative virtue she will show her wonderful powers, if she is not decked with any false finery, nor disfigured with any borrowed attire or ornaments.

Homoeopathy is a natural growth and independent in its nature, and every alien admixture is but to her detriment.

The germ of its development lies in her own nature, and it, therefore, only needs an intelligent gardener, who will give it the necessary and correct culture, and also faithful watchmen, who will relentlessly destroy every parasitical plant that would approach it.

And as he thought and spoke, so he also faithfully acted. He would not deviate an inch from the doctrine and rules of Homoeopathy, and only within it and through it he thought and found the way for its development and perfection.

As such a rule he also viewed the minimizing of the dose and its rare repetition. In consequence, during his last decennium he used only the high potencies, usually the 200th, prepared by Lehrmann in Schoeningen.

He did not endeavor to theoretically explain the efficacy of these minimized doses, but he endeavored to prove it by brilliant successes.

We would here only mention the cures of animals communicated by him in the last volume of this journal; these he told in the most unassuming manner, but they indubitably prove anew the excellent efficacy of these high potencies.

He combated the principle laid down by many Homoeopaths, that acute diseases called for stronger doses than chronic diseases, and showed the inconclusiveness of this assertion by his many cures of croup with these same high potencies; the same fact has also been lately demonstrated in many cases by practice.

This operation with such very small doses is not a matter for everybody to indulge in, for it requires a special and exact knowledge of remedies, such as the deceased possessed and such as not everybody else has at his disposal.

We are far from desiring to enkindle again the vexed dispute about doses, but we think we ought to declare that the deceased, by his consistent and successful practice, proved that the homoeopathic principle of the minimum dose is an indisputable truth, and belongs as much to the totality of Homoeopathy, as its first principle, the law of similia.

In this manner Boenninghausen, following in the footsteps of the Master, has benefited Homoeopathy by confirming and perfecting it; and by this means he has contributed not a little to the more general reception of the homoeopathic doctrine.

For this, as well as for all his great services to Homoeopathy, the fervent gratefulness and most faithful love of all his loyal colleagues attends him to his grave, into which he took with himself the fair consciousness of the most honest fulfilment of his duties and of his useful activity.

He could depart in peace, for he had faithfully and conscientiously used the time granted him and finished his work. His spirit never sought for rest, for new work was to him a new recreation.

Seldom, therefore, have the leisure hours of a learned man given birth to a fairer work than the one left us by the deceased, namely: "*Notes to the Aphorisms of Hippocrates.*"

This forms a treasury of his learning and classic culture, and a testimony to his unassuming modesty.

These qualities, indeed, were the ornament of his whole life and activity. He never desired to impose with the fullness of his knowledge, nor to impose to others his convictions, no matter how fully he was permeated by them.

He bore no ill will to his adversaries and opponents, who did not always oppose him with the respect he deserved, nor did he pay them back in their own coin ; if they did not appear worthy of a reply he left them unnoticed ; or, in the other case, he endeavored to convince them of their errors in a scientific manner.

Never an expression or a word flowed from his pen which in any way violated social propriety or the respect due to a colleague.

Chivalrous in the true sense of the word, he hated all discord, and he early accustomed himself to honor the merits even of his opponents.

As in science so in general, he loved truth above all things ; this shining pearl of his life was encircled by a rare honesty and gratefulness, amiability, and goodness of heart.

And, as if heaven desired to reward these virtues already here, it granted him a long life, free from care, a sturdy health, and a vigor enduring even to an advanced age, and it also granted his desire for a brief and painless deathbed.

"It was only since the beginning of the last winter", as his son, Dr. Friedrich v. Boeninghausen, writes us", that my dear father suffered from phlegm on the chest, causing from time to time an increased cough, and during the expectoration, which was loosened with difficulty, asthma.

About New Year, owing to a cold, caused by the prevailing cold north-east wind, there was an aggravation, causing some apprehension.

But owing to the excellent effect of the rightly chosen remedy, his health improved from day to day, so that he could again without trouble take up his, customary occupation and manner of living.

On Friday, the 23 d of January, he seemed vigorous and complained of nothing. His appetite was good, his walk had agreed with him, and he could attend to his work and his correspondence without any exertion or fatigue.

The greater was my surprise and grief when I was called next morning to my dear father and found that he had had a stroke. Even the first examination yielded a sad prognosis.

He was completely paralyzed on his left side, and the whole left side of the body was without sensation or motion.

More distressing yet was the state of the lungs ; also no action could he perceived on the left side, so that the respiration was continued but with difficulty and weakly by the right lung. The pupil of the left eye was very much contracted and insensible to the light.

Despite the congestion to the head, the sensory was almost undisturbed, so that he himself, with his customary acute distinction of symptoms, emphasizing clearly and correctly the characteristic signs, took part in the selection of the remedies and in his own treatment.

Though the selected medicines very soon manifested their favorable action, and improved the paralytic symptoms, causing a beneficent warm perspiration, the state of the lungs did not allow us to entertain any serious hopes.

The energy of the respiratory organs steadily diminished, the oedema gradually spread over a larger extent of the lungs, the rattling and the stertorous breathing rose up higher and became louder.

Notwithstanding there remained a pretty near consciousness even to his dissolution, which took place almost imperceptibly after a steadily progressive diminution of the respiration, in a quiet and gentle manner, at 3.46 A. M., on January 26th.

"Thus the dearly beloved head was taken from the midst of his family, the head around which all the members had gathered in joy and love ; thus the aged champion of the only true method of curing, to which for half a century he had devoted almost all his powers, and who a few days before had still been so sturdy and endowed with youthful vigor of spirit, suddenly and unexpectedly lay before us a corpse.

What feelings and thoughts surged within me as I again and again, and finally viewed the face of my good father, still so kindly and tranquil, even in death, for he had not only been my father but also a grand teacher and master. Both his science and his family have lost in him their most noble father !"

But this noble father will never be forgotten, we proclaim to the mourning family, to lamenting science.

Even though his body may have returned to dust, his spirit will continue to live in his works, the memory of his life will be an encouraging example for all of us, and we all should determine to work just as sedulously, as honestly and as faithfully on this great creation of Hahnemann.

May many such be found, so that the loss we have suffered may not be felt too keenly !

And so receive, O, dear one, once more our heartfelt thanks for your faithfulness, your loyalty and your self-sacrifice - and from us personally our thanks for your affection which in your great love you granted us. We knew how to value it and were proud of it.

Rest in peace. - Meyer.

In the *Allg. hom Zeitung*, volume. 68, page 133, is the following :

Pulsatilla was the remedy through which the late Boenninghausen was cured from a severe pulmonic disease, and which converted him to Homoeopathy. -- Dr Gross.

The undersigned is especially personally grateful to Boenninghausen, for through his labors alone was he enabled to establish the distinguishing characteristics of the remedies of our Materia Medica which are akin in their actions in comparative diagnoses. - Dr. H. Gross.

Dr. Dunham, who was a great friend of Boenninghausen published the following in the *American Homoeopathic Review* for April, 1864 :

With deep sorrow we record the death of this distinguished physician.

For many years he was a warm personal friend of Hahnemann. He was associated with Hahnemann's immediate pupils, Stapf, Gross, Muhlenbein, Hartmann and Rückert, in those early labors which placed Homoeopathy on an immovable foundation as a practical method, he survived an indefatigable laborer in the good cause, long after Hahnemann and his pupils had all passed away.

To the day of his death he was in constant intercourse by correspondence or through the journals, with all the earnest hard working younger homoeopathic practitioners.

He was, therefore, the link connecting the past generation of the Master, and the active generation of today, at once the venerable relic of the former and a trusted leader of the latter.

And now this link is broken. The last "Veteran of the Old Guard" has gone to his rest. The genial voice is hushed forever. The clear, serene and holiest eye is closed. The sagacious judgment which so rarely erred, the ever-active brain have ceased from their labors on earth. The kindly heart, whose even beat no selfish impulse ever quickened. pulsates no longer.

For us remain, for those who were his personal friends, a deep and abiding sense of a great loss, for the profession in general, the ripe fruits of his experience and scholarship in his published works, and the bright example of his busy life.

Clemens Maria Franz, Baron von Boenninghausen, Doctor of Civil and Criminal Laws and of Medicine, was born March 12, 1785, on the ancestral estate of Heringhaven in Overysse, a province of the Netherlands.

His ancestors. whose names and arms may be traced back into the thirteenth century and one of whom was made an Austrian Field Marshal by Ferdinand II., in 1632, belonged to the oldest nobility of Westphalia and the Rhine.



Inasmuch, however, as for three hundred years past, they had devoted themselves exclusively to the profession of arms, their property always remained quite moderate in amount.

Von Boenninghausen's early youth was passed in the country, where his bodily vigor was fostered by riding, swimming, hunting and other manly exercises, while his mental faculties were but sparingly cultivated.

When, therefore, in his twelfth year he entered the high school in Münster he found his place at the foot of his classes. But his diligence during the first half year was so great that, at the end of that period he had reached the head, a position he always retained.

After remaining six years at this school, von Boenninghausen went to the University of Groningen, where he spent three years, devoting himself not only to the studies proper to the profession of law, to which he intended to devote himself but also, and with great zest, to the study of Natural History and of Medicine.

On the 30th of August, 1806, he received the degree of Doctor of Civil and Criminal Laws, and about the 1st of October in the same year he began his career as advocate.

This career was destined to be brief. In August, 1807, von Boenninghausen accompanied his father to Utrecht, whither the latter was sent as delegate from the Electoral Committee of Overijssel to the then king of Holland, Louis Bonaparte (father of Napoleon III) who at that time resided at Utrecht.

Being more familiar with the French language than his companions, the young von Boenninghausen was admitted to the audience to act as interpreter. In consequence of this circumstance he soon received the quite unexpected appointment of Auditor to the State Council.

From this time on, his career at the Court of Holland was a remarkably rapid one.

Within a year he was promoted over the heads of some colleagues much older than himself, to the post of Auditor to the King, and a fortnight afterwards to that of *Secrétaire général des requêtes*.

This laborious but influential office, to which were subsequently added the duties of royal librarian and chief of the topographical bureau, he continued to hold until the abdication of the King of Holland, July 1, 1810.

After the loss of his very kind and benevolent chief, of whose council he was the youngest member, under circumstances so very painful to him, von Boenninghausen declined every position that was offered him in the service of Holland, and returned in 1810 to the paternal estate to devote himself to the study of agriculture and of the auxiliary sciences, especially that of botany, which gradually became his favorite pursuit.

He married in 1812, and in 1814 removed to his inherited estate of Darop.

Here he gradually entered into correspondence with the most prominent agriculturists of Germany, especially with Thaer and Schwerz. Several essays from his pen appeared in the *Moglichen Annalen*.

He endeavored by advice and example to improve the agriculture of Westphalia. Among his efforts of this kind was the founding of the Agricultural Society for the district of Munster, which still exists in a more extended form and which was the first association of the kind in the western part of the Prussian Monarchy.

On the organization of the Prussian provinces of the Rhine and Westphalia in 1816, the position of Landrath for circle of Coesfeld, in which his estate of Darop lies, was offered to von Boenninghausen.

He accepted it and filled it until 1822. During this period the necessity of an appraisal of the two above-named provinces of the Rhine and Westphalia was recognized, and von Boenninghausen being the only Landrath, was summoned to the conferences held on the subject at Godesburg, near Bonn, in order that he might testify, as both a theoretically and practically educated agriculturist, on the technology of the appraisements.

He was subsequently, in 1822, appointed General Commissioner of Appraisements for the two provinces.

This new office involved almost constant traveling about in these provinces ; but this, again, gave him increased opportunities for the study of their flora.

He published in 1824 a "*Prodromus Forae Monasteriensis*", which contained much that was new, and which showed tile similarity between the Westphalian flora and the English.

At this time also was entrusted to him the direction of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Münster, which he conducted for many years and through which he came into relations with many of the first botanists of Europe.

In consequence of his agricultural and botanical writings, he received many diplomas from learned societies, and C. Sprugel (*Syst. veg.*, III., 245), and Reichenbach (*Uebers. des Gewachsreich*, 197), awarded him the highest honor known to a botanist, by each naming a genus of plants after him.

In the autumn of 1827, his health, which lead hitherto been very robust, became seriously impaired and his disease, which was pronounced by two most distinguished physicians to be purulent consumption, grew so rapidly worse that in the spring of 1828, all hope of his recovery was abandoned.

This was the first occasion of his acquiring a knowledge of Homoeopathy. Having given up all hope of recovery, he wrote a farewell letter to his old and cherished botanical friend Dr. A. Weihe, of Herford, who was a homoeopathic physician, the first in the whole of Westphalia and the Rhine, a fact, however, of which Boenninghausen was not aware, inasmuch as their frequent correspondence had treated only of botanical subjects.

Weihe, much concerned at the intelligence of Boenninghausen's illness, requested an accurate description of the case, expressing the hope that he might be the means of saving his valuable friend through the aid of the newly discovered method of cure.

Boenninghausen complied with his request, followed implicitly the directions he received, and gradually recovered, so that, by the end of the summer, he was regarded as cured.

From this period, he was not only a decided adherent but an active and earnest advocate of Homoeopathy.

After ineffectual endeavors to arouse an interest on the subject among the physicians of Munster with whom he came into frequent intercourse as member and one of the founders of the Medical Society, he put his own hand to the work, revived the half-forgotten knowledge of medicine acquired at the University of Groningen, and had the good fortune to be of service to ninny who sought his aid.

He had not, however, a license to practice as a physician, a fact which might have subjected him to many impediments and disamenities had he undertaken to engage in a general medical practice.

For this reason, for a few years he expended his energies to a great extent upon literary labors which had for their object to study thoroughly the practical part of Homoeopathy and to facilitate and extend its application.

At length so generally were his learning and success acknowledged that, by a cabinet order of His Majesty King Wilhelm IV, dated July 11th, 1843, all the rights and immunities of a practising physician were bestowed upon him.

It was during the former period, from 1828 to 1843, that most of the systematic works, for which we are indebted to Boenninghausen, were composed and published.

These were of a practical nature, designed to aid the student of materia medica and the physician at the bed-side. They were cordially received, were preferred by Hahnemann to all others, and were used by him to the time of his death.

They have served as models, originals, or points of departure for most of the manuals, guides and repertories that have been published.

During this period too, Boenninghausen was a constant and prolific contributor to the of the new series of which, the *Neues Archiv*, he became associate editor along with Stapf, after the death of Gross to the *Allgemeine homoeopathische Zeitung* and to the *Homoeopathe Belge*.

In these labors and in the discharge of his functions as a practitioner, his days were filled with honorable toil. His fame as a successful practitioner and as the acknowledged master of our Materia Medica, brought him many visitors from among

professional men. These his genial cordiality converted into warm and steadfast friends.

Advancing years dealt with him tenderly and death has at last overtaken him at his post of duty, still earnest in his labors, warm in his friendships and at peace with God and man.

Boenninghausen was in constant correspondence with Hahnemann from 1830 till the death of the old master and he more than once permitted the writer to examine a large volume of letters from Hahnemann the last of which was written six weeks before Hahnemann's death.

In 1848 he founded the Society of the Homoeopathic Physicians of Westphalia and the Rhine, the yearly meetings of which still continue.

Almost every homoeopathic society has elected him a member. The Homoeopathic Medical College of Cleveland, in 1854, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine, and, on the 20th of April, 1861, the Emperor of the French, Napoleon III, whom, when a boy, Boenninghausen their, Councilor to Louis of Holland, had known, made him Knight of the Legion of Honor.

Of Boenninghausen's seven sons two have chosen the profession of medicine. The elder (Karl, born November 5th, 1826.) after practising for a year or more in Westphalia, in his father's neighborhood, where his success in treating a severe epidemic of typhus demonstrated his possession of rare endowments and great knowledge, is now settled in Paris under most fortunate circumstances.

He married the amiable adopted daughter of Hahnemann's venerable widow. He resides with Madame Hahnemann and has access to the literary relics of our illustrious master.

From these we may hope that, "in the fullness of time," much that is most valuable and interesting will be made public.

The second son Frederick (born April 14th, 1828,) had at first determined to study law, and had actually made considerable progress therein.

The example of his brother, however, induced him to abandon this profession for that of medicine. He repaired to the University of Berlin, where after the usual period of study, he graduated as his brother had done, with great distinction, and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine with a license to practice.

Having up to this time paid little or no attention to Homœopathy, he now returned to the paternal roof for the purpose of watching the result of his father's practice, and of comparing these results with those with which he had become familiar in the allopathic hospitals in Berlin.

He proposed, after sufficient comparative observations of this kind, to make his choice between Homoeopathy and Allopathy.

The nature of this choice could not be doubtful. His unqualified and enthusiastic preference was given to Homoeopathy. After one year of careful study he engaged in general practice near Münster, where, we believe, he still resides.

It will be perceived, from the above sketch, that the life of our friend and colleague was full of a diversified activity. In his official employments, as well as in his agricultural and botanical studies, he led always in view some well defined practical object, and this was generally something of a beneficent character.

And when he began to labor in the field of homoeopathic medicine, his energies were exerted in a corresponding direction. Although deeply learned in ancient and modern philosophy, his mind was essentially of a practical turn.

Those subjects had most attractions for him which presented the problem of definite labor for definite results. The theories and speculations and system-making, which have charms for many Homoeopaths, seemed to Boenninghausen to have but a secondary importance.

He perceived that the matter of prime necessity was such a study of the *materia medica* as should bring out into bold relief the characteristic peculiarities of each individual remedy, so that the practitioner might easily and surely single out that remedy which might be most similar in its symptoms to the disease under treatment. To such a study he devoted himself.

The success of his practice is the measure of the success of these studies as well as an indication of Boenninghausen's sagacity in selecting this as the most important subject of study.

As a result of these studies he published a small work containing the "Characteristics of Homoeopathic Remedies" and also a "Concordance of the Relations of the Remedies to each Other."

About the same time he published his "Therapeutic Pocket Book, or Manual for the Student of the Materia Medica and for the Physician at the Bed side," a work designed chiefly to aid the student of the Materia Medica in following the course which Boenninghausen had found so successful.

He published also a "Repertory of the Materia Medica," and which is on the whole the best yet constructed.

In these works Boenninghausen brings prominently into view, the great importance of the characteristic symptoms and the value of the conditions and concomitants of the symptoms, as marks of individualization.

Figure Dr. Hempel.

It may be remarked that the work on "Characteristics" "has never been translated into English, a similar but immeasurably inferior look of Jahr's having been unhappily preferred by the publishers.

The "Therapeutic Pocket Book" was translated into French and into English. But Boenninghausen pointed out to the writer the fact that the French translation was so carelessly made that the lists of remedies in several cases are placed under different headings from those under which they properly belong, thus making the work a false guide.

This was done by Dr. Roth, the same who in his studies of materia medica is now making such charges of inaccuracy and carelessness against Hahnemann, and whom Dr. Hering has just convicted of grossly careless misquotation in his remarks upon Sabadilla.

The English translation by Dr. Laurie has the same faults, having been translated from the "improved French" translation, and not from the original German.

In America, two translations have appeared by Dr. Hempel and Dr. Okie. Boenninghausen published also a little pamphlet on the "Treatment of Intermittent Fever," which was translated by Dr. Hempel.



In the last letter which the writer received from him, dated November 9th, 1863, he says :

" I have now in press, at Leipzig, a treatise (as complete as possible) on the 'Treatment of Fevers,' a new edition of my pamphlet on this subject published in 1833, but not only considerably enlarged, but better arranged."

It is believed that he had nearly completed a work on the "Treatment of Epilepsy," as well as a new and enlarged edition of his "Repertory."

An essay on the treatment of "Whooping Cough" was published in 1856. An English translation with additions is now in the hands of the publisher.

The crowning literary work of his life, however, was that which appeared early in 1863, the "Aphorisms of Hippocrates, with the Glosses of a Homoeopathist," a large octavo volume so full of learning and of sagacious observation as to have won enthusiastic commendation from the entire allopathic press.

A French translation will soon appear at Brussels. Boenninghausen was anxious that the English translation should be made and published in America, where he believed that Homoeopathy had made greater and sounder progress than in England, and, but for the disturbances in business occasioned by the existing war, it is probable the translation would already have appeared.

He desired that it should be preceded by a biographical sketch of the author, and it is from materials furnished him for the compilation of this sketch that the writer has derived the data for the foregoing hasty memoir.

The English translation will be adorned by a finely engraved portrait, from a painting by Roting in the possession of the writer.

Boenninghausen began to practice Homoeopathy according to the practical rules laid down by Hahnemann.

When the high potencies were first introduced, he, at the instigation of Gross, began very cautiously to make experiments with them, first upon domestic animals and afterwards, when encouraged by the results, very cautiously upon his patients.

Seven years was devoted to these experiments, the results of which were always recorded and carefully collated.

Finally he became convinced of the superiority of the higher over the lower potencies and for twenty-two years, up to the time of his death, he used only the high potencies, at last exclusively the 200th in all cases.

It was his custom to record every case for which he prescribed. In 1862, he informed the writer that he had just begun the 112th volume of his "Clinical Record."

Of these 112 volumes, it is safe to estimate that at least eighty contain records of cases treated almost exclusively with high potencies. A rich mine of experience for the conscientious and intelligent explorer!

Boenninghausen adhered closely to Hahnemann's practical rules in prescribing. He was careful never to repeat the remedy until the effects of the dose already given were exhausted.

Photo: Dr Lutze

He thoroughly disapproved of alternation of remedies.

In a work on "Domestic Practice" by Lutze, Boenninghausen has been referred to as recommending a combination of remedies. This is utterly false.

The writer has in his possession, and will here long publish, a letter in which he utterly denies any such recommendation, expresses most hearty reprobation of the practice and gives a history of the origin of the proposition to combine two or more remedies in a single prescription.

On resigning the offices which he held under the Prussian Government, Boenninghausen removed to Münster, where he built the house in which he lived when the writer visited him and in which he died.

In this house it was his custom to receive patients daily from 9 A. M. to 2 P.M. From 2 to 5 P.M., he spent in diversion, generally in walking about the suburbs, or along the beautiful promenade which surrounds the city, occupying the site of the former ramparts, or else in the Botanical Garden attached to the Ducal Residence.

It was in these hours of relaxation that his genial social qualities, his wit and his full and varied knowledge were seen to best advantage.

The writer will ever remember how, in course of one of these walks, Boenninghausen, having gently rallied him on some evidences of home sickness which he thought he had detected, gravely told him that he would take him to see a compatriot who resided in Münster.

He accordingly led the way to the Botanical Garden, and there, with charming courtly ceremony, presented the writer to a stately tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), which he said he had imported from America forty years ago, and which he said he believed was the only immigrant from the United States in Westphalia.

His interest in the history and progress of Homoeopathy in all parts of the world was very great. Especially was he interested in its development in America, a country from which he had received many tokens of esteem and admiration.

On receiving a copy of the volume of "Transactions of the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York," published in 1863 by the Legislature of the State, he expressed great pleasure, using the following language:

"I have been very agreeably surprised by the progress of Homoeopathy in your country. Your Government, indeed, does not cease to favor everything which is truly salutary to man kind."

In truth it may well serve as a model for all other Governments. Its merit is all the greater, in that the calamity of war does not hinder it from extending a protecting hand over the public weal."



Thus, active, earnest in every good work, filling with honor positions of high public trust, but devoting his faculties with equally conscientious fidelity to the cure of peasant and noble, indifferent to nothing that concerns the welfare of mankind, ever ready to point out to the seeker after knowledge the paths which he had himself so successfully trodden, thus lived, trusted, honored and beloved this distinguished physician and Christian gentleman who has now gone to his rest.-- D.

In the same copy of the Review Dr. Lippe writes of his friend :

Dr. von Boenninghausen. by AD. Lippe, M. D. Philadelphia, PA.

The sad news has reached us that again one of the veterans of Homoeopathy has left. On the 26th day of February, the good and noble Baron Clemens Maria Franz von Boenninghausen, died at Münster, at the age of 79 years. How can we prepare a merited monument to our departed colleague ?

Dr Ad. Lippe

Boenninghausen leaves as a legacy to posterity his manifold writings and elaborate works. Among these he has given us, before closing his earthly career, a lasting evidence of his vast learning and acquirements, of his very thorough appreciation and understanding of Homoeopathy, in his last and great gift, his "Aphorisms of Hippocrates," with notes by a Homoeopathist.

So overwhelming was the effusion of his learning throughout this work that even the medical journals of the opposition found themselves compelled to praise his profound abilities.

Boenninghausen devoted his whole life to Homoeopathy and the further development of the science.

As a friend and pupil of Hahnemann his unbounded admiration increased daily by his intercourse with him, and after the great Master's death he studied all his writings, and by these he became still more penetrated by and convinced of the truth of Hahnemann's observations and the great work accomplished by him.

Following Hahnemann's doctrines and guided by them he developed Homoeopathy. His intimate knowledge of our Materia Medica is evident and indisputably proved in every page of his "Relations", "Repertory", and "Pocket Book"

His great conscientious accuracy is admired by add who consult his writings and valuable works, and those who, like myself, have had the honor and happiness of a delightful intimacy with him will often recall the charm of his ever instructive conversation. His unparalleled simplicity of manner and the goodness of heart of this most excellent man.

While he leaves us add these gifts we may well ask ourselves what would be the best mode of preparing the monument which this great man has merited by the service he has rendered to progressive Homoeopathy, and thereby to suffering humanity ?

Our departed colleague has pointed out how he had wished to prepare the well deserved monument of our master - Hahnemann - and I here quote from one of his excellent articles, written soon after Hahnemann's death and translated for and published in the *Homoeopathic Examiner*, for 1846, Vol. IV.

His text is on "The Three Precautionary Rules of Hahnemann" he says, "unless the signs deceive me, we are note at the commencement of a new epoch, marked by the death of our Master, whose genius hovers around us, an epoch when the excrescences shall have been chopped off and the genuine metal separated from the dross.

Let us, henceforth be more firmly united, add of us who desire the good, but let us exclude from our ranks with unrelenting severity anyone who sneers at the good cause, schismatics and add those who attempt substantiating opinions and hypotheses for careful observations.

But let us at the same time honor the memory of the great reformer in medicine, by subjecting his doctrines, results of fifty years' observations to repeated and comprehensive examinations and trials, and by candidly communicating our experience one to another.



This would be the best mode of preparing the monument which the great man has merited by the services he has rendered to suffering humanity."

Boenninghausen by this illustrates and endorses the three precautionary rules of Hahnemann.

The happy epoch which he then anticipated has not yet come, the conditions he points out by which this epoch may be ushered in with certainty, "the chopping off of the excrescences, the separation of the genuine metal from the dross with unrelenting severity" these have not yet been fulfilled, but unless the signs of the times deceive me, this condition is not being consummated, and the desired happy epoch must soon come.

The three precautionary rules of Hahnemann, the results of fifty years' experience, and note also the rules of Boenninghausen, would form a good basis for experiments to be subjected to repeated and comprehensive examinations, and trials, and the results thereof candidly communicated one to another ; by so doing we can prepare the best and lasting monument to this great and good man, and thus by a desired and decided union, meet his wishes and honor his memory by honoring the memory of our great master.

Puhlmann says that Dr. Carl von Boenninghausen (born 1777, died 1862) was a contemporary of Jahr.

He published, as early as 1832, a "Repertory of Antipsoric Remedies", and later "Homoeopathic Therapeutics of Intermittent Fevers", "Homoeopathy, a Manual for the Public", and other works.

His most important work (long out of print) is the - Pocket-book for Homoeopathic Physicians, for Clinical Use and for the Study of the Materia Medica Pura."

He established, in 1846, the Society of Homoeopathic Physicians of Rhineland and Westphalia.

In 1860, at the age of 83, he issued his "Aphorisms of Hippocrates with Comments by a Homoeopathist."

Like Jahr, he adhered to all of Hahnemann's dogmas, and especially to the theory of potentization. He prescribed almost exclusively the tooth potency.



Dr. Gustav Puhlmann,
Vizeärztlicher Director der Dr. B. Schwabe'schen Apotheke in Leipzig,
geb. am 18. October 1840 in Neuenburg a. S.,
gest. am 2. April 1900 in Leipzig a. S.

The works of Boenninghausen.

- 1 - "The Cure of Cholera and its Preventatives", according to Hahnemann's latest communication to the author. 1831.
- 2 - "Repertory of the Antipsoric Medicines", with a preface by Hahnemann with respect to the repetition of the dose of a remedy. 1832.
- 3 - "Summary View of the Chief Sphere of Operation of the Antipsoric Remedies and of their Characteristic Peculiarities, as an Appendix to their Repertory." 1833.
- 4 - "An Attempt at a Homoeopathic Therapy of Intermittent Fever" 1833.
- 5 - "Contributions to a Knowledge of the Peculiarities of Homoeopathic Remedies." 1833.
- 6 - "Homoeopathic Diet and a Complete Image or a Disease." For the non-professional Public. 1833.
- 7 - "Homoeopathy, a Manual for the Non - Medical Public." 1834.
- 8 - "Repertory of the Medicines which are not Anti-Psoric." 1835.
- 9 - "Attempt at Showing the Relative Kinship of Homoeopathic Medicines." 1836.
- 10 - "Therapeutic Manual for Homoeopathic Physicians." for use at the sickbed and in the study of the Materia Medica Pura. 1846.
- 11 - "Brief Instruction for Non-Physicians as to the Prevention and Cure of Cholera." 1849.
- 12 - "The Two Sides of the Human Body and Relationships." Homoeopathic Studies. 1853.

- 13 - "The Hom. Domestic Physician in Brief Therapeutic Diagnoses." An attempt. 1853.
- 14 - "The Homoeopathic Treatment of Whooping Cough in its Various Forms." 1860.
- 15 - "The Aphorisms of Hippocrates, with Notes by a Homoeopath". 1863.
- 16 - "Attempt at a homoeopathic Therapy of Intermittent and Other Fevers," especially for would-be Homoeopaths. Second augmented and I revised ed Part1. The Pyrexia. 1864.

RadaraOpus