

## **The History behind Homeopathic Principles - An Outline**

The *Principle of Similars* has been recognised intermittently for centuries, as a legitimate rationale for the treatment of illness. Although its real potential within medicine was only fully appreciated following the publication of Samuel Hahnemann's researches in the early 19th century. Up to that point the *Principle of Similars* had been understood in essence by Hippocrates in the 5th century BC, and Paracelsus (1493-1541).

### **Hippocrates**

Hippocrates had noted that the laxative herb *Aloe vera* (a stimulant laxative) was of great value in the treatment of certain parasitic dysenteries and helminthic bowel infestations. He noticed that, paradoxically, this diarrhoea-inducing medicine often cured chronic diarrhoea.

### **Paracelsus**

In the 16th century Theophrastus von Hohenheim (Paracelsus) stated 'likes must be driven out by likes'. However, he based his *principle of similars* on alchemic theories like the *doctrine of signatures* [[footnote]] (which states that there is an association between the physical nature of a substance and its therapeutic indication: plants with heart-shaped leaves, for example, may be effective in heart disease, or certain plants with bile coloured sap can be used in treatment of jaundice). Paracelsus believed that there was a specific remedy for each disease, if only the remedy could be found. The one specific he is remembered for is the use of mercury in the treatment of syphilis.

### **Samuel Hahnemann (1755 - 1843)**

*Cinchona* bark (containing quinine) had long been used by the Peruvian Indians as a cure for fevers. It was brought to Europe as a secret remedy by the Jesuits in 1632 and later by Juan del Vego, physician to the Count of Cinchon. The name cinchona was given to the drug in honour of the Countess, who was cured of malaria by its use. Malaria was very prevalent before the mosquito was recognised as the agent of transmission. Quinine was extensively and beneficially used to treat malaria (Most famously, Louis XIV of France contracted malaria and was cured with quinine.)

### **Hahnemann's Cinchona Experiment**

In 1790 Hahnemann was engaged in the translation of Cullen's *materia medica* into German. During the translation work, Hahnemann found himself questioning Cullen's model for the action of quinine. Out of curiosity as to its true mode of action, Hahnemann took some *cinchona* bark himself, only to find that he developed many of the symptoms of malaria. Hahnemann published his first exposition of the principle of similars in a medical treatise: '*Birth of Homeopathy*': (1796). The *Principle of Similars* was summarised by Hahnemann in the latin words '*Similia Similibus Curentur*' (Treat like with like)

Activity: Now watch the video lecture on the *History of Homeopathy*

## Summary of Hahnemann's Life

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1755      | Born at Meissen.   |
| 1779      | Qualified in medicine at Erlangen.   |
| 1782      | First marriage.  |
| 1782-1805 | Travelled widely.  |
| 1790      | Cinchona experiment.   |
| 1806      | Published <i>Medicine of Experience</i> .  |
| 1810      | Published first edition of <i>The Organon</i> .  |
| 1811      | Settled in Leipzig.<br>Carried out provings which resulted in publication of <i>Materia Medica Pura</i> .    |
| 1821      | Moved to Kothen. Publication of <i>The Chronic Diseases</i> .  |
| 1830      | Death of first wife.   |
| 1835      | Married second wife.<br><br>Moved to Paris, where he wrote the final (sixth) edition of <i>The Organon</i> . |
| 1843      | Died in Paris.   |

*The highest ideal of cure is the speedy, gentle and enduring restoration of health, or the removal and annihilation of disease in its entirety, by the quickest most trustworthy, and least harmful way, according to principles that can readily be understood.'*

Samuel Hahnemann

### **The History behind Homeopathic Principles - A Detailed Survey**

The following section is a narrative account of the life of Samuel Hahnemann. We have included this history in homage to a man who can rightfully be considered the world's first clinical pharmacologist; and whose teachings and influence did so much to alleviate sickness and improve the health of humanity.

This following account is provided to give you a historical backdrop to the development of homeopathy. These details will not form an important part of your PHCE examination, however, and if you are short of time, you may choose to skip this section and review the summary provided above. You should however take time over the discussion that follows on page\*

### **The Beginnings**

Our story begins in the middle of the Eighteenth Century in the town of Meissen in the principality of Upper Saxony in Germany. At this time Meissen was a town of about four thousand inhabitants, and of some importance, for it contained a branch of the Electoral Academy of Sciences and a factory for the newly discovered china-glass or porcelain. In the outskirts of the village, stood a long, plain building of three stories in height, known as

the Eck-haus. On the ground floor, in a corner room, whose two large-shuttered windows looked out on the Market Place - There was born, on the 10 of April 1755, to the wife of the porcelain painter Hahnemann, a son, Samuel. [[insert picture of Hahnemann's house]]

This was the year in which Lisbon was virtually destroyed by a great earthquake. Within nine months of Hahnemann's birth, Mozart would also be born and the Seven Years War would begin in the heart of Europe. The Viennese composer, Joseph Haydn, was then 23.

During the days of his boyhood, Hahnemann was in the habit of taking frequent rambles in the countryside round his native town, and during this time, he also formed an herbarium of the indigenous plants of Saxony.

His father, Christian Gottfried Hahnemann, together with his mother, Johanna Christiana, taught him to read and write.

Samuel's studies while at Meissen, included Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and history, physics, botany and the biological sciences. When he left school he presented a thesis, written in Latin, upon the "Wonderful Construction of the Human Hand."

Out of necessity, Samuel's father wanted to take him out of school for a whole year, so that he might become apprenticed to a business more suited to the family income. Hahnemann's teachers prevented this by refusing any pay for his schooling during the last eight years. They persuaded Christian Hahnemann to leave Samuel with them in order to make the most of his obvious propensity for learning.

### **On The Road**

On Easter 1775, Hahnemann completed his schooling in Meissen, and left for Leipzig, with only twenty Thalers from his father for support. This was the last money Samuel received from his father's hand, because Christian still had his other children to educate on a very modest income.

During his stay in Leipzig Hahnemann attended lectures. Herr Bergrath Porner had the kindness to provide him with free tickets to medical lectures.. He also continued to read widely and supported himself financially by giving instruction in German and French, and by translating English books. After two years his desire to practice medicine then took him to Vienna.

In one quarter of Vienna, known as the Leopoldstadt, there was a very extensive hospital conducted by the Brothers of Charity, and here Hahnemann received instruction under the guidance of the celebrated doctor, Von Quarin. [[photo of Von Quarin]]

Von Quarin was body physician to Maria Theresa and the Emperor Joseph. The eminent doctor was so impressed by the ability of his student that he made him his protege, taking Hahnemann to visit private patients, a thing he had never before done.

Hahnemann's last crumbs of subsistence were just about to vanish when in 1777 the Governor of Transylvania, Baron von Bruckenthal, invited him to go with him to Hermanstadt (Sibiu in Romania) as family physician and custodian of his important library. [[photo of Sibiu]]

## **Towards Graduation**

It was during those quiet, scholarly days, in the secluded library at Hermanstadt, that Hahnemann increased his already extensive and diverse knowledge of classical literature and sciences. Hahnemann arranged and catalogued the Baron's vast library and practiced medicine in the town for a year and nine months. Then in 1779 he departed, to receive at Erlangen the degree of doctor of medicine, which he was then able to do from his own attainments.

## **Dessau and Chemistry**

In Erlangen Hahnemann attended many lectures in the sciences. He later wrote that he was particularly indebted to Schreber for his teachings in botany during that period. After a series of travels to other towns, Hahnemann moved to Dessau in the spring of 1781. Here he turned his attention to chemistry, a subject in which he was destined to become really proficient. The great chemist, Berzelius, afterwards said:  
"That man would have made a great chemist, had he not turned out a great quack."



Hahnemann's wine test is still used today as a test for metals. He developed a process that could detect lead in a solution at concentrations of 1 to 30,000. Although known to be poisonous, lead acetate was used by unscrupulous wine sellers to clarify and sweeten inferior wine. This test was greatly praised by the chemical and scientific journals of the day.

Hahnemann translated Demachy's Art of Manufacturing Chemical Products, from French, adding copious and original notes which reveal remarkable depth of knowledge. A review in the most prominent chemical journal of the day, said: "We can affirm that no more complete treatise exists on the subject of the manufacture of chemicals than this work. Hahnemann is also known to have met the brilliant chemist Lavoisier.

## **Marriage**

Hahnemann was married to Miss Johanna Kuchler in the latter part of 1782. Over the following four years they started a family and established a secure domestic life. To orientate you to the wider historical context of those years: you may be aware that, at this time, William Pitt the elder set up the India act, Turkey ceded the Crimea to Russia, and the Treaty of Versailles was signed recognising America's independence and ending the war.

At around the time of Michaelmas, 1789, Hahnemann went to Leipzig - probably for the academic life there, which was much more active than in Dessau.

Hahnemann then travelled to Konigsutter to practice medicine and continue his studies in chemistry. At this time scarlet fever spread from the vicinity of Helmstadt to Konigsutter. This epidemic was exceedingly contagious and dangerous and it raged relentlessly through families. Hahnemann was very successful both in the prevention and treatment of this terrible scourge, using mainly Belladonna.  

Contrary to the medical practice of the times, Hahnemann prescribed one remedy at a time and carefully evaluated each patient's response - and so he learned something from every prescription. He was also in the habit of preparing and dispensing his own medicines, independently of the apothecaries.

## **Criticism**

His translations of scientific papers on the adulteration of drugs, probably led Hahnemann to

doubt the good faith of some pharmacists, and the knowledge he gained while he was inspector of drugs, increased his desire to prepare and dispense his own medicines. Hahnemann tried to encourage his professional colleagues to prescribe simple remedies, in accordance with the best principles of empirical science.

*Then let us make a brotherly contract, and all agree to give but one single simple remedy at a time for every single disease, and then let us use our eyes to see what effect this or that medicine has, how it does good or how it fails. Is not experience the final arbiter of questions, like those asked by Columbus when he contemplated the unknown horizon.*

But his pleas went in vain, and the apothecaries they became jealous of Hahnemann's success. Out of spite and professional jealousy the physicians of Konigslutter incited the apothecaries to bring a legal action against him. Hahnemann appealed to the letter of the law, but it was all in vain - this acknowledged master of pharmaceutical science, was suddenly forbidden to dispense his simple medicines.

As a result of this debacle, Hahnemann could not remain in Konigslutter, and in the autumn of 1799 he left with his family never to return. (In that same autumn Napoleon Bonaparte fled from his defeated army in Egypt, after they were foiled in their attempt to capture Acre. As Hahnemann departed Konigslutter, Napoleon escaped silently across the Mediterranean to land safely in Frejus.)

It had been apparent to Hahnemann for many years, that many of the accepted practices in medicine were not proven - at least not in any systematic or scientific way.

*It was agony for me to walk always in darkness, with no other guidance than that which could be derived from books, when so many medicinal substances owed their place in these books to an arbitrary decision.*

*I could not conscientiously treat the unknown morbid conditions of my suffering brethren with these notional medicines; so many of which are very active substances, which can so easily occasion death.*

*These poorly understood medicines are also apt to cause new affections and chronic maladies, which often more difficult to remove than the original disease.*

*To become, thus the murderer or the tormentor of my brethren was to me an idea so frightful and overwhelming, that soon after my marriage, I renounced the practice of medicine, so that I might no longer incur the risk of doing injury, and I engaged myself exclusively in chemistry, and in literary occupations.*

*But then I became a father, and serious diseases threatened my beloved children, my flesh and blood. My scruples redoubled and I determined to investigate the whole matter for myself from the very beginning.*


Hahnemann began his investigation by returning to basics. Up to this time in history very

little attention had been paid to the importance of hygiene, for example. In his early independent writings, Hahnemann recommended exercise, open air, and hygiene. His writings, on the importance of cleanliness in surgery, predate Lister by half a century.


Describing the treatment of a chronic bone infection he says :

*I scraped the carious bone clean out, and removed all the dead part, dressed it with alcohol and watched the result.*

### **A Turning Point**

Hahnemann was poor; he had a growing family, and little to depend upon but his chemical researches and translation work. However, one particular commission was about to change the entire course of his life - the translation of a very important book: Cullen's *Materia Medica*. Dr. William Cullen  was an authority on the medicines of his day. He was known as an experienced lecturer; a talented chemist and renowned as a teacher at the University of Edinburgh.

Naturally, continental physicians also wanted to learn of Cullen's new theories regarding disease. Hahnemann was, by now, established as the most accomplished translator of medical works of his time, and this commission by the publishers was awarded on the merits of his considerable reputation. Hahnemann was in virtual poverty when he took the commission. Living in one little room which contained his whole family, he worked in a corner, separated from the rest of them by a curtain, under every discouragement, and with a hungry family to maintain by hard drudgery. The translation work was punctuated only by his own ongoing experiments and researches.

In his *materia medica*, Cullen devoted about twenty pages to the remedy *Cinchona*. The bark of this Peruvian tree  was the first known source of quinine, long known for its value in certain relapsing fevers and 'ague'. There was something in Cullen's account of this substance that induced Hahnemann to experiment with it upon himself, in order to see what effect it would have upon a person in perfect health.

*Experience tells us that by combining the strongest bitters and the strongest astringents, one can obtain a compound which is more bitter and astringent than Peruvian bark, but yet has no specific value in fever.*

*Cullen is therefore mistaken when he attributes Cinchona's medicinal role in fever to these properties.*

*By way of experiment, I took four drachms of good Cinchona twice a day. My feet, and finger ends at first became cold; I grew languid and drowsy; then my heart began to palpitate, and my pulse grew hard and small; intolerable anxiety, trembling, prostration throughout all my limbs, then pulsation in my head, redness of my cheeks and thirst:*

*In short, all these symptoms which are characteristic of intermittent fever made their appearance, one after the other, yet without the peculiar chilly, shivering.*

The experiment had carried him farther than he anticipated. It had taught him not only the

physiological effects of bark; but also demonstrated that those effects were almost exactly the same as the symptoms of the disease the bark is successful in treating.

Thereafter, drug after drug was tested on himself and on healthy friends, with one unvarying result - each remedy elicited disease symptoms which resembled the illness for which it was considered a specific treatment.

But every medicine he tested evoked many more symptoms than those which are diagnostic for any one disease. This aroused the hope in Hahnemann's mind of treating many more illnesses than had ever been treated before.

Besides discovering many medicinal phenomena - previously unknown and unrecorded, he verified his discoveries and observations by ransacking the volumes of recorded experiments on *Materia Medica* and the whole history of poisoning.

*Every powerful medicinal substance produces in the human body a kind of peculiar disease; the more powerful the medicine, the more peculiar, marked and violent the disease.*

*We should imitate nature which sometimes cures a chronic disease by super adding another, and employ in the disease we wish to cure that medicine which is able to produce another very similar artificial disease, and the former will be cured; similia similibus.*

Years of meticulous experimentation and observation, support the claim that Hahnemann was truly the first scientific clinical pharmacologist. How he coped with the scope of these investigations remains a source of wonder.

### **Publication of *The Organon***

Hahnemann spent six years, of unceasing work, testing drugs and verifying the *principle of similars*, before proclaiming it to the world in the first edition of his book *The Organon of the Healing Art*. A book that was to shake the very foundations of accepted medical wisdom.

In those same years as Hahnemann was revolutionising medical experimentation; many miles away, in Vienna, the composer Ludwig van Beethoven was also breaking new ground, with his new approach to motif and heightened dramatic intensity. This was the beginning of the romantic era in music, literature and the arts.

With the publication of Hahnemann's *Organon* in 1810, came a storm of opposition from the medical profession. Denouncements and persecution followed.

Meissner referred to homeopathy as the works of darkness. Professor Sachs of Koenigsberg compared Hahnemann to the Devil. Dr Keiser prophesied the early demise of Homeopathy. Steiglitz dubbed it a monstrous system. Heinrot established a journal called the *Anti-organon*, with the object of destroying this great humbug. Elias condemned homeopathy as a most useless thing. And many other persons vented their poison anonymously.

When the inquisitors of the public press then prevented publication of homeopathic articles, the private physician to the King of Hanover gleefully advised his colleagues to wait beside the open grave of homeopathy, as the corpse would soon appear.

These furious hostilities directed towards Hahnemann were mirrored by events on the grand political stage of Europe, for this was the age of Napoleon.

In the hail of professional derision directed at Hahnemann, he never lost heart. His sense of security came from the knowledge that his writings were based on real observations, borne out of many years of meticulous clinical work and experimentation.

It is interesting to note that detractors in our modern times, also have no direct experience of this branch of therapeutics. Our loudest critics today, are those who have never worked alongside a clinical homeopath and have never engaged with the subject at any depth.

*In the end what is good remains good and one only feels pity for the blinded zealots. I do not know why we should fret or get angry about it. What is true cannot be betrayed into untruth, even if a privy councillor or an illustrious old professor should write against it.*

*Remember how when Jenner's cowpox inoculation against small pox had been adopted far and near, dozens of disgraceful invectives were published against it in England - now where are they to be found ? The paper they were printed on, is probably now only used to wrap up cheese in the grocer's shop.*

*My respectable brethren on the opposition benches, I can give you better advice about overthrowing - if possible - the new methods which threaten to stifle your art. Listen to me.*

*Homeopathy appeals to the verdict of experience - "repeat the experiments", it cries aloud; I am confident that when you repeat them carefully and accurately, you will find the principles of homeopathy confirmed at every step.*

The year of 1813 was one of vindication for Hahnemann. The contagious typhus fever, spread from the military camps throughout the length of Germany. Hahnemann attended cases with a success that silenced his critics for a time.

Nevertheless, on December 16, 1819, the apothecaries of Leipzig presented to the city council a petition in which they complained that their rights were being encroached upon by Dr Hahnemann's dispensing of his own medicines. On the 9th of February 1820 he appeared before the court of Aldermen of Leipzig to answer the charge, and responded in an essay.

*The objections of the apothecaries to my dispensing are not tenable, because my system of medicine has nothing in common with the ordinary medical art: The old system makes use of complex mixtures of medicines, each containing several ingredients in considerable quantity.*

*These take time and skill to compound - resources that the ordinary physician does not always possess. The right to dispense medicines was conceded to the apothecary for these reasons.*

*Homeopathy has no compound prescriptions for the apothecary, but gives in all cases, one single simple medicine. Furthermore, the remedy comprises such a small a dose of the medicinal substance, that neither the*

*senses nor chemical analysis could identify the smallest amount of a harmful medicine.*

*This supposes a minuteness of doses which absolutely does away with the necessity of exercising the official supervision of the apothecary.*

Hahnemann's defence was carefully and temperately worded, but fell on deaf ears and he was soon publically notified, at his own house, that he would be fined twenty Thalers for every article of medicine he dispensed, regardless of the patient or his circumstances.

To ensure the destruction of Hahnemann's livelihood as a teacher, these conditions were also placed on his students, all of whom came under close scrutiny. This made the study and practice of homeopathy in Leipzig all but impossible.


(This behaviour was mirrored very recently in London, by an eminent professor of pharmacy, who campaigned for the suppression of homeopathy within the national health services, by circulating what purported to be official letters to funding committees. This indicates the kind of intolerance that homeopathy still engenders in people with strongly vested interests. Yet our discipline continues to stand on the integrity of its practitioners and research.)

*This persecution has now reached its climax, and I should be doing an injury to the beneficial art, and imperiling my own life, were I to remain here longer and not seek protection in some foreign country.*

As it happens, the Ducal Chief Chamberlain, Von Sternkg, had been cured of a complicated disease by homeopathy. An illness that had, up to that point, resisted all forms of orthodox treatment. Hearing of Hahnemann's plight, Von Sternkg persuaded the Grand Duke Frederick of Anhalt-Coethen to invite Hahnemann to accept the post of Private Physician to the Grand Duke himself.

The Duke's initial trial of Homeopathy was successful and he granted Hahnemann permission to settle in Kothen. Hahnemann was offered the freedom of the city and was given the privilege to practise everything that he considered necessary to his new methods. Hahnemann accepted the position and left Leipzig in may 1821.

### **Publication of *Chronic Diseases***

1828 was the year of Schubert's death, and it was at this time that Hahnemann, then aged 73, published a most ambitious book in four volumes entitled "*Chronic Diseases. Their Nature and Homeopathic Treatment*"  This huge work was bourne out of years of experimentation and clinical observation and slowly became recognised as a major treatise. One which challenged all the contemporary wisdom on the nature of chronic disease.

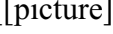
*To discover the keystone to cure of chronic illness I have striven night and day, for the last four years, and by thousands of trials and experiences as well as by uninterrupted meditation.*

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### **International Recognition**

The Year is 1830, and the Georgian era in Britain comes to an end with the death of George IV. Hahnemann's wife, Johanna, died on the 31st of March of that same year.

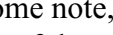
At this time numerous independent reports were appearing in Nuremburg, Vienna, Hungary and Russia, of the much reduced death rates from cholera that could be achieved using Hahnemann's homeopathic methods.

The English doctor, Frederick Quinn, was hugely impressed by the effectiveness of homeopathy, when he saw it employed in treatment of Cholera, during a trip to Moravia. Quinn was later to introduce homeopathy to London. There he set in place the train of events which, later, brought the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital  such success in the terrible London Cholera epidemic of 1864.

Meanwhile, in Germany, a climate of concerted opposition prevented Hahnemann from getting the last two volumes of his *Materia Medica Pura* into print.


Hahnemann's writings fared better abroad, where his success with patients did not pose such a direct threat to the orthodox medical establishment. His books found great favour abroad, with translations into Italian, Latin, French and English.

### **Hahnemann's Meeting with Melanie**

Then, after years of struggle, Hahnemann had an encounter that transformed his fortunes. In 1834, Mademoiselle Melanie d'Hervilly Gohier, came to Kothen to be treated by Hahnemann.  She was a 35 year old French artist of some note, of good family and she possessed an independent fortune. In the course of her successful treatment, they became fascinated by one another, she by the vast treasures of Hahnemann's mind and he by her intelligence and independent spirit.

On the 28th of January 1835, they were married in Kothen. Madame Hahnemann wished to return to Paris and, after years of struggle, Hahnemann had no objection to leaving Germany. Whatever the circumstance of the marriage between the eighty year old Hahnemann and his bride of thirty-five, it is universally acknowledged that Melanie made the last years of Hahnemann's life very happy.

### **The Final Years**

After settling in Paris Hahnemann entered into homeopathic practice. With the assistance of his wife, they formed a celebrated partnership, providing homeopathic treatment for many eminent figures and were embraced by Parisienne society. A visiting patient described his experience of the Hahnemanns' Paris practice: 

*I stood in the presence of Monsieur le Docteur and madame Hahnemann. The chamber I now entered was more simply decorated than any I had visited. In the centre of the room stood a long table; at its head a slightly elevated platform held a plain looking desk covered with books.*

*In front of the desk sat madame Hahnemann with a blank volume open before her and a gold pen in her hand. Hahnemann was reclining in a comfortable arm chair on one side of the table.*

*His slender and diminutive form was enveloped in a flowered dressing gown of rich materials.*


*The crown of his head was covered by a cap of black velvet.  
From beneath it strayed a few thin snowy locks, which clustered about his  
noble forehead, and spoke of his advanced age, which the lingering  
freshness of his florid complexion seemed to deny.  
His eyes were dark, deep set, glittering and full of animation.*

*In the consultation that ensued, madam Hahnemann invariably replied,  
asking a multiplicity of questions, and noting the minutest symptoms of  
the case as fast as my answers were given.  
Hahnemann would nod and offer comments of gentle encouragement and  
advice.*

Hahnemann died, after a short illness, in 1843, with his wife by his bedside. In the course of his eighty-seven years he had laid the foundations for those in every succeeding generation who are prepared to follow the hard and narrow path of true healing.

## **Following Hahnemann**

### **Homeopathy in Britain**

In 1826, having been exposed to Homeopathy and impressed by followers of Hahnemann in Leipzig, Dr Frederick Harvey Foster Quin  visited Hahnemann in Kothen. After a spell practising in Paris, Quin returned to London in 1832 to establish a successful Homeopathic practice. In 1844 Quin founded the British Homeopathic Society and in 1850 a Homeopathic hospital was opened in Golden Square, Soho.

An outbreak of cholera in London in 1854 showed up a distinct contrast in mortality rates between those patients treated in the orthodox hospitals (52 per cent died) and those treated in the Homeopathic hospital (16 per cent). Royal patronage and the support of wealthy peers helped to secure funds for the building of the present Homeopathic Hospital in Great Ormond Street.

### **Homeopathy in America**

Constantine Hering (1800-80) was born in Saxony and went to Leipzig University in 1821 to study medicine. In his final year he researched the subject of Homeopathy, having been asked to write an essay which critically rejected Homeopathic philosophy. Hering became convinced of the validity of Homeopathic principles, however, and refused to complete the article.

He was forced to move to the University of Wurtzburg, where he obtained his Doctorate in 1826. Hering later joined a scientific expedition to South America where he conducted provings\* of new Homeopathic medicines, including *Spigelia* (pinkroot), *Theridion* (orange spider), and *Lachesis* (bushmaster snake). In 1833 Hering settled in the United States, where he co-founded the *North American Academy of the Homeopathic Healing Art*. He was one of the founders of the *American Institute of Homeopathy*, of which he was the first president. In 1836 he founded the *Hahnemann Medical College* in Philadelphia.

### **Homeopathy Today**

Homeopathy is now practised widely in Germany, Britain, France, America, India, South

Africa and South America, with rising activity in most developed countries.

### **Homeopathy:**

- is complementary to other medical disciplines
- has applications in both acute and chronic conditions
- can be applied as an adjunct to surgery
- is suitable for patients of all ages
- is applicable to human and veterinary practice

In the UK, homeopathic treatments are available on a medical prescription, on private prescription, and over-the-counter.

There are NHS units for homeopathic medicine in Bristol, Glasgow and London and a number of smaller centres in other cities, as well as GP and Private Practice provision of medical homeopathy.

### **Relevant Further Reading**

You may wish to seek out some of the following articles in your own time.

#### Books

**Hahnemann, S**  
*Organon* 6th  
Ed Trans Kunzli

**Rohde, ES**  
*The Old English Herbals*  
Publ. Longmans Green & Co 1922

**Haggard, HW**  
*Devils, Drugs and Doctors*  
Publ. Heinemann 1929

**Campbell, A**  
*The Two Faces of Homeopathy*  
publ. Hale 1984

**Cook, TM**  
*Samuel Hahnemann - The founder of Hom. Med.*  
publ Thorsons 1981

**Coulter, HL**  
*Divided Legacy*  
publ. North Atlantic books, Berkely, California  
References: journals and periodicals

‘The contribution of Hahnemann in the history of medicine’

**Chand, DH**  
*J Am Inst Homeopath* 1977 Sep;70(3): 398-418

‘History and principles of homeopathy’

**Reed, HE**  
*J Am Inst Homeopath* 1973 Jun;66(2): 87-90

‘Some thoughts on the history of homeopathy in the United States’

**Magnillat, MJ**  
*Homeopathie* 1985 Jul-Aug;2(4): 17-28

'Relevance of history to homeopathy'

**Hehr, GS**

*Br Homeopathic J* 1985 Jul;74(3): 158-67

'The history of the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital'

**Jenkins, H**

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'Short history of homeopathy in America'

**Schmidt, FW**

*Homeotherapy* 1974-5 1(1): 10-12

'Hahnemann's place in medical history'

**Roman, D**

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