

This is a Thesis  
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by David Coon M.D.  
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" " " "

Homoeopathy is the name which has been given to a system of medicine, by its founder Samuel Hahneman, M.D., an eminent German Practitioner. The word is derived from two Greek words which imply "similarity of suffering". It is distinguished from all other systems of Medical practice <sup>by the</sup> profession of a law of cure. "This law of cure" is expressed by the three Latin words "Similia Similibus Curantur" which means that like cures like or that a given medicine is capable of causing in the healthy all the diseases which it is capable of curing in the sick.

This is the great corner stone on which the superstructure Homoeopathy rests. A Medicine is given in large and repeated doses to a person in the enjoyment of perfect health until he is made very sick; a record is taken of the symptoms which it has produced, the organs it has affected and how. The same medicine is given to others of the same temperament and constitution in order to prove that the symptoms which were obtained previously are correct. It is then given to persons of a different temperament &c. and its effect recorded as before and so of other medicines. This is called "proving medicines". It is in this way that we obtain correct notions respecting the action of medicines on the human organism. Is there any better way than this? Is it not better than experimenting on the sick and at their expense?

Hahnemann found by experimentation - as any other person may - that Linnæum when given in large doses to the healthy produced symptoms similar to those of the Ague as many a pore operation in the Linnæum.

factories of France can attest from abundant and painful experience. Who does not know of the prophylactic (preventive) properties of vaccine matter in that once terrible scourge of the human family, small pox! and yet every one knows that the symptoms which it produces when inserted under the cuticle of the arm are quite similar to those developed by the natural malady! the difference being only in degree. The curative properties of Belladonna in a certain stage of scarlet fever are well known; it is admitted to be capable of producing similar symptoms. Dr Budd (old school authority) says that Mercury will if abused cause many diseases of the liver, yet he advises its cautious use in similar diseases. Twining mentions the terrible effects of calomel in producing diseases of the spleen, yet he declares that small doses will cure such diseases & he advises the use of aloes in hemorrhoids and dysentery, and admits that it

will produce both diseases. Prof. Wood  
advises turpentine and colchides in diseases  
of the kidney and adds "it is a curious fact  
that these drugs will produce nearly all the  
diseases to which these organs are liable" and  
so of other drugs. The examples might be  
continued; but these suffice to show the true  
truth of the Homeopathic Law. We have said  
Homeopathy differs from all other systems of  
medicine in having a "law of cure" no other  
system having any such law; but wherein is the  
advantage of having a law of cure methinks  
we hear you ask. All the advantages in  
the world we answer. It is to the physician  
what the pilot is to the ship; what the  
finger-post is to the traveller. It is his  
guide in the treatment of disease. It is  
ascertained by experimentation that a cer-  
tain drug when given in large dose to a  
healthy person produces certain symptoms. Now  
when a patient is found suffering under sim-  
ilar symptoms this drug is said to be indicated

As example affords the best illustration; we will take advantage of the circumstance. *Aconitum napellus* when administered to the healthy, produces all the symptoms of inflammatory fever, such as a hot skin, full bounding pulse, furred tongue, &c.; therefore *aconite* is the remedy for such a state. We would not have you confound Homeopathy with Isopathy, which is so frequently done by the ignorant and prejudiced. The word Isopathy, as you know, implies a sameness, whereas Homeopathy as we have stated already only implies a similarity. I would not cure a frozen limb by directing the patient to thrust it through a broken window pane and expose it to a temperature of 30° below zero; I would by wrapping it in snow. I would not attempt to cure a burnt finger by directing the patient to hold it in the fire! I would by directing the patient to hold it near the fire. I would not cure a black eye by knocking the patient down.

once more; I would by the use of a medicine  
which <sup>produces</sup> symptoms similar to a blow or contusion  
There never was a disease cured, neither can  
there be, contrary to this law. This may seem  
to be a very sweeping assertion; it is true  
theleph. It is true that diseases were treated and  
cured in many instances, long before the Hom-  
eopathic law was discovered; but not before  
it existed. Apples fell to the ground long  
before Newton discovered the law of gravity  
The earth revolved around the sun and the  
moon around the earth long before Galileo  
asserted the fact which in part was reg-  
arded as a moonshine idea. And so with  
our law of cure! It was known that certain  
drugs were efficacious in the treatment of cer-  
tain maladies but it was not observed that  
these cures were performed in accordance  
with any law. It was left for Hahnemann  
to discover and apply practically. The idea  
was suggested to him when translating *Leullem  
Materia Medica*. His first discovery was

in reference to Quinine; he found by experiment that it was capable of causing a disease similar to fever and ague, for some forms of which it was a specific remedy, he found that the same was true of all other medicines. He communicated the results of his investigations to his professional brethren, some of whom became his disciples but he was violently opposed by others. His great success however, in the treatment of disease, procured for him many friends, but we have not space to give a sketch of his career. He was persecuted as many of his followers are at the present day, by those who knew not what they said or whereof they affirmed. But he persevered and his efforts were ultimately crowned with success: he lived to a good old age. The flame which he had kindled with so much care was not suffered to go out; the news spread far and wide; from Germany, to France, and Spain to England; from America to the Isles of the Ocean.

until at the present day its practitioners and  
professors are to be found in all parts of the  
habitable Globe. But some 80 years  
have elapsed since the law was first  
discovered by Hahnemann, and in this  
short time colleges are reared, Hospitals  
established, and the system legalized by  
every civilized country on the European and  
American continents. There are at the pres-  
ent time several thousand legally qualified  
Homeopathic Physicians in the United Sta-  
tes about an equal number in Great Britain.  
One third of the German Physicians are Home-  
opaths. Most of the crowned heads of Europe  
employ Homeopathic Physicians. Canada  
numbers but a few practitioners within her  
borders yet, but she will soon be better off.—  
thanks to her Legislators.

It may seem strange that a medicine  
which has the power of causing a disease  
similar to a natural Malada, should be  
the best in performing the cure of this Malada.



equivalent schools shall apply cold: but all  
But we do not see why people should trouble  
their minds in regard to this matter when it is  
known beyond the shadow of a doubt that  
such is really the case. Who would not be as  
well satisfied that Medicines cure on this principle  
as any other? As for instance on the opposite  
principle, contraria, contrariis, curantur.  
Does it make any practical difference? We  
must go to the mountains if we would see  
them. We must learn of nature not attempt  
to teach her: Let us in this as in other cases  
of science, question nature. My hands are of  
low temperature — they are painfully cold. How  
shall they be warmed? By holding them towards  
the fire, or plunging them in snow? The  
latter of course, and in a short time they are  
glowing with warmth. Is this result a freak  
of nature? an anomaly? Let <sup>us</sup> learn if we have  
not yet heard, that nature has no freaks — no  
anomalies. Take other and varied examples.  
I burn my hand; on the principle of the

prevalent schools I shall apply cold; but all experience is against it, and so is the Homeopathic law. The symptoms are; heat, pain, redness and swelling (I speak of a burn of the first or second degree) heating stimulants such as spirits of turpentine or alcohol produces similar symptoms if continuously applied to a healthy surface. Therefore it is to this class of medicines we are to look for a remedy to cure our burn; and experience but confirms us in our belief in the truth of the law by which we made the selection. These results are but examples of a law of vital reaction, which we will briefly illustrate. The law may be thus stated: whenever any agent having the power to excite an unnatural action in the system, is so applied as to be felt, the vital principle is excited to oppose its effects, and to produce a state the opposite of that which this agent tends to produce. Take for example; a man takes a glass of brandy; its tendency is to produce increased

Strength, activity and vivacity of mind and  
body. But there is a vital principle which  
will certainly react against it, and overcome  
it and establish a state directly the opposite  
of it, and a few hours afterwards we shall  
<sup>find</sup> this man weak languid and inactive. We trust  
that the intemperate will profit by this hint.  
Strong coffee stimulates the faculties to  
unnatural activity, but it leaves behind  
a sensation of heaviness and drowsiness.  
A restless patient is put to sleep on op-  
ium, but on the following night he is more  
restless and sleeps than before. A patient  
takes a laxative to relieve constipation, after  
its action constipation is increased, &c., &c.,  
ad infinitum. We will now contrast, not  
compare, for there is no comparing the Hom-  
eopathic principles of treatment with the  
Allopathic. Instead of giving ~~altitatives~~ or  
cathartics to cure constipation of the bowels, we  
would a medicine which is known to have the  
power to produce a similar condition in the

healthy as opium for instance. I have yet to see the man that has been cured of this symptom by the use of Cathartics. They relieve but to aggravate; any one may satisfy himself of the truth of this affirmation by referring to his own experience; yet people will continue to drink them down by the pound or gallon, simply, I suppose because Physicians prescribe them, and because they give them temporary relief. We would cure a diarrhoea on the same principle. Who has not noticed that Purgatives have cured a looseness of the bowels even when administered by grandma? — a more worthy follower of Esculapius, by the way, than many a professional gent of much greater pretensions. Do not cathartics produce a similar state of the bowels when given to the healthy? We fear that our venerable friend has been guilty of Homeopathy; but this does not seem to be a great crime after all. The offense is often committed with

the greatest nonchalance by those that should know better. If it were necessary to give any further examples of the truth of the homeopathic law, we might write a volume on the subject, but space forbids. We have chosen these because of their familiarity. A query naturally arises here; if the principles of the Homeopathic system are really so obvious and well established why is it that the whole medical profession have not adopted it? To give a full answer to this question would require several columns by itself. It must suffice here to say that natural indolence the dread of being obliged to go into new trains of laborious investigation; the pride of learning; an unwillingness to acknowledge that others have learned what they do not know; reputed weakness of credulity which can easily be induced to believe new things; with the supposed dignity of unbelief and a veneration for old and supposed established doctrines,

have all conspired in every age to deter men from adopting; and to produce resistance to new discoveries. The history of discoveries and improvements in science in every age, not excepting our own, is a history of opposition from the professedly learned. The truth has spread however with unexampled rapidity, and it will continue to spread itself far and wide.

We will now proceed to contrast the means made use of <sup>by</sup> the Homeopaths, and the advantages which follow their use, in ascertaining the medicinal virtues of any given plant or mineral, the properties of which are unknown, with those that are resorted to by the Allopathist, and their effects. The only recognized means possessed by the Allopathist, to find out the medicinal virtues of any drug is experimentation on the sick. All the knowledge which he may possess of the action of medicines on the animal organism, has been derived from this source. His first step is to

try the effects which this drug may <sup>have</sup> on some  
disease under <sup>which</sup> one of his patients may be labor-  
ing. It is evident that it must either do good  
or do harm; the chances are ninety nine to one  
or even a greater proportion than this, that the  
latter will be its effect. It may be objected  
to this, that it may be administered in small  
doses by way of precaution. Could we stay  
the onward progress of Father time, this obj-  
ection might appear somewhat plausible,  
but unfortunately our venerable friend has never  
yet consented to any such proposal, and it is  
<sup>not</sup> likely that he ever will; but as there is no other  
way by which the effects of a medicine may be  
ascertained than by the symptoms which it  
produces, we must assume that the medicine  
has ~~symptoms~~ been given in doses sufficiently  
large to produce all or most of the symptoms  
of which it is capable. How are we to disting-  
uish the symptoms which are thus produced  
from those of the natural malady? Can  
any one tell? It is true that some of the symp

oms may be so manifestly caused by the action of the drug as to leave little doubt on the question. They are but exceptions to a general rule however. The great majority of the symptoms are so modified by, and interwoven with, those of the natural disease, as to be altogether undistinguishable. And yet, as we have said it is from such data as this that the Allopathist derives his knowledge of the properties of Medicines! But this method fruitless as it must be, is rendered still more hopeless, by the fact, that even this observation is seldom made on a single remedy; a prescription being more frequently compounded of from two to a dozen articles mingled together. Is it conceivable that when a patient already suffering a hundred unnatural and diseased sensations, swallows a dose of medicine compounded of half a dozen drugs, each of which is capable of producing a hundred new sensations he can distinguish the multiplied and confused effect of each of these in distinction from



all the rest, and all of them from the confusion of sensations resulting from the disease? Or that the most acute Physician can better discriminate the effects of each in the production of the multiplied disorders of function and structure! *impossibile!* The Physician closes the treatment of a patient by this method, no wiser than he was before in regard to the properties of each of his remedies. Who cannot see that a tolerable knowledge of the properties of Medicines can never be obtained by this method! The great Dr. Boerhaave confesses that knowledge in this department has scarcely made any progress in the last two thousand years! and that this branch of science is yet in its infancy! And by this method it will continue in its infancy for ten thousand years to come. In contrast with this Homeopathy has during seventy five or eighty years of existence, a vastly more perfect Materia Medica, an incomparably better knowledge

of the properties of medicines, than Allopathy has obtained in two thousand years, or can obtain while the world stands by its present method. There is more knowledge to be obtained from one work of Homeopathic Materia Medica, than in all the Allopathic libraries in the world; and this knowledge of the properties of medicines, is obtained in the only possible way of obtaining it, viz: by each medicine being taken by persons in perfect health, sufficiently long and in sufficient quantity to produce all the effects they are capable of producing compatible with safety, and carefully recording all these effects. Let us look at the consequences of this difference in the use of one of the most familiar articles, say *Speeaculana*. In the latest and best works of the Allopathic school, we find the sum total of the knowledge attained in regard to this article to consist of six properties, or effects, which we copy from the great work of Wood & Baehle, viz: it is

emetic, diaphoretic, expectorant stimulant to  
the stomach, produces nausea, and acts on the  
bowels. These six properties, then comprise the wh-  
ole of Allopathic Knowledge of Ipecac. On  
the other hand the Homeopathist is familiar  
with between one and two hundred properties of  
this same article, as obvious, as palpable and  
as important as the six known to the Allopath.  
The following are a few of them: pain in the  
bones, bleeding from the different organs, great  
sensitivity to heat and cold, spasms and con-  
vulsions, eruptions and violent itching, agitated  
sleep, with the eyes half open, groans and ju-  
king of the limbs, frightful dreams with sud-  
den starts, sweating and coldness of the limbs  
and face, thirst, cries and howling in chil-  
dren, moroseness, heaviness and irritability,  
headache as though all the bones of the head were  
bruised, dilated pupils, confused sight, convul-  
sive twitchings of the face, tooth-ache, ton-  
gue coated, sore throat, difficult swallowing,  
cough resembling whooping cough, with bleeding.

at the nose and mouth, with fits of suffocation  
stiffness of the body and bluish face, anxious  
short breathing, spasmodic asthma and panting  
breath loss of breath on the least movement,  
cramps in the muscles &c. &c., &c. Now suppose  
an Allopathic physician treated a case  
for which he thinks proper to give Ipecac;  
it is given freely, and at length the pat-  
ient begins to complain of some of the sym-  
ptoms which we have just mentioned. What  
is the conclusion of the physician on seeing  
this alarming complication of symptoms?  
Why he never dreams that they are produced  
by the harmful Ipecac he is giving, for he has  
never learned that Ipecac is capable of pro-  
ducing such symptoms. Thus we see that an  
artificial or drug disease is added to the origi-  
nal Malady. This is no fancy picture for  
we have seen the original from which it  
was drawn. But if this comparatively innocent  
article often produces such dangerous results,  
while the physician is unaware of the fact.

from ignorance of its properties, what shall be  
thought of the dangers and calamities  
resulting from the daily use of such  
powerful articles as, Mercury, Copper,  
Lead, Arsenic, Iodine, Belladonna,  
and a hundred other articles, each  
of which produces deadly symptoms  
and of which physicians are ever more  
ignorant than they are of disease.  
We assert confidently, that a large pro-  
portion of the diseases which the people  
of the present age, owe their origin to  
the immoderate and unskillful use of  
crude medicines

It is high time that people should  
open their eyes to this matter. There  
<sup>are</sup> persons in this drug swallowing  
age, who do not think themselves  
quite competent to administer  
any of the many powerful  
and disease creating compounds  
which have found their way.