


# THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF HOMOEOPATHY



Homoeopathy is scientific as the Law of Similar is a fundamental truth, deduced logically and established experimentally.

This Law expresses a curative relationship between disease and the capacity of the drugs affecting the host.

This Law holds that similar relationship between these two is the only sound basis for cure in curable diseases and for palliation in incurable diseases.



# LAW OF SIMILARS: DEDUCTION

A systematic consideration of our concepts of **health, disease, recovery, cure** and the application of drugs as therapeutic agents enables us to deduce the Law of Similars.



# Health

Health is a state of ***dynamic stable equilibrium*** in which an individual is at peace with himself as well as with the world. He has no complaints



# Disease

Disease is an ***unstable state of disequilibrium***. It reflects poor adaptation of an individual to his environment. Peace is disturbed and we have complaints.



# Recovery

Recovery is a natural process in which the disequibrated individual regains his equilibrium. Complaints disappear and peace is restored.

Assisted recovery is cure.  
Complaints are removed and peace restored.

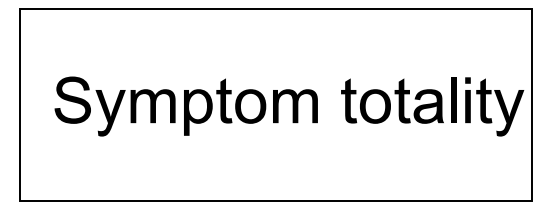
Secretions

I

II



+



=



III

Psychic- Physiology- Anatomic

Mechanisms

1. Deficiency of

nutrients

2. Unfavorable

factors:

- Physical
- Chemical
- Biological
- Emotional

2. Abnormal

Susceptibility



Scientific therapeutics will necessarily aim at modifying favorably the *deficiency state* responsible for disease, the various *unfavorable environmental factors* and the *abnormal susceptibility of the host*.




# Drugs

Drugs are substances that have a capacity to affect the development of disease and/ or its expression through symptoms.


## Remedies

Drugs which cure, not merely suppress the manifestations of disease, are remedies.



# Drugs can affect the host in a number of ways:

- i. Normalize abnormal susceptibility which is responsible for disease. Desensitization procedures, vaccine therapy, practice of Isopathy- all these represent the application of drugs on this basis.
- ii. Normalize the altered physiologic processes resulting from disease. The use of digitalis. Mercurial diuretics, etc. fall in this category.



iii. **Suppress the production of symptoms** by either interfering with the mechanisms responsible for it or suppressing the susceptibility of cells in general. The so-called symptomatic treatment in 'modern' medicine and Cortisone and ACTH therapy fall in this category.

**It will be obvious that only those drugs which normalize the abnormal susceptibility will act as remedial agents.**




# Disease- Drug Relationship

1. Drugs act on account of their capacity to affect the host.
2. This capacity of altering the host can be revealed only through an experiment.
3. The alterations induced in the host by the administration of a drug will have to be fully and adequately studied in an unprejudiced manner, free from all theoretical interpretations and bias.
4. Descriptive data furnished by signs and symptoms alone qualifies for this.
5. We thus find that the capacity of drugs to affect the host is fully revealed through the totality of signs and symptoms.
6. Disease also fully reveals itself through the totality of signs and symptoms.
7. Totality of symptoms, therefore, not only furnishes the evidence of the total extent of disease but also of the capacity of a drug to influence it.
8. The totality, therefore, is the only sound basis for the selection of drugs as remedial agents



# Law of Similars: experimental proof

## Historical considerations



**Hahnemann was not the first clinician to note that drugs selected on the basis of their similarity to the disease, cure.** He cites previous experiences of clinicians like **Hippocrates, Paracelsus and Stahl (1738)** in whose writings he finds the most definite statement of the Law of Similars.

**Celebrated instance of Cow-pox and Small-pox** which guided **Jenner** towards vaccination as a method of protection against Small-pox.

He was convinced that the therapeutics of his day was not only useless but positively harmful and it interfered with recovery.


Hahnemann lived in times in which **Medicine was bound hand and foot to old Galenical concepts.** Newer disciplines of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology had little impact on the therapeutics of the day.

**Medicine stayed away from the principles of scientific experimentation**



‘conscientious objector’


Translating standard works  
into German



While translating Cullen's *Materia Medica* from English into German, took exception to the explanation Cullen advanced for the undoubted efficacy of Cinchona bark in the treatment of ague.


He thought that Cinchona helped cases of ague on account of its capacity to produce a similar state.

He proceeded to dose himself with Cinchona and recorded in details his experiences in the form of symptoms.



It was in such chaotic conditions that Hahnemann appealed to pure experience, not reasoning and thus established the


***‘medicine of pure experience.’***



**‘Organon of Medicine’** gives us in a highly systematized manner details of the great therapeutic *experiment stretching over fifty years*



# Collection of data: disease



In Hahnemann's time disease was considered to be a definite entity resulting from structural alterations in the organs.

Hahnemann objected strongly to this restricted local view of disease.

1. Health is state in which the life force functions smoothly.
2. Disease is a deviation from health which develops when the life force is not able to overcome environmental obstructions to its smooth functioning and manifests itself first as a functional disturbance.
3. This functional disturbance is manifested in the three planes in which the life force operates, viz., spiritual, emotional and physical.
4. It is only when this functional disturbance lasts for some time, that structural alterations develop in various organs and systems.
5. Structural alterations in organs and systems, therefore, denote the end-products of disease and not the disease itself.
6. Disease is a dynamic alteration in the state of health and nothing can be known of it except through signs and symptoms in the three planes.
7. Causative factors of disease, tangible as well as intangible, should be determined by the clinician through close enquiry and observation and these should be removed or modified before proceeding further with the selection and administration of drugs as remedial agents.


# UNPREJUDICED OBSERVATION

An accurate and critical appraisal of the environmental conditions responsible for the disease, its continuance, its aggravations and a melioration and of the highly characteristic manifestations- emotional, spiritual and corporeal- enable the physician to develop the portrait of the disease in a patient.

The above contribution of Hahnemann is embodied in the Principle of Individualization and the Concept of Totality of Symptoms that together form the cornerstone of Homoeopathy.




# Collection of data: Drug



Hahnemann's genius effected a breakthrough when he established ***experimental human Pharmacology by instituting Drug Proving on healthy human beings***. He thus obtained data on the pure effects of drugs which he recorded in the *Materia Medica Pura* and in the *Chronic Diseases*.



# Establishment of similarity



Hahnemann's phrase- **‘ portrait of disease’** – is very pregnant. It includes the various characteristics that stamp their individuality on the patient. **The contributory, aggravating and ameliorating factors and alterations resulting from disease, especially those in the mental sphere, take the place of pride in this evolution.** We thus find Hahnemann logically classifying the data with a definite purpose- that of evolving the portrait of a disease in an individual instance of it- so that an exact correspondence is assured.



The cases of Scarlet Fever Epidemic resembled closely the picture of Belladonna.


Hahnemann studied carefully the details that poured in. on the strength of these reports, he suggested Camphor, Cuprum and Veratrum album as the likely remedies and stated their differential indications.

The brilliant therapeutic results obtained by Hahnemann through the application of the Principle of Similia have been duplicate by all careful physicians who cared to study and apply faithfully his methods.

**we thus find the Law of Similars  
established experimentally.**




# SIMILAR REMEDY : ADMINISTRATION




The initial increase in troubles that Hahnemann came across after the administration of the similar remedy was quite unexpected. He got over it by a progressive reduction in the dose according to a definite plan. This led to the **discovery of Potentization.**

The minimum dose sufficient to effect this.

This ***minimum does came to be identified later with the infinitesimal.***




A detailed study of the chronic relapsing states, not responding satisfactorily even to the administration of the similar remedy, led Hahnemann to the ***Theory of Chronic Diseases*** which is based on the concept of defective constitutions.



We thus find that the various recommendations made by Hahnemann about the uses of similar remedies based on sound clinical experience and not mere conjecture. Hahnemann's description of Homoeopathy as ***'medicine of pure experience'*** thus stands vindicated and Hahnemann emerges as one of the ***greatest experimentalists in the field of Medicine.***




# Repertorization



Hahnemann himself recognized the stupendous difficulties of selecting a single remedy out of the many, which is exactly similar to the portrait of the disease.

It impossible for anybody to remember it, especially from the standpoint of comparisons.

Boenninghausen. Kent and Boger approached this problem systematically, compiled Repertories and evolved the special technique of Repertorization.




What strikes us as unique in the evolution of these techniques is the consistent adherence to a logical mode of thinking which leads to consistent results in practice.

we recognize at the same time that a **technique subserves an aim**; here, that of selecting the Similimum.

**Repertorization, however, definitely promotes scientific homoeopathic prescribing.**



# Potentization




We have seen how Hahnemann's discovery of Potentization revolutionized the practice of Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Posology.

Although evidence of energy in the potencies is recognized, its exact nature is ill-understood.

The entire question is not a matter for theoretical argumentation but for a quick settlement at the bed-side.



# Homoeopathic Posology



Widespread prejudice against  
the infinitely small doses.

*People clean forget that it is not the small dose that forms the basis of Homoeopathy; it is rather the mode of selection on the basis of similarity that constitutes Homoeopathy.*

***The discovery of Potentization, thus, was purely accidental though experimental.***



# Idiosyncrasy

## Desensitization procedures

## , **Vitamins and Hormones**

All these convince the scientifically inclined of the effectiveness of minute quantities in affecting cellular responses.




**We have seen that the host manifests maximum susceptibility to the similimum**

**The dose had to be reduced to a level which will meet this enhanced susceptibility adequately without causing undesirable effects.**

**Quantitative concepts that related drug-effects to effective drug-mass dominate our ideas of dosage in modern Pharmacology.**

**Potentiation transgresses these limits of mass by stepping into the realm of energy where dynamic concepts.**




**Rules to dosage** have been formulated after taking into account critically evaluated clinical experiences of reputed homoeopathic prescriber. **They represent a consensus of opinion.**

**we have also seen how these rules fit rationally with our well-w-  
concepts in Dynamics and we are thus able to relate them to a  
larger field.**



# **Remedy Reaction**




**Kent studied critically the various types of responses that followed the administration of a remedy in homoeopathic practice and related them to the final outcome in the case.**

**Hering had already studied methodically the progress of patients with chronic disease under homoeopathic treatment. His observations and conclusions have been embodied in the Law of direction of Cure known after him.**




# Chronic Disease



Hahnemann evolved the **Concept of Miasms** and developed the **Theory of Chronic Diseases** to account for frequent relapses in certain types of cases even under proper homoeopathic treatment.

The descriptive data pertaining to the delineation of the three **defective constitutions of Psora, Syphilis and Sycosis** with corresponding grouping of the drugs into three corrective types, remain valid even to-day.



After all is said and done, we have to admit that a scientifically acceptable explanation of the phenomenon still eludes us.

We have to realize that there are various levels of Science : descriptive, applied fundamental, etc. Homoeopathy essentially is experimental clinical medicine and will have to be judged on those grounds.



## Homoeopathy as the 'medicine of pure experience.'

Homoeopathy essentially is experimental clinical medicine.

*The definition of Homoeopathy as 'scientific constitutional drug therapeutics based on the Law of Similars'*

# FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF NATURE.....HOMOEOPATHY

1. The laws and ways of Nature are uniform and harmonious.
1. Effects follow causes in unbroken succession.
1. To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.
1. Action and reaction are ceaseless, equivalent and reciprocal.
1. Motion is ceaseless and transformation continuous.
1. Matter is indestructible and infinitely divisible.
1. Force is persistent and indestructible.
1. The quantity of action necessary to effect any change in nature is the least possible.