

# The History of Homeopathy

Samuel Hahnemann was born in 1755 in Germany. A keen academic, by the time of his graduation in medicine at the age of 23, he was proficient in eight languages.

Hahnemann, aside from being a great doctor, quickly established a reputation as being the greatest scientific translator in Europe. While working on a Scottish text, he read of Cinchona bark being good for malaria because of its strong effect on the stomach. He knew of the remedy's efficacy but realized that neither he, nor the author, had any real understanding of how it brought about a healing. Thus he began taking small amounts of the bark to see if he could determine its effect by watching his own body reaction. To his surprise he began developing symptoms he recognised as easily mistaken for malaria.

This experience made him reflect on the symptoms he had seen in miners who daily handled ores containing Mercury. Their contact with Mercury caused them to suffer skin lesions and central nervous system disorders that could mistakenly be diagnosed for Syphilis. Yet, he noted, since the time of its introduction into medicine by Paracelsus, nearly three hundred years earlier, Mercury had become the principal treatment against Syphilis. He then hypothesised that a medicine might be able to heal a disease only if it can also produce those same disease symptoms when given at a toxic dosage to a previously healthy person.

Two hundred years later homeopaths have come to appreciate that this hypothesis is the fundamental law of all medicines and without exception. As Hahnemann quipped: "*Similia Similibus Curentur*" or 'Like cures Like'.

Hahnemann at mid-life became interested in the treatment of the insane and was the first person documented in European medicine able to restore sanity through medicines alone.

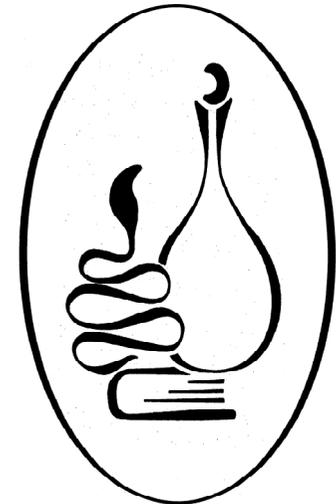
He was able to demonstrate that homeopathic medicines could be used as a prophylaxis in epidemic diseases such as diphtheria. During Napoleon's military retreat he took charge of 180 men who were wounded, struck with typhus and severely exhausted and malnourished having fought their way through a Russian winter. He was able to restore all but one back to health using only his new medicines.

In the European Cholera epidemics of 1831 and 1850 those afflicted suffered a 49% mortality rate, even when treated by doctors of the day. However the figure fell to between 4-16% if sufferers used the four medicines suggested by Hahnemann. He had never seen Cholera. He merely advised these medicines from the description of patients suffering sent to him in a letter by a Dutch doctor at the beginning of the 1831 outbreak! Hahnemann realized that his homeopathic law equally extended to the curing of mental and emotional symptoms as much as physical ones.

When the homeopath Constantine Hering was collecting venom from the deadly Bushmaster Snake of South America. He accidentally spilled some venom on his hand. Subsequently he fell into a delirious fever and nearly died. During the fever Hering's wife, who was by his side, was to suffer constant jealous accusations from her husband. Only when Hering recovered and learnt of his unfounded outbursts, did he realize he had found a substance that would become one of the major medicines to alleviate jealousy in the homeopathic pharmacopoeia, when prepared in infinitesimal amounts.

Homeopathy truly proudly boasts it is able to treat the whole person.

## HOMEOPATHY EXPLAINED



**Homeopaths are available at:**

**The Hierophant**

**6 Barker Street**

**Griffith ACT 2603**

**Ph: (02) 6295 6939**

## What is Homeopathy?

Homeopathy is a system of medicine that was developed in the 18th Century by a German physician and chemist, Samuel Hahnemann.

Hahnemann noted, through years of observation, that a patient's illness could be cured by giving that patient a substance that was capable of generating the same symptoms in a previously healthy person.

For example, coffee stimulates the nervous system and the production of urine. A homeopathic dose of coffee can cure a patient troubled with unusual mental activity and sleeplessness, together with excessive urine production.

In the last 200 years its effectiveness has been clearly established and today homeopathy is used worldwide. It has proven successful in the treatment of chronic illness, acute conditions, emotional and mental disorders and even epidemic situations.

## How does Homeopathy differ from conventional medicine?

Conventional medicine is based on a concept of diseases and agents that cause such disease ( e.g. bacteria, viruses) and the resulting pathological or physiological changes. Treatment aims to destroy these agents and relieve symptoms.

However, Homoeopathy views all symptoms as indication of an underlying state of ill health that affects the whole person, not just one or two body systems.

Treatment acts as a catalyst, stimulating and directing the body's own healing energy towards the resolution of states of imbalance, disorder or disease.

## What does a visit to a Homoeopath involve?

The consultation may take up to an hour, You will be asked questions relation to your physical symptoms and past medical history.

You may also be asked about your eating habits, sleep patterns, lifestyle and some of your mental and emotional characteristics. A physical examination may be conducted according to the particular needs of your case.

You should bring any medical reports of scans or x-rays if you still have them, and pharmaceutical medication.

## What type of medicine will you be given?

Homeopathic medicines are derived form plant, animal and mineral sources. They are prepared following strict homeopathic pharmaceutical guidelines and can be given as liquid or globules. The remedy given may contain little or none of the original physical matter it was derived from. However, the energy of the original substance does imprint itself on the lactose base of the tablet, or alcohol liquid and causes a stimulating and healing effect on the body.

You may be given a single dose or doses repeated. Although the globules containing these medicines are small and colourless they are very powerful and should only be taken exactly as prescribed. Where illness has developed over a long time, several successive remedies may be needed during the course of weeks, months or years.

## Are there any side effects?

Unlike conventional pharmaceutical medicines ,natural medicines do not cause unwanted side effects if correctly chosen. However, healing can occur in different ways for each individual. Some begin with an increased feeling of wellbeing even though symptoms initially remain. Occasionally past symptoms temporarily recur as further healing takes place in areas only partially healed previously.

Some patients may even experience a temporary aggravation of their symptoms before an improvement as their body eliminates poisons. You should ring your practitioner immediately if you experience any exaggeration of your present symptoms or if any new distressing symptoms occur so that he or she may modify the strength or dosage of your prescription.

## Can Homoeopathic remedies can be taken along with conventional medicines?

Homoeopathic remedies can be taken with your regular medication. However, you should be aware that as your condition heals you need to progressively review you conventional medicine with your doctor. The healthier you become the less you need!

## Taking your medicines

The globules melt in the mouth. They should be taken away from food or drink and not be taken immediately after alcohol, coffee or toothpaste. Store away from heat and strong smelling substances such a perfume, mentholated liniments and camphor.