

CERTIFIED HOMEOPATHIC ONLINE COURSE - SESSION 2:

- Like Cures Like
- Treating the Whole Person
- Finding the Simillium

Homeopathy – Like Cures Like

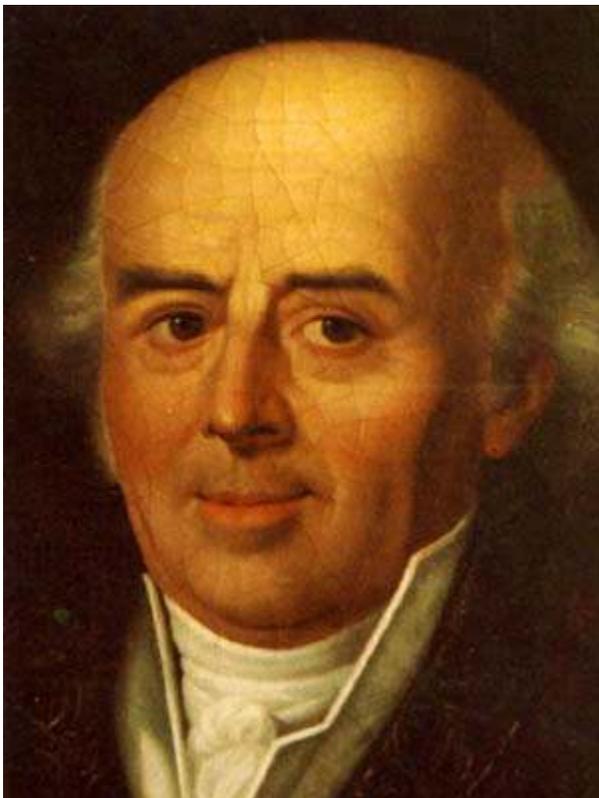
Homeopathy, from Greek *homoeo* (meaning similar) and *pathos* (meaning suffering) is a system of medicine based on treating like with like. The same principle is widespread in mainstream medicine, the most notable examples being antidotes and vaccines.

However, Homeopathy takes this premise a step further:

If my symptoms produce an effect on me *similar* to a tarantula's bite, then tarantula venom would be my homeopathic treatment, even though I've not actually been bitten by a tarantula.

The theory that like can be treated with like can be traced back as far as Hypocrites (468 -377 BC), but it wasn't until the work of Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) that the theory developed into a usable practice.

Dr. Samuel Christian Frederic Hahnemann, M.D.



Samuel Hahnemann (1755 – 1843) was the founder of Homeopathy. He established the fundamental principles of the science and art of Homoeopathy.

He is called the Father of Experimental Pharmacology because he was the first physician to prepare medicines in a specialized way; proving them on healthy human beings, to determine how the medicines acted to cure diseases. Before Hahnemann, medicines were given on speculative indications, mainly on the basis of authority without experimental verification.

Hahnemann discovered the remedial powers of drugs and inert substances such as gold, platinum, silica, vegetable charcoal, lycopodium, etc. By preparing the medicines through potentization, these inert and insoluble substances became soluble in alcohol or water and were charged with medicinal force.

Dr. Hahnemann espoused the law of cure known as “Similia Similibus Curentur”, or “Like Cures Like”. This means that a remedy that produces symptoms in a healthy person will cure those same symptoms when manifested by a person in a diseased state. This law of cure has been verified by millions of homoeopaths all over the world since the time of Hahnemann.

Hahnemann discovered the primary and secondary actions of remedies. The primary action results from the first encounter between the vital force and the external agent,

and the secondary action is a result of the vital force's reaction to the symptoms of that primary encounter. This discovery led him to the curative powers of poisonous substances.

Dr. Hahnemann described the different aspects of 'acute' and 'chronic' diseases. Acute diseases are transitory; they have a beginning and an end, whereas the chronic diseases are co-existent with life. Either they are present in a manifest or a latent state. From this work came the chronic miasms of Psora, Syphilis, and Sycosis.

Dr. Hahnemann was the progenitor of several modern medical approaches. Deeming the treatment of insane patients to be cruel and harmful, he advised a humane treatment for the insane. He cured many insane patients with homeopathy, and became famous for this success.

Dr. Hahnemann was quick to recognize poor hygiene as a contributory cause to the spread of disease. His success with cholera and typhoid fever was in part due to this recognition. Hahnemann also emphasized the importance of nursing, diet, bed rest, and isolation of patients during epidemic diseases. Hahnemann described 'Noxious' principles as the precursors of certain disease states.

Hahnemann's three major publications illumine the development of homeopathy. In the *Organon of Medicine* (revised six times), we see the fundamentals laid out. *Materia Medica Pura* records the exact symptoms of the remedy provings. In his book, "*The Chronic Diseases, Their Peculiar Nature and Their Homoeopathic Cure*", he showed us how the natural diseases become chronic in nature when suppressed by improper treatment.

Dr. Hahnemann treated thousands of difficult and chronic cases that defied the best care from allopaths all over Europe. Thus, he became so famous that physicians from Europe and America came to him for coaching in the new science and art of healing, called Homoeopathy.

Hahnemann's provings consisted in giving doses of various substances to both himself and his healthy volunteers, and noting the effects in detail. For safety reasons, the substances taken were very dilute, and it is here that Hahnemann chanced upon one of the more puzzling aspects of Homeopathy. The more dilute a homeopathic medicine is, the more effective it is in treating illness.

James Tyler Kent

Hahnemann's work was continued by James Tyler Kent in 1877-78. Kent's interest in Homoeopathic medicine was prompted by his wife's serious illness, which failed to respond to any other form of medicine available at the time. Kent's position as Professor of Anatomy (at the American Medical College, St. Louis) placed him perfectly to observe the effects of substances in precise detail. Kent's research into Homeopathy became his life's work, and he conducted provings on some 650 materials, observing over 64,000 symptoms. Even today, Kent's is still the most widely used repertory in Homeopathy.

The repertory used in this course's remedy finder is based on Kent's, with no additions, but some changes have been necessary in order to make its use easier for the modern day layman, including plain English Terminology, and categorizing symptoms where possible.

Classical Homeopathy - Treating the Whole Person

Classical Homeopathy is a holistic medicine; in other words it aims to treat the whole person. It may seem unusual to those used to allopathic (conventional) medicine, where one medicine is taken for a skin complaint, another for a headache, and yet another for sleeplessness.

If you use the remedy finder frequently, you may find that one particular remedy comes up time and time again for your complaints - however diverse they appear to be.

A common cold, for example, is one virus which produces a myriad of effects, subtly different in different people. Different people with a cold caused by the same virus may exhibit different symptoms. It is for this reason that each case should be assessed by close and careful analysis of all the relevant symptoms.

Classical Homeopathy - Finding the Simillimum

The Simillimum is the single substance which if given to a healthy person would produce exactly the same symptoms as exhibited by the patient.

In addition to the range of symptoms which must be included in a case to find the right homeopathic remedy, precision is also important. For example there are nearly 5,000 headaches in our symptom database; a different remedy may be prescribed depending on when symptoms occur, the type of pain, where in the head it is, what may have brought it on, what other symptoms are experienced, etc.

To find the simillimum manually would involve looking up each symptom, in detail, and producing a grid of remedies and their correlating symptoms, and from there, seeing which remedies occur most frequently and which are stronger for a given symptom.

The Technique of Finding the Simillimum

This section is focused on the technique of arriving at the simillimum in each case. Three pre-requisites in this exercise are:

1. To develop the ability to elicit all the relevant (individualizing, characteristic) symptoms of the client,
2. To know the peculiar individualizing symptoms of remedies (mental and physical generals) and,
3. The ability to identify the remedy whose "genius" or strong, guiding "pathogenetic effect" is a counterpart of the peculiar symptoms of the client.

Unless all these three aspects of the endeavor are practiced to work in unison, the results are bound to be indifferent. It is needless to state that all the three aspects are not exclusive, but are mutually supporting (synergetic). Skill in one aspect contributes to the skillful performance in the other two aspects.

Let us take a few cases and see how the three aspects are complementary and raise the success potential.

Case Study 1:

Mr. D, aged 56, complained of having sudden attacks of vertigo with falling for a few years. In fact during one such attack his fall resulted in cerebral hemorrhage, from which fortunately he recovered quickly, though his left side hearing was impaired. Under homoeopathic treatment he was feeling better with no episode of falling. Yet, his fears still persisted, and he felt as if he was being pushed from behind by a gust of wind. He also had fear of downward motion (descending stairs) as well as fear of being alone. Someone had to accompany him to protect him from falling. When going through the Synthetic Repertory, the three marked rubrics were at pages 500 (fear of falling), 495 (fear of downward motion), 477 (fear of being alone). All these fears were capped by the fear of failure (499). *Lac-can* was common to these rubrics. As we wanted to make sure that *Lac-can* was really going to be the simillimum, we asked him about his level of self-confidence. He said spontaneously with a sad, painful gesture that right from his childhood he was not brought up in an encouraging atmosphere. Though he was a bright student, his actual worth was not appreciated, and he was looked down upon (318). The result was that although he passed his Engineering degree with credit, he always had an anxiety whether he will succeed in life (fear of failure). This was indeed a case of *Lac-can*. The client has not needed another dose (after two doses of the remedy, 1M were given at 12 hourly intervals), though over eight months have elapsed. And he keeps on regularly reporting, and has not a single episode of the fear of falling.

Case Study 2:

A girl of seven was brought by her parents at 10.30 at night, on her father's shoulders, with the complaint that she had not eaten any food during the past two days, that she was sluggish. She looked stupefied and listless. We looked at the rubrics "indifferent to pleasure" (p 620), stupefaction (967), and found *Opium* as the common remedy. As it covered sleepiness also, we referred to Phataks materia medica which graphically described the child's condition, viz. "*Fi- acid*; wants nothing, says nothing ails him." There was no history of fright, or any such causation. *Opium* 10M one dose was given; and the child had very good sleep that night and got up cheerful as usual at 9 am. She took a couple of days to regain her appetite.

Conclusion:

When we find a remedy that correctly identifies the mental disposition and condition, which also matches with other peculiar physical symptoms, we can be sure of a rapid and long lasting (permanent) cure. The mind and body are two sides of the same coin and you can approach any of these aspects through the other. The more the knowledge of peculiar, outstanding features of remedies (both mental and physical), the easier and more accurate the prescriptions will be. Admittedly, it is difficult to remember the detailed symptomatology of even the leading remedies.

Hence, familiarization with the Rubrics in the repertory, is the only "easy and sure way out of this difficulty. This is the reason why devoted Homoeopaths are bringing out new and up-to-date repertories even surpassing Kent's which for beginners still, however, continues to be the best.

Use in the United States

According to the 2007 National Health Interview Survey, which included a comprehensive survey of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use by Americans, an estimated 3.9 million U.S. adults and approximately 900,000 children used homeopathy in the previous year.

People use homeopathy for a range of health concerns, from wellness and prevention, to the treatment of diseases and conditions such as allergies, asthma, chronic fatigue syndrome, depression, digestive disorders, ear infections, headaches, and skin rashes.

CERTIFIED HOMEOPATHY ONLINE COURSE - SESSION 2 – QUESTION & ANSWERS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP, PC: _____

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please be sure to fill out the information above, complete the test and e-mail or fax it back to us at iridology@netzero.net or 530-878-1119. We will grade your question & answer session and will let you know if we have any questions or concerns.

1. Go onto the web and find the HOMŒOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA by William BOERICKE, M.D. Click on the REPERTORY. Click on “stomach” then on “hyperacidity”. How many remedies are listed for hyperacidity of the stomach?
2. Acute diseases are co-existent with life; they have a beginning and an end, whereas chronic diseases are transitory. T/F? Why did you answer the way you answered?
3. The more dilute a homeopathic medicine is, the more effective it is in treating illness. T/F
4. What does it mean when we say it is holistic medicine?
5. To find the simillimum manually would involve what steps?

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6. Go back to the REPERTORY. In the search area type in: Fear of Being Alone. What remedies are listed? Why do you think these remedies came up in the search? What do each of these remedies have to do with the Fear of Being Alone?