

**ON THE UNIVERSALITY  
OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC  
LAW OF CURE**

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On the universality of the homœopathic law of cure by Charles Neidhard

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ON THE  
UNIVERSALITY  
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HOMŒOPATHIC  
LAW OF CURE,

BY

**CHARLES NEIDHARD, M.D.,**

FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE IN THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA—MEMBER OF THE FREE HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETY OF LEIPZIG—CORRESPONDENT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETIES OF VIENNA, PARIS, MUNICH, MASSACHUSETTS, ETC.

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## P R E F A C E .

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Hahnemann first promulgated his discovery of a new law of cure, in a very humble manner, in the year 1796 in Hufeland's Journal.

Seventy-seven years have elapsed since then, and this law has been adopted in their practice by a numerous body of educated physicians in all parts of the globe.

Some twenty-two years ago, by invitation of the Rhode Island Homœopathic Medical Society, we made an attempt to place the truth of this law on an impregnable and uncontrovertable basis.

Since then, numerous new facts have been collected by the lecturer and added to his former essay. In this renovated improved form, the lecture was delivered as a preliminary discourse to the students of the Homœopathic College of Pennsylvania, during the winter of 1872.

THE AUTHOR.

*Philadelphia, 1511 Arch St., March, 1874.*

At the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Homœopathic Society, holden in Providence, Wednesday, May 7th, 1851, Dr. Charles Neidhard, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, delivered the annual address. A large and discriminating audience listened with great interest and attention, to this, the first popular lecture on homœopathy ever delivered in Rhode Island. After the lecture, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the society:—

*Resolved*, That we offer our unanimous vote of thanks to Dr. C. Neidhard, for his able and interesting address delivered before us this evening, and that we request a copy of it for publication.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed by the Chair, (the Chair to consider himself one) to present the above vote to Dr. Neidhard, and in case of his acceptance, to make arrangements for the publication of his address.

Drs. Okie, Preston, Barrows, D'Wolf and Hoppin were appointed the committee; whereupon the following correspondence then took place:—

PROVIDENCE, *May 7th, 1851.*

DR. C. NEIDHARD:

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned are appointed a committee, by the Rhode Island Homœopathic Society, to offer you their unanimous vote of thanks, for your able and interesting address, delivered before them this evening, and to request a copy of it for publication.

Heartily coinciding with the above vote of the society, we beg leave to add our individual requests, that an address, so useful to the cause of homœopathy, may have a more extended circulation, together with the very high consideration, with which we are, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. OKIE, M.D., H. C. PRESTON, M.D., IRA BARROWS, M.D., J. J. D'WOLF, M.D., W. HOPPIN, M.D.,	}	Committee.
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The following was returned by Dr. Neidhard:

PROVIDENCE, *May 7th, 1851.*

MESSRS. A. H. OKIE, H. C. PRESTON, ETC., Committee:—

GENTLEMEN:—I cannot but feel highly gratified that my address was so favorably received by your society, and by yourselves. It was written for you, at your request, and although I cannot but believe that you have over estimated its influence upon the cause, still I can but comply with the wishes of the society, so flatteringly expressed.

Accept, gentlemen, for the society and for yourselves individually, my kind regards,

CHARLES NEIDHARD.

## EXTRACTS FROM NOTICES.

*A few words of explanation to my Critics of the Universality of the Homœopathic Law, by C. N.*

The *British Journal of Homœopathy*, in its criticism "On the Universality of the Homœopathic Law," says: "It is rather an example of perverted ingenuity to attempt to trace the working of the Homœopathic Law in the department of morals, politics, education, agriculture, chemistry and physics. Of course far-fetched analogies may be found everywhere, and even among the most unlike things, but the discovery of such analogies belongs more to the art of the poet than to that of the physician, and we do not believe that any one was ever really converted to doctrines in one department of philosophy, science, art, or religion, by the most ingenious analogies drawn from other departments. So that, with all respect for Dr. Neidhard, we fancy his ingenuity in this essay is rather misplaced, and we must express our decided preference for his contributions to practical medicine, of which he has furnished us with many brilliant specimens."

The main purpose in publishing this second edition of my essay, was a desire to demonstrate as far as lay in my power, to the still unbelieving host of old school physicians, and also to the intelligent laity, the divine origin and universality of this wonderful Homœopathic Law of Cure.

The main body of these physicians has run aground in the belief that homœopathy is merely an ingenious invention of a talented but visionary physician—Hahnemann. They firmly believe that, like the expectant method of Stahl, the strictum and laxum theories of Hoffman, the humoralism of Boerhave, and later the contrastimulus of Brown, the Broussaian doctrine of inflammation of the mucous tissue, like hydropathy and the many other pathies, homœopathy will have its day and then pass away, in order to make room for a new delusion. They are convinced that all the seceders from the ranks of the old school will in time return to their *alma mater* and be glad to forget their previous errors. The little good that is in the homœopathic doctrine will be accepted by them and incorporated with the old school maxims.

In republishing this essay with very copious additions and alterations, it has almost become a new work. I have endeavoured to show to these unbelievers that this Homœopathic Law is a great and



universal fact and of much greater significance than was ever conceived by them. *It is the long sought law in medical art, and does not stand isolated, but is in harmony with the whole cycle of human existence.* The facts here adduced are by no means "far-fetched," as my critic avers, but presented themselves almost spontaneously to my mind. The more I penetrated into the mysteries of this law, the clearer became my vision with regard to its universal application. I have no doubt that the best minds of the old school cannot fail of being struck by the truthfulness and striking character of these analogies.

Even the homœopathic physician, however practical may be his mind, and convinced as he may be of the main importance of applying this law at the bedside, will still see the advantage of these investigations. They place his doctrine even in theory, fortified by innumerable facts, on a stronger basis.

As far as my observation has gone, the ideas here advanced have opened the eyes of many cultivated minds to the first glimmering of homœopathic truth, and finally to the vast importance and wide range of its doctrines.—*Journal of Homœopathic Materia Medica.*

We will not indulge in a lengthy discussion of Dr. Neidhard's readable and suggestive essay, now in the second pamphlet edition, but by placing it first in our reviews, thus call attention to it. It is another essentially popular pamphlet, of which many more should be disseminated among the people.—*New England Medical Gazette.*

This lecture will not fail to interest all readers, and homœopathic physicians are under obligation to the author for placing at their command so many forcible illustrations of the Law of Cure.—*Journal of the Homœopathic Materia Medica.*

Dr. Neidhard has certainly handled his subject in a masterly manner, and his essay is well worthy of the attention of all students of medical science.—*Evening Telegraph.*

Dr. Neidhard presents a singularly clear statement of the homœopathic theory of medicine, and he makes out a very strong case for it.— — —

It will give many readers a much clearer idea of what homœopathy is, and what is the nature of its claims, than can readily be obtained from any other easily accessible source.—*Evening Bulletin.*

This essay will be found interesting reading even by those who do not accept the authors conclusions. He has brought together a large amount of curious and entertaining matter in illustration of his subject.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

It is certainly a very able and ingenious argument, and will interest all students of homœopathy, and all who desire to know more of this subject.—*Herald of Health.*

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It seems late in the day to appear as an advocate of the truth of the Homœopathic Law of Cure.

In view however of the entire unbelief of its validity by many eminent and worthy physicians, it becomes clearly our duty to make another attempt to examine its pretensions. Most people when thinking or speaking of homœopathy always have in their mind's eye, the infinitesimal doses, as if homœopathy was entirely involved in them.

It is true—homœopathy generally requires smaller doses than the old school, but it is by no means the most salient point in its doctrines; for we can also cure with large doses as Hahnemann did at the beginning of his homœopathic career.

The prevailing practice of medicine, having acknowledgingly no law to guide it in the selection of its remedies for the cure of diseases, it becomes the duty of every physician, no matter to what school he may belong, to examine the pretensions of homœopathy with regard to the universality of its curative law.

The doctrine that many diseases are caused by vibriones

and vegetable growths, has much futurity in it. But even if that doctrine be true, the different influences on which these growths depend will require the use of the homœopathic law for their eradication.

There have been of late few direct attacks against the homœopathic doctrine or practice.

Its influence upon the old school is daily visible. Examine the present prescriptions of the most noted practitioners and compare them with those some thirty or forty years ago, you will be struck with the great changes which have taken place. The simplicity of the modern formulas is evident.

If this state of things is not produced by the influence of the homœopathic school, what other influence is it owing to? Some physicians of the old school admit to the homœopathic practice a conditional value. Professor Sidney Ringer of London University has accepted in his work on *Materia Medica* all the best homœopathic remedies, without acknowledging the source from which he received his information.

What we wish and must endeavor to establish and to place on the firmest foundation, by overpowering testimony from all sources, is the "*Universality of the Homœopathic Law.*"

Not only has medical science furnished us innumerable facts in elucidation of this law, but also chemistry, anatomy, agriculture and particularly the various operations of the human mind.

*If this fundamental law can be overthrown, then homœopathy, as a science, is as good as lost. If it is not a universal law of cure, that will shorten the natural course of diseases, that will mitigate more permanently the pains of disease than any other method of cure, it will not deserve our respect nor our study.*

But if this law be once placed on a firm basis, beyond the doubt even of the most sceptical, its universal adoption by the scientific world cannot be far distant.