

**ORGANON OF  
HOMOEOPATHIC  
MEDICINE**

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Organon of Homoeopathic Medicine by Samuel Hahnemann

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**SAMUEL HAHNEMANN**

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Aude sapere.

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FIRST AMERICAN.  
*From the British Translation of the fourth German Edition,*  
WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS FROM THE FIFTH, BY THE NORTH AMERICAN  
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## ADVERTISEMENT.

One of the first occasions which led to the publication of the present edition of the *Organon*, was the express desire of Hahnemann that an enlarged and improved English version of it, from the fifth German edition, might appear in the United States. With the view of fulfilling, as much as possible, every just demand, the Academy entrusted the revision of the following work, to several gentlemen, and would here express their particular obligations to Constantine Hering, M. D., Chas. F. Matlack, M. D., of Philadelphia, and to Messrs. J. Radcliffe and A. Bauer, for services rendered in its preparation.

JNO. ROMIG, M. D.,

*Chairman of the Board of Directors.*

Academy of the Homœopathic Healing Art. }  
Allentown, Pa. October, 1836. }





## PREFACE TO THE BRITISH EDITION.

An accidental interview with a Russian physician, in the year 1828, made me acquainted for the first time with the medical doctrine of homœopathy; the principle of which is, that certain medicines when administered internally in a healthy state of the system produce certain effects, and that the same medicines are to be used when symptoms similar to those which they give rise to occur in disease. This doctrine, directly opposite to that which hitherto formed the basis of medical practice in these countries, attracted my attention. I immediately procured Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura*, in which the doctrine is partially explained, with the view of investigating the system experimentally, and reporting my observations thereon, free from theory, prejudice, or party. The first enquiry was, whether the proposition *similia similibus curentur* was true. This investigation was confined to a single substance at a time. To ascertain the effects of sulphate of quinine, healthy individuals were selected, to whom grain doses of the medicine were administered three times a day. After using it for some days, stomach-sickness, loss of appetite, a sense of cold along the course of the spine, rigour, heat of skin, and general perspiration succeeded. Effects similar to these are often observed when this medicine is injudiciously selected in the treatment of disease. It sometimes happens, that the symptoms of ague are aggravated by the prolonged use of sulphate of quinia, and soon after it is withdrawn the disease gradually subsides. The result of experiments and observations on this remedy elucidate its homœopathic action.

Mercurial preparations, when administered internally, pro-

duce symptoms local and constitutional so closely resembling the poison of lues venerea that medical practitioners who have spent many years in the investigation of syphilis find it very difficult, nay, in some instances, impossible, (guided by the appearances,) to distinguish one disease from the other. Of all the medicines used in the treatment of lues, mercury is the only one that has stood the test of time and experience. Let us, then, compare the effects of syphilis with those of mercury :— The venereal poison produces on the skin, pustules, scales, and tubercles. Mercury produces directly the same defecations of the skin. Syphilis excites inflammation of the periosteum and caries of the bones. Mercury does the same. Inflammation of the iris from lues is an every-day occurrence; the same disease is a very frequent consequence of mercury. Ulceration of the throat is a common symptom in syphilis; the same affection results from mercury. Ulcers on the organs of reproduction are the result of both the poison and the remedy; and furnish another proof of the doctrine *similia similibus*.

Nitric acid is generally recommended in cutaneous diseases; the internal use of this remedy, in a very dilute form, produces scaly eruptions over the surface of the body; and the external application of a solution, in the proportion of one part acid to one hundred and twenty-eight parts of water, will produce inflammation and ulceration of the skin. These observations would lead to the conclusion, that nitric acid cures cutaneous diseases by the faculty it possesses of producing a similar disease of the skin. Nitrate of potash administered internally in small doses, produces a frequent desire to pass water, accompanied with pain and heat. When this state of the urinary system exists as a consequence of disease, or the application of a blister, a very dilute solution of the same remedy has been found beneficial.

The ordinary effects of hyoscyamus niger are vertigo, deli-

rium, stupefaction, and somnolency. Where one or other of these diseased states exists, it yields to small doses of the tincture of this plant. The internal use of hyoscyamus is followed by mental aberration, the leading features of which are jealousy, and irascibility. When these hallucinations exist, this remedy is indicated.

Opium in general causes drowsiness, torpor, and deep sleep, and yet this remedy in small doses removes these symptoms when they occur in disease.

Sulphur is a specific against itch; notwithstanding which, when it is administered to healthy individuals it frequently excites a pustular eruption resembling itch in every particular.

These observations corroborate the statements of our author as to the value and importance of homœopathy, and were not the limits of a preface too confined I could bring forward the actual experiments from which these deductions have been drawn.

On the subject of small doses of medicines a few observations will suffice.

A mixture composed of one drop of hydrocyanic acid and eight ounces of water, administered in a drachm dose, has produced vertigo and anxious breathing. Vomiting has followed the use of the sixteenth of a grain of emetic tartar; narcotism, the twentieth of a grain of muriate of morphia; and spirit of ammonia, in doses of one drop, acts on the system as a stimulant.

On the homœopathic attenuation of medicines, many are sceptical, and presume that the quantity of the article extant in the dose, cannot produce a medicinal effect. I refer to the pages of the Organon for an elucidation of this proposition,