

HOMOEOPATHY IN AMERICA: A REMINISCENCE

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A part of the 1972 International Homoeopathic Congress Program in Brussels was to discuss paragraphs 153 and 154 in the Organon. The advance notice of the Congress that was sent out mentions this in three languages, which is of special interest to me, as a person who was born in France, raised in Germany, and now lives in America.

Subsequently to reading paragraphs 153 and 154 in depth, I then consulted several of the main translations and editions of the Organon. Fortunately I was able to use one of the oldest Organon's from 1824 in German to the most modern and most understandable, the one written in French by Dr. Pierre Schmidt in 1952. It is my good fortune to have his brother, Dr. Roger Schmidt, as a long time friend and colleague in San Francisco. He graciously loaned me his french copy of the Organon for comparison.

Since I am one of the youngest homoeopathic physicians in California, I had the opportunity to inherit parts of various homoeopathic libraries from doctors who have died since I came to California. People who live according to the homeopathic principles usually live longer than the average population. That is why I am able to be in continuous conversation with a few octogenarians of homeopathic lineage as Mrs. Boericke Bowie, and Dr. Franklin Cookinham both living in San Francisco. Small wonder I became interested in the fascinating history of homeopathy in the United States.

It might be of interest to you that the presently used 6th German edition of the Organon revised by Hahnemann in the year 1842 in his original fine handwriting is in the possession and under the permanent custody of the Homoeopathic Foundation of California in San Francisco. This treasured book at the present time is in the guarded and locked rare book section of the University of California Library, where Dr. Guttentag, the last professor of homeopathy at the University of California, is happy to show it to any interested visitor coming to see us in California.

The adventurous travels of this original fifth German edition, which as you can see was altered by Hahnemann into a sixth edition (slides, shown) began in Paris after his death, when his wife, Madame Melanie, jealously guarded it and allowed no one to read or edit it. After Melanie's death the book came down to Hahnemann's adopted daughter by Melanie, who was married to v. Boeninghausen's son, a physician. The latter, in contrast to his father who only had a medical license bestowed on him by royal decree of King Frederick William IV, was a fully trained medical doctor who practised first in Paris, where the book we are talking about survived the French war of 1870-71. Subsequently, when the v. Boeninghausens returned to their

native homeland Westphalia the revered and treasured rare handwritten book was again exposed to war and occupation in World War I.

The two great and powerful homoeopathic physicians of San Francisco of yesteryear, Dr. James Ward and Dr. William Boericke, were trailing the book like real western scouts and together they searched for the book in 1891 in Germany. But the Boeninghausen family jealously guarded their revered possession. The latest 6th edition of the Organon by Dr. Hahnemann could not be published until the 1920's when Richard Haehl (1873-1932) edited the presently used last edition of the Organon in German.

Dr. Ward and Dr. Boericke had offered the family \$1000.00 in 1891, and nothing was heard from this offer until April 10, 1920 when a swift exchange of the book was triggered by a cable from Stuttgart for a total of \$6000.00 and expenses took place, via a bank in New York, through the able intervention of Dr. Haehl in Stuttgart. The Boeninghausen family apparently through unfortunate circumstances at the end of World War I, and the resulting economic inflation in Germany were compelled to sell, and the homoeopathic physicians gained many richer new insights from studying the last edition.

The original sixth edition of the Organon was used by Dr. William Boericke, when he was professor of Homoeopathy at the University of California in Berkeley in the excellent English translation that he made of it. I was given a copy of this by his son, Doctor Charles Boericke (copy shown to the audience).

The quintessence of paragraphs 153 and 154 is to match the totality of symptoms of the sick person with a similar drug picture, giving enough attention to the general symptoms, but a preference to the strange and peculiar symptoms. The more points scored from the list of peculiar symptoms the more likely is the remedy chosen to be successful in curing the patient's illness. The nicest demonstration I found in Nash's book for these mechanics.

What Hahnemann called "Zichen-Inbegriff" in 1824, Pierre Schmidt named l'ensemble des symptomes in 1954. Dr. R. E. Dudgeon, named it collective symptoms between 1833 to 1849 when translating the fifth edition into English. Dr. Conrad Wesselhöft of Boston, gave it the name "totality of symptoms" in 1875. Furthermore, the adjectives for "peculiar" in German in Hahnemann's early language such as, auffallend, sonderlich, ungemain, eigentlich, charakteristisch, are given in Dudgeon's English translation as: striking, singular, uncommon, peculiar. Wesselhöft calls them prominent, while Doctor Pierre Schmidt describes with "les plus frappants," les plus originaux, les plus inusités, et les plus personels."

Enough of the semantics.

I quoted Wesselhöft a few times. He and his family belong to the founding fathers of homeopathy in America, where the early spreading and blooming of Dr. Hahnemann's Doctrine of Similia therapy made an incredible upsurge and rise not seen in any other country of the world during this

period. Allow me to mention a few names. The first man who brought homeopathy to America was Dr. Hans Burch Gram, born 1786 in Boston, he returned to his family's country Denmark to study medicine, became a surgeon in Napoleon's army, and adopted homeopathy in Germany from Hahnemann and his apostles. He returned to United States, settled in New York where he practised medicine. In 1825 he published: "Geist der homeopathischen Heillehre," and founded the colony of the homeopathic physicians in New York. He died in 1840. (Facsimile of his first publication shown to audience).

At the same time Dr. Henry Detwiller was born in Basel, Switzerland, 1795, and studied medicine in Würzburg, and had familiarised himself with Hahnemann's philosophy. He came to Philadelphia in 1877 and practised medicine. He is credited with making the first homeopathic prescription in Pennsylvania in 1828.

The homeopathic colonies in the United States were supplied with homeopathic literature and material by Dr. Stapf in Germany and Dr. Siegrist in Switzerland, whose names together with Rëickert, Jahr, Grauvogle and Boennighausen made up the original core of Hahnemannian teaching.

Dr. Dettwiller died in 1885 at the mature "homeopathic" age of 90 years.

Now come the Wesselhöfts from the Fromman publishers in Jena who were acquaintances of Goethe. The two brothers William and Robert became homeopathic physicians and as members of the liberty movement Burschenschaft in Germany had to leave after attempting to be surgeons to the Philhellenes. In 1827 William Wesselhöft came to America, practising first in Pennsylvania. Both brothers finally settled in Boston as physicians in 1835. They had equally prominent sons Conrad and William Palmer Wesselhöft who went through Harvard Medical school. Dr. Conrad Wesselhöft's translation in 1875 of the fifth edition of the Organon into American English is carried out in clearcut short sentences different from Dudgeon and independent of Hahnemann's style and phraseology. He remarked that "the requirements of the American student of homeopathy are not of the same character as those of the English student for whom Dr. Dudgeon would suffice," quite a snobbish statement.

The strongest promoter of early homeopathy in America was Constantine Hering whom you all well know. He was born on January 1, 1800 in Oschatz near Dresden, studied medicine and graduated at Wurzburg, using as his thesis "The Old Man Is The Perfect Man."

You all recall that Dr. Hering was converted to homeopathy when his professor asked him to write a condemnation of homeopathy. In order to clinch his arguments he decided to use some direct quotations from Hahnemann's writings. The result of his reading convinced him of the truth of the Similia Principles. After six years on a government post in Surinam in South America where he was nourished by Stapf from the archives fur die homeopatische Heilkunst, he resigned from civil services, and practised homeopathy

in Paramaribo. Here is where he proved and described Lachesis as a medicine. In January 1833 he came to North America. On Hahnemann's birthday in April of the same year he co-founded the Philadelphia Hahnemann Society where he gave a speech entitled: "A Concise View of the Rise and Prognosis of Homeopathic Medicine," which was translated into English, and established the second homeopathic publication in America. Dr. Hering died in Philadelphia in 1880.

The Homeopathic Academy was founded in 1833 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and faltered in 1836, when the famous Hahnemann College was started in Philadelphia. The American Institute of Homeopathy was founded in 1844 in Philadelphia. Dr. Dettwiller visited Hahnemann in Paris at this time. Hahnemann gave him a bust of himself done by David Banger for this occasion, which was lost on the sea voyage in a ship wreck.

Nevertheless, in 1905, a Hahnemann Monument was erected in his honor on Scott Circle in Washington D.C. commemorating Hahnemann's 150th birthday.

The shortness of time forbids more history. Just a few publications.

In early American Homeopathy the German homeopathic literature was used. Naturally the translations by the British physicians, Dudgeon, Wheeler and Richard Hughes including the *Materia Medica Pura* and John H. Clarke's *Dictionary of Materia Medica* was circulated. Also the translations from French homeopaths such as Teste and Jousset into English were widely used.

But when Hering came out with 10 volumes of his *Guiding Symptoms* in 1879 complemented by the *Repertory* of his son-in-law Dr. Knerr in Philadelphia in 1879, and by Dr. Farrington's *Condensed Materia Medica* and by Dr. Gross's *Comparative Materia Medica* based on Hering's *Guiding Symptoms*, a standard work in English was established.

Dr. Charles Hempel of Philadelphia (1811-1879) translated the *Chronic Diseases* in 1845 and the *Lesser Writings* in 1851 into good English. He also translated Jahr and Rackert, edited by Radde, New York and later by Boericke and Tafel, Philadelphia.

To name a few more authors who attained great reputations: Dr. James Tyler Kent (1849-1917) with his *Repertory* of 1877, which was revised several times, translated in numerous languages and I am sure is on the desk of each of you back home in your office. Also known was Kent's purist philosophy and doctrine of high potency, teaching first at the Chicago Hering Homeopathic College and later at the Hahnemann College of Chicago.

I would like to mention Nash with his small books called *Leaders in Homeopathy on Different Subjects*.

H. C. Allen born in 1836 in Canada was an author and teacher at the Hering College in Chicago.

Dr. Wood, a homeopathic gynecologist also teacher at the Chicago Homeopathic College. There are several small sized books of great help to us; Dr. Bell on diarrhea, King on headaches, and many others. From my

town, San Francisco, I can report a perpetuation of the Homeopathic Foundation with its recently modernised Hahnemann Hospital. On what was formerly the Homeopathic College of the Pacific several authors and professors of homeopathy were teachers. These included Dr. Samuel Lilienthal in 1890, his son Dr. James Lilienthal in 1907, Dr. Thomas McGavack, Dr. H. R. Arndt from Southern California, Dr. James W. Ward whose book "Sensations as if" still is used. I must mention Dr. William Boericke's Manual of the Materia Medica, which is precisely a pocket manual in the true sense, and is handled by all of us homeopathic physicians daily on both sides of the Atlantic ocean building a sort of a spiritual NAHO (North Atlantic Homeopathic Organization). To mention this might be the appropriate here in Brussels, however, William Boericke's Pocket Manual use busts the frame of the North Atlantic because you can find it on the desk of our Indian confreres as well as in Buenos Aires or in Hongkong. This little book makes us real brothers in Homeopathy and I am proud to be a friend of the distinguished Boericke family.

Finally I want to mention another old timer Timothy Field Allen, Professor and author in New York who wrote a ten volume Encyclopedia of the Materia Medica which are very large books. His middle name Field points to his relative Dr. Field who invented the Lochkartensystem or punch card box with 6400 cards which could serve as precursor to computerised findings of the similimum, one tape for generalities, another tape for peculiarities.

And herewith I return to the paragraphs 153 and 154 in the light of the IBM machines for Datenverwertung.

Honored confreres:

The purpose of this paper was two fold. First, I wanted to give you a small impression of the early homeopathic activity in the United States. Secondly, I read the famous paragraphs 153 and 154 sixty-three times in our three languages, and tried to convey some of its semantics to you, thus lessening your burden to study it. If you have gained a new insight into the historical developments of the Organon, we are both the richer for this experience.

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ALARMING TRENDS IN HOMOEOPATHY IN INDIA

(Continued from page 3)

may be considered complete. Homoeopathy rests not upon theory nor opinion but upon facts. Allopathy concerns us very little, its way and that of Homoeopathy have long since parted. Homoeopathy pure and simple is all that is desired in the cure of the sick, that the law is universal, and failures can only come from the ignorance of the prescriber.