

Homeopathy



A Short History of Medicine

2000 B.C. "Here, eat this root."

1000 B.C. "That root is heathen, say this prayer."

1850 A.D. "That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."

1940 A.D. "That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."

1985 A.D. "That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."

2005 A.D. "That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root."

New clients often ask "*What is homeopathy?*"

In this month's article, I will summarize the ideas of early philosophers and physicians, those who presented ideas as the foundation of homeopathy.

The foundation of homeopathy was built on the principle that "like cured like". This principle came to be known as the "*Law of Similiars*".

Medicine in early times was largely intuitive. Science and pharmacology were not disciplines that had been developed yet. Men, who trained as physicians, were also philosophers, as they had to think, ponder and observe how and why disease occurred and how it was cured.

In ancient Greece, the great philosopher and physician "*Hippocrates*", recognized the natural ability of the body to heal itself. He made reference in his writings to the fact that "*the symptoms of a disease were an expression of nature's healing*". For his work, he is referred to as the "*Father of Medicine*".

Although the term "*homeopathy*" was not yet chosen, the basic principle was recognized by Hippocrates around 300 BC when he wrote, "*By similar things a disease is produced and through the application of the like, it is cured.*"

Aristotle, another great philosopher of that era stated, "*The simile acts upon the simile*".

Through early AD time, there continued to be those physicians who upheld the belief that "like cured like". Galen, a prominent Greek physician who gained great recognition in medicine in the early first century, wrote of "*natural cure of the likes*".

Medicine over the next several centuries developed slowly, however, during the 15th and 16th centuries, medicine as a scientific study began making new inroads.

During this time, a Swiss doctor, "Theophrastus Von Bombast", a man soon to be known by the name of "*Paracelsus*" for his opposition to his colleagues, believed "*sames must be cured by sames*".

By the early 17th century, medicine relied on purgative methods of treatment to draw disease from the body. Such methods included bloodletting and various other poisonous nostrums. Many of these treatments produced terrible side effects, effects similar to the "*over use*" of certain allopathic medicines prescribed in our modern world today.

Fortunately, there were physicians such as Dr George Stahl who continued to believe in the principle of "sames being cured by sames". Dr Stahl wrote, "*To treat with opposite acting remedies is the reverse of what it ought to be. I am convinced that disease will yield to, and be cured by, remedies that produce similar affections!*"

These principles remained simply ideas for most of the 17th century.

The concept of "*sames being cured by sames*" remained undeveloped.

For two thousand years, these principles were known yet never used in practice or subject to any conclusive study.

Building on the foundation of these early philosophers and physicians, a brilliant German physician by the name of Samuel Hahnemann, (born in 1755), dedicated his life to the development of what became known as today's modern system of Homeopathy.