

H. R. Arndt

1912 - What Homoeopathy Is

“1. Homoeopathy represents the application of a natural law (*similia similibus curantur*, similars may be cured by similars) to the treatment of disease. If a drug, in a non-fatal dose, is taken into the human system, it causes a temporary illness. Experience has shown that the same drug, in comparatively small doses, will cure a similar condition when found as a natural disease. This law was recognized by so old an authority as Hippocrates, but remained buried until somewhat more than a century ago under a lot of fanciful and useless speculations.

2. Homoeopathy is based upon the law of similarity, not of “sameness.” When a person is poisoned by opium, a little more opium, no matter in what form, will not help him. But when a person, sick from some other cause, presents symptoms which are similar to those of opium-poisoning, it is very probable that opium will be of benefit.

3. Homoeopathy has for a century been at work on the task of finding out, for the purpose of curing the sick, just what is the action of the many drugs upon the human organism. Aware of the fact that drugs often do not act upon animals as they do on human beings, all the experiments have been made upon human beings, preferably strong, healthy and intelligent men and women, often physicians, and these effects have been carefully recorded, compared and analyzed (“provings”). In the case of very many of these drugs, hundreds of such “provings” have been made in every civilized country in the world.

4. Homoeopathy, in making these provings, has been able to test and to demonstrate the soundness of the law of similars in every civilized country and among all civilized nations. By prescribing in the sick-room the drug capable of causing similar effects upon provers (see 3), undeniable curative results have invariably followed in curable cases of illness.

5. Homoeopathy thus has the advantage of resting upon a tangible, demonstrable basis which is not affected by the ever changing views concerning the causes and nature of diseases. It is a therapeutic certainty, and its lessons will be as reliable and full of meaning in a thousand years as they are to-day. Dr. S. Hahnemann, long before he had ever seen a case of Asiatic cholera, from a study of the symptoms of cholera and from his knowledge of the drugs capable of producing in the healthy human being symptoms which are similar to those of cholera, was able to point out the drugs which, in fact, when Asiatic cholera appeared in Europe, proved of startling efficiency.

6. Homoeopathy, by its uniformly satisfactory results when intelligently employed, gives to its practitioners a confidence in the value of drugs homoeopathically prescribed, and a directness of action in the sick-room, so far as the use of drugs is concerned, which is characteristic of the homoeopathic physician. The majority of physicians of other schools gradually grow less and less confident of the reliability of drugs; the homoeopathic prescriber, though he understands and uses other auxiliary agents as demanded by special conditions, uses his remedies with ever increasing confidence, and would not consent to practice without them. Is not this assurance a comfort to the sick?

7. Homoeopathy stands for liberality. The reliance it places upon the indicated remedy does not stand in the way of its utilizing every advance made in every department of medicine. In fact, since homoeopathy refers only to the use of drugs in the treatment of the sick, and does not claim to be a universal law, it stands to reason that homoeopathic physicians must keep

abreast of every advance made in the general field of medicine and surgery. Any other course would be suicidal.

8. Homoeopathy is the "therapeutics of the future." Much of its teaching, bitterly assailed in the past, has been tentatively accepted by all advanced practitioners of medicine, though rarely properly credited. Complicated and crude methods of prescribing drugs are no longer fashionable. Salivation has long been a thing of the past. Copious bleeding for every form of disease is no longer tolerated. Even the old-time monstrous doses of quinine have become the exception, when a few years ago they were the rule. Homoeopathy has been the great factor in bringing about all these changes. Not only this; recent laboratory work of the highest type has shown why the efficiency of matter is vastly increased by almost infinite subdivision (high attenuations of homoeopathy), and the latest therapeutics of the dominant school can be justified only upon the homoeopathic law. (v. Behring.)

9. Homoeopathy is in demand. Calls for homoeopathic physicians come from private and public hospitals and from communities in every part of the country. Not over ten per cent of these demands are met, because they outstrip the sources of supply. Study homoeopathy; rely upon it; it will not disappoint you!"

(H. R. Arndt, M.D., What Homoeopathy Is, The Homoeopathician (1912), p. 86-87)