

# History of Evolution of Hahnemannian Posology

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**Medical Definition of *posology*** - A branch of medical science concerned with dosage<sup>1</sup> By posology (from the Greek, posos, how much) we mean the science or doctrine of dosage.<sup>2</sup>

## Dose

**Definition of dose** - The measured quantity of a therapeutic agent to be taken at one time<sup>3</sup> German- Gabe, a giving Greek- dosis, a giving

That which is given or administered. Dose refers to the amount of medicinal substance that is administered. This includes both the medicine's potency (higher potencies giving less material and therefore being considered as small doses), number of globules given as well as repetition.<sup>4</sup>

## Potency

- Potencies are the result of potentisation. It is the product obtained after a drug is subjected to dilution and friction with a definite scale with a definite method.<sup>2</sup>
- Hahnemann writes in aphorism 278, in sixth edition of organon, '..... to determine for every particular medicine, what dose of it will suffice for homoeopathic therapeutics purposes- to solve this problem is not the work of theoretical speculation; not by fine spun reasoning, not by spacious sophistry, can we expect to obtain the solution for this problem. It is just as impossible as to tabulate in advance all imaginable cases. Pure experiment, careful observation of the sensitiveness of each patient, and accurate experience can alone determine this in each individual case'<sup>5</sup>

## Potentisation<sup>2</sup>

Homoeopathic potentiation is a mathematico-mechanical process for the reduction, according to scale, of crude, inert or poisonous medical substances to a state of physical solubility, physiological assimilability and therapeutic activity and harmlessness, for use as homoeopathic healing remedies.

## Significance of dose

- **Aphorism 3:** "If the physician clearly perceives ... as also in respect to the exact mode of preparation and quantity of it required (proper dose), and the proper period for repeating the dose and he is true practitioner of healing art"<sup>5</sup>
- Homoeopathy became practicable at the moment that discovery was made and not before<sup>2</sup>

## Why single simple medicine

- **Aphorism 272:** "in no case is it requisite to administer more than one single, simple medicinal substance at one time."<sup>5</sup>
- When we say single, it must of course be understood that we do not exclude the use of chemical compounds-like salts- or of vegetable product like opium, which analysis may find of complex constitution.<sup>6</sup>

## Why not double, complex medicine:

In 1797, Hahnemann made a strong attack on mixtures of medicines in his often quoted essay: "Are the obstacles to the attainment of simplicity and certainty in Practical Medicine insurmountable?" He wrote: The question now arises: Is it good to mix various kinds of medicines in a prescription? If the ideal is to raise medicine to a high standard, should we prescribe baths, clysters, venesections, blisters, fomentations; embrocations-all of these at the same time or shortly after another? Can we hope by the means to effect cures and learn exactly in every case what the medicine had achieved, so that it could be used again in similar cases with the same or even greater success?<sup>10</sup>

## History of Hahnemannian doses:

Before discovering the law of similars Hahnemann's medicinal treatment of his patients differed very slightly from that of other physicians. By his University training he was equipped with nothing different from the rest. In the young physician's publications of the seventies' and eighties' his prescriptions correspond in composition, weight and quantities with those of his contemporaries<sup>10</sup>.

Year Hahnemann	Article/journal n doses in initial days of	Directed doses his practice <sup>10</sup>	Repetition
1784	Directions for the cure of old sores and ulcers	5-50 grains (. 25-2.5 grams) of crude pulverised Antimony for the purification of the blood	daily
1784	Directions for the cure of old sores and ulcers	20-70 grains (1.0-3.5 grams) of Jalap root	Once a week.
1787		Conium maculatum (hemlock) 4 grains up to several quarter ounces.	In a daily increasing dose up to several quarter ounces.
1787		Belladonna 12-15 grains of the powdered leaves and roots	Every other day.
1787		and Digitalis, from the juice of the freshly crushed leaves, a half to a full spoonful as an "ordinary dose"	twice a day
1787		Extract of Aconite from the fresh sap	gave several times a day- 1/2 grain

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		of the whole plant	to several grains in quantity
1787		Hyoscyamus was given as an extract, one grain	Several times a day up to 30 grains, and of the seed 6-20 grains
1786	On the Nature and Treatment of Venereal Diseases	Some peculiarities in reference to the doses of medicine he prescribed, especially in reference to the dose of the new preparation of mercury, to which his name is attached.	
1790 □	But this physician, with his d	1 1/2 to 2 1/2 ounces(45-75 grams) philaep insight and warm	In twenty-four hours. thropic tendencies, the

failures of these prescriptions based upon unscientific, casual, and thoughtless imitation must have soon sobered him. For many long years he abandoned medical practice because he could see no way out of the difficulty and would not sully his conscience. When it was not possible by any other means, he prescribed the popular specifics in an urgent case in very modest and, for that time, unusually small quantities, so as not to do any injury.<sup>10</sup>

In one of Hahnemann's earliest works, that, namely, On the Nature and Treatment of Venereal Diseases, published in 1786, accordingly long before he had any notion of a general therapeutic rule for the employment of remedies in disease, long before he had thought any of those pharmaceutic processes that he subsequently held to increase the potency of the drug, and long before he thought it necessary, for the

sake of obtaining a uniformity of result, to advise one uniform dose for all medicines in all diseases-in this work, we already find some peculiarities in reference to the doses of medicine he prescribed, especially in reference to the dose of the new preparation of mercury, to which his name is attached.<sup>9</sup>

**View on doses from 1796-1798<sup>10</sup>**

These comparatively small doses which he at this period prescribed, though they relate but to one medicine and to one disease, seem, however, to show the tendency of his mind to rebel against the enormous doses of ordinary practice, and to adopt a posology more in accordance with that maxim of practice, to give a remedy in doses sufficient to produce its curative but not its pathogenetic action.

Year	Journal/essay/article	Doses which he preferred to prescribe
1796	"A new principle for ascertaining the curative power of drugs, with a few glances at those hitherto employed"	He frequently recommended the administration of "small doses" He meant the medicinal doses, which depend directly on their physiological effect Fairly large doses
1798	"Some kinds of continued and remittent fevers"	Arnica root in doses of several grains. Ignatia in doses of 2-3 grains or children of 7-12 years. Opium of one-fifth to one-half grain. Camphor 30-40 grains and Ledum 6-7 grains.
1798	"Some periodical and hebdomadal diseases"	8 grains of Ignatia China in quantities of 1/2-1 grain.
1798	Translation of the second part of the Edinburgh Dispensatorium	Silver Nitrate was recommended by Boerhaave in doses of 2 grains, worked up into pills with
	First hint of dilution	Bread crumbs and sugar; Hahnemann considered that too strong, and suggested a very diluted preparation.
1798	"Apothecaries Lexicon"	Sabina "in very small doses" Hyoscyamus also "in very small doses, one-sixtieth to one thirtieth grain (0.001-0.002 gram) of the concentrated juice given in solution" Stramonium to administer only in the hundredth or even thousandth part of a grain of the concentrated juice Veratrum album is one of the most valuable medicines if used in a thousand times smaller doses than those used by the ancients

**Hahnemann's first encounter with homoeopathic aggravation<sup>9</sup>**

- In 1797 we find him reporting a case of colic in which he gave Veratrum album in four-grain doses, and another of asthma treated by Nux vomica in the same quantities.
- He had learned, namely, that, as a result of too strong doses and too frequent administration, an artificial disease will arise of a more acute nature.
- The "homoeopathic aggravation", that is the increase of all important disease symptoms which followed upon the administration of the "specific remedy" and which were all the more apparent the more adequate the remedy, induced him gradually to decrease the dose. It was only by the experiments and bedside experiences of many

years that the necessity of decreasing the dose was forced upon him.

**1799**

- In 1799 he suddenly announced without particular explanation very small and so-called infinitesimal doses. Most probably it is to be assumed that the unwelcome aggravations and secondary effects which followed upon the remedies prescribed according to the law of similars, induced this keen and careful observer to decrease the doses more and more<sup>10</sup>.
- The treatment of the epidemic of scarlet fever, the discovery of Belladonna, and the sudden introduction of infinitesimal doses. The paper upon the subject was not

published until 1801, but he commenced this new treatment during the summer of 1799<sup>11</sup>.

- Dudgeon says, "that it was about this time that the persecutions of the apothecaries began, and it was probably a desire to evade their harassing annoyance that led Hahnemann to try, if on diminishing the dose to such an extent that it was beyond the ken of chemical or other research, the medicine still possessed the power of influencing the organism<sup>9</sup>"

**1800 -In the "Treasury of Medicine" or the "Collection of selected Prescriptions"<sup>10</sup>**

There is an increasing number of remarks concerning very much smaller doses, and on one occasion he says:

“As the physicians of to-day will not consider giving one ten millionth part of a remedy, therefore Arsenic is not a medicine for them.”

**1801 grain of belladonna have<sup>9</sup>?”**

Year	Article	Dose	Repetition	Remark
1801	"Cure and Prevention of Scarlet Fever"	For internal use [after onset of Scarlet Fever] one drop (which contains in every drop a five millionth of a grain of poppy juice) for a child of about 4 years two drops for a child of 10	These doses will not have to be repeated before 4-8 hours, sometimes only every 24 hours, and at times only occasionally during the whole fever	The first detailed statements about dilution were made

- Hufeland asks, with a sneer. What effect can the hundred- thousandth part of a grain of belladonna have?<sup>9</sup>
- To this question Hahnemann promptly replies, by a short article, which is in the Lesser **Writings, entitled** "On the power of small doses of medicine in general, and of belladonna in particular."<sup>9</sup>
- He refers to the difference observed in the effect of a hard dry pill of extract of belladonna and of a single grain of the same extract dissolved in a couple of pints of water, by being well rubbed up with it, and then strongly shaken for five minutes, and taken by the most robust labourer by teaspoonfuls within six or eight hours.<sup>9</sup>
- He further adds, that a single drop of such a solution, mixed with six ounces of water, by being vigorously shaken, will possess enormous power; for if a few teaspoonfuls of it be given to a patient whose disease was one for which belladonna was suitable, they will bring him to the brink of the grave. - In explanation of the much greater effect of the solution thus prepared than the dry undissolved extract, he says that the latter presents few points of contact to the body, whereas the thorough solution comes in contact with many more points of the living fibre; and, he adds, as the medicine does not act atomically but only dynamically, it excites much more severe symptoms than the compact pill, containing a million times more medicine, is capable of doing.<sup>9</sup>

- It is striking that the very remedies which preserved their special value at a later period, and have become our polychrests \*, such as Belladonna, Arsenicum, Chamomilla, etc. were administered in small doses to a certain extent in an earlier period to 1/3,840,000,000. For example, Pulsatilla is repeatedly prescribed in doses of 1/400,000 and at times of 1/1,600,000 whilst in Chamomilla the single dose amounts only to 1/3,840,000,000. Nux vomica is not yet so strongly diluted, and in the year 1801 it is still being administered in doses of 1/12,000.

**1802<sup>10</sup>**

The theory of dilution underwent very little change in this year

Veratrum	1/2,000
Mezereum	1/400, 000
Ledum	1/200,000
Oenanthe crocata	1/2,000
Stramonium	1/300,000
Nux vomica	1/2,400
Belladonna	1/12,000
Aconite	1/1,800,000,000,000

**1803<sup>10</sup>**

A peculiar change is noticeable in the prescriptions of the year

Ignatia	1/1,200,000
Veratrum	1/2,800,000
Nux vomica	1/1,200,000 to 1/2,400,000
Pulsatilla	1/800,000
Capsicum	1/1,500,000
Chamomilla	1/85,000,000 up to 1/3,840,000,000
Cocculus	1/3,600,000
Belladonna	1/120,000
Drosera	1/200,000
Hyoscyamus	1/100,000,000

**The rules laid down at this period were as follows<sup>10</sup>:**

- In the most acute disease, and in chronic disease combined with debility, in which the general derangement of the organism is obvious, the smallest doses are to be given.
- These smallest doses are equivalent, in the amount of medicinal substance they contain, to the 2nd and 3rd dilutions of the ordinary or centesimal scale.
- In what are called local diseases-those chronic diseases, to wit, where the morbid affection is localized and the general system does not seem to be much implicated-the doses must be gradually increased in strength.
- At this period, then, we have the embryo of the dynamization-theory, though still very different from what is afterwards grew to under Hahnemann's fostering care.

**Medicine of Experience (1805)**

- "A medicine of a positive and curative character may, without any fault on its part, do just the opposite of what it ought, if given in too large a dose; in that case it produce a greater disease than that already present."<sup>7</sup>
- Although he does not define in this essay what quantity he means by the small doses he speaks of, it is evident he implies doses of extreme minuteness, for he says the

smallest possible dose suffices; and "as the sole condition necessary for the full and helpful action of the remedy is that should come in contact with the susceptible living fibre, it is of little or no importance how small the dose is."<sup>10</sup>

- He now tells us that the action of the medicine is almost spiritual, and therefore gives us to infer that no material portion of it is required<sup>10</sup>.
- As he talks in this essay of giving opium in doses a million times less than those in ordinary use, it is probable that he meant by the smallest possible dose one not exceeding in minuteness what we now understand by the 3rd or 4th dilutions<sup>10</sup>.
- It is, however, not probable that he confined his doses to these very minute quantities; indeed, we shall presently find that ten years and more after this he gave medicines in appreciable quantities<sup>10</sup>.

**1807- "Indications of the Homoeopathic Employment of Medicines in Ordinary Practice"<sup>10</sup>**

Master says

- How near we are to the discovery that the only way to cure diseases easily, quickly and lastingly is shown to us quite clearly and simply by the Preserver of mankind. This should be the one medicine above all others, which can most perfectly stimulate all the pathological conditions, and which the careful doctor selects to cure.
- And yet such a medium should be administered not in large doses but only in the smallest, because in using it homoeopathically, that is, therapeutically, and with really curative purpose, we do not require its complete disease-producing potency but only the tendency in that direction.

**1809- "Observations on the three current methods of treatment," published in Hufeland's Journal<sup>7</sup>**

We meet with a paragraph stating that in certain so-called "bilious conditions", a single drop of the tincture of arnica-root will often remove, in the course of a couple of hours, all the fever, all the bilious taste, all the tormina; the tongue becomes clean, and the strength is restored before night.

**1808-09- Severe epidemic of a typical fever<sup>11</sup>**

After giving an excellent and minute description of a severe epidemic of a typical fever that prevailed over a large tract of German in 1808-9, he recommends for its treatment Nux vomica of the 9<sup>th</sup> dilution, and arsenic of the 18th dilution.

**1810- First edition of the Organon<sup>5</sup>**

- He says that "scarcely any dose of the homoeopathically selected remedy can be so small as not to be stronger than the natural disease, and not capable of overcoming it."
- "The smallest doses are always equal to the disease."
- In this edition of the Organon we have no distinct directions as to the doses actually used, as to what these smallest doses were.

**1811- Materia Medica Pura (first vol.)<sup>11</sup>**

Nothing is said of the doses of the medicines. But in the latter volumes the doses of nearly every medicine are given.

**1813- Spirit of the Homoeopathic Doctrine<sup>11</sup>**

It is here stated that the smallest dose is sufficient, and that a greater one is not necessary, "because the spiritual power of the medicine dose not in this instance accomplish its object by means of quantity, but by quality or dynamic fitness," and a larger dose does not cure the disease better, but leaves behind it a complex medicinal disease.

- Here, then, the reason for giving the small dose is that the larger one is apt to produce accessory medicinal symptoms
- It is again hinted at in this paper that the more acute the disease, the smaller should be

**1814- Essay containing instructions for the treatment of a fatal epidemy of typhus or hospital fever<sup>11</sup>**

- After giving an excellent and minute description of a severe epidemic of a typical fever that prevailed over a large tract of German in 1808-09, he recommends for its treatment Nux vomica of the 9<sup>th</sup> dilution, and arsenic of the 18th dilution.
- Sweet spirit of nitre is also directed to be given under certain circumstances, and a drop of it is to be shaken up with an ounce of water, the mixture to be consumed by teaspoonfuls in the course of the twenty-four hours.

**Practice towards the end of 1815<sup>9</sup>**

Hahnemann has given us specimens by detailing the histories of two cases of gastric affections he treated at that time.

- The does he gave of each of the medicines he prescribed were very different.
- To the first, he gave a drop of the pure juice of bryonia-root, not to the other, half a drop of pulsatilla in the 12<sup>th</sup> dilution.

**1816- Materia Medica Pura (vol-2)<sup>11</sup>**

Causticum	A drop of the original preparation
Arsenicum	Twelfth, eighteenth or thirtieth dilution.
Ferrum	1/100, 1/10000 or 1/50000 of a grain is mentioned
Rheum	In acute affections in the ninth
Ignatia	Ninth or twelfth potency.

**1816-On the Treatment of the Venereal Disease<sup>9</sup>**

- He advises for the cure of such cases as have been mismanaged by the old treatment, his preparation of mercury to be given until the development of certain symptoms peculiar to the action of mercury, "but among which," he says, "neither salivation, nor toothache, nor ulcers of the mouth, nor pains in the bowels, nor diarrhoea are to be found."
- In this essay he constantly refers approvingly to his greater work On Venereal Diseases, published in 1789, On referring to this work, then, we find that the mercurial symptoms that should be developed, in order that we may be assured of the sufficient action of the metal, consist of what he terms the mercurial fever-a state characterised by symptoms of considerable



severity, and which cannot be produced without the

administration of mercury in appreciable doses.

**View on doses from 1819-1827<sup>9</sup>**

1819	Uncharitableness Towards Suicides	Gold- 6th dilution
1819	First edition of the <i>Materia Medica</i> (vol. iv.)	Gold- 1st and 2nd trituration
1821	purpura miliaris, which was then raging epidemically	aconite in the 24th dilution coffea in the 3rd dilution
1825		Gold- 12th dilution
Published betwixt 1825 and 1827.	second edition of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth volumes of his <i>Pure Materia Medica</i>	Digitalis, Ledum in the 15th dilution.  Cham., Chin., Verat., Hyos., Aurum, in the 12th dilution Stramonium in the 9th dilution. Ipecacuanha in the 3rd dilution Hepar sulphuris in the 3rd trituration Sulphur and argentum in the 2nd dilution Squilla in the 1st dilution Guaiaac and Sarsaparilla in the mother- tincture Camphor in doses of one-eighth of grain at short intervals in the 15th or 30th
□ Hahneman	n refers to the prefaces to	dthileutiosenveral medicines in his <i>Reine</i>

Arzneimittellehre for the appropriate dilution of each, but says that further experience has shown that it is better to go still "lower" than the doses there indicated.<sup>7</sup>

- By "lower" he evidently means what we understand by "higher."<sup>7</sup>
- The last edition of the first and second volumes was published after the invention of the psora-theory, which we shall presently find had a revolutionary effect on Hahnemann's posology.
- We find that the doses of the medicines he was in the habit of giving were very various.
- He did not show a constant tendency to diminish the dose, but occasionally went back to much more material quantities, guided in this either by experience or by the supposed character of the medicine, the disease, or the patient.
- Whilst in 1814 we have seen him giving Bryonia in the 15th attenuation for an epidemic typhus fever, in 1815 we find him prescribing the same medicine in the pure tincture for a gastric ailment.
- He advises Aurum in the 6th dilution for suicidal mania in 1819, the following year he recommends the 1st trituration for the same disease.
- Again, we find him in 1827 advising Stannum in the 3rd trituration, which he had previously directed to be given in the 6th.

**Promulgation of the Psora-theory**

- We notice a remarkable alteration in Hahnemann's ideas respecting posology.
- His former views relative to the necessity of giving different doses of medicines that differed from each other in point of strength, and of giving different doses to patients, the greater or less quantity of medicine proper for them being determined by the age, susceptibility, and disease of the patient-all these views are now lost sight of, and Hahnemann seeks to establish a uniform standard or regulation dose that shall be

applicable to all diseases, all ages, and all susceptibilities<sup>9</sup>.

- Hahnemann now fixed upon the 30th dilution of the centesimal scale as the appropriate dilution for every remedy, and one globule, no bigger than a poppy-seed, imbibed with this dilution as the most appropriate dose<sup>9</sup>.
- In the first edition of the *Chronic Diseases* he remarks that thousands of warning experiments had at length convinced him that these very minute doses were the most appropriate, and at the same time he denies the utility of larger doses, and states that never had obtained the true curative effect of the medicine until he arrived at this diminution of the dose<sup>9</sup>.
- In the introduction to the first volume, Hahnemann, says of the so-called anti-psoric remedies that he had begun by giving them to the patients in small doses of one grain in the 2nd or 3rd trituration, but that as a result of his experiences he had had to give preference to higher dilutions<sup>10</sup>.
- For Sycosis he recommends chiefly Thuja 30 and Nitric acidum<sup>6</sup>
- For Syphilis, Mercurius solubilis<sup>6</sup>
- For recent itch a globule saturated with Sulphur tincture. The Sulphur solution is prepared by dissolving 5 grains sulphur in 100 drops of spirits of wine. If a second dose should be necessary, then one should use the 6th dilution prepared in the ordinary way.<sup>9</sup>
- If Carbo animalis or Carbo vegetabilis should suit better, these two remedies are given in the 12th dilution.<sup>9</sup>

**Moreover, there are to be found the following instructions about the potencies of vari**

Remedy ous remedies, as prefer	Potencies preferred at that time
Antimonium crudum	6
Ammonium carbonicum	18
Baryta carbonica	18
Calcarea carbonica	18-30
Lycopodium	18-30
Iodum	18-30

Magnesia carbonica	24-30
Magnesia muriatica	6, 12 or 18
Natrum carbonicum	which was first used in an aqueous solution corresponding to a 3rd dilution, is now used in the 12th potency to be prepared from the 3rd trituration
Acidum nitricum	is said to be particularly effective as an anti-psoric remedy in the 18th to 30th dilutions
Petroleum	18
Phosphorus	30
Sepia	30
Silicea	18-30
Zincum	18-30

**1829- Fourth edition of Organon<sup>5</sup>**

- 242. As long, therefore, as the progressive improvement continues from the medicine last administered all repetition of any dose of medicine is forbidden".
- 245.....a fresh dose of it will alter this good state, consequently must make it worse by the production of its other unhomeopathic symptoms.
- 246. If this improvement, which has up till now only gone forward but not yet attained to perfect cure, now comes to a stop a fresh dose of the hitherto efficacious medicine is no longer homeopathically suitable, but some other will be more appropriate for these remaining symptoms".

**"Preface" to the Bönninghausen's two works", Repertory of antipsoric Medicines" and "Repertory of homeopathic Medicines" (1832 and 1833)<sup>10</sup>**

- These matters are discussed by Hahnemann in two dissertations which he published in the "Preface" to the Bönninghausen's two works", Repertory of antipsoric Medicines" and "Repertory of homeopathic Medicines"
- That it is not necessary, as stated in § 242 and following, to administer on every occasion only one dose of the remedy in (acute and) chronic diseases and to allow this to have its effect, before it is requisite to give another remedy.
- On the contrary, it is often necessary and of great advantage, to administer more of the same remedy before using another remedy. Hahnemann therefore lays emphasis on this point: experience at first had shown that no good purpose had been served either by several small doses of the same remedy repeated soon after one another or by a larger dose (or two of them)
- Only one dose at once and this dose was to be very small-the smallest, what was, up to that time, a high potency.
- That was the estimable property of homeopathy in strong contrast to allopathy.
- Hahnemann then endeavoured further to reach the strongest effect of the smallest dose in the highest dilution by his suggestion of repeating often "nothing but normal smelling of small globules". This was the most successful mode of application of the homeopathic anti-psoric medicine
- **Note:** highest dilution- decreased dose- high potency

Up to this time Hahnemann had made use of the most varied degrees of dilution, from the **original tincture or the viscous juice up to the 30th centesimal dilution**. But even then there existed a small body of over-zealous students for them, the 30th potency was by no means high enough for them and so they produced a 60th, 90th, a 200th and finally even a 1,500th potency. Among these enthusiasts the principal part was played by Dr. Gross in Jütterbogk, Dr. Schréter in Lemberg, and General Korsakoff in Russia. They became the real founders of the theory of high potencies.

Letter to Dr. Schréter of Lemberg (12th of September, 1829)

"I do not approve of your potentising medicines higher than to XII and XXII-there must be a limit to the matter, it cannot go on indefinitely. But by definitely deciding that homeopathic medicine should all be diluted and potentised up to X [30th centesimal-R.H.], a homogeneous process arises in the cures of all homeopaths and if they describe a cure, we are able to work after them in the same degree, since they are operating with the same tools as we are. Then our enemies cannot reproach us with having nothing definite, no fixed standard."

**1833- Preface to Bönninghausen's "Systematic alphabetical repertory of homeopathic medicines**

He went so far as to recommend as the best remedy inhaling of one single globule moistened in a 30th solutionic.

**1833-Fifth edition of the Organon**

He is still more decided on the subject of the superior efficacy of the 30th dilution.

He says- "It holds good and will continue to hold good, as a homeopathic therapeutic maxim, not to be refuted by any experience in the world, that the best dose of the properly selected remedy is always the very smallest one in one of the high dynamizations" (indicates in parenthesis the 30th dilution)<sup>5</sup>

"as well for chronic as acute diseases is that the dose may be repeated more frequently; but even for cholera he orders one globule of the 30th dilution of cuprum, veratrum, phosphorus, carbo, arsenic, etc."<sup>9</sup>

Diseases	His point of view before and after
Typhus	He had formerly obtained the most brilliant results with lower dilutions, he now says the 30th is the right dose
Syphilis	He formerly gave mercury in doses sufficient to excite the mercurial fever, and even dispensing his own preparation of the soluble mercury, one globule of the 30th of metallic mercury is the dose to be given
Itch	In place of the very material doses which he stated he had found so efficacious, we are now ordered to give globules of the 30 <sup>th</sup> dilution, did not always remain constant to his fixed standard of the 30th

- Hahnemann, however dilution, for in the last edition of the Organon even he speaks approvingly of the 60th, 150th, and 300th dilutions.(aph. 287)<sup>5</sup>

- Still later, viz., in the preface to the third volume of the Chronic Diseases (edition of 1837), he says that when we repeat the medicine we should descend from the 30th to the 24th dilution.<sup>8</sup>
- But in the history of two cases which he treated shortly before his death, he gave some medicines, especially sulphur and mercurius, in doses greatly below the 30th dilution, indeed, if I understand his directions aright, as low as the 2nd trituration.<sup>9</sup>

**1837- Preface to the third volume of the Chronic Diseases**

- He says that when we repeat the medicine we should descend from the 30th to the 24th dilution.<sup>8</sup>
- And in the history of two cases which he treated shortly before his death, we can find that he gave some medicines, especially sulphur and mercurius, in doses greatly below the 30th dilution, indeed, as low as the 2nd trituration.<sup>9</sup>
- When I used to administer medicines undivided, each taken with a little water, at one dose, I found that potentising in phials with ten succussions often acted too strongly (i.e., their medicinal powers were too strongly developed). I therefore advised only two succussions. But as for several years I have been able to give each dose in a solution which will not deteriorate, distributing the dose over 15, 20 or 30 days and more, now no potency in a vial is too strong if prepared each time with ten succussions. I must therefore take back what I said on this subject three years ago in the first part of this book.<sup>8</sup>

**In the preface to the fifth and last part of "Chronic Diseases" (Paris, December 19th, 1838)<sup>8</sup>**

Modern wiseacres have been hitherto desirous of ridiculing the thirtieth potency and they have been satisfied with the lower medicinal preparations in large doses- showing little development but much quantity. By these means, however, they were quite unable to perform what our healing science can do. But even in the 50<sup>th</sup> potency, all the lower degrees of which have been dynamised by an equal number of succussions, medicines are obtained of the most penetrative effectiveness. So that the smallest globules moistened with this medicine and dissolve in water can and must be taken in small parts so as not to produce too violent effects on susceptible patients. We can hardly think that such a preparation can have developed all the properties latent in the medicinal substance, which could only be made active in this way.

**1842- Sixth edition of Organon<sup>5</sup>**

- 1) Hahnemann was not completely satisfied with the medicinal solutions of centesimal potencies, especially in complex disorders and chronic miasms. He found in those with hypersensitivity, low vitality, complex chronic miasms and organic pathology that the high potencies produced unproductive aggravations while the lower potencies could not cure. How could he make a potency which could fill this lacuna in homeopathic treatment? Surely the answer to the question did not lie in raising the centesimal potency to still higher levels so he decided to increase the dilution rate instead.

- 2) After many experiments Hahnemann settled on the 1/50,000 dilution ratio called the LM potency. His new potencies used a serial dilution system which began with the LM 0/1 potency and progressed through 0/2, 0/3, 0/4, 0/5, 0/6, onward to 0/30. This gradually increasing 30 potencies scale is the perfect balance to the rapidly ascending centesimal scale. Now the new posology included the adjustments of medicinal solutions of two complementary yet opposite potency systems. This expanded the range of homeopathic treatment. The sole object of the new method is:
  - To hasten the process of cure by frequent repetition of medicine.
- 3) To avoid medicinal aggravation, or to bring it under of control of the physician. As aggravation appear only at the end of the treatment, the physician can easily control it by administering medicine at longer interval or by totally stopping it..."
- 4) "Suitability of a medicine for any given case of disease does not depend on its accurate homoeopathic selection alone, but likewise on the proper size, or rather smallness, of the dose." - § 275

**Aphorisms of Sixth Edition of Organon Concerned with doses<sup>5</sup>**

Aphorism	Content
§248	How the individual doses are to be applied, diluted with water, for daily use in lengthy illness. (Preference for olfaction is decreased. For here on two occasions only there is any mention of "smelling" apart from taking medicine.
A long footnote to § 269	to explain the dynamisation or potentising of medicinal substances with reference to other processes in the realm of nature
§ 270	is greatly extended and deals in detail with the technical preparation of triturations, dilutions and globules, according to the centesimal system
§ 271 and §272	the preparation of potentised homoeopathic remedies is further discussed
In the footnote to § 282	Need large doses in the treatment of the three basic causes of the chronic diseases: itch, chancres and fig-warts. From the start large doses of their specific remedy to be taken daily and, in case of need, several times a day and the degree of "dynamism" should continually ascend.

**1830 to 1843- Hahnemann's correspondence with Bönninghausen**

- Hahnemann's correspondence with Bönninghausen, carried on uninterruptedly from 1830 to 1843 and at present in the possession of The Hahnemann Museum at Stuttgart, gives us a clear insight into the extremely one-sided opinions of Hahnemann during that period. Even in cases of cancer of the lips and breast he confined himself to letting the patient smell the carefully chosen homoeopathic remedy: Since merely letting the patient smell Sulphur at suitable intervals, I have experienced the immeasurable healing capacity of this substance, of which I had previously no idea. (Letter of December 15th, 1832)<sup>10</sup>
- With us the prevailing influenza can be relieved within eight or twelve hours in the less serious cases, simply by

smelling Camphor 30th. In the serious cases the patient must smell Nux vomica in the evening. Smelling Causticum is rarely necessary. (Letter of the end of April, 1833).<sup>10</sup>

- In the preface to Bönninghausen's "Systematic alphabetical repertory of homoeopathic medicines" (1833) he went so far as to recommend as the best remedy inhaling of one single globule moistened in a 30th solution<sup>10</sup>
- The late summer and autumn of 1834 was responsible for frequent cases of diarrhoea, diarrhoea and vomiting and dysentery. On the 21st August, 1834, Hahnemann wrote: In the cases of diarrhoea and vomiting and dysentery occurring here I could not do without the smelling of Mercurius corrosivus 30th.<sup>10</sup>
- Confirmation of these one-sided views are to be found in numerous passages of the fifth edition of the "Organon", which appeared in the same year in which he had written the preface to Bönninghausen's work (1833)/ In both places there is indiscriminate employment of the 30th centesimal dilution and its most urgent recommendation. "It is a curative rule of homoeopathy", he says, "Which no experience in the world can refute, that the best dose of the correctly selected remedy is the smallest in a high potency, namely the decillionth dilution"<sup>10</sup>.

#### Hahnemann in his last days of practice<sup>10</sup>

In this last period of his life from 1835 to his death in 1843 he never ceased to make experiments in dosage, potentising by succussions, and repetition of dose. It is just as inaccurate to say that he had entirely given up the idea of inhaling medicines as it is to believe that he used nothing but high potencies.

That he actually made use of high potencies during the last years of his life, seems to be beyond doubt. But at the same time he also prescribed low ones. In this respect we are able to refer not only to his adherents Dr. Malan, Dr. Croserio and the English parson, Everest, but in particular to his wife who, above all others, had the best view of his professional activity.

Dr. Malan, who had much interaction with Hahnemann in the years 1841 and 1842, wrote in the periodical "Organon" (Vol. I, p. 284):

"I frequently saw Hahnemann prescribe very high dilutions. One of the most remarkable cures had been brought about by one single dose of a very high potency; as far as I know, this remedy came from Jenichen. I have often heard him say that the 30th potency should by no means form a fixed limit for medicinal dilutions."

The American homeopathic physician, Dr. Breyfogle of Louisville, wrote asking Madame Hahnemann, shortly before she dies, for information about the degrees of potency, which Hahnemann had been accustomed to employ during the last years of his life. The answer read:

"Your enquiry as to whether Hahnemann altered his views about potencies in the last period of his life and whether he

made use only of high potencies, I can answer in this way; Hahnemann used all degrees of dilution, low as well as high, as the individual case required. I saw him give the third trituration, but I also know that he used the 200th or even the 1,000th potency whenever he considered it necessary." (Transactions of the A.J. , of H., 1876)

In letters he was repeatedly asking Dr. Lehmann or his relatives in Germany to send him remedies which were all of lower dilutions. In the year 1841 he ordered remedies of the 3rd potency from Dr. Lehmann. From the medicines he left behind it is clear that he preferred to use the 6th centesimal or 18th centesimal dilution or 24th centesimal dilution and 30th centesimal dilution. Of the really high potencies there were only a few tiny glass tubes filled with globules of the 200th potency<sup>9</sup>.

Hahnemann at all times used only the well-known small pellets, which were usually moistened with the 30th dilution, and this in acute as well as in chronic diseases.<sup>12</sup>

#### Conclusion

Hahnemann by his fine observations and accurate experiments discovered many laws and theories which became the base for the homoeopathic therapeutics and literature. Master Hahnemann's entire life was dedicated in experimenting with the doses which was tried to be discussed in the seminar vividly. It is evident from his writing that he did not stick to either low dose or high dose rather Hahnemann's view on choosing the dose of medicines based on individual case and he also specified that for cure not simillimum but also accurate potency is required.

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