

History of Homoeopathic Pharmacy & its Evolution

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The Origin and Development of Homoeopathic Pharmacy

While translating Cullen's *Materia Medica* he came on speculative statement by the author to the effect that Peruvian bark cured intermittent fever because it acted as a stomachic. This statement set his critical mind aflame. In 1790 Hahnemann started to investigate the claims of Cullen and with sublime certainty of a genius tested the drug on himself to determine its actions. That was the moment Homoeopathy was born. And at the same time Homoeopathic Pharmacy was also born. The experimental and practical studies for Homoeopathy were carried out between the years 1790 and 1810.

Pharmacy an Introduction

From the origin of the mankind, pharmacy becomes a part of there every day life. Since his birth, diseases affect him and challenge his existence in the earth, and he forced to look out for the solution of his existence. His searches for to rid of the disease, he begins to use certain things for those purposes, when there is a wound, he try to apply some leaf, cool water or mud to stop bleeding. In due course of time, he understood that certain leaves served him better than the others substances. Some excavations show evidence that the prehistoric people gathered plants for their medical purpose. With these trials, grew up his knowledge of the healing properties of certain natural substance. The tribal people gathered knowledge of the healing properties through experience and handed over to their generations.

In earliest times, disease was considered as a punishment of God or the possession of evil spirit. Accordingly, magic came to be employed as a remedial agent and the priest became in charge of medicine. In due course of time men learned how to control aspects of nature through framing and shelter. Gradually on the basis of observation and experiment the healers drew upon a large collection of drugs, and also try to prepare medicines for their needs.

In Greek medicine they mostly prepare the medicine form plans. The first great study of plants in the West was done by Theophrastus, a student of Aristotle.

Valerius Cordus (1515 -1544), who's *Dispensatorium* became the official standard for the preparation of medicine in the city of Nuremberg and it is considered the first pharmacopoeia. 'Paracelsus'-Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim who was the main advocate of chemically prepared drug from crude plant mineral substances. His advocacy of chemically prepared medicine sparked the growth of modern pharmaceutical science. Chemical processes, especially distillation, empowered the follower of Paracelsus to isolate the healing principle of a drug.

During the Middle Ages, men sailed ships for looking new lands, and returning with new drugs. During this time the legal and scientific foundation of pharmacy were established. This leads to standardization of medicines through publication of book called pharmacopoeias.

HOMOEOPATHIC PHARMACY

Homoeopathic Pharmacy is a branch of Homoeopathic System of Medicine. Homoeopathic Pharmacy was developed by Hahnemann himself. Hahnemann was an outstanding chemist, pharmacologist and pharmacist. His directions for the preparation of Homoeopathic medicine are valid to this day a stand up to all scientific scrutiny. Homeopathic Pharmacy is both an art and science, deals with a specialized system of mode of preparation, administration and standardization of medicine.

The word pharmacy is originated from the Greek word "Pharmakon" which means "a drug, a medicine, a remedy, charm, or spell".

Pharmacy

Pharmacy is the art and science of collecting, combining, preserving, preparing and standardizing drugs and medicines derived from natural and synthetic sources. It also includes compounding and dispensing medicines.

According to 'Chamber Dictionary' – "Pharmacy is the art, practice or science of collecting, preparing, preserving and dispensing of medicines".

Source of Homoeopathic Pharmacy The main sources are given below-

1. Materia medica pura, Part I-VI, (1811-1821).
2. Organon of Medicine, 1st to 6th edition (1828-1830)
3. Chronic disease, their nature and Homoeopathic treatment, Part I to Part IV, (1828-1830).

Lesser writings of Hahnemann:

1. Essay on a new principle for Ascertaining the curative powers of drugs, and some Examinations of the previous principles.
2. on the value of speculative systems of Medicine, especially in connection with the various system of practice (1808).
3. on the preparation and Dispensing of Medicines of Homoeopathic physicians (1820).

These are the basis of all subsequent actions given by his followers.

Specialty and originality of Homoeopathic Pharmacy

Homoeopathic Pharmacy has some specialty and originality; these are given below:

It has a philosophical background; in other system there is no such philosophy.

Homoeopathic Pharmacy deals with a specialized system of therapeutically art and science, having specificity in its mode of preparation, administration and modus operandi.

Homoeopathy is based on holistic and individualistic approach of disease. It treats the patient, not the disease. Hahnemann says- 'There is no disease but sick people'.

Homoeopathic Pharmacy is based on theory of dynamization.

Distinguishing peculiarity is another specialist of Homoeopathic Pharmacy.

Drug proving:

Each drug gets its entry in homoeopathy after complete proving. During drug proving, subjective symptoms are noted great importance. Drugs are proved in their natural form; through attempts are being made to prove alkaloids or artificial chemical substances. Doses are used from minute infinitesimal potencies to the crude drug. Preparation of homoeopathic medicine is simple and easy. Homoeopathic Pharmacy preserves as fully as possible the natural complex of a drug. Homoeopathic drugs act as dynamic plane. There is no harmful effect or any post recover injuries effects on the human system as a whole or any part. Freshness of materials used is also a distinctive feature in Homoeopathy. Homoeopathy aspects a drug with its entity and totality, without attempting to separate a drug into its specific chemical constituents the object of homoeopathic pharmacy is to prepare each substance so that the whole of its active virtues shall be present in a form suitable for administration. Homoeopathic pharmacy demonstrates the power or capacity of an infinitesimal dose of high potency, in the field of homoeopathy.

Branches of Homoeopathic pharmacy

It has mainly two branches-

- 1~Pharmacy proper
- 2 ~ Galenical Pharmacies

Pharmacy proper:

It consists of –

1. Official pharmacy:

- a. preparation of drug according to the Pharmacopoeia.
- b. This portion is concerned with Pharmacopoeia's. It is the 1st part.
- d. Done in pharmaceutical laboratory or factory.

2. Extemporaneous pharmacy:

- a. Consists of the preparing and distributing medicines according to the prescription of a physician.
- b. This portion is concerned with prescription
- c. It is the last part.
- d. Done in dispensary.

Galenical Pharmacy:

The word 'Galen' originates from Greek 'Claudias Galenus (10-201 AD)'; a 2nd century Greek physician. This pharmacy follows the methods and theories of Galen. It is that branch which is related to the preparation of crude drugs only. So it is not accepted by any true homoeopathic physician.

Pharmacy can also divide into these division:

- a. Theoretical: It consists of Physical and Biological assessments.
- b. Practical or operative: It consists of –
 - i. Various aspects of manufacturing,
 - ii. Retail,
 - iii. Professional and Hospital Pharmacy,
 - iv. Practical portion of Physical and Biological assessments.

History and development of homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia

From the history of pharmacy we came to know that, Hahnemann never wrote any separate book on "Pharmacopoeia". But he wrote 'Organon of Medicine', 'The Chronic Diseases' and 'Materia medica pura'. These books play an important role in writing of Pharmacopoeia. Since 1825, a good number of homoeopathic Pharmacopoeias have been published in different countries, especially in Germany and U.S.A.

The first homoeopathic pharmacopoeia was published by Dr. Cral W. Caspari of Leipzing, Germany in 1825. Gradually different homoeopathic establishments or associations published their Pharmacopoeias. They are:

1. German Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia: 1825

The first homoeopathic pharmacopoeia was published by Caspari of Leipzing, Germany. He published a, "Homoeopathic and Dispensatorium Fur Artze and Apotheker", thereby giving the first idea of homoeopathic pharmacopoeias for physician and pharmacists.

2. Brithis Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia: 1870

The first edition was published in 1870 by the 'British Homoeopathic Society' London, and followed by the publication of 2nd and the 3rd edition in 1876, respectively.

3. Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of U.S.A: 1897

In 1897 came the first pharmacopoeia in U.S.A named 'Pharmacopoeia of the American Institute of Homoeopathy', of the said Institute and published by Otis Clop and Son, inc, Agent, Boston, U.S.A.

4. Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India: 1971

In India the 1st homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia was published by M Bhattacharyya and Co, Calcutta, in 1893, named 'Pharmaceutics Manual'. Since then it has run into twelve editions. The current edition was published on 14th Feb, 1980.

5. French Haeopathic Pharmacopoeia: 1897

New edition of FHP has come out. It is an important Pharmacopoeia in the history of Homoeopathy.

Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia & its evolution

Objects of the Homoeopathic pharmacopoeia Before entering the study of Homoeopathic subjects, particularly Homoeopathic Pharmacy, it is beneficial to understand the Historical development of Medicine.

Let us see what happened in the field of medicine in the early phases of developments.

When we consider the developmental history of medicine, first let us discuss about the Greek medicine.

Ancient Greek Medicine

Ancient Greeks gave much importance to the Medicine and healthy lifestyles.

In Ancient Greece Medical practice was based upon religious beliefs. The Cult (religious groups) was a major provider of medical care. This cult developed old theories and introduced several treatments

The Ancient Greeks though made major steps in medical knowledge. The works of Hippocrates and his followers led to several scientific facts being recorded for the first time. They began a tradition of studying the cause of disease rather than looking solely at the symptoms when prescribing a cure.

Hippocrates was the first person to establish that disease was a natural process, that its symptoms were the reactions of the body to the disease, and that the chief function of the physician was to aid the natural forces of the body. He was the first physician to introduce the method of taking medical histories. His chief contribution to the medical profession is the humoral theory.

Medicine in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Medieval Europe was a place that placed less importance on the value of Public Health facilities. It was over 400 years after the fall of the Roman Empire that Europe was again a place that was peaceful and relatively stable. As a result, there were a variety of different medical practices available to people in Medieval Times they may have been treated by monks following the Hippocratic theory of the Four Humours, by apothecaries who specialized in herbal remedies or by doctors who made use of charms. As the church taught that God sent illness, and that apologizing would cure all evils, many people at the time believed that pilgrimage would cure them. Other theories were based upon astrology, the movement of the sun and stars. Most well-trained doctors used Hippocrates teachings and diagnosis was developed.

Early European medicine

As societies developed in Europe and Asia, belief systems were replaced with a different natural system. The Greeks, from Hippocrates, developed a humoral medicine system where treatment was to restore the balance of humours within the body. Similar views were espoused in China and in India. From the ideas developed in Greece, through Galen until the Renaissance the main thrust (push suddenly) of medicine was the maintenance of health by control of diet and hygiene. Anatomical knowledge was limited and there were few surgical or other cures, doctors relied on a good relation with patients and dealt with minor ailments and soothing chronic conditions and could do little when epidemic diseases, growing out of urbanization and the domestication of animals, then raged across the world. Medieval medicine was an evolving mixture of the scientific and the spiritual. In the early Middle Ages, following the fall of the Roman Empire, standard medical knowledge was based chiefly upon surviving Greek and Roman texts, preserved in monasteries and elsewhere. Ideas about the origin and cure of disease were not, however, purely secular, but were also based on a spiritual world view, in which factors such as destiny, sin, and astral influences played as great a part as any physical cause. In this era, there was no clear tradition of scientific medicine, and accurate observations went hand-in-hand with spiritual beliefs as part of the practice of medicine.

Changes in Medicine during the Medieval Era

The earliest noticeable changes were in the training of doctors. In the 11th century a medical school was established at Salerno, in southern Italy. This school taught that the careful observation of patients was essential, that cleanliness was linked to good health and that balances of fluids within the body were of paramount importance. By 1300 there were a dozen or so medical schools in Europe and whilst change and improvements were slow, they did

happen. Dissection for example was permitted and the teachings of Hippocrates and Galen were questioned with some degree of success.

Indian medicine

Ayurveda, the Vedic system of medicine originating 6000 years ago, views health as harmony between body, mind and spirit. Its two most famous texts belong to the schools of Charaka and Sushruta. According to Charaka, health and disease are not predetermined and life may be prolonged by human effort. Sushruta defines the purpose of medicine to cure the diseases of the sick, protect the healthy, and to prolong life. Ayurveda speaks of eight branches: kayachikitsa (internal medicine), shalyachikitsā (surgery including anatomy), shālākya-chikitsā (eye, ear, nose, and throat diseases), kaumarabhritya (pediatrics), bhutavidya (psychiatry, or demonology), and agada tantra (toxicology), rasayana (science of rejuvenation), and vajikarana (the science of fertility).

Modern medicine

Medicine was revolutionized in the 18th century and beyond by advances in chemistry and laboratory techniques and equipment, old ideas of infectious disease epidemiology were replaced with bacteriology developed by Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur. For the first time actual cures were developed for certain endemic infectious diseases. However the decline in the most lethal diseases was more due to improvements in public health and nutrition than to medicine. It was not until the 20th century that there was a true breakthrough in medicine, with great advances in pharmacology and surgery. From 20th century we have witnessed a shift from a master-apprentice of teaching of clinical medicine to a more “democratic” system of medical schools. With the arrival of the evidence-based medicine and great advances of information technology the process of change is likely to evolve further. The evidence-based medicine has had a great impact on practice of medicine throughout the world of modern medicine. Modern western medicine, is uniquely effective and widespread compared with all other medical forms. It is notably secular and material, indifferent to ideas of the supernatural or the spirit and concentrating on the body to determine causes and cures.

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