

The Berlin Journal on Research in Homoeopathy

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The Conceptualization of Rational Therapeutics by Samuel Hahnemann - Fundamentals and Difficulties

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Summary

As homeopathy was conceptualized as rational therapeutics by its founder Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843), it is based not only on empiricism, but also on principles whose inner coherence has to be in accordance with logical rules. Accordingly, the rationality of Hahnemann's therapeutics cannot be proved by case studies alone, but by an attempt at reconstructing the leading principles of his concept. In the reconstruction demonstrated below seven logical steps can be distinguished:

1. The starting point of Hahnemann's endeavour to rational therapeutics
2. The criticism of former principles of therapeutics
3. The scientific approach and its limitations in therapeutics
4. The extension of the approach in order to comprehend further experiences
5. The arguments for the fundamental possibility of rational therapeutics
6. The revelation of the Principle of Similars as a maxim to cure dynamic diseases
7. The elaboration of the homeopathic doctrine of healing dynamic diseases

The history of homeopathy shows that most of the points in dispute among homeopaths and allopaths came about because of the want of knowledge of the principles and limits of their own respective concepts.

Key Words: Hahnemann, homeopathy, therapeutics, rationalism, empiricism, philosophy, Principle of Similars, scientific approach, criticism

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