

ACTAS

ABSTRACTS

**59° CONGRESO DE LA LIGA MEDICA
HOMEOPATICA INTERNACIONAL**

**59° CONGRESS OF THE
LIGA HOMOEOPATHICA
INTERNATIONALIS**

**6° CONGRESO
LATINOAMERICANO DE
MATERIA MEDICA**

**5° CONGRESO DE LA
FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES
MEDICAS HOMEOPATICAS
ARGENTINAS (FAMHA)**

**CONGRESO SATELITE (LMHI) Y
5° JORNADAS DE VETERINARIA
HOMEOPATICA (AMHA)**



**ASOCIACION MEDICA
HOMEOPATICA ARGENTINA**
(entidad organizadora)

**FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES MEDICAS
HOMEOPATICAS ARGENTINAS**

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ABASTO PLAZA HOTEL





***Hahnemann revisited -
A new German edition of the Organon of Medicine***

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Abstract

The sixth edition of Samuel Hahnemann's *Organon of Medicine* is usually considered as reference-book of the highest authority within the homeopathic community. Nevertheless, its status and relevance can be questioned with constructivistic and historic objections. In fact, consenting e.g. to follow the instructions given by Hahnemann regarding homeopathic treatment does not necessarily oblige the homeopath to accept the philosophical ideas of Hahnemann's time as well. Generally speaking, in the *Organon* three levels of content may be distinguished:

1. practical directions and maxims,
 2. theoretical explanations and hypotheses,
- and
3. conceptual foundations and premises.

Ideally, these levels should be considered (accepted or criticized) and also taught separately and gradually. Until recently, however, all existing editions of the *Organon of Medicine* contained the usual mixture of objective observations, practical recommendations, subjective polemics, sophistic rhetoric, ethical admonitions, and philosophical speculations, - inviting mainly two extreme attitudes towards its reception: (mostly) neglecting it as a whole or (rarely) accepting it as a whole. A

longlasting lack of interest in the Organon on the part of the majority of homeopaths is also mirrored in the retarded history of its publication.

The new German edition of the Organon, published by the author in 2003, contains

i) a complete version of Hahnemann's original manuscript, however, converted into modern German language and furnished with summarizing headlines and boxes,

ii) another complete version of its contents, however, in a new arrangement of topics, consistently applying the scheme of three graduated levels (as indicated above) which on their part are structured according to the logical necessity of its contents, and

iii) a glossary of some 400 problematic terms which are followed throughout the entire text,

displaying their usage by Hahnemann in different contexts.

Although in Germany it took relatively long to bring about an authentic as well as practically useful edition of the Organon of Medicine, the new edition now seems to meet the demands from almost any perspective. Eventually, it may even serve as paradigm of a new type of Organon editions in other countries as well.

Keywords:

Samuel Hahnemann, Organon of Medicine, sixth edition, new German edition, history of homeopathy

