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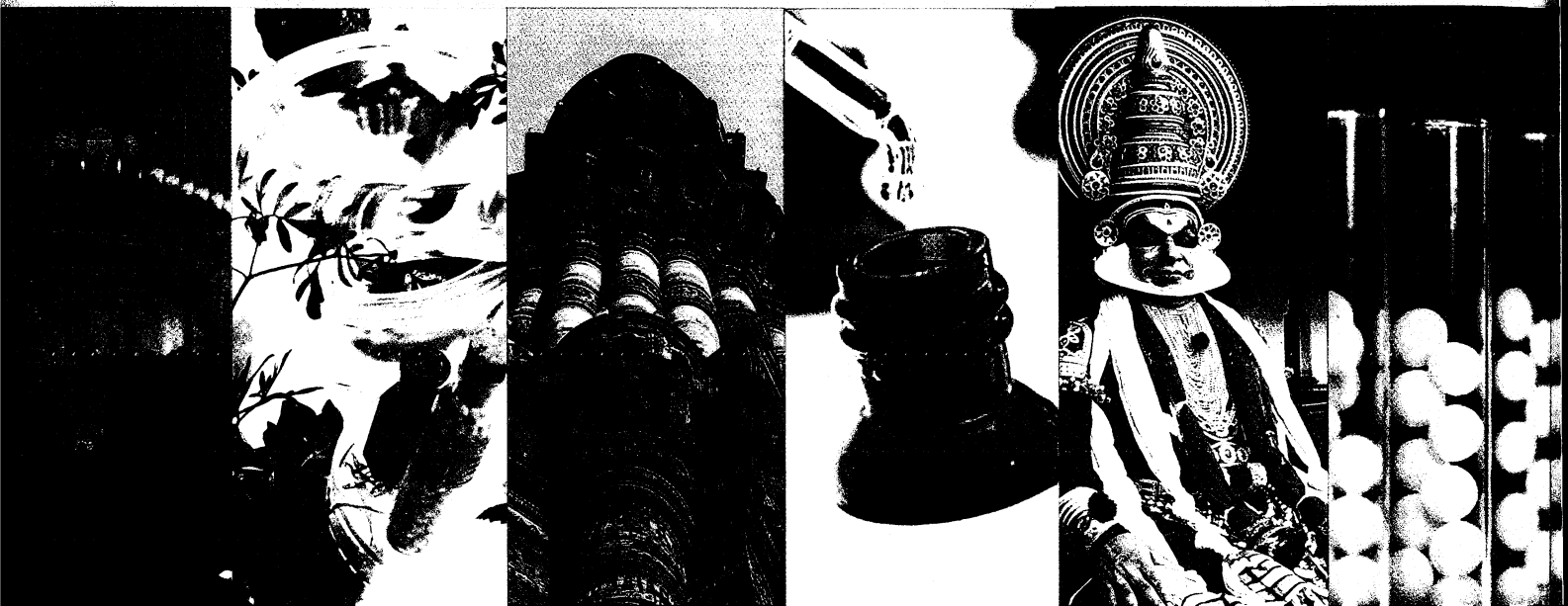
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जन स्वास्थ्य के लिए होम्योपैथी



New approaches within the history and theory of medicine and its relevance for Homeopathy

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Since its foundation by Samuel Hahnemann some two hundred years ago, homeopathy has accomplished impressive achievements, such as innumerable curing of diseases, individually as well as in epidemics, popularity among millions of patients all over the world, political successes, professionalization and institutionalization, and scientific research, from case studies and clinical trials to basic laboratory research. Nevertheless, recognition and full appreciation by conventional medicine is still lacking.

The reason for that paradox may be a qualitative incompatibility of methodology, conceptual frame, and metaphysical background between conventional medicine and homeopathy rather than a quantitative lack of evidence of efficacy. The difference of approach, in theory and practice, however, may not be perceived and understood in its implications and consequences, as long as both systems are being assessed from the view of conventional scientific standards alone. To become aware of the peculiar and

indispensible principles of the homeopathic art of healing and their disregard and loss during the rise and predominance of conventional modern medicine in the 19th and 20th century, historical and philosophical education and training is the need of the day.

Basic research and propagation of knowledge in terms of history of medicine and theory of medicine is of utmost importance for the future standing of homeopathy. Only thus, the real strengths of the phenomenological, semiotic, individualizing, humane, and practical scientific approach of Hahnemann and his successors can be categorically elaborated and emphasized. And only thus, many pitfalls and waste of resources might be avoided, such as naively trying to prove homeopathy's efficacy and reproducibility by means of statistics and mean comparison tests in a Cartesian conceptual setting of causal-mechanical, economic, and deterministic thinking.