

Josef M. Schmidt

English
Articles and Abstracts
(1988–2015)

Schriften zur
Geschichte und Theorie
der Homöopathie

Band 6

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English Articles and Abstracts (1988–2015)
[Writings on the History and Theory of Homeopathy. Volume 6]

Schriften zur Geschichte und Theorie der Homöopathie

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Band 1: Die Philosophie Samuel Hahnemanns bei der Begründung der Homöopathie

Band 2: Kompaktwissen Homöopathie – Grundlagen, Methodik und Geschichte

Band 3: Die Köthener Sommerkurse Homöopathieggeschichte 1–10 (2006–2015)

Band 4: Gesammelte Kleine Schriften. Teil 1 (1988–2003)

Band 5: Gesammelte Kleine Schriften. Teil 2 (2005–2015)

Band 6: English Articles and Abstracts (1988–2015)

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Writings on the History and Theory of Homeopathy. Volume 6

English Articles and Abstracts (1988–2015)

by

Josef M. Schmidt

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Preface

The present volume

This volume ‘English Articles and Abstracts (1988–2015)’ is a collection of articles and abstracts on the history and theory of homeopathy, published by the author in English, in journals, books and proceedings, in the years 1988–2015. The first section comprises 19 original articles from the years 1992–2015, most of them published in peer reviewed journals. The second section covers 27 abstracts published in journals and proceedings (1988–2015), in addition to the abstracts pertaining to the articles of section I, as well as one comment. The third section contains eleven papers (1992–2013) with similar content to articles of section I, however, published in different journals or proceedings, being mainly preliminary, abbreviated, or otherwise deviating versions. In all sections the articles are presented in chronological order.

In the original articles section the spectrum of topics range from philosophical, anthropological, and philological perspectives on homeopathy to issues of theory of science and history of medicine, including social history as well as history of ideas, reception, institutions, professionalisation, politics, religion, and economics. Furthermore, the paper of one of the world’s top-rated randomized clinical trials on homeopathy is presented here, thus completing the array of methodological approaches towards basic research on homeopathy by means of natural science and statistics. This work, however, should not be misinterpreted in the sense of claiming that clinical studies might be able to overturn or supersede the relevance of the many other views on homeopathy provided by the humanities. In the English abstracts section, in addition to the aforementioned subjects, bibliographical, editorial and conceptual issues are also being addressed, referring to

the respective articles published in German (see volumes 4 and 5).

Considered this way, homeopathy would appear to be a challenging, demanding, complex, refined, and sophisticated system of healing, which may have its flaws, but evidently rests on sound principles and a rationale that may not be grasped in terms of natural science alone, but, certainly, by science at large, comprising the entire range of the humanities.

The series of writings on the history and theory of homeopathy

The six volumes ‘Writings on the History and Theory of Homeopathy’ grew out of the author’s extensive preoccupation with the historical background and philosophical principles of homeopathy, a method of rational drug therapy founded by the German physician SAMUEL HAHNEMANN (1755–1843), which today is practiced worldwide by hundreds of thousands of therapists and sought after by millions of convinced patients. Despite its successes in practice, the theory of homeopathy has still not met with universal approval, which, for the main part, may be due to the difficulty a materialistic world view has in grasping how highly potentised medicinal substances act. Although in 1801 HAHNEMANN had already explained that homeopathic remedies would not act “atomically” (nor chemically, physically, or mechanically), but “dynamically”, modern pharmacology continues to be thrown back to its methodological defaults, searching for mechanisms of action only within its restrictively defined scope of view, as, for example, in categories of molecular biology, receptor theory, and lock-and-key model. From the non-verifiability of a physical substrate to the imputation of

the non-existence of a medicinal effect, it is only a short step.

By way of contrast, the concern of the present series of publications is to give homeopathy, a method of healing as elaborated as philanthropic, its due by, on the one hand, showing the inadequacy of a reductionist narrowing of its discussion and, on the other hand, taking heed of its claim as a scientific medicine and examining it with explicitly scientific tools. However, instead of absolutising pre-modern paradigms of natural science, such as “without active ingredient no effect”, as the last horizon of science or taking the (obsolete) position of physical and chemical premises of the nineteenth century, such as the AVOGADRO number, and thus missing the actual point, – in the present writings, an attempt is being made for science to be applied in its entire breadth, magnitude, and diversity of methods, in order to appropriately grasp a complex, paradox, and multifaceted phenomenon, such as homeopathy. Contrary to the common biased reductionism of all of homeopathy’s achievements to naturalistic vestiges of science, such as the *placebo* construct, here it is demonstrated that, and how, an unprejudiced approach towards homeopathy has to be initialised and deepened by means of involving the entire spectrum of science, especially the social and human sciences. It turns out that, what homeopathy and medicine in its entirety is all about, is in no way trivial but has to be inferred anew by every generation of doctors and patients, since without “effort of the term”, i.e. without humanistic penetration, it will remain incomprehensible.

As a counterbalance and for the sake of an expansion of the horizon of the current reductionistic and materialistic dispute, the present publications offer a view into the paths and insights of almost three decades of academic research on the history and theory of homeopathy. Applying the whole spectrum of methodical approaches and perspectives (from the history of ideas and theory of science to socio-economics), the cultural context, philosophical validity, and natural scientific discussion of the principles of homeopathy are presented, as well as the historical de-

velopment of its protagonists, controversies, and schools.

The series of writings meets a *desideratum* of the homeopathic as well as scientific community at large. While up to now, for lack of serious and differentiating literature, it was barely possible to rise above simplifying positions, such as reductionist materialism versus pseudo-scientific esotericism, the present publications may shed a new light on homeopathy by opening up the hitherto shielded historical and theoretical horizon. Through integration of long neglected humanistic perspectives, it might be possible to create new and more appropriate concepts of research, to save unnecessarily spent resources, and to shape future scientific clashes in a more enlightened, sobering, and square fashion.

Editorial guidelines

Inclusion criteria

Basically, in this series all the lesser writings of the author published in German or English have been included, but not their published translations in other languages, such as Italian, Greek, Swedish, Polish, Latvian, Russian, or Ukrainian. Among the monographs of the author, the ‘Philosophy of Samuel Hahnemann’ and the ‘Compact Knowledge of Homeopathy’ are reproduced completely within the volumes 1 and 2. From the other major works of the author only the respective preface or introduction are displayed. Lectures presented by the author in the ‘Köthen Summer Courses’ are published in full, including the slides of the presentation. Other lectures are reprinted only when they have been released in congress proceedings or CDs. Volumes 4–6 contain the lesser writings of the author, as arranged in the source list at the end of each volume, in chronological order.

Editing

Different spellings in various articles in the German part of the series (volumes 1–5) were unified by updating the entire text of the author according to the rules of ‘New German Orthography’

(according to DUDEN, 26th edition, 2013). This does not apply to original quotes, for example by HAHNEMANN, within quotation marks, or for original titles within single quotation marks. These were left in old orthography.

As regards content all texts are reproduced without change. Moderate editing was performed only in very few instances, having no influence on meaning or content. In terms of biographical data, the year of death was added when at the time of publication of former articles this could not yet have been known. Obvious typing errors were corrected.

Abbreviations, especially of drugs, were dispensed with, – but not within quotes and not in very common abbreviations or bibliographical references. Expendable periods and dashes outside of quotes were removed. Double brackets were no longer used. Space lines between paragraphs were eliminated to a great extent. Short hyphens were consistently used as such and with page numbers, long dashes as such as well as with years or other numeric dates.

Paragraphs separated in the original text were sometimes merged: for editorial reasons, when quotes extended over several paragraphs, or for technical reasons, when annotations consisted of more than one paragraph (in that case a dash marks the border between the original paragraphs). Variant spellings in the annotations of different articles were not standardised completely, but moderately adjusted to personal coherent principles.

The series of writings only contains written text. Hence, illustrations of the original publications are not reproduced, however, their keys are documented. Tables are not displayed in their original shape, however, their content is preserved (as running text with “/” to mark the columns).

Text emphasis

Generally, all personal names are displayed in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS, in the main text as well as in annotations, abstracts, and in the bibliography, also in quotes and root words, including

the “von” in titles of nobility, – but not in the headlines, table of contents, list of sources and index or in boxes, tables, catalogues of drugs or with keywords, reprinted letters, and own signatures, not in headings of works, articles, societies, journals, drugs, etc., not in word compositions, with publishers and companies, and not with ranks of nobility, name affixes, or in foreign-language quotes or when the person himself recedes in comparison to the usage of his name.

Set in *italics* are generally relevant foreign-language notions, drug names, and quotes, especially when it is a matter of emphasised, critical, and pivotal technical terms, in the main text, in annotations and abstracts, also in quotes, – but not in the headlines, table of contents, bibliography, list of sources, and index or in boxes, tables, catalogues of drugs, or with keywords and reprinted letters, not with common foreign words and terms of drugs or with diagnoses and classes of drugs, not with word compositions or flections, not in titles of articles or works, even when they are set in foreign language, and not with words in bold print. Depending on the context, some notions are displayed in two ways: in italics as an uncapitalised technical term complemented in brackets, but not in italics as a common capitalised foreign word, or in the disposition as a remedy in italics, but in the meaning of a laboratory finding not in italics. Medical diagnoses are usually displayed without italics, however, particularly specified and rare diagnoses have been set in italics. For English texts analogous rules apply, however, only Latin and French notions appear in italics.

Quotation marks (“ ”) indicate the beginning and end of quotes or emphasis, partly also within quotes that are themselves in single quotation marks, in the entire text, including annotations, abstracts, headlines and table of content, – but not in the bibliography, list of sources and index or in boxes, tables, catalogues of drugs, or with keywords and reprinted letters.

Single quotation marks (‘ ’) are used to point out all established titles of works, articles, journals, chapters, publishers, societies, associations, hospitals, occupational titles, universities, insti-

tutes, professorships, subjects, lectures, seminars, courses, congresses, study groups, initiatives, protocols, pamphlets, libraries, archives, buildings, foundations, corporations, companies, laws, agencies, lodges, museums, paintings, exhibitions, scores, and street names, occasionally also as quotes within normal quotes, in the main text, annotations and abstracts, as well as in the table of contents and bibliography, also in headlines, – but not in the list of sources and index or in boxes, tables, catalogues of drugs, or with keywords and reprinted letters, and not with abbreviated titles.

Printed in **bold type** are, on the one hand, all headlines, and, on the other hand, single or several words in the text, in the sense of a contentual

(redactional) emphasis, for a better orientation within a chapter.

Acknowledgement

Many thanks to the ‘Homeopathy Foundation’ of the ‘German Central Association of Homeopathic Physicians’ for its funding of the publication of my ‘Writings on the History and Theory of Homeopathy’ in six volumes. Many thanks also to my publishers for the solid publication of my work and the excellent cooperation.

Munich, June 2016

Prof. Josef M. Schmidt, MD, PhD

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Homeopathy, a branch of drug therapy based on the principle of similars, founded by Samuel Hahnemann (1755–1843) in Germany and since then spread all over the world, has been a controversial system of medicine up to the present. While naturalistic and materialistic approaches have difficulty to find statistical evidence of efficacy and a plausible mechanism of action, scientific research in terms of the humanities may grasp many more aspects of this kind of medical art. The present volume contains a variety of articles outlining and evaluating homeopathy from a plurality of perspectives, such as philosophy, history and theory of science, history and theory of medicine, social history, history of ideas, institutions, politics, religion, and economics, – thus shedding new light on its status within medicine at large. In addition to these contributions from cultural, human, or moral studies, to complete the methodological spectrum, one of the world’s top-rated randomized clinical trials on homeopathy is presented here. As it turns out, a balanced judgement of homeopathy may require the consideration of more than just a few of its many dimensions.

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