

## WHAT IS HOMEOPATHY?

Homeopathy is a therapeutic system of medicine developed by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann over 170 years ago in Germany. The word homeopathy is derived from Greek words *homoios* (“similar”) and *pathos* (“suffering”). The homeopathic practitioner treats sick people using minute, non-toxic doses of plant, mineral or animal substances. The specific medicines or remedies are chosen based upon the law of similars; that is, a substance which creates a specific set of symptoms in a healthy person when given in toxic doses, will cure these similar symptoms in a sick person when given in specially prepared minute doses. An example is ipecacuanha (ipecac) – if taken in large quantities it produces vomiting, but taken in minute doses it cures vomiting.

Since symptoms are the body’s efforts to deal with stress and to defend and heal itself, the homeopathic medicines work with, rather than against, the person’s overall defense system and provide a gentle but powerful healing stimulus.

Homeopathy became very popular in 19<sup>th</sup> century America and Europe because of its astounding success during the epidemics that raged during that time. By 1900 as many as 25% of physicians in urban America were homeopathic physicians, and there were 22 homeopathic medical schools and over 100 homeopathic hospitals. Although the homeopathic movement is relatively small no in the US, virtually every country in the world has its group of homeopathic practitioners. Its practice is largest in India, Great Britain, France, Germany, Greece, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Russia.

Homeopathy is a 21<sup>st</sup> century science since it is a highly developed natural pharmaceutical practice where a medicine is individually prescribed according to the person’s whole unique psycho-physiological metabolic pattern. The remedies act deeply and effectively by stimulating the sick person’s own defense system to heal.

## SUPPORTERS OF HOMEOPATHY:

### **Mahatma Gandhi**

“Homeopathy ... cures a larger percentage of cases than any other method of treatment and it is beyond all doubt safer and more economical and the most complete medical science.”

### **Gay Gaer Luce, PhD.** (twice winner of the National Science Writers award)

“Homeopathy is a highly developed health practice that uses a systematic approach to the totality of a person’s health. Anyone seeking a fuller understanding of health and healing will find homeopathy extremely important and applicable.”

### **William James**

“An enormous mass of experience, both of homeopathic doctors and their patients, is invoked in favor of the efficacy of these remedies and doses.”

### **John D. Rockefeller**

“Homeopathy is a progressive and aggressive step in medicine.”

### **Sir William Osler** (“the Father of Modern Medicine”)

“It is not as if our homeopathic brothers are asleep; far from it, they are awake – many of them at any rate – to the importance of the scientific study of disease.”

### **Yehudi Menuhin** (Violinist extraordinaire and President of the Hahnemann Society in the United Kingdom)

“Homeopathy is one of the rare medical approaches which carries no penalties – only benefits.”