

HOMEOPATHIC GLOSSARY

AGGRAVATION – Also referred to as a healing crisis, an aggravation is a temporary worsening of symptoms following the administration of a remedy. This can be a sign that it is the correct remedy and that the healing is under way.

ANTIDOTE – Anything that blocks or interferes with the action of a remedy.

CELL SALTS - 12 mineral salts identified by Dr. William Schuessler as essential to the body's biochemical balance and functioning.

CLASSICAL HOMEOPATHY: Sometimes called singular homeopathy, the practice of using a single homeopathic remedy at a single potency (called the Simillimum) which matches exactly the totality of symptoms.

COMBINATION HOMEOPATHY: Sometimes called 'Complex' homeopathy, the practice of using multiple ingredients and potencies in a single formula to match a general symptom picture.

CONSTITUTIONAL HOMEOPATHY - Homeopathic treatment of the deeper nature of an individual.

DETOXODE: Sometimes called a 'Hormetic,' a remedy formulated to assist the body in detoxification.

DOCTRINE OF SIGNATURES – An idea found in many cultures that some indication of an herb's use is to be found in one or more of its characteristics (shape, color, odor, growing cycles). For example, the walnut has been used to treat mental conditions and it is said to resemble the brain.

EAV – 'Electro-Acupuncture according to Voll.' Reinhold Voll created a system of diagnosing and balancing the body's energetic systems. There are a number of more advanced devices in use today based on similar technologies.

GENUS EPIDEMICUS – A specific set of symptoms that characterizes an epidemic or pandemic outbreak, used to identify the remedy which should be used curatively as well as preventively.

HANHEMANN, CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH SAMUEL (1755-1843): German-born physician credited with discovering and organizing homeopathy into a scientific medical discipline.

HERING'S LAW – Patterns of symptomatic change that indicate healing processes are underway. Symptoms tend to move from the top of the body to the bottom; from the center to the outside of the body; from more essential to less essential organ systems; and in the reverse order that they originally appeared.

HEALING CRISIS – See *AGGRAVATION*

LAW OF SIMILARS: See *Similia Similibus Curantur*.

MATERIA MEDICA: Literature collections describing in great detail homeopathic medicines and their effects.

MIASM: Usually refers to a genetically inherited, underlying characteristic, trait or tendency and is often an obstacle to cure. Hahnemann reasoned that there were 3 primary or chronic miasms (miasmas): Psora, Syphilis and Sycosis. Psora, which was initially linked to skin diseases, is now believed to be the root cause of most disease; the syphilis miasm is the result of suppressed syphilis, and the sycosis miasm is the result of suppressed gonorrhoea. It is even theorized that cancer may be the result of all three miasms existing in a single individual.

NOSODE: Homeopathic remedy prepared from diseased or disease-causing material.

ORGANON: Short for the 'Organon of Medicine,' by Samuel Hahnemann. This was the original text describing the philosophy and practice of homeopathy. It was first published in 1810, the 6th and final edition posthumously in 1921.

POLYCHRESTS: 30 to 40 fully tested homeopathic remedies, commonly used and applicable to a wide variety of conditions.

POTENCY: The strength of the remedy, indicated by a number and a letter. The letter indicates the dilution factor that was used during the manufacturing (x or d = 1 in 10; c = 1 in 100), and the number indicates the number of dilutions the remedy underwent. Higher numbers are more diluted, but also more potent.

POTENTIZATION: Also called 'Dynamization,' this is the manufacturing process for homeopathic remedies, in which a solution is repeatedly diluted and succussed to produce the final remedy.

PROVING: The procedure of administering a known substance to a healthy individual, and then observing the resulting symptoms.

PSORA: One of Hahnemann's three original miasms, the parent of all chronic disease, usually expressed as skin eruptions.

REPERTORY: An exhaustive symptom index to the Materia Medica that lists the remedies indicated for each symptom.

SARCODE: Homeopathic remedy prepared from healthy tissue or organs.

SIMILIA SIMILIBUS CURANTUR: From the Latin, meaning 'likes are cured by likes.' This describes the Law of Similars, the foundational doctrine of homeopathy which states that a substance which can cause a set of symptoms in a healthy individual may be used in homeopathic form to treat those same symptoms. Hahnemann embraced a more artistic interpretation of this law, 'similia similibus curentur,' or 'let likes be cured by likes.'

SIMILLIMUM: In classical homeopathy, the single remedy which corresponds best to the totality of symptoms.

SUCCUSSION: Vigorous agitation during the manufacturing process of a remedy.

SYCOSIS: Generally an inflammation of the hair follicles of the face, also Hahnemann's constitutional from the gonorrhoea miasm.