

Timothy R. Dooley

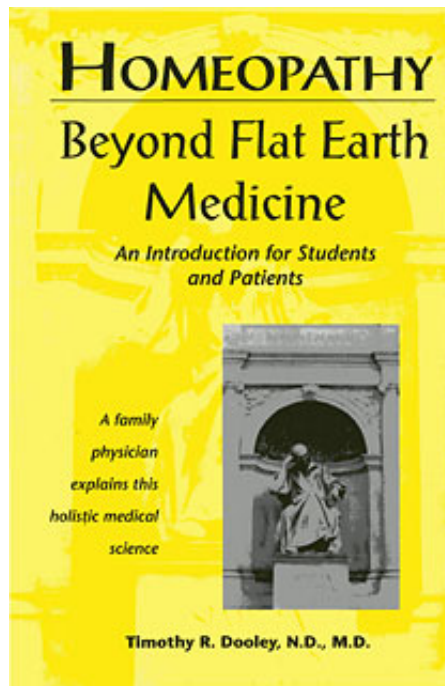
Homeopathy: Beyond Flat Earth Medicine

Reading excerpt

[Homeopathy: Beyond Flat Earth Medicine](#)

of [Timothy R. Dooley](#)

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Chapter 1

Beyond the Flat Earth

I had just opened my naturopathic practice in 1978 when a 25-year-old nursing mother entered my office.

Her complaint was mastitis, a painful infection of the breast. The problem had begun some five or six weeks earlier. She had just completed her second course of antibiotic therapy from her medical doctor. Each time the antibiotics ran out, the problem would recur with a vengeance. She had continued to breast-feed throughout the ordeal.

The patient was in a great deal of pain. She said it felt as if the pain radiated from her breast throughout her whole body.

She had a fever with a temperature of around 101 F. On examination her right breast showed an angry red streak extending along its side. It was very tender to touch.

*I took her case according to the homeopathic system and prescribed a medicine for her. It was the homeopathic remedy known as *Phytolacca 30C*.*

I was inexperienced at that time in treating complaints of this nature. I knew this could turn into a much worse condition, such as breast abscess, and thought perhaps she really should be on antibiotics. But she was fed up with the antibiotic approach and insisted on trying the remedy.

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I told her to call the office first thing in the morning and report how she was doing. She agreed and went on her way.

That night I lay awake in bed with anxiety. I suspected it had been irresponsible for me to treat this patient homeopathically. I feared she had already taken a turn for the worse and perhaps was at the hospital emergency room.

The next morning when I arrived at the office, I pulled her chart and called her without waiting to see if she would report in as agreed.

She was surprised to receive a call from her doctor.

"How are you doing today?" I inquired.

"I'm fine," she said. "The pills worked."

"What do you mean 'the pills worked'?" I asked.

"Well, I mean they worked. It's all gone."

"You mean, the infection is all well, the fever and everything?" I asked, unable to hide my incredulity.

"Yes, it's all fine . . . isn't that what was supposed to happen?"

"Er, ah, why yes, of course that was what was supposed to happen. I was just checking up," I replied, regaining my professional composure. I told her to stop taking the medicine, and to call me if there was any recurrence.

From that moment, I gazed on my little white homeopathic globules with new found respect. I had not thought it was possible for such an infection, with such an acute presentation, to completely disappear overnight. On one dose of the remedy!

When I saw her a month or so later during a visit for her child, she told me the infection had started to come back about a week after the remedy, so she had taken a second dose and everything stayed well after that.

This kind of remarkable cure becomes more common as one gains experience in homeopathic prescribing. The secret is individualizing, treating each patient as a unique whole.

The whole earth view

Few people today would argue that the earth is flat. Everyday experiences such as satellite television and airplane travel all attest to the simple fact that the earth is a sphere.

But it wasn't always so. Even to this day, because of its enormous size, the earth appears flat to the earthbound observer. We still refer to the end of the day as the sunset, indulging in the illusion that it is the sun which has moved behind the visible horizon.

In the past, people were taught from birth that the earth was flat. Science, religion, and common sense all combined to reinforce this perspective. It is easy to appreciate the great conflict that arose among these people when new theories of a spherical earth suggested that their world view was inaccurate. It was impossible for those clinging to the flat view to appreciate the spherical perspective as long as flat thinking was used in its evaluation.

As such, those advocating the spherical earth appeared to be talking nonsense. You could see the earth was flat, that the sun moved across the sky, that things fell down, that water lay flat. All the existing technologies, and there were many, had been developed on a flat world and worked beautifully (they still do today!).

Eventually this conflict was resolved when the flat view was understood to be encompassed within the more comprehensive spherical view. The flat view works to a point, but is only a limited perspective of the same spherical earth.

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A new perspective in medicine

A conflict as basic as the flat earth versus spherical earth has existed in the world of medicine for the past 200 years. At that time, a new theory was advanced by a German physician, Samuel Hahnemann. His theory represented a radical departure from the accepted view of health and disease.

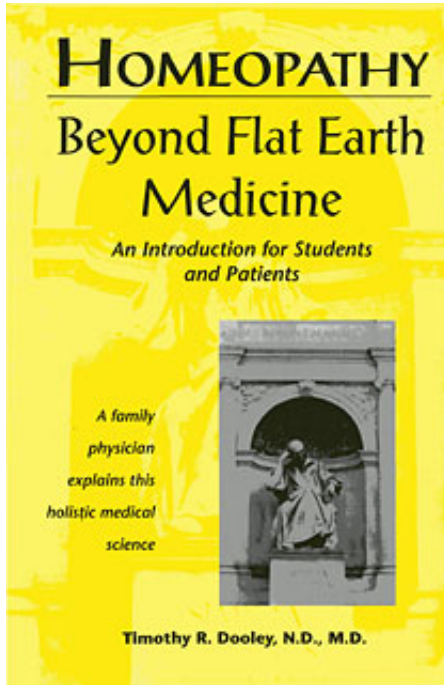
Hahnemann proposed that disease is a process that affects the patient as a whole and that medicines can be applied in small, non-toxic doses to treat the patient directly instead of just treating the disease. For reasons which will be explained, he called this new system of medicine *homeopathy*.

Conventional medicine continues to take the older approach. The diseases are treated, not the patient. In fact, *the concept of treating the patient directly, as opposed to the disease, does not even exist!*

To this day, conventional medicines are still classified according to the diseases which they treat. For example, anti-inflammatories treat inflammation, anticonvulsants treat convulsions, and antibiotics kill bacteria.

The idea of a medicine directly treating a patient is quite different from this disease approach. The basic idea is that the medicine stimulates the natural recuperative processes of the patient towards health. The disease resolves naturally as the patient recovers. The disease is not being directly treated and so, for a given disease, there are hundreds of medicines which might be indicated. It depends on the patient. Likewise, for a given medicine, there are hundreds of diseases in which it might be indicated. It depends again on the patient.

Surprisingly, these ideas are as new to most of us now as they were 200 years ago when first formulated. Yet homeopathy is a highly developed science and is used throughout the world.



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