

Rudolf Flury

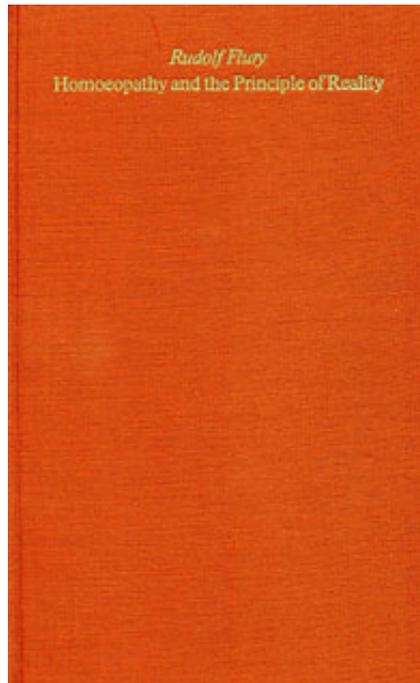
Homoeopathy and the Principle of Reality

Reading excerpt

[Homoeopathy and the Principle of Reality](#)

of [Rudolf Flury](#)

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Case Histories

Bruno

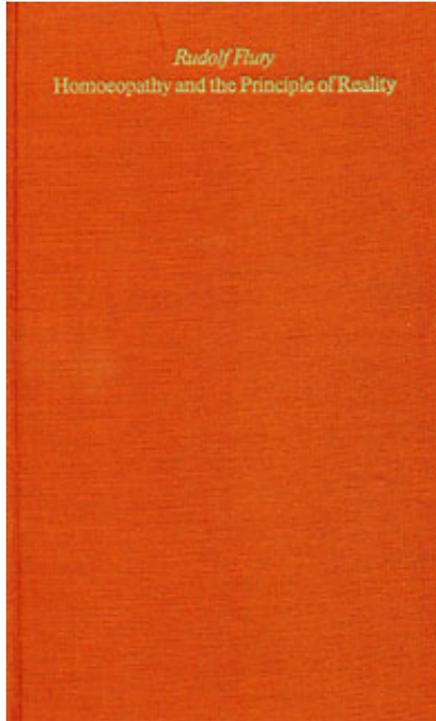
Two people came from the country, with their son Bruno. Both of them came. When both parents come together, it usually means something highly unpleasant. These people were from the lakes, from Lake Bielersee. The father had a repair shop for agricultural machinery. Bruno was a healthy boy, he looked fit, not exactly a graceful child, a bit of a seedy type. There he stood, large head, broad shoulders, looked well, big for his 2 1/2 years, a resolute lad. As for his type: born on 26th April - a Taurian - with mum a Capricorn, an added factor. The mother is always the dominant for a boy. This is rather summary typology, but it is useful. Do not let us go into discussion as to the value of these signs and what lies behind it all. Let me just say - since we are after all practitioners - that they have served me well, sometimes indeed extremely well. It has happened before that I found nothing in a particular case, nothing by way of symptoms, absolutely nothing, and this was the only thing left to me. We do rather depend on it that in the end we have something to

go on, otherwise the patient walks out of the consulting room and there is nothing we have been able to give to him. Bruno, then, was a strapping, solid lad. The parents said: "Doctor, it is awful, really horrible - the word horrible comes up about seven times - it is really horrible how the boy coughs, dreadful, we just cannot stand it. We have been to the doctor in Biel, to the children's specialist, and to the doctor in the village, but those medicines, they don't make any impression at all, he coughs and coughs and coughs, it is simply horrible." The first question is always *since when?* We have learned that once we have the beginning, the triggering factor, we'll be fine. Double underlined: the *triggering factor* or event. That does not mean I'll actually find the triggering factor, or that I have to find it. I do not have to find anything. It merely means that I am keen on it, just as Sherlock Holmes was keen on small details; we spot something instinctively, and that may perhaps come out well, that may be useful. As we have said, we categorize the materia medica, our system for comparison, according to what is a proprium, a property, of the chaos, i. e. according to *movement*. The only thing we may positively say of chaos is that it moves, and with any movement, the most important thing is what came *first*. Because of this, we clamber about in the family tree, and even use the birth signs to help us, for that, too, is a beginning, that came before as well, and after that came the real beginning. Since when has the little chap been coughing? He's been coughing for two years. Two years? How do you mean? He is only 2 1/2 now. "Oh yes, he has been coughing for two years, it is quite horrible," the parents say.

What happened two years ago? He was vaccinated against whooping cough two years ago; since then he's been coughing like mad. The old hands among you will say: we know what comes next, typical nosode case. He is given a single dose of Pertussin, and as the literature says, he has cured the boy after two years of coughing. No such thing. This is not to say that if I had not found any symptoms, and in this case that almost happened, I

would not have given Pertussin, if I had been unable to think of anything else. But I did not give Pertussin. So the history-taking continued in the usual way, first the *beginning*. There is nothing else the parents know. A cough may of course start in many ways, say with a cold or some other infection. Then the whole range of modalities was run through, they were considered one after the other and questions asked: When is it worse, in the daytime or at night? Mornings or evenings? "He coughs when he coughs, not all the time, but the attacks come at any time of the day or night. Nights are worse. My husband sleeps through it," said the mother, "but me, it is horrible - if we had to live in a block of flats, we would have been thrown out long ago." Next, was it worse after eating or better, and how about if they gave him something to drink? These were inexperienced patients. You can have experienced patients who have been dozens of times before, patients whose parents and forefathers have had homoeopathic doctors; they know it all and immediately serve up the right answers. People like that, if asked this question, will say: if I just give him something to drink, it is better immediately - Spongia. Then one asks about temperature modalities. With parents who do not know what this is all about, one has to make some suggestions. Did he cough more when he had been out in the cold and came into the warm? Bryonia. "Oh no," the parents said, "he coughs just as much when he is outside."

Did he cough more when he had been indoors and went outside in winter? "Oh no, not at all." I went through the whole litany and nothing emerged. What time of year? "Well, perhaps in the spring." But the tone of voice - this is not what we want. When a patient says: "Well, perhaps" . . . - the right symptom will get quite a different response: yes, yes, when he comes indoors, that is it, that is when it starts, - quite a different tone, a different expression. One must always be on the look-out for this. If there is a lot of coughing, one may also ask after the nature of the attacks. Adults, for instance, may be asked: where does it irri-



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