

# Grant Bentley

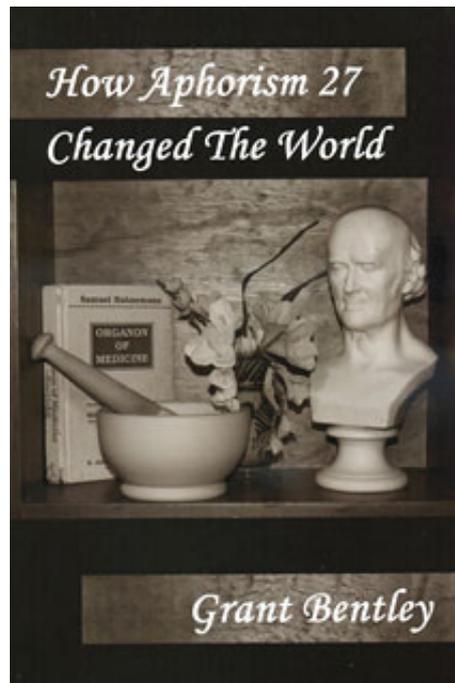
## How Aphorism 27 Changed The World

Reading excerpt

[How Aphorism 27 Changed The World](#)

of [Grant Bentley](#)

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## Introduction

*'1864: In comparing mortality rates in 1864 from dysentery, typhoid fever, diarrhoea and pneumonia at city hospital (regular) and Cavalry Depot YLospital (homeopathic) in St Louise, doctors reported very dissimilar results. Of 169 cases admitted to the regular hospital, 63 died, giving a 37.2 percent mortality rate. By contrast, of 179 cases admitted into the homeopathic hospital, doctors reported only 2 deaths, or a mortality rate of 1.1 percent. In more general areas, the regular hospital treated 990, with a mortality of 120, or 12 percent, while the homeopathic hospital admitted 833 cases, with 5 deaths, or .6 percent, showing a clear gain over its rival of 11.4 percent.<sup>1</sup>*

How many lives has homeopathy saved during the course of its history; one thousand, one hundred thousand, a million or perhaps even more? And what became of the people that homeopathy saved? And what about the people who didn't need saving but certainly needed help getting their health or their energy back on track? After all, not all homeopathic treatment is about life or death, sometimes it's just about life and improving its quality.

By improving a patient's quality of life we increase their capacity for interaction and happiness. In turn this also means improving an individual's productivity and creativity.

Historically homeopathy came out of nowhere. In one lifetime homeopathy went from being non-existent, to a practical worldwide medicine, which is a phenomenal rise in anyone's language. What made homeopathy an overnight success, was the fame it gathered in its treatment of the various epidemics of the 1800's. Whether homeopathy's opponents accept its treatment statistics, is a matter beyond homeopathy's control. However homeopathic practitioners need to understand its significance, because our profession's history in the treatment of acute disease has been very, very impressive.

Arguments will always rage among sceptics regarding homeopathic success in the treatment of epidemic diseases, especially in diseases such as

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cholera. It is in diseases like cholera, that the sceptics will claim that homeopathy's success was a direct result of what it didn't do, rather than what it did do. Sceptics will say that homeopathy's lack of blood-letting and general purging was what led homeopathic physicians to a decreased mortality rate, by comparison to conventional medicine, rather than the effectiveness of the remedies they used. And there is some logic in this. After all, the last thing a sweating, vomiting, cholera patient needs is to also have the last drop of blood squeezed out of them. However just because homeopathic physicians were not adding to a patient's woes - by hostile and destructive treatments — is not proof that homeopathic remedies work.

At the same time it should also be borne in mind, that despite how logical this argument may sound, the abhorrence and non-use of blood-letting by homeopaths, also does not mean that every successful treatment in the history of homeopathy can be put down to the abandonment of bloodletting as a procedure. Just because blood-letting has been proven to be an incorrect treatment for conditions like cholera — and nearly any other condition for that matter - does not *disprove* that homeopathic remedies also played an active role in the treatment and cure of the patients it treated.

Consider the following:

*'By the mid-1850s the use of bloodletting had declined substantially in treating not only epidemic fevers but also internal inflammations like pneumonia. One prominent physician later commented: "We can hardly conceive of a revolution in practice more complete. Venesection is now, from being the most frequent, the rarest of operations".<sup>2</sup>*

The paragraph above was originally written in 1864, when the use of blood-letting had already diminished — and diminished quite considerably. If the abandonment of bloodletting helped increase patient success in homeopathic clinics, and decreased patient mortality rates, it fails to explain the difference in the mortality rates that occurred during the twentieth century. The Spanish flu is a prime example.

In the flu epidemic of the early twentieth century, mortality rates between homeopathic and conventional schools were marked, despite the fact that conventional medicine was no longer using bloodletting as a treatment. This means any difference in mortality, especially any difference that was in homeopathy's favour, could not possibly be put down to blood-letting.

## Introduction

This being the case let's examine a few statistics:

*'Dean W. A. Pearson of Philadelphia collected 26,795 cases of influenza treated by homeopathic physicians with a mortality of 1.05%, while the average old school mortality is 30%...'*<sup>3</sup>

Added to these successes we should also include successful homeopathic prescriptions made by individual practitioners, not just hospitals:

*I did not lose a single case of influenza; my death rate in the pneumonias was 2.1%. The salicylates, including aspirin and quinine, were almost the sole standbys of the old school and it was a common thing to hear them speaking of losing 60% of their pneumonias. '-Dudley A. Williams, MD, Providence, Rhode Island.'*\*

While mortality rates using homeopathic remedies were impressive, our original question was twofold. How many people have been saved was part one of the questions; how many lives have been improved was the next. Both of course are hypothetical questions but the inference is important.

To the question of how many lives have been saved by homeopathy, the real answer is, nobody knows.

To the question of how many lives have been changed by homeopathy, the answer is - countless.

People who have sought and received help from homeopathy belong to a long and impressive list. These people, alongside the average mums and dads include some impressive names from the arts, politics and business.

For example ask yourself a simple question. Where would India's place on the world stage be right now, without the influence of someone like Ghandi? Would India be independent? And if so, would she have gained her independence through a brutal and costly war, like most colonised countries have had to do, or would an India without Ghandi have been just as self-governing and independent?

Would the India of today, have the same general internal peace if Ghandi had not been alive? Would she still have the same self-esteem and pride? The same sense of political accomplishment while maintaining a degree of spiritual morality?

Would India really have become the world's biggest democracy accomplished through hard work, cooperation, tolerance and peace, without Ghandi's influence? After all, no other country before India had broken away from a ruling foreign power - especially a foreign power that

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didn't want to leave — and was able to do so with world support. And peacefully.

With all this being said, would it be fair to say that Ghandi changed the country that over one billion people call home today? The answer is, it is not only fair, it is an historical truth.

Let's ask another question. 'What would have happened to India if Ghandi's health and vitality had failed?' "What if Ghandi had not been able to have the strength to begin the salt march? Or worse, what if Ghandi had died during a hunger strike?

Determination and motivation are important factors for what we do with our lives, but if we don't have the energy to see our aspirations through, then we may as well not have any aspirations at all:

*Homeopathy cures a greater percentage of cases than any other method of treatment. Homeopathy is the latest and refined method of treating patients economically and non-violently.'*

*Mahatama Gandhi*

Here is one simple fact. Everyone — no matter who they are - accomplishes more and lives their life to their fullest when they have more energy and when they feel well in themselves. That is a plain simple truth — and it doesn't even need referencing. We create more successfully, live better, love better and even govern better when we are balanced and have energy.

When we are healthy we are also less selfish, and that means we are more likely to include the opinions and best interests of others. When we are ill, tired or diseased, this is not the case. It requires energy to be the egalitarian and patient person we would all like to be and we all can be.

Disease is selfish by nature. Whether it is an infection, meaning that a foreign life force is robbing us of every ounce of energy we have, or a non-infectious chronic disease which makes the sufferer just as selfish, but for different reasons. Generally this type of disease - a non-infectious chronic disease - does not occur unless we are stressed or exhausted, which in turn makes us self-protective and selfish of our energy and time.

It is this lost life, rather than death and disfigurement, that is the untold story of this type of disease. While everyone is aware of the physical pain ill health causes, we forget about the loving and creative life that is either taken away, or will never rise to the surface because of the hold disease has over the sufferer. It can never be known how much life, music and achievement has been robbed from the world because of the fatigue, deadness and apathy caused by disease and ill-health:

## Introduction

*I can't manage without homeopathy. In fact, I never go anywhere without homeopathic remedies. I often make use of them.'*

*Paul McCartney*

Imagine if Paul McCartney was too sick and lethargic to have written 'Let it be', 'Hey Jude' or 'Lady Madonna'? Obviously I am not saying that these classics were written because of homeopathy directly, but the flow on effect of feeling healthy and enthusiastic cannot be overstated. And this same flow on effect can also be seen in homeopathy's worldwide influence.

So why the tide - *How Aphorism 27 Changed the World?* Why the focus on this particular aphorism? In short it is because it is in this aphorism that the building blocks of homeopathy can be seen.

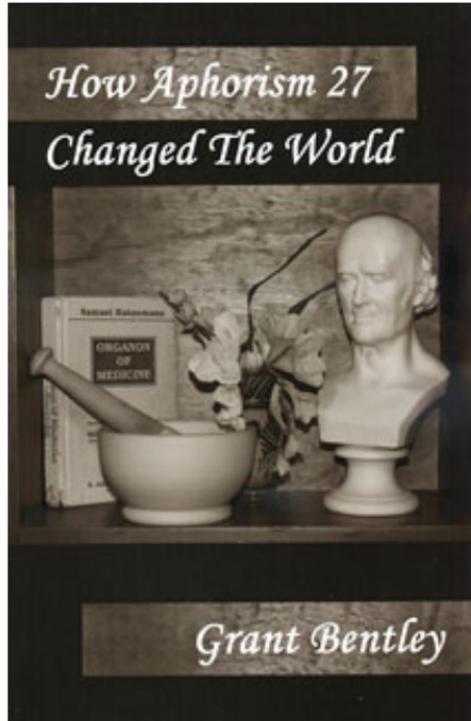
By increasing life force and vitality, homeopathic remedies help in the task of living life to the full. Increased vitality means increased enthusiasm and that means greater output and creativity. This is homeopathy's flow on effect. People like Gandhi, Paul McCartney, Mark Twain, Tina Turner and Dizzy Gillespie have all been advocates of homeopathy. So whether they like to be bop, nut bush or walk that long and winding road, maybe homeopathy played a helping hand in the determination and creativity of the minds that have helped define and change the modern world we live in.

### Aphorism 27

*The curative power of medicines, therefore, depends on their symptoms, similar to the disease but superior to it in strength (§ 12 - 26), so that each individual case of disease is most surely, radically, rapidly and permanently annihilated and removed only by a medicine capable of producing (in the human system) in the most similar and complete manner the totality of its symptoms, which at the same time are stronger than the disease.'*

*Samuel Hahnemann*

In aphorism 27, we see the how's and why's of homeopathy in one small paragraph. It is in aphorism 27 that Hahnemann explains the foundation of not only the similimum, but also the importance of potency. Aphorism 27 contains the fundamentals of homeopathy in one neat and precise package. And the fact is homeopathy, regardless of its opposition, has indeed changed the world, in a number of ways and in a number of forms.



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