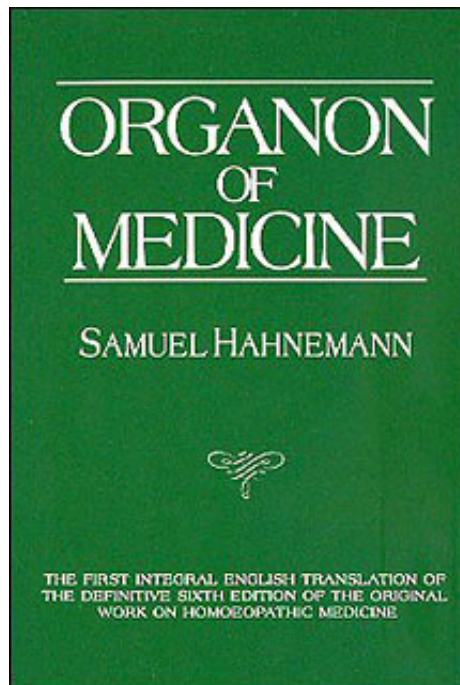


# Samuel Hahnemann Organon of Medicine

Reading excerpt

[Organon of Medicine](#)  
of [Samuel Hahnemann](#)

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# Translators' Introduction

Samuel Hahnemann's *Organon of Medicine* clearly and completely states, for the first time in history, the true nature of health and disease, the natural principles of cure, and the system of medical therapy based on these principles which we know as homoeopathy. It has remained until today the one essential cornerstone of homoeopathy, the ultimate authority on its doctrine and practice. Everything ever written on homoeopathy proceeds from it.

It was first published in 1810, in Kothen, Germany. Hahnemann published five editions of the work during his lifetime and completed the manuscript of the sixth and final edition in 1842, the year before he died at the age of eighty-eight. This last edition was not published until 1921.

The standard English version of the *Organon* has hitherto been a nineteenth-century translation of the fifth edition, to which a translation of the important changes introduced by Hahnemann in the sixth edition were later added in an effort to bring it up to date. Unfortunately, this translation is very tedious and difficult to read because it approximates in stilted Victorian English the dense and cumbersome style of Hahnemann's German. Hahnemann's language is difficult even for a modern German ear, and its literal equivalent in English is a formidable obstacle to understanding. Furthermore, there are serious errors in the translation and in the additions made to it.

The present translators have made a completely new translation from the original text of the sixth edition. Hahnemann's manuscript is in the possession of the School of Medicine of the University of California in San Francisco, and we have been fortunate in obtaining a photocopy of it. We have scrupulously adhered to

### *Translators' Introduction*

every word of Hahnemann's text but have rendered it into standard modern English, sometimes dividing his very long sentences into several snorter ones ror trie sake of clarity and readability.

There has been a most remarkable reawakening of interest in homoeopathy during the last ten years, and many important textbooks have been republished in different English-speaking countries. It seemed therefore all the more urgent to bring out a clear English translation of the book from which all others in the literature developed and on which they comment.

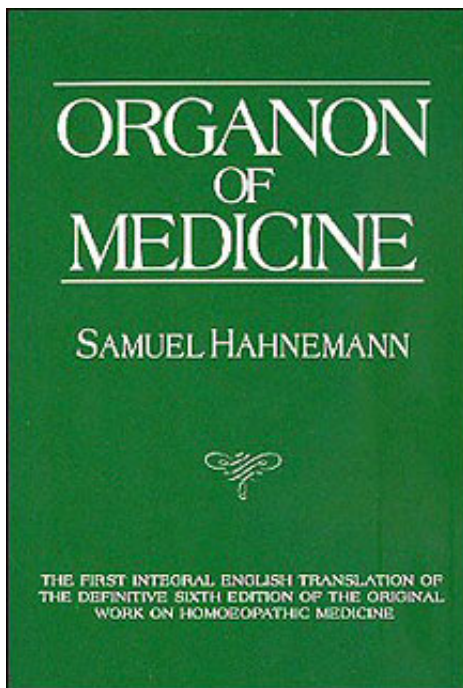
This translation is the fruit of many months of arduous labor; it has been rigorously and systematically checked against the original text by us and by other scholars. It was commissioned by The Hahnemann Foundation of California with the intention of providing a reliable modern English source for homoeopathic physicians and the public.

The *Organon* may in time be widely recognized as one of the most important books in the entire history of medicine, because it introduces in the long story of man's struggle against disease a successful system of medicinal therapy that contrasts radically with everything previously taught and practiced.

Homoeopathy is recognized and practiced throughout the world, but it is still something of a challenge to the orthodox medical establishment, which can neither assimilate it nor refute it.

Amid the public doubts and criticisms that today cloud the image of technological medicine, homoeopathy offers a clear, simple, and inexpensive way to cure disease. It may indeed turn out to be the new medicine of the world.

Jost Kiinzli, M.D.  
Alain Naude Peter  
Pendleton



Samuel Hahnemann

[Organon of Medicine](#)

von Naude / Pendleton / Künzli  
Organon-Edition 1982

270 pages, hb  
publication 1982



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