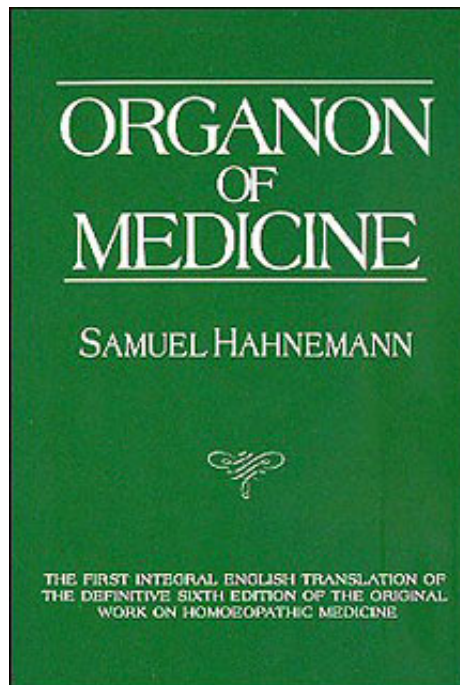


# Samuel Hahnemann Organon of Medicine

Reading excerpt

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

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Examples of a abound. A hand immersed in hot water is of course at first much warmer than the other one, which is not immersed (primary action), but once removed from the hot water and completely dried it soon becomes cold, then much colder than the other hand (secondary action).

Someone who is heated by vigorous exercise (primary action) is afterward affected with cold and shivering (secondary action).

The man who yesterday was warmed by too much wine (primary action) today feels chilly from every little draft (counteraction of the organism, secondary action).

An arm that has been long immersed in the coldest water is of course at the beginning much paler and colder than the other (primary action), but removed from the cold water and dried it becomes afterward not only warmer than the other arm but even hot, red, and inflamed (secondary action, counteraction of the vital force).

Excessive liveliness results from taking strong coffee (primary action), but afterward lethargy and drowsiness remain for a long time (counteraction, secondary action) unless removed by the repeated taking of more coffee (brief palliations).

The heavy, stuporous sleep of opium (primary action) is followed on the next night by greater insomnia (counteraction, secondary action).

The constipation of opium (primary action) is followed by diarrhea (secondary action), and purging with medicines that stimulate the intestines (primary action) is followed by constipation lasting many days (secondary action).

Thus, to the primary action of every substance that in large doses strongly alters the condition of a healthy

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body our vital force always produces in the secondary action the exactly opposite condition (when, as stated above, such a condition exists).

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But in a healthy body one will not notice any conspicuous secondary or counteraction to the effect of very small homoeopathic doses of pathogenetic substances.

The primary action that some of these remedies produce is perceptible to a sufficiently attentive observer, but the counteraction (secondary action) of the living organism is only as much as is needed to restore the normal condition.

### 67

These incontrovertible truths, which nature and experience spontaneously offer, explain to us the benefits of homoeopathic cures and, conversely, prove the absurdity of antipathic and palliative treatment with contrary remedies."

*a.* Only in the most urgent cases, where danger to life and imminent death do not allow time for a homoeopathic remedy to act—neither hours, nor often quarter hours, nor even minutes—in sudden accidents to healthy individuals, such as asphyxiation, apparent death from lightning, choking, freezing, drowning, etc., only in such cases may we and should we as a first measure at least bring back irritability and sensitivity (physical life) by using a palliative such as gentle electrical stimulation, clysters of strong coffee, smelling salts, gradual warming, etc.

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## *Samuel Hahnemann*

After this stimulation, the action of the vital organs resumes its former healthy course, since this was not a disease needing to be removed,\* but only a restriction or inhibition of the vital energy, healthy in itself.

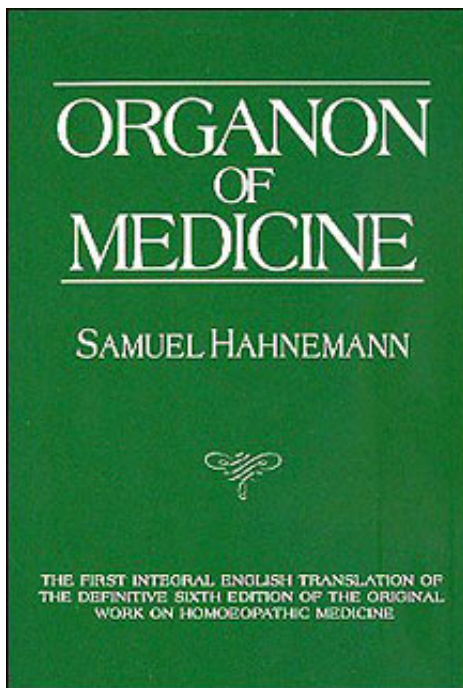
To this also belong various antidotes to sudden poisonings: alkalies for the ingestion of mineral acids, *Hepar sulphuris* for metal poisonings, coffee and camphor (and *Ipecacuanha*) for opium poisonings, etc.

A homoeopathic remedy is not necessarily wrongly chosen just because one or more of its symptoms is the opposite of some disease symptoms of medium or small importance, provided the remaining stronger, salient (characteristic), and peculiar symptoms of the disease are destroyed and extinguished by that same remedy through symptom similarity (homoeopathically covered and neutralized). The few opposite symptoms of the remedy disappear by themselves after it has ceased to act, without in the least delaying the cure.

## 68

In *homoeopathic cures* experience shows us that after the unusually small doses of medicine required in this therapy (par. 275 to par. 287), doses just sufficient to overcome the natural disease through symptom similarity and drive it from the sensation of the vital principle, it does sometimes happen that some slight medicinal disease is at first left behind *alone* in the organism. But

\*And yet the modern mongrel sect invokes this observation (in vain) to find such exceptions to the rule everywhere and to slip in on the sly their convenient allopathic palliatives and all their other pernicious allopathic rubbish. They do this only to save themselves the trouble of looking for the correct homoeopathic remedy in each case of disease, very conveniently appearing to be homoeopathic physicians, while their *pernicious* actions prove otherwise.



Samuel Hahnemann

[Organon of Medicine](#)

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