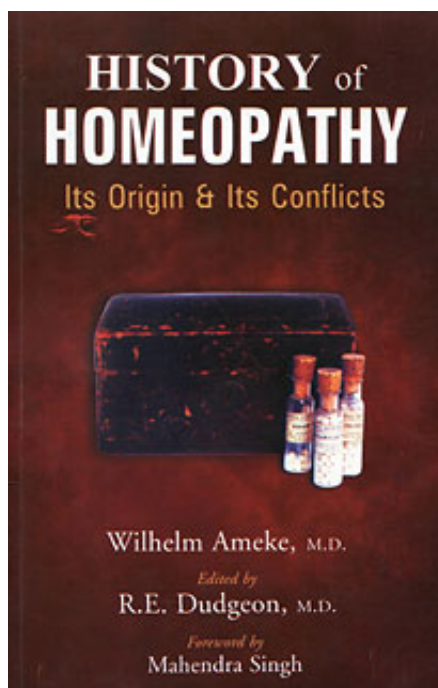


Wilhelm Ameke History of Homeopathy

Leseprobe

[History of Homeopathy](#)

von [Wilhelm Ameke](#)



<http://www.narayana-verlag.de/b5575>

Das Kopieren der Leseproben ist nicht gestattet.

Narayana Verlag GmbH
Blumenplatz 2
D-79400 Kandern
Tel. +49 7626 9749 700
Fax +49 7626 9749 709
Email info@narayana-verlag.de
<http://www.narayana-verlag.de>

In unserer [Online-Buchhandlung](#) werden alle deutschen
und englischen Homöopathie Bücher vorgestellt.



Editor's Preface

The history of homeopathy is the indictment of the medical profession. A physician distinguished above his fellows for his services to medicine, chemistry and pharmacology, endowed with quite a phenomenal talent for ancient and modern languages, and well read in all the medical lore of past times, after mature thought and at a ripe age, announces to the profession that, as the result of years of arduous experiment, investigation and reflection, he believes he has discovered a therapeutic rule which will enable us to find the remedies for diseases with greater certainty and precision than can be effected by any of the methods hitherto taught. The reception which this announcement met with, and which was given to all Hahnemann's subsequent efforts to give certainty and scientific accuracy to therapeutics, is described in the following pages, and forms one of the most melancholy and deplorable episodes in the history of medicine.

Homeopathy having had its origin in Germany, and its founder having spent his long life chiefly in that country, it is natural to expect that the historical events of homeopathy have occurred chiefly, at all events primarily, in Germany. Hahnemann's active life was carried on in Germany, and his works were written in German or in Latin, which in his early days was the language often employed by medical and scientific authors.

The main incidents of Hahnemann's life and the chief sphere of his activity being Germany, the history of homeopathy is practically its history in Germany, and the task of writing it could most appropriately be under-taken by a fellow-countryman of Hahnemann.

How well Dr. Ameke has performed his self-imposed task, the English reader has now an opportunity of seeing. He has brought into full prominence the labour and industry of his hero before he commenced those investigations that led to his discovery of the therapeutic rule which he first enunciated as the general principle of medical practice. He clearly shows that Hahnemann was as far in advance of his chemical contemporaries in their special science, as he afterwards surpassed all his medical contemporaries in their special art. He also brings out the fact that Hahnemann, before his discovery of the homeopathic rule, had acquired a great reputation for his improvements in the practice of medicine, in pharmacology, and especially in hygiene, a branch of medicine which he may almost be said to have created. We see in this history the high esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries, and especially by the Nestor of German physic, Hufeland, who never lost his respect for Hahnemann's genius and services to medicine even when he differed from him in opinion.

The high esteem in which Hahnemann was held by the most illustrious of his contemporaries contrasts remarkably with the unworthy treatment he received from the next generation of medical men, who knew him only as the propagator of a medical system, which if it were true or even only partially true, must upset all the teachings and traditions of medicine. However we may regret, we cannot wonder at the desperate efforts of the supporters of Galenic medicine to discredit the new system which threatened the annihilation of all their most cherished doctrines and methods.

It must strike every unprejudiced observer as a very hopeless way of suppressing a novel system of therapeutics, to abuse and calumniate its author, to persecute its adherents by criminal processes, coroners' inquests, expulsion from medical societies, deprivation of hospital appointments, exclusion from periodical literature, and social and professional ostracism. One would think that the right way would be to afford them opportunities in hospitals to test its value side by

side with traditional methods, to court discussion in societies and periodicals, to make careful experiments with the remedies and the mode of their employment recommended by its partisans, more especially as those partisans were the equals of the others in social and professional status-integral parts of the same professional brotherhood. That the dominant majority preferred the former plan, only shows that they were doubtful of the superiority of their own methods, which, nevertheless, they constantly vaunted as the only "regular," "scientific" and "rational" ones.

Time has shown that Hahnemann was right at least in his condemnation of the cherished methods of traditional medicine, for we have seen them all abandoned one by one by the champions of orthodoxy, until nothing was left but blank nihilism, euphemistically called "expectancy." After arriving at this zero, the mercury of medical opinion was bound to undergo a reaction which we now see in the search for specifics (which, for the most part, are sought for and found in the homeopathic material medica) ; the physiological experiments on man and beasts-but principally beasts-in order to discover the remedial power of drugs; the germ-theory with its corollary germicide medicines and method; the tentative employment of new and powerful drugs, and the use of ice-cold bathing and other "anti-pyretics" in almost all diseases with heightened temperature.

As our old-school brethren have approximated so much to the teachings of Hahnemann, chiefly by abandoning what he disapproved, but also, to some degree, by adopting what he recommended, it might be expected that their hostility towards his professed adherents would have ceased. But this is far from being the case. The more they are indebted to homeopathy, the less do they seem disposed to admit its adherents to the full communion of brotherhood. They have so long abused and calumniated Hahnemann and his doctrines that they seem unable to give up their long-indulged habit. Not being able now to revile us for our disparagement of the methods they have themselves discarded, nor for our belief in the therapeutic rule *of similia similibus*

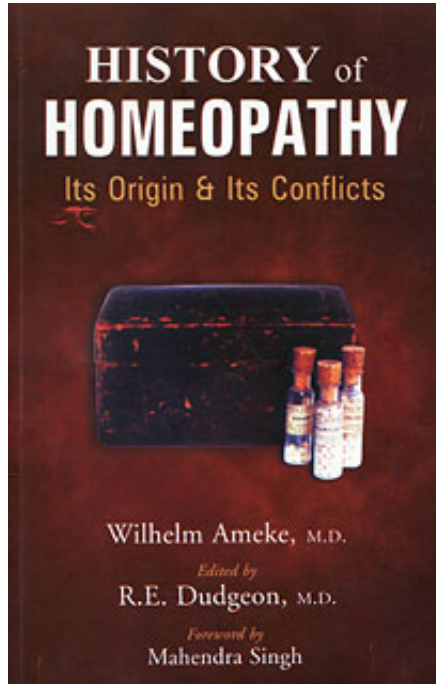
curentur," which they now generally acknowledge to be one of the methods of medicine, their sole grievance is that we call ourselves homeopaths (which we do not any more than they call themselves allopaths—we only accept the name for want of a better, to avoid circumlocution, and our opponents do not), and thus commit the unpardonable sin of "trading on a name", an accusation which indicates that we acknowledge a general therapeutic rule which is manifestly absurd, as that is but a poor trade in which all the gains of the profession in the way of emoluments and honours are withheld from those who exercise it. What is considered a sin in us does not seem to be so regarded in their own ranks when used by oculists, aurists, gynecologists, ovariologists, laryngoscopists and other specialists, who trade on a name to all intents and purposes, and are quite right in so doing. The objections to homeopathy being practically reduced to this fanciful charge, it is evident that the attitude of the representatives of traditional medicine towards their re-forming brethren must soon change, and they must allow homeopathy to take its proper place in medicine. When that is the case, the history of the origin and the conflicts of homeopathy will be read with interest by the school which now presents a hostile front to that of Hahnemann, for it will feel that it has purged itself of the reproach of opposing the truth by its late acknowledgement of its error.

My share in the work is that I have carefully revised Dr. Drysdale's manuscript and have superintended its passage through the press ; I have also added an index and a few notes which serve to complete the history in some places where it seemed defective.

FL E. DUDGEON

London,

September, 1885



Wilhelm Ameke

[History of Homeopathy](#)

Its origin & Its Conflicts

512 Seiten, paperback
erschienen 2007



Mehr Homöopathie Bücher auf www.narayana-verlag.de