Homeopathy

admit women.

Homeopathy is a method of medical treatment designed to stimulate the body's own healing processes in order to cure illnesses. It is based upon the discovery that a substance in small doses may alleviate symptoms similar to those it causes at higher doses. The phrase "likes are cured by likes" is often used to describe a basic concept behind homeopathy. Thus, the two cornerstones of homeopathy are that "likes are cured by likes," and that the remedies are properly diluted to eliminate or minimize their toxic effects. The remedies are used to treat conditions such as allergies, coughs, colds, flu, stress, arthritis pain, muscle pain, and teething.

Homeopathic products are therapeutically active micro-doses of mineral, botanical, and biological substances. They are designed to work with the body's defense mechanisms and facilitate the body's elimination of toxic substances. When used in combination formulations they can be utilized by physicians to treat specific indications. Combination homeopathic products are easy to understand and use for health care practitioners trained within the conventional medical paradigm, as well as those trained in complementary and alternative medicines.

The science of homeopathy was developed by the German physician and chemist, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, in the early 1800's. Through numerous homeopathic experiments called "provings", he furthered the theory that "likes are cured by likes." Dr. Hahnemann then determined that the effects of the remedies he tested on himself were too toxic at the conventional dosage level. He found that when

a remedy is properly diluted, healing is achieved without toxic reactions or severe side effects.

Homeopathy was brought to the United States (beginning in 1825) by several doctors who had studied in Europe. They, in turn, converted other doctors to homeopathic practice. Slowly schools were established. and a medical organization was formed. By the mid-1800's, several medical colleges existed that taught homeopathy, including the New England Female Medical College, the first medical school in the U.S. to

The manufacture and sale of homeopathic medicines is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. The Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States was written into federal law in 1938 under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, making the manufacture and sale of homeopathic medicines legal in this country. Most are available without a prescription.

Laws about the practice of homeopathy vary from state to state. Usually it is practiced legally by those whose license entitles them to practice medicine in their state. Health freedom laws in a growing number of states allow the practice of homeopathy by non-licensed professionals as well. Since homeopathic remedies are sold over the counter, people in all states are free to use them for self-care at home.

How does the concept of homeopathy differ from that of conventional medicine? Homeopathy attempts to stimulate the body to heal itself. Instead of seeing the symptoms of illness as something wrong which must be set right, homeopaths see them as signs of the way the body is attempting to help itself. Instead of trying to stop a cough with suppressants, as conventional medicine does, a homeopath will give a remedy that will cause a cough in a healthy person, and thus stimulate the ill body to restore itself.

In conventional medical thought, health is seen simply as the absence of disease. You assume that you are healthy if there is nothing wrong with you. To a person versed in homeopathy, health is much more than that. A healthy person is a person who is free on all levels: physical, emotional, and mental. The homeopath recognizes any limitations at each level of freedom and attempts, through the use of the properly selected remedies, to restore the person to health and freedom.

Another important basic difference exists between conventional medical therapy and homeopathy. In conventional therapy, the aim often is to control the illness through regular use of medical substances, even if the medication is nothing more than vitamins. If the medication is withdrawn, however, the person returns to illness. There has been no cure. A person who takes a pill for high blood pressure every day is not undergoing a cure but is only controlling the symptoms. Homeopathy's aim is to cure or "the complete restoration of perfect health," as stated by Dr. Samuel Hahneman.

The doctors here use numerous medicines that utilize homeopathic principles in formulation for therapy. Please consider reading about <u>Anthorposophical medicines</u>.



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