

MISSION OF THE PHYSICIAN

Aphorism 1:

The physician's high and only mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, as it is termed¹.

¹His mission is not, however, to construct so - called systems, by interweaving empty ideas and hypotheses concerning the internal vital processes, and consequently the actual mode in which diseases are produced in the interior of the organism (whereon so many physicians have hitherto ambitiously wasted their talents and their time); nor is it to attempt to give countless explanations regarding the phenomena in diseases and their proximate cause (which must ever remain concealed), wrapped in unintelligible words and an inflated abstract mode of expression, which should sound very learned, in order to amaze the ignorant — whilst sick humanity sighs in vain for aid. Of such learned reveries (to which the name of theoretic medicine is given, and for which peculiar professorships are instituted) we have had quite enough, and it is now high time that all who call themselves physicians should at length cease to deceive suffering mankind with mere talk, and begin now, instead, for once to act, that is, really to aid and to cure.



EXPLANATION:

PHYSICIAN

The term “**physician**” traces its roots to ancient Greek, originating from the word “**physikos**”, which denotes “**natural**” or “**pertaining to nature**”. Initially referring to those versed in natural sciences, its evolution over centuries has delineated it to denote a skilled medical practitioner. Today, a physician is an accredited healthcare professional trained extensively in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases and injuries, dedicated to providing comprehensive medical care to patients.

In homoeopathy, a physician is deeply versed in the laws and principles of natural healing, applying them with precision in clinical practice. Hahnemann emphasized that a homoeopathic physician should prioritize the art of healing over reliance on pharmaceutical intervention, contrasting with allopathic practices. Patients seek not mere symptomatic relief but a cure addressing the root cause of their suffering, often exacerbated by adverse environmental factors.

Hahnemann regarded the physician with reverence, so he mentions- “**The physician’s**”, highlighting their roles such as diagnosing illnesses, predicting outcomes, providing health advice, administering treatments, and offering guidance and support. Their primary mission is the restoration of the patient’s physical, mental, and social equilibrium using comprehensive knowledge and expertise in homoeopathic principles.

HIGH & ONLY

- This refers to – “**of utmost importance**” or “**supreme and sole**”.
- In the first aphorism of “Organon of Medicine”, Dr. Hahnemann stresses that the main and most important goal of a physician should be to cure their patients.
- He **emphasizes that curing illness should be seen as the top priority and of utmost importance**. According to him, everything a physician does should be aimed at achieving this essential goal.
- Hahnemann believes that the commitment to healing patients is not just a duty but a moral obligation that requires dedicated and careful attention to patient care.

MISSION

The concept of the term “**mission**” emerged in 1598 within the Society of Jesus, when Jesuits began sending members abroad. Its roots lie in the Latin word “**missionem**” (nom. missio), which denotes “**act of sending**” or “**mittere**”, meaning “**to send**”.

In his original German version of Organon, Hahnemann used the word “**Beruf**”. Various English translators have interpreted this word in various ways.

C. Wesslhoef	→	translated it as “calling”.
C. A. Baldwin	→	supported Wesslhoef's interpretation.
C. Wheeler	→	translated it as “aim”.
R. E. Dudgeon	→	in the 5th edition, translated it as “mission”.
Boericke	→	followed Dudgeon's interpretation in his translation of the 6th edition.

Hahnemann emphasizes the significance of the term “**Mission**” as a noble calling or occupation characterized by a sense of dedication towards improving the well-being of individuals or the community. It is essential for every physician to approach their responsibilities with unwavering commitment and a clear mindset. Failing to fulfill these duties is considered a wrong doing. Members of missionary organizations, such as monks and nuns, dedicate themselves to a mission of aiding the afflicted in society, prioritizing service over personal gratification or benefit.

Dr. Stuart Close, in his book “**The Genius of Homoeopathy**”, suggests that important advancements in religion, science, and art often begin with individuals who appear at critical moments and declare their mission. These leaders, like Moses, Luther, Washington, Lincoln, Plato, Bacon, Hippocrates, and Hahnemann, become sources of learning, inspiration, and guidance for the world. However, whenever such visionary figures emerge, they inevitably face opposition and attempts by others to distort or obstruct their progress for personal gain. The best defense lies in staying true to the original truths taught by these leaders and fostering strong connections with like-minded supporters. Hahnemann approached medicine with a strong belief in effective healing

methods. In the beginning of his book “Organon” he firmly stated that the "physician's main mission is to restore the sick to health—to cure."

This belief shaped Hahnemann's perspective. He evaluated all doctors, medical theories, and treatments based on one simple question: “Do they heal the sick?”. Hahnemann, after observing and experiencing the shortcomings of medicine in his time, concluded that existing methods were often ineffective. Armed with extensive knowledge and personal disappointments, he sought to reform medical practices. During Hahnemann's time, doctors talked about "cures," but actually achieving healing was challenging. This struggle continued in later periods within conventional medical practices.

THE SICK

In Homoeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann emphasized that illness isn't merely about physical symptoms but involves a deeper disturbance of the body's vital force, which he saw as essential energy. [He believed that before any visible physical damage occurs, this vital force is already disrupted, leading to what he termed "sickness."](#) Hahnemann's insight was that this disruption originates from internal factors, often termed miasms, which exert harmful influences on health. His famous statement, **“there is no disease, but sick people”**, underscores his view that treating illness requires addressing this underlying disturbance of the vital force. In Homoeopathy, symptoms play a crucial role not only in diagnosing illness but also in guiding treatment. They serve as indicators of the vital force's state, offering Homoeopaths valuable insights into selecting appropriate remedies to restore health by harmonizing this vital force.

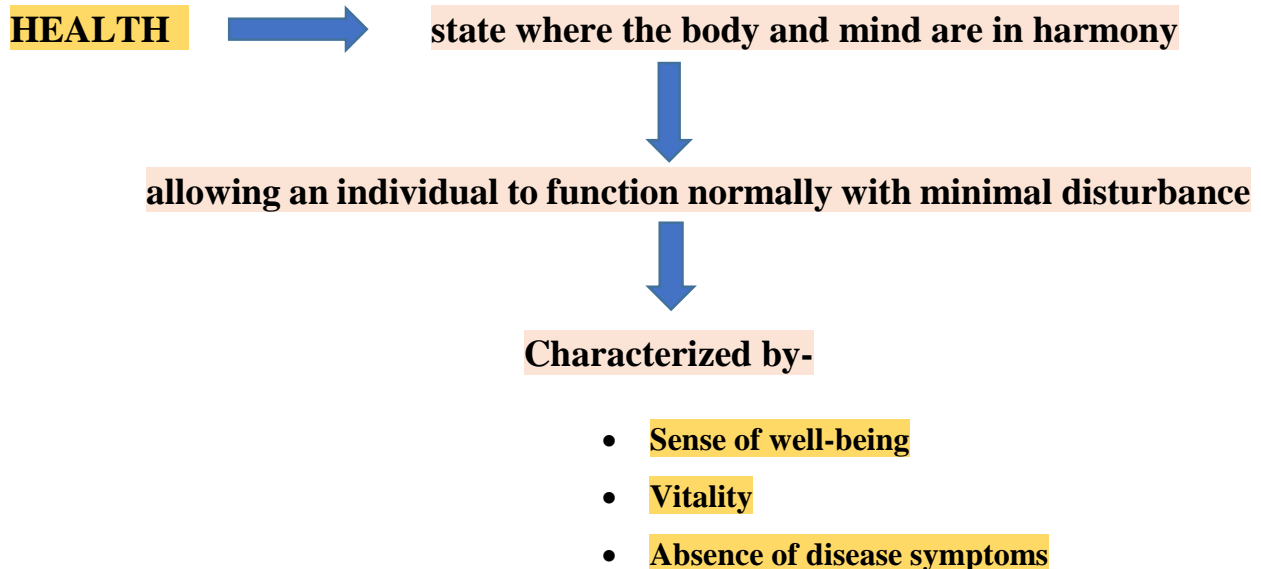
In his **lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy, Dr. Kent** also discusses how traditional medicine and Homoeopathy differ in their approaches to treating sickness. He points out that traditional medicine often focuses on symptoms and visible signs of disease, without addressing the deeper causes. [In contrast, Homoeopathy believes in understanding sickness through a detailed study of all symptoms - both physical and emotional - because these symptoms reveal the internal state of the patient.](#) Kent criticizes traditional methods for only treating the surface problems and not considering the whole person. He argues that true healing requires identifying and treating the underlying imbalances within the patient. Homoeopathy, according to Kent, offers a more holistic

approach to medicine by focusing on the person as a whole and aiming to restore health by addressing the root causes of sickness.

HEALTH

The World Health Organization defines health as “**a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity**”. This definition harmonizes well with homoeopathy's principles, which emphasize a holistic approach to healthcare. Homoeopathy believes in treating the whole person—body, mind, emotions, and social life—to restore balance and health. Both WHO's view and homoeopathy focus on personalized care, considering each person's unique needs and aiming to prevent illness by promoting overall wellness. Homoeopathy works by supporting the body's natural healing abilities, aligning with WHO's goal of achieving lasting health and well-being.

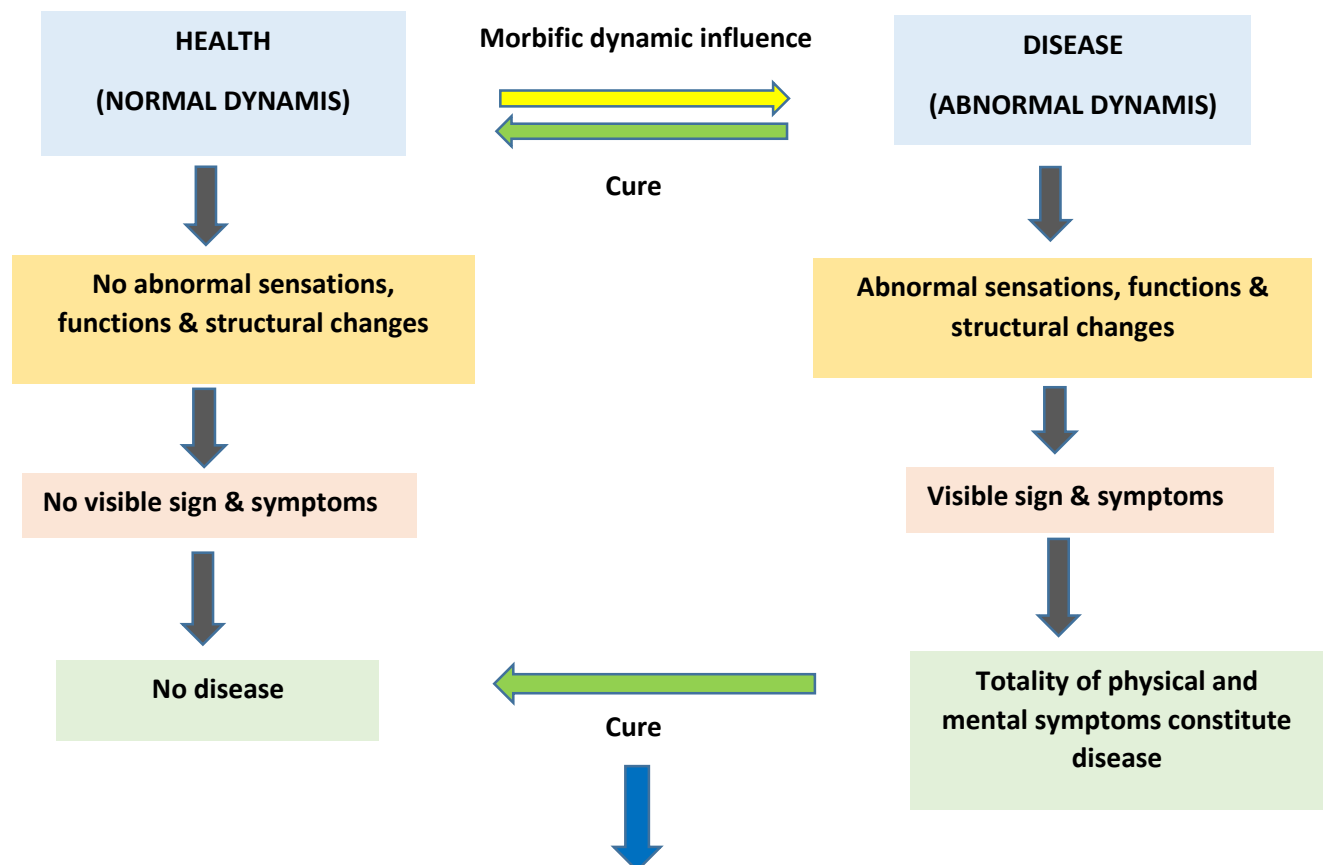
Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, presented a unique perspective on health that differed from the conventional medical beliefs of his time. At the core of his philosophy was the idea of a "vital force," an energetic principle thought to animate and support the body, encompassing its physical, mental, and spiritual aspects. In the Organon of Medicine, Hahnemann defines health in **Aphorism 9** as-



Hahnemann suggested that disturbances or imbalances in this vital force, caused by various external or internal factors, lead to illness. Within his holistic framework, health was seen as a dynamic balance where the body's natural healing abilities strive for equilibrium in the face of different stressors. He advocated for individualized medicine, acknowledging each person's individual experience of illness and emphasizing treatments tailored to specific symptoms and constitution. The foundation of his therapeutic approach was the "law of similars," which proposed that substances causing symptoms in healthy individuals could alleviate similar symptoms in the sick, albeit in highly diluted forms. Therefore, Hahnemann's concept of health focused on restoring the vital force and achieving harmony among the interconnected aspects of human existence.

CURE

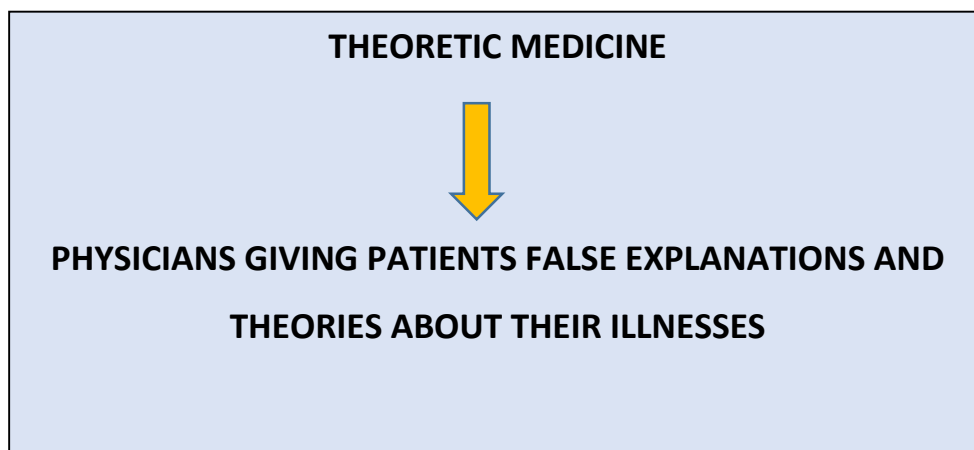
In his book “Materia Medica Pura”, Dr. Hahnemann defined the term Cure as **“recovery undisturbed by after sufferings”**. Cure means getting better without the treatment causing more problems. In homoeopathy, treatments are chosen to help the body heal naturally without making things worse. Hahnemann believed in gentle healing that improves overall health without adding new issues. His approach focuses on the patient's well-being and aims for lasting improvement.



- **Removal of all signs and symptoms**
- **Restore overall health by balancing the body's natural dynamics**

THEORETIC MEDICINE

The first aphorism in the Organon of Medicine gains importance when we consider its footnote. Hahnemann criticizes what he calls **“theoretic medicine”** of his time.



Hahnemann believed many doctors relied on guesses rather than real evidence and experience when treating patients. He argued that medical care should be based on what has been proven to work in practice. The physician's role is not to create complex systems by weaving together empty ideas and hypotheses about how diseases happen inside the body, which many doctors have wasted their time on in the past. It's also not about giving endless explanations about disease phenomena and their causes, which are often hidden and cannot be fully understood. Using complicated and inflated language to sound impressive to the uninformed while sick people suffer is not helpful. We've had enough of these theoretical musings in medicine, which some call "theoretic medicine."

It's time for doctors to stop deceiving patients with mere words and start taking real action to help and heal them.

SUMMARY

So, in aphorism 1, as per Hahnemann, the main job of a physician is to help sick people get better and to cure their illnesses completely. It's not just about treating symptoms temporarily, but about finding and fixing the root cause of the problem so the person can be truly healthy again.

He believes this is not just a job, but a high calling for the physicians. It's their responsibility to do everything they can to restore a patient's health, considering not only physical issues but also mental and emotional well-being. This idea emphasizes that doctors should focus on long-term solutions, aiming for a cure rather than just managing symptoms. [It highlights the ethical duty of doctors to prioritize their patients' health and well-being above all else, guiding them to approach medicine with care, knowledge, and a commitment to helping people live healthier lives.](#)