



Hahnemann Samuel (10 April 1755 – 2 July 1843) was a German physician who created homoeopathy. He graduated MD at the University of Erlangen on 10 August 1779, and in 1781, he took a village doctor's position in the copper-mining area of Mansfeld, Saxony. Hahnemann claimed that the medicine of his time did as much harm as good:

My sense of duty would not easily allow me to treat the unknown pathological state of my suffering brethren with these unknown medicines. The thought of becoming in this way a murderer or malefactor towards the life of my fellow human beings was most

terrible to me, so terrible and disturbing that I wholly gave up my practice in the first years of my married life and occupied myself solely with chemistry and writing.

After giving up his practice (c.1784) he made his living chiefly as a writer and translator, while resolving also to investigate the causes of medicine's alleged errors.

While translating William Cullen's *A Treatise on the Materia Medica*, Hahnemann encountered the claim that Cinchona, the bark of a Peruvian tree, was effective in treating malaria because of its astringency. Hahnemann claimed that other astringent substances are not effective against malaria and began to research cinchona's effect on the human organism by self-application. He realized that the drug evoked malaria-like symptoms in himself, and concluded that it would do so in any healthy individual. This led him to postulate a healing principle:

"That which can produce a set of symptoms in a healthy individual, can treat a sick individual who is manifesting a similar set of symptoms."

After that, drug after drug, specific after specific was tested on himself and on healthy friends with one unvarying result - Each remedy of recognized specific power excited a spurious disease resembling that for which it was considered specific. This principle, like cures like, became the basis for an approach to medicine which he gave the name Homeopathy.