

THE HOMOEOPATHIC HERITAGE

Bringing Classical and Contemporary Homoeopathy Together

ISSN: 9070-6038

Vol. 50, No. 5, Aug 2024



The HOMOEOPATHIC HERITAGE Turns

50 years

PEER REVIEWED



Special Coverage: 5th Advanced International Homoeopathic Seminar, Greece

Tinctures & Their Scope in Homeopathy

- Diving Deep Into Various Mother Tinctures In Homoeopathy
- Exploring the Therapeutic Horizon: Unveiling the Scope of Mother Tinctures in Homeopathy



BJAIN

Dear Readers,

During Hahnemann's life, physicians practicing homoeopathy had just 98 homeopathic medicines to their disposal. Out of these too, there were some which were used in their tincture form- Arnica, Causticum, Camphora and Sarsaparilla are a few!

Hahnemann's documentations will explain to you just why and where and when he used the aforementioned medicines in their tincture forms when he was himself the founder of the principle of drug dynamization. This issue of The Homoeopathic Heritage titled 'Tinctures and Their Scope in Homoeopathy' highlights the importance of mother tinctures- the very source of all other potencies of homeopathic medicines, in homoeopathic practice.



As per a simple non medical dictionary the word 'Tinctures' is used simply for a drug substance mixed in alcoholic solvent.

While breezing through content here and there for writing this editorial, I came across this piece of information- "The name tincture is derived from the Latin *tinctus*, meaning moistened or dipped, which later in Middle English became 'tincture'. By the 17th century, tincture became a term used to describe the colour of medicine or a herbal solution. This is because tinctures take the colour of the plants they are extracted from. For example, tinctures made from hibiscus flowers are a deep purple. Those made from chamomile flowers are dark yellow".

Who invented or discovered them is unclear but what we have proof of, is the fact that ancient Egyptians knew the magic of tinctures and were avidly using them for various purposes before their civilization perished. This comes from the documentations in Al-Qanoon fi al Tibb (The Canon of Medicine) which explains many medical topics including herbal tinctures. Besides this, The famous Cleopatra- Queen of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt experimented with tinctures (Plants' extracts in alcohol) on her prisoners to elicit and record the symptoms so produced. This helped her prepare poisons for her enemies.

An article also says- "Most authorities believe distillation of alcohol was first developed by the Arab chemist Al-Kindi in 9th Century Iraq, although evidence exists for the use of distillation as long ago as ancient Egypt. The first recorded description of the process was written by Albertus Magnus, a German theologian and early scientist in the 13th century".

The Arabian alchemists are known to be using

tinctures which they prepared by macerating flowers and herbs, accenting them with spices, and setting them to boil and condense in glass vials over wood fires.

By the 1500s, we see the emergence of German surgeon-chemist, Brunschwig who documented plants alphabetically, and noted their sneaky synonyms. He tallied the afflictions that various plants could defeat, and annotated which portions of flowers, stalks, and leaves were especially potent. He even indicated the months when each plant species were at their most formidable so as to distil them and make their concoctions.

In the field of Homoeopathy, the reason that the word 'Mother' is used before tinctures is because tincture of a drug forms the starting point of the preparation of successive potencies.

During Hahnemann's life, physicians practicing homoeopathy had just 98 homeopathic medicines to their disposal. Out of these too, there were some which were used in their tincture form- Arnica, Causticum, Camphora and Sarsaparilla are a few!

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A core principle of selection of potency that has been the very foundation of making homoeopathic prescriptions is susceptibility of the patient.

"The stronger the correlation between the symptoms of the disease and the drug, the higher the susceptibility and therefore, the greater the potency needed".

Potency selection is also largely dependent on the

seat of the disease. We opt for higher potencies when the disease is more mental, deeper and involving the patient as a whole. We go for lower potencies when the disease is seated more superficially, is more structural and confines to a local area and not the whole patient. In all cases falling in the second category, we must repeat the medicine often. This principle allows us to use mother tinctures in all cases where the need for relief is urgent and immediate.

Besides this, in today’s times of hustle bustle, patients demand quick relief. This also necessitates the use of tinctures.

The emerging science of veterinary homeopathy utilizes mother tinctures for relieving animals of their diseases. Though relatively new, we have medicines which show wonderful results in different diseases of our furry friends. A few examples include- Chelone Glabra Q for worm infestations, Apocyanum Cannabinum Q for udder oedema which extends to vulva particularly in the post-partum period. Bacterial infections causing udder impetigo also finds its cure in external application of Calendula tincture.

There are however, different schools of thought on the use and significance of mother tinctures in Homoeopathy. The one that you follow, or for that matter, you do not follow or hold a neutral regard on mother tinctures is left to your verdict!

Quick Word on Issue Content

This issue of The Homoeopathic Heritage titled

‘Tinctures and Their Scope in Homoeopathy’ highlights the importance of mother tinctures- the very source of all other potencies of homeopathic medicines, in homoeopathic practice. The issue features Dr Harsh Nigam who elucidates us on the rationale behind using mother tinctures in modern homoeopathic practice followed by the section- ‘Stalwarts’ Expedition’ presenting to you the life of DR F. E. Gladwin, penned by Dr Subhas Singh. The column ‘In Italics’ of this issue gives its readers a sneak peak into the 5th Advanced International Homoeopathic Seminar held in Greek Island of Tinos, Greece in June this year.

Besides these, we have research articles, opinion pieces, and case studies by various budding homeopaths, students and practitioners of Homoeopathy. This issue also enlightens its readers about three absolutely indispensable books- Healing Cancer: A Homoeopathic

Approach by Dr Farokh J. Master, Mind Rubrics in Homoeopathic Prescription: Beginner Series Part: I by Dr Krishna Kumar Dinde, and Talks on classical homeopathy by George Vithoulkas through book reviews given by Dr. Garima Verma and Dr. Kirti Mishra; Dr Yogesh D. Niturkar and Dr Ayesha Naaz respectively.

Happy Reading!

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Note: The Homoeopathic Heritage is a peer-reviewed journal since January 2013. All articles are peer-reviewed by the in-house editorial team. Articles selected from each issue are sent for peer-review by an external board of reviewers and marked with a ‘peer-reviewed’ stamp. For inclusion of articles in the peer-review section, kindly send your articles 3-4 months in advance of the said month at hheditor@bjain.com.

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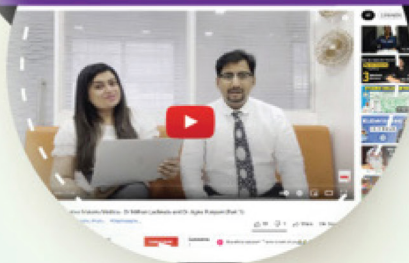
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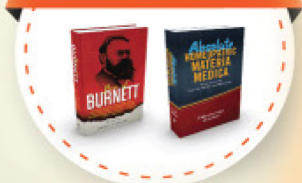
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