

“Correspondentia Correspondentibus Curantur” Reversionary Homeopathy

Joel Shepperd, MD

Abstract: Method problems exist within the so-called new wave homeopathic consensus. The supposed innovations in homeopathy are actually old history. They have been tried before and failed. Current styles of homeopathy include a patchwork system of theories that have been appropriated from unrelated fields of knowledge. These theoretical constructs are grafted onto the true homeopathic methodology. These various theories follow a doctrine of correspondence instead of the law of similars.

Keywords: correspondence theories, similars law, themes, periodic table, taxonomy, archetypes

The senses are more real than the mind

The homeopath needs to know the direct sensory phenomena of the case. This is a given. It is enough to gather all the perceptible signs and symptoms and circumstances in order to find a correct homeopathic remedy.

But this does not seem to be so anymore. The suffering modern homeopath cannot possibly deal with a jumble of unrelated facts; it is just too hard. In this modern age of instant breakfast, instant gratification and instant access to information, the modern student cries out for an easier way. Free fancies of thought replace careful observation, authentic experience and pure experiments. If a homeopath can think it, it must be so. These homeopaths weave uncorrelated bits into a wondrous fabric; or is it fabrication? The mind is imagined to be rich, deep and profound, but how easy it is to be lost within intellectual illusions; they become machinations no one else can see or disprove. The illusions of the senses, on the other hand, are dispelled by real, accurate, embodied experiences. Repeated and verified experiments establish factual data.

Throughout history the mind has given birth to numerous systems of theories, and all proved unable to cure. The so-called new innovations in homeopathy are old history. They have been tried before and failed. Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it.

Analogy: similars not correspondences

A remedy that cures dynamic disease must be analogous to it. How much analogous is enough? The law of similars was the standard. This involved detailed investigations of every verifiable symptom. Evidently this is old-fashioned and impractical for the stylish homeopath of today.

The doctrine of correspondence is the new and improved

version. The remedy only has to correspond with a limited group of symptoms. For example, one merely has to divine the patient's mentals and then one may disregard specific disease symptoms. Why should a homeopath bother with the local particular symptoms? Because the inner (mental? spiritual?) state of a person determines the disease, says the all-knowing philosopher. Remedies that correspond to medicinal personalities are considered more meaningful than the struggle to find a remedy portrait similar to the totality of the dull details says the philosopher.

The modern up-to-date homeopath of course realizes that “signatures” are merely superficial resemblances of outward appearances. But “correspondentia correspondentibus” is rich with meaning, say the nouveau homeopaths. Medicines have unique physical, chemical and mythical properties of form and function, they say. But shouldn't a remedy be chosen from the exact, proven medicinal use? A guess extrapolated from a theoretical construct is their standard instead.

The rule of similars demands a medication that fits the direct specific symptoms of the disease state, not the once-removed interpretation of the unknowable inner state of a person. It is the modern demigod of a homeopath who claims to know the inner meaning of a person's disease and the inner meaning of a medicine.

The doctrine of correspondence is the pervasive assumption of the new style of homeopathy. Unfortunately, few practitioners seem worried about the belief system behind the reversionary ideas permeating homeopathy. The following examples are intended to point out how homeopathy has regressed from similars to correspondences.

The army rejects nature

There are only 118 (as of today) elements on the periodic table, but they have spawned a major growth industry among homeopaths. How tidy to see the elements in neat rows and columns marching to the orders of Major General Half-Homeopath. The elemental soldiers dare not misstep and break formation.

Does marching in formation sound like the nature you know? What dirt stays in straight lines? Which rocks have unchanging boundaries? What elements have one form in nature? Does carbon's place, for instance, really predict one of the hardest substances (diamond), one of the softest substances (graphite) and carbon-based life forms? Only if it is one's pet theory and numerous specific facts are ignored. Can the periodic table predict which element, besides mercury, is a liquid in its natural state? Can it predict which element is most abundant on earth or in the atmosphere?

The periodic arrangement is based on electron structure. This is a materialistic doctrine. The easily swayed homeopath has succumbed to the siren call of Mechanistic Science. But repeatedly, science learns that the knowledge of one field of endeavor does not apply to another area of knowledge. For instance, subatomic physics does not predict actual interactions at the level of molecules. Molecular interactions do not explain nearly enough about functions in life forms such as respiration, reproduction, locomotion and assimilation. Chemistry does not predict how medicines actually act in a whole life form.

To guess a medicine's properties from its periodic table placement is once removed from reality. To assign a meaning to this abstract place, whether psychological, symbolic or cultural, is twice removed from the concrete context of a sick person.

Furthermore, this desultory theorizing cannot even apply to the thousands of other remedies. The law of similars has now been fragmented. The unifying principle of homeopathic pharmacology has been discarded. The law of choosing medicinal cures by similars is no longer front and center. Instead, it is replaced by a belief that an element's structure "corresponds" to medicinal properties. Why go through all the trouble of testing a medicine on healthy people without pre-judgments? Just sit in a nice chair someplace and spin a good story. The law of similars is degraded to a theoretical doctrine of correspondence.

Delusion of themes

Themes are defined as recurring melodies. The new wave homeopath sees or hears themes everywhere and cannot escape them. A delusion is defined as a false impression of reality. It is a delusion that themes are everywhere and everything, but delusions of themes completely control the new wave homeopathic practices. They need a remedy; look under "delusions, hears music."

Why is so much homeopathy besotted by themes? Themes fulfill an innate need for order. The neo homeo-

path demands organization of nature, an organization that the unseasoned mind can understand and manipulate. In our current, post-modern age humans know so much about chemistry, biology and psychology; so wouldn't homeopathy be so much better if all this knowledge is mixed together? *Materia medica* would be so much more manageable if a few short summary words in modern science jargon captured the whole remedy. That way the homeopath could ignore exacting lists.

However, a remedy does not have meaning until given to a person. The person comes first. Each person is unique; each sick person has a unique disease, never before seen in creation. The ill person is not a generalized theme. The ill person is not a type: not an "*Arnica* type," not a "*Pulsatilla* type." The real homeopath selects the most similar possible remedy to the totally unique person from among the limited medicinal substances. The sickened person is an individual first and always. Even the best remedy is only a close approximation to the reality of the whole life process.

Nature escapes from prison

Organizing homeopathic medicines into categories is a mind-made process. It is not nature; it does not reflect the way nature really is. Nature is endless complexity and dynamic, constant change.

Life form categories are constantly reorganized in current science. They now say that there are five kingdoms, or are there six kingdoms and three domains? And they say that "fish" is not a recognized taxonomic category anymore. Homeopaths, it seems, must imprison nature too. Each kingdom is locked into its own prison wing. Each family has its own cellblock. Each species has permanent cellmates. Mr. Prison Warden Homeopath ensures that everyone follow only his rules. But whatever happened to the unbroken circle of life where everything is interconnected in a dynamic evolving network? The homeopathic classifiers act like inquisitors and demand that life follow the predetermined order. The promoters of this way of thinking claim that they want to make homeopathy easier. But it is not just a matter of "dumbing down" homeopathy.

There is a strong, unexamined belief system behind this way of thinking. This worldview presumes that the properties of each medicinal substance "correspond" to a mental or spiritual transgression within a person. The sick person's symptoms transform them into an energy form corresponding to one of nature's substances. In this way of thinking, the Higher Power provides a product in nature to help a person heal and to understand his errors in life. This blind belief in correspondence may be noble, but it cannot accurately predict which disease the plant or animal represents. Nature's bounty must actually be tested in healthy persons. The real homeopathic method cannot include the idea of universal disease correspondence, a doctrine based on faith and theory.

Nature creates constant change

The mind automatically creates categories of objects in the world to better navigate through life. The mind better predicts and decides after classifying everyday things in life. The novice homeopath also must organize remedies according to some method in order to learn. Every mnemonic adopted by the student, though, is only an artificial aid and should be only temporary. The new homeopath may construct artificial groups of remedies based on some general similarity or difference. For examples, the phenomenon of "sudden onset of intense fever" may be the common factor of one group of remedies; the emotional state of "indignant anger" can be the basis of another group; remedies that are the color of the sun may organize another group. These memory aids are only stepping-stones to the true knowledge of medicines. True *materia medica* reveals itself only during its actual application to a living person.

Each person is an individual and unique disease state, unlike anyone else, ever. The master homeopath must completely reorder and reorganize *materia medica* in a brand new way, never before done, for every new case of sickness. This technique demands the very creativity of nature itself. This is the true skill of a real homeopath. Let no substitute method distract the homeopathic seeker of truth.

Every new organization of remedies emerges only from the unique organized whole inherent in each unique individual. The living whole of the person is always first. The direct, perceptible, characteristic symptoms reveal the organized whole. No organized whole is imposed from without. No prejudgment is allowed. The unique oneness of each person cannot be forced to fit the preconceived system of a limited number of themes.

The homeopathic remedies are not dry lists of symptoms, and they are not fixed personality images. Remedies are fluid forms with manifold manifestations. A substance is a medicine only if it interacts with the dynamis of life. Life constantly changes, and what is useful about medicine constantly modifies. Sometimes one group of symptoms indicates a remedy, and other times a different set of symptoms reveal the remedy. The themes of a remedy are as multidimensional as the people who need them. The real homeopath selects the most similar possible remedy determined first and always from the totally unique person. No matter how many remedies are known, even the best remedy is only a close approximation to the reality of the whole disease process.

Disease according to Darwin or Jung or Freud or Whom?

Meet the homeopaths who know it all. They have mastered the shoptalk of evolutionary theory, psychoanalytic theory, mythology, cultural anthropology and everything else.

The theme of a person's disease becomes an adaptive strategy says Doc Darwin. Disease represents a stage in evolution common to all humanity says Dr. Archetype. Disease is a result of not seeing reality as it really is says Mr. Maya. A wrong thought according to the Universal Mind or Cosmic Mind doctor manifests and "corresponds" to a disease lesson on the physical level. "As in the macrocosm mind, so into the microcosm human mind" is a belief system throughout the ages. The mind becomes the exchange center between the infinite and the finite. There is nothing new or innovative about these approaches to disease. They are as old as religions.

Themes are disembodied abstractions and theories of the mind. There are no minds floating around earth somewhere that can be treated with homeopathy. This way of thinking discredits the concrete context of the physical plane. We are right now embodied, and every single physical sign and symptom is preeminent. Every medicine use must be verified on a physical body.

The Holy Cure

Imagine a dictator who decrees that your marriage may only produce one child. Imagine a culture that only allows you to remain in the social caste into which you are born. Imagine a Higher Power that predetermines your destiny to allow only one medicine to cure your every ill. This one and only Holy Cure becomes the Holy Grail of your life.

It sounds like a cult. How many people have such stable lives or uneventful lives or huge vital force so that, forged somewhere is "one remedy to cure them all." This ideal panacea makes for an adventure-filled quest, but it is not true to the preponderance of life. Do not expect to treat the idealistic doctor going to Haiti and catching cholera with the same remedy when his beloved father dies or when he is in a car accident. Beware the bearer of the totalitarian of symptoms.

The correspondence theme park

The random walk through the theme park of correspondences is about done. It seems entertaining compared to the plain old law of similars, but do not let the divertimento becloud principle.

It is never routine to determine the characteristic symptoms of a case. Each individual is unique; and, therefore, case assessment strategy must adapt to the singular reality of each disease state. The true homeopathic method is an art only if art is defined as mastery of a skill through actual experience. There is no cutting corners, no short cuts, no mind tricks, no easy-chair homeopathy. Let no reassuring lullaby of a theme falsely soothe. Let no foreign fixed formula be imposed on the true homeopathic method. Experience for yourself the wondrous melody of the rightful homeopathy.

About the author: Joel Shepperd, MD, has maintained a private practice in homeopathic medicine for 34 years in the Chicago area. He is a co-founder and treasurer of the Illinois Homeopathic Medical Association. He is a partner at the Center of Integral Health in Lombard, Illinois. He

is a part-time faculty member at the National University of Health Sciences naturopathic medical school where he regularly teaches homeopathy. He has published many articles and has authored the textbook "Hahnemann's Organon for Students."



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