

A Tribute to Dr Constantine Hering

ABSTRACT: Dr Constantine Hering, converted to Homoeopathy when he was advised to write an article against Homoeopathy and one dose of *Ars-alb* cured his grave dissecting wound.



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LIFE OF HERING

Constantine Hering was born in Oschatz Saxony Germany, Jan 1st, 1800. His father was a man of liberal views on education and an advocate of the system of instruction that has since become a characteristic of German educational policy. Young Constantine was given every advantage and he worked his way through the successive grades of schools in a manner calculated to gain the highest praise of his preceptors. His inclination for the study of natural history was manifested at an early age. He even delighted in collecting, analysing and arranging specimens from different kingdoms of nature, some of which were thought worthy of acceptance by the public museum.

He finished with honours the study at the college at Zittau, where he devoted himself to classical learning, from 1811 to 1817. He excelled in every thing especially in mathematics and in all branches he went far beyond the average of his time. He had a decided taste for the study of medicine which he followed first at the surgical academy at Dresden and then at the University of Leipzig where he was pupil of the celebrated surgeon Robbi. His preceptor was at that time requested to write an article against Homoeopathy. He entrusted his pupil with the task. The latter threw himself into it, studied the writing which he was to attack and found this expression there, "Represent me, but represent me correctly". He decided to make a personal investigation of the

matter in order to ensure a more complete victory.

About this time a dissecting wound produced him such serious effects, that not only did amputation seem necessary but grave fears of his life were also felt.

One of his friends, at this time, persuaded him to try against this malady the power of Homoeopathic drugs and entire cure was the result (*Ars-alb*). His conversion to Homoeopathy was, from this time, complete.

Later he assisted Dr Wesselhoft, of Allentown, in founding there a Homoeopathic school of medicine, the first ever. The Govt of Pennsylvania accorded to the faculty the right to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

His contributions to the Homoeopathic system:
 The Domestic Physician (1835),
 Translation of Gross Comparative Materia Medica (1866),
 Condensed Materia Medica,
 Analytical Repertory of Mind and
 Guiding Symptoms of Our Materia Medica, (10 Vols).

He was the member of the American Academy of Natural Sciences, founder of American Institute of Homoeopathy, founder of American Publishing Society.

He supervised the drug proving of *Mephitis*, *Crotalus*, *Lyssin*, *Calc-phos*, *Kalmia*, *Phytolacca*, *Lachesis*, *Nux-mos*, *Osmium*, *Lithium*, *Glonine*, *Apis*, *Cepa*, *Aloe* etc.

On 23rd July 1880, at 6 pm he made his last prescription to a patient. He went to take his supper which he greatly enjoyed, at the garden; after an hour's lively conversation, apparently in perfect health, he went to his study on the second floor to resume his writing. He was then working on the fourth volume of *The Guiding Symptoms*. At 9.30 pm he remarked that his breathing was embarrassed accompanied by constant yawning. He tried to select a remedy but it was too late. A short time after, his last words were, "I am dying now" and he passed into sleep which knows no waking.

At the autopsy, performed by Dr A R Thomas, made on the following day, nothing abnormal was discovered except a distinct calcification of the coronary arteries and some deposits of fat about the heart. The cause of death was pronounced to be paralysis of the heart. Dr Hering was laid away in Laurel Hill Cemetery in a private lot belonging to Curwen Stoddard, one of his oldest patients and faithful adherents, from which he was later removed to a lot in another part of the cemetery belonging to his son, Walter E Hering.

This tribute to the great master Dr Constantine Hering will not be complete if we do not mention at least one contribution each to *Organon*, *Repertory* and *Materia Medica*. They are:

LAW OF DIRECTION OF CURE

It goes without saying how important are the instructions given by Dr Hering in assessing the prognosis of any case. Dr Hering's directions of cure can be observed in all homoeopathic cures. And every homoeopathic physician adheres to the following axioms to cure the sick.

1. From above downward: When the correct remedy has been administered it is seen that the pain in the shoulder will travel down the arm to the hand or from the hip to the foot.
2. From within outward: Cries of elimination often occur, eg an eruption breaks out on the skin, there is an increased flow of urine, or

the symptoms of a severe cold become apparent. These manifestations should never be interfered with. Nature is attempting to rid the system of disease attacking the deeper organs by bringing the by-products to the surface the cure taking place from the important organ such as the heart, the kidneys, etc to the less important, the bladder, the skin, etc.

3. More important organ to the less important organ.
4. Symptoms disappear in the reverse order of their appearance: Measles can be taken as an example, the cough coming first and departing last, the rash coming last and departing first. In cases of chronic disease it is found that the patient will retrace the road along which his disease has travelled and he will experience again the various ailments from which he has suffered until he gets back to the conditions from which his disease started. We observe from this law that following the administration of the remedy, if some unexpected crisis occurs, such as is mentioned above, or the patient suddenly finds that he has produced symptoms of a complaint he had long ago, this is excellent and we must allow the curative process to continue undisturbed. On no account should further medicine be given at this point.

ANALYTICAL REPERTORY OF MIND

The purpose with which Dr Hering wrote this repertory was to collect all the important symptoms, which were scattered in various books and journals appeared through proving and cured through practice in one book. And to enable the practitioners to find the curative remedy with rapidity, even in apparently difficult cases.

Dr Hering, quite thoughtfully, gave importance to the arrangement and style used for printing keeping one object especially in view, viz: to make it as easy as possible for the eye, and through the eye, for the mind to find what is to be looked for. But, this logical arrangement was seen for the first and last time only in this repertory.



PROVING OF LACHESIS

"The first trituration and first dilution in alcohol of the snake-poison *Trigonocephalous Lachesis* was made by Hering on July 28, 1828. The first cases were published for the first time in the Archives in 1835. In 1837 this remedy was introduced into our *Materia Medica*."

To the genius and the heroism of Hering the world owes this remedy (*Lachesis*) and many another of which this has been the forerunner. When Hering's first experiments were made, he was botanizing and zoologising on the Upper Amazon for the German Government. Except his wife, all those about him were natives, who told him so much about the dreaded Surukuku that he offered a good reward for a live specimen. At last one was brought in a bamboo box, and those who brought it immediately fled, and all his native servants with them. Hering stunned the snake with a blow on the head as the box opened, then, holding its head in a forked stick, he pressed its venom out of the poison bag upon sugar of milk. The effect of handling the virus and preparing the lower attenuations was to throw Hering into a fever with tossing delirium and mania much to his wife's dismay. Towards morning he slept, and on waking his mind was clear. He drank a little water to moisten his throat, and the first question this indomitable prover asked was: "What did I do and say?" His wife remembered vividly enough. The symptoms were written down, and

this was the first instalment of the proving of *Lachesis*. The natives crept back one by one next day, and were astonished to find Hering and his wife alive. The snake grows to seven feet and upwards in length, has fangs nearly an inch long, a reddish brown skin marked along the back with blackish brown rhomboidal spots. Nearly all the provings of *Lachesis* were made with the 30th and higher attenuations.

The four grand characteristics of *Lachesis* are

1. Worse by sleep.
2. Excessive sensitiveness of the surface with intolerance of touch or constriction.
3. Left-sidedness and the direction left to right: symptoms begin on the left side and either remains there or proceed to the right.
4. Better from the onset of a discharge. There is headache better as soon as nasal catarrh comes on. Uterine pains better as soon as menses appear. The other side of this is worse from non-appearance of an expected discharge, and it is this which is the foundation of appropriateness of *Lachesis* to the climacteric state. Wherever one or more of these features is prominent in any case *Lachesis* will most likely prove the remedy.

*This is an abstract from the forthcoming book of
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We are each responsible for all of our experiences.

Every thought we think is creating our future.

The point of power is always in the present moment.

Everyone suffers from self-hatred and guilt.

The bottom line for everyone is, "I am not good enough."

It's only a thought, and a thought can be changed.

We create every so-called illness in our body.

Resentment, criticism, and guilt are the most damaging patterns.

Releasing resentment will dissolve even cancer.

We must release the past and forgive everyone.

We must be willing to begin to learn to love ourselves.

Self-approval and self-acceptance in the now are the keys to positive changes.

When we really love ourselves, everything in our life works.

**-YOU CAN HEAL YOUR LIFE,
 BY LOUISE L HAY**