

# Mother – Tincture Daughter – Drugs

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Amongst many a 4-letter word, the one that is globally pervasive, seductive for all-age groups, touted now and then as life-saving (often life-shaving) and still desperately searching for its meaning is that magical thing called DRUG. Strangely, when a multinational manufacturers a drug and a medico prescribes it, both are taken as philanthropic acts designed for the welfare of mankind. However if someone is taking drugs, or anyway addicted to it, she/he is a despicable person out to destroy one's own self. Funnily enough, *à la The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology (ODE)*, the word drug, "of much-disputed origin," also means a "commodity no longer in demand and therefore valueless," a fate most drugs deserve.

Homeopathy is truly a "spirited" science for most of its lovely, tiny, white beautiful pillulets (small pills) are soaked in alcohol and let off a fairly pleasant smell. Not for small reason that *ODE* synonymizes *tincture* as "supposed spiritual principle," or, the "essential principle of a substance." Two of our Homeopathic *Who's Who* explained to us; Mother-Tincture is the "crude" principle in an alcoholic solvent, unaware that *ODE* takes *crude* as signifying something "ill-digested, immature, raw, rough, cruel." How about redressing this etymological injustice to Mother-Tincture, by calling it, "the wholesome = holistic drug in an aromatic alcoholic base." Mother – Tincture is Nature's wholesomeness rather thoughtlessly called crude by pillophilic mankind.

If one were to consider the eye-appeal, nose-appeal and tongue-appeal of a drug, no pathy can do better than the Hahnemannians. They

prepare Mother – Tincture the art-n-science of which are best summed up by Skinner: "Tincture – Latin-tincura, a dyeing, from *tingere*, to moisten or wet; thus to soak in a colour, to dye (*cf.* tint). Tinctures were so-named because of their various colours.

The use of the term tincture for an alcoholic solution or extract of non-volatile substances (alcoholic solutions of volatile substances are spirits) did not occur until about the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century when both Raymond Lull and Arnold of Villanova are credited with introducing them. *Parcelceus* promoted the use of tinctures. The original meaning of the term in this connection was for a slight infusion of some substance into alcohol so that it gave a tinge of colour, a shade, a flavour. The celebrated *Dorland's Medical Dictionary*, admitted an allopathic tome, lists more than 30 tinctures, all of which contain the basic principle in its "crude" wholesome state.

*Dorland* does not christen the foregoing as Mother – Tincture, but the text succeeds in conveying that emphasis.

From a Mother-Tincture (MT) Daughter-Drugs arise. Each MT spawns varied co-principles that are then manufactured-n-dispensed in a form that suits the fancy of the giver-n-the-taker. The manufacturing process involves *potentiation/potentization*, that obeys the paradoxical laws of greater the serial dilution, higher is the potency, a *modus operandi* that is the exact opposite of a wager posed by *Dannial Boorstin*, the famed chief of the *National Library of Congress, USA*, in his delightful book *The Discoverers*. If you fold/refold 50 times a tissue-paper that is one thousandth of an inch thick, what

height will you get? Seventeen million miles, enough to go to-n-from the sun 6 times. Lawrence et al, in their famed *Clinical Pharmacology* first pooh pooh *Similia similibus curanture* and then go to "highlight" the paradox of potentiation: "It has been pointed out the "thirtieth potency" (1 in 10<sup>60</sup>), recommended by Hahnemann, provides a solution in which there would be one molecule of the drug in a volume of a sphere of literally astronomical circumference. That a dose in which no drug is present (including sodium chloride prepared in this way) can be therapeutically effective is explained by the belief that there is a spiritual energy diffused throughout the medicine by the particular way in which the dilutions are shaken (succussion) during preparation, or that the active molecules leave behind some sort of 'imprint' on solvent or excipient). (All parentheses by Lawrence et al) Be as it may, the same text begins with a boxed quote from William Withering, the dis-

coverer of digitalis, 1789: "Poisons in small doses are the best medicines; and useful medicines in too large doses are poisonous." Is the homeopathic serial dilution and hence potentiation, a practical homage to Hippocratic *Primum, non nocere* – Firstly (do) no harm. Are Daughter – Drugs better than MT? We know not. While DDs provide convenience and the smug satisfaction of being scientific in manufacturing of the drug, there is inevitable denial of the holistic wisdom of Mother Nature. As an example, take *Sarpagandha*, which when taken in the right dose, is much unlikely to cause unbearable nasal stuffiness and strong suicidal tendency that its DD, namely, *Serpasil*, now defunct, was known to cause. On a more banal plane, groundnut-oil is no match to what fat whole groundnut can provide. DDs may be convenient, but MTs reign supreme – quietly, naturally and indomitably.

## Mystery of Mother Tincture

**ABSTRACT:** Practice with mother tinctures is a popular mode of treatment prevalent among a group of homoeopaths which is more often palliative than curative. In some cases application of mother tincture is required to save the patient from dangerous complications, so as to save their life. But it should not be made a habit to prescribe it in every case. Here I intend to describe the indications and practical guidance of the mother tinctures of few medicines which are commonly used in our clinics.



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### INTRODUCTION

Mother tincture is the extract of the drug substance after being treated with specific vehicle (mostly with alcohol). We have various sources of the drug substance namely *vegetable, mineral, animal, nosodes, sarcodes, imponderabilia and synthetic*. It is the original, primary tincture which is directly prepared

from the corresponding source of the particular drug according to the principles of homoeopathic pharmacy. The term is denoted as Ø. Among all these sources, the term mother tincture is most suitable for vegetable drug substances.

Mother tincture of vegetable substances are prepared from *fresh whole plant or parts thereof*,