
A Review of Evolution of law of Similia: Tracing its Roots in the Past**F.F.Motiwala ,TejashriThakare , GayatriNimbhore , ShivaniPatil****Abstract:**

Dr. Hahnemann is the first person who made the relation between disease & medicine similarity by conceiving and utilizing it to form new therapeutic system in field of Medicine. Dr. Hahnemann has confirmed the law of Cure, not only with pure experiments but also by keen observations . This article's objective is to emphasis on the evolution of the law of Similia. The **objectives** were to study the evolution of the law of Similia and to trace roots of it in past. **The method** by evidence-based study of Dr. Hahnemann on the law of Similia and also some of the other stalwarts and their schools (pathy).

Key words:law of Similia, Evolution, Homoeopathy**Introduction:**

With the reference to chapter Fundamental Laws according to H.A.Roberts, The law of Cure is the law of Similar. The selected remedy has ability to produce symptoms in the healthy persons similar to that observed in the diseased patients. In 1796, Hahnemann explained this law in an article "*Essay on New Principle for Ascertaining the Curative Powers of Drugs*" in Hufeland's Journal which is considered as precursor of Organon of medicine. The law of cure in homoeopathy is the principle of *Similia Similibus Curentur*. As per the concept, the symptoms produced by the substance during drug proving are the drug picture of that drug.

Development of the Principle:

This law was recognized from the prehistoric times. From time to time, all through the medical history, the application of the law was demanded to a lesser or greater extent. The traces of this law, could be made out in the writings of medical authorities of every age. Hints of its popular and domestic use, could be made out from medical records much before the time of Hahnemann and many has borne testimony to the truth of this principle. No one knows exactly, when this law was first recognized. Ancient Hindu manuscripts also have the record its application. Hippocrates sensed the possibility of this law and applied it to many cases.

Aristotle:

In the writing of Aristotle "*On the origin and disappearance*", he said about the law of equalia, similia and contraria.

Hippocrates:

In one Hippocrates treatise he admits that apart from the general rule of treatment contraria contraries the opposite rule also holds good in certain cases viz similia similibus curentur.

He illustrates that the same substance which causes strangury, cough, vomiting, and diarrhoea will cure these diseases. In his writings *De Morbis Popularibus*, *dolor dolens solvit*, which means one pain, cures other. In his writings *de Morbo Sacro*, the same cures epilepsy, which produces it. Further reference to the homoeopathic principle could be found in the book of *de internis affectionibus* and in his aphorisms.

“I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon’s knife or the chemist drug”

Galen (138 – 201 A. D.):

The most long-lasting medical phenomenon and also the father of Antipathy, “*Contraria Contraries Curentur*”, may be impressed into the service of Homoeopathy. His phrases read like - “*Similia efficere posse similia expertis sumus*” which is merely a law or experimental doctrine; but the following are less doubtful acknowledging the homoeopathic cardinal principle, “*Similia Similibus deus adjungit*” (*Detheria. Ad. Poison*), “*Simile ad sibi simile natura fertur*” (*De semine, ii*), “*Simile ad suum simile tendit naturaliter*” (*De util. Resp.*), “*Simile est congruum et Amicum*” (*De inaeq. Intemp.*). These formulas do not, it is true, refer to the relation of drug and diseases, but they are the acknowledgement of an attraction of likes to likes in nature, which might be extended to the therapeutics, and he does not actually recognize the Homoeopathic law of treatment of diseases.

Paracelsus:

Theophrastus von Hohenheim popularly known as Paracelsus has also elaborated the ideas of similarity with compelling logic and the systematization Homoeopathic principle is more clearly set in his treatise *von der Astronomy*. “Nature wills that in the combat, stratagem should be employed against stratagem and in medicine the same rule prevails”.

“Poison is in everything, and nothing is without poison. The dosage makes it either a poison or a remedy”

In the ancient Indian medical system:

In Ayurvedic Manuscripts, there are references of treating diseases on basis of Law of similia. One shlok is *Sarvada Sarva Bhavanam Samanyam Vridhi Karanam*. *Sushruta*, the father of Indian surgery, who is the author of the treatise, *Sushruta Samhita* (1200-600 BC), said that “*Samahsamamshamayti*” as approach of treating diseases, which translate as similar annihilates similar. ‘*Vishasya Vishamaushadam* or *samamsamenasanti*’ are also the other concepts in Ayurveda related to the law of Similia. Similar to Homoeopathic law of Similia in Ayurveda is “*Kasya Aushadhasya Ayam Vyadhiaaturo Va Yogyah*” Vagbhata, i.e. the patient belongs to which medicine or the symptom complex belongs to which medicine.

Haller:

Liné knew about drugs as Sapida and Olida, which were capable of influencing the various body substances by their varying consistency. Haller also proceeded from the consistency and the expressions of olida, odorata, volatilia, spirantia etc, by means of which these solid, fluid or volatile substances influences similarly to the constituted parts of the body. Can one not say that the homoeopathy had its origin already in the pharmacology of Liné and Haller?

DR.HAHNEMANN:

Dr Hahnemann is the one who made the idea of similarity in medicine for the first time by conceiving and utilizing it to build up a therapeutic system in an elegant way. He was first and foremost experimenter and a medical rebel just like Paracelsus before him though far more rational and systemic. He did more than discovery of law of similia, he taught the world how to investigate the underline laws and principles of therapeutic laws and application. To make law of similia into a system of medicine based upon a clear fundamental principles which in his view allopathy certainly was not.

In 1790 by simple and rational experiment with Cinchona bark, Dr.Hahnemann established the great therapeutic law. In 1796 Based on his pure experiments and rational explanation, Dr.Hahnemann published this law in an article “Essay on New Principle for Ascertaining the Curative Powers of Drugs” in Hufeland’s Journal.

EVIDENCE OF SIMILIA:

Dr.Hahnemann has confirmed the law of similar with any substance which can produce a totality of symptoms in a healthy human being can cure that totality of symptoms in a sick human being. While peeling onion, it makes your eyes watery and nose burning. If you are having an attack of hay fever with watering eyes and burning nose, the homoeopathic remedy prepared from onion called *Allium cepa* could relieve it.

Presenting symptoms in an ill person are matched with a proven substance with the most similar characteristics. The symptoms of the disease are the guide to the correct remedy (Kent, 1900). To find the resonant frequency of the entire organism and therefore strengthen the entire dynamic plane of action, one must record the totality of all deviations from normal on all three levels in all details of their individualizing character. It not only shows a relationship between proved drug and known disease phenomenon but also between unexplored medical wealth and undeveloped medical requirements of the sick i.e. new and unknown diseases can be successfully treated by collecting the totality of symptoms.

Disease can be cured by medicinal substances given in extremely small doses that produce similar symptoms in healthy humans. In simple words, the medicine can cure when given in micro doses what it can cause in large doses. Some such examples of the law of similar are:

When stung by a honeybee, there is burning, stinging pain and swelling. Relief is gained from applying cold to the affected area. If you were suffering from swollen tonsils with burning and stinging pain which was relieved by cold, the remedy prepared on homoeopathic principle from the same source called *Apis mellifica* could cure such symptoms.

While coffee produces palpitations, increased urine production; shaking hands, excitability, and restlessness symptoms in a healthy person, the Law of Similars dictates that it should be able to relieve similar symptoms in the unwell – and this is exactly what it does. A child, brought to a homeopath with hyperactivity, agitated thoughts, and sweaty, trembling hands, might receive a homeopathic preparation of coffee (called *Coffea Cruda*). It would relieve and correct their symptoms

ALLOPATHY:

Probably as the modern system of medicine, the concept of vaccination is used to prevent the person from falling sick from certain diseases. In this system it is believed that micro-organisms like bacteria and viruses are the cause of diseases. A vaccine is made from **very small amounts of weak or dead germs that can cause diseases** — for example, viruses, bacteria, or toxins. It prepares your body to fight the disease faster and more effectively so you won't get sick. Still today the treatment of snakebite is done by anti-venom injection, which is also nothing but a higher poison. Apart from this there are so many areas where the drugs are applied in a similar manner with a high level of success.

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