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## An evaluative study of nosodes

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#### Abstract

It has been noted that Nosodes are poorly reflected in the Repertory, thus calling for an investigation into the subject to find the reasons, if any which can be attempted to overcome by the present practicing Homoeopaths.

**Keywords:** Homoeopathy, nosodes, isopathy, repertory

#### Introduction

Though Nosodes were proved and used constitutionally the various other roles of the Nosodes had an immense bearing on the use of Nosodes as a remedy. The basic nosodes *Psorinum*, *Medorrhinum*, *Tuberculinum* and *Syphilinum* were extensively clinically verified and it was more used as a specific than a constitutional remedy.

It seems that shortly after Hahnemann published his chronic disease theory, Hering performed the first proving of *Psorinum* on himself. Hering originated the method of using a miasmatic agent as a basis for a remedy and it was, he who coined the term "nosode".

The term Nosode is introduced by Dr. C. Hering, derived from the Greek word NOSO which signifies the prefix added to the word to form an idea of disease or indicating a morbid root, relation to the disease, compared to Latin word "NOXA" means damaging or noxious. Nosodes are remedies made with dangerous noxious materials as a basis for a potentized remedy to treat disease.

The advent of Hahnemann's theory of the miasms caused great interest in the chronic diseases and their anti-miasmatic remedies. One of the direct consequences of the publication of *The Chronic Diseases* was the development of the use of miasmatic organisms as potentized homoeopathic remedies. The earliest experiments with nosodes were carried out by Constantine Hering while he was in Surinam, Guiana, South America between 1827 and 1833. In the five years Hering spent studying plant and animal species, he paid special attention to the virulent snake and spider poisons as well as miasmatic substances. This was the time period when Hering captured the Bush Master snake that supplied the first venom for the proving of *Lachesis*.

Hering is responsible for greatly expanding the materia medica of homeopathy and adding seven (7) new categories of potentized remedies". At the same time, he was one of the true defenders of the four cardinal rules of Homoeopathy: similars cure similars, the single remedy, the minimal dose and the potentized remedy. Hering's 7 uses of idem in Homoeopathy include:

1. The use of poisons taken from insects, snakes, and other venomous creatures (Animal poisons).
2. The use of remedies made from miasmas (Nosodes).
3. The introduction of potentized miasmas and morbid secretions taken directly from the patient's body (Auto-nosodes).
4. The use of homologous organs, tissue and secretions (Sarcodes).
5. The use of potentized miasmatic products as nosodes for the prevention of infectious diseases (Nosode prophylaxis).
6. The use of chemical and nutritional elements innate to the human organism (Chemical and elemental relationships).
7. The use of potentized genus groups as curative and preventative remedies for individuals, groups, and habitats. Hering suggests potentized seed of weeds or dangerous plants to eradicate and destroy those plants and potentized insects or animals to remove and prevent infestations of dangerous species (Isodes).

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Hering continued to experiment with nosodes of acute and chronic miasms and invited others to conduct provings.

Hahnemann was interested in the new nosode movement based on these clinical experiences, but, he was also concerned, because most of these nosodes were not being proved. So, in this way the revolutionary ideas contained within the 1828 edition of *The Chronic Diseases* changed the way people thought about contagious disease and stimulated the integration of nosodes into the homoeopathic pharmacopoeia.

While, nosodes are prepared from inactivated diseased products of human, animal or vegetable origin or cultures of micro-organisms, "Sarcodes" are remedies prepared from individual healthy organs or tissues, as well as from isolated bodily substances of human or animal origin.

Hering shared his information with Hahnemann and sent a sample of *Psorinum*, which the Old Master proved on three individuals. This research into the acute and chronic miasms and their nosodes expanded slowly but surely under Hering's guidance.

All of this was going quite well until Lux decided that the healing law was not "similars cure similars" but "same cures same". With this in his mind, he declared that "idem" not "similars" was the key to the healing arts and coined the term "Aqualia Aqualibus Curentur" in place of "Similia Similibus Curentur". This, of course, was exactly what Samuel Hahnemann was afraid would happen, so he became quite defensive of Homoeopathy and critical of crude Isopathy. Even before Lux's statements upset the climate of the research into the nosodes, Hahnemann felt that *Psorinum* should be proven more completely before being included in the materia medica section of *The Chronic Diseases*. In Hahnemann's mind the idea of using unproved disease substances on patients just because they suffered from the same contagion was far too limited.

The major difference between isode and a homoeopathic nosode is that a homoeopathic remedy is proven on the healthy, so its symptom picture and therapeutic range is greatly expanded. The idem prescription can only be used for the same condition it causes or its prevention. Once an isopathic substance is dynamised it becomes a pure homoeopathic potency. Therefore, it must be applied by the cardinal principles of homoeopathy if it is going to be used correctly.

### Classification of Nosodes

1. Basic nosodes *Psorinum*, *Bacillinum*, *Syphilinum*, *Medorrhinum* and *Carcinosinum*.
2. Exanthem nosodes: *Morbillinum*, *Parotidinum*, *Vaccinum*, *Diphtherinum*, *anthracinum*, *Malandrinum*, *Variolinum* and *Influenzinum*.
3. Isopathic nosodes: *Pneumococcinum*, *Staphylococcinum*, *Malaria officinalis* and *Pyrogenum*.
4. Autogenous nosodes: secretions or discharges from the pathological tissues or organs of the patient himself for the treatment (Tautopathy).
5. Intestinal nosodes: Dr. Bach and Dr. Wheeler. Bach nosodes or Bowel nosodes: *Bacillus proteus*, *Bacillus dysenteria coli*, *Bacillus morgan*, *Bacillus faecalis*, *Bacillus mutabile*, *Bacillus gaertner*, *Bacillus No 7*.

Hering clearly stated that, if disease producing products are administered by idem they are only useful as intercurrent remedies which help to remove obstacles to cure and move

the case forward. Their remedial action must be complemented by constitutional remedies within complete constitutional management.

Hence, the role of "Nosodes" though may be expansive, the basic and prime remedial action is that of a "Constitutional" remedy.

S.M. Gunvante in his book: *Introduction To Homoeopathic Prescribing: Points that, Stearns, Pulford and Farrington* held the opinion that the Nosode did good work, when the "apparently indicated" remedies did not help, but after sometime you have to follow them up with some other indicated remedy. Thus, the role of the Nosode and the constitutional remedy becomes complementary in tackling difficult cases.

Kent's *Repertory of the Homeopathic Materia Medica* was written in 1877. He was more of an organizer of other repertories, and much of his work was based on Lippe's work. However, he also added a great deal of information gleaned from his own experience. Kent's *Repertory* contains 648 remedies. His *repertory* is perhaps best known for its Mind section, which was more complete than any previous *repertory* in this area. Some remedies were very well proven at the time that the *Repertory* was written, and there is a wealth of information available about them (these are also known as polychrests). Others only came into usage later in the development of homeopathy and are poorly represented in the *Repertory*.

In this study of the Nosode Remedies *Psorinum*, *Medorrhinum*, *Tuberculinum* and *Syphilinum* were seen only in the chapter of Mind from *The Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica* by J.T. Kent (K.R) with the help of Homopath MD Software, by Dr. Jawahar Shah.

The Chapter of Mind was selected in K.R and Command was given for the rubrics covered by the Nosode remedies that are *Psorinum*, *Tuberculinum*, *Medorrhinum* and *Syphilinum*, individually.

The Rubrics or the Headings covered by each remedy were thus obtained and printed. All the selected Nosode Remedies were thus studied individually and separately.

Later "New Comprehensive Homoeopathic Materia Medica of Mind". By Dr. H.L Chitkara which has the rubrics from Synthetic *repertory*, was also referred.

For making the Conclusive Repertorial expression of the nosode remedies *Psorinum*, *Tuberculinum*, *Medorrhinum* and *Syphilinum* the rubric or heading covered have been considered as their repertorial expression.

### The Study Revealed The Following

#### A: From Homopath

1. *Psorinum* symptom count in the chapter of Mind in Kent's *Repertory* was 120, covering an exhaustive list of mental symptoms.
2. *Medorrhinum* symptom count in the chapter of Mind in Kent's *Repertory* was 94.
3. *Tuberculinum* symptom count in the chapter of Mind in Kent's *Repertory* was 32.
4. *Syphilinum* symptom count in the chapter of Mind in Kent's *Repertory* was only 11.

#### B: From New Comprehensive Homoeopathic Materia Medica of Mind

1. *Psorinum* is given under approximately 218 Headings and Sub-headings.
2. *Medorrhinum* is given under approximately 180

Headings and Sub-headings.

3. Tuberculinum Bovinum Kent is given under approximately 127 Headings and Sub-headings.
4. Syphilinum is given under approximately 97 Headings and Sub-headings.

### Discussion

Kent has extensively worked on proving of *Tuberculinum bovinum* but has failed to express it in depth in his Repertory.

The confusion and ambiguity regarding the theory of Miasm by Hahnemann, along with the understanding, use and application of Nosodes, divided the Homoeopaths in two different groups, as we notice.

With all these perceptions and notions there seems to be less focus on Proving, Re- Proving and Clinical verification of Nosodes as Homoeopathic remedies. As a result of which Nosodes have been poorly reflected in Repertory, though used extensively.

Presently Nosodes are prescribed by homeopathic doctors, practitioners and veterinarians world-wide for the treatment of acute as well as chronic diseases.

In 2005, a survey of homeopathic doctors found that 95% considered nosodes to be important in their clinical practice. Similarly, a 2005 study reported that nosodes had been of vital importance for successful homeopathic treatment of chronic ailments in an average of 33% of patient cases. Recent survey showed that 71% Homoeopaths, against common belief, think it fit to give Nosode as a common remedy, while 28% used Nosode as a constitutional remedy and only 6% as an anti – miasmatic remedy or successful homeopathic treatment of chronic ailments in an average of 33% of patient cases.

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