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A key note study on different editions of organon of medicine

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Abstract

Background: This article gives us an idea about all the editions of Organon of medicine with the 8 key headings which makes the learning about all the editions an easy task. The key headings such as Title, Preface, Introduction, Aphorisms, Novelties, Comparison, Translations & Errors which help us to study the different editions of Organon of Medicine in all the dimensions making it easy to remember and also giving it the definite structured format of understanding the complex structure in an easy way. This article aims at resolving the confusions among the students about the year of editions as well as number of aphorisms in it as the article is compiled using authentic sources.

Methods: Various old literatures and previous journals which quotes about Organon of Medicine is referred and then this article is being compiled with authentic references.

Conclusion: Helps the learner to know the exact details about the different editions of Organon of medicines under 8 key headings which makes learning easy and helpful to reflect the same in future competitive exams.

Keywords: Title, preface, introduction, aphorisms, novelties, comparison, translations & errors

Introduction

The most important three essential elements of homoeopathic system of medicines are the principle, the remedy and the dose; and the three are of equal importance in the process of healing via homoeopathic remedies ^[1]. Precursor of the organon of medicine are heilkunde der erfahrung or medicine of experience- 1805 & Essay on a new principles for ascertaining the curative powers of drugs with a few glances at those hitherto employed which Was published in Hufeland's journal of Practical Medicine(Vol 21, Part 3 and 4 page 5 to 99-1796)- foundation stones of Homoeopathic system of medicine were laid in this essay.

First edition of organon

Title: organon der rationellen heilkunde "organon of rational healing art or art of healing"

Preface: TO 1ST EDITION: 4 pages from page I to IV, 6 paragraphs, a total of 48 lines. On the cover page Dresden 1810 only was printed.

Introduction: 43 pages i.e. 64 paragraphs 1 footnote (to paragraph 57) Paragraphs were not numbered & was continuous writing. Contained examples of unintentional cures on the basis of Homoeopathic principles by prominent physicians. This writing had appeared as an article in Hufeland's Journal titled "introduction of the homoeopathic employment of medicines in ordinary practice"

Aphorisms: Pages 1-222, Aphorisms were numbered 271 aphorisms & 76 footnotes. Footnotes were denoted as ANM (Anmerkung- note, footnote or remark), appeared at the end of the aphorism and were not numbered.

Novelties: 42 pages of examples of unintentional application of drugs on homoeopathic principles by contemporary allopathic physicians. The antipathic axiom contraria contrariis curentur in para 1 of the Introduction. And the homoeopathic axiom was completed as similia similibus curentur in para 2 of the Introduction of this edition.

Comparison: 1st edition had retained some portion of Medicine of Experience, which was an essay type with no paragraphs while Organon had numbered aphorisms' no. 1 to para 29

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are important even today which consists of Hahnemann's prevision about the hazards of pollution, adulteration, fast food, occupation etc....

Translations: English translations was done by Dr. C E. wheeler IN 1917 and was published from London.

Errors: Dr. C.E. wheeler did not translate the Introduction of the Organon. He translated only a few footnotes of the aphorisms. To a large no. of aphorisms, he added his own Translator's Note. Did not translate aphorism 158 and printed Hahnemann's aphorism 159 as 158, 160 as 159, and omitted aphorism 160 completely.

Second edition of organon

Title: organon der heilkunst i.e. organon of medicine or healing art.

Preface: Consisted of 18 paragraphs & total of 203 lines.

Introduction: 62 pages, consisted of 70 paragraphs and 268 footnotes. It was divided into 3 chapters: End of the chapter was indicated by a closing line (-).

Aphorisms: 315 aphorisms and 130 footnotes, Hahnemann made a mistake in numbering the aphorisms. Footnote were marked with * or +, and were not numbered There were no aphorisms numbering 216, 217, and 218. After aphorism 215 the next number was aphorism 219. Although the number given to the last aphorism was 318. There were only 315 aphorisms in the 2nd edition.

Novelties: The title of the book had changed. Gellert's poem was removed and Aude Sapere was written. The introduction had 62 pages, and 149 new aphorisms were added. In contrast to first addition where it was written below to the related aphorism. Summary of aphorisms was introduced in this edition. A list of books of 3 pages of the publisher was printed in the end of the book ^[2].

Translations: Was never translated to English, was translated in French by E.G. BRUNNOW in 1824.

Errors: Hahnemann's numbering of aphorisms were wrong. He gave 318 no. to the last aphorism but the actual no. is 315 as there were no aphorisms numbering 216, 217, and 218.

Third edition of organon

Title: Title of the book remained the same i.e. organon der heilkunst. (Organon of medicine or healing art.)

Preface: Preface to 1st edition – p. III-IV. Preface to 2nd edition – p. V-Preface to 3rd edition – p. XI-IV. Preface to 3rd edition had 3 paragraphs and a footnote of 5 lines in a total of 32 lines. At the end was mentioned Koethen Easter, 1824.

Introduction: Consisted of 52 pages.70 paragraphs & 266 footnote and were denoted by numbers. Introduction was divided into 3 chapters.

Aphorisms: Aphorisms were contained in 229 pages, p 53 to 281. There were total of 319 aphorisms, and the numbering given to the last aphorism was 320.

Novelties: Was published within 5 years of the publication of 2nd edition. Aphorism 319 and 320 deals with Mesmerism were added. 2 new aphorisms were added Aphorism 108 of 2nd edition became 108a & 108b, aphorism 167 became 167a & 167b.

Translations: Was translated in French by e.g. Brunnow in 1832, same year another translation was done in French by A.J.L. Jourdan.

Errors: The errors of 2nd edition was repeated in 3rd edition. The last number given was 320. The actual number in 3rd edition is 317 but as there are other aphorisms 108b and 167b total number of aphorisms is 319.

Fourth edition of organon

Title: Title remained the same and Aude Sapere on the cover page remained.

Preface: Had 4 paragraphs in 4 pages. Consisted of a total of 76 lines.

Introduction: 104 pages (p 1-104), 138 para & 303 footnotes. Was divided into 2 parts. Part 1: consisted of 66 paragraphs and 25 footnotes. Was divided into 8 chapters') Part 2: consisted of 'Examples of Homoeopathic cures performed unintentionally by physicians of the old school of medicine. It had 72 paragraphs and 278 footnotes.

Aphorisms: Total of 292 aphorisms in no., with 135 footnotes. Were numbered separately on each page from 1 Onwards.

Novelties: The theory of chronic miasms was introduced. Introduction was enlarged & divided into 2 parts: Part 1: Fundamental defects of the allopathic system. Part 2: Contained examples of homoeopathic cures performed by renowned allopathic physicians ^[3].

Translations: 1ST English translation was done by Charles h. devrient of London in 1833. It was reprinted by C. Hering's North American Academy of Homoeopathic Healing Art in 1836

Errors: The Theory of Chronic Miasms was introduced in this edition aphorism 70 to aphorism 75 but no reference was made in Preface to 4th edition.

Fifth edition of organon

Title: Remained the same.

Preface: 8 pages containing 7 paragraphs and 3 footnotes. It was dated Koethen 28 March 1833 and below Samuel Hahnemann was printed.

Introduction: Was in 76 pages. 76 containing 99 paragraphs and 47 footnotes. It was divided into 12 chapters.

Aphorisms: Contained in 228 pages, p. 77-304. Aphorisms were serially numbered & footnotes were separately numbered 1, 2, 3 etc. for each page. Total- 294 aphorisms & 159 footnotes

Novelties: Doctrine of Vital Force was introduced. A definite drug- vehicle ratio was fixed and a method of drug dynamization was introduced. The introduction of 12 chapters was kept and rest of its portion of the 4th edition was dropped. The evidence in earlier practice, logic and method of the whole homoeopathic system was distinctly outlined.

Translations: English translations were done by: 1939: Hering's North American Academy of Homoeopathic Healing Art. 1849: Dr. R.E. Dudgeon 1876: C. Wesselhoeft 1889: B. Fincke.

Errors: Hahnemann mentions Kaiser (Emperor) Alexius as brother of Princess Maria Porphyrogeneta. Instead Alexius was her father. There are some errors in Hering's publication based on Devrient's translations & because of protests, its manuscripts were destroyed. C. Wesselhoeft changed the frame of Hahnemann's sentences & replaced some aphorisms from their places & put them under Appendix. He repeated some errors of Dudgeon and made some fresh errors in editing and translating. Dudgeon's translation with the suggestions of Richard Hughes was the best & became the text book in homoeopathic institutions. But he made some errors in facts, in translation & in editing [4].

Sixth edition of organon

Title: Organon der Heilkunst von Samuel Hahnemann in small letters and Richard Haehl M.D. In bigger letters and below it, the name of the publisher. The words Aude Sapere were wrongly removed from the cover page & put on top of the publisher's contents.

Preface: 4 paragraphs & date is end of Feb 1842.

Introduction: 30 pages (p11-41) Introduction was divided into 12 chapters separated from each other by a closing line (-) just as in 5th edition. Chapters are same as in 5th edition.

Aphorisms: Were contained in 114 pages (p42-155), 291 aphorisms. In Haehl's book footnotes were 224, were serially numbered & in violation to Hahnemann's style were printed at the end of the book (p156-220). The editor's notes were serialized with that of Hahnemann. It's not easy to differentiate between footnotes of Hahnemann & Haehl. The publishers have disfigured & distorted Hahnemann's book [5]

Novelties: A new scale of preparation of drugs i.e. 50 millesimal scale was introduced in this edition. The rules for repetition of doses were changed. The word Vital Force was replaced by Vital Principle.

Translations: Was translated in English by Dr. William Boericke of U.S.A Steven Decker made another English translation in 1996.

Errors: Although 85% of the contents of the book was taken from R.E. Dudgeon's translation but his name was not mentioned as a co-translator. Dr. Boericke copied Dudgeon's every error and mistakes in translating, editing eg. aphorism 117 footnote not only wrong fact was copied Even Dudgeon's mistake in the name of Princess

Prophyrogenita as Porphyroghnita was copied by Dr. Boericke.

Conclusion

The sixth edition of the organon was merely a copy of the 5th organon which Hahnemann had annotated in February 1842 with numerous revisions [6] before his death in 1843 in Paris but not very well accepted as it was the posthumous edition and also carries a lot of controversies along with it. In a letter from Paris Dr. Samuel Hahnemann says that, "I am preparing the sixth edition of the organon, to which I can only devote a few hours [7]. Thus, this article gives a complete picture about all the editions and helps the learner to learn editions in a simple way.

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