HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Abstract

The seventeenth-century "new philosophy" has continued to be primarily interpreted in terms of а significant philosophical turn. Big ideas were given prominence of place by twentieth-century which also encouraged modernism, the propensity to explain the development of science in light of novel concepts. Such approaches placed sciences that seemed to be more theoretical above medicine (and technology). Therefore, many authors adopted a contending that the significant stance developments in the history of medicine during the so-called scientific revolution stemmed from philosophical commitments in an effort to convince science historians of the significance of medicine .The history of medicine, however, has proven to be resistant to such reductions because it is also closely related to other facets of life. As a result, it continues to present a wide range of options for those looking for novel approaches to dealing with histories that see the body and the mind working together rather than separately. This special issue of Media History, which is the product of a workshop on nineteenth-century medical and health publications, aims to analyze the readership and contemporary significance of these periodicals as well as the methodology used by historians in their research. We review recent studies on medical journals, taking into consideration the literary and historical research that has been done on these volumes, as well as how our understanding and use of them have altered in the digital age..

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the prehistoric era, diseases were thought to be brought on by hostile magic and demonic spirits. People used to think that exorcising evil spirits or dispelling an enemy's curse would cure illnesses. Doctors throughout that time period adhered to Treatments like burying a broken leg in clay and letting it set in the sun were used to help heal bone fractures. Animal fat and skins were used to cover any injuries or wounds.

The Great Ancient Civilizations had experts in a variety of medical fields, including dentistry, gastrointestinal, proctology, and ophthalmology. However, many are connected to superstitious ideas, ghosts, demons, and spells and curses.

Galen in Rome, Imhotep in Egypt, Chakara in India, Zhang Zhongjing in China, and many others all made contributions to the development of medicine in ancient times.

One of the greatest figures in the history of medicine was Hippocrates of ancient Greece. "A smart man Should see health as the greatest human blessing," he asserted. To doctors: Sometimes cure, frequently treat, always soothe... Additionally, develop the habits of helping others and avoiding harm.

The accidental discoveries of "penicillin" by "Alexander Fleming" and "sulfanilamide" by "Gerhard Johannes Paul Domagk" led to the usage of so-called sulfa medicines to treat bacterial illnesses during the start of World War II. By the end of the war, these antibiotics were being regularly used by doctors to treat illnesses including meningitis and streptococcus

II. HISTORY OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Traditional medicine includes medical practises that have been handed down through the generations and have ancient origins in order to maintain health as well as to prevent, diagnose, improve, or treat ailments. The many cultural and historical contexts in which traditional medicine was first formed have had an impact on its evolution. A holistic view of life, harmony between the mind, body, and environment, and a focus on health rather than illness serve as its underlying principles.

The proper use of products of guaranteed quality, proper communication between traditional medicine providers, allopathic practitioners, and patients, and the dissemination of scientific information and guidance for the general public are just a few of the many aspects of rational traditional medicine use. The World Health Organization aids its members in creating their own national guidelines for conventional medicine and cutting-edge research

III. TIMELINE OF MEDICAL HISTORY

2600 BC Imhotep, an Egyptian physician, outlines the identification and treatment of 200 ailments.

Alcmaeon of Croton distinguished arteries from veins approximately 500 BC.

Futuristic Trends in Medical Sciences ISBN: 978-93-95632-92-8 IIP Proceedings, Volume 2, Book 21, Part 2, Chapter 9 HISTORY OF MEDICINE Hippocrates, the Greek father of medicine, is born in 460 BC and launches the scientific study of medicine by prescribing a type of aspirin. Diocles authored the first documented anatomy book in 300 BC.

Herophilus investigates the neurological system in 280 BC.

Galen was born in 130 AD. Greek physician to Roman emperors and gladiators

Pedanius Dioscorides publishes De Materia Medica in the year 60 AD.

Rhazes, a physician from Persia, diagnoses smallpox in 910.

The Canon of Medicine and The Book of Healing are written by Avicenna in 1010.

1249 Roger Bacon creates eyewear

Leonardo da Vinci examines corpses in 1489

Vesalius' studies on human anatomy are published in De Fabrica Corporis in 1543.

1847 Ignaz Semmelweis discovers a way to stop puerperal fever from spreading

The syringe is invented in 1853 by Charles Gabriel Pravaz and Alexander Wood.

1857 Louis Pasteur says that disease is caused by microorganisms.

1867 Antiseptic Principle of the Practice of Surgery, written by Joseph Lister, introduces the use of antiseptic surgical techniques.

1870 The germ theory of illness is established by Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur.

The first cholera vaccine was created in 1879.

Louis Pasteur created the first anthrax vaccine in 1881.

Louis Pasteur created the first rabies vaccine in 1882. Koch makes the TB bacillus discovery.

First contact lenses were created in 1887.

1899 Aspirin is created by Felix Hoffman.

1901 The system to divide blood into the A, B, AB, and O groups is first introduced by Karl Landsteiner.

Dr. Paul Dudley White invented the electrocardiograph (ECG) in 1913.

1921 Edward Mellanby learns that rickets is brought on by a diet deficient in vitamin D. The Band-Aid was created by Earle Dickson.

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Diabetes was first treated with insulin in 1922. The first diphtheria vaccine was created in 1923.

The first whooping cough vaccine was created in 1926.

1927 first TB vaccine created

first tetanus vaccine created

1928: Penicillin is discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming

1935 first yellow fever vaccine created

Ira Lavon Julian created the drugs cortisone for rheumatoid arthritis and physostigmine for glaucoma. 1937 First vaccine developed for typhus

In Chicago, Bernard Fantus is a pioneer in the usage of the first blood bank.

1942 The first paper on medical ultrasound is published by Dr. Karl Theodore Dussik.

1943 Streptomycin was discovered by Selman A. Waksman.

1945 first influenza vaccine created

John Hopps created the initial cardiac pacemaker in 1950.

1952 The first cardiac pacemaker is created by Paul Zoll.

The first polio vaccine is created by Jonas Salk.

Rosalind Franklin studies the structure of DNA using X-ray diffraction.

1953 Francis Crick and James Watson are studying the structure of the DNA molecule.

1954 A leukemia-fighting medication was invented by Gertrude Elion.

The first kidney transplant is carried out by Dr. Joseph E. Murray.

1955 The first polio vaccine is created by Jonas Salk.

1963 The balloon embolectomy catheter was developed by Thomas Fogarty.

The first measles vaccine was created in 1964.

1967 first mumps vaccination created The first human heart transplant is carried out by Dr. Christian Bernard.

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The first rubella vaccination was created in 1970.

The first chicken pox vaccine was created in 1974. 1975 CAT-Scans are created by Robert S. Ledley.

The first pneumonia vaccination was created in 1977.

First test-tube child is born in 1978

First meningitis vaccine created

Smallpox is eliminated in 1980.

1981 first hepatitis B vaccine created

1983 The AIDS-causing virus known as HIV is discovered.

1984 Alec Jeffreys creates a technique for genetic fingerprinting.

1985 The artificial kidney dialysis device was created by Willem J. Kolff.

1992 first hepatitis A vaccine created

1996 As the first clone, Dolly the sheep

2006 The first vaccine to focus on a cancer cause

IV. MEDICATION TYPES

- Ayurveda
- Siddha
- Unani
- Yoga
- Naturopathy
- Homeopathy

V. HISTORY OF AYURVEDA



(PIC FROM- iStock.com)

The proper use of products of guaranteed quality, proper communication between traditional medicine providers, allopathic practitioners, and patients, and the dissemination of

scientific information and guidance for the general public are just a few of the many aspects of rational traditional medicine use. The World Health Organization aids its members in creating their own national guidelines for conventional medicine and cutting-edge research.

Varieties of medicine Due to a number of obstacles, including a dearth of literary sources in other languages and a lack of understanding of the fundamental concepts and histories of systems from various ethnic origins, there is a gap in the exchange of information from systems around the world. Knowledge of systems from various ethnic origins would lead to knowledge exchange and increase understanding of various systems when combined with the collaborative work of researchers from various nations. This could ultimately help to integrate and advance research on herbal drugs.

When one learns about the systems, the principles, and the histories, and tries to strengthen the qualities that are shared by the numerous TSMs, these futuristic goals can be achieved. To support the aforementioned viewpoints, we have attempted to present the foundational concept and history of Ayurveda in this review.

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The history of Ayurveda dates back to the second century BC. The ancient schools of Hindu philosophy known as Vaisheshika and the school of logic known as Nyaya formed the groundwork for ayurveda. It was founded at the same time as the Nyaya and Vaisheshika schools of thought, and it is connected to the manifestation framework known as Samkhya.

The Vaisheshika School advocated drawing conclusions and forming opinions on a patient's pathological condition in order to guide treatment. As opposed to this, Nyaya School taught that before beginning treatment, one should have a thorough understanding of the patient's condition as well as the state of the disease. The attributes of any item are divided into six categories by the Vaisheshika school: substance, particularity, activity, generality, inherence, and quality, which are known in Sanskrit as Dravya, Vishesha, Karma, Samanya, Samavaya, and Guna, respectively. 2, 3 Later, the Vaisheshika and Nyaya schools collaborated to establish the Nyaya-Vaieika school.

In later years, the nyya-vaieika school helped spread knowledge of Ayurveda and brought honour to traditional knowledge. The Hindu God Brahma, who is regarded as the universe's creator, is considered to be the source of Ayurveda, both before these schools were founded and even now. 4, 5 For the benefit of humanity, it is thought that the universe's creator gave the sages this comprehensive understanding of healing. The knowledge of traditional remedies was transmitted from the sages to the disciples, who then passed it on orally and through various documents to the general public.

In the form of poetry called "Shlokas," knowledge about the medicinal virtues of herbs was compiled. Sages utilised these to explain how to use therapeutic plants. The Yajur Veda, Rig Veda, Sam Veda, and Atharva Veda are four renowned knowledge collections (Vedas) that are thought to constitute the foundation of the Hindu healing system. The Rig Veda, the most well-known of the four Vedas, contains 1028 Shlokas and names 67 different

plants. The Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda areSome academics claim that traditional Ayurvedic medical notions date back to the Indus Valley civilization[134], but this claim is irrelevant because the Indus script has not yet been deciphered. [22]:535–536 There are songs and prayers in the Atharvaveda that are intended to heal illness. Ayurveda is said to have originated according to a number of myths, including the one that Dhanvantari (or Divodasa) acquired it from Brahma. [15] [37] According to tradition, the sage Agnivesa's lost treatise had an impact on the literature of Ayurveda. [135]

One of the few traditionally created medical systems that is still frequently used today is Ayurveda. As a result, it is vulnerable to accusations that its philosophical underpinnings are out of date and that its modern practitioners have not taken into account medical advancements. In India in the early decades of the 20th century, reactions to this scenario sparked a passionate dispute between those who believed in maintaining tradition (uddha "pure" ayurveda) and those who believed it should modernise and syncretize. Up to this year (2015), both in the public sphere and in the government, there has been political discussion concerning the role of ayurveda in modern India. The debate about Ayurvedic medicine's position in today's globalised society is still going strong

Many early publications on Ayurvedic medicine have been lost to history, but three important early writings have been preserved in manuscript form. The Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Bhela Samhita are these three texts. Since each of these works internally presents itself as a composite work assembled by several editors, dating these works historically is difficult. Meulenbeld examined all prior research on their dating in volumes IA and IB of his History of Indian Medical Literature. [2] Meulenbeld made the following statement after weighing the Surutasahit evidence and arguments:

"The Surutasahit is most likely the creation of an unidentified author who gathered much of the information he used in his book from a variety of prior sources from different eras. This may help to explain why so many academics give in to the temptation to define various separate levels and the things that belong to them. As we've seen, assumptions about the age of the strata and their purported authors often impact the identification of features assumed to belong to a certain layer."

Hoernle first suggested dating this work to 600 BCE over a century ago[145], but subsequent historical research has long since disproved that theory. The Surutasahit was compiled over a period of time, beginning with a nucleus of medical concepts from the century or two BCE and then being updated by numerous hands into its final shape by about 500 CE, according to the current opinion among South Asian medical historians.

Although the Uttaratantra, the final chapter of the work, was added by an unidentified later author before 500 CE, the theory that the text was updated by the Buddhist scholar Nagarjuna in the second century CE[146] has been refuted. [2] The Charaka Samhita, authored by Charaka, and the Bhela Samhita, attributed to Atreya Punarvasu, which are both dated to the 6th century BCE by non-specialist scholars[147][148][149] but are actually datable to a time between the second and fifth centuries CE in their current form, use comparable arguments. [2] [20] [11] In the early years of the Common Era, Dridhabala also modified the Charaka Samhita.

Ancient Indian physician Charaka's statue at Haridwar, India

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The Bheda Samhita[152] and its explanation of concepts in Central Asian Buddhism are excerpted in the Bower Manuscript, which dates to the early sixth century CE[151]. A. F. R. Hoernle determined the medical portions of the manuscript's scribe was a native of the area in 1987.

VI. HISTORY OF SIDDHA



(PIC FROM – THEHealthSite.com)

It can be found that Siddhar, Agasthiar's ancient works, known as Aadi-nool, previously published the Siddha Vaidya Sasthram system. The poem mentioned above illustrates the Siddha system's divine mythology of origin. The following provides the poem's meaning.

The Father of Siddha Vaidyam, Lord Shiva, imparted this priceless Vaidya Sasthram to his devoted bride, Goddess Parvathy. Lord Murugan received this important wisdom from his mother, Sree Mahamaya devi. To spread and safeguard the priceless Human Life on Earth, Sree Murugan gave this gift to his disciples Agasthiya Guru. Similar to that, it is well known to the general public in the form of vocal hymns. In truth, a limited number of traditional Siddha practising families still own this Vaidya Sathram, which is hidden.

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Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha Medicine were all created in 1929 at the College of Indigenous Medicine in Borella. Up until 1961, the Diploma in Indigenous Medicine and Surgery (DIMS) was given by the Board of Indigenous Medicine. The diploma's name was changed to Diploma of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery with the passage of Ayurveda Act No. 31 of 1961. (DAMS).

On April 2nd, 1976, the College of Ayurvedic Medicine received an upgrade, becoming the Institute of Indigenous Medicine and associated with the University of Colombo. The curriculum for degree courses was developed during a workshop in 1983, and

the University of Colombo Senate gave its approval. Since 1983, the degree for siddha medicine has been the Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS).

Following the 1983 racial unrest, the Siddha Division was moved from the University of Colombo to the University of Jaffna on July 2, 1984, and was housed as a Department within the Faculty of Arts. The University of Jaffna is 11 kilometres distant from Kaithady, where the Department of Siddha Medicine began its academic operations.

Since October 1st, 1993, the Department of Siddha Medicine has been a standalone Unit under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor. The UGC was presented with a proposal to raise the Unit to Faculty/Institute status.

The Siddha Medical programme includes lectures, laboratory work, and clinical studies. The Government Ayurvedic Hospital's position in the adjacent compound is more suitable for carrying out the clinical programme. The Unit has ample area to accommodate growth plans and the construction infrastructure.

VII. HISTORY OF UNANI

As its name suggests, Greece is where the Unani System of Medicine originated. This system has its origins in Mesopotamia, Egypt's sister civilisation. The Arabs further embraced it and made significant advancements in its development. Unani therapy's herbal foundation can be traced back to its early pioneers in ancient Egypt, who gave plants priority in the treatment of disease. Additionally, they pioneered the use of surgery as a form of treatment.

The papyri studies demonstrate the expertise of the Egyptians in the medical field. Egyptian doctors like Imhotep (2800 BC) and Amenhotep (1550 BC) are well-known today. Mesopotamians also held a significant position in history because of their significant contributions to the realm of medicine. A urine sample was employed as a diagnostic tool. Asclepius (Asqalébüs-1200 BC), a brilliant medical scientist, started the Greek era of unani medicine. The art of medicine was developed by the Greeks during the Asclepian period in light of Egyptian and Babylonian medical expertise.

The Arabs brought the Unani System of Medicine to India, where it quickly became firmly entrenched. The Delhi Sultans, the Khiljis, the Tughlaqs, and the Mughal Emperors all supported the scholars with official funding and even hired some of them as court physicians and state servants. The majority of people adopted the system right away, and it quickly expanded throughout the entire nation. Unani medicine was at its height in India between the 13th and the 17th centuries. To name just a few, Abu Bakr bin Ali Usman Kashani, Sadruddin Dimashqui, Bahwa bin Khwas Khan, Ali Geelani, Akbar Arzani, and Mohammad Hashim Alvi Khan were among those who made significant contributions to this system during that time.

The Unani System of Medicine arrived in India in the seventh century and, thanks to a variety of original contributions and fresh applications made by scholars of succeeding generations, evolved into a comprehensive medical system. It has thrived as a scientific medical system and has been used, taught, and scientifically documented in various sections of the nation.

By appreciating the value and scope of unani medicine and incorporating it within the nation's healthcare system, the Indian government has helped it advance. India has become the world leader in the Unani System of Medicine due to its extensive network of high-quality educational institutions, comprehensive healthcare facilities, cutting-edge research facilities, and quality drug manufacturing industries, as well as the fact that a large number of people use it for their healthcare needs.

Unani Medicine experienced a setback while under British authority, but it persisted in use since the discipline maintained widespread acceptance. Unani medicine was mostly kept alive throughout the British rule by the Sharifi Family in Delhi, the Azizi Family in Lucknow, and the Nizam of Hyderabad. Akém Ajmal Khan (1868–1927), a distinguished doctor and expert in unani medicine, promoted the use of the unani system of medicine in India. He made a significant contribution to the multifaceted growth of the two Indian medical systems, Unani Medicine and Ayurveda, as evidenced by the Hindustani Dawakhana and the Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College in Delhi.

Particularly Akém Abdul Hameed (1908-1999), a member of the Delhi-based Majeedi family, made significant contributions to the modernization of the unani pharmaceutical industry. Akém Abdul Hameed also founded the Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research (IHMMR) in New Delhi. The IHMMR later became the Jamia Hamdard, a deemed university, in 1989. Additionally, a few other families, such the Usmani Family of Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) and the Niamathullah Family of Madras (now Chennai), made substantial contributions to the development of unani medicine in the 20th century.

After India's independence, Unani Medicine and other Indian medical systems began to advance significantly. The 1943 appointment of a Health Survey and Development Committee highlighted the potential significance of India's indigenous medical systems. Ayurveda and Unani research should be adequately supported at the national level and in the provinces, the conference of health ministers decided in 1946. The meeting also suggested establishing institutes for these systems' education and training. The Government of India formed a number of committees to carry out the conference's recommendations, the most well-known of which were the Colonel R.N. Chopra and C.G. Pandit Committees (1946 and 1949, respectively).

The Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (CCRIMH) was created by the Government of India in 1969 to carry out research and scientific endeavours. This helped Indian systems of medicine, notably the Unani System of Medicine and homoeopathy, to flourish. Following the collapse of the CCRIMH in 1978, four separate research councils were established, one for each of Ayurveda & Siddha, Unani Medicine, Yoga & Naturopathy, and Homoeopathy. This was done in order to offer specialised attention to study in individual systems. Initially, the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) branch of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was in charge.

The Ministry of AYUSH established a full-fledged Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in March 1995, which was later renamed Department of AYUSH in November 2003 with the purpose of fostering the entire development of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy. The Department of AYUSH has been promoted to a full-fledged Ministry of AYUSH with effect from 09 AYUSH systems of medicine.

The Unani System of Medicine currently functions as a vital component of the country's healthcare delivery system, with its own recognised practitioners, hospitals, and training and research organisations. In order to take full use of these systems in providing healthcare to the masses, the Government of India is increasingly supporting and funding the development of indigenous medical systems such as Unani Medicine.

VIII. HISTORY OF YOGA



SURIYA NAMASKAR (PIC FROM – freepik)

Yoga is a very old kind of physical exercise. The Sanskrit root of the term "yoga" is "yuj," which means "to connect or merge." Yoga's goal is to unite your mind and body and support their harmonious coexistence. Although there is no concrete proof, it is thought that this discipline began around 5000 years ago in Northern India. The Indus-Saraswati valley civilization's pre-vedic period (2700 BC) seals and fossils showing people engaged in yoga sadhana suggested the practise of yoga began at such an earlytime. Ancient Sanskrit scriptures from the Rig Veda during the Vedic period contain the first recorded use of the word "Yoga" (1500 BC).

The Upanishads, which dominated the Pre-Classical Period and explain how the body and mind function, were prevalent at this time. Twenty of the 108 written documents were Yoga Upanishads, which mostly discuss various yogic techniques such pranayama pratyahara, breathing control, sound, and silent meditation. During the Classical Period (500 BC TO 800 AD). Jainism and Buddhism adopted yoga. The first Buddhist known to have studied yoga techniques was Lord Buddha.

The first yogi to fully comprehend and articulate the concept and goal of yoga was "Maharshi Patanjali," known as the Father of Yoga. Adi Shankaracharya and Ramanujacharya made the most significant contributions to yoga throughout the Post-Classical era, which lasted from 800 to 1700 A.D. Later, in the middle of the nineteenth century, Swami Vivekananda was one of the key yogis who introduced yoga to the west and disseminated it in the modern era. His extensive travels led to the conversion of many people

to yoga and Vedânta5. Hatha yoga was introduced to America in 1947 when Russian-born yogin Indra Devi, dubbed the "First Lady of Yoga," started her own yoga studio.

IX. HISTORY OF NATUROPATHY

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The name "naturopathy" was first used by John Scheel in 1895, and Benedict Lust, who is regarded as the "Father of U.S. Naturopathy," bought it. Since it was Dr. Benedict Lust who first introduced naturopathy to the US in 1892, he is also regarded as the founder of contemporary naturopathy. Father Sebastian Kneipp, a strong proponent of hydrotherapy, dispatched Benedict Lust from Germany to the United States in 1892 to spread Kneipp's ideas. Father Sebastian Kneipp trained Benedict Lust in hydrotherapy and other natural health treatments. on 1905

The American School of Naturopathy, established by lust in New York, was the country's first naturopathic university. Following the discovery of penicillin and the introduction of synthetic medications, most notably antibiotics and corticosteroids in the 1930s, naturopathic medicine began to decline. The primary distinction between naturopathic medicine and conventional treatment is that naturopaths fully eschew using drugs and surgeries.

By translating the German author Louis Kuhne's book "New Science of Healing," naturopathy was introduced to India.

In the year 1894, D. Venkat Chelapati Sharma translated this novel into Telgu. This work was translated into Hindi and Urdu by Shri Shroti Kishan Swaroop of Bijnor in 1904. Although naturopathy has roots in Europe and was developed in the United States, it is now practised in numerous nations all over the world. The public began to show a lot of interest in and support for naturopathic medicine between 1918 and 1937. The naturopathic movement peaked in terms of popular attention and knowledge in the early 1920s. Even in the early 20th century, naturopathy was still widely used in the United States.

The practise of naturopathy was established in India in the 1900s and made famous by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji was impressed by Adolf Just's book "Return of Nature," which made him a staunch supporter of Naturopathy. He also authored naturopathic works such as "Nature Cure,""Key to Health,""Rama Nama," and "Diet and Diet Changes." The Indian approach to naturopathy is very different from the Western approach, especially in how much importance it places on yoga and strict vegetarianism.

Fasting and diet are essential components of naturopathy, and they are backed up by natural treatment modalities such hydrotherapy, chromotherapy, mud therapy, manipulative therapy, electrotherapy, acupuncture, magnetotherapy, physiotherapy, exercise, and yoga therapy.

X. HISTORY OF HOMEOPATHY



(PIC FROM – HONESTDOCS)

Homeopathy is a system of complementary medicine that was created in the 18th century as a natural healing method. The Greek terms homoeos, which means "similar," and pathos, which means "suffering or disease," are the source of the English word homoeopathy. The maxim "similia similibus curentur," which translates to "let like be treated by likes," serves as the foundation for this therapeutic approach. Homeopathy is an alternative kind of medicine in which incredibly diluted doses of specific natural ingredients are used to cure a variety of illnesses.

Dr. Samuel Hahnemann (1755–1843), who graduated from medical school in 1779 and opened his own practise, discovered homoeopathy in the late 18th century. German physician Samuel Hahnemann held the view that a particular poison might treat the same symptoms it would induce at higher doses. When Hahnemann was translating a medical article by William Cullen into German, he came up with the basic ideas of homoeopathy. While working on his study, Cullen became captivated with a variety of South American tree bark known as "cinchona," which was being used to treat malaria-induced fever. Cullen had previously claimed that consuming cinchona bark could cure malaria.

When Hahnemann consumed the bark, he found that it produced symptoms such as fever, chills, joint pain, nausea, and an accelerated heartbeat that were comparable to those of malaria. He continued to look into "cures," and the concept of "similar suffering" emerged, leading him to discover that the fundamental tenet of homoeopathy is similia, similibus, curantur, a Latin expression that translates to "let likes be cured by likes." Although the concept of treating "like with like" was initially proposed more than 2,000 years ago by the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates, it was Hahnemann who turned this theory into a therapeutic approach known as homoeopathy.

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Hahnemann tested a variety of natural substances, including plants, minerals, metals, and other elements, on himself, his family, and a group of followers over the course of several years. The "father of experimental pharmacology" was him.

His idea that "like cures like" mirrored the developing field of immunisation and vaccination. The British Empire, as well as following nations like Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, contributed to the growth of homoeopathy. Due to the similarities between homoeopathy and ancient Ayurvedic medicine, homoeopathy became a significant medical system, especially in India and Pakistan.

Through Pakistan and India, homoeopathy has begun to spread to the Arab nations, and more recently, it has begun to increase in popularity in Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and China. Today, almost all French pharmacies offer homoeopathic medications, which are particularly popular in South America, Russia, India, Switzerland, Mexico, Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy. Despite the fact that homoeopathy was invented in Germany, by the 1840s it had spread to the United States. In the United States, there are currently approximately 14,000 homoeopathic doctors and 22 homoeopathic medical schools.

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