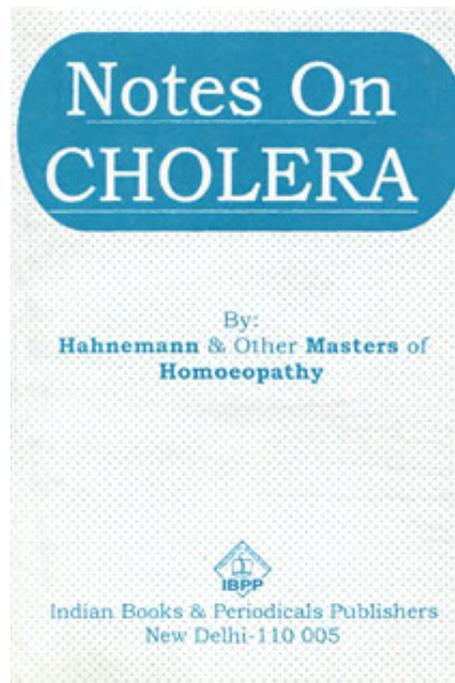


# Samuel Hahnemann Notes on Cholera

Reading excerpt

[Notes on Cholera](#)  
of [Samuel Hahnemann](#)

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## Notes on Cholera.

At the present time, when cholera is only separated from us by the "silver streak" it may interest our readers to see what Hahnemann, guided by the therapeutic rule he discovered, and before he had seen a single case of the disease, said as to its treatment. The first article, which he communicated to a medical periodical in the autumn of 1831, lays down accurately and precisely the medicinal treatment to be adopted, and which was acted on by his adherents everywhere in Europe with a success that excited the admiration of the world, and led to the removal of the prohibitions of homoeopathy and of the obstacles to its free practice which had hitherto disgraced many of the European states.

The second article, which was published as a pamphlet soon afterwards, is more concerned with the hygienic measures to be used for the prevention of cholera, and incidentally describes the treatment of it in its first stage by *camphor*. In this essay, Hahnemann anticipates, by sixty years, the very

modern doctrine that cholera is propagated by extremely minute organisms, described by Koch and named by him the "comma bacillus." If this doctrine is true—and it is generally held by pathologists, though that of course is no guarantee of truth, as the theories of pathologists are constantly changing—to Hahnemann must be assigned the credit due to the originator of an ingenious theory.

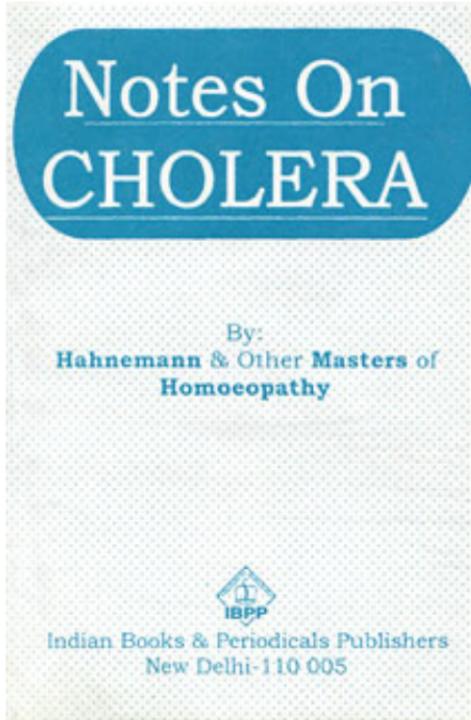
There could be no more convincing proof of the truth of the great therapeutic rule with which Hahnemann's name is identified, than the fact, that by it he was enabled before seeing a case, and from a mere description of the symptoms, to indicate the medicines that should prove remedial, and which the experience of all, who have employed them proved to be successful in a new and strange disease. Nothing like this can be predicated of the allopathic System. The practitioners of the old school were completely at a loss what to do when the cholera first invaded Europe. They tried first one thing, then another. Blood-letting, opium, mercury, injections of, salt into the veins, heat, cold, alcohol, purgatives, astringents—in short, every imaginable remedy was tried, with what result? A negative one only, that all were equally useless, and when the results differed, that was only because some remedies killed the patients more quickly than if they had been left alone. Not a scrap of useful information was gained, as to how the disease should

be treated, so that at each succeeding invasion of the epidemic, practitioners were as much at a loss, how to treat it as their predecessors had been on the first invasion of the disease, and the same futile round of useless or hurtful means—with the exception, perhaps, of blood-letting, which for the present has gone out of fashion—was tried with equally unsatisfactory results. On the other hand the followers of Hahnemann were fully prepared to meet every fresh epidemic of cholera, and they found that the medicines pointed *out* by the master sixty years ago were equally efficacious at every recurrence of the disease. Nothing could teach more impressively the scientific character of homoeopathy and the unscientific character of its ancient rival, than the certainty with which homoeopathy meets any new and strange disease, and the pitiable helplessness of allopathy in the presence of any unfamiliar malady.

The very latest experience we have had of cholera in Hamburg shows that while homoeopathy is ready with its *camphor*, *veratrum* and *cuprum* to encounter successfully the most serious cases, the old school flounders about with its calomel, opium, lactic acid and injections of camphorated oil and salt water, only to find that its old remedies, and any new ones it may have taken a fancy to try, are as inefficient to cure as ever, so that its mortality remains nearly as high now as it was in 1831,

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any difference in favour of the treatment of to-day being owing to its having abandoned the more violent remedies it revelled in a few decades ago. So we may say of allopathy, that though it does not cure more cases of cholera, it does not kill quite so many as it used to do.



Samuel Hahnemann  
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