

Catherine R. Coulter

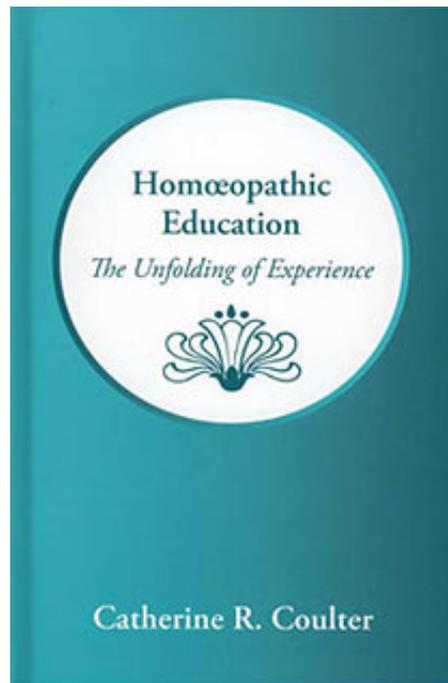
Homeopathic Education - The Unfolding of Experience

Reading excerpt

[Homeopathic Education - The Unfolding of Experience](#)

of [Catherine R. Coulter](#)

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Introductory Remarks

*Aude Sapere**

—Organon, *Epigraph*

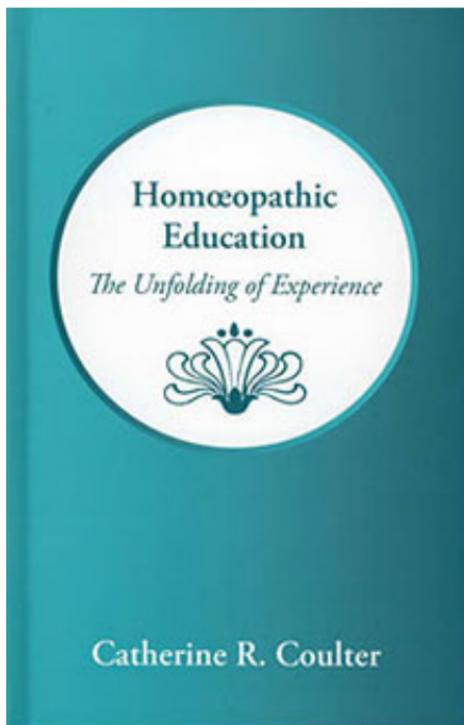
Homoeopathy is a medical discipline that anyone who wishes to do so can master to a greater or lesser degree. From its inception, Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) regarded his new method as a more democratic—in contrast to an elitist—form of medicine. To this end, he made a point of presenting it to the public in the German vernacular instead of the Latin favored by the medical profession, and he noted down and published symptoms and conditions in lay language instead of the obscure scientific terminology that prevailed in his day. In the same way that air, sun, water, and nature's bounty have been placed here on earth for every person to profit from as much as he can, so the founder of homoeopathy made his healing method readily accessible to every committed seeker.

Because of the profundity of this medical discipline, with its far-reaching philosophical and spiritual ramifications, there is ample room for the student to learn homoeopathy in his own individual way. Individualism notwithstanding, the one indispensable characteristic for any aspiring homoeopath who is committed to following Hahnemann's above quoted exhortation to "*dare to try*"

* "Dare to try." The literal translation of the Latin *sapere* is "to taste"—and, by extension, to experiment, to try.

is a dogged perseverance despite difficulties and in the face of obstacles. For, it was not under an entirely harmonious configuration of planets that homoeopathy was born. The unrest and revolutionary ferment that was convulsing Europe at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries, affecting the arts and sciences as well as the social structure, put its stamp on homoeopathy. Not only was the professional life of Hahnemann fraught with controversy, conflict, and strife, but the whole subsequent history of homoeopathy (especially in the United States) has been a stormy one. And those individuals striving to gain proficiency in this medical science—to explore it in all its breadth and plumb its depths—often appear in some way to take on the trials and to share in the turbulent destiny of the movement and its founder.

This book is not a textbook or a teaching manual. Rather it investigates the body of knowledge a homoeopath spends his life amassing and examines his manner of acquiring it. As in all forms of growth, during the process of becoming a full-fledged practitioner, there are certain clearly delineated stages to be passed through, each presenting challenges to be confronted, pitfalls to be avoided, and disappointments to overcome. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. The intent of this work is to indicate and describe the *rites of passage* that ultimately bring the aspirant to his goal: to practice, with confidence, integrity, and skill, the science and art of classical homoeopathy.



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