200 years „Organon of Medicine“ -
A comparative view on its six editions (1810-1842)

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19 May 2010
Introduction

- 1790 Hahnemann’s experiment with Peruvian bark
- 1796 Principles of drug proving and „similia similibus“
- 1807 The term „homeopathic“
- 1810 *Organon of rational therapeutics*
  „Homeopathy“, „similia similibus curentur“
- 1819-1842: *Organon of the art of healing* (editions 2-6)
Historical perspectives

- The motive to heal people: a perennial challenge
- Concepts, terms, and theories: varying widely
- Homeopathy emerged in 18th/19th century Germany
- Political, socio-economic, and intellectual background
- The *Organon of rational therapeutics*: just a transitional stage within the development of homeopathy
Philosophical perspectives

- Paradox: Language, logic, and concepts
  - allow humans to communicate their thoughts to others
  - limit the content of what is communicable at all

- Discoveries of something new and unheard-of:
  difficult – if not impossible – to communicate by means of common language, logic, and concepts

- The need (of Hahnemann) to comply with the linguistic, logical, and conceptual framework of (his) contemporary professional colleagues
Early writings of Hahnemann

- 1790 The „dawn“ of homeopathy
- 1796 Drug provings, similia similibus, specifics, causal and phenomenologic approach
- 1797, 1800, 1801: The term „dynamic“ vs. chemical, mechanic, atomic, material
- 1801 „Fixed diseases“, „quite invariable miasms“
- 1805 *Therapeutics of experience*: stimulus theory, semiotic theory, teleological concepts
- 1807 „Homeopathic“, „most rational way“, „truth“
- 1808 „Law of cure“, striving for recognition
- 1809 New ideal: „therapeutics“; no more: „art of healing“!
The six editions of the Organon (1-3)

- 1810 First edition: *Organon of rational therapeutics*  
  „Homeopathy“, „similia similibus curentur“,  
  „rationally curing“; „law of cure“, „law of nature“, „laws of  
  rational therapeutics“, „homeopathic causal connections“;

- 1813 „Laws“, „mathematical certainty“ „in all cases“

- 1819 Second edition: *Organon of the art of healing*  
  The „art of healing“ as a „pure science of experience“,  
  „aude sapere“; diseases as „spiritual detunements of our  
  life in feelings and activities“; „law of nature“

- 1824 Third edition: *Organon of the art of healing*  
  Sycosis besides psora and syphilis, „antipsoric remedy“
The six editions of the Organon (4-6)

- **1828** *The Chronic Diseases*
  Infection with a chronic miasm (psora, syphilis, sycosis); lifelong persistence: (almost) everybody is chronically ill!

- **1829** Forth edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
  The „unreasonable life-force“: its „efforts are itself illness“; hence: „art of healing“ requires „higher human spirit“; diseases as „detunements of the life-force“

- **1833** Fifth edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
  Delimitation against „isopathy, „bastard-homeopaths“, etc.; 30c as standard dose; „only true art of healing“

- **1842** Sixth edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
  Q-potencies, mesmerism, magnet, massages, baths
The Organon of rational therapeutics (1810):  
- neither the beginning of homeopathic practice  
- nor the endpoint of its development  

It is mainly based on concepts that were developed and published before (1790-1810)  

The six editions reflect a further development, dependent on (temporary) social and intellectual conditions (1810-1842)  

They are connected by a powerful (invisible) thread: Hahnemann‘s basic idea of the art of healing  

The challenge remains: to translate this into contemporary language and concepts