
YASGUR J., Homeopathic Dictionary (ygj1)

YASGUR Jay

Acknowledgements

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Finally, my heart-felt appreciation to editor Begabati Lennihan, whose help was greatly appreciated. Her suggestions and insights have brought this important reference to a new level.

Disclaimer: The material presented in this book is not intended as medical advice. Its intent is solely informational and educational. Consult the appropriate health care professional as needed.

Foreword

I have often told people that one way to begin to understand the language of homeopathic literature is to read 19th century literature. That was the native language of Dr. James Tyler Kent. Were Kent (or any other 19th century person) to suddenly appear today, we would have little trouble understanding them—certainly not the amount of trouble we would have understanding Shakespeare or Milton. Yet the similarity of the language is deceiving, for there are subtle shadings in the meaning of words. When the epidemic diseases of diphtheria, typhoid, malaria, and tuberculosis were such a large part of the world for the inhabitants of the 1800s, it is no wonder that they developed a whole vocabulary for talking about these things. As the diseases faded into history, so did the language to describe them. Yet it is seen every day by those who access Kent's *Repertory of the Materia Medica*.

Certainly, some of the definitions for these strange words may be found in a modern dictionary. Others can be found in medical dictionaries. But some are all but lost—to be found only in medical dictionaries that were published at the turn of the century.

Jay Yasgur has done a great service by once again bringing these definitions to our consciousness. Many of these terms are, indeed, obsolete and may refer to something that is now never seen in modern medicine. Yet others are so completely descriptive, that, as they become part of our vocabulary, our understanding of the repertory and the materia medica is enhanced.

Julian Winston
Editor, *Homeopathy Today*

Preface

Years ago when first starting my study of homeopathy I was shocked by the number of medical terms which were not

familiar to me. Even though I had taken an etymology course in pharmacy school I still found myself looking up words. It was then that the seed was planted to write this book. I did not realize how much nurturing that seed would require. In order to create this dictionary I have had to review many sources page by page, word by word...

Kent's *Repertory*

Boericke's *Materia Medica*

Julian's *Materia Medica of New Homeopathic Remedies*

Knerr's *Repertory*

Barthel's *Synthetic Repertory*

J.H. Clarke's *The Prescriber*

J.H. Clarke's *A Clinical Repertory of the Dictionary of Materia Medica*

Mathur's *Systematic Materia Medica of Homeopathic Remedies*

Boger's *Synoptic Key*

Tetau's *Clinical Homeopathic Materia Medica and Biotherapeutic Associations*

Heel's *Ordinatio Antihomotoxica and Materia Medica*

Nash's *Leaders in Homeopathic Therapeutics*

Hull's edition of Jahr's *Homeopathic Manual/Repertory*

Hull's edition of Laurie's *Homeopathic Domestic Medicine*

Hering's *The Homeopathic Domestic Physician*

Rau's *Special Pathology and Diagnostics with Therapeutic Hints*

Hahnemann's *Organon*

Obviously this has not been an easy task but it has been a task which, for the most part, I have immensely enjoyed.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the meanings associated with some terminology evolves. Words which meant one thing in the early 1800s now mean something quite different. This is the reason why you'll come across terms which have contradictory or imprecise meanings. Also, the effect that different authors had on defining terms needs to be factored in. Look at 'hemeralopia'. I've seen it defined as 'day sight' and also as 'nightblindness'. As one may imagine, this becomes more than confusing—try frustrating! In these cases one must address the context in which the term is used to obtain the exact meaning. In another example, 'orthopnea' is defined as 'difficult breathing' in an 1840 reference, *Ruoff's Repertory of Homoeopathic Medicine*. Yet in modern references it means 'labored breathing whereby the individual needs to sit up to breathe more easily'.

Or 'hypochondria'. Not only does it refer to an abdominal region, it used to mean 'of low spirits', and now the predominant definition for hypochondriasis appears to be, 'an excessive concern for one's health and well-being'. This 'low spirited' melancholic meaning has evolved into 'hypochondriac'. To see just how this term has evolved let me offer a plausible explanation. When one doesn't feel well one may feel depressed, and perhaps hold or rub the belly (hypochondria region) to provide comfort and relief. 'My stomach hurts' could be a possible way to phrase this discomfort. As medical theory was not too developed 150-200 years ago, medical reasoning might have gone something like this: 'S/he is low-spirited, and holds the belly for comfort. I'll give a medicine to affect the belly which in turn will improve the mental condition.' As time has gone by, this term evolved to mean 'sadness or depression of the spirits; gloom' and now 'obsessive worry about health, belief in imaginary ailments'. Whether or not one accepts my reasoning does not matter. The point is, elements of ambiguity are present in some definitions.

Definitions for the great variety of symptoms peculiar to homeopathy, can be found under the term *symptom*. Rather than make individual entries for particular/general/mental/new... symptoms, I decided to group them all together. This has the added benefit that all are together.

A few helpful charts are included as is an article from the early part of the 20th century. This article, by B.C. Woodbury, M.D., deals with homeopathic terminology and reflects the need which our homeopathic 'ancestors' felt for 'a dictionary of homeopathy'. I hope you enjoy this small treat.

Apparently some doubt exists about the birth/death data of Hahnemann, hence the two different astrological charts supplied by Dobereiner and by K.H. Gypser, M.D. As my astrological dexterity is virtually nil, I decided to include both! Some have criticized my decision to even remotely associate astrology with homeopathy, but I decided to include the charts, if nothing more than for interest's sake. Beware, if another chart surfaces pray tell, I'll remove myself to the environs and 'bay at the moon' (*vide lunatic*)!

A compilation of abbreviations and appellations (the initials after professionals' names indicating their degrees and/or licensure) and a succinct glossary of holistic health terms has been added. The obituary section contains many new characters. Yes, characters! It is just plain fascinating and inspiring to read about our 'homeopathic ancestors'.

An excellent reference has just been published, *The Mind Defined* (1996), by L. Part and R. Preston. Like this dictionary, it

is an essential book to have on one's desk while repertorizing. It defines the archaic meanings of words found in the Mind section of *Kent's Repertory*. Though many of those words can be found in my dictionary, you might consider adding this book to your library as common words which we 'know' and take for granted are defined. The compilers of that work have used older references and dictionaries just as I have done.

Another, highly recommended, reference is David Sault's very useful *A Modern Guide and Index to the Mental Rubrics of Kent's Repertory* (1990). It provides a much needed link between contemporary language and the 19th century expressions used in Kent's rubrics.

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines 350,000 words; the *Oxford*

English Dictionary lists 615,000; and if one adds scientific and technical terms that number rises to about two million.

This dictionary has approximately 4500. There are 2,796 languages in use on this planet, and one out of seven people

speaks or understands English. The German language has 185,000 words, Russian 130,000, and French less than 100,000.

The average high school graduate knows about 6,000 English words, the college grad from 15,000 to 25,000. Dictionaries

are important, are they not?! By the way, the first dictionary of English words was compiled in 1604 by Robert Cawdry, entitled *A Table Alphabeticall of Hard Wordes*. Samuel Johnson's (1709-1784) *Dictionary* was important because it fixed English spelling and established a standard reference for the use of modern English words. My thanks to Sherman Jubelirer for his help with this factual information.

After using the typeface Soutane for the third edition, I decided to go back to Times Roman for the fourth. It is easy to read and the standard.

Lastly, I would like to thank Begabati Lennihan who assisted me in rounding out the rough edges of this book. She came at a time when I was looking for someone to spruce up my book. It has been a meant-to-be association. She is an excellent editor and again I extend my thanks to her.

In order to make future editions more complete and error-free, I am relying on you, the user of this volume, to send me words or terms which you'd like to see included. But do not stop there; make whatever suggestions, criticisms and comments you feel necessary to improve this work. Your keen eye and diligence will aid in the production of a more educational and worthwhile book for the homeopathic community.

Be happy and smile,

Jay Yasgur

What is homeopathy ?

Homeopathy is a therapeutic medical science.

All the ailments and diseases of people (and animals) can be treated with homeopathic remedies using homeopathic healing principles. This sounds like a panacea—which it is not, and yet it is. "Fantastic," you say— and that is exactly what I thought when my homeopathic studies began.

Homeopathy (from the Greek *homeo*, 'similar', and *pathos*, 'suffering'), is a scientifically proven system of healing logic which should not be confused with 'home remedies'. It uses minute doses of specially prepared substances from the plant, animal, and mineral kingdoms. Homeopathic remedies, as they are called, are non-toxic, have no known side-effects and are most commonly administered by dissolution in the mouth. The homeopathic remedy begins to work immediately, and its duration of action (which varies from remedy to remedy) can be quite prolonged. The practitioner uses his/her expertise to select the proper remedy from the nearly 2000 available. He selects the proper potency and frequency of administration depending upon the vitality of the patient and the disease being treated. During the course of treatment several remedies may be needed, yet just one is administered at a time. Because it is truly an art, the practice of homeopathy does vary from practitioner to practitioner.

As mentioned, homeopathic remedies are frequently administered in minute, incomprehensibly small doses. For example, take a 2 liter bottle of soda, empty it into the Atlantic Ocean, stir, and take one teaspoonful. That dose—and doses even far more dilute—can and do heal! Even if the ill person is incurable or organ damage has occurred, the judicious application of homeopathic remedies can palliate and ease suffering.

How do homeopathic remedies work, and if they are prepared in such tiny, tiny amounts, how could they possibly do anything in the body? There is no concrete answer to these questions. Some authorities state that the remedies stimulate or enhance the immune system of the body, or raise the opsonic index (the measure of fighting ability) of white blood cells against bacteria and infecting agents. Today much research is being conducted on the international level. To date, however, no results have been forthcoming. We really don't know how homeopathic remedies work. The point is that they do and that fact cannot be ignored. When an ill person is given a remedy and is cured, even the most skeptical person cannot dismiss that. Probably the most validating thing about homeopathy is that it has been successfully used

time and time again for the last 150 years by a huge number of practitioners in a great number of countries. A case comes to mind of an elderly woman who had terminal cancer. Her daughter, having heard of homeopathy, approached me and asked for my advice. She explained that her mother was in great pain and injections of morphine-like pain killers provided no relief.

After 'taking her mothers case'* I suggested she give her *Arsenicum album* 30C (30C is the potency). Yes! Many remedies are made initially from poisonous substances, yet when prepared according to homeopathic principles become safe, non-toxic agents of healing. A hundred years of clinical experience has shown *Arsenicum album* to be a reliever of pain in patients stricken with cancer. The daughter administered anywhere from 2 to 6 doses per day depending upon the mother's discomfort. The remedy reduced the pain significantly. Though her condition was incurable, the homeopathic remedy allowed her mother a more restful, peaceful and dignified death.

This is but one example of the utility of homeopathy. Colds and flus, broken bones, arthritis, psoriasis, lacerations/injuries/cuts, colic, diarrhea, toothaches, and virtually anything else one might think of can be treated with homeopathy. It truly does border on being a panacea.

Do not mistake me for a medical radical or heretic, however. Certainly we cannot throw out the medicine of today. But we must integrate homeopathy as well as other holistic, alternative techniques into today's medical model. Acupuncture, massage, hydrotherapy, naturopathy, and so forth are all valuable, viable therapies which need to be incorporated into the medicine of today. It is a long and involved process, requiring inquisitive and open minds, yet for the welfare of the ill it must be done.

Explore homeopathy. It is a vast and powerful treasure chest of healing. Homeopathy is a difficult science to study and master, yet the reward is great: restored health for the patient and a deep sense of satisfaction for the healer.

SOME NOTES ON SCIENTIFIC TERMINOLOGY AS IT RELATES TO HOMEOPATHY

As with any body of knowledge one can distill certain truths from it with careful study. Thus in the following paragraphs I want to introduce scientific etymology simply and briefly.

Less than 5% of medical terminology is of Anglo-Saxon origin; the rest is of Greek, Latin, Arabic, Semitic, Italian and French origins. The Greek derivatives were frequently Latinized and further modified in France; we are still in the process of Anglicizing them. Therefore any effort of following Greek or Latin rules of grammar has been discarded in this volume.

Prefixes and suffixes are of great help in forming scientific terms. Without these small "bookends" we would be awash in vast amounts of cumbersome verbiage. It has been estimated that 25% of medical terms are formed with the aid of such prefixes or suffixes.

Prefixes

- a- Greek without, lack of
- ab- Latin from, away from
- ad- (af-, an-, ap-, at-) Latin to
- ambi- Latin both
- amphi- (ampho-) Greek about, around, both sides
- ana- Greek up, apart, across
- ante- Latin before
- anti- Greek against
- apo- Greek from
- bi- Latin twice, double, two
- cata- (kata-) Greek down
- circum- Latin around
- co- (col-, com-, con-) Latin with, together
- contra- Latin against
- de- Latin away from
- di- Greek twice, double
- dia- Greek through, apart
- dis- (di-) Latin apart from, negation
- dys- Greek with difficulty, bad
- e- Latin out of, out from
- ec- Greek out from
- ecto- Greek outer, outside
- en- Greek in

endo- Greek within
 epi- Greek on, upon
 eso- Greek inward
 eu- Greek good, well
 exo- Greek outside
 extra- Latin beyond, additional
 hemi- Greek half
 hyper- Greek over, above
 hypo- Greek less, under, below
 in- (im-) Latin in or inside; un- or not
 infra- Latin below
 inter- Latin between
 intro- Latin into
 meta- Greek beyond, after, between
 ob- Latin inversely
 para- Greek nearby, nearly
 per- Latin through, super
 peri- Greek around
 post- Latin after, behind
 pre- (prae-) Latin before, in front of
 pro- Greek and Latin before, forward
 retro- Latin backward
 semi- Latin half
 sub- Latin under, less than
 super- Latin above, excessively
 supra- Latin above, upon
 syn- (sym-) Greek with, together
 trans- Latin through, across, over
 ultra- Latin beyond, in excess

Suffixes

A suffix is added after a word or the root to qualify meanings or indicate what part of speech is intended. The root may change its last letters to make the subsequent combination pronounceable. A few examples are as follows.

- ist, -or, -er, -ite, on a noun, express the agent or person concerned (as in doctor, psychiatrist, therapist).
- ite can also mean 'itis' or 'inflammation'.
- ia, -osis, -tion, -y, on a noun, will express action or condition (as in anemia, arteriosclerosis, ankylosis).
- osis in many instances means 'an increase'.
- y or -ity, on a noun, expresses quality (as in flabby, slimy, acidity).
- m, -ma express result of action (as in trauma).
- oma shows a neoplasm; the root attached may show the source of the neoplasm or may show what it resembles.
- ium, -olus, -olum, -culus, -culum, -cle, -cule are diminutives. They mean 'little' or 'small', as in granule ('little grain'), molecule ('little mass'), or ventricle ('little belly').
- able, -ible, added to verbs make adjectives of ability (as in flexible, digestible).
- al, -ac, -ious, -ic, express a relatedness (as in caustic, cardiac).
- id, added to verbs or nouns makes adjectives of a state or condition (as in morbid).
- ous, added to nouns make adjectives expressing material (as in mucous).
- case, -ate, -ene, -ide, -in, -ine, -ose, are not strictly suffixes, they are endings to indicate particular kinds of chemical compounds (such as terpine, chloride, glucose, cerate, etc.).

Compound words

Words made up of nouns and adjectives are numerous in medical terminology and are often called compound words.

Compound words may often appear to have been formed with a prefix. However, this is an error because prefixes and

suffixes are prepositions or adverbs. 'Isotonic', for example, is a compound word because isos (meaning 'equal') is an adjective, whereas in 'hypersonic', hyper- is a prefix.

-algia Greek pain
 antero- Latin in front of
 auto- Greek self
 bio- Greek life
 brachy- Greek short
 brady- Greek slow
 -ectomy Greek a cutting out
 iso- Greek equal
 macro- Greek big
 meso- Greek middle
 micro- Greek small
 neo- Greek new
 -oid Greek resemblance
 oligo- Greek few or scanty
 ortho- Greek straight
 pan- Greek all
 poly- Greek many
 postero- Latin behind
 pseudo- Greek false
 tachy- Greek fast

Eponyms

'Eponym' comes from the Greek prefix *epi-*, 'upon', and the noun *onoma*, 'name', thus 'named after' (one's name placed upon the discovery). Therefore 'Paget's disease' is an eponym for a disease named after its discoverer, Paget. 'Bright's disease', 'Hodgkin's disease', 'Eustachian tube' and 'Addison's disease' are other examples. Strictly speaking, an eponym should be restricted to what the author originally described and shouldn't include additional features added by other observers of the condition. Later modifications or descriptions may warrant a hyphenated eponym.

Do not confuse with 'epigram'. An epigram is a pithy phrasing of a shrewd observation; a short poem, serious, witty or mocking, containing satire or eulogy and often written as an inscription. Simonides of Ceos, a Greek artist, founded this mode of expression. For example:

Treason doth never prosper;
 what's the reason?
 For if it prosper, none dare
 call it treason.

J. Harington's Collection of Epigrams
 (1618)

Onomatopoeic words

Onomatopoeia is derived from the Greek *onoma*, 'name', and *poiein*, 'to make': a word which is intended to reproduce a certain sound and may be used as a noun to indicate sound, origin or cause. These words are echoic, i.e. , they echo the sound they designate. 'Belch', 'hiccup', 'murmur', 'rale', 'retch', and 'borborygmus' are examples. 'Quackery' is another ... an echoic word imitating the sound of the duck, which is believed to reflect the boastfulness of the unethical or illegal practitioner in praising himself, his 'knowledge' and/or his methods of treatment. It is a shortened version of 'quacksalver' (Middle Dutch, *quac*, 'unguent', and *salven*, 'to salve'), which referred to physicians who merely applied ointments to skin troubles in hopes of palliating. The term evolved to 'quack' as already described.

Diphthongs

A moment should be taken to discuss the diphthongs (a union of two vowels pronounced in one syllable), OE and AE. More

precisely they are digraph ligatures but may also be called monophthongs as they are represented by an E or A, respectively.

OE represents the Latin OE (oesophagus, homoeopathy) or the Greek OI (oisophagos, homoiopathy), and are written in completely Anglicized words as E, as in esophagus, homeopathy, etc. In recent words derived immediately from Latin or Greek, OE is usually retained, e.g. ., Oedipus, Phoebe. In scientific and technical terms (amoeba, oestrus, diarrhoea and homoeopathy) there is a tendency, stronger in America than in Great Britain, to substitute E for OE as these words pass into popular usage.

AE is a diphthong of Latin origin equivalent to the Greek AI. The AE disappeared from the language in the 13th century and was re-introduced in the 16th century in forms derived from Latin words with AE and Greek words AI. The E is now commonly substituted except in the plural termination of certain Latin words, e.g. , alae.

Homeopathic organizations

International Foundation for Homeopathy (IFH)

P.O. Box 7, Edmonds, WA 98020-0007 206-776-4147

National Center for Homeopathy (NCH)

801 N. Fairfax Ave., Ste. 306 · Alexandria, VA 22314 703-548-7790

This organization coordinates a large network of study groups. Contact them to find the closest study group to you. They also publish a directory of homeopathic practitioners.

Homeopathic pharmacies

Biological Homeopathic Industries (BHI)

11600 Cochiti S.E. · Albuquerque, NM 87123 800-621-7644

Boericke and Tafel

2131 Circadian Way · Santa Rosa, CA 95407 800-876-9505

Boiron-USA

6 Campus Blvd., Bldg. A · Newtown Sq., PA 19073 800-258-8823

D. L. Thompson Homeopathic Supplies

844 Yonge St. · Toronto, 5, Ontario · Can M4W 2H1 416-922-2300

Dolisos-USA

3014 Rigel Ave. · Las Vegas, NV 89102 800-365-4767

Hahnemann Homeopathic Pharmacy

828 San Pablo Ave. · Albany, CA 94706 888-427-6422

Humphrey's Pharmacal Co.

63 Meadows Rd. · Rutherford, NJ 07070 201-933-7744

Luyties Pharmacal

4200 Laclede Ave. · St. Louis, MO 63108 800-325-8080

Standard Homeopathic

204-210 W. 131st St. · Los Angeles, CA 90061 800-624-9659

Washington Homeopathic Products

4914 Delray Avenue · Bethesda, MD 20814 800-336-1695

Weleda, Inc.

Rt. N-9W · Congers, NY 10920 914-268-8572

*Many pharmacies, health food stores, and individual businesses sell homeopathic remedies. This is a listing of homeopathic remedy manufacturers. They sell homeopathics, wholesale and retail, as well as other related products.

Dictionary

A

A priori

deduced; lit., 'from the previous causes/hypotheses'. Said of reasoning which proceeds from a known cause to a necessarily related effect.

Ab usu in morbus

'from practice or use in customs'

Abaissement

lowering, falling, or bowing.

Abasia

an inability to walk even though muscular power, sensation, and coordination are unimpaired in relation to other movements of the legs.

Abattoir

slaughterhouse.

Abaxial

away from the line of the axis of the body or a body part.

Abduct

to draw away from the mid-line of the body or part.

Aberrant

deviating from the normal.

Abeyance

suspension; 'in abeyance', suspended or absent.

Abietite

a sugar found in the needles of *Abies pectinata* (the silver fir tree).

Abiosis

death.

Abirritant

a substance which eases or allays irritation.

Ablactation

weaning; the end of the suckling period.

Ablatio retinae

detachment of the retina.

Ablepharia

(congenital ablepharia) the absence of eyelids.

Abluent

detergent or soap; a cleansing or washing agent.

Ablepsia

blindness

Ablution

the process of cleansing the body.

Abrosia

a wasting away.

Abscess

a localized collection of pus in a cavity; a cavity or lump formed by the process of suppuration and disintegration of tissue.

Absinthism

the pathological state resulting from the excessive and habitual use of absinthe, characterized by neuritis, hyperesthesia, hallucinations, convulsions, acute mania, and even general paralysis.

Abstract

a preparation containing the soluble principles of a drug, evaporated and mixed with lactose.

Abulia (aboulia)

the loss or marked reduction in will power.

Abuse of mercury

the practice in the 1800s of giving large doses of mercurial purgatives to cause loose bowels in order to rid the patient of 'disease'. If repeated in large doses it can lead to a whole set of toxic symptoms, including headaches, gingivitis, nausea, dizziness, heart pain, dermatitis, excess salivation, epistaxis, keratitis, neuritis, hematological abnormalities, albuminuria, purpura, and a metallic taste in the mouth. See calomel.

Abyss

a bottomless pit; hell. Any immeasurably profound depth or void.

Acampsia

inflexibility of a limb.

Acanthia

the spinal column. May refer to a single vertebra.

Acanthesthesia

a sensation of being pricked by needles.

Acarophobia

a morbid fear of acquiring the itch. A belief that one has scabies.

Acataphasia

an inability to speak a complete sentence.

Acathectic

unable to retain; in a state of acathexia (an abnormal loss of secretions).

Acaudal

without a tail.

Accommodation

the ability to focus ones eyes on objects at different distances.

Accouchee

in labor, the woman bearing the child.

Accoucheur

an obstetrician, one who delivers a woman in childbirth.

Accoucheuse

a mid-wife.

Accrescent

growing larger or thicker.

Aceology

therapeutics.

Acerbity

acidity in combination with sourness or astringency.

Acescence

the process of becoming sour.

Acесcent

mildly sour or acidic.

Acetonemia

the presence of acetone in the system.

Acetonuria

abnormal increase in the amount of acetone in the urine (a condition found during fevers, diabetic acidosis, malignancy and intestinal disorders).

Achalacia

a hypo-motility.

Achalybemia

the lack of iron in the blood.

Achlorhydria

the absence of free hydrochloric acid (HCl) in the stomach, even after the administration of histamine.

Achondroplasia

defective development of the bones.

Achor

see crusta lactea.

Achylia gastrica

the presence in scanty amounts or the complete absence of gastric juices.

Acid mantle

the slightly acid protective film produced by the skin to protect itself from bacterial and fungal infections and from excessive loss of moisture. This term was coined by Dr. Marchionini in 1923.

Aciniform

grape-like.

Acme

the height or crisis of a disease. The period of greatest intensity of a symptom.

Acne

a papular eruption due to inflammation, with accumulation of secretions, of the sebaceous or oil-producing glands.

Acne conglobata

acne in a large singular mass.

Acne indurata

deep-seated acne with large papules and pustules and large hypertrophic scars.

Acne rosacea (acne erythematos)

acne of the cheeks and nose associated with congestion and the formation of telangiectases (stretching and dilatation of small or terminal vessels).

Acne vulgaris (acne simplex, acne disseminata)

common acne. Simple, uncomplicated acne.

Acology

the study of materia medica (remedies).

Acomia

alopecia or baldness.

Acoria

gluttony. The absence of the feeling of satiety after eating.

Acousia

a condition related to hearing.

Acquanimitas

equanimity, calmness, mental balance, evenness of temperament.

Acrid

harsh, caustic, sharp, biting, irritating, burning, or pungent to the senses.

Acrisia

uncertainty in the diagnosis and prognosis of a disease.

Acrocyanosis (crocq's disease)

a circulatory disorder in which the hands (and less commonly the feet) are persistently cold, blue, and sweaty.

Acromania

an excessively violent mania.

Acromegaly (marie's disease)

an abnormally large development of the head, thorax and extremities.

Acromion

that part of the scapula which forms the highest part of the shoulder.

Acromion process

the highest point of the shoulder.

Acronarcotic

a medicine which is both acrid and narcotic, e.g. *Sanguinaria*, *Veratrum*, *Aconite*.

Acronyx

an ingrowing of a nail.

Acroparesthesia

extreme paresthesia (a morbid or altered sensation). Paresthesia of the extremities. A syndrome usually seen in middle-aged women characterized by tingling or crawling sensations in the hands and fingers and coldness, pallor or cyanosis of the hands.

Acrophobia

an unusual fear of heights.

Acroposthia

the prepuce of the penis.

Acrosphacelus

see Raynaud's disease.

Acrotism

the absence of a pulse.

Actinism

the use of radiant energy or radiant heat sources to treat illness.

Actinomycosis (lumpy jaw, clyers, wooden tongue)

an infectious disease caused by a parasite (*Actinomyces bovis*), affecting cattle, hogs and man. The jaw is most commonly involved, being the site of slow-growing granulomatous suppurating tumors which discharge an oily pus containing yellow granules. This disease will show constitutional signs of sepsis (fever and putrefaction).

Acuminat

pointed, tapered or tapering to a point. To sharpen to a point. To give poignancy or keenness to.

Acupuncture

a therapeutic medical science which alleviates disease by stimulating points (780 of them) on the body's surface to affect physiological functions. Needles are inserted into points of the body to adjust the energy levels in the body. Acupressure is similar but uses pressure from the thumb, finger or a blunt object to stimulate the points. Auricular therapy is ear-acupuncture. There are over 200 points on the ear which reflex to the various organs and areas of the body. Acupuncture is just one aspect of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM); other treatments may consist of herbs, food therapy, massage and exercises. *The Web That Has No Weaver Understanding Chinese Medicine* (Ted Kaptchuk, O.M. D.) is an excellent introductory book.

Acute ascending paralysis

see Landry's paralysis.

Acute condition/disease

a disease state which is usually brief in duration and self-limiting, i.e. it either runs its course or the patient dies (as opposed to a chronic condition, which is usually more slowly developing and will last indefinitely).

Acute intestinal catarrh (chordapsus)

constriction or twisting of the intestine.

Acute miasm

a term used by Hahnemann to distinguish true miasmatic diseases from less deep seated ones. Scarlet fever would be considered an acute miasm as are whooping cough, mumps, chickenpox, etc. One might call the flu or cold an acute miasm. From without, the acute miasm swiftly overtakes the health of the individual and imprints itself onto the person. The person either recovers or dies in a short period of time.

Acute remedy

a remedy of particular use in acute conditions or situations, e.g. , *Calendula* for wounds or *Bellis per.* for injuries. However, many so-called acute remedies can and are used for chronic or non-acute conditions. It is erroneous to classify remedies as either acute or chronic, for it colors one's thinking and can prevent the correct remedy from being chosen.

Acyanoblepsy

'blue-blindness' (the inability to distinguish the color blue).

Acyesis

1) sterility in women 2) the non-pregnant condition.

Adaptogen

a chemical or substance which increases the body's ability to resist stress and not suffer cumulative damage. For example, the steroidal substances in *Eleutherococcus* and ginseng support the functions of our own protective steroids. 'Adaptogenic reactions' such as fever or excessive sleepiness can shunt energy to fighting illness by forcing the ill person to slow down. Other plants with adaptogenic substances include *Schizandra chinensis*, *Rhodiola rosea*, *Acanthopanax o.*, *Astragalus memb.*, *Withania somni*. (*Ashwagandha*, or Indian ginseng). The term adaptogen was first suggested in 1957 by Russian pharmacologist I. Brekhman. According to his definition an adaptogen must have equilibrating, tonifying and anti-stress actions.

Addison's disease (adrenal cortical hypofunction, adrenal insufficiency)

a disease caused by the failure of the adrenal cortex (that area of the adrenal gland which produces cortisone) to function. Symptoms include anemia, weakness, low blood pressure, hypoglycemia, feeble heart actions, small heart, and hyperpigmentation (bronzing) of the skin.

Adduct

to draw toward the mid-line of the body or part.

Adenitis

inflammation of the lymph nodes or glands.

Adenoids (Iuschka's glands, pharyngeal tonsils, Iuschka's tonsils)

the lymph nodules in the back wall of the nasopharynx (literally, 'resembling a gland').

Adenoma

a glandular tumor.

Adenomalacia

a glandular softening.

Adephagia

a voracious appetite, gluttony, or bulimia.

Adeps (axungia porcis)

lard, purified leaf lard (hog fat obtained from the omentum) used years ago in the preparation of ointments.

Adhesion

1) the rejoining of parts after they have been cut (as in surgery). Pain and inflammation is often the result, and may persist

for some time after the parts have healed. 2) an inflammatory band connecting serous membranes, e.g. found in the abdomen as an aftereffect of surgery.

Adiposa

fat.

Adipose

fatty or relating to fat.

Adiposis

an excessive accumulation (either local or general) of fat in the body.

Adipositas cordis

a fatty condition of the heart.

Adiposogenital dystrophy (froehlich's syndrome, hypothalamic eunuchism)

a disorder (caused by hypothalamic dysfunction) occurring in adolescent boys characterized by incomplete or underdeveloped genitals and the development of female secondary sex characteristics, including female distribution of fat. Simultaneous overeating occurs because of dysfunction of the feeding center in the hypothalamus.

adypsia

the absence of thirst.

Aditus

an anatomical structure serving as an approach or entrance to another part.

Adjuvant

a medicine or therapy which assists the action of another to which it is added.

Admixture

a mixture or blending of one substance into another

Adnexa (annexa)

appendages or parts accessory to the main organ or structure; for example, 'adnexa oculi' would mean the eyelids, lacrymal glands, etc., associated with the eyeball.

Adnexitis (annexitis)

inflammation of the adnexa uteri (the fallopian tubes and ovaries).

Adynamia

loss of vital strength or muscular powers; weakness, debility, asthenia, stagnation.

Aedoitis

inflammation of the labia of the female genitalia.

Aerophagy

the excessive swallowing of air.

Aesthetic

of or pertaining to the sense of the beautiful or artistic.

Aestivalis

pertaining to the summer season.

Aet.

(Latin *aetatis*), 'of age'.

Afebrile

without fever.

Affectation

a pretentious show or display. An artificial mannerism or behavior adopted to draw attention or impress others.

Affected

influenced by (an illness), as in 'apply to the affected area'. 'Affect' means to have an influence on, produce an effect on, effect a change in. 'Effect' means to bring about, cause, produce, or result in. 'The furlough did not affect us, so it had no effect on us when it went into effect.' 'A glass of tea may affect [alter for better or worse] his recovery.' 'A glass of tea may effect [bring about] his recovery.' 'It could seriously affect her health.' 'This will not affect [change] his purpose.' 'This will not effect [secure] his purpose.'

Affection

a generic term for any pathological condition of the body or mind.

Afferent

directed toward a central organ or section, e.g. , nerves that conduct impulses from the periphery of the body to the central area or spinal cord.

Afflatus

1) a form of acute erysipelas. 2) any air which strikes the body and causes disease.

After-pains

pains from uterine contractions following delivery.

Agalactia

suppression of milk; the flow of milk is absent or scanty after childbirth.

Agape

wide open (mouth), expressing wonder or amazement.

Ageustia (agustia)

the lack or perversion of the ability to taste.

Agglutinate

to glue, stick or clump together.

Agglutination

a joining or gluing together by secretions.

Aggravation (homeopathic aggravation, symbolized by {})

a situation in which the patient feels worse from or symptoms are increased by a remedy. An aggravation is actually a good sign as it means the correct remedy was chosen and is working. The aggravation will soon pass and the patient will get well. See anamnesis.

Some authors have suggested that neutral potencies exist (6x, 6c, 12x, 12c, 24x, 24c, 200x, 200c ...) which are gentler on the vital force and do not cause severe aggravations or aggravate at all. The author offers no opinion on this.

"Least of all, need we to be concerned when the usual customary symptoms are aggravated and show most prominently on the first days, and again on some of the following days, but gradually less and less. This so-called *homoeopathic aggravation* is a sign of an incipient cure (of the symptoms aggravated at present), which may be expected with certainty."—S.C. F. Hahnemann, *Chronic Diseases*

"An aggravation of the disease means the patient is growing weaker, the symptoms are growing stronger; but the true homoeopathic aggravation, which is the aggravation of the symptoms of the patient while the patient is growing better, is something that the physician observes after a true homoeopathic prescription. The true homoeopathic aggravation I say, is when the symptoms are worse, but the patient says, 'I feel better'."—J.T. Kent, *Lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy*

Agitans (paralysis agitans)

paralysis with constant tremor of the muscles; a shaking palsy.

Aglutition

an inability to swallow.

Agnosia

absence of (or defect in) the ability to recognize persons or things.

Agoraphobia

fear of being in open spaces or crossing open spaces. The German neurologist C.F. O. Westphal (1833-1890) first described

this state.

Agranulocytosis (granulocytopenia, agranulocytic angina)

a syndrome characterized by prostration, high fever, ulcerative lesions of the mucous membranes in the throat and other areas, and a marked reduction in the polymorphonuclear leukocytes (white blood cells which protect the body from invading organisms).

Agremia

the gouty diathesis.

Agrius

having an angry appearance. Often used to describe a skin disease.

Agromania

a morbid desire to be in open spaces or to live in solitude.

Agrypnia

sleeplessness, insomnia.

Ague

a chill; a recurrent chill or fit of shivering; an intermittent fever attended by alternating cold and hot fits (sweating, fever, and chills); the cold fit or rigor of the intermittent fever. It was often used in reference to fevers associated with malaria.

Ague cake

an enlargement of the spleen produced by ague.

Ague-brow

an intermittent neuralgia of the area just above the eye (brow area).

Agustia

loss of taste.

Ahypnia

insomnia.

Ainhum (dactylolysis spontanea)

the spontaneous amputation of a toe. A constricting fibrous ring develops in the digitopantar fold (usually of the little toe) and gradually tightens, resulting in the loss of the toe. It most commonly affects black males of the tropics. The disease is symmetrical, the cause is unknown. It is pronounced 'INE-yoom'.

Air castles

the subject of empty theorizing, thinking, and pondering.

Air of vaults

underground air, as in cemetery vaults, crypts or burial chambers.

Alae nasi (latin, lit. 'wings of the nose', from ala, 'wing or wing-like process.')

The cartilaginous flap on the outer side of each nostril.

Alastrim

see amaas.

Albedo

whiteness or lightness. The light reflected from a surface.

Albuginea

white or whitish. The layer of white fibrous tissue coating an organ or part.

Albuminous

resembling or containing albumin (a water soluble simple protein, whitish or clear in color, widely distributed throughout the tissues and fluids of plants and animals).

Albuminuria (proteinuria)

the presence of proteins (albumin, globulin) in the urine which may be caused by kidney disease.

Alchemy

a form of chemistry, speculative philosophy or occultism, practiced in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, concerned with discovering methods for transmuting metals of a lesser value into gold or silver. 'Alchemists' searched for a precious substance (a catalyst, tincture, elixir, or 'philosopher's stone') to initiate the transformation. Alchemical work has three stages: separation, purification, and recombination ('chymical wedding').

Alchemy may have its basis in depletion gilding, the process used to make the 2000-year-old 'Corinthian Bronze'. Depletion gilding was developed by the Hellenistic Greeks and independently by the Quechua of pre-Hispanic Peru. A copper alloy ingot containing 5% silver and 12% or more of gold is heated in air to produce an ingot coated with black oxide. This is then marinated in a warm solution of salt and copiapite (basic iron sulfate, which is gold in color), which dissolves the surface copper and silver leaving a spongy gold surface which, when burnished, becomes bright gold in color. It seems this was the secret alchemical process shrouded in occultism and astrology by which base metals were turned into gold! "The intrinsic meaning is of the transformation of the lower nature of man into the highest form, metaphorically into that of gold: sun, heart, and feeling."—E. Whitmont, M.D. (*The American Homeopath*, 1: p. 23. 1994). "As nature is extremely subtle and penetrating in her manifestation, she cannot be used without the Art. Indeed, she does not produce anything that is perfect in itself, but man must make it perfect, and this perfecting is called alchemy."—Paracelsus. See spagyric.

Alcottism

a system of diet and health maintenance devised by William Alcott. See Grahamism.

Alexia

an inability to read; word-blindness.

Alexipharmic

a medicine which neutralises a poison.

Alexipyretic

an agent which lowers a fever.

Algid

chilly or cold.

Algomenorrhea (dysmenorrhea)

painful menstruation.

Algorithm

a recipe or set of steps which can be taken to solve a particular problem. The 'lather, rinse, and repeat' instructions on the back of a shampoo bottle make up an algorithm.

Alible

nutritious; capable of nourishing.

Alienatio mentis

loss of reason; lunacy. A term applied to insanity as distinguished from other forms of derangement such as delirium.

Alienist

a popular term for psychologist in the late 19th century, so termed because mentally ill persons were considered alienated from their true nature and society. An expert in mental pathology.

Alimentary

pertaining to the intestine; also nourishing, nutritious, related to the diet.

Alkaloid

any of various physiologically active nitrogen-containing organic bases derived usually from plants, e.g. , nicotine, quinine, cocaine, atropine. They are generally bitter in taste, alkaline, and unite with acids to form salts. Their common names usually end in '-ine'.

Alkalometry (dosimetrics)

a popular method of dosing in the mid to late 1800s. It sought a middle ground between homeopathy and allopathy by

advocating the administration of small doses of potent drugs given at short intervals. These drugs were not potentized. W.C. Abbott, M.D., editor of the *American Journal of Clinical Medicine*, provided this definition: "Use the smallest possible quantity of the best obtainable means to produce a desired therapeutic result." Alkalometry emphasized drug purity in stabilized amounts in the form of soluble granules or tablets. For example, the alkaloid aconitine in doses of 1/500 grain would be given every 30 minutes for fevers or inflammation.

Allergic contact dermatitis

an acquired, or non-atopic, allergic skin reaction resulting from contact with an allergen to which the person has been sensitized by previous exposure. Sometimes it is called eczematous contact dermatitis (which is inaccurate, since the condition is not always oozing or eczematous).

Alliaceous

garlic-like. Having the quality of garlic.

Alnaschar

a daydreamer; one given to imaginings, as in 'Alnaschar visions'. One who plans great works and yet never carries them out. From a character in the *Arabian Nights*.

Allopathy (heteropathy, antipathic, enantiopathic, palliative)

the treatment of disease using medicines whose effects are different from those of the disease being treated and which have no relationship to the disease symptoms. Allopathy is based on the principle of *contraria contrariis*, or the Law of Opposites, as opposed to homeopathy, which is based on *similia similibus curentur*, or 'like cures like'. See homeopathy. "The failure of allopathy was that it treated disease, or a part of an organ, or tried to do so, whereas the only means of cure was to treat the whole patient."—Fergie Woods

Allosteadodes

an alteration in the quality of the sebaceous or oily secretions of the skin.

Alogia

the inability to speak due to nerve damage or lesion.

Alopecia (morbus vulpis)

loss of hair. 'Alopecia areata' is loss of hair in patches.

Alphaism

a women's reformist movement mildly popular, especially in Washington, D.C., in the second half of the 19th century. It advocated women's rights, the education of women about their bodies and health concerns, and in particular the reservation of sexual intercourse for procreative purposes only.

Alterative

a medicine which alters the course of disease, modifying the nutritive processes while promoting waste, and thus indirectly curing some chronic diseases. An alterative acts to correct disordered metabolism and promote repair.

Alternation

"the successive administration of two or more remedies which recur in turn in a regular order and at intervals sufficiently approximated so that the duration of the action of the one drug may not be quite exhausted before another succeeds it."—Martiny and Bernard (*Trans. of the International Homeopathic Convention, London, 1881, and Medical Counselor, 8/1881, 2225, Vol. 2225*).

"As a shot gun maims where the rifle would kill, so alternation may change and modify and maim the disease, but it never does nor can effect the clean, direct and perfect cure that a single remedy, exactly homoeopathic, will accomplish."—C. Dunham, *Homoeopathy: The Science of Therapeutics*.

"Alternation or rotation of remedies is reprehensible since it leads away from accurate and definite knowledge of drug effects and sooner or later to poly-pharmacy which is the most slovenly of all practice."—G. Boericke, *Principles of Homoeopathy*.

R. Hughes in *The Principles and Practice of Homeopathy* (p. 506) says: "The Piles accompanying it [abdominal plethora] are of the 'Blind' character; they bleed little, but are very annoying for their fulness. It is here that *Sulphur* and *Nux vomica* display their great Anti-haemorrhoidal virtues. They seem to act better conjointly (i.e. , in alternation) than when either is given separately."

Alternative medicine

see complementary medicine.

Alveolar

pertaining to or shaped like a small cell or cavity. May refer to the alveoli of the lungs or to the tooth-socket.

Alvine

relating to the abdomen or intestines; the belly.

Alvine flux

diarrhea.

Alzheimer's disease (dementia presenilis, senile dementia-alzheimer type, sdat)

a presenile syndrome characterized by confusion, memory failure, disorientation, hallucinosis, speech disturbances, restlessness, agnosia, etc. From the German neurologist Alois Alzheimer (1864-1915). 'Presenile dementia with cerebral atrophy'.—O.A. Julian, *Materia Medica of New Homeopathic Remedies*.

Amaas (milk-pox, alastrim)

a non-fatal disease especially prevalent in Brazil and the West Indies resembling smallpox but without a secondary rise of temperature and the pustules are not raised as much. Vaccination does not seem to afford permanent immunity.

Amara

a drug used for its bitter taste, primarily to increase the appetite. Bitters.

Amasesis

the inability to chew.

Amative

inclined to love; sexually passionate.

Amanuensis

one who takes dictation or copies manuscripts.

Amaurosis

partial or total blindness, usually without an apparent lesion or injury of the eye.

Ambergris

a grey, waxy material with a marbled appearance, formed in the intestines of sperm whales. The source of the homeopathic remedy *Ambra grisea*.

Ambient

surrounding or encircling.

Amblosis

an abortion or miscarriage. Some authors use the term 'abortion' to signify premature deliveries before the fourth month, with deliveries between the third and seventh months termed 'miscarriages'. Today the meaning of 'abortion' is very different, meaning the forcible removal of the developing fetus. Cf. effluxion.

Amblyopia

dimness of vision without apparent physical defect or disease of the eye. Blurred or weak vision.

Amblyopia potatorum

dimness of vision caused by excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages.

Ambulatory

shifting or walking about. Having the ability to walk or move.

Ambustion

a burn or scald.

Amenia (amenorrhea)

the absence of menstruation.

Amebiasis (amoebiasis)

infestation with *Endamoeba histolytica* and the subsequent production of dysentery.

amoeboid (amoebic)

referring to parasites found in the digestive tract. Infestation of the colon with these parasites leads to dysentery.

Amelioration (symbolized by })

an improvement of the patient or decrease in symptoms. See aggravation.

"Immediate amelioration often indicates the absence of deep-seated disease."—J.T. Kent, *New Remedies*.

Concerning the analysis of a case, H.A. Roberts, in his *Principles and Art of Cure by Homoeopathy*, had this to say: "In analyzing the case, very valuable symptoms are those pertaining to the aggravations and ameliorations, because the aggravations and ameliorations are the natural modifiers of diseased states and are the definite reaction of the man himself."

Amenorrhea (suppressio mensium)

the absence or abnormal cessation of menstruation.

Ametropia

the inability of the eye to focus images clearly on the retina.

Amicus plato, amicus socrates, sed magis amica veritas

"Dear is Plato, dear is Socrates, but truth is dearer."

Ammoniacal

like or combined with ammonia.

Ammotherapy

the therapeutic application of sand-baths.

Amok

see amuck.

Amomum

Indian spice plant. A genus of plants of the *Zingiberaceae*. *A. cardamomum* refers to cardamom. *A. granum paradisi* ('grains of paradise') possesses diuretic properties (see grain). Also a generic term for any spice.

Amorous

loving, affectionate, inclined to love.

Amorphous

shapeless, formless, lacking definite form.

Amphemerous (quotidian)

recurring daily, as a fever. Recurring every 24 hours.

Amuck (amok)

a condition of mania first observed in Malaysia. The individual becomes acutely maniacal and exhibits wild and uncontrollable behavior, threatening to do injury to others. 'To run amuck' is a common expression which means 'to go wild or go crazy' in a damaging or destructive way.

Amygdalae

the tonsils; also a small lobe of the cerebellum (lit. 'almond-shaped', from the Latin *amygdalus*, almond).

Amygdalitis (tonsillitis)

inflammation of the tonsils.

Amylaceous

starchy or starch-like in nature.

Amylocardia

weakness of the heart muscle.

Amyloid

a starch-like substance. A protein deposit resulting from degeneration of tissues.

Amyostasia

difficulty in standing due to muscular incoordination or tremor.

Amyotrophia

the atrophy (wasting away) of muscular tissue.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Charcot's disease)

the deterioration of spinal nerve pathways which in turn causes muscle deterioration and wasting. From J.M. Charcot (1825-1893), a French physician and one of the greatest neurological researchers in medical history.

Anabolism

constructive metabolism; the process by which simple substances are synthesized into the complex materials of living tissue. For example, anabolic steroids cause a building up of the bodily tissues.

Anacatharsis

severe and long-continued vomiting.

Anakusis (anacusia)

complete deafness.

Analepsis

the restoration of health.

Analeptic

an agent which restores health after illness.

Analgesia

an insensibility to pain. Usually the relief of pain without the loss of consciousness.

Analgesic

an agent such as aspirin which causes analgesia (relieves pain).

Anamnesis

lit., 'the act of remembering.' The medical history of a patient previous to his present illness.

C. Rousson once said, "[You must] look at, listen to, question, examine, and above all understand [your patient]." And Pierre Schmidt, who wrote *The Art of Interrogation*, commented, "You don't have a good consultation unless your patient cries and smiles." Three mistakes are often made in examining the case: interrupting the patient, asking direct questions, and making answers conform to some remedy which you might have in mind.

Anapeiratic

resulting from overuse, as in writer's cramp.

Anaphalantiasis

the loss or absence of eyebrows.

Anaphia

a defective or absent sense of touch.

Anaphoresis

diminished activity of the sweat glands.

Anaphrodisia

impairment of the sexual appetite. Reduced libido.

Anaphylaxis

an acute, often explosive, systemic reaction occurring in a previously sensitized person after receiving foreign serum, certain drugs or diagnostic agents, desensitizing injections, or insect stings. The person might be agitated and flushed, complaining of a sense of uneasiness. Palpitations, paresthesias, pruritus, throbbing in the ears, coughing, sneezing and difficult breathing are typical signs. Signs of shock may develop shortly thereafter, with the patient becoming incontinent, convulsive, and unresponsive; death may ensue.

Anasarca (hyposarca)

a general dropsical condition. A generalized, systemic edema. A general infiltration of clear watery fluid into the subcutaneous connective tissue.

Anastasis

convalescence or recovery.

Anatropic

a remedy to be applied by friction or rubbing (as an ointment).

Anchilops

a swelling or inflammation at the inner corner of the eye and nose.

Anchylosis (ankylosis)

an abnormal immobility and unusual stiffness of a joint.

Ancipital

two-headed or two-edged.

Andromania

nymphomania.

Androphobia

an irrational or insane fear of men or of the male sex.

Anemia hypoglobular (hypocytosis, cytopenia, oligocythemia)

the lack of cellular elements in the blood.

Anemia (anaemia)

a deficiency in the constituents of blood which may result in shortness of breath (dyspnea), pallor, palpitation of the heart and a general weakness. There are many kinds of anemia including a reduction in the amount of blood, a deficiency in red blood cells, and a deficiency in hemoglobin.

Gabriel Andral's (1797-1876) *Essai d'Hematologie Pathologique* (1843) was the first monograph on hematology establishing exact knowledge of the blood components. He coined the terms 'anemia' and 'hyperemia' and described numerous blood diseases including septicemia, lead poisoning, and polycythemia. He was the first to urge the clinical examination of blood in disease states.

Anergic

lethargic, inactive.

Anesis

the remission of a disease.

Anesthesia

loss of sensation, especially of tactile sensibility. A state of insensibility. In the late 1800s words such as narcotism, stupefaction, sopor, etherization, anodyne process, letheonization, hebetization, and apathisation were used instead of anaesthesia to describe that state. Bailey's English dictionary (1724) defined anaesthesia as 'a defect in sensation'.

Aneurysm

an abnormal dilatation of an artery, generally producing a sac as a result of the arterial wall stretching. The resultant sac is thin, weak and prone to rupture.

Paul Broca, the great French physician and anthropologist, wrote the classic work on aneurysms, *Des Aneurysmes et de Leur Traitement* (1856).

Angiectasis

dilation of lymphatic or blood vessels.

Angina

1) sore throat from any cause. Inflammation of the throat. 2) A severe cramp-like, constricting pain; commonly used in the term 'angina pectoris'.

Angina faucium

a sore throat, particularly of the fauces (the walls of the rear portion of the throat and pharynx).

Angina gangrenosa

a malignant sore throat.

Angina granulosa (granular pharyngitis)

see clergyman's sore throat.

Angina ludovici (ludwig's angina)

an acute streptococcal infection of the floor of the mouth. It begins suddenly with marked swelling under the jaw, rapidly extending into the neck. The floor of the mouth becomes swollen and indurated and the tongue is pushed upward. Speech and swallowing are impeded, and the disease is frequently fatal.

Angina parotidea

see mumps.

Angina pharyngea

an inflammation of the mucous membranes of the throat.

Angina pectoris

paroxysmal pain characterized by a sense of suffocation and oppression and severe constriction about the chest. The pain radiates from the precordium to the left shoulder and down the arm along the ulnar nerve. The pain is caused by myocardial ischemia (lack of oxygen due to a lack of blood). This syndrome was first described by Wm. Heberden, M.D. in 1768 in a lecture he gave before the Royal College of Physicians.

Angina tonsillaris (quinsy, angina vera)

see quinsy.

Angina vera (quinsy, angina tonsillaris)

see quinsy.

Angioglioma

a blood-tumor of the spinal cord.

Angioma

a tumor with a tendency to consist primarily of blood vessels.

Angioneurotic edema (urticaria, hives)

an edema, currently termed 'angioedema', caused by a disturbance of the vasomotor system either through injury, spasms, or paralysis of blood vessels. Whereas urticaria is local blisters/bullae and redness, a. edema is a similar eruption but with larger edematous areas that involve subcutaneous tissues as well as the skin.

Angiosclerosis

the induration and thickening of the walls of the blood vessels. See arteriosclerosis.

Angitis (angiitis)

inflammation of a blood vessel.

Angor

restlessness.

Anhaphia

see anaphia.

Ani

referring to the anus.

Anidrosis (anhidrosis)

deficiency or absence of sweat.

Animal economy

all matters relating to animal life; physiology. In the 18th century this term was often used to refer to the ability of an individual to carry out basic physiological processes.

John Gardiner's *Observations on the Animal Oeconomy, and on the causes and cure of diseases* (1784) was a very early treatise on this subject.

Animal heat

the body's inherent heat or energy.

Animal magnetism (animalism)

see Mesmerism.

Aniridia

the absence of the iris of the eye.

Ankylosis (an chylosis)

an abnormal immobility and unusual stiffness of a joint.

Ankylostomiasis

(hookworm disease, uncinariasis, tropical chlorosis, mountain anemia, brickmaker's anemia, miner's anemia, dochmiasis, tunnel disease) infestation of the intestine with *Ancylostoma duodenale* (a hookworm), resulting in anemia, emaciation, dyspepsia and swelling of the abdomen with mental and physical inertia.

Anlage

a fundamental principle or foundation.

Annular

ring-shaped.

Anodyne

quieting pain. An agent which has the power to relieve pain.

Anomia

inability to name familiar objects due to failure to recognize them.

Anon

time after time; now and then, as in 'ever and anon'.

Anorexia

absence or loss of appetite. 'Anorexia nervosa' is an abnormal or hysterical aversion to food which can lead to serious

malnutrition. Bigarexia is the opposite.
Anorexia nervosa was first described by R. Morton (1637-1698) in his book on pulmonary tuberculosis, *Phthisiologia seu exercitationes de phthisi* (1689).

Anosmia

the loss of the sense of smell.

Antalgic (anodyne)

an agent which has the power to relieve pain.

Antagonistic remedies

see inimical.

Antecedent

preceding, former, prior. That which precedes.

ante partum

before birth (usually considered to refer to the last four months of pregnancy).

Antephalitic

that which acts to prevent a nightmare.

Anterior

situated before or in front of; toward the ventral (front) aspect of the body; denoting the forward/front part of an organ.

Anteversio

a turning forward or bending forward. Inclining forward as a whole without bending. 'Anteversio uteri' refers to a malposition of the uterus.

Anthelmintic (vermifuge)

having the power to destroy or expel intestinal worms.

Anthrax

(charbon, wool-sorter's disease, tanner's disease, splenic fever) from the Greek, 'a live coal'. An acute infectious disease of cattle and sheep transmissible to man, caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, and producing carbuncles.

"This is a species of malignant tumor. It commences as a livid red swelling, attended with a burning, itching, smarting pain, which gradually grows worse as the disease progresses. After 5 or 6 days, softening and suppuration takes place, and when it bursts, instead of having a central opening as a boil, it is flat on top with several openings which discharge a thin, acrid fluid. These openings gradually widen, coalesce, and large pieces of decayed cellular tissue are thrown off by sloughing."—*I.D. Johnson's Therapeutic Key*.

Anthropophobia

the abnormal fear of people or of society.

Anthroposophical medicine

as defined by the Anthroposophical Society in America, anthroposophical medicine "does not regard illness as a chance occurrence or mechanical breakdown, but rather as something intimately connected to the biography of the human being. Handled appropriately, it represents opportunities for new balance and maturity. The patient is treated holistically as a being of body, soul and spirit. This approach integrates conventional practice with new and alternative remedies, dietary and nutritional therapy, massage, hydrotherapy, art therapy and counseling." See anthroposophy.

Anthroposophy

'the science of the knowledge of man'. This vast body of knowledge, mainly attributed to the work of Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), touches virtually every realm: philosophy, medicine, architecture, spirituality, food production, nature awareness, etc.

In medicine, the anthroposophical view is that man is a threefold being. He has nerve/sensory functions (nervous system and brain which support the mind and the thinking process), rhythmic functions (the physical processes of a rhythmic/periodic nature-pulse, breathing, intestinal rhythms-which support the emotional or feeling processes), and metabolic functions (digestion, elimination, energetic metabolism and voluntary movement processes which supports the aspects of human behavior that express the will). The rhythmic aspect mediates the other two.

From an understanding of this concept comes a deeper understanding of appropriate therapies to be employed in curing diseases. These include physical therapies, homeopathic and anthroposophical remedies, rhythmical massage, hydrotherapy, compresses and external applications, movement therapy (curative eurhythm), counseling, painting, sculpture, and music and speech therapy.

For more information you may wish to contact: Physicians' Association for Anthroposophical Medicine (PAAM), PO Box 269, Kimberton, PA 19442, or Weleda Inc., Rt. N-9W, Congers, NY 10920. 'Weleda' ('Velledas' is the Celtic spelling) refers to a Celtic wise woman or healer-priestess who provided understanding of nature to her followers. Consult Francis X. King's *Rudolf Steiner and Holistic Medicine* for a lucid and interesting introduction to anthroposophy.

Antidote

an agent which neutralizes a poison or counteracts its effects. In relation to remedies, some remedies act to neutralize other remedies. For example, *Bell.* is antidoted by *Coffea*, *Aconite* and *Opium* and *Chamo.* is antidoted by *Nux v.* and *Puls.* This antidotal effect can be complete, partial, or merely a modification of action. In relation to taking homeopathic remedies their effects are antidoted or nullified by coffee, strong mints and odors, extreme stresses to the patient, etc. With few exceptions *Camphora* antidotes most remedies.

"It is often as important to be able to arrest a medicinal action as it is to start it. A prescriber who cannot antidote a drug effect is like the driver of a motor who cannot put on the brake."—J.H. Clarke, *Clinical Repertory*

"An interesting and little-understood phase of antidotal relationship is the power of a higher potency to modify the action of the same drug in a lower potency."—R.H. Langbridge, *A.B. C. of Homoeopathy*.

"The following general rule holds here: Practically any agent which can exert a medicinal effect on the human being is capable of serving as an antidote to a homeopathic remedy. By the same token, any influence which can induce a hyperactive, nervous state, or which can artificially bring about a state of sedation or sleep, can interfere with the action of a homeopathic remedy."—George Vithoulkas, (*Biological Therapy*, 14:1, January 1996, p. 167-68).

Antidysuric

a remedy to relieve painful or difficult urination.

Antefebrin

(antifebrin salicylate, salifebrin) acetanilide (an aspirin-type product employed years ago to bring down a fever or allay pain).

Antihomotoxic therapy

see homotoxicology.

Antikamnia

a no-longer-in-use proprietary product having antipyretic, analgesic and hypnotic qualities. It contains acetanilide, acetophenetidin, caffeine, and sodium bicarbonate. Recommended dosage was 300-600 mgs.

Antimiasmatic

against or countering a miasm. *Sulphur* is an antimiasmatic, specifically an antipsoric, for it works against the psoric miasm. *Medorrhinum* is an antimiasmatic, specifically an antisycotic, for it works against the sycotic miasm, etc.

Antimony

a metallic element (symbol Sb) often used in a variety of alloys. In homeopathy, often refers to *Antimonium crudum*.

Antipathic (allopathic, enantiopathic)

averse, contrary or opposed to. See allopathic.

Antiperiodic

a remedy that prevents or lessens the severity of the seizures associated with a periodic febrile disease, e.g. *China*. Herbal antiperiodics include senna, rue, and skullcap.

Antiphlogistic

a term applied to medicines, diets and/or other measures (venesection, rest, cold packs, counterirritation) which tend to oppose or decrease inflammation. These measures often work by weakening the system by diminishing the activity of the vital power.

18th century chemists believed that a substance burns as a result of 'phlogiston' escaping from it. Thus an inflamed part or feverish person would have been given drugs thought to counteract phlogiston. Even after evidence proved there to be no such substance, the remedies used to treat inflammations and fever continued to be called antiphlogistic. Bleedings and blisterings became popular because 19th century physicians considered them antiphlogistic. Today there is still an ointment available with the trade name 'Antiphlogistine'!

Antipilus

an agent which removes hair.

Antipones

to place before, set before, prefer.

Antipsoric

a homeopathic remedy which acts to treat, nullify or rid the body of the psoric miasm. *Psorinum*, *Calc. carb.*, *Arsenicum*, and *Sulphur* are examples. 'Antipsorica' means a remedy which is curative of the itch or psora. In some early references the terms *Psoricum* and *Antipsorinum* were used for the nosode. These are synonymous with today's *Psorinum*.

Antipyretic

lowering the body temperature, or a substance which has this effect.

Antipyrine (antipyrina, phenazone)

an antipyretic and pain reliever no longer used today, as its side-effects can be quite toxic.

Antipyrotic

an agent which heals burns.

Antiscorbutic

an agent which cures scurvy.

Antiseptic

tending to inhibit the growth and/or reproduction of microorganisms, especially pathogenic ones. Also an agent used to inhibit that growth.

Antisycotic

a homeopathic remedy which acts to treat, nullify or rid the body of the sycotic miasm. *Medorrhinum*, *Nat. sulph.*, *Sepia*, *Thuja*, *Acidum Nitricum*, and the *Argentums* are examples of remedies which have antisycotic qualities.

Antisyphilitic

a homeopathic remedy which acts to treat, nullify or rid the body of the syphilitic miasm. *Syphilinum*, *Acidum Nitricum*, *Aurum*, *Ars. i.*, and the *Mercuries* are examples of remedies which have antisyphilitic qualities.

Antitragus

a projection of the ear opposite and superior to the tragus (the small prominence of cartilage projecting over the meatus of the external ear).

Antivivisection

against or opposed to vivisection. See vivisection.

Antrum

any nearly closed cavity, or hollow space, particularly one with bony walls.

Antrum of highmore

(sinus maxillaris) an air cavity (sinus) above the upper jaw (maxilla), connecting with the middle meatus of the nose.

Anuria

total suppression or lack of urine.

Aortic

pertaining to the aorta.

Aorta

the large artery arising from the heart sending fresh, oxygenated blood to the body.

Aortitis

inflammation of the aorta.

Aperient

a mild laxative or medicine, especially one which is effervescent, which opens the bowels gently.

Apex

the summit or extremity of anything. The extremity of a conical or pyramidal structure, such as the heart or the lung.

Aphasia

the loss of the power of speech. A defect in the ability to talk. The French physician Paul Broca did seminal work in *aphemie* as he called it. From this work, the first on cerebral location, he concluded that articulate speech was localized in the third frontal convolution of the brain.

Aphonia

loss of voice. 'Aphonia clericorum' is clergyman's sore-throat.

Aphoria

sterility in women (Gr. *a-*, 'not', and *phorein*, 'to bear').

Aphrodisiac

(aphrodisiacum) anything which arouses or increases sexual desire (from *Aphrodite*, the Greek goddess of love).

Aphrodisiae

a morbid or immoderate sexual desire.

Aphthae

small whitish ulcers of the mouth; canker sores. May also refer to thrush or sprue. See thrush.

Apthous ulcer

(aphthous stomatitis, canker sore) a superficial ulcer usually occurring on a mucous membrane, for example the mouth. See canker sore.

Apices

the upper portion of the lungs (plural of 'apex').

Apitherapy

the use of injected bee venom and/or actual stings of bees to cure or alleviate a variety of illnesses, especially arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Aplastic anemia

a form of anemia in which the formative processes of the bone marrow are lacking or nil.

Apocenosia

a discharge or evacuation.

Aponeurosis

a fibrinous extension of a tendon. The passage of muscle into tendon. A fibrous sheet or expanded tendon, giving attachment to muscular fibers and serving as the means of origin or insertion of a flat muscle.

Apoplectic

referring to a sudden loss of consciousness followed by paralysis.

Apoplexy

(stroke, cerebral hemorrhage, cerebral thrombosis) sudden loss of muscular control with a lessening or loss of sensation and consciousness due to a blood clot in the brain. It is seldom instantly fatal but may cause paralysis or other mental affections. Commonly referred to as a stroke (technically, a stroke can occur anywhere in the body).

Aposia

(adypsia) absence of thirst or of the feeling of thirst.

Apostacy

the act of forsaking what one professed or believed in.

Apostems

an abscess.

Appendicitis

(typhlitis, perityphlitis, apophysitis, scolecoiditis) inflammation of the appendix. See perityphlitis.

Charles McBurney, a New York physician, was the first to describe (1889) where the area of greatest pain could be found in the appendicitis patient, thence called McBurney's point. "The seat of greatest pain, *determined by the pressure of one finger*; has been very exactly between an inch and a half and two inches from the anterior spinous process of the ilium on a straight line drawn from that process to the umbilicus."—*New York Medical Journal*, 50:676-84, 1889.

Appetite

a desire for food, as opposed to hunger (which has discomfort, weakness, or pain, caused by the need for or lack of food).

Approbation

praise, commendation, approval.

Apraxia

the inability to perform skilled or learned movements, such as typing or opening a glove compartment.

Aprosexia

the inability to concentrate or fix the attention.

Apyrexia

lack of fever.

Arachnitis

(arachnoiditis) inflammation of the arachnoid membrane (the middle layer of membranes covering the brain and spinal cord).

Arachnoid

resembling a cobweb or spider web. The arachnoid membrane is the middle layer of the membranes which cover the brain and spinal cord.

Archetype

the original pattern or model from which all other things of the same kind are made; a prototype.

Archoptosis

prolapsed anus.

Arcus senilis

(gerontoxon) the whitish or greyish ring of fatty degeneration seen around the cornea in older persons.

Areola

a colored or darkened ring surrounding some central point or space, such as a nipple or pustule.

Argillaceous

clay-like or composed of clay.

Argyria

(argyriasis, argyrim) a slate-grey discoloration of the skin, deeper tissues and organs due to insoluble deposits of

silver-protein (albuminate of silver). It usually occurs as a result of prolonged ingestion or exposure to silver salts.

Armamentarium

all the means (books, medicines, instruments, etc.) at the doctor's disposal to help him practice his profession, namely, to heal the sick.

Arndt-schulz law

(hormesis, biphasal response/effect, Type-Effect Hypothesis, Time-Response Curve, biphasal-paradoxical effect, Bier-Huchard Rule) the law stating that a small stimulus enhances growth, a medium stimulus impedes it or maintains normality and a strong stimulus inhibits, or destroys activity. This law of Western medicine supports the fundamental concept of homeopathy in that a substance which has harmful effects in large doses can have beneficial effects in minute ones. After Rudolph Arndt (1835-1900) and Hugo Schulz (1853-1932).

This law or postulate was first put forth in 1880, as Schulz conducted experiments using chemicals to stimulate growth and respiration in yeast. Schulz presented his premise formally in 1888: 'Uber Hefegifte' in *Pflugers Archiv Gesamte Physiologie* (Vol. 42, p. 517).

More precise versions were formulated by Karl Koetschau in the 1920s and Joseph Wilder in the 1930s. See Koetschau's hypothesis, Wilder's Law.

'Hormesis' is a modern term given to the growth-stimulating effect of minute quantities of toxic substances in living organisms, as demonstrated by experimental data. See hormesis.

Aromatherapy

the use of plant essences either inhaled or applied/massaged to the skin to effect therapeutic changes. Their effects are said to be psyche-related, due to the ethereal nature of the oils. A whole range of correspondences can be established with other modalities (e.g. ., cinnamon with the color orange, the planet Sun, the element fire, and yang activity in Traditional Chinese Medicine). The practitioner's intuitive powers no doubt play a large role in the therapeutic setting. For more information: American Aromatherapy Assoc., PO Box 1222, Fair Oaks, CA. 95628.

Arrhythmia

a lack of rhythm, as in an arrhythmic heart.

Arsenical

yellow in color. Of, pertaining to, or containing arsenic.

Arsphenamine

see Salvarsan.

Arteriole

a very small artery.

Arteriosclerosis

hardening and thickening of arterial walls which interferes with blood circulation. 'Angiosclerosis' is a general term used to describe hardening of the walls of blood vessels; 'arteriosclerosis' is a general term for a disease characterized by thickening and loss of elasticity of arterial walls. 'Atherosclerosis' is a type of arteriosclerosis in which deposits of yellow plaque containing lipid material and cholesterol are formed within the lining of medium and large arteries.

Arteritis

inflammation of an artery.

Arthragra

gout of the joints.

Arthritis chronica

chronic gout.

Arthritis vaga

wandering gout. Now it commonly means inflammation of the joints.

Arthrocace

caries or wasting of bone tissue, especially in a joint.

Arthrolithiasis

gout.

Arthroplogosis

an inflammation of the joints.

Articular

referring to the joints.

Articulation

joint. Any connection allowing motion between the parts.

Artificial phlyctenular autotherapy

see phlyctenular autotherapy.

Aryenoids

'ladle-like' (referring to cartilage and muscle of the larynx).

Ascariasis

an intestinal infestation with worms (*Ascaris lumbricoides*); worms may also be found in the stomach, liver and lungs.

Ascarides

(sing. ascaris) roundworms. "A genus of intestinal round worms."—E.A. Neatby, *A Manual of Homeopathic Therapeutics*.

There are two types of ascaris: 1) *Ascaris lumbricoides*, long round worms, like the earthworm, and 2) *Ascaris*

vermicularis (*Oxyuris vermicularis*), the thread worm or maw worm. See oxyuris.

Ascites

(hydroperitoneum, abdominal dropsy) accumulation of fluid in a cavity, usually the abdomen.

Asepsis

the absence of harmful bacteria. The removal or destruction of infected material or organisms causing disease.

Aseptic

without germs, disease or infection. It is possible to have an 'aseptic fever' or a fever unassociated with infection.

Mechanical injury (a blow, fall or crushing trauma) may cause fever even though no pathogens are present.

Asphyxia

unconsciousness due to suffocation or interference of any kind with oxygenation of the blood.

Asphyxiation

(suffocation) lack of oxygen.

Assuage

to ease or make less severe or burdensome. To satisfy or appease.

Asteatosis

any skin disease characterized by scantiness or lack of sebaceous secretions, the skin becoming dry, scaly, and often fissured.

Asteroid

star shaped.

Asthenia

weakness or debility.

Asthenopia

weakness of the ocular muscles or of visual power. Eyestrain with spasm of accommodation.

Asthma

a disease characterized by difficult breathing, coughing, wheezing, mucoid sputum and constriction of the chest. Spasms of the bronchioles may occur and edema may be present.

Asthma humidum

'spitting asthma'.

Asthma thymica

(asthma thymicum kopii, thymic asthma of Kopp) asthma erroneously thought to be due to an enlargement of the thymus gland. It is synonymous with laryngismus stridulus (*vide*). Another source says "an asthma reflexively produced by the irritation of an enlarged thymus, usually seen in infants."

Astigmatism

a condition of unequal curvature of one or more of the refractive surfaces (cornea, lens, or eyeball) of the eye whereby images are not focused onto a single point of the retina but spread out in a line and are blurry.

Astragalus