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# Introduction

As homeopaths we are interested in prevention and cure; not only of a particular ailment, but of chronic disease in general.

Hahnemann thought the existence of chronic disease to be due to miasms - without Psora, the original miasm, mankind would not suffer from chronic ailments. After Psora other miasms followed, but the idea remained the same - miasms were disease entities which deranged the vital force in such a way that self-guided recovery was impossible. Even the strictest living habits and the healthiest attitudes would not stop them from getting a hold on us and deranging our vital force for ever. Chronic disease would slowly but surely creep up on us and get us in the end.

Thankfully Hahnemann discovered a remedy. He found that giving anti-miasmatic homeopathic medicines would slow down or even reverse these evil influences and would help our vital force to resist. There was a cure after all. Or so he believed.

Nowadays, our experience is sobering. Rather than preventing chronic disease, homeopathy may only buy us time. Yes; we manage to cure a presenting complaint, but more often than not we see another one surfacing sooner or later. To be fair, a person undergoing extensive homeopathic treatment over many years, even if interrupted, generally moves in the right direction, i.e. from more serious to less serious complaints. But sometimes, and recently more often, we have seen homeopaths themselves falling victims to the deepest of chronic diseases.

In trying to find an explanation one could perhaps say that there might be fewer cases of deep disease amongst homeopaths than amongst the general population. However, we have no way of verifying this. Without wanting to point a finger, one might ask whether incorrect homeopathic treatment, suppression or unfavourable living habits are to blame. But on the whole, we can probably assume that it is neither a lack of expertise nor maturity that causes these very sad and sobering deaths.

So why, with all our knowledge and expertise, do we not get beyond buying time? Is it simply a case of old age? A case of having to die of something?

Is this just miasm at work? But if this is the answer, why do not our miasmatic nosodes and anti-miasmatic remedies at least prevent the worst and at best allow us to truly just die in our sleep? In most cases our remedies do not do this and so there must be something wrong with our theory or with our application of it. Or perhaps with our perception of chronic disease.

Keeping this in mind, perhaps it is time to take stock, to evaluate our methods and examine our understanding. Perhaps we are missing a vital piece in the puzzle of chronic disease. This piece of information may simply not have been available to Hahnemann and his early followers.

With extremes of environmental pollution on the one hand and an explosion of scientific and technological advances on the other, we have reached the age of globalisation and mutually shared information. As homeopaths, are we going to use these newly found insights to solve the puzzle of chronic disease? I believe we must.

## INTRODUCTION

The following is my view on chronic disease; its origins and its evolution through the ages, from cave to computer and beyond. All I ask of you, the reader, is to keep an open mind. This is because what follows may go beyond the comfortable.