

The Book and Origin of Homeopathy, the History of Hufeland's Journal

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The origin of homeopathy is inextricably linked to medical practice in Central Europe in the 18th century. Of primary influence in its origination was the Medical University of Vienna, which sought to take medical practice to the patient, treating the patient outside the hospital context, thus heralding the beginning of bedside medicine. To advance and support this approach, Dr. Hufeland, a contemporary of Dr. Hahnemann (the founder of homeopathy), began publishing a practical pharmacological and surgical journal known in England as *Hufeland's Journal* (in France it was titled *Journal de Hufeland*).

An in-house training aid before its time, this journal was translated into French as early as 1790. In 1796, Hahnemann published his research *Essay on a new principle for discovering the healing virtues of medicinal substances, as well as some comments on those used to date* in *Hufeland's Journal*. Hahnemann's research drew methodological inspiration from the experimental work of Antoine Stoerck, who, from 1760, began studying the various properties of medicinal substances.

This trend fostered the inclination in modern medicine to make the fruits of medical and therapeutic progress available to larger numbers of doctors, nurses and patients, and thus contribute to the broader diffusion of medical expertise.

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