

1 TITLE

2 3 LIVERPOOL FIRSTS

One day this patient felt unwell 'in his tummy'. It went on for a week, apparently well indicated remedies failed to help and his lower abdomen carried on becoming more painful. He attended a committee meeting at which there happened to be present a homeopathic doctor. "It is as if my left ovary is VERY inflamed," (Joking) he said, "I feel I am going to collapse, please look after me," he said.

The doctor cleared the room, laid out the patient on the committee table and examined him. He diagnosed a burst lower bowel, septicaemia, peritonitis, probably of diverticular origin. He did not wait for an ambulance, he asked someone to call the hospital to warn them, put the patient in his car and took him to the hospital. The diagnosis was confirmed, the medication prescribed was intravenous Metronidazole – which is an anaerobic bactericide (Flagyl) – and surgery.

The patient refused surgery and medication. The hospital doctors' reaction was to invoke the mental health legislation, to claim that the patient would be a danger to himself and others, and must be detained in the hospital against his will, and be forcibly subjected to the conventional treatment, notwithstanding the known side effects of the drug and the aversion to surgery.

Once the phlebotomist had taken a blood sample, (which later was shown to confirm a raised ESR), and while the psychiatrist was on his way to sign the detention order, the patient got dressed. He escaped, staggered out of the hospital and went home in a taxi.

His wife said he looked grey and green by turns. He called his homeopath who said take the Flagyl. He called a medical friend who provided a prescription for a Flagyl suppository in case the homeopathy did not work.

So which remedy was going to help an inflamed abdomen, with sepsis and rebound tenderness and guarding, pain, fever and collapse? The answer was *Pyrogenium*. *Pyrogen* was an unusual remedy in its creation, it was not lying around waiting to be proved. Drysdale of Liverpool took half a pound of lean beef and put it in a jar and left it for a week. There was not enough sun in Liverpool, so it was left for 2 more weeks. It was boiled, strained and filtered, diluted and potentised. The patient

needed only a few doses of a high potency before he looked merely pale. The toxicity was draining away.

Recovery was helped by careful eating. *China* 200 was prescribed and recovery was rapid. Flagyl was not required. A month later he returned to the hospital for a check-up and they said the diagnosis must have been incorrect.

That patient was me, and I was very scared. But the homeopathic remedy did the trick. Is it realistic to scare our patients? Is it the illness that was scary or the need to trust homeopathy? I knew I had the right remedy. I know that my wife, who is not a homeopath, was very worried.

4 5 6 DRYSDALE

The proving was carried out in 1875 by John James Drysdale a former student of James Young Simpson in Edinburgh, alongside Thomas Skinner, and he also knew William Henderson. The move from Scotland to Liverpool occurred a few times again as we shall see. Drysdale trained James Compton Burnett and John Henry Clarke. John Drysdale and John Rutherford Russell were fellow students with Robert Ellis Dudgeon in Vienna. The three also edited the British Journal of Homeopathy from 1846-84 after which it ceased. Drysdale introduced *Kali bichromicum* and worked on *Tuberculinum* 10 years before Koch. His book on *Germ Theories* identified 'infectious miasms'.

Drysdale's successes in the cholera epidemic of 1849 had so 'roused the envy of his allopathic colleagues' that he was forthwith 'expelled from the Liverpool Medical Institute' (Clarke in his *Life of Burnett*).

An aside: why the Ripper stopped killing after November 9th, 1888, has always been one of the central mysteries of the Ripper question. With James Maybrick there is a good explanation. On November 19th, Maybrick changed doctors, consulting Dr. Drysdale, who treated him with homeopathic remedies. Drysdale treated James Maybrick five more times before his death, apparently with a gradual improvement. (Drysdale gave testimony under oath at Mrs. Maybrick's trial for the murder of her husband). It is clear from the diary that James Maybrick slowly but surely lost interest in further killings, feeling considerable remorse just before his death.

7 **EPPS** It is now 180 years since homeopathy was introduced into Liverpool by Dr Epps, who in 1838 delivered a course of lectures on *similia similibus curentur*. At that time there was no resident homeopathic doctor in the town. This honour belonged to Dr John Drysdale who settled in Liverpool in 1841. He was followed by Drs Morton, Chapman and Hilbers. Then 2 local doctors, John Moore and a Dr Roche converted.

The Liverpool Homoeopathic Dispensary had been a Free Medical Charity from at least 1842 and comprised the following dispensaries. The South End Homoeopathic Dispensary was established in 1841 at 41 Frederick Street by Dr Drysdale, later moving to a house in Benson Street, then to 2 Harford Street. Later, the Dispensary moved to a building in Hardman Street, erected by public subscription in 1860. In 1866 at the dispensaries' AGM it was reported that there had been 34,808 consultations, average 11 a day. The Mayor took the chair and compared the allopathic and homeopathic professions locally. He said that they both make similar demands on the town and we should be grateful to both. He said he would not pass judgement but would be happy to take the smaller dose if he became sick - to much laughter. (World 1863 pp64-670.) 1 year later the patient numbers had risen to 45,336 attendances, 145 daily. There had been 99 cases of cholera, of which 85 recovered. .

In 1854 Dr Hayward (1833-1918) arrived from Glasgow where he had seen the effectiveness of homeopathy in cholera and came over. One journal estimated that by 1885 there were at least 20 homeopathic doctors in Liverpool and more in Birkenhead and Southport. There was opposition to homeopathy from the local medical society who passed a resolution to exclude homeopaths. This had been written and encouraged by Dr Thomas Skinner.

In 1846 Liverpool became the first city in the world to appoint a Medical Officer of Health when it appointed Dr William Henry Duncan (1805-1863) to this position. Duncan had been born in Liverpool, he was an exact contemporary of Dr David Boswell Reid, and they had studied medicine together at Edinburgh University. At that time in Liverpool many of the poor lived in overcrowded court houses or cellars, the overcrowding having been exacerbated by the large influx of Irish immigrants following the potato famine.

Diseases such as cholera and typhus were very common primarily because of the lack of a clean supply of water and the almost non-existent sanitation and drainage.

Reformers such as Reid tried to impress on people the importance of cleanliness and adequate ventilation in combating disease. He had published a free leaflet entitled *The Chemistry of Daily Life* and had been required by the Education Committee of the Privy Council to lecture to school teachers on these matters.

The foundations for much of the work of Duncan and Reid had been laid by the

8 CHADWICK

Social Reformer Edwin Chadwick (1800-1890). He had been appointed to the Poor Law Commission in 1832 and been instrumental in the formation of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, but it was his 'Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain,' published in 1842, which had the greatest influence on health reform. He was the first person to establish a direct link between poverty, poor sanitation and ill health. Chadwick had to publish this under his own name because the Government refused to publish it as a 'Government Report' on the grounds that it may cause offence!

9 10 11 12 SLUM HOUSING

The Health of Towns Commission was established in 1843 and reported in 1844 and 1845. As well as Chadwick, Reid was one of the Commissioners. The reports of the Commission led to the Health of Towns Bill being laid before Parliament in 1847, this eventually became the first Public Health Act of 1848.

14 HOUSING BOOK In 1872 Drs Drysdale & Hayward wrote a book entitled *Health and Comfort in House Building*. Hayward's house was unique being designed throughout to provide a tight environmental control system. One sign of this was the unusually tall chimney (see photograph) built to extract air. Today, concerns about cold, damp and poorly heated and ventilated building still play a major part in their construction.

15 16 17 HOUSES

The design and construction of the houses of Dr John James Drysdale (1816-1892) and Dr John Williams Hayward (1829-1914) in Liverpool a few years later would also have been influenced by two other factors. The first of these was the abolition of the Window Tax in 1851, whereby a tax was paid on each house according to how

many windows it had and the second factor, was the House of Commons Paper entitled *Warming and Ventilation of Dwellings* 1857. Much attention was given to ventilation and heating and the self-acting suction power principal designed by Doctors Drysdale and Hayward of Liverpool was implemented. The system was also used in several houses in the area., including the house of Dr Hayward at Grove Street. This house (1867) is now known as the Octagon (on account of the octagon shaped bay window tower). Hayward was a doctor who was convinced that good thermal comfort was linked to good health. Dr Drysdale's house is in Harbord Street, Waterloo

John Hayward and John Drysdale explained that healthy houses were to be likened to healthy bodies and healthy living, indeed, they were 'overlapping systems', the houses were built and their designs were presented to the Architectural Society in Liverpool, claiming that living in such houses dramatically improved the health of the occupants.

John William Hayward and John James Drysdale explained that as doctors, they saw the inside of many homes, and they criticised architects for placing their emphasis on aesthetics and not on health. Hayward and Drysdale were active in the Domestic Sanitation Movement, and Hayward also went on to contribute to the design of the Liverpool Hahnemann Homeopathic Hospital, the first hospital in the country to contain early hydraulic lifts and an innovative heating and ventilation system.

In the report for 1884, it was recorded that the Hardman Homeopathic Dispensary had seen 27,646 indoor attendances and 12,628 outdoor attendances and even more patients were seen at the Roscommon Street Dispensary in Everton. In 1884, the Homeopathic annual general meetings were of such importance they were held in the Town Hall with the Lord Mayor in the Chair. The Lord Mayor also donated £10 at this meeting and gave a speech in support of the Dispensary, received by frequent outbursts of 'hear, hear!'

This was all in the teeth of opposition from local allopaths (reported in the Liverpool Mercury, 26 November 1860) which led to frequent heated exchanges between the proponents of the old medicine and John William Hayward. The Hardman Street Homeopathic Dispensary was demolished and replaced by the Hahnemann

Homeopathic Hospital in 1887, after the combined dispensary attendances achieved 78,881 in 1886. (HW)

Anyone who has walked down Hope Street will most likely have noticed this magnificent red brick building, but what of its history?

18 19 20 HOSPITAL

The Dispensary transferred to Hope Street when the Hahnemann Hospital was built in 1887. The North End Homoeopathic Dispensary opened in Wilbraham Street in 1866, moving to 10 Roscommon Street in 1872. The old Dispensary was pulled down and a new building erected by public subscription, which was formally opened in December 1905. The Roscommon Street Dispensary was closed in July 1940.

Hope Street was considered the most suitable site for the hospital as it was situated on the highest and healthiest land of the city.

The Hahnemann Homoeopathic Hospital and Dispensary opened in 1887. The building is now student housing. Homoeopathy was not, at the time, recognised by the medical establishment, and it was not until 1923 that the Liverpool Medical Institution finally accepted homoeopathic practitioners as members.

21 TATE

The rich sugar merchant, Henry Tate, inspired by personal experience, provided the initial cost of £13,000 for a hospital of 50 beds. Tate was a subscriber to the Royal Infirmary, situated not far away, which was being built at the same time. As with the Royal Infirmary, advice from Florence Nightingale was used to provide guidelines for this building and its wards. Designed by AH Holme in the French baroque style, its bright appearance is due to red Ruabon brick facing with white stone quoins, string courses and window dressings. Inside, the walls were treated in glazed brick, making them fire proof, easy to clean and hygienic in appearance. The basement had several uses, acting as a mortuary, a wine and beer cellar, dispensary and consulting and waiting room. A hydraulic lift for patients forms the centrepiece, and its iron doors with HH incorporated in them still exist today. Large south facing bay windows characterised the building and gave much light and ventilation to the wards.

22 23 WARDS & 23 DISPENSARY ENTRANCE

During the First World War the hospital was requisitioned by the War Office as an Auxiliary Military Hospital. During the Second World War it became part of the Emergency Medical Service. The hospital came under state control in 1948 under the National Health Service Act of 1946, forming part of the South Liverpool Group of hospitals. It was then renamed as the Liverpool Homoeopathic Hospital, and in 1969 changed again to the Hahnemann Hospital. In preparation for the reorganisation on Merseyside of the National Health Service, the Hahnemann became part of The United Liverpool Hospitals in 1972. From the early 1960's there had been talk of actually closing the Hahnemann as part of the above reorganisation; this was finally done in April 1976, some of the staff transferring to the new Department of Homoeopathic Medicine at the Liverpool Clinic, which is as far as I shall take the story.

25 26 27 HAHNEMANN ROAD

Brief mention of Hahnemann Road.

28 29 30 31 THOMPSON & CAPPER RX & COCOA

Of course all these good doctors needed their medicines, often supplied by Thompson & Capper of Birkenhead, Liverpool and Southport with shops all over the north..

32 33 34 CYPHER REPERTORY

There was also a Hahnemann Publishing House in Birkenhead which among others published a revised edition of Dudgeon's 5th *Organon* translation in 1893, a book on *Taking Cold* by Hayward in 1859 and parts of the *Cypher Repertory* 1859-66. There were also chapters by Dudgeon, Drysdale, and Stokes. The chapters were sold separately and then bound by the owner

35 CLARKE

Now back to the historical tales: John Henry Clarke write about How I became a Homeopath'

“Perhaps it may not be uninteresting to reader if I state at the outset of how my own conversion to homeopathy came about. As is usually the case, I knew nothing whatsoever about homeopathy when I took a degree in surgery, since it is rarely mentioned by professors in the ordinary medical school, and then only to be misrepresented.

After my graduation as a western medical doctor at [Edinburgh Medical School](#), I took a voyage to New Zealand in charge of emigrants. On my return, having fixed on Liverpool as a likely field in which to start practice, I asked a friend to introduce me to some of leading doctors in that city. This he promised to do, and eventually he did – I have the letter to this day.

They were never presented, for the reasons which will be appreciated. The relatives with whom I was staying happen to be homeopaths, and they suggested that I might do worse than to go to the [Homeopathic Dispensary at Hardman Street, Liverpool](#) and see what was being done there. As the letter came not, by way of utilizing my time I went. Like Caesar, I not only ‘went’, but I ‘saw’, ” but here the parallel ended – I did not conquer; instead homeopathy conquered me!

I may say that at this period, having absorbed over 80% (if marks go for anything) of the drug lore Sir Robert Christian had to impart, and having had sufficient opportunity for testing its value in practice, I had come pretty near the conclusion of [Oliver Wendell Holmes](#) saying, “If all drugs were cast into the sea, it would be so much better for man and so much the worse for the fish.”

I believed then (and belief has become rather fashionable since) that the chief function of a medical man was to find out what was the matter with people – if he could; and supply them with common sense – if he happened to possess any. With duty to treat people; to cure them was out of question; and it would be the better for honesty if he made no pretence to it.

After few weeks of observation at the [Liverpool Homeopathic Dispensary](#), a case was presented to me in private. A small boy of five, a relative of my own, was brought to me by his mother. Two years before, he had been badly scratched on the forehead by a cat, and when the scratches healed, a crops of warts appeared on the

site of them, and there they remained up to that time in spite of different treatment by allopathic doctor.

As an allopath I could do no more than he, so I turned to homeopathy to see if that could help me. I consulted the authorities, and found that the principal drug which is credited to producing crops of warts is *Thuja occidentalis*.

I ordered this, more by way of experiment than expecting much result; but I said, if there was truth in homeopathy, it ought to cure. In a few days improvement was manifest; in three weeks the warts were all gone. Rightly or wrongly I attributed, and still attribute the result to *Thuja*, though it will no doubt be said that charms have done the same way.

Very well, I'd say one will give me a system of charms that I can use with precision and produce with such definite effects, I shall be very glad to try it. As it was, I concluded that if homeopathy could give me results like that, homeopathy was the system for me.

Yours

faithfully

Dr J.H. Clarke, Liverpool, England.

Clarke does not mention who trained him. It was Edward Berridge 1844-1920, (no photo) graduated MB BS London 1867, and MD Homeopathic College of Pennsylvania 1869, post-graduate school of homeopathy 1892, member International Hahnemannian Association 1880, and the Hahnemann Academy of New York 1875. He then became Medical Officer at the Liverpool Homeopathic Dispensary 1868-9.

Berridge is widely acknowledged as one of the most important teachers of homeopathy in England and especially in Liverpool. He was a high potency prescriber from his Philadelphia training at Hahnemann Medical College. He trained John Henry Clarke, James Compton Burnett, Thomas Skinner, Giles Goldsborough and many others. He has written what became a standard text on ophthalmology (*Repertory of the Eyes*, 1873), he edited Swan's book on Nosodes and contributed to the *Organon* journal. He became deeply interested in mysticism through the Golden Dawn sect.

Thomas Skinner 1825-1906. Educated in medicine at Edinburgh University, specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology, Skinner was an outspoken critic of homeopathy. He was in Liverpool, and after becoming ill and having to give up his practice to preserve his health, he was treated by Dr Berridge. Skinner was given an MM dose of *Sulphur*, and had a complete recovery.

He dived into homeopathy wholeheartedly. He studied homeopathy under Berridge, and read Hahnemann's major works. When he felt secure in his homeopathic practice he announced his changed practice and resigned from the Liverpool Medical Institute, which prohibited the membership of homeopaths through a law put into place years earlier by Skinner himself. Skinner invented a centesimal fluxion potentiser, and became a high potency prescriber. He wrote a materia medica with Clarke (*Dr Skinner's Grand Characteristics of the Materia Medica* 1931) and a book on obstetrics. (*Homoeopathy : In its Relation to the Diseases of Women* 1876)

Skinner attended the International Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and upon his return to England he founded (with Edward Berridge in the UK and Adolph Lippe and Samuel Swan in the USA) *The Organon - "An Anglo-American Journal of Homoeopathic Medicine and Progressive Collateral Science."* It was published in Liverpool by Holden's. Although it ceased publication after the 5 issues, it became the influential pace-setter for journals devoted to pure Hahnemannian homeopathy that followed - the *Homoeopathic Physician* and *The Medical Advance*. Skinner practiced in Liverpool, England. He was described as, "probably the best prescriber in Britain." (HC Allen). He died two weeks after injuring himself in a fall when he slipped on a banana peel.

37 BURNETT

James Compton Burnett 1840-1901

Dr. Burnett's first venture in private practice was in Chester. There he had a very large clientele, his practice embracing a large area of the surrounding district. Many of his Chester patients remained faithful to him after his removal to London, and travelled to town periodically to consult him. From Chester he removed to Birkenhead, where he remained in practice for some little time. In both of these places he saw much of Dr. John J. Drysdale and other leading homeopaths of

Liverpool. Drysdale he looked upon as a kind of father in homeopathy, and always cherished for him the liveliest affection and admiration,

From '*50 Reasons for Being a Homeopath*'. 1888

A medical friend from the Royal Infirmary turned up to dinner with me, and I told him of my trouble, and of my half determination to go to America and turn farmer: at least I should be able to lead a wholesome, natural life. He persuaded me to study homeopathy first, and refute it, or, if apparently true, to try it in the hospital.

After many doubts and fears — very much as if I were contemplating a crime — I procured Hughes's *Pharmacodynamics* and *Therapeutics* which my friend said were a good introduction to homeopathy. I mastered their main points in a week or two, and came from a consideration of these to the conclusion either that homoeopathy was a very grand thing, indeed, or this Dr. Hughes must be a very big ... No, the word is unparliamentary. You don't like the word? Well, I do ; it expresses my meaning to a T. On such an important subject there is for me no middle way ; it must be either good, clear God's truth or black lying. A fool the man could not possibly be, since it would be quite impossible for a fool to write the books. And as he seemed to speak so eloquently from a noble spirit, it lifted me right out of the slough of despond — for a little while, but then came a reaction : had I not often tried vaunted specifics and plans of treatment, and been direfully disappointed ? So my old skepsis took possession of me. " What," said I ; " can such things be ? " No, impossible. I had been nurtured in the schools, and had there been taught by good men and true that homoeopathy was therapeutic Nihilism. No, I could not be a homeopath ; I would try the thing at the bedside, prove it to be a lying sham, and expose it to an admiring profession !

I was full of febricula on account of Georgie's fate, so studied the say of the homeopaths thereon, and found that they claimed to cut short simple fever with *Aconite*. Ah, thought I, if that be true, *Aconite* would have saved little Georgie, if given in time at the very onset. Well, feverish colds and chills were common enough just then, and I had, moreover, a ward where children thus taken ill were put till their diseases had declared themselves, and then they were drafted off to the various wards, for that purpose provided, with pneumonia, pleurisy, rheumatism, gastritis, measles, as the case might be.

I had some of Fleming's Tincture of *Aconite* in my surgery, and of this I put a few drops into a large bottle of water and gave it to the nurse of said children's ward, with instructions to administer it to all the cases on the one side of the ward as soon as they were brought in. Those on the other side were not to have the *Aconite* solution, but were to be treated in the authorised orthodox way, as was theretofore customary. At my next morning visit I found nearly all the youngsters on the *Aconite* side feverless and mostly at play in their beds. But one had the measles, and had to be sent to the proper ward : I found *Aconite* did not cure measles: the others remained a day or two and were then returned whence they had originally come.

Those on the non-*Aconitey* orthodox side were worse, or about the same, and had to be sent into hospital - mostly with localised inflammations, or catarrhs, measles, &c.

And so it went on day after day, day after day ; those that got *Aconite* were generally convalescent in twenty-four or forty-eight hours, except in the comparatively seldom cases where the seemingly simple chill was the prodromal stage of a specific disease such as measles, scarlatina, rheumatic fever : these were barely influenced by the *Aconite*. But the great bulk of the cases were all genuine chills, and the *Aconite* cured the greater part right off^, though the little folks were unusually pale, and had perspired, as I subsequently learned, needlessly much. I had told the nurse nothing about the contents of my big bottle, but she soon baptised it "Dr. Burnett's Fever Bottle."

For a little while I was simply dumfounded, and I spent much of my nights studying homeopathy; I had no time during the day. One day I was unable to go my usual rounds through the wards - in fact, I think I was absent two days, from Saturday to Tuesday - and on entering the said children's ward the next time in the early morning, the nurse seemed rather quiet, and informed me, with a certain forced dutifulness, that all the cases might, she thought, be dismissed.

"Indeed," I said, "how's that.?" " Well, Doctor, as you did not come round on Sunday and yesterday, I gave your fever medicine to them all ; and, indeed, I had not the heart to see you go on with your cruel experiments any longer; you are like all the young doctors that come here — you are only trying experiments ! " I merely said, "Very well, nurse; give the medicine in future to all that come in." This was done

till I left the place, and the result of this *Aconite* medication for chills and febricula was unusually rapid defervescence, followed by convalescence. But when the stomach was much involved, I at times found the *Aconite* useless, unless vomiting occurred; and so, in such cases, I administered a mild emetic, whereupon defervescence at once set in, and though a homeopath now for a good many years, I still think a mild emetic the right treatment when the stomach is laden and cannot unburden itself by natural vomit.

But still this is only by the way : I enter into all these preliminary, incidental and concomitant circumstances merely to put you on the same ground whereon I myself stand; they are not essential, for they only lead to this : *Aconitum* in febricula was and is my first reason for being a homeopath. Have you as good a reason for being a " regular " ?

So there we have some tales of well-known homeopaths who started out or ended up in Liverpool

38 STUART DITTON DOCTOR

Peter Stuart – known as the "Ditton Doctor" – was a Lancashire cooper on a large scale, He founded the firm *Stuart and Douglas* in West Africa, and banishing the slave trade from that region. According to his son: 'He was proud of the fact that he never made a cent out of the slave trade; a form of commerce which he detested'.

39 SHIP

So he was a merchant and lay homeopath., taught by John Epps, and corresponded with Boenninghausen. An extensive account of his life was written by his son, Mazzini, and it makes for fascinating reading. He served in the navy at Trafalgar. He did many great works during his life including devoting one afternoon a week for forty years to giving homeopathic medication to the poor; He prescribed for between 300,000 and 350,000 people.

40 DITTON LODGE 41 SEAFORTH HOUSE

He named his sons after his enthusiasms, Bellamy, Mazzini, Cromwell, Milton, Orsini. And of course Hahnemann. He died in 1888. A grandson, also Peter Stuart became a homeopathic Doctor.

42 HAHNEMANN STUART

In this community Mazzini Stuart and his brother Orsini Stuart should be remembered as the donor of the building in Powis Place to be a museum and library which became the headquarters of the Faculty.

43 DR PETER STUART

44 45 STUART FILES

I really really hope that we can build on this legacy and recreate enthusiasm for public service homeopathy for the people in Liverpool.

4949 WORDS