

The evolution of the production of homeopathic medicines:
from Hahnemann to the present
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SUMMARY

The purpose of our research was to study the historical stages of the development of homeopathic pharmacy, including the technology of production of homeopathic medicines in pharmacies and pharmaceutical factories.

The study of the history of the development of homeopathic pharmacy seems to be relevant in connection with the conduct of postgraduate professional development in educational institutions of the country, including courses such as "Organization and economics of homeopathic pharmacy" and "Questions of organizing homeopathic pharmacy", in the process of passing which course participants need to familiarize themselves with the various stages development of homeopathic technology: from the experiments of S. Hahnemann to the present day.

On April 10, 1755, Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, was born. Hahnemann considered the ideal of treatment to be "quick, gentle and final restoration of health or elimination and destruction of the disease in its entirety in the shortest, most reliable and safe way based on easily understood principles" [1].

The official date of the emergence of homeopathy is considered to be 1796, when the work "Experience in the New Preparation of Medicines" was published, which describes special methods of manufacturing, prescribing and using homeopathic medicines. The culmination of Hahnemann's scientific work is the sixth edition of the Organon. Initially, the manufacture of homeopathic medicines was associated not so much with ideological contradictions as with objective everyday difficulties. Until 1821, Hahnemann prepared his triturations with lactose in porcelain mortars. At that time, pure white lactose was an expensive and rare commodity, as Switzerland, its main supplier, exported it in very small quantities. There was also a lack of proper glassware at first. It is worth noting that at that time the common people often had to keep their homeopathic medicines in goose feathers. But for pharmacists, this issue was resolved with the beginning of the supply of glass by Bohemia.

Hahnemann personally prepared medicines for his patients, as he possessed all the knowledge and skills necessary for this. In fact, he was so knowledgeable and experienced in the pharmaceutical arts that few could match or surpass him in this. In addition, in his letters, he said more than once that he simply could not entrust such a responsible matter as the preparation of medicines to people in whom he did not have confidence.

Meanwhile, his progressively increasing practice aroused more and more the envy of the healers of Leipzig, where he lived and worked at that time, and

self-preparation and dispensing of medicines could not but cause discontent among pharmacists. Since, according to the laws of that time, only they were given the right to manufacture medicines. In 1819, Leipzig pharmacists filed a complaint against Hahnemann and was forbidden to prepare and dispense homeopathic medicines himself. In response to these accusations, Hahnemann reasonably objected: the drugs that pharmacists prepare are always a mixture of several ingredients, he also treated his patients with monopreparations (that is, drugs containing only one active ingredient). Thus, his work in the production of drugs was not subject to the requirements of the law, and he himself did not intrude into the sphere of activity of pharmacists. That is, already at the initial stage of the formation of the homeopathic doctrine, Hahnemann made a clear division between allopathy and homeopathy,

However, the complaint of the Leipzig pharmacists was upheld by the city authorities and Hahnemann was prohibited from preparing and dispensing medicines. Then he was forced to accept the invitation of the Duke of Anhalt-Keten to become his personal court physician and move to the Duchy of Keten, where he was able to continue his practice. There he continued to prepare his own preparations without the help of pharmacists. And only eight years later he changed his principle.

In 1828, Theodor Lappé from Neudientdorf became the first pharmacist to whom Hahnemann agreed to order the manufacture of medicines, since this man was ready to follow Hahnemann's technology not out of materialistic considerations, but out of an inner conviction, out of his belief in the power of homeopathy. Hahnemann himself completely trusted him and regularly ordered homeopathic tinctures from him, and also constantly gave him detailed instructions for the preparation of specific preparations. Thus, the preparation of homeopathic medicines for the first time begins to be carried out in pharmacies [3].

Korsakov became the real inventor of high potencies. In 1829 Korsakov wrote an open letter to S. Hahnemann, which was published in the journal Archives of Homeopathic Medicine. In it, he offers his own way of preparing homeopathic dilutions - potentiation in one container. Korsakov's method is technically much faster and cheaper than the classical Hahnemannian potentiation, although it is less accurate. Hahnemann greatly appreciated his experiments, but was of the opinion that it was necessary to adhere to the measure. In a letter dated September 13, 1829, addressed to Dr. Schreeter, he writes:

"There must be some limit, it cannot go on forever. Having made it a rule that all homeopathic medicines should be diluted and brought to the 30th potency, we establish a treatment procedure common to all homeopaths, and when they describe the medicine, we can repeat their actions and work with one instrument. " Thus, we can conclude that at this stage Hahnemann in his medical practice mainly used low potencies - up to 30 C, and considered it necessary to use a unified manufacturing technology and uniform principles for prescribing homeopathic

drugs. Wilmar Schwabe became a worthy successor to the work of Hahnemann. The intention to produce homeopathic medicines according to the original prescriptions of Hahnemann prompted Schwabe to create a systematic catalog of working instructions for the preparation of these medicines - the pharmacopoeia. His work "Pharmacopoea homoeopathica polyglotta" was published in 1872. In 1901 Schwabe published this book in German, French and English, and later also in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. The pharmacopoeia of Wilmar Schwabe has been recognized all over the world. She gave answers to questions in the field of botany, pharmacognosy, pharmacology, chemistry and put the production of drugs on a completely new basis. In October 1934 g.

In parallel with the creation of the Pharmacopoeia, Schwabe actively worked in the field of pharmaceutical technology. He developed analytical methods, improved the technological process and carried out quality control of medicines.

In 1866 he opened in Leipzig the "Samuel Hahnemann's Central Homeopathic Pharmacy" and then the "Dr. Wilmar Schwabe's Central Homeopathic Pharmacy" for the export trade of homeopathic medicines.

The volume of products manufactured by the enterprise has been constantly increasing. The enterprise itself grew and gradually turned into a group of companies: "Dr. Wilmar Schwabe", "Intersan", "Farmasan", "Kuramed". The wide spread and popularity of homeopathy in medicine in Western countries required the expansion of production in this direction. Therefore, in 1961, on the basis of the Wilmar Schwabe concern, a new independent company was established - the German Homeopathic Union (DHU).

The German Homeopathic Association has grown over the past forty-odd years into a medium-sized pharmaceutical company with 400 employees. Paying tribute to the tradition of "Dr. Wilmar Schwabe", the German Homeopathic Union has dedicated its activities to homeopathy from the very beginning. At the center of the conceptual model of the firm's activity is the quality of the medicines it produces. At the same time, the main goal is to create and manufacture the widest possible range of high-quality medicines. Medicines are produced strictly according to the original prescriptions of Hahnemann. This also means that all liquid homeopathic remedies produced by the German Homeopathic Association are potentiated exclusively by hand [4].

The original substances, used by v process production, are regulated by the pharmacopoeial articles of the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia. In those cases when it comes to the most famous monopreparations, all the necessary information is taken from the previous editions of the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia or from its current edition. If it does not contain the necessary information, the next official source for determining the source material is

"Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of Dr. Wilmar Schwabe" 1934 release. If there is no corresponding pharmacopoeial article devoted to a particular drug, then, according to the inviolable tradition of the German Homeopathic Union, this drug is entered into the in-house documentation with the obligatory consideration of the available scientific literature.

Potentiation is also carried out in strict accordance with the technological prescriptions and pharmacopoeial monographs of the German Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia. So, liquid dosage forms, i.e. all dilutions to potencies D1000 and C1000 are potentiated by the multi-glass method with 10-fold shaking at each stage by hand using a leather pad. The maximum batch size that can be produced in this way is 3 kg.

Triturations are prepared according to the German Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia in special mills or, depending on the potency achieved, in appropriate apparatus, after which they are processed into other dosage forms, for example, into tablets. The maximum batch size for triturations is 800 g.

In the production sector of the company, about 1400 raw materials of vegetable, mineral and animal origin are processed. This number includes a number of nosodes. After their processing, about 40,000 intermediate products are constantly delivered to the warehouse, shipped in bulk, about 90,000 pre-potencies and about 14,000 finished drugs. The provision of initial plant substances is carried out mostly at the expense of its own plant growing complex. This complex is certified in accordance with the provisions of the EEC directive No. 2092/91 (Tsko-Vo). The plant growing complex supplies the matrix tincture sector with 550 plant species, 80% of these plants are grown outdoors, without the use of pesticides and are supplied fresh immediately after harvest.

Raw materials of animal and mineral origin are purchased from qualified suppliers under strict regulatory control. Animal materials serving as the basis of medicines are not autoclavable (with the exception of preparations for the preparation of nosodes). If autoclaving is clearly prescribed by the requirements of the Federal Office for Medicines and Medical Devices, it is carried out as an exception at the level of the corresponding potency. The German Homeopathic Association not only produces high-quality medicines in accordance with GMP requirements, but also constantly improves its technologies.

Most of the large industrial enterprises in the world that manufacture homeopathic medicines now use mechanization at all stages of the technological process. The largest French company "Laboratory Boiron" today is the world leader in the production of homeopathic medicines. The Boiron laboratory is represented in more than 56 countries around the world and employs about 3,000 employees.

In 1911, in Paris, Rene Baudry, a French pharmacist specializing in the production of homeopathic medicines, together with

a childhood friend, Dr. Leon Vagnier, created a homeopathic pharmacy: the "General French Homeopathic Pharmacy". Thanks to his knowledge of pharmacy and engineering, Rene Baudry was the first to create and implement machines to automate the production of drugs. At that time, homeopathy was already widespread in France, and doctors needed high quality and reliable homeopathic medicines. In 1932, Rene Baudry meets Jean and Henri Boiron. The twin brothers had just graduated as a pharmacist and were looking for work. In the same year, they all together set up the Central French Homeopathic Laboratory in Paris.

1967 - the year of birth of the Boiron company, which, under the presidency of Jean Boiron, unites into a single structure: PHR, LHM and Henri Boiron's Homeopathic Laboratory.

In 1983, Christian Boiron succeeded Jean Boiron as president of the company. Since that time, Jean Boiron devoted himself to work in the field of scientific research. The production of Hahnemann's homeopathic remedies - infinitesimal dilutions of a medicinal substance - requires particularly strict control in combination with technological developments. At Boiron, many years of production experience is combined with the latest technology. The use of methods such as gas-liquid chromatography, infrared and ultraviolet spectrophotometry allows us to guarantee the quality of each product produced [5].

1200 of the company's products are of plant origin, wild plants are used for their production, which are supplied only from ecologically clean areas, the plants are collected by hand and delivered mostly fresh. They are monitored by specialists for botanical compliance and radiation safety. The production of homeopathic preparations by the French laboratory "Boiron" is carried out in two ways: up to 30C according to the Hahnemann method, according to the Korsakov method - 1000 K, 10000 K and 100000 K, using machines at all stages of the production process.

England - one of the most famous "homeopathic" countries, also has a fairly large homeopathic production. The most significant laboratory "Helios", where up to 30 C potency uses a manual method of dynamization, and higher dilutions are prepared on an apparatus invented by the enterprise, according to the Korsakov method, which imitates the movements of a human hand, according to the instructions of Hahnemann [6].

The German industrial enterprise "Remedia" carries out dynamization manually up to 200 C dilution, higher potencies are made mechanically, according to the Korsakov method.

Thus, the case of Hahnemann at the present stage has resulted in two directions: it is pharmacy production, where all stages of the technological process are carried out manually, from preparation of trituration to packaging, and industrial production, where the manual method of production has not lost its relevance, and most large enterprises tends to cook at least low dilutions by hand. In addition, both methods of preparing homeopathic dilutions are still used equally, as

classical Hahnemannian, and the method of our compatriot Korsakov.

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