



Homeopathy and the “Bacteriological Revolution” 1880-1895

Carol-Ann Galego

Carol-Ann Galego
Homeopathy and the “Bacteriological Revolution” 1880–1895

Quellen und Studien zur Homöopathiegeschichte, Band 28
Herausgegeben vom Institut für Geschichte der Medizin
der Robert Bosch Stiftung
Leiter: Prof. Dr. Robert Jütte

Homeopathy and the “Bacteriological Revolution” 1880–1895

**The Reception of Germ Theory and Bacteriology
in 19th-century England and Germany**

Carol-Ann Galego

KVC | V E R L A G

KVC Verlag
NATUR UND MEDIZIN e. V.
Am Deimelsberg 36, 45276 Essen
Tel.: (0201) 5630570
Fax: (0201) 56305 60
www.kvc-verlag.de

Galego, Carol-Ann

Homeopathy and the “Bacteriological Revolution” 1880–1895 –
The Reception of Germ Theory and Bacteriology in 19th-century England
and Germany

Quellen und Studien zur Homöopathiegeschichte, Band 28
Herausgegeben vom Institut für Geschichte der Medizin
der Robert Bosch Stiftung
Band 1–13 (1995–2005): Karl F. Haug Verlag Stuttgart
ab Band 14: KVC Verlag Essen

ISBN 978-3-96562-017-9

© KVC Verlag – NATUR UND MEDIZIN e. V., Essen 2020
© Cover: Robert Koch in seinem Laboratorium in Kimberley,
bpk-Bildagentur

Das Werk mit allen Teilen ist urheberrechtlich geschützt. Jede Verwertung außerhalb der Bestimmungen des Urheberrechts ist ohne schriftliche Genehmigung des Verlages unzulässig und strafbar. Kein Teil des Werkes darf in irgendeiner Form ohne schriftliche Genehmigung des Verlages reproduziert werden. Geschützte Warennamen werden nicht besonders kenntlich gemacht. Aus dem Fehlen eines entsprechenden Hinweises kann also nicht geschlossen werden, dass es sich um einen freien Waren Namen handelt.

Umschlaggestaltung: eye-d Designbüro, Essen
Druck: Union Betriebs-GmbH, Rheinbach

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank my sister, Christina, for once again offering her editorial assistance. Her sustained enthusiasm and encouragement were essential during the last round of revisions, and her last-minute interventions greatly improved the readability of the final version. I would also like to thank my parents for always believing in me and supporting me in my endeavors, however far removed from the beaten path they may be. For my partner, Carl; for his respect for my work and commitment to providing me with a room of my own; and for his steady presence and loving embrace, I am forever grateful.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support from the Institut für Geschichte der Medizin der Robert Bosch Stiftung in Stuttgart, which provided me with a two-year postdoctoral research grant. Special thanks go out to Professor Dr. Robert Jütte and Professor Dr. Martin Dinges, for ensuring that I received support for this project before they transitioned into retirement; to Dr. Marion Baschin, for seamlessly and skillfully taking over the role of supervising my research; to Beate Schleh, for facilitating my search for archival material; and to Dorothea Schmucker, for organizing all logistical matters and providing comic relief during my visits to the institute.

This project was directly informed by the feedback I received during my doctoral thesis defence. I am grateful for the critical comments expressed by my examiners, especially Dr. Alice Kuzniar, who reminded me not to spare the history of homeopathy from the critical perspective that I otherwise apply to the history of medicine. I would also like to thank the third- and fourth-year students who attended the biopolitics course I offered at University College Freiburg (UCF) in 2018–2019, for providing insightful feedback on my early ruminations about applying the genealogical method to the history of medicine. An additional thank you goes out to Rebekka Deuse, Leonard Geisler, Nicolas Koch, and Rosa-Lena Lange, who went on to write thoughtful bachelors' theses under my supervision and so provided me with relevant material to read – and engaging interlocutors to discuss it with! – during a critical phase of my own writing process.

Finally, I would like to thank Molly Graham, to whom I dedicate this book, for introducing me to the world of homeopathy and isopathy, and for patiently and lovingly supporting me in finding my own stance in relation to the history of medicine.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter One	
Stuck in the Trenches: Metaphors of War and Their Stronghold on Medicine	15
Chapter Two	
More than Words: Genealogy and Its Relevance in the History of Infectious Diseases	25
Chapter Three	
The Transformation of Knowledge and Its Political Implications.....	37
Chapter Four	
A Tale of Two Worlds: Homeopathy Meets Cholera.....	51
Chapter Five	
The Tension Mounts: Isopathy and the Question of Shifting Loyalties	65
Chapter Six	
The Reception of Homeopathy in England	77
6.1 Historical Context	79
6.2 Pasteurism, or “Homeopathy Gone Mad”	84
6.3 Koch’s Remedy: Apogee or Aberration?	92
6.4 Germs Abound but are Nowhere to be Found.....	101
6.5 Cholera, Commonsense, and Cleanliness.....	111
6.6 Summary.....	126
Chapter Seven	
The Reception of Bacteriology in Germany	129
7.1 Historical Context	132
7.2 Questions about Causation	136
7.3 Confronting Koch: The Same or Similar but Different?	145
7.4 Cholera Conflicts and Political Stakes.....	162
7.5 Summary.....	187
Conclusion	191

Works Cited	195
Abbreviations	217