

<b>Venue:</b>	Doody's Book Review Service
<b>Title:</b>	Book Review: Homeopathy: an illusion of effectiveness, Dinesh Kumar Jain
<b>Date:</b>	2022
<b>Type:</b>	Book Review
<b>Author(s)/ Presenter(s):</b>	Tom Braem
<b>Abstract (or Book Review):</b>	<p>Description: This book provides arguments that the practice of homeopathy is not based on science and may cause harm to practitioners. The chapters present basic concepts of homeopathy followed by evidence for why they are false.</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of the book is to protect people from the dangerous consequences of the practice of homeopathic medicine. This is part of a broader goal to remove illogical and wrong concepts from science and assist in the evolution of knowledge. This is a worthy objective and the examination of healthcare practices that may cause harm is needed. The book presents science-based refutations of basic principles of homeopathy.</p> <p>Audience: The book is intended for a wide audience including practitioners of homeopathy, those who might be interested in it, and practitioners of allopathic medicine. The book does meet the needs of some of the intended audience, but I am unsure if the book will convince practitioners of homeopathic medicine to cease its practice. The author seems to be a credible authority on allopathic medicine and pharmacology based on education, practice, and publications.</p> <p>Features: The author presents a summary of the basic concepts of the practice of homeopathic medicine in individual chapters and then presents science-based reasoning as to why each concept is inaccurate. Chapter 1 is effective in examining the basic concept that "like cures like" as having little basis in science. The concept that homeopathic solutions become more potent the more they are diluted is the topic of chapter two. The author presents a well-reasoned critique of why such a concept makes no sense scientifically. This format is effective and clear, and these two chapters are the most effective of those presented. This same format used for 57 chapters does become repetitious and may not keep readers engaged. The same arguments are used to discredit many of the concepts and</p>

some of the same references are used to support the author's position in numerous chapters. The author uses the argument that the concepts of homeopathy were developed at a time when there was little science on which to base the ideas. The author does use many references to support his opinions, which are not current. There are no illustrations, photographs, appendices, or any other features used, which is a missed opportunity to maintain the interest and engagement of some readers. The authoritative tone may not appeal to engaging practitioners of homeopathy to examine the validity of the practice.

Assessment: The book may be useful to some of the intended audience. Those who already believe that homeopathy has no basis in science may find it a book that supports their opinion. It may not convince those who believe in homeopathic medicine to abandon their beliefs. The author states he is trying to protect the poor and uneducated from the dangers of homeopathy because many of these individuals ignore medical science. A book that uses medical science to debunk homeopathy may not be an effective way to convince those who ignore science to change their beliefs. This book may also not reach that intended audience. I believe the book could be more effective if the author utilized features such as illustrations and more recent citations. I am more familiar with articles such as "A systemic review of systematic reviews of homeopathy," Ernst, E. (2002). *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, 54(6), 577-582. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2125.2002.01699.x> and "Homeopathy -- where is the science?: A current inventory on a pre-scientific artifact," Grams, N. (2019). *EMBO Reports*, 20(3). <https://doi.org/10.15252/embr.201947761> as opposed to other books on this topic. These sources do seem to use similar reasoning as to why homeopathy is not a science-based form of treatment.