

The Sunday Telegraph

Letters to the editor

15 December 2002

I was surprised at your irresponsible article concerning the Horizon programme on homeopathy. It most certainly did not "conclusively discredit" homeopathy. It merely threw doubt onto one speculation as to how some of our medicines may work; a possibility by no means entertained by all homeopaths.

The principle of homeopathy is to treat like with like. The use of infinitely small dilutions is a refinement of this principle but by no means essential to it. Many homeopaths use material quantities of preparations.

Two distinguished scientists found to their surprise that water molecules appeared to have a memory; Horizon did not.

It was preposterous that the magazine Nature should have chosen a conjurer and self-proclaimed showman, with no knowledge of science, to discredit a world-renowned scientist.

Mr Randi says that he will give \$1,000,000 to anyone who can prove that homeopathy can work. If he sat in on a session or two at a NHS homeopathic hospital out-patients (he would have to promise not to do any conjuring tricks), he would have to hand over the money.

So far as the placebo effect is concerned, the vet's experiences should have been much more considered than they were. Babies and the very old respond well to homeopathic medicines. The growing world-wide demand for homeopathy reflects the huge benefits that millions of patients have obtained, and are obtaining, from it.

We must not be misled by the scientist's attitude of "If I can't understand how it works, then it doesn't".

From:

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