

[Source: Soc Hom Registers 1979-98]

This sudden burst of renewed activity led to a very rapid expansion of homeopathy in the UK, and more Colleges became quickly established during the 1980's and 1990's, such that there are now more than 20, including 1 in Wales, 2 in Scotland and a dozen in London and the south of England. The lay movement is now a semi-legitimised profession with its own mode of registration, unified teaching syllabuses, training procedures and self-regulation. And now degree status (see advertisement for LCCH degree course, *The Homeopath* 62, July 1996, p.598). It sits on the brink of full legal recognition. There are approximately 1000 registered homeopaths working in the UK at present with probably the same number of licensed and unregistered homeopaths, and around 1000 medical doctors who practise some form of homeopathy. Many of these practitioners only practise on a part-time basis, and thus these numbers are slightly misleading. The movement is expanding at roughly 8-9% per year. There are thus two strands of the current movement -- the medically qualified, and the lay practitioners. The latter dislike the pejorative title 'lay homeopath', preferring to be referred to as 'professional homeopaths'.

Homeopathy in Wales, Scotland and Eire  
Homeopathy in the British Isles has not been entirely confined to England. There has been almost no homeopathy at all in Wales and no-one seems to know precisely why. There was a homeopath in Dolwyddelan in mid-Wales in the 1860's and also one in Llandudno in north Wales, but no others that I know of. It seems strange because British homeopathy tended to become associated with religious non-conformism and that should have suited the Welsh. My feeling also is that Wales is a largely unstratified society with a working class culture which simply did not gel with homeopathy.

There has also been very little in Ireland, where it was confined to certain towns like Dublin, Galway, Cork and Limerick, as well as some in the Belfast area in the north. Apart from that almost none.

One of the first homeopaths in Ireland was Dr William Walter (c1818-c1890) of Dublin, MD St Andrews 1847 (*Medical Directory*, 1863, p.892). He taught Dr Samuel Kidd (see below). Another important Irish homeopath was Dr Michael Greene (1819-c1890) of Ennis, near Galway, who was the first to use *Crataegus* (Hawthorn). *MRCS England*, 1841 (*Medical Directory*, 1863, p.844).



Probably the most famous Irish homeopath was Dr Samuel Kidd b1824 in Limerick the 17th of 18 children. At

17 he became an apprentice to Dr James O'Shaughnessy (1815-c90; of Limerick; MRCS England 1837 (Medical Directory, 1863, p.874)) in Limerick, and then in 1842 went to Dublin and studied with Dr Walter. Dr Kidd treated people homeopathically in the Irish Potato famine (1850's), and later became physician to Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81), the British Prime Minister, during his final illness.

The single most active Irish homeopath this century was probably Dr William Henry Roberts (c1862-c1955), who ran the Dublin Homeopathic Dispensary for many years until its demise in the early 1950's (Heal Thyself 1932-54). Dr Roberts lived at 63 Lower Mount St, Dublin and was LRCP Edin 1895, LRCS Edin 1885, LMR Dub 1882, and formerly at the **Hahnemann Homeopathic Hospital Liverpool**. He contributed articles regularly to 'Heal Thyself' during the nineteen forties and fifties.



**Hahnemann Homeopathic Hospital Liverpool**

In more recent years there has come into being the Irish Society of Homeopaths, based in Galway. Homeopathy must have seemed very English and aristocratic to the Irish, and as with the Welsh, it might have been viewed therefore as an unwanted aspect of English Imperialism.

