

Letters to the Editor

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Homeopathy helps

Sir, Your distinguished columnist, Oliver Kamm, denounces homeopathy as “bogus”, “fakery” and “dogma” and condemns attempts to retain its continued, limited use in the National Health Service (Thunderer, Jan 19). By contrast, the view of the Queen’s physician, Dr Peter Fisher, writing in the *British Medical Journal* in 2015, is: “When integrated with standard care homeopathy is safe, popular with patients, improves clinical outcomes without increasing costs, and reduces the use of potentially hazardous drugs.”

The costs of homeopathy funded by the NHS are estimated at £4 million out of a multibillion-pound budget, with just £100,000 a year spent on homeopathic remedies, compared with the many millions for antibiotics prescribed for the common cold.

Science cannot yet explain how homeopathy works but there are other natural phenomena it cannot explain. An inquiring, open-minded approach seems more scientific, instead of deriding a form of

treatment that millions in the developed world use regularly because they find it helps to resolve or improve many kinds of medical conditions, including chronic ailments impervious to the best that conventional treatment can offer.

Critics have no persuasive answer to why hundreds of UK doctors use homeopathy alongside conventional treatment, or why it is so widely used in countries such as France, Germany and the Netherlands. It is patients who will suffer if homeopathy is driven from the NHS by this ill-judged derision.

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