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## HOMŒOPATHIC FIRST AID

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Common people in general are habituated to think that First Aid measures fall exclusively in the domain of Allopathy. The reasons for such a notion are:—

(1) First Aid implies to a large extent surgical and mechanical measures. People are not much accustomed to see a Homœopath utilizing any means of treatment other than drug-therapeutics. This again is owing to the following factors:—

(a) Drug-therapeutics has a far wider field in Homœopathy than in Allopathy. A large number of diseases and disorders such as, boils, carbuncles, gangrenes, peptic ulcers, biliary or renal calculi, appendicitis, delayed labour, uterine hæmorrhage etc. which fall in the domain of Surgery or other showy mechanical measures in Allopathy, are quite easily and unpretentiously amenable to a few doses of simple Homœopathic drugs. Hence a Homœopath has a far limited scope of showing his surgical dexterity.

(b) A very large percentage of Homœopaths catering medical aid to vast masses, are self-tutored laymen with little or no institutional training, hence lack any knowledge in surgery etc.

(c) In the situation prevailing today in our country, the Homœopathic institutions and hospitals are in almost all cases manned by Allopathic surgeons and specialists, who are more or less innocent about Homœopathy if not hostile to it. Students taught by them cannot have any idea as to the exact and completely dependable role of homœopathic drugs in the pre or post operative treatment, and other associated conditions. They are

on the contrary, as a rule, taught to depend upon Allopathic sedatives, narcotics, antiseptics even chemotherapeutics and tonics. Hence Surgery etc. remain alien domains even to the institutionally trained Homœopaths, or at best they come out as Allo-Homœopaths.

(2) First Aids are mostly administered by the Emergency Department of Allopathic Institutions, Hospitals and Charitable Dispensaries. Hardly any Homœopathic institution has any Emergency Ward or Department, in full sense of the term. This may be partly due to financial stringency, but the main reason must be lack of sufficient urge; as the poorest of poor unofficial allopathic institutions, even in the days of our foreign domination, had an emergency department as the first essential part of its hospital.

(3) Other unofficial organizations administering First Aid on mass-scale e.g., Red-Cross, St. John Ambulance Brigade etc., keep Allopathic staffs for conducting first aids and training first aid volunteers. Cadres of different official and unofficial departments e.g., Railways, Shipyards, Engineering firms etc., are trained in First Aid methods by Allopathic surgeons.

Thus in the present situation, Homœopathy has no gate of entry into this field, and is forced to keep outside the common current of society in this vital matter; and that for no deficiency of its own. As a matter of fact, in comparison with Allopathy, it has far greater scope of saving lives in emergency situations, only provided the mechanical part of First Aid is learned by Homœopathic cadres. A timely and suitable administration of drugs like Arnica, Calendula, Bellis, Rhus Tox, Ruta, Ledum, Hypericum, Staphy., Arsenic, Echinacea, Sulph. Ac., Phosphorus, China etc.—can avert catastrophies where any amount of sedatives, narcotics, stimulants, antiseptics, sulphadruugs, or the modern Panacea antibiotics are of no avail, nay often positively harmful. This has been admitted and even advocated by a large number surgeons of great eminence like—Auto Bier, George Royal, A. M. Linn, Dorothy Shephard, Mc. Cready, D. M. Foubister etc.

If we want to establish our legitimate rights in this field we have got to fulfill the following tasks:—

(1) *Arrangement for teaching Surgery, Gynæcology, Obstetrics etc. on Homœopathic basis.* We should earnestly urge upon the Allopathic Surgeons, Gynæcologists etc. of our Homœopathic institutions to take the trouble of learning a little bit of Homœopathy and give it a fair trial on their patients in the wards and out-patients department, if necessary in consultation with their Homœopathic colleagues in the same institutions, so that they may whole-heartedly participate in turning out true Homœopathic doctors from the institutions, instead of mere Allo-Homœopaths. Further more, they should be entreated to take some more interest in teaching their students so that some of them having any interest and knack in any of the special lines, may go out after due amount of Post-graduate training, with sufficient self-confidence as specialist in their respective lines on perfect Homœopathic basis.

(2) Every Homœopathic Hospital or Charitable Dispensary must have an Emergency Department and a First Aid Training Centre.

(3) Official and unofficial concerns and charitable bodies should be pressed for utilizing Homœopathic First Aid cadres.

(4) Homœopathic Associations should have their own First Aid Corps and Brigades, and utilize them for serving the people on the occasion of any catastrophe or whenever called for.

(5) Homœopathic Private Practitioners should learn by their own efforts, as thoroughly as possible the First Aid methods on Homœopathic basis. For this purpose some quite dependable books are now available in the market e.g. 'হোমিওপ্যাথিতে প্রাথমিক প্রতিবিধান' by Dr. B. K. Bose, "A Treatise on Homœopathic Surgery" by Dr. R. P. Patel and Dr. P. Elias, "Homœopathy for the First Aider" by Dorothy Shepherd. Of course every body must have the book: "First Aid to the Injured" (also available in vernaculars) published by St. John Ambulance Association.

If these tasks are conscientiously fulfilled another wall that isolates the Homœopaths from the current problems of the society will be demolished. We cannot and must not fail in this noble duty.