

## HOMŒOPATHIC MIXTURES AND INJECTIONS

### A Rejoinder to Dr. Kanjilal's Appeal

DR. MOHAN SINGH, Patiala

I am in perfect agreement with Dr. Kanjilal's views and I trust that most of the lovers of Homœopathy would uphold the principles laid down by him. I have myself tried mixtures and injections. They are neither safe nor rapid. They don't cure, but they have many points in their favour.

1. They look like allopathy whose protagonists claim for themselves the monopoly of being scientific. The users of Dr. Seal's injections appear more advanced in the eyes of the patients, so they command greater popularity, inspire more confidence and get fatter fees.

2. Medicine began as magic, and to the ignorant and the uninstructed, an injection is a magic rite, more tangible, more appealing than a few pellets of sugar or a teaspoonful of tasteless water. The patient and his friends perceive that something is being done for the sufferer and the high charges are a guarantee that they are getting the most costly treatment available.

3. Coming to the practitioners we find that the institutional training given in our medical colleges is so tiring, so unmeaningful to the learner, that the capacity for logical thinking is washed away. Naturally there is a feeling (often unconscious) that the medical practitioner has a right to be recompensed for the expenses incurred, for the labour spent, and for the grind undergone, so he welcomes a short cut to that goal of curing patients, as laid down by Hahnemann, and prescribes the latest injection or pill that the manufacturers or their agents bring forcibly and incessantly to his notice. If the injection is untried, so much the better, for that small inner voice (conscience) need not trouble him.

4. When the patient does not get any benefit, knowing the futility of remonstrance, he suffers silently for a time, then goes to

another practitioner, to be plucked once more to another physician, who extracts his fees and prescribes something equally modern, equally senseless, and this goes on and on until the angel of death comes to close the scene.

5. Manufacturers of Homœopathic medicines are constantly pestered by their clients for such short cuts to easy prescribing, and because they are businessmen, they are naturally ready to take advantage of such demand. The fact that firms like Boericke and Tafel of Philadelphia, Ehrhart and Karl of Chicago, Madaus and Wilmar Schwabe of West Germany—all manufacture such mixtures, is proof that such products are popular, that there is a demand for them, and that they bring profit to the Manufacturers and benefit to the practitioners. Moreover such products are demanded by a section of the people who are encouraged (by suitable advertisements) to buy and use such proprietary preparations for their complaints without a prescription. This gives the people a feeling of power.

6. In India there is another factor which cannot be ignored: that is our *Government*. And this is a very significant factor. They jingle their pockets with the poor man's hard-earned money and offer it to any one who comes to claim it on *their conditions*. In Medicine that condition is *research*. The tag with the research is that it ought to be of the allopathic kind, (which they call Scientific), and which is sponsored by W.H.O. and which in turn is financed by the drug manufacturers of England, Europe and America. There are conscientious objectors in that august body, but their protests are met with *complete silence*; as a result their small pipes don't reach the public who are bombarded with the propaganda that quinine kills malaria, that vaccination will eradicate smallpox, that BCG will end tuberculosis, that Salk vaccine is necessary to escape polio, that Anacine with its four poisons is a greater killer of pain than APC with only three poisons.

7. The research in medicine is of a very special kind. A doctor gets the idea that cancer may be caused by a viral infection. He applies to the centre for Cancer Research, gets a grant of money, a well-equipped laboratory and a few research scholars to work on the lines prescribed by the director. That all such work

has proved sterile does not deter, for it is in the name of Science. The basic qualification for such research are:

- (a) an easy (almost dormant) conscience,
- (b) a love for the good things of life.

Naturally there are many such persons in all lands as well as in India. And they reap a rich harvest. Why should any one grudge them the Government dole?

8. One may wonder if it were not the duty of the Government to appraise what use is being made of the poor man's earnings, given as grants, made in the name of research! But this research is directed by people who had their brains washed in England or America, and who have brought some pet ideas with them, they prefer some adventurers to perform jugglers, tricks in medicine in order that their own vagaries are not too minutely looked into. What difference does it make if some speculators undermine the Science of Homœopathy and waste half a lakh of public money! And if their own failings are pointed out they always say, "Someone else has donè the samè." Ayurveda has abandoned its own principles and adopted those of allopathy for the lure of lucre offered by the Government.

9. Is there a remedy? I believe there is; but it does not lie in appeals made to such exploiters. They have wives who hunger for fashionable saries, for gold and jewels. They have children whom they aspire to send to England and America. Why should they deny themselves the easy money doled out by the Government to please Dr. Kanjilal? The remedy lies in educating the people (which is a very difficult thing to do), and in making genuine homœopathy more efficacious, by making Homœopathic Colleges free of all spurious gadgets smuggled in the name of science to earn a grant. We should so manage our colleges that the trainees become quick observers and accurate prescribers, so that the patients do not have to look about for something else. Homœopathic prescribing is never easy, but because the human brain is the most wonderful machine, such prescribing is possible. When that is done, all false claimants will be eliminated.

10. Our trainees should be devoted and selfless. The example was set by the master himself. Hunted out of his homèland, per-

secuted by his peers, reduced to extreme poverty, he devoted himself heart and soul to the task of discovering a cure for the incurable disease. And when the *truth* was revealed to him, he wrote: "... I should have to consider myself as lacking very much in worldly prudence to make known for the *common good*, even before my death, an art which I alone possess, and which it is within my power to make as profitable as possible by simply keeping it secret." (Preface to the *Chronic Diseases*).

The ordinary practitioner may fear that following in the footsteps of the Master could lead him to penury, his attention is invited to Dr. Robert's warning in his *The Principles and Art of Cure by Homœopathy*. He says: "The decision lies with the individual and what he is determined to secure from his life-work. If it is financial ambition, he had better not take up homœopathy. Homœopathy is a principle, and principles brook no division of loyalty. If he has at heart the desire to serve, he may find fame and riches at his door as well as that keen satisfaction of knowing that he has brought to his clientele the gift of healing in the safest, gentlest and most rapid manner."

---