

## ACHARYA NARENDRANATH

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Having for decades been serving the cause of Homœopathy individually and also collectively in consort with various institutions, I have had and still have the pleasure and opportunity of coming in contact with Homœopaths of varying shades and colors, with varying dogmas and ideologies. I have come in contact with some, with a long array of alphabets in different compositions, after their names, denoting degrees of their medical qualifications, professing themselves as Homœopaths. I have come in contact with others who had never had the opportunity of obtaining any degree to guarantee and justify their medical knowledge, yet ardent homœopaths at that.

The irony of the presence of these two types of Homœopaths in the field of homœopathy has given rise to a regrettable contrast, a contrast in so far as the appreciation and propagation of the sublime doctrine of homœopathy is concerned.

The first type of homœopaths, vain glorious of their degrees, have almost as a rule been so obtuse and self-conscious that they behave with the others, not so blessed with any degree, with an air of high-nosed superciliousness, although it is almost a general case that the vanity of degrees have so saddled their brains that they, many of them, miserably fail to grasp the inherent spirit of the doctrine of homœopathy, even though they prattle so much.

An estimation of the activities and attainments of those not-so-blessed and, therefore, pitied by the above mentioned sophisticated type of dyed-in-the wool pseudo-homœopaths, conclusively proves that degree and dogmas do not count in the realm of homœopathy. It proves conclusively that even the so-called layman can attain to dizzy heights of homœopathic knowledge, if, only, with ardent zeal and enterprising investigations they care to delve into the depths of the philosophic tenets of homœopathy of Samuel Hahnemann, league by league.

Such was Acharya Narendranath Banerjee as I knew him for long. Unassuming, he was simple and honest. With a heart kindled with the fire of Hahnemannian Homœopathy, with a sustaining faith born of his precise knowledge of the science and art of homœopathy, he has reaped many a victory in the grim battle against diseases and has rescued many a patient from the clutches of death.

So deep-rooted conviction and faith he had, for his strict adherence to the grand, old, but constantly ever new Organon and for his constant study and reference to the *Materia Medica*, that even when at death's door he not only pleasantly refused to take any other form of treatment, but often times himself made awe-inspiring prescriptions for his own self; and such was his

superb intelligence that he would discuss the pros and cons of every medicine if ever ventured to be suggested by any well-intentioned friend; and would pleasantly point out their loop-holes, if any, thereby teaching them—indirectly though—about the basic principles to be strictly adhered to, to prescribe the real homœopathic similimum. He thus, attained the position of an “Acharya” to many of his associates.

Can one find many a physician of the type and eminence of Narendranath, from amongst the leading homœopaths of the day including the not-so-small number of the degree-holders? one fondly asks. With a gloomy heart one may ask again, if one shall not have to seek for allopathic help in despair, when one will find oneself critically ill—for one finds with dismay the dearth, if not altogether absence of true, efficient, real homœopathic prescriber from among the homœopaths of the day.

Yes, homœopathy is passing through bad times. There is a strong and vile tendency to modify and abridge homœopathy in such a way that, if not checked, homœopathy is feared to be annulled, with only an obscure mention of its name in the pages of the history of medicine, in not so distant future. The nemesis is on the horizon. Yet, it is no good losing heart. We shall not grieve over the passing away of Narendranath at his ripe old age of 77 years. We shall pray, we shall promise to strive to produce many more Narendranaths in our fold. We shall not yield.

Acharya Narendranath is survived by his four sons who are all ardent devotees of homœopathy. Narendranath has also left for us his great book “Oushadh Parichaya” or “Drug Acquaintance”—a book worthy of its nomenclature.

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advances in medicine and surgery (and we as doctors are heirs to them all), I state my belief that Homœopathy still has, and always will have, an invaluable place in medical treatment—otherwise I would not have continued its use all these 50 years.

—*The Brit. Homœo. Jourl., July, '60*

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