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EDITORIAL

UNITED ALL INDIA PLATFORM FOR HOMŒOPATHS

There is hardly any person today who does not realise the urgent and indispensable necessity of a united common platform for all the Homœopaths of India for any substantial progress of Homœopathy in our country. Attempts for the formation of such a platform have been continuing all along and especially for last three years. But still the goal is remaining unachieved. It is high time that we should try to critically assess the obstacles in our path as objectively and frankly as possible, so that they may be removed and the move for unity make a headway.

There exist two main camps in the homœopathic society of India today viz., (1) the camp which cares only for unity with little heed for quality, (2) the camp which is rather overcautious about quality even at the cost of unity.

I. **The camp for unity**—in its inordinate and exclusive urge for unity seems to be totally negligent about quality and takes into its fold any body who claims himself to be a homœopath without caring to look into the bona fides of the candidate as a physician (with knowledge in general medical science) or as a homœopath (with knowledge and faith in the basic principles of Homœopathy). By this stand this camp of course swell up in number, but at the same time, inadvertently becomes the refuge for a large number of career-seekers who have got all sorts of interests other than the real good of Homœopathy. Thanks to this process, we find in the various States of India a good number of various sorts of interested people working up themselves into the helms of Homœopathic affairs in their respective States, and through them into those of the Central Government, by dint of their numerical backing and various sorts of relation with the authorities. This phenomenon naturally dismays the other camp.

Of course, we find in this camp a large number of worthy people who have acquired a universal respect as Homœopathic physicians on the score of erudition, clean practice and substantial work for true Homœopathy.

simply by dint of their personal endeavour and perseverance with intelligence and honesty, without in many cases, ever having any opportunity of going through any regular institutional training.

II. The camp for quality—in its inordinate yearning for quality forgets one fundamental fact that, in our country there is not yet any universally accepted uniform standard for Homœopathic qualification. That is why anybody having no knowledge in general medicine or Homœopathy can have equal claim to call himself a Homœopath as any person having some medical qualification with little knowledge and confidence in Homœopathy, simply on the ground that both of them occasionally use Homœopathic medicine in their practice. Even among those Homœopaths who hold any officially recognised diploma after going through a full course of study in the various Homœopathic teaching institutions recognised or affiliated by the Homœopathic boards or councils of the various States, we do not find any uniformity of standard of qualification, as the course of study in these teaching institutions in the different States vary from 2 years to 4 years. Apart from that, the course and curriculum as they exist today in the best Homœopathic teaching institutions are so defective that the students hardly get any opportunity to get acquainted with the basic principles and methods of Homœopathy as well as with fundamental facts of the various medical subjects, far from understanding any relation of the one with the other. That is why we find that, most of the homœopaths yielded by these teaching institutions having little knowledge in general medicine as well as homœopathy are failing to face hard competition in the field of practice and are turning into mixopaths or adjustopaths or what not. But you cannot call any of these types of homœopaths as any thing other than qualified homœopaths whatever may be their real worth.

Besides these complicated problems, there are in the camp of so-called qualified homœopaths, a good number of people who hold high qualifications in general medicine, but insufficient knowledge and conviction in homœopathic principles. This is mainly due to their failure to get themselves free from the prejudices and traditional ideas of orthodox medicine. This deficiency of theirs, they often try to rationalise and gloss over by their sophistry, in which they are quite adept, by dint of their higher standard of education. These members of the camp of qualified homœopaths are looked upon with awe and suspicions by the members of the other camp.

It is needless to mention that this camp also contains a good number of people who hold most honourable position both as homœopaths and erudite physicians as well as most effective and honest leaders of homœopathic movement.

Thus we see, a veritable chaos is prevailing in the homœopathic society of India to-day, and this is quite natural so long as the doors of the society remain open to anybody whatever may be his education, proficiency, bona-fides or even purpose.

It is a good thing that this chaotic situation is coming to an end by the passing and enforcement of Homœopathic Acts in the various States and acceptance of the uniform curriculum and syllabus for Homœopathic Education formulated by the Homœopathic Advisory Committee, by the Central Government. But the ending of one situation does not necessarily mean the oncoming of a better situation unless and until there is a virile and conscious force to usher and avail the new situation and work it up to limitless progress.

Very unfortunately no such force does exist in the homœopathic society today on State level or All India level. That is why we are seeing that any innovation or reform falling on the homœopathic society is depending on the sweet will of the authorities who cannot be expected to be acquainted with the real interest of Homœopathy, even if they sincerely mean any good to the latter. There exists no unified body of Homœopaths on State level or Union level to assess the quality of the innovations in the interest of Homœopathy or the homœopathic society, to amend them and implement them. Various sections of homœopaths press upon the authorities from diverse stands, so that the authorities concerned fall in confusion even if they mean good business.

So, the crux of the problem for the homœopathic society in India today is the formation of a strong and unified All India Organisation of Homœopaths. As soon as such a body is formed, the open dissensions as well as the various irregularities and diversities in the homœopathic affairs and societies among the various States or within each State will start to be solved out by gradual process, and an era of real progress of Homœopathy in India will begin. No well-meaning homœopath in either camp can afford to undervalue or evade this absolutely indispensable primary task.

Now let us come to the organisational aspect of the problem. It is a known fact that there exist two pioneer, well-established All India Organisations representing the two camps of the homœopathic society of India viz., the All India Homœopathic Medical Association and the All India Institute of Homœopathy. If these two premier bodies join hands with each other on all India level, all well-meaning homœopaths or homœopathic organisations in all the States are bound to join hands with the united All India body; any one refusing to do that shall suffer natural liquidation.

We cordially congratulate the All India Homœopathic Medical Association—the oldest of the homœopathic organisations of India with active branches in almost all the States of India, for its sincere and whole-hearted gesture of unity as expressed in their meeting held in Delhi on 19th December 1964. In that meeting the Association went so far as to express its desire to forego its long cherished name and merge with the other premier all India body—the All India Institute of Homœopathy and acquire a new name for the combined All India Homœopathic Organisation. Anybody can easily appreciate the amount of honest intention and candid spirit expressed in

one's readiness to forego one's very name and banner for the sake of greater unity. The Association, we know, is still maintaining the same gesture since that date and continuing negotiations with the All India Institute of Homœopathy. But we feel much worried to find that the latter organisation is still hesitating to respond correspondingly. The main reason for this, so far as we have been able to gather, is the overzealousness for "qualification" on the part of some of the top-ranking members of the Institute. We would like to entreat these leaders to assess the value and meaning of the term "qualification" as it applies up-to-date, in the background discussed above. We further like to remind them of the fact that as soon as the Homœopathic Acts are thoroughly enforced in the various States and in the whole Union, the problem of "unqualified Homœopath" will cease to exist for good. Before that, their inordinate zeal for qualification will help nobody—neither themselves nor the homœopathic society; and they must realise that they cannot move an inch by ignoring and leaving behind the vast mass of "unqualified" homœopaths. If these leaders fail to realise the significance of this historical fact, the opportunists and carrer-seekers in the homœopathic society will take full advantage of the loose and unorganised situation, and by various manipulations will capture the various official measures for Homœopathy in the various States (which is actually happening in some States), and the present moves by the various State Governments and the Union Government, instead of providing unlimited scope for the development of Homœopathy in India, will spell its doom. On the other hand if the two premier organisations join hands with each other, it is mainly the well-meaning and most respected leaders of both sides who will come to the forefront and to the helm of homœopathic affairs in all the States and the Centre. This united organisation will be the effective custodian and fighter for the real interests of Homœopathy and the homœopathic society in India.

As to the *form* of the All India Organisation, however much we appreciate the spirit of the intention of the A. I. H. M. A. for a merger with the A. I. I. H. we do not feel that, at least for the present, there is any possibility for the formation of a *unitary* body on all India basis. But the formation of a *federal body* is quite easy and feasible. And we should remain satisfied with that much for the time being. This federal body should be primarily constituted by the two premier All India Organisations joining hands with each other on agreed aims and objects and common programme, keeping the integrity of their respective organisations intact and unaffected. This is precisely the basis on which the West Bengal State Homœopathic Federation is working for last 5 years with gradually increasing success, achievements and solidarity, on State basis.

This sort of organisation will obviate any form of misgiving in the mind of any well-meaning homœopath in either camp. Still, if any body ventures to form a separate organisation, he will find no substantial foothold

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any where. We are sure, as soon as an All India Homœopathic Federation will be formed all sincere Homœopaths and homœopathic organisations in all the States will join hands with that and Indian Homœopaths will be in a position to raise their voice from one platform which is bound to be listened to by every body, a new epoch for Indian Homœopathy will be heralded.

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