

OBSERVATIONS ON DAVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Dave Committee deserves all praise for its coming to the conclusion that a separate Council for Homœopathic Medicine and separate Directorates for the Centre and the States are necessary for the development of Homœopathic Education and Practice according to its genius. Experience of the last 6 years, since the Report of the Homœopathic Inquiry Committee, shows that the possible control of Homœopathic Education and treatment by the Medical Council and Directorates wedded to the Allopathic System would create many difficulties and hamper the spread of Homœopathy due to a lack of understanding of the system, on the part of the authorities concerned.

If the Dave Committee's recommendations are acted upon by the Central and the State Governments, the expectation of Dr. Sen, President of the Madhya Pradesh Homœopathic Board, to establish a properly equipped Homœopathic College and Hospital in each State "to send out Generals to direct the intensive war against disease and ill-health" will soon materialise.

The recommendation of the Committee to provide post-graduate training to Homœopathic Graduates, refresher courses and facility for research, when implemented, will in the words of Dr. Sen, "create a body of Homœopaths who will be able to tackle complicated cases which require higher training and specialisation".

The recommendation of the Committee to establish an uniform standard of Homœopathic education by making obligatory on all Homœopathic Institutions a 5½ years' course, and by levelling up existing institutions, though to all appearances is a good proposal, unless the Central and the State Governments fully realise the implications thereof and ungrudgingly give financial and other facilities as they give to an Allopathic Institution, in practice it will mean "control without facilities"

and will nip in the bud the educational activity obtaining at present under the auspices of Homœopathic Boards in some States. As rightly observed by Dr. Sen in the Memorandum to the Dave Committee, "the state of Homœopathic Education today is precisely what Allopathic Education was 60 years ago, when students used to be trained in medical schools having the minimum equipment, and were sent out just to practise medicine and to spread it all over the country. What we see today, has been due to the ceaseless efforts of the Government in the last 60 years, and still we find there is immense room for improvement". Therefore, though the establishment of one college in each State with 5½ years' course will be a "distinct stride" in homœopathic Education, the question will remain whether the product of such institutions will carry the benefit of the system to the rural areas.

Until we see the Report of the Committee we cannot say whether the Committee has made it clear with sufficient emphasis that a uniform standard of Homœopathic Education cannot be obtained as long as Governments are not prepared to provide necessary finance and facility and as long as Governments take discriminatory attitude towards the system. Otherwise the fate of the Dave Committee Report will not be much different from that of the Homœopathic Inquiry Committee. It is long since the latter Report was approved by the Health Ministers' Conferences. The Report contained a recommendation that one Central Model Homœopathic Teaching Institution should be established. Had the Central Government acted accordingly, by this time the product of such institution would have provided a teaching staff for a college in each State, of the type of Dave Committee's recommendations. The Bombay State Homœopathic law has prescribed 4 years' diploma course and 5 years' degree course. But inspite of a lapse of 5 years the State has not established even one homœopathic school or college. When any move by a private agency is made in that direction, it is told that Government has no money, it is for the people to provide necessary funds. In the present economic conditions obtaining in the country, for a costly education like in medicine, it is im-

possible to expect people to bear such a burden. For the levelling up of existing Homœopathic Institutions in West Bengal, recognised by the West Bengal Homœopathic Faculty, it is suggested by the Government that they should be consolidated into one Institution, instead of being provided with necessary finances to each or some of them for the purpose.

When this is contrasted with the almost annual addition of Allopathic Colleges with their huge buildings, it would not be pessimism to predict that the Indian Homœopaths will have to pass through undulating waves of hope and despair in the indefinite future.

When a 5 years' course is prescribed in an Allopathic College, unless we see the Report, it is not possible to appreciate why the Committee has gone beyond that limit.
