

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY  
OF THE ALL-INDIA INSTITUTE,  
OF HOMŒOPATHY**

The Hon'ble President and Members of the All-India  
Institute of Homœopathy,

I deem it a great privilege of mine on this historic day to stand as an humble worker and place before the worthy members of the Homœopathic profession a brief survey of the progress of Homœopathy in India in the past few years effected mainly through the multifarious activities of the All-India Institute of Homœopathy.

As General Secretary of the aforesaid organisation, it is my bounden duty to acquaint you with all those facts and figures that may help you to form a correct reading of the whole situation, whereby you may be in a position to carry on your deliberations in the right spirit and chalk out an elaborate as well as an effective plan for the future advancement of Homœopathy in general and of our organisation in particular.

Ever since Dr. Honigberger of Germany entered the Majestic Court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Lahore, Homœopathy began to find its way in our country. Bands of missionaries, civilians and other enthusiasts made their individual efforts for the propagation of this noble science. In its early stages Homœopathy in India, found its best exponents in Calcutta, and from there it spread to the whole of Bengal. The profession shall ever remain indebted to the enthusiastic and indefatigable efforts of the great luminaries like Dr. Mahendra Lal Sirkar, Majumdar, Bhaduri, Berigny, Roy, Salzer, Yunan, Nag, Barid Baran, and numerous other Homœopathists, who carried the torch of Homœopathy throughout the length and breadth of this vast sub-continent. They were instrumental in starting institutions for training, opening hospitals, dispensaries and pharmacies that have been doing admirable

service to Homœopathy for more than fifty years. Their miraculous cures astonished medical practitioners, as well as the lay public. Homœopathy began to grow popular on account of its sterling qualities so much so that a number of youngmen gladly went to foreign countries for the special studies in Homœopathy; and on their return home they dedicated their lives for the sake of this unique science. Drs. A. N. Mukerjee, G. N. Sinha, B. K. Bose Saha, J. N. Majumdar, Ghose, are some of the living examples of those personalities whose sacrifices shall ever remain as our guiding principles in future.

Seeing this marvellous success and unexpected popularity of Homœopathy Black-marketeers entered our ranks. Adulteration started and mushroom growths in Homœopathic field became the order of the day. It was nothing uncommon because throughout the long history of mankind it has been observed that every good movement was polluted and misused by undesirable elements that somehow or the other found their way into its rank and file. Bogus institutions were started, and very little attention was paid to the quality and standard of medical education and service. Matters went from bad to worse with the result that Homœopathy began to be looked down upon as something humbug and a cheating business. Even the duly trained practitioners were despised by the dominant school; and the Government, too, did not pay any attention towards the betterment of the situation. There were institutions like The Calcutta and Bengal Allen Homœopathic Medical Colleges and Hospitals as well as the Calcutta Homœo. Society that found some support from official and non-official quarters. But even they had to work under great drawbacks and economic strain.

Thus automatically a situation arose when every intelligent member of the Homœopathic profession began to feel and realise the necessity for Government recognition and control without which the future of Homœopathy was decidedly doomed. We were students in those days and

were surprised to see how the authorities of the Calcutta College had to struggle every now and then for the little crumbs (of support) they hoped to get through stray visits from some Government officials or the other. We were deeply impressed by the helpless plight in which Homœopathy was placed in those days and made up our minds to do our utmost for the removal of all obstacles to the progress of Homœopathy in this country.

It was exactly in that spirit that I along with some other colleagues entered the profession in 1936 after finishing my College career in due course. We were quite novices in the art of practical politics. Even then we did not lose courage. We were fortunate enough to settle at Delhi and thus were in a position to knock at the door of each and every member of the Central Assembly till at last we succeeded in persuading Mr. Ghiasuddin to move the famous Homœopathic Resolution of 1936 that was passed by the Assembly in spite of the bitter opposition from the Government benches.

That resolution, Sir, paved the way for our march onwards. It gave a marvellous impetus to the veteran Homœopaths of Bengal, who re-doubled their efforts and finally succeeded in the establishment of the State Faculty for Homœopathic Medicine in their province in 1943. Other provinces also took up the agitation for the recognition of Homœopathy, but their efforts were unfortunately handicapped on account of the World War II. We had ample opportunities in those days to come in contact with various official as well as non-official personalities. Our talks with them impressed on us the fact that they were much prejudiced against Homœopathy due to the ever-growing quackery in its ranks, and they were not ready to listen to any representation from organisations and associations that were formed by members not at all qualified for medical practice.

Shortly after the war we renewed our efforts for the proper organisation of Homœopathy, without which, we

were sure, Government would never care to consider our case. In this connection, we held several informal consultations with members of the then existing associations of Homœopathy. We expressed our willingness to work with them provided they agreed to organise these bodies along lines that may clearly mark out the positions and privileges of qualified and trained practitioners as distinguished from those that were not duly qualified. And we were sorry to note that our arguments and talks had no influence over them as they wanted to put all categories of Homœopaths into one without any distinction of class and privilege. We were thus compelled to form an organisation of purely qualified Homœopaths which may enable us to plead the cause of Homœopathy in Govt. circles, with a greater force.

The war had ended; and all of a sudden a new life was visible in the whole of the country. For the first time in her history India had seen the formation of an Interim Government which was regarded almost equal to a National Government. And like other parties we were also anxious to derive from it as much benefit for our cause as possible. We were thus in a hurry to organise ourselves, as our individual efforts did not seem to carry any weight with those in authority.

Consequently with the consent of Dr. A. N. Mukerji of Calcutta and the blessings of good many leading Homœopaths in the country, the All-India Institute of Homœopathy was formed in 1945 with its central office at Delhi. A provisional constitution was drawn up as well as a provisional executive was elected, which has been carrying on the work so far. Our work started in right earnest, we immediately issued a pamphlet named "Homœopathy in India" which was widely circulated amongst Government and Assembly members. We carried an extensive correspondence with the Health Minister. But due to the tense atmosphere in the country we could not achieve much till the end of 1946. In December 1946 we were

granted permission to meet the Health Minister in deputation. We hurriedly arranged for the deputation and were fortunate to catch hold of Dr. Dewan Jaichand of Lahore who very kindly came down to Delhi and lead our deputation on December 23 at 4-30 p.m. to the residence of Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, the then Health Minister of India.

Other Members of the Deputation were:—

- Dr. Dayashanker, Delhi.
- Dr. J. Laurent, Mussoorie.
- Dr. K. G. Saxena, Delhi.
- Dr. P. N. Chopra, Lahore.
- Dr. S. P. Asthana, Delhi.
- Dr. R. P. Sharma, Aligarh.
- Dr. J. P. Srivastava, Delhi.

The Health Minister patiently heard Dr. Jaichand and Dayashanker about the step-motherly treatment meted to Homœopathy by Bhore Committee. The deputation requested him to recognise and utilise Homœopathy in the future health plan of India. The Health Minister promised to do his best and asked the deputation to submit concrete proposals.

The draft proposals were duly considered by the executive of the Institute and submitted to the Govt. on 15th March 1947. The main features of the proposals were as follows:—

- (i) Recognition of Homœopathy by Govt. in pursuance of the Homœopathic Resolution passed by the Central Assembly in 1936.
- (ii) Starting of Homœo. Hospitals and Colleges in all provinces, and an All-India Board of Control to be set up.
- (iii) Research Institute.
- (iv) Foreign studies (facilities for).
- (v) Facilities for working in epidemics.
- (vi) Post-graduate Training classes for allopathic and other medical graduate.
- (vii) Dispensaries in villages and towns.

- (viii) Homœopathic Drug legislation.
- (ix) Practice by unregistered practitioners to be prohibited.
- (x) Enquiry Committee to be appointed—
  - (a) on the existing condition of Homœopathy,
  - (b) on the scope for its progress in future,
  - (c) on ways and means to implement the recommendation and proposals, mentioned above.

II. Names recommended for the Enquiry Committee personnel:—

- |     |                    |    |            |
|-----|--------------------|----|------------|
| 1.  | Dr. A. N. Mukerjee | .. | Calcutta.  |
| 2.  | „ Dewan Jaichand   | .. | Lahore.    |
| 3.  | „ J. N. Majumdar   | .. | Calcutta.  |
| 4.  | „ S. C. Ghose      | .. | Calcutta.  |
| 5.  | „ Dayashanker      | .. | Delhi.     |
| 6.  | „ N. M. Jaisoorya  | .. | Hyderabad. |
| 7.  | „ T. Janaki Ram    | .. | Madras.    |
| 8.  | „ L. D. Dhawale    | .. | Bombay.    |
| 9.  | „ J. N. Hazra      | .. | Agra.      |
| 10. | „ K. G. Saxena     | .. | Delhi.     |

The Indian Independence was inaugurated in August 1947, and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur became the First Health Minister of India. On behalf of the Institute I had the honour to meet her on numerous occasions and impress upon her the importance of giving practical shape to our proposals. Our talks and discussions were highly helpful in clearing most of the misunderstandings and I am glad to inform you that she has now become very much sympathetic towards Homœopathy and specially towards the genuine efforts made by our organisations. The Hon'ble Minister is no doubt deadly against all sorts of quackery and will never agree to proposals that would in any way lower the standard of medical service in the country.

The tragedies of partition disturbed the whole atmosphere and our work was greatly hampered. Even then our contact with the Govt. continued. We were the first to

approach the Health Minister in those troublesome days to offer our services for the medical relief to refugees. The Minister very much appreciated our move, but expressed her inability to use our services as the policy of the Govt. towards Homœopathy was yet to be formulated and clearly defined. I also addressed an appeal to revered Bapuji and was trying to seek an interview with him, when his sudden assassination brought a great setback in our activities. I, however, learnt through Raj Kumarijee that she had a long discussion with Mahatmaji over my letter and for Homœopathy.

It was under these circumstances that Mr. Samanta got his resolution tabled on the floor of the Indian Parliament. We had further talks and correspondence with the Health Minister in this connection. We were also fortunate to benefit by the valuable suggestions of Shri Mohanlal Saxena, then Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party, whose amendment was finally accepted by the Government on 17th February, 1948. The debate in the parliament was highly interesting. Several prominent speakers like the Congress President, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, L. Deshbandhu Gupta, and Shri Shibbanlal Saxena strongly supported the cause of Homœopathy. Of course behind the scenes much spade-work had to be done before the matters came to such a successful end. Even then the Govt. took several months in consulting the provinces. The Govt. announced on 30th September 1948, the personnel of the Committee for the Enquiry of Homœopathy in India together with its terms of reference. And we are glad to draw your attention to the fact that most of the Homœopathic members of the Committee were members of the Institute and the remaining few too agreed to enrol themselves as early as possible. The Committee started their work on Oct. 15, 1949. We arranged a grand reception on that evening at Hotel Imperial to the Hon'ble Health Minister and the members of the Committee. The function was also attended by Dr. Raja, the Director General of

Health Services and several other prominent figures in the Capital.

The report of the Committee is now before you and it is not advisable for me to prejudice your views by offering my comments at this stage. There have been severe criticisms on the Committee report in press and on the platform. But so far the members of the Institute have kept silent and tried to endorse the move of the Govt. with regard to the general policies about homœopathy. On the whole I can say after my talks and discussions with Ministers and Govt. officials that there is not much difference between the views of the Govt. and that of the Institute.

Besides the above activities Institute has succeeded in gaining influence with the Govt. in other respects also. Our contact with the Rehabilitation Minister Shri Mohanlal Saxena has been very helpful in advancing the prestige of Homœopathy as well as that of the Institute in the eyes of the Govt. He was kind enough to give us a chance to run a Homœopathic Centre in Delhi on Co-operative Health Scheme basis. And he was so much pleased to see the success of this one centre that he issued orders for the opening of other ones, with the result that to-day we have got 4 centres in Delhi running in different refugee areas. These centres besides giving relief to the suffering masses at nominal cost have provided employment to our displaced Homœopaths from Pakistan. And you would be very glad to learn that the Government have ordered those centres to be run under the direct supervision of the All-India Institute of Homœopathy. We are looking to the day, when through our working capacity and able demonstration we would persuade our patriotic Ministers to open Homœo. Centres throughout India and start Homœo. Hospitals to prove the efficacy of our science in rendering wide-scale relief to the suffering masses.

You would thus realise, Sir, that the influence and importance of the Institute has grown beyond our expect-



tations and now it is up to us to mar it or enhance it as we like.

Right here I would like to sound a serious note of warning. As an organisation we are still in the elementary stage. Though the name of the Institute has been kept in the forefront, yet most of the things have been accomplished through personal contacts and influence. I, therefore, make an earnest appeal to you all to realise your heavy responsibilities as the architects of Homœopathic firmament and make the best of the present circumstances. I am an humble worker and can by no means claim any perfection on my part. My colleagues and I had to work against innumerable odds. We had very meagre funds at our disposal, so much so that we have not been able to organise even a regular office as yet. During the course of the last 5 years I could get only one chance to visit a few States of Bengal, Bihar, U. P. and the Punjab. And though the results were not very encouraging we are glad to announce that besides our Delhi Branch, we have to-day several other branches in U. P. and the Punjab, where members are enthusiastically busy in organising themselves. In U. P. the regular Homœopathic Association has got itself incorporated with the Institute. It is very glaring example of our friendly contact with members there. In this connection I would remind you, Sir, about the great injustice which I am afraid, is being done to Lucknow Homœo. College, the only institution in the State. If the college is not recognised it will be a matter of great discouragement. We have great hopes from the leading State of Bengal and it is now high time that the eminent Homœopaths there should raise their voice for the unity and brotherhood of our profession. We must realise that our future lies in organisation. Brothers, you have assembled here with high hopes and aspirations. Let us not disperse from here till we have properly organised ourselves under a workable constitution, the draft of which will shortly be placed before you. Besides you have to give your sincere verdict on the form

and practice of Homœopathy as detailed in the Enquiry Committee Report. You have to think deeply and move cautiously lest a single wrong step may cause a serious dislocation in the whole frame work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a unique occasion for us all. We have been eagerly waiting for this opportune hour. The sacred spirits of Master Hahnemann and his devoted followers here and abroad are looking forward us with ardent eyes from the Great Heavens. Let us prove worthy of their trust. Let us rise above petty differences; forgive and forget the past. Let us mould our future in the best of spirits, with heart within and God overhead. Discovery of Homœopathy is a boon to mankind. Let us not be ashamed of our jobs and let us march on fearlessly towards the goal of Truth, Love, and Service.

9th April, 1950.  
Chandni Chowk,  
Delhi.

K. G. SAXENA,  
General Secretary,  
All-India Institute of Homœopathy

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