

## WEST BENGAL HOMŒOPATHIC STATE FACULTY ELECTION

For the first time in the history of Homœopathy in India, nay in the whole world, a general election was held on a democratic basis from amongst the registered homœopathic practitioners of West Bengal to constitute the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic medicine, West Bengal. Nearly five thousand registered homœopathic practitioners exercised their voting rights. It is very striking to find that one party almost en bloc, was returned from all the constituencies of the province, viz., Calcutta, Burdwan Division and Presidency Division. Though there were other rival groups, and there were diverse ideologies and principles advocated and broadcasted through the platform and the press, the majority of the rank and file of the homœopathic profession with the background of varying grades of educational qualifications and scattered throughout the length and breadth of the province, voted for a single group which stood for certain fixed principles. Though we did not participate in the election affair we were nevertheless interested spectators; and let us analyse the causes of this unique triumph on the part of a single group. To our mind, this election business has once more justified the truth of the time honoured adage viz., "Great is truth and it will, indeed, prevail." We came across with the different manifestoes published by the contending parties. We came across with a multitude of canards, a variety of half-truths and mis-statements of facts proclaimed by interested groups and individuals to suit their respective ends and to persuade the electors to vote for them. We attended several meetings called for explaining things to the electors. We found that one party which has eventually returned in the election, was broadminded to invite voters all and sundry to the meetings and gave

chances to everybody to present their viewpoints or to have their doubts and misgivings cleared. This party was sponsored jointly by the Bengal Homœopathic Institute and the Calcutta Homœopathic Hospital Society. They formed a joint Election Board and nominated members for every constituency. We were glad to find that their nominees included almost all the stalwarts in the Homœopathic profession of Bengal. From the composition of their nominees and the method of their electioneering propaganda it was almost a foregone conclusion to us that the profession will surely uphold their principles and contentions and eventually vote for them and get them returned to the forthcoming Homœopathic Faculty. And we are glad to note that our expectation has come true. The bone of contention between the rival parties conducting election was the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee Report. The eventually victorious group supported the recommendations of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee Report, almost en bloc excepting some details. A tearing and raging campaign was led by one rival party concerning the categorisations of the Homœopathic profession into those of "Registered" and "Listed" practitioners. Many a canard was preached by the latter group regarding this point. The profession was given to understand that in case of acceptance of the report of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee by the Government, the practice of not only the proposed 'listed' practitioners but of those who qualified themselves from the recognised homœopathic institutions would be eventually stopped by legislative enactments and that only those homœopaths who are converts from the legally qualified allopathic school would be allowed to continue their practice and that eventually the whole homœopathic profession would disappear through a process of attrition. They raised the cry of "Homœopathy in danger" and that the converted Homœopaths are out to crush the whole profession. They distorted some texts of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee Report and tried to convince the profes-

sion that the members of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee and their supporters have insulted the Homœopathic fraternity by the remark that "90% of Homœopaths are quacks." Coming down to personalities, in their attempt to discredit some candidates for election (who happened to be the sitting members of the faculty) they circulated statements that the faculty fund was indiscriminately wasted by the sitting members and hence they forfeit the right of being returned to the Council again. "Nothing is unfair in love and war" it is said—and we may add to it 'electioneering campaign' which is nothing but a civilised version of a frank war under the present existing conditions of human Society. But the truth will be out sooner or later. Fortunately in this case it came out sooner than it was expected; and the result is: thumping majority in the recent election, secured by the party which stood for truth, justice and equity. Our hats off to the elected members! we extend our cordial welcome to them. But we are afraid that their path will not be strewn with roses. Rather they might have to tread over thorns to reach their goal and achieve their success. Mighty work and grim fight await them; selfless attitude and whole-hearted devotion to the cause of Homœopathy are demanded of them; and on them lies the responsibility of making or marring the future destiny of Homœopathy. In thought, word or deed if they stick to this one standpoint *viz.*, whether their activities serve to further the cause of Homœopathy—their path will be straight though long; their chances of committing error will be minimised to almost nothing and their names will go down the posterity as true champions of Homœopathy. If they are for Homœopathy and not for themselves—their labours will be crowned with success.

Let the Central and Provincial Governments of India take note of this election which signifies a grim determination of the homœopathic profession to put up a higher standard of Homœopathic teaching and practice and to do away with all that is bogus and unfair in connection with

Homœopathy. It is high time that the Central Government of India should forthwith decide to accord state recognition to this superb method of healing art.

The following members with their respective votes secured, have been elected from different Constituencies to form the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine of West Bengal.

#### CALCUTTA CONSTITUENCY

1.	Dr. J. N. Majumdar	..	659
2.	„ G. Dirghangee	..	626
3.	„ A. N. Mukherjee	..	571
4.	„ N. M. Choudhury	..	517
5.	„ S. N. Ghosh	..	508
6.	„ J. N. Sarkar	..	464
7.	„ R. C. Roy Choudhury	..	414

#### PRESIDENCY CONSTITUENCY

1.	Dr. Sarat Chandra Chatterjee (Ranaghat)	..	306
2.	„ Samiran Banerjee (24-Parganas)	..	296
3.	„ A. C. Das-Gupta (Jalpaiguri)	..	294
4.	„ B. Haldar (Budge-Budge)	..	268

#### BURDWAN CONSTITUENCY

1.	Dr. Bankim Chowdhury (Midnapur)	..	649
2.	„ Nitai Ch. Chakraborty (Howrah)	..	612
3.	„ Triguna Nath Banerjee (Serampur)	..	611
4.	„ Prokash Ch. Adhya (Salkia)	..	604
5.	„ Rajib Lochan Banerjee (Uluberia)	..	601
6.	„ Durga Charan Das (Midnapur)	..	567
7.	„ Provash Chandra Pal (Midnapur)	..	554

B.K.S.