

The Governing Body to be constituted as follows :

A Council of 15 members of which there will be—

Government Nominee	1
Calcutta Corporation Nominee	1
Calcutta University Nominee	1
Representatives from Cal. Homœo. Medl. College	8
" " D. N. De Medl. College	2
" " Pratap Hering College	2
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	15
Term of office of the members	5 years
<i>President of the</i>	} The President of the Calcutta Homœo. Society.
<i>Governing Body</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	The Secretary of the Calcutta Homœo. Medical Society.
<i>Asst. Secretary</i>	One from one of the two colleges.
<i>Principal</i>	The Principal of the Calcutta Homœo. Medical College.
<i>Vice-Principal</i>	One of the Principals of the other two Colleges.

After the expiry of the first period of term of office, members of the Governing Body to be elected from the Merged Association of which 3 must be members of the teaching staff of which 2 from Senior Department and 1 from Junior Department.

HOMŒOPATHY AND THE LAYMAN

By "PEGASUS"

One of the many encouraging features about Homœopathy is the large number of laymen who are its ardent advocates and exponents. At first sight it would seem that the complicated and difficult art—or science, call it what you will—of homœopathic therapeutics would have re-

mained peculiarly the doctor's province. However, it is a fact that a far larger proportion of laity than of medicos are prepared to spend their energies in propagating Homœopathy.

Because of its complexity, one's first instinct might be to leave Homœopathy to the specialist. But many lay people who voluntarily give of their time and energy to the propagation of Homœopathy feel they have a large and important function to fulfil. These advocates include many men and women distinguished in other fields, together with a host of citizens whose opinions command respect in their own circle and whose interest in homœopathy is invaluable. There are, let it be admitted, the inevitable cranks and quacks, but the number is surprisingly few. Indeed, one of the pillars of Homœopathy's strength in this country is the calibre and experience of its lay advocates. Their influence upon the success or failure of the spread of homœopathic principles could be decisive.

The important question therefore is how to employ and canalise this wealth of potential effort. If misdirected or dissipated, all the efforts of those who perceive in Homœopathy the best form of medicine for the ills of mankind may be rendered nugatory, or even do actual harm rather than good. Enthusiasm for a cause is not always its best support, nor is the loudest disciple always the best apostle.

THE DIRECTION OF LAY EFFORT

The problem of the discipline and direction of intelligent enthusiasm is all the more important in Homœopathy because the antipathy and ignorance of some members of the other school of medicine concerning homœopathic principles makes any attempt at proselytising a tricky business. It is useless for a layman to get a doctor into a corner and try to tell him why he should forsake his "wrongheaded,

ill-founded method of medicine," and become a homœopath. Even supposing the doctor open-minded enough to confine himself to asking for chapter and verse on Homœopathy, it is more than likely that he would receive an account of the law of similars and the wonders of potentised remedies—"much better than your penicillin, Doctor"—that would make Hahnemann turn in his grave. One might as well hope to persuade an engineer that he should build his bridges of silk as try to explain in lay language to a modern physician that Phosphorus 200 is preferable to sulphathiazole. For many reasons it is better that the laymen should not try to convert the individual doctor to homœopathy.

LAY PRESCRIBING : ITS USES AND LIMITATIONS

The second pitfall that confronts the enthusiastic layman is that of setting himself up as a homœopathic prescriber. The path to lay practice is all too easy. One or two cures of simple ailments bring a measure of confidence that can easily tempt one to try over-ambitious treatment of more serious ills. And sooner or later his lack of clinical groundwork will let the lay prescriber down. What was treated as a simple stomach upset may prove to be appendicitis ; a fever wrongly treated may develop into pneumonia. Quite apart from the gamble with someone else's health, the prejudice against homœopathy on the part of the allopath who may eventually be called in is bound to harden as a result of such ill-judged enthusiasm.

This does not mean that the layman should not use homœopathic medicines. They can be, and properly used are, the finest form of domestic medicine in the world. No home medicine-chest is complete without its *Nux Vomica* and *Arsenicum Album*, its *Chamomilla* for teething, its *Aconite* and *Gelsemium* for colds and 'flu. But the remedies should be used with humility and a due sense of one's own limitations. Lay homœopathy should be confined to minor

ailments, to take the place of aspirins and cough mixtures, not to usurp the function of the doctor.

Such a policy is however hard to pursue religiously while the shortage of homœopathic physicians is so critical. It is easy to preach the doctrine of "Go to the doctor" when one is easily available. But for those who have no homœopath within miles, the decision when to draw the line between relying on one's own homœopathic knowledge, and calling in the local allopath G.P. becomes difficult and sometimes painful. The short-term remedy is to have handy the telephone number of the nearest homœopathic doctor (very often he can prescribe on symptoms recounted over the telephone),—and the long-term remedy is to have more doctors.

It does not matter what line of approach one adopts to this question of the encouragement and dissemination of Homœopathy, one always comes to the same conclusion, the future of successful Homœopathy depends upon the number of doctors who practise it. Consequently the efforts of all laymen should be directed towards fulfilling the primary objective, of providing the means and the organisation whereby Homœopathy can be presented to the medical profession in a manner they can understand and appreciate. The propaganda must be on a high level, and presented in an informed and acceptable manner.

THE LAYMAN'S DIRECTIVE

These points can be briefly summarised into a pentologue for the homœopathic layman as follows :—

(i) He should not allow his enthusiasm for Homœopathy to lead him into making rash statements calculated to arouse the incredulity of scorn of the allopathic medical profession.

(ii) He should discourage the lay practice of Homœopathy except for minor ailments or for the purposes of First Aid.

(iii) He should co-ordinate and subordinate his work for Homœopathy in line with the work of an effective organisation.

(iv) He should promote study and discussion on Homœopathy amongst other laymen in his neighbourhood.

(v) He should adhere always to the primary principle, which is to ensure the availability of homœopathic treatment for all who desire it, within the framework of organised medicine.

—*Homœopathy, January, 1951.*

OBITUARY

LATE DR. K. D. GOSWAMI

We are extremely sorry to hear that Dr. K. D. Goswami, a prominent Homœopath and seniormost assistant of world renowned Dr. Younan of Calcutta, author of 'Younan's therapeutic Hints', and late lecturer of School of Homœopathic Medicine and Calcutta Homœopathic Medical College, died on Tuesday the 27th November 1951, at 4-30 P.M., in his Calcutta residence, at the age of 79 years. He descended from Bally Goswami family and was Brahmin by caste, born on 26th September 1874 A. D. He was senior student of Medical College and was inspired to join Dr. Younan from old school Philosophy to new School. He assisted Late Dr. Younan more than 27 years. After the sad demise of Dr. Younan he started 'Younan Homœo Hall' in Marble House, New Jagannath Ghat Road, to circulate the science according to the principle and method of Late Dr. Younan. Pious and kind hearted to the poor as he was he left behind him three sons and one daughter and wife and large circle of friends and admirers to mourn his loss. We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.
