

logists have to give the "disease-food" to their bacteria so that they may be able to live during the process of their culture preparation. Is not all this a sufficient proof of the fact that the bacteria are not the "cause" but the "result" of disease?

In the end, may I cheer up my learned and respected friend—Dr. B. K. Sarkar—by giving him the good news (if he is unaware of it) that many Allopaths also are now giving up the idea that germs are the "cause" of disease. For instance, the world-renowned Allopathic Doctor August Bier of Berlin stated that "Bacteria are of secondary importance in infection; a healthy individual does not become infected." Now, when our Allopathic brethren are moving *forward* from darkness to light, it is a matter of deep regret that a Homœopath of renown should move *backward* from the Homœopathic light to the Allopathic darkness.

May God lead our erring friends and brethren from *Darkness to Light!*

HOMŒOPATHY AND SURGERY

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Surgery has come to have a glamour of its own in the scientific world of today and obviously every new entrant in the medical profession wishes to share that glamour and incidentally earn more also. So he starts dabbling in surgery without any proper training as an apprentice to a senior surgeon. He begins to advise an operation for any ailment for which a surgical operation is possible with the result that the infant surgeon and the ignorant patient both come to grief. Although in the primitive past

barbers used to practise surgery in India as well as in the west but modern surgery is a highly specialised art and as such the knife should not be allowed to be handled by any one except a specialist.

Surgery seems to have caught the fancy of the people in general also. Even the patients, instead of taking treatment at the hands of a physician, welcome a surgical operation as a short cut to quick relief and take pleasure in submitting to it without realising the risk they are running. It appears that the stress and strain of modern life is responsible for such a state of affairs. A busy man prefers to have his abdomen cut open and have the Appendix or Stone removed in a jiffy and get on to his work within a few days rather than suffer pain indefinitely and take prolonged treatment from a physician, whether Homœopath or Allopath. It is probably because one cannot afford to miss work and income even for a few days in this era of mounting costs and false values and hence this "Kill-or-save-me-doctor" mentality. But these persons little realise the consequences of this dare devil state of mind.

Dr. Harold L. Foss of the American College of Surgeons recently said in a meeting of surgeons in New York that "*A large majority of operations are needless and ill-advised*" and are being performed to an extent which demands stricter controls by the medical profession. Ability to cope with the complex problems with which the surgeon is confronted is rarely possessed by a man who has not had sound training and long apprenticeship to older surgeons. Yet the glamour of surgery and the promise of increased financial reward are so alluring that they are so difficult for the recent graduate to resist, even though the time and means to acquire thorough training are lacking". It has been my experience also that *a large number of operations are needless and ill-advised*, resulting in very serious consequences to the patient. I have seen majority of them suffering endlessly thereafter. I have

come across cases of operated Piles and Fistula ending in *Cancer* with all its attendant misery. These ill-fated patients, if they had been well-advised, would have easily got well within a short time under Homœopathic treatment. Dr. Foss has rightly sounded a note of warning against the indiscriminate use of knife. It is a matter of great delight to know that there are such noble persons in the profession even today who are so straightforward in telling the *Truth* regardless of any opposition.

During my 40 years' experience in Homœopathic practice I have treated a number of cases which were to all intents and purposes surgical cases and most of them got cured. Carbuncle, Appendicitis, stones in Kidney and Bladder, Gallstones, Pyæmia, Diabetic Gangrene, Mastoid abscess, nose Polypus, Tonsils, Piles and Fistula, etc., etc., are all amenable to Homœopathic drugs. Homœopathy does not exclude Surgery. To say so tantamounts to ignorance and misguided knowledge of Homœopathy. In fact no Homœopath can afford to ignore the need for surgical aid when it is absolutely unavoidable. There can be some occasions when surgical aid becomes imperative. Just as Homœopathy cannot exclude surgery so also surgery cannot exclude Homœopathy. In all such cases surgery can come in as a last resort and that too with the cooperation of the Homœopath who had been treating the case previously. According to Dr. Rudolph F. Rabe of Morristown, New Jersey, America, "A Homœopath's knowledge of disease and its diagnosis, his understanding of the philosophy of Homœopathy, all contribute to his ability rightly to estimate the requirements of a given situation in which surgery may become a factor. His knowledge of *Materia Medica* enables him to prepare the patient for an operation and his after-treatment of the surgical patient contributes greatly to restoration of normal health. This cooperation between the surgeon and the Homœopath is in the best interest of the patient". But unfortunately this cooperation between the surgeon and the Homœopath

does not exist in India, the result of which is that when a Homœopath surrenders his patient to the surgeon he does it with some misgivings for the well-being of the patient, because he feels that he would not be able to give the patient any post-operative treatment which would lead to speedy and complete recovery.

It is therefore high time that patients and surgeons think twice before undertaking a risk the consequences of which they are not in a position to foreshadow. It may take a little more time to get well but a little faith and patience can save endless suffering.

I earnestly appeal to all my professional brothers, whether Allopaths, Homœopaths, Ayurvaidyas or Hakims to shed their prejudices and bias and cooperate with each other in their great national effort to eradicate disease and to alleviate the sufferings of their country men.

MY STUDY OF HOMŒOPATHY

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Organon defines Homœopathy as the restoration of health in the sick by the reaction of the vital force against the rightly chosen remedy. It is significant that no use is made of such expressions as "disease", "medicine", etc. In fact, homœopathy is not symptomatology in the general sense of the term at least. Again, "restoration of health" being its sole object, homœopathy cannot be expected to do anything unless the "vital force" is sufficiently strong to react against the rightly chosen remedy.

To illustrate the first point, that is, homœopathy is not symptomatology. A patient comes with a boil which, on pathological and symptomatological examination, is found to be full of pus, very painful, with sticking pain and relief