

## MEANINGLESS QUESTIONNAIRE

(Extract from 'Letter to the Editor' column, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Sunday, Sept. 2, 1956)

SIR,—The following questionnaire issued by the Statistical Bureau of the State Government on the potentialities of Homœopathy to selected persons with a view to surveying public opinion was published by your paper on August 8: "Is Homœopathy a genuine system of healing science or a bluff in disguise? 2. "Is it a fact, it acts wonder in some cases but fails totally in other cases"? 3. "Does it require to be supplemented by other systems in particular cases"?

The issue of such biased questions to only selected persons can hardly be considered a proper method of assessing public opinion.

With regard to the first question I beg to state that the required statistics have been collected all over the world in a proper manner. The Act passed by the British Parliament establishing the Royal London Homœopathic Faculty for post-graduate studies in Homœopathy and the report published by the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee appointed by the Ministry of Health, Government of India, which has clearly stated that it is a genuine system of healing art based on science, are only two of the results of such statistics. The last named Committee included the President and Secretary of the Indian Medical Association also.

With regard to the second question, I may also point out that the so-called wonder drugs of the modern system of medicine also do not work wonders in all cases, and there are also instances of failures with violent reactions in many cases. We have facts to prove that such cases have been cured by Homœopathic treatment.

The third question is so ambiguous that I do not think I should try to reply to it, and the other side of the picture is self evident i.e. the so-called modern system of medicine has to be supplemented in a large number of cases by other

systems of treatment, and I leave it to the public for giving their judgment.

It is not understood why the State Government has issued this questionnaire when the Central Government has already recognised Homœopathy as a system of treatment, and has made some provisions for its improvement in the Second Five-Year Plan.

The State Government, so far as my knowledge goes, also is contemplating a legislative enactment for improving Homœopathic teaching and regularisation of the profession, so that people may have bonafide Homœopathic help, and I fail to understand why such a questionnaire has been sent to "selected persons". Is it with a view to strangling the growth of Homœopathy in this State?

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