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The editor and the management of THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS wish their valued patrons a very happy and prosperous New Year.

EDITORIAL

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Science, its concepts and application are ever changing from the times of Hippocrates—Osler to the present day. Medicine has also changed considerably and it is an evolution in itself. History of medicine speaks amply of this. We need not enumerate the changes that have taken place since the beginning of systematic study of medicine.

No subject has remained a speciality by itself. The more we know about the subject the deeper we enter in its complexities with increased diversified aspects creating further specialities within.

Let us take up the science of modern medicine. There has been a tremendous change in the diagnostics and treatment in just over the last ten years; the names like scan, sonography, computerized profile of blood chemistry, bypass surgery, the transplant, dialysis, intensive care units have become commonplace names in the field of medicine. The therapeutic concepts have also changed. The time and length of treatment of many diseases have altered and there has been a tremendous addition to the list of drugs and still new drugs are being added day by day. The concept of therapeutic application also has modified considerably.

A physician who has been in practice but who has had no academic contact becomes a miserable one in the absence of these newer information. The pharmaceutical industry plays some role in this regard and helps the profession by posting information to the physician. But this may not be sufficient and therefore the concept of continuing medical education has developed.

How far is this concept going to be useful to a homoeopathic physician?

For most of us all that needed to practise Homoeopathy has been said by Hahnemann and nothing more is needed to be communicated to us. Homoeopaths of yester year vouch by Hahnemann and Kent; particularly in India this situation has been created by our teachers, most of whom were

direct disciples of Kent. The knowledge accumulated by Kent's contemporaries did not percolate down in the rank and file; it was thus denied to the profession. This is amply seen when the homoeopathic colleges do not teach anything but Kentian philosophy with the result that the useful works done by Boger, Boenninghausen and others is hardly known. As a student we never understood the correct meaning and implication of the word miasm. The *Organon* was never read between the lines to explore its implicit meaning and it was taught as if it was a rapid reading subject. The explanatory books on the *Organon* created more confusion than the text itself.

It is true that the theoretical part of Homoeopathy does not need any change; it is based on the universal laws of nature and are hardly going to change. But what is yet not understood is the practical part of Homoeopathy. It has been cleverly described as the art of practice where *ars* is the most individual and obscure one.

In the recent years we have seen a lot of changes in our understanding of the concept of practice of Homoeopathy. Much is yet to be understood.

The *Organon* read in the light of newer researches in the field of general science, philosophy, psychology etc. makes a different reading; the interpretations appear more reasonable. Advances in biologymolecular chemistry and biophysics have changed the attitude of many towards the microdilutions. In the field of therapeutics newer drugs have been introduced and their therapeutic possibilities have been quite encouraging. A number of researchers are devoting their time in trying to understand the pathway of action of homoeopathic medicine. Researches in allied field of radiology, biochemistry etc. help us to understand to some extent the peculiar nature of symptoms, so as to differentiate between pathognomic and non-pathognomic symptoms, the latter being more useful for prescribing.

Considering this trend, we feel a strong need for continuing medical education in the field of Homoeopathy.

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