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EDITORIAL

HAHNEMANN AND HOMOEOPATHS

The month of April is sacred to all homoeopaths. All over the world where Homoeopathy is practised, 10th April is observed with gaiety and pomp as the birthday of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, founder of the great art and science of Homoeopathy.

His contribution to medical history is unique, unparalleled. But unfortunately he does not receive the same importance as is due to him. His philosophy is so subtle and at metaphysical level, that many cannot comprehend the potentiality of his discovery.

Hahnemann was born in the reformatory period of the history of medicine. *Law of similars* which was existing and there is evidence of its existence in the literature before his time was totally embraced by him and put down as *law of cure*. We find the references of this law in the literature of Kalidasa, Ayurveda, and even in the Greek medicine. But it goes without doubt that the first practical use of this was made by Hahnemann.

His discovery of *potentisation* is again another fundamental contribution to the science of therapeutics. It may be that the learned scientists of yester-years have scoffed at it, termed it even as a hoax and myth. But we see the truth of its efficacy in daily practice. The present day scientific mind is curious, and wants to know the 'how' of it. But they must also realise that there exist many phenomena in the universe which cannot be explained with the present day knowledge. But still they exist and we are obliged to accept them. It is said that the hormones circulating in the body are at so low concentration that they can be hardly assayed so to measure their quantity. Nevertheless these hormones do control the body functions without our appreciation. We have only to watch with awe, the great genius of the man whose foresight, 200 years ago to be of such a tremendous importance. Naturally he was far ahead of the men of his times and, therefore, he was persecuted. He had to flee from place to place, but his cause was so dear to him that he never gave up.

The whole concept of Homoeopathy is based on the laws and doctrines propounded by him namely, the law of similar, minimum dose and single

remedy, the doctrine of potentisation, drug proving, individualisation and chronic miasms.

Nearly 200 years have passed. We have not been able to contradict these in spite of tremendous changes that have taken place in the field of science.

Hahnemann, during his life time, proved about 90 drugs and we find their thoroughness even today. There is a possibility that the changing man may exhibit a change if these are reproved once again. The twentieth century, called the age of rapid scientific development, has seen an addition of only a small number of provings as compared to the work done by our elders.

Homocopathy was born in Germany, nursed in France and America, and finally found its roots in India. The reasons for popularity of Homocopathy are said to be its cheapness and sweetness. It is an insult to Hahnemann's spirit that such should be an explanation. Homoeopathic philosophy as so akin to Hindu philosophy that it found its natural counterpart for its acceptance and flourishing. Today India is the largest single country which has fostered it. But we do not find any appreciable efforts on our part to strengthen its roots through education, research or practice.

We still follow the 100-year old pattern of teaching without giving any cognizance to the development of the educational system as a whole. When an attempt was made at the N.I.H., Calcutta, people came only with severe criticism, even before a trial was given. Teachers did not show the will to learn new methods, viewpoints and remained dogmatic with their own views. Not that any new theory was being propounded, but only a new interpretation was attempted, which seemed more logical keeping in view the modern scientific terminologies and knowledge.

When proving of new drugs was attempted at the educational institutions the students did not show the necessary will. Drug proving is such a useful method of learning that anyone who undertakes it should be benefited in all the facets of homoeopathic case-taking and materia medica. This cannot come by compulsion, but has to come from within of every homoeopath.

Let the annual celebration of this giant scientist be fruitful to the profession and to the ailing humanity. Let us be true to the science; let us be more serious in our efforts; let us give something new to the science. Proving of drugs should be the easiest method of our contribution to the great science. Let us start a movement this year to take up more provings by the various organisations and institutions. Without contributing efforts on a large scale this task will not be done. I compliment the H.M.A.I., who have rightly thought of launching this programme shortly. I request the other organisations to follow suit.

Long live the spirit of Hahnemann!

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