

called up delighted to say that she had been forced to look for the pain as her back was so much better ; but that on disappearance of the pain she had symptoms of a cold and the reoccurrence of an old ear discharge. When she said she herself felt much better, I advised her to continue the medicine, and if any change occurred to let me know. The next I heard she had visited her ear specialist who was drying up the discharge. He said she had a fungus infection in the ear and, if the discharge were not dried up, she would lose her hearing completely. Her cold continued and she wanted something for it. I gave her *Pulsatilla* which of course aggravated the ear. Then she called to say she wanted to discontinue my treatment for a while and that is the last I heard from her directly. This all happened in about three weeks' time. In March I heard from the lady who referred her that she was now taking treatments for her back thrice weekly.

Blessed be the specialist ! Whether right or wrong, his word is law !

—*The Homœopathic Recorder, July-Sept., '56*

HOMŒOPATHY, GOVERNMENT AND THE PLAN**

(4)

DR. K. G. SAXENA, B.M.B.S., DELHI

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am highly grateful to the Kerala Homœopathic Federation for giving me the privilege of Presiding over the celebrations of the inauguration of Athurasramam Homœopathic Medical College and their third Convention which is being held at a unique juncture in the history of Homœopathy in Kerala. I

** All Kerala Homœo. Convention, 1958. Presidential Address.

have to congratulate most heartily the Kerala state Government on their opening of the Homœopathic Medical College and hospital in this state today. By starting this institution, they have demonstrated their keen sense of judgement and devotion for the good of the common man. We had learnt about this proposal at a meeting of the Homœopathic Advisory Committee held in August 1957. I am sure when the state Government has taken up this beneficial scheme, the centre is sure to come to its aid and I shall try my best to secure necessary financial grant for this institution.

Gentlemen, we are passing through a critical stage in the History of Homœopathy in India. There were times when the great Homœopaths of India were busy in their own individual capacities, enhancing the prestige and standard of Homœopathic practice in the different parts of the country. A mass consciousness in favour of this noble science was created and Homœopathic practitioners in hundreds rose up in every town of India. Besides, various types of Homœopathic institutions, Dispensaries, Hospitals, Colleges, and Pharmacies etc., were established in large numbers to cope up with the necessary demand for Homœopathic medicine, education, and treatment. A vast amount of literature, and dozens of journals began to be published.

A further stage arrived when it was felt that mere individual efforts would not solve the pressing problems of the times and that there was a great necessity for a collective organisation of the profession on an all India basis. This gave rise to the establishment of associations, societies, and Institutes of Homœopathy during the course of the last quarter of a century or so.

The position today is that inspite of our best individual and institutional activities no tangible results have so far been achieved towards the advancement of Homœopathy. We have now definitely realised that our further progress is being greatly hampered for want of suitable legislative and executive powers of the Governments at the centre and in the states. And therefore, I would like this day to leave the scientific and educational aspects of Homœopathy to other distinguished members of the

profession and shall confine myself absolutely to the analysis of Government Policies for which I have long been fighting and hope to struggle further for their better formulation and speedy execution.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

The Central Government at a meeting of the Union Cabinet in 1948 decided the following policy on Health :—

“The Central and Provincial Government should decide that modern scientific medicine shall continue to be the basis of the development of national health services in the country.They recommended that facilities for research on scientific lines into the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine should be promoted on as broad basis as possible on the lines recommended by the Chopra Committee's Report and the results of such research when they are proved valid will not only enrich the Ayurvedic and the Unani systems but will also be incorporated in modern medicine so that eventually there will emerge only one system of medicine”.

This cabinet decision of the Union Government was declared in the Rajya Sabha by Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur the then Health Minister of India. It is pertinent to point out that this decision was taken more than 10 years ago and the Government have not reviewed their policy since 1948. There is no mention of Homœopathy in this resolution as the Government includes Homœopathy and all non-allopathic systems under the Indigenous systems.

There are various factors that emerge out of this decision of the Govt. 1. The National Govt. have taken a decision on their Health policy exactly keeping the status quo as followed by the British Government. As a National Government was if not incumbent on them to consider the claims and services of Homœopathy and Indigenous systems of medicine along with the so called modern medicine ?

2. When provincial autonomy had been granted to the state Governments what right had the Central Government to impose their own Health Policy on the State Governments ?

3. If a decision is taken by a democratic Government is it not essential to review that policy in the light of the criticisms in the Parliament, in the Press and by the protagonists of Homœopathy and Indigenous systems ?

4. Whenever any bill or budget on Health has been put up before the Parliament there has been stringent criticism of the health policy and particularly the treatment meted out to Indigenous systems and Homœopathy during the last 10 years.

5. In a democratic cabinet, the Prime Minister is the Chief architect of any policy but is it not essential that the Prime Minister consults his colleagues of the cabinet on all vital policies of national interest ? Surely the cabinet does not mean the Prime Minister, the Health Minister, the Health Secretary and the Director General of Health Services for considering the policies on health. Almost all cabinet ministers have unequivocally declared in favour of Homœopathy and Indigenous systems of Medicine from various platforms, but what can they do when they are not consulted on this particular matter of health policy ? I earnestly appeal to our democratic Prime Minister to consult his colleagues on this health policy and we are sure that the basic policy will be immediately altered.

6. The Congress Working Committee passed a resolution as early as 1947 recommending the recognition of Homœopathy and Indigenous systems of medicine. In various election manifestoes, the Congress has pledged to recognise and utilise Indigenous systems and Homœopathy in their future health plans.

7. The Central Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in 1937 recommending to the Government to recognise Homœopathy. As a result several State Governments have statutorily recognised Homœopathy, e.g. West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Utter Pradesh, Bombay, Bihar, Kerala, Assam, Orissa, Andhra and Delhi. The Punjab and Mysore are shortly considering the Homœopathic bills in their assemblies. Thus with the exception of 2 states Homœopathy is on the Statute books in all the states of India. Yet the centre's policy remains the same.

8. The Parliament passed the famous Homœopathic Resolution in 1948, unanimously recommending to the Government

to give recognition to Homœopathy and a Homœopathic Enquiry Committee was instituted which submitted its report in 1949. The Committee recognised the scientific basis, utility and extreme popularity of Homœopathy and recommended the formation of a Central Homœopathic Council to co-ordinate, advise and control the policy on Homœopathy in the whole country.

9. The 3rd All-India Health Ministers' Conference of 1950 considered and approved the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee report and recommended the formation of a Central Homœo. Council.

10. The Planning Commission invited representatives of Homœopathy to a conference in 1952 and discussed and approved 5 out of 7 proposals on Homœopathy. These 5 recommendations are incorporated in the 1st Five Year Plan and include the formation of a Central Homœopathic Council. Practically little action has been taken on these recommendations.

11. The Central Government appointed an Ad Hoc Committee in 1952 of 5 Homœopaths with the Director General of Health as the Chairman. The Committee in its 3 sittings recommended a number of proposals which have yet to be implemented.

12. The Central Government formed the Homœopathic Advisory Committee in 1956. The Committee had 3 sittings and decided many important matters about Homœopathy. I am however pained to point out that very few things have been implemented by the Central Government. Either the centre or the State Governments come in the way of implementing our recommendations.

13. The Central Health Council appointed the Dave Committee in 1955 to advise the Government on the recognition and utilisation of Homœopathy and Indigenous systems of medicine. The Committee recommended the formation of a Central Homœo. Council and State Boards, separate Directorates at the Centre and in the states etc. The Council however did not take any positive decision to implement the recommendations and let the matter to the State Governments to do

whatever they liked. Thus the Dave Committee recommendations have yet to be implemented.

14. Dr. K. G. Saxena was asked by the Homœo Advisory Committee to inspect all the Homœopathic Colleges and Hospitals situated at Bombay, Lucknow, Gudivada and to visit such institutions in Bengal with Dr. J. N. Majumdar and recommend grants for them. The report was submitted to the Government in 1957 but very little action has been taken on these recommendations so far.

Thus it is evident that in spite of the favourable recommendations of the Homœo. Enquiry Committee, the Planning Commission, the Ad Hoc Committee, Dave Committee and all Governmental Committees little tangible has been effected by the Central or State Governments. So long as the fundamental policy of the Union Government is not altered and the Cabinet resolution of 1948 is not revised we are not going to get a fair deal from our Government.

Synthesis or Integration of Medicines. I would like to congratulate the Chief Minister of U.P. on the stand he had taken with regard to Ayurveda. Homœopathy and Ayurveda sail in the same boat and should be treated on the lines advocated by Dr. Sampurnanand. Criticising the so called integrated system taught in Ayurvedic colleges, the Chief Minister said "What was called integration was the imposition of a thin veneer of modern medicine on an equally thinner substratum of Ayurveda. Thick or thin the underlying assumption was that Ayurveda in itself was unscientific and inadequate and need to be energised by a strong admixture of allopathy. Allopathy does not move a single step towards integration with Ayurveda. It is Ayurveda which is being rapidly metamorphosed. This is not integration". I wish the Health Ministers of the States and the Centre could go so deep and understand the implication of Dr. Sampurnand's statement. But the root cause of all this integration is that allopathy has been declared as the basic system of medicine and so long as that fundamental policy of the centre is not altered how can the states change their attitude towards Ayurveda or Homœopathy. To look at all systems of medicines through the allopathic glasses is tantamount to seeing

nothing beyond the allopathic nose. Ayurveda, Unani and Homœopathy are different systems of medicines based on certain fundamental laws and principles. How all these principles can be integrated into the unprincipled theories of allopathy is beyond our comprehension. To take up a number of Ayurvedic and Unani drugs and prepare them on allopathic lines does not mean integration.

The best course for the Union Government should have been to change their fundamental policy on health and allow all systems of medicine to be recognised on equal footing. All the systems be allowed to develop according to their own principles, and geniuses unfettered by any rules or regulation of the state or of the dominating system of medicine for a period of 25 years or so. All facilities be afforded to every system for development and experimentation in the hospitals or Research centres controlled by the best men of every system and a committee of experts of all systems be formed to review the development in an unprejudiced manner. After waiting and observing the developments of all systems, attempts may be made to evolve some method of utilising all systems of medicines. Otherwise integration or amalgamation of different medicines on empirical planes would be most unnatural. A Government cannot integrate different systems by imposing one system on the others. Another suggestion to this problem is that the experts committee should be asked to find out where a particular system acts in a particular disease and then facilities be afforded in each hospital for medicines of every system to be prescribed as indicated. Here every physician should have a knowledge of *materia medica*s of all systems.

PREVENTION IN MEDICINE

The maxim 'Prevention is better than cure' seems to be doing more harm than good at the present times. The emphasis of the so called modern medicine is on the Prevention of Diseases. To my mind prevention does not mean the introduction of various drugs and live or dead germs into the systems of healthy human beings. Prevention means that you

take up external measures of hygiene, public health, regulation of diet and other regimen with a view to develop the natural powers of resistance and thereby helps to protect the human organism from the attacks of disease. The result of the present day prevention is that a large number of inoculations and vaccinations are done on the healthy and delicate systems of children and adults creating a large number of drug diseases on the healthy human beings. It is a pity that innocent school children are annually subjected to these vaccinations and inoculations to prevent them from small pox, measles, dysentery and cholera, diphtheria etc. You are already aware of the great B.C.G. campaign for which the Union Government are determined to spend crores and crores in spite of vehement opposition launched by our worthy veterans like C. Rajagopalachari. This inhuman campaign to introduce live T.B. germs into the healthy body has so far proved of no value whatsoever as is evident from a recent report of the T.B. Association of India.

EVILS OF DRUGGING

In this connection I would like to draw your attention to another evil resulting from the Health Policy of the Government and that is drugging of the human system either for preventing or treating the diseases on a mass scale, which is creating appalling and abominable results on the human race by creating drug diseases that have lowered the vital powers of men and thereby making them prone to fall victims to T.B., cancer, heart diseases and leprosy and various incurable diseases of new type and kind.

DOLES TO HOMŒOPATHY

In the first Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission allotted Rs. 37.5 lakhs for Research in Homœopathy and Indigenous systems. Rs. 15 lakhs were spent on the Jamnagar Institute. Not a single farthing was spent for Homœopathy out of Rs. 10 lakhs reserved for research purpose. The allocation of the money for research only lacks imagination and wisdom. This

could happen only on the assumption that Homœopathy and Indigenous systems are all unscientific and need research and development. But how can there be research unless there are well equipped hospitals and colleges upgraded in accordance with modern requirements? In the second Five Year Plan out of Rs. 218 crores to be spent on the Health plans, 1 crore from the Central and 5.5 crores from the states budget are to be spent on Homœopathy and Indigenous systems. The share of Homœopathy comes to about 36 lakhs. The amount is more on paper than in coins to be spent at all. I consider this amount as doles to Homœopathy or the hush money to strangle the mouths of votaries of this system of medicine.

HEALTH INSURANCE

In Employees State Insurance, Contributory Health Insurance, Community Projects and Rural Health Schemes and in other large scale health projects the Government have refused to employ the services of Homœopathy. The greatest calamity will be that a large number of Homœo. dispensaries functioning in mills, factories and labour areas in various states would likely be closed down as soon as the scheme is started. For the families of labourers I wish such dispensaries should not be closed. The Delhi Cloth Mills Hospital, Delhi, runs outdoor Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homœopathic departments for its employees. The cost of medicine per patient per day as estimated by this hospital is worth mentioning viz Allopathic : 4 As., Ayurvedic 1 pice, and Homœopathic 1 pie. I wish the Central and State Governments will look into this vast difference of cost in various systems of medicine.

EPIDEMICS

In recent epidemics of Jaundice and Influenza in which thousands of people suffered in Delhi and other parts of the country, the claims of the so called modern medicine to remain the basis of national system of therapy were clearly falsified. The Union Government sent SOS or cables to various

foreign Govts. of U.S.A., U.K., Canada, U.S.S.R., and other countries for getting specific allopathic drugs for the prevention and cure of Jaundice and Influenza. The Government lulled the public by declaring that a new vaccine is under preparation but could not do anything tangible. That vaccine never came and the epidemics were controlled mainly by the Homœopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries started by private agencies like the Congress, the Jan Sangh, Bharat Sevak Samaj and other social and private organisations. When the modern medicine has no drugs for controlling epidemics why not utilise the medicines of other systems in vogue in this country? Why not accept the superiority of Homœopathic and Indigenous systems, when the modern medicine has to search for new medicines every time when an epidemic breaks out? Have the Government never thought that this is because Homœopathy, Ayurveda and Unani are based on immutable laws and principles and therefore they can tackle any disease, old or new, while allopathy the so called modern medicine of this age, helplessly looks on and searches about the causative organism for the particular disease and waits in vain for some drug from abroad? Publicity and propaganda by the govt. is undertaken on a large scale but the public knows where they can look for actual relief and cure. Surely the Government should not stick on to their prestige and must change their policy.

HOMŒOPATHIC BOARDS AND FACULTY

There are ten homœopathic Boards and one Faculty constituted by the various State Governments at present. Two state Governments are to constitute two boards very shortly and the remaining states are expected to follow suit. It is significant to note that all the state acts differ intensely from one another, and different policies are being followed in different states. Most of the acts have significantly prescribed for the control and regulation of the profession but few measures have been taken to ensure the future growth of the Homœopathic profession. Thus the acts have been passed to regulate the present practitioners and to annihilate their growth in future.

Due to the reorganisation of states, lots of anomalies were created due to their different forms, texts, and shapes in the various states acts e.g. in the case of Bombay and Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Mysore etc. It is felt that a Central Council of Homœo Medicine alone can solve these anomalies and ambiguities of state acts and ensure an uniform policy in all states. I am distressed to learn that some state Boards have refused to recognise the graduates of other state Boards or of a Faculty. This shortsighted policy is unwise and cuts at the root of the proper growth of Homœopathy in this country. I am highly pleased to know that the Kerala state has appointed a Council of Homœopaths to guide the destinies of Homœopathy in this state. I wish all the state Governments emulate the enlightened policy of the Kerala state. I would venture to suggest that a separate directorate for Homœopathy is also essential for the proper growth of this system of medicine, which has been advocated by the Dave Committee. In most of the states where boards are functioning nothing tangible could result due to the apathy, indifference and intransigence of the State Health Directorates. So long as the central and the state Governments do not constitute separate directorates for Homœopathy, as advocated by the Dave Committee, Homœopathy will not progress in this country.

In view of the fact that the state Governments are autonomous and no state Government enforces its acts on the other state, there can be no uniform policy regarding Homœopathy. I would therefore propose that an All-India Homœopathic Act be passed for the healthy growth of this system of medicine. This can be done by the recommendation of two state legislatures demanding the enactment of a Homœopathic Act by the Central Government. Will the Kerala Government take the lead in this matter?

The Central Government have appointed an Adviser for the Indigenous systems of medicine as a prelude to the formation of their separate directorate. They have however refused to appoint an adviser for Homœopathy as they consider it unnecessary. The Union Government first discriminated between Allopathy and Indigenous systems of medicine which included

Homœopathy, but now they have started discrimination between Homœopathy and Ayurveda and Unani. So long as the basic policy of the Government is not altered this attitude of discrimination and indifference will continue.

In some states the Directorates of Indigenous systems are controlling the destiny of homœopaths e.g. in Rajasthan. In Andhra the chairman of the Homœopathic Board is a vaid. These are peculiar problems which should be tackled properly. I have received a number of representations from various homœopathic associations complaining against the state acts in prohibiting the use of diplomas or degrees received from recognised institutions of other states. In certain states where Homœopathy has been recognised, the state Governments did not utilise Homœopathic medicines even though representations were made to them. For example during the epidemics of Influenza and Jaundice in Delhi state, the Chief Commissioner hesitated to permit the use of homœopathic medicines for the prevention and cure of the diseases. In U.P. also the policy was similar although Homœopathy is a recognised system of medicine there.

Last but not the least, I have to appeal to the Homœopaths of India to unite on a common platform and stand on their own legs. May we follow the precepts of our Master Hahnemann, one of the greatest benefactors of mankind. Remember we are the custodians of this great legacy of Homœopathy. Remember we have to be true servants of the nation and we have to serve the people rich or poor alike. Let us conquer the hearts of the people through our selfless service and I can assure you Homœopathy will attain the coveted position it so richly deserves.

JAI HIND, JAI HOMŒOPATHY.
