

AN ADDRESS*

DR. K. G. SAXENA

Comrades in Homœopathy,

I am highly grateful to you all in general and to the members of the Reception Committee of the Madhya Pradesh Homœopathic Conference in particular for giving me the privilege of presiding over the deliberations of this session, which is being held at a unique as well as critical juncture in the history of Homœopathy in India. I have to thank you heartily for the honour and esteem you held for me and for the cause of Homœopathy which is so dear to us all. May the Divine Spirit of the Great Master, Dr. Hahnemann, inspire us for our onward march and fill our hearts with the Missionary Zeal which fired his great imagination and moved him on and on to the goal of victory.

Homœopathy is so closely related to the life of its Founder, Dr. Hahnemann, that it is practically impossible to understand the one without a proper grasp of the other. Hahnemann was born in 1755 A.D. at Coethan, a small town in Germany. He took his degree of M.D. from the famous University of Vienna, and was a renowned and leading physician of his time. Besides medicine, he was a well versed in Logic, Philosophy, and had a great command over Greek, Latin, Hebrew, German, French and other languages current at that time. His beautiful translations into German of the then standard works, are ample proof of his profound learning. He was a versatile genius in the Sciences of Chemistry and Biology. He was born in an age of radical and revolutionary changes, and he is undoubtedly the pioneer amongst the revolutionaries in Medical Science. How he became disgusted with the malpractices in the Traditional School of Medicine, and how after discarding his flourishing practice he devoted himself entirely to the researches into the inner

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working of the Natural Phenomena are things, that would ever keep him immortalised in the annals of medical science.

Hahnemann promulgated the law of "Similia Similibus Curentur", Let likes be treated by likes, which is the corner stone of Homœopathic Drug Therapeutics. It is based upon the following fundamental principles :—

1. That action is ascertained solely by proving them upon healthy human beings.
2. That the curative virtues of a remedy correspond to its disease producing properties.
3. That only one remedy should be administered at a time.

The principle of Similars knocked at the gate of intellect of several illustrious physicians of antiquity and of former times long before the Sage of Coethan, *viz.*, of Hippocrates, Paracelsus, Stahl, Hoffman, Haller, Cullen, and of several others. This doctrine of Similia was generally acceptable to Ayurvedic School of medicine too, as is clear from the saying (Poison is to be treated by poison). But it was Hahnemann alone who possessed the intelligence and ability to place it on a sound, practical and logical basis. The discoverer of Homœopathy was born 200 years ago. He lived, moved and had his being in an age teeming with superstition, in an age when the Science of Therapeutics was pregnant with chaos, and confusion. He practiced during the dark epochs of medicine and was, quite ignorant of the modern laboratory works. In spite of these palpable drawbacks Hahnemann's gigantic intellect was capable of founding a system of Therapeutics so accurate and true in its essential potentialities and parts that the rest of the Scientific world has adjusted and re-adjusted itself so finely that it has now completely merged itself into every feature of the Homœopathic law of cure. If we study the modern ideas of maladies and their treatment by medicines, if we dive deep into physical chemistry as it is being taught in every university all the world over, if we listen to the thunderous utterances of the physicists, chemists, physiologists and pathologists, we will be impressed with the fact that all the findings of Samuel Hahnemann promulgated

long ago are now being confirmed by these present day savants. Truly speaking, the whole temple of science today vibrates and reverberates with the music of the Homœopathic principle.

For instance, the much disputed question of small doses, that ancient bug-bear, is now being gradually resolved by the dominant school. After all what is the quantity of Radium, Vitamins, Ferments, Iones, Colloids, required to bring about changes in the human system. Is it not a demonstration and confession by opponents of Homœopathy, though indirectly of the immense potentiality of the infinitely little? Moreover, the rapidly advancing researches in atomic energy, which have lawfully revolutionised the whole outlook of human values, are nothing but the glaring manifestations of the extra-ordinary forces lying hidden inside the infinitesimals.

Again, the theory of Allergy so loudly proclaimed by the dominant school for the past few years is simply a new name given to the abnormal sensitivity of patients to certain drugs which formed the main basis of Homœopathic prescribing, from its very start more than hundred years back. The theory of Immunity (body resistance), Vaccine, Serum and Auto-hæmotherapies, and the use of numerous disease products for the treatment of the same morbid complaints afford ample proofs for the unconscious progress of the medical world towards the Homœopathic way of studying and dealing with disease. The Allopathic prescriptions are getting simpler every day and you will find one day that they will realise the folly of poly-pharmacy.

Thus, it is clear that Homœopathy has well-stood the test of the time and has triumphed over all the obstacles. The grand logic of Organon dealing with Hahnemann's masterly teachings is simply unchallengable. History of Homœopathy abounds in instances where critics came forward to challenge the truth of Hahnemann's observation and lo! what was the result? The critic who sincerely experimented on his lines became a staunch and fanatic convert to Homœopathy.

Homœopathy was introduced in India during the life-time of Dr. Hahnemann in the early thirties of the last century by

a few Christian Missionaries, medical practitioners and philanthropists like Judges, Civil Administrators and Scholars of eminence. Dr. Honigberger of Germany was one of those pioneers, who introduced Homœopathy in India by his marvelous cures in the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Lahore. In the early stages Homœopathy mostly flourished in Calcutta and then in Bengal. The profession shall ever remain indebted to the enthusiastic and indefatigable efforts of the great luminaries like Dr. Mahendra Lal Sirkar, Rajendra Lal Datt, Majumdar, Bhandari, Berigny, Roy, Salzar, Younan, Nag, Barid Baran, A. N. Mukerji and numerous others who carried and kept alive the torch of Homœopathy throughout this vast sub-continent. They were instrumental in starting Institutions for training, opening Hospitals and dispensaries and pharmacies that have been doing admirable service to Homœopathy for more than 50 years. Their miraculous cures astonished medical practitioners as well as the lay public. To-day, Homœopathy has penetrated in almost every town and village of this great country. There are thousands of Homœopathic Dispensaries, charitable and others, in all parts of India. Mass translations of Homœopathic books from Foreign languages have been carried on, as well as a number of periodicals are being issued regularly. The number of Homœopathic pharmacies has gone over thousands, and yet the demand for Homœopathic medicines through foreign imports has been increasing. The Public demand for Homœopathic treatment has been so irresistible that public bodies like Corporations, Municipalities and District Boards had to open their own Hospitals and dispensaries and give aid to others. Besides organisations like Ramkrishna Mission, Christian Missions, Industrial concerns in different provinces, and Marwari Relief Societies are running their own Homœopathic Dispensaries, where thousands of poor people are receiving medical aid.

No doubt, these are all encouraging signs for the progress of Homœopathy in India. But there is a dark side too, which must not be overlooked, if this science is to advance on right lines. It is a credit to the marvels of Homœopathy that it has developed so far in spite of bitter opposition and lack of

Government support. But all is not gold that glitters. Times and conditions are changing very fast. The medical science is advancing by leaps and bounds, whereas Homœopathy is rapidly slipping into underserving hands, that have little intelligence and ability to grasp its true implications. The Founders of Homœopathy in India never dreamt of such a chaos in Homœopathic service, as has been growing of late. There have been several organisations working for the good and uplift of this Science, but it is a pity that they could not use their influence to check the evergrowing quackery in Homœopathic profession. This quackery is not an evil peculiar to Homœopathy alone. It is prevalent more or less in all systems of treatment, even in those that are so efficiently backed and controlled by the Government. Nevertheless, prevalence in other systems is no argument for quackery in Homœopathy. As a matter of fact this problem of quackery cannot be solved so long as the Government is not ready to recognise Homœopathy and make proper arrangements for its training and control. For the last 20 years or so we have been continuously fighting and agitating with the Central and State Governments to give us due recognition and suitable facilities for the regular advancement of this Science. The first Resolution on Homœopathy was passed in the year 1936 by the then Central Assembly with great difficulty and after a long course of canvassing behind the scene. It was really an uphill task in those days of the British Regime. Our Activities received some impetus after the advent of Independence. There was another Resolution on Homœopathy in 1948, passed by the Indian Parliament, as a result of which the Government appointed the famous Homœopathic Enquiry Committee. Its recommendations and proposals are already known to the profession. The Government have not been able to implement them so far due to unworthy tactics of Old School followers that dominate the Indian Medical Council and the Health Directorate that formulate the policies on medicine.

Since Independence we have been pleading for setting up a Central Homœopathic Council for co-ordinating the different policies of the State Homœopathic Boards and Faculties and

to Council with regard to education, regulation of profession, Research, Manufacture of drugs and other things. This was also supported by the H.E.C. Report and approved by the 3rd Health Ministers Conference. The Planning Commission also recommended the establishment of a Central Homœopathic Council. But this Council proposal was not even placed on the agenda for the Health Ministers Conferences. This shows a deliberate indifference of the Government for Homœopathy.

All reports published by the Health Ministry including the Bhore Committee Report are based on incomplete data. While giving prominence to the number of Allopaths, Allopathic Hospitals, Beds, Colleges, Nurses, Midwives, Health Assistants etc., there is no mention of even institutionally qualified Vaid, Hakims, and Homœopaths. To the Union Health Ministry these practitioners do not exist. There are 5 Ayurvedic Universities, 146 Ayurvedic and Unani Colleges and 6 Homœopathic Colleges with thousands of institutionally qualified Vaid, Hakims and Homœopaths. There are numerous indoor hospitals and thousands of outdoor dispensaries giving medical aid to millions of people in the country. Even now, when the Government is providing Rs. 208 crores for health schemes under the 2nd Five Year Plan, Homœopathy and other systems have been allocated only 1 crore of rupees i.e. less than 5% (?) of the total allocation, while the number of patients treated by systems other than Allopathy is 85%. Thus the whole planning is wrong.

We proposed to start short term courses for medical men, for serving in outdoor and rural dispensaries but the Government refused to accept it. They have now decided to start Auxilliary Health Visitors in Allopathy with two years training for serving in the villages and small towns. Thus it is evident they do not want to develop Homœopathy and the indigenous system of medicine. Allopathy is being freely and lavishly utilised for the purposes of Employee's State Insurance Scheme, Community Projects and Contributory Health Schemes for Government servants and M.P.'s but no provision has been made for the Homœopathic and Ayurvedic treatments, inspite of repeated demands for the same. The

Central Directorate accuses the State Government for not carrying out their orders, while the State Governments have declared that unless the Centre directs, the State cannot help in the matter. There appears to be an unholy alliance between the Central and the State Health Directorates to strangle Homœopathy. Even in the State of Madhya Pradesh, U.P., Bombay, Bengal, Bihar, and Travancore Cochin, where Boards and Faculties have been constituted, the State Health Directorates have not co-operated and practically no work could be accomplished during the last 3 or 4 years. I solemnly appeal to the Central and States Health Directorates to revise their attitude towards Homœopathy.

If we ponder over the healthy conditions of our forefathers and the people about a century back and compare it with that of the present times we are simply staggered. Medicine had not developed then and hygienic measures were not adopted by the State generally. Has civilization brought about all these scourge of increasing illnesses to humanity? Most of the people then lived in the villages with fresh air, pure water and light without congested dwellings. Their diets were simple and the wheat, ghee, rice and vegetables were unadulterated, either there was pure ghee or pure oil but not the synthetised vegetable products of today. Even sugar, flour and water are not pure these days. Added to this malnutrition is the great scourge of drugging the masses with synthetic and highly complex chemical preparations. National Health is deteriorating day-by-day, under the influence of massive doses of the so called preventives and from other medicines used to cure diseases by the Allopaths. Our children are being compulsorily inoculated against small-pox, T.B., Typhoid, Cholera, Measles and various other infectious diseases every year. Thus the custodians of health want to live under the influence of numerous preventive drugs. How long should we allow this Harakiri?

Our National Government is based on the principles of Democracy and Secularism; the same principles must be applied to the domain of medical practitioners. Every medical practitioners should have an equal right and privilege of prac-

tising and getting recognition by the State. When there is a perfect tolerance, for every religious faith in India, there is no reason why systems of medicines should be treated differently. Although 9 years have elapsed, since Independence and continuous agitation is going on, for securing equal facilities for developments and rights to serve the people of our land, nothing tangible has been done so far towards the statutory recognition of Homœopathy. Recently, our Prime Minister, who is an apostle of Democracy, declared in the parliament that the government policy was to encourage and develop all systems of medicine, which were scientific. Homœopathy is an international system of medicine, recognised as scientific by all the countries of the world. I earnestly appeal to our National Government to open separate directorates for Homœopathy and to see that this system develops properly for the good of the community.

I have to pay my warm tribute to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, for whatever has been done so far with regard to Homœopathy. She herself wanted to establish a small central Homœopathic Council, but she had to yield to the opposition of her advisors. She would have earned the gratitude of millions, had she taken the courage to order her directorate to do the right thing in establishing a Central Homœopathic Council. We have every hope that our constitutional fight will certainly yield good results. You are already aware that Homœopathic Boards and Faculties have been established in several states and that the centre has appointed an advisory committee for the development of Homœopathy. Our voice has been sympathetically heard by the planning commission, who have already allotted funds for the upgrading of present institutions, and for Research Pharmacopœia etc.

Even then, we have to be very careful about our negotiations with the governments. The situation has become a delicate one. For me, there is no peace of mind, so long as Homœopathy is not statutorily recognised in this country, equal in status to all other systems of medicines. I am confident, that you all support my resolve to place Homœopathy at par with all other systems of medicines. With all the force at

my command, I say that our Democratic Government cannot resist our demand for full recognition of our system of medicine. We know for certain that the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Vice-President, Dr. Radha Krishnan and majority of the cabinet ministers, members of the Parliament, State Ministers and M.L.A.'s are in favour of Homœopathy. Besides this, the public and the press have always been pressing for this demand. Under these circumstances, the Government would be failing in the duty towards the Nation, if they do not act up to the wishes of the Nation.

The tendency of the medical-men of today is to grab and earn money. The noble profession has been besmeared by this change from the service to humanity to the earning of money. Thus a doctor cares for his money more than for the service he has to render to the suffering humanity. My appeal to the Homœopaths of India is to serve the people keeping it as their ideals and enter the villages where most of our people are living. If we serve them honestly, no other system in the world will be able to compete with us.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that in M.P. your Homœopathic Conference has considerably succeeded in organising and co-ordinating the activities of Homœopathy. I hope you would go ahead with your process of organising the vast number of Homœopathic Practitioners in the state. Your march onwards, will certainly be the source of inspiration to other fellow-homœopaths in India. The whole of Madhya Pradesh has already recognised Homœopathy. I have to pay my warm tribute to Dr. W. S. Barlingay, former Health Minister of Madhya Pradesh, who did so much for Homœopathy in Madhya Pradesh and India.

We greatly deplore the sudden demise of Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, who was a great lover and benefactor of Homœopathy. I am confident, his successor will follow his foot-steps and give due place to Homœopathy in this state.

I have taken your valuable time and feel highly obliged for the patient hearing. May we all follow the teachings of our master Hahnemann. Remember, we are the custodian of this great legacy of Homœopathy and we have to be true

servants of the nation. Let us serve the people selflessly with Homœopathy, never forgetting its basic principles. With the grace of Providence, I can assure you, Homœopathy will rise to the Pyramid of glory.

Jai Hind, Jai Homœopathy.

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

DR. S. M. RAHMAN, B.A., B.T., M.B.H.

Mr. President, Honoured Guests, Dear Graduates and Students of this College,

I feel proud of the great privilege of addressing this First Convocation of the Dacca Homœopathic Medical College. At the very outset we offer our sincere greetings and welcome to the President, our beloved Minister of Health, Mr. D. N. Dutta, who has been so kind as to grace this occasion with his august presence. In our struggle for the cause of Homœopathy we think and believe that his glowing example of life-long sacrifice and adherence to principles of truth and justice will support and assist us in creating here in Dacca a Homœopathic Medical Institution which will be the best of its kind in the whole of Pakistan.

I shall not tire your attention by telling you of the various problems immediately confronting our College, because you will, I hope, kindly read the Report of the College presented to you and get yourselves acquainted with our activities, trials and tribulations. For the present I would propose to take you to the special field of human knowledge which has contributed towards bringing the medical relief of physical and mental sufferings within the easy reach of all persons irrespective of the rich and the poor. Since its discovery about 150 years back by the great medical scientist Dr. Samuel Hahnemann of Germany, Science has made tremendous progress and brought about revolutionary changes in every walk of life. But this knowledge of medicine, I mean Homœopathy, still remains