

guests, colleagues and dear students for their kind and patient hearing and wish each and every one of them a happy and prosperous career.

Jai Hind

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND STATE FACULTY OF HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINE, WEST BENGAL*

The General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, Bengal was established by a Statutory order of the then Government of Bengal in 1943. The Statutes were recommended by an Advisory Board which consisted of many eminent Homœopaths like Drs. J. N. Majumdar, S. C. Ghose, J. N. Ghose, A. N. Mukherjee etc. The first Council was nominated by the Government. A sum of Rs. 6,800/- was made over to the Council from the Government which were contributed by some members of the Advisory Board towards the cost of establishment and maintenance of the Council as the Government made it clear that it was not prepared to take any financial responsibility whatsoever. After partition of Bengal, the Statutes were amended by the Government of West Bengal, and the Council was reconstituted and nominated. Since then three elections have been held, the last being in 1956, and elected representatives from the Registered Homœopathic practitioners of West Bengal constitute the majority of the members of the present Council.

Homœopathic teaching and profession were in a chaotic condition before the establishment of this Council. There were

* Read before the 3rd Convocation of the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal, held at the Senate Hall on 28th Aug. 1958.

many Homœopathic colleges which did not follow any uniform syllabus or curriculum of study. The courses followed in many institutions varied from six months to four years. The Council under the Statutes fixed up a standard for recognition of diplomas secured from these colleges, and invited applications from the authorities of the colleges seeking affiliation to this Council, along with full records of their institutions. Authorities of some of the colleges submitted their records but stated that their colleges could not be continued for financial reasons and ceased to exist, and some of the existing institutions placed their records before the Council. The Council after scrutinising such records recognised the following colleges and decided that diploma holders of the said colleges up to 1943 were entitled to registration :—

1. The Calcutta Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital.
2. The Bengal Allen Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital.
3. Pratap Chandra Memorial Homœopathic Hospital and College.
4. The Dunham Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital.
5. Hering Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital.
6. The Regular Homœopathic Medical College.
7. The Central Homœopathic Medical College.
8. Ashutosh Homœopathic Medical College, Calcutta.
9. Vivekananda Homœopathic Medical School, Bankura.
10. Bengal Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital.

Regulations for registration of Homœopathic practitioners other than the above diploma holders were also framed with the sanction of the Government.

The Council also framed certain rules for affiliation of a Homœopathic teaching institution which contained amongst others a four years' course, entrance qualification as Matriculate, and an attached hospital with at least 30 indoor beds. The following colleges are at present affiliated to the Council :—

1. Calcutta Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital,
2. D. N. De Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital

(Formerly Dunham Homœopathic Medical College), 3. Pratap & Hering Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, 4. Midnapore Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, 5. Bengal Allen Homœopathic Medical College & Hospital.

The total number of registered students in the affiliated Colleges up to date are now 2706. In 1944-45 the number of such students was 189. Uptil now 905 students have come out successful at the Final D.M.S. examinations held by the Council. It is also gratifying to note that the minimum qualifications of many of these students are now I.Sc. and there are many B.Sc. and M.Sc.'s studying in the affiliated Colleges. The General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine has the unique distinction of being the first body of such type in India and as such students from all over India including Nepal and Ceylon come here to read the four years D.M.S. course of the Council.

With regard to registration of Homœopathic practitioners, the Council has up to date registered the names of 8,127 practitioners. The Council felt that there were many practitioners amongst the Registered Homœopaths who did not have the opportunity of having institutional training but who were willing to appear at an examination to satisfy the Council about their medical and Homœopathic knowledge. As such the Council decided to hold D.M.S. examination under the transitory clause for such practitioners and invited all Registered Homœopathic practitioners to appear at the said examination. The Council has since then held six such examinations and 504 practitioners appeared at the said examinations out of which 316 have passed the examinations.

A set of ethical rules have been framed by the Council to prevent Registered Homœopathic practitioners from using unauthorised degrees and diplomas. The Rules for controlling Homœopathic pharmacies and charitable dispensaries are awaiting the sanction of the Government of West Bengal.

The Government of India at first refused to accept medical certificates granted by Homœopathic practitioners. A deputation consisting of a few members of this Council waited on the Central Health Minister and lodged a strong protest against

this discrimination. As a result of prolonged correspondence the Government of India has amended its previous circular with regard to such certificates provided the State Government concerned accepts the medical certificates issued by Registered Homœopathic practitioners belonging to that State.

The Homœopathic Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1948 after touring and inspection of the various States of India, submitted a report which was published in 1949 by the Ministry of Health, Government of India. The said Committee recommended to accept the diplomaholders of the colleges recognised by the Council and agreed with the view points of the Council with regard to teaching of Homœopathy and control of practice.

The Council also passed several resolutions condemning the recommendations of the Indian Medical Council to accept Homœopathy as post-graduate system of Medicine, and published a brochure pointing out the absurdities of such recommendations and distributed the brochure amongst the members of the Indian Parliament. The Government of India has not accepted the recommendations of the Medical Council of India.

The Planning Commission also allotted a sum of Rs. 37.5 lacs towards researches in indigenous and other systems of Medicine including Homœopathy; The Director of Health Services, Govt. of India has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee of Homœopaths to find ways and means to implement the recommendations of the Planning Commission; and the Government of India appointed an Advisory Committee of Homœopaths in connection with the Homœopathic Research Schemes. A member of this Council is in both the Committees and the views of the Council with regard to research and standardisation of Homœopathic teaching and the Draft Syllabus for the Homœopathic degree course have been accepted by the said Ad Hoc Committee, and the Government of India.

Unfortunately no money was spent for Homœopathy during the first five year Plan period with the exception of an Ad Hoc grant of Rs. 1.5 lacs to one Calcutta Homœopathic Institution for upgrading it to a College of a degree course standard. One noticeable feature under the Second Five-year Plan is allotment

of Rs. 16.5 lacs, especially earmarked for Homœopathy under items of Homœopathic Research, testing Homœopathic Drugs in upgraded Homœopathic Colleges and preparation of a Homœopathic Pharmacopœia. Two of the Homœopathic institutions affiliated to this Council have received grant of Rs. 20,000/- each for Homœopathic Research purposes as per scheme approved by the Homœopathic Advisory Committee.

But the draft bill on Homœopathy forwarded by the Government to this Council, and returned with the comments of this Council is still lying with the Government of West Bengal for consideration, and no legislative enactment has yet been passed. It is earnestly expected that the Government of West Bengal will soon find its way to pass a legislative enactment for Homœopathy and standardise the training and practice of Homœopathy in this state which is justly styled as the Home of Homœopathy in India.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(1)

Dear Sir,

Re : SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

To mark the occasion of the society's 25th year of existence it has been decided to hold its Silver Jubilee Celebration with great eclat and pomp by the end of this year. It has also been proposed to publish a Silver Jubilee Celebration "SOUVENIR" to commemorate this historic occasion. We shall be very glad to publish any important articles and writings on the subject of Homœopathy together with photos and life sketches of the writers and also Who's Who in Homœopathy. Meanwhile all lovers of Homœopathy including the owners of Homœopathic Pharmacies all over the country are cordially invited to co-