

The constitutional approach is often of primary importance, especially in children. This is so also in adults as exemplified by a man of 39 who had suffered from asthma for 32 years and was having attacks, almost nightly. He was even tempered, touchy, weepy as a child, pleasant, placid, inclined to portliness, very averse from a stuffy atmosphere, not thirsty. He improved at once on PULSATILLA and six months later while staying away from home slept with impunity on a feather bed which, he said, "formerly always made him ill". Almost two years after beginning treatment he reported, "no sitting up in bed trying to breathe now".

Asthma is, of course, a tricky disease to handle with its constitutional and psychological factors and the great variety of trigger substances which may precipitate an attack. Homœopathy holds out considerable promise of cure or, at any rate, of satisfactory control and that without risk of added suffering.

—*Homœopathy, Dec., 56*

HOMŒOPATHY IN RUSSIA

DR. ZACHAROFF

The CHAIRMAN introduced Dr. Zacharoff to give a short account of Homœopathy in Russia.

DR. ZACHAROFF (U.S.S.R.) said that the professional and civic duties of doctors being of the utmost importance, they were always looking out for new and effective means of preventing and treating the various diseases of man. It was for that reason that, with great pleasure and gratitude, he and his colleagues had accepted the invitation of the President of the Congress, Dr. Benjamin, to take part in its work.

Many Russian doctors believed that homœopathic treatment was very useful because although homœopathic literature

was unable to offer sufficient theoretical proof of its value and its methods, in the circumstances it was absolutely necessary to study Homœopathy as a method of treatment with the aim of expanding the field of application of all important Homœopathic remedies. Although the belief was held that the work for the development of Homœopathy and the training of Homœopathic doctors was insufficient, he thought it might be of some interest for members to know about the present state of that branch of medicine as practised in the U.S.S.R.

In many towns in the Soviet Union such as Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkoff and other places, there were now Homœopathic poly-clinics. Moscow, for example, had three poly-clinics with a totally Homœopathic staff of doctors. In many others, doctors applied both methods, choosing the proper one in the circumstances of the case. As a rule, Homœopathic doctors offered specialist medical treatment. Thus, the Moscow Central Homœopathic Clinic possessed a staff of 50 homœopathic doctors; 23 homœopathic physicians, 5 surgeons, 5 laryngologists, 5 gynæcologists, 4 dermatologists, 5 neuropathologists and one neurologist. Those doctors were well acquainted with the diseases of the various organs of the human being and they were specially qualified according to their specialities. As there were at least ten doctors in different specialities who were at the same time in the poly-clinic and who received patients they could easily consult one another. Only experienced doctors were permitted to go into a homœopathic post-graduate course and then to practise Homœopathy. In Moscow there were four homœopathic pharmacies; in 1955 they had dispensed nearly six million prescriptions. Drugs were prepared with sugar in granules and powders. When in liquid state they were in 30 to 45 per cent. alcohol. There was also ointment and so on. Potencies of 3 to 30 were used; usually 3 to 30, more rarely 100 and 200. Remedies from plants were often used in lower potencies.

In 1934 an organized study of homœopathic methods and treatment had been undertaken. Between 1934 and 1938 in six clinics at the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Experimental Medicine there had been carried out a study of the effect

of homœopathic treatment for a number of diseases, involving 1,680 cases of 60 diseases. It had been found that treatment was successful for various types of rhinitis and ulcer of the cornea, furunculosis and in other cases. Experimental work in that connection had been carried out in Leningrad in order to determine their therapeutic effect.

Other work had been carried out by various specialists; several had studied the effects of *Spigelia* on the heart of a frog; another had studied the effect of homœopathic treatment of dysentery in animals.

In 1940-41 the Institute of Pædiatrics had begun to study the effects of homœopathic treatment of dysentery in children. Another hospital had undertaken the study of homœopathic treatment of diseases of the joints—work which had been interrupted by the war, but resumed in 1952-55. At another hospital homœopathic doctors together with the scientific staff of the therapeutic and surgical clinics had been treating patients for ulcer of the stomach and duodenal ulcer, bronchial asthma, cholecystitis, burns and other diseases. As a result it had been found that homœopathic treatment for ulcer of the stomach and duodenal ulcer was as good as that carried out by non-homœopathic means. Studies had also been undertaken in connection with thrombosis, diabetes and endocarditis, the results being very successful; pain ceased, dyspeptic phenomena disappeared and patients had been able to go home in good condition. Analysis of the follow-up had shown that the patients were practically all able to work afterwards. Positive results had been gained in treating burns of the second and third degree. Speaking of those results, Professor Chabanov had mentioned, for example, certain advantages of homœopathic treatment of burns and the successes obtained and had stressed the fact that it was necessary to go on with the scientific study of the homœopathic methods and remedies as treatments. He had suggested that the surgeons should introduce into their practice the homœopathic method of treating burns.

Serious attention to the above-mentioned results of the work done had been paid by the Scientific Council of the Health Ministry of the U.S.S.R. and the Scientific Council had already

planned experimental research into homœopathic methods and remedies at the Institutes of Physiology and Pharmacology of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

As to the training of homœopathic doctors, in Leningrad, for example, there were post-graduate homœopathic courses attached to the homœopathic poly-clinics. Official bodies of the State Health Service had expressed serious interest and had taken an active part in the organization of training homœopathic doctors and examining candidates who wished to become homœopathic doctors. In Moscow doctors who wished to go into Homœopathy received their homœopathic qualification while working at the homœopathic poly-clinics, making a study of the poly-clinics and receiving patients side by side with the homœopathic doctors at the clinic.

Dr. Zacharoff said that during their stay in London he and his colleagues had had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the papers to be read at the Congress about the state of Homœopathy in different countries of the world. They had seen the London Homœopathic Hospital, had talked to many delegates and had learned many useful things as a result of those contacts concerning the results obtained in the work.

He expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity of taking part in the Congress and thanked the organizers for their attention and great kindness in inviting him and his colleagues to attend.

Dr. Zacharoff then presented the President with a gift in the name of his Russian colleagues.

DISCUSSION

The PRESIDENT warmly thanked Dr. Zacharoff for his kind gift which, he said, came as a surprise. He had much pleasure in presenting Dr. Zacharoff with a copy of Dr. Tyler's *Drug Pictures*, Dr. Wheeler's *Principles and Practice of Homœopathy*, a copy of the BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC JOURNAL and a special issue of the British Homœopathic Association's *Guide to Homœopathy*. He hoped that when they had been translated Dr. Zacharoff would find them very useful.

In reply to a question from the floor, Dr. Zacharoff said there was no homœopathic veterinary treatment in Russia.

Dr. McCRAE said the opportunity was a very favourable one for those present to pay their respects to their colleagues who had come from Russia and to thank them for taking the trouble to come so far.

It was also a good opportunity to ask them to use their influence, on their return to Russia, towards removing the restrictions that were now imposed on the East German homœopathic physicians. In Eastern Germany there were many excellent homœopathic physicians. He had that very day been speaking of that much respected colleague, Dr. Neugebauer, who used to do such wonderful work in preparing homœopathic medicines and in encouraging Homœopathy. He had learned to his sorrow that Dr. Neugebauer was now in Eastern Germany and was practically unemployed because of the restrictions imposed in that part of Germany. He expressed the hope that on the return to Russia of the visiting doctors some influence would be brought to bear to help that German colleague again to become a useful member of the profession and the homœopathic community.

Dr. McCrae then referred to the horrible developments in science when applied to destruction. The world was well aware just now that it was dealing with something of a very delicate and tricky nature. It had struck him, when reading an account of the damage done at Hiroshima that one of the big effects of exploding a uranium bomb was the sudden loss of heart among many of the victims. Those dealing with Homœopathy thought of those sort of things and knew that among their remedies they had *Thallium metallicum*. They also knew from scientists that the fission of an element changed the element and it was quite possible that in exploding uranium, thallium was produced. Those considerations and those inspirations perhaps made those dealing with it think that through Homœopathy, where an unknown element was being dealt with which was related to sub-radiation, mankind might have something to offer to offset the destruction which followed the explosion of an atomic bomb. That, nowadays, should be sufficient to

make the medical profession and every other scientific development investigate the work that homœopaths were doing today.

The CHAIRMAN, said that he had tried to get some of the East German colleagues to attend and had asked the Russian Embassy whether they could help in any way about the restrictions which he had understood existed. It was gratifying to have the presence of the West German members, but so far as those from Eastern Germany were concerned, the Russian Embassy had said they were sorry but they just could not interfere. However, it might be that when Dr. Zacharoff returned to Moscow he could recount the fears which existed about the treatment of homœopaths in Eastern Germany and perhaps see if he could help in any way.

DR. BARKER (Arnhem) said that in 1934 he and his wife had had the pleasure of staying in Moscow when visiting a Congress for rheumatism. They had the most pleasant memories of that occasion. There had been some 100 visitors and 600 Russian colleagues and they had been given a very nice reception. He had not met any homœopathic colleagues at that time but he had met people that he had known and had also seen poly-clinics.

DR. PIERRE SCHMIDT (Geneva) said that it was a very real pleasure to welcome with open arms the visitors from Russia. He had a biologist friend who told him of the progress that was being made in biology in Russia and also that progress in Homœopathy was increasing there. Dr. Adam had introduced Homœopathy in Russia at the end of the nineteenth century, and he had met a homœopathic doctor, who was Dr. Dubrasoff, in the Saar period in Paris at the time of Hahnemann. He had been very pleased to talk with a Russian confrère who had written a *Materia Medica* which unfortunately had been burned by the Bolsheviks.

But nothing had been heard about Homœopathic literature in Russia. He asked whether Russia was fed in that respect by books translated from Western European sources or whether they had their own homœopathic literature. He asked if it would be possible for the Russians to publish any of their own results of *Materia Medica* provings.

DR. ZACHAROFF replied that there was practically only one book on Homœopathy from Russian sources and that all the rest of their material came from Western European countries.

—*The British Homœopathic Journal, Jan., '57*

CASTANEA VESCA

DR. H. LUNA CASTRO, M.D.

Synonyms—Chestnut, *Castanea edulis*, *Fagus castanea*.

Habitat—This large tree, 50 feet high, rather common in Europe, is spread largely from Maine to Michigan, Kentucky and southward in the United States.

Natural Order—Capulifera.

Homœopathic Preparation—The mother tincture is obtained from the fresh leaves of the chestnut, according to Class III.

Drug power of tincture 1/6.

Characteristic Symptoms—*Castanea vesca* is adapted to children, especially when the child has been a victim of the invasion of the Bordet-Gengou bacillus (*hæmophilus pertussis*) at spring time.

Dry, rough, spasmodic cough of nocturnal type, ending in a prolonged crowing or whooping respiration, with congested and cyanotic face. Acute infectious cough of the respiratory tract provoked by the Bordet-Gengou bacillus (*hæmophilus pertussis*).

The child has no appetite, but he is very thirsty and desires warm drinks. With this state is associated an excoriating nasal catarrh which spreads to the larynx. The child has pains in the extremities and feels very tired.

Spasmodic colitis associated with whooping cough, with urgent stools, intense pain and gurgling in the descending colon. Mucous, dark yellow stools, extreme sensibility in the abdomi-