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EDITORIAL

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is a well-known historical fact that it is during the Pandemic of Asiatic Cholera from 1830 to 1832 that Homœopathy made its headway to almost all over Europe as an efficient and completely dependable therapy against the fell disease, baffling all other systems of Medicine. Even in England where the scourge of Cholera arrived late, in 1853, all the ignoble attempts of the Government-appointed Medical Council, under the presidency of the illustrious head of the London College of Physicians, in 1854, to suppress Homœopathy, was frustrated by the report of Dr. McCloughlin, the Medical Inspector to the Government, an allopath by creed and practice, who testified that, mortality rate of Asiatic Cholera in the London Homœopathic Hospital was only 16.4 per cent, as compared with 59.2 per cent in the Allopathic hospitals (vide *Life of Hahnemann*—by R. W. Hobhouse, p. 249 ; *Two Pathies—A dialogue between Drs. Allon & Home*—compiled by Dr. N. K. Banerjee—pp. 22, 50-51).

It is also well-known to all that Homœopathy spread out and struck its root all over the rural Bengal mainly through epidemics of Cholera. The success of Homœopathy against Cholera is proverbial in Bengal.

Although renown of Homœopathy mainly centres on Cholera—the most familiar and endemic pest in Bengal, Homœopathy is none the less efficient in any other epidemic, with

familiar names, e.g., Pox, (Small or Chicken), Measles, Influenza, Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Epidemic Dropsy etc. etc., as well as new ones without any established name, e.g., the Epidemic Jhinjhinia during the Second World War, the occasional epidemics of Infectious Jaundice that swept over India a few occasions in the last decade. This assertion can be testified by any body having experience in rural life, where any sort of epidemic is faced mainly by the village-homœopaths, mostly uneducated as they are.

Homœopathy can most easily and efficiently tackle and vanquish these fell diseases, thanks to the fact that its therapeutics is based not on any name of a disease, nor on elaborate pathological data, but on a simple and easily comprehensible principle—*similia similibus curentur*, which means that a drug, which is capable of producing a set of symptoms, shall cure any disease of any name or pathology whatsoever, only provided it has similar set of symptoms. This principle is so simple that it can be learned and adopted by any body, having a little knowledge in any language, (the principles and *Materia Medica* of Homœopathy having already been translated in almost all the vernaculars); but, ofcourse, its application requires some degree of commonsense, power and patience of observation, and some diligent study. But, in any case, it is these unsophisticated village Homœopaths, who meet the epidemics in rural areas. How more efficiently they would have done it, had they been taken a bit more care of, and provided with a little basic medical education, is altogether different problem. Still the fact remains that, it is even through these uneducated folk that Homœopathy has been demonstrating its efficiency, for more than last one century, to successfully tackle any epidemic of any virulence, pathology or name.

Notwithstanding these well-established facts, we very often hear announcements from official circles, especially through the Calcutta Centre of the All India Radio to the effect that diseases like Cholera, Small Pox etc. have no curative treatment, but only prophylactic (?) treatment. We have grave misgiving as to how far these official prophylactics—even if they are preventive of respective diseases—congenial to the health of people

and nation as a whole. Be it as it may, can we not expect our Authorities to be awake to, and frankly admit the fact that there is curative treatment for all these diseases in Homœopathy? And, not at all for demonstrating the merit of Homœopathy—which is self-evident, despite all negligences—but simply for the interest of the ailing people, for the interest of the Nation can Homœopathy not demand an opportunity to serve people, to save the victims of these epidemics, in well-organised official hospitals. Our Authorities are spending lakhs of rupees for their Infectious Disease Hospitals, under allopathic regime, while declaring that there is no curative treatment for them, can they not spare some little money and space for opening of homœopathic centres for receiving and treating these so-called incurable epidemic or infectious diseases?

We draw the attention of all concerned to the letter (published elsewhere in this issue of our Journal) addressed by the Secretaries of the W. B. State Homœopathic Federation to the Union Health Minister, State Health Minister, Mayor of Calcutta, and expect an immediate action on the same.

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