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EDITORIAL

THE WEST BENGAL HOMŒOPATHIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE BILL, 1963

After so many years of suspense and anxious waiting, the Homœopaths and lovers of Homœopathy in West Bengal had the immense pleasure of seeing the abovenamed Bill officially published in the Extra-ordinary Issue of the Calcutta Gazette of 22-3-63. The Bill was duly talked in both the Upper and Lower Houses of the State Legislature in the last Session, and after some preliminary discussion was sent to a Joint Select Committee with 5 members from the Upper House and 10 members from the Lower House. The Select Committee is to submit its deliberations within 15th July 1963. Along with all the Homœopathic minded people of the State we heartily congratulate the present Government for ultimately coming out with this long over-due Bill, and earnestly solicit that, proper enactment of the Bill should not, on any ground, be deferred later than the very next Session of the Legislature, so that, the Homœopathic Bill of 1963 becomes the Homœopathic Act of 1963.

We will not, at this stage, go into the detailed review and suggestions about the different articles of the Bill; that is the business of the various Homœopathic Organisations and Institutions, particularly of the West Bengal State Homœopathic Federation—the common Forum of almost all the Homœopathic Associations of the State. We do hope that, those criti-

cisms and suggestions of the Homœopathic public will be taken in due spirit and accepted as far as possible both by the Select Committee as well as the Legislature; and we also hope that, Dr. P. K. Guha, the State Minister of Health, will keep his promise given in the Hahnemann Birthday Celebration Meeting on 25-4-63 at the Mohabodhi Society Hall, that he will try his level-best to see that the suggestions and amendments coming from the Homœopathic public are duly considered and as far as possible accepted.

In this matter, we feel it as our duty, to draw the attention of both sides viz., the Homœopathic Public as well as the Government to certain important features of the situation, which ought to be taken into consideration during the process of enactment of the Bill.

1. Owing to certain peculiar features of Homœopathy, this faculty as an art can be learned and adopted by anybody with some degree of common sense and intelligence, even if he is devoid of any knowledge in the basic medical subjects like Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology etc. Thanks to this peculiar property of Homœopathy, there are myriads of Homœopaths, who may not be called physicians in the complete sense of the term, still are giving immense service to the people, by curing diseases of all types—sporadic, endemic, epidemic and chronic. In the interest of the people as well as of these practitioners, these Homœopaths cannot be eliminated from the Homœopathic Society. Arrangement must be done for sanctioning registration and State protection even to the last Homœopath of this category, while facilities must be provided for the minimum basic medical education for them.

2. It is not a fact that having sufficient knowledge in general medical subjects, *per se*, would help anybody to become a true Homœopath, or a good practice in any other line would make one a good Homœopathic practitioner. To be a successful and true Homœopath one has to imbibe the art and spirit of Homœopathy, getting himself thoroughly rid of various prejudices and fixed notions and ideas, involuntarily inculcated in the course of their education and practice in the orthodox line. Still, there is a good many number of practitioners

in the Homœopathic Society who, despite being complete physicians, are not sufficiently adept or complete Homœopaths.

3. Then, there is a vast number of Homœopaths who have received training in various Homœopathic teaching institutions of diverse standard and curriculum.

Thus the Homœopathic Society is constituted by people of diverse standards, interests and even, to some extent, viewpoints. But each and all of them are serving the people and earning their livelihood as Homœopaths. The Homœopathic Act to be effective and conducive, must look to the maximum interest of the maximum number of Homœopaths, without any bias to any particular trend.

4. It is, of course, an undeniable fact that, various forms of irregularities, drawbacks, even vices have crept into the Homœopathic Society. And that is quite natural in view of: (a) the total lack of any official status or control, (b) lack of any commonly accepted standard or curriculum of Homœopathic education.

But this fact should not make the Authorities feel shy or afraid to sanction maximum accommodation to maximum number of Homœopaths earning their livelihood on this profession, *as the last chance*. We are sure all these irregularities, drawback and vices will gradually wither away soon after:—

(a) Homœopathy is given official status, protection and control.

(b) A commonly accepted curriculum of Homœopathic education is instituted, in different grades, from the bottom course—giving basic education to the untrained Homœopaths, to the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate courses, but all of them from the Homœopathic point of view. We know, the W. B. S. Homœopathic Federation are taking steps to help the Authorities on this score. (Vide the report of the Second E. C. Meeting of the W. B. S. H. F., published in the News column of the last issue of this Journal).

(c) All facilities are provided to the Homœopathic practitioners and students to obtain training in any of those grades.

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Pathological symptoms have usually a very low rank because such symptoms have not been evoked much in the provings. But when we come across pathological generals such as tendency to warts, tendency to bleed, etc., such reflect the trend of the organism and are therefore to be considered.

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(d) Law is strictly imposed to bar any sort of professional or ethical irregularity in the Homœopathic Society.

We hope that, our popular Government, as well as its representatives to the Legislative House, will take this into serious consideration, so that they can best discharge their responsibility to the people.

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