

remedies by ceaseless study. He had enormously high standards and he expected his students to work and work and work, to reach that eminence which a lifetime of study and application of the principles of Homœopathy had convinced him was necessary to be a good physician and follower of his master Hahnemann.

—*Heal Thyself, February, 1947.*

THE REGISTERED HOMŒOPATHIC
PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE

BENGAL—1946-47

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BY DR. N. M. CHOWDHURY, M. D.

Dear Colleagues and brother Practitioners of Homœopathy,

You have done me a signal honour by electing me the President of your conference. The honour is not so much in filling the Chair but by the way in which I am allowed to fulfil this duty. Any day-labourer is as much to be honoured as the mightiest prince as long as he fulfils his task to the best of his ability. My hope this afternoon rests entirely on you as how well I can fulfil my duty with your co-operation, advice and help.

This conference is convened for the purpose of finding out the ways and means by which we can help the cause of Homœopathy and for helping Homœopathy to attain to its rightful place in the domain of Therapeutics. This can be done by proving to the country its undoubted superiority in the practical field and by rightful representation of its claim to the Government of the land. This conference is a momentous one, in as much as, it is the first of its kind held on the sacred soil of a free and independent India. Whatever differences we may have, it will

not do for us to make a display of it, as we have been in the habit of doing, to others who share with us the common dignity of a free nation. My first request, therefore, is for you to bury all your old feuds and forget them as if they were noxious dreams of the putrid atmosphere of a slave country. From to-day we must all breathe as one and have only one ideal—that of serving our country and show the world that a mighty nation so long asleep has once again risen to demand her place amongst the countries of free nations.

This can be done, gentlemen, through one and only one way alone and that is to get rid of all personal questions of gain and loss, of rivalry, of jealousy and morbid ideas of inferiority complex. We are all one and of equal status in this new democracy of the east. Let me survey our position, gentlemen, as we stand to-day. The old luminaries of Homœopathy that shone brilliantly in the past are no more. I need not mention the names as you know them all. Since their demise Homœopathy has fallen upon evil times. I am not suffering from the obnoxious symptoms of the inferiority complex, gentlemen, when I tell you that we do not any longer find amongst ourselves that calibre of practitioners who, through their faith, loyalty and selfless devotion to Homœopathy, laid such a strong foundation for Homœopathy in India as to be inconceivable to the builders of the tallest sky-scrapers of the present day world. It is through them that Homœopathy has spread through the entire continent of India. Go where you will from Mount Everest to Cape Comorin, from the distant Malaya and remote Burma to Kathiwar you will find a Homœopath to prove that the foundation is extensively laid. They may not represent Homœopathy to perfection but they justify and confirm that the science has taken root. It is now for you to build the upper structures on so vast a foundation and to build it so high as to reach the horizon and gain the confidence of 40 crores of people as an

example to other nations to stare and to wonder at your accomplishment. To be able to accomplish this it becomes an essential necessity to enlist the best brains of the country to take to the science.

Our institutions teaching Homœopathy on whom the ultimate welfare of this science rests, are of very low order. I am sorry to say, gentlemen, that in one of our meetings of the faculty one of the members, now a Minister of the Province, advocated enlistment of students of third and fourth standard. We must have men of broader foresight to lead us and not to entrust our affairs to such politicians who will steer our ship to ruin and disaster. Human life is a precious cargo and must not be left in the hands of such people to bargain and squander in any irresponsible way they like. We must build up hundreds of Homœopathic Colleges throughout all the different provinces of India—nay, in the very cities—better equipped, more soundly financed and better looked after than what exists at present.

I would think it would be better for all concerned to raise the standard of Homœopathic study to that of the Matriculation. Medical education is at all times a serious problem and it demands the best of intellect to master it thoroughly and then apply it practically.

The next and the most important factor necessary for success in any sphere of life, is self-help. The nation which means you, I and others put together can only thrive when there is initiative, self-sacrifice and earnestness in every fabric of its being. This means that we must all put our shoulder to the wheel and make our cause successful. This gospel of self-help is an essential necessity with us as it is with others.

Government must be approached for any big enterprise of public utility; but before Government aid is invoked we must put our last bit of strength to carry conviction of our earnestness. I must, therefore, request the Homœopaths of Bengal in the first place to unite

together and do their bits however small and carry on the propoganda in such a way as to draw the attention of the whole nation. Then alone our democratic Government as it exists to-day, will perforce be compelled to come forward to our assistance.

Lastly, before closing I must thank the Homœopathic Faculty for all it has done during very strenuous and stormy months through which we have passed. It has collected a substantial fund for our cause and has established a central authority to control Homœopathic education in the province of Bengal. Since the Government is ours and it is for us to look after our welfare, we must try and reorganise the faculty in the best way possible by getting in the best brains from amongst Homœopaths, who will, irrespective of all questions of self, devote their energy in setting it up as an exemplary faculty. Let us not lose any mote time and try our best to regulate Homœopathic science in such a way as will best cater to the cause of humanity. This means a free and a fresh election of a new faculty different from what has been set up by the last Government.

WELCOME ADDRESS*

BY DR. GANGADHAR MUKHERJEE, M. A., B. L.
Chairman, Reception Committee.

On behalf of the Reception Committee of the All Bengal Registered Homœopathic Practitioners' Conference, I beg to accord to you a hearty welcome to our poor town of Howrah, hallowed with the revered memory of Dr. Dinobandhu Mukherjee and to other pioneers of Homœopathy of the town, Drs. Baikunthanath Dutt and Gopal

*2nd Session at Howrah on the 27th and 28th December, 1947.