

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

SUBMITTED BY PRAFULLA CHANDRA BHAR,
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ANSWERS

1. Any person intending to practise Homœopathy should possess necessary qualifications at an Institution recognised by Government.

2. There is the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathy, West Bengal at 1-B, Old Post Office Street, Calcutta formed by Government of Bengal in 1943.

The above body has so far recognised three institutions in Calcutta providing facilities for 4 years course of study in Homœopathy under properly qualified staff and with Hospitals attached to them, viz.:

(i) The Calcutta Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, 265, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

(ii) The Dunham Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, 63, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

(iii) Pratap and Hering Memorial Homœopathic College and Hospital, 14/1, Narikeldanga North Road, Calcutta.

Besides there are several other institutions in Calcutta and Moffosil Towns that have not yet secured affiliation to the State Faculty.

3. Yes.

The General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal, as mentioned under question 2.

4. (a) We have no sufficient data to ascertain the exact number of Homœopathic practitioners in Bengal. Our own customers in India are 95,000 approximately who seem to practise Homœopathy; of these nearly fifty per cent belong to Bengal. Other firms in Calcutta have also their own customers.

(b) (i) The number of Homœopathic practitioners registered with the said Faculty is 6401 as will be noted from the list of Registered practitioners published by the said Faculty.

(ii) This information may be supplied by the Registrar of the said Faculty.

(iii) This information may be supplied by the Registrar of the said Faculty.

(iv) At least ten times the number of Registered Homœopathic Practitioners. This is presumed from the number of customers and sale of Homœopathic medicines in the leading pharmacies, e.g.

Messrs. M. Bhattacharya & Co., 84, Clive Street, Calcutta.

Messrs. Hahnemann Publishing Co., 165, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta.

Messrs. Ringer & Co., Norton Building, Lalbazar, Calcutta.

Messrs. King & Co., 90/7A, Harrison Road, Calcutta.

5. (a) The present method of training in Government recognised institutions (and not to speak of non-recognised institutions) is not satisfactory. The defects in the existing courses of training in Government recognised institutions are:—

(i) Though the theoretical training in Homœopathic subjects are fairly satisfactory, the practical and clinical aspect of it are not satisfactory due to want of well-equipped Hospitals.

(ii) To run a medical institution on proper lines requires a huge sum of money as capital grants and recurring grants; and the financial position of all these institutions is anything but satisfactory.

(iii) Students are not attracted in large numbers to these Institutions as they have no bright future prospects and are not eligible for service under the Government or in local bodies and the validity of their certificates during practice may be questioned. Such defects could be reme-

died in a large measure if there were Government Institution of Homœopathy.

Suggestions for improving and regulating training in Homœopathic Institutions:—

(1) The Government should immediately recognise the Homœopathic system of medicine, provide adequate facilities for training by establishing model college and hospitals and should confer rights and privileges to the Homœopathic practitioners, similar to those enjoyed by the practitioners of modern medicine.

This will induce the charitably disposed public to unstring their purse for the cause of Homœopathy; and students of better merit and qualifications will be available for Homœopathic Institutions.

(2) The pre-clinical course of study should include the teaching of subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Biology (I.Sc. standard) the curriculum of study to be so modified and adapted for training in the science and art of Homœopathy.

(3) Establishment of well-equipped Hospitals attached to the teaching institutions. These Hospitals must have in-door wards for medical (including infectious cases e.g. Cholera, Diphtheria, etc.), surgical, obstetric and Gynæcological cases, so that the students will have the opportunity of studying the application of Homœopathic system of medicine in all sorts of cases.

There should be arrangements for regular publication of statistical records of treatment of patients.

(4) In every teaching institution arrangements should be made for carrying out provings of drugs (especially of those drugs which have been already fully proved) to enable the students to get into the spirit of Homœopathic way of studying drug-action on the healthy human beings.

(5) As the treatment of chronic diseases form an essential and distinctive feature of Homœopathic practice, special arrangements are to be made in every Hospital (both in out-door and in-door department) to that effect.

(6) Provisions should be made by the Government for a Central Research Institute for elucidating many points in Homœopathy, still obscure and controversial; and for proving of new drugs or re-proving of many drugs partially proved etc.

(7) As Homœopathy differs with regular medicine in its interpretation and application of several fundamental principles of science; as it these differences of interpretation and practice growing out of them which give Homœopathy its individuality—the utmost importance of this Homœopathic point of view in matters medical should be given in the curriculum of study and adequate method of pedagogy to be followed in teaching institutions to infuse the spirit of Homœopathy in the educational make-up of the students.

5. (b) The minimum standard of general education for admission of students to Homœopathic training institution should be the Matriculation standard of the Calcutta University.

(c) (i) Yes.

(ii) The Intermediate Science standard of the Calcutta University.

(iii) The subjects should be taught to the students after admission to the Homœopathy course.

(d) Yes.

(e) Besides Hygiene and Public Health and Medical Jurisprudence, the following subjects are to be included in the curriculum:—

Homœopathic Materia Medica, Organon of Medicine.

Homœopathic Treatment of Chronic Diseases.

Homœopathic Philosophy, Homœopathic Pharmacopœia and Repertory.

(f) (i) Please refer to the Syllabus of the above mentioned subjects as prescribed by the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal.

(ii) I think the standard on the above mentioned subjects and the number of minimum lectures in each of those

subjects as fixed by the Bengal Homœopathic State Faculty should be the minimum standard.

6. (a) The D. M. S. qualification conferred on students by the Bengal Homœopathic State Faculty should be considered as the minimum standard of qualification for each subject; exceptions may be made in the case of teachers of great reputation, practice and experience.

(b) Please refer to my answer of Q. 5 (a).

7. Yes by all means.

8. (a) Yes.

(b) The practice of Homœopathy should be controlled by legislative enactment so as to make the practice of unqualified persons punishable by law.

(c) All qualified persons should be registered and none but registered persons should be allowed to practice. Only the certificates of registered practitioners should be regarded as valid in law.

(d) Yes.

(e) (i) Five years.

(ii) Such practitioners for purposes of registration should produce evidence of having practised Homœopathy for at least 5 years to the satisfaction of the authorities concerned.

(iii) Such candidates should be able to pass a Test Examination written or oral or both, the minimum standard of which has been fixed by the General Council and State Faculty, West Bengal.

9. Yes.

(a) Same as put under Answer-8 (e) (i), (ii) & (iii).

(b) They must produce certificates of having passed the final examination of a recognised Homœopathic Institution.

(c) Same as those of the registered practitioner of modern medicine.

10. We do not consider that mere provision for post-graduate training in Homœopathy for graduates in modern

medicines will promote the cause of Homœopathy or raise the standard of the Homœopathic profession at large. Be it noted that the term post-graduate training in this connection is a misnomer; because the graduates will just receive the training in Homœopathy as is obtained in Homœopathic institutions. We want that there should be post-graduate training for those who are already *qualified Homœopaths*.

We press here, with all the emphasis that our language can command, for separate institutions where the students will move and live and have their very being in the atmosphere of the Homœopathic Philosophy.

Of course, there should be a post-graduate course in Homœopathy for more intensive and deeper study of the Philosophy, Science and Art of Homœopathy.

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