

## BOYD MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST LABORATORIES

The success of homœopathic treatment in many types of case makes the enthusiast wonder why there is any need for the expenditure of time and money on research. Those who have experienced the effect of a homœopathic drug, in potentised form, often feel that there is no difficulty in recognising that there is "something" in potency action, clinical results are, after all, the supreme argument. This is undoubtedly true for the convinced. It is, however, not always realised that the present development of scientific methods of thinking has led to a profound P.R. or psychological resistance among doctors against acceptance of the homœopathic principle of "similia similibus curentur," and to very great difficulty in admitting any possibility of medicinal action of a curative nature with the homœopathic potencies. The first scientific query is: how does a drug act in accordance with the principle, and how can drugs act when there are no molecules of the original substance left in the prepared high potencies? The answer that the proof lies in the results simply does not satisfy those who have neither seen results nor heard any satisfactory explanation. To this type of mind, scientific research makes a definite appeal.

It is therefore of very great importance that proof should be forthcoming along scientific lines, to demonstrate that the "simile" principle is an experimental fact, and the potencies prepared according to the correct pharmacopœial instructions can cause an effect through some demonstrable quality of action. Such proof cannot be provided except by research carefully planned, with different aspects as part of a strategic plan covering a number of years.

In these laboratories, an overall plan conceived many years ago, is slowly developing into an all round attack on the problems requiring solution. Those who have any

knowledge of the complexities of research, starting from the initial ideas and progressing along the tedious road of construction, experimentation, development, modification and re-experimentation, will appreciate that only long term plans and adequate finance can lead to any progress. Through the many years since modest research started in a single room, to the present more complex research organisation, the Association has shown its interest and encouragement by grants to assist some of the lines which are producing the evidence required to overcome this psychological resistance, and to increase the knowledge of homœopathic drug action.

In recent years the research has been expanded as the result of increased support. The Boyd Medical Research Trust now owns its own building, with physiological, biochemical, low frequency, biophysical, and radio laboratories, with a small well-equipped workshop and a staff of whole and part-time workers, including a staff engineer, radio assistant, instrument maker, biochemist, biochemical technician, three laboratory assistants, draughtsman and secretarial staff. In addition, there is available specialist advice and help from a statistician and from members of the University and Technical College staff.

The research plan aims (1) at the discovery of the nature of the energy of homœopathic drugs which is demonstrable through effects on a human subject in the Emanometer, while clinical research tests with this instrument in hospital cases are constantly proceeding; (2) at the development of sensitive instrumental methods for recording pulse and electrical heart changes, in order to demonstrate the action of homœopathic potencies; (3) at the study by delicate biochemical methods of the action of homœopathic potencies on sensitive enzyme reactions, and (4) at the recording by electronic means, of the response of biological indicators to homœopathic drugs.

The grants from the Association are devoted mainly to the third line of research, the biochemical action of homœo-

pathic potencies. This work over a period of years has produced strong evidences of electro-physical action of a range of low potencies in biochemical processes. The latest paper on "The threshold action of microdoses of Mercuric Chloride on the activity of Diastase in the hydrolysis of "starch," was given at the London Congress, 1949, and is now in print. In it, due acknowledgement is made to the Beit Research Committee of the association. It gave the results of work over a number of years, and provides clear proof of the special activity of the drug used, Merc. Cor. The technique is elaborate and rigid and the bio-chemical technician had to be trained specially for it. After the completion of this long series of tests and the initiation of high potency tests, the trained technician decided to fit herself for a different occupation. Our grateful thanks are due to her for careful and painstaking work of the greatest value over a number of years. The new series of important tests using higher potencies are therefore dependent on the re-training of a new technician. We have been extremely fortunate in getting a technician with the necessary background of experience in careful measurement and bio-chemistry, and she is now in continuous training in the special techniques. A physiological biochemist is also engaged in experiments dealing with the response of biological indicators to similar potencies. A new spectrophotometer has been installed along with a new, highly accurate microbalance, both of which instruments will bring an added accuracy to the important experiments which are proceeding.

The annual expenditure on the research work amounts to over £3,000, met from grants, private gifts and legacies. The future progress of homœopathy largely depends, in this scientific age, on the degree of public support for schemes of research such as are being carried out in these laboratories.

—*Health through Homœopathy, January, 1950*