

Homœopathic Materia Medica, Homœopathic Philosophy, Homœopathic Pharmacopœia and Pharmacy.

6. These may be settled by the committee.

10. We do not consider that the provision for post-graduate training in Homœopathy for graduates in modern medicine will promote the cause of Homœopathy or raise the Standard of the Homœopathic Profession at large.

There may be a post-graduate course in Homœopathy for more intensive and deeper study of the Philosophy and Art of Homœopathy.

In short my individual opinion is that a Homœopathic physician should and must be a well trained and full fledged medical man first and then a Homœopath.

In conclusion I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the American Institute of Homœopathy of the United States of America is the first and foremost Homœopathic organisation of the world. At one time the members of this Society published a definition of a Homœopathic physician. Which is as follows:—

"A Homœopathic physician is one who adds to his general knowledge of medicine and other allied subjects a special knowledge of Homœopathic Therapeutics and its basic principles and all that pertains to the great field of Medical learning is his by tradition, inheritance and right."

ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

SUBMITTED BY DR. B. K. SARKAR, M.B.

Principal, The Dunham Homœopathic Medical College & Hospital, Calcutta.

ANSWERS

1. As there is no state law prohibiting quack practice of any sort—any body can practise any system of medicine he chooses to take up as a profession. But it is not desirable to have such uncontrolled state of affairs in matters medical.

We claim Homœopathy to be a scientific system of medicine. Any body professing Homœopathic practice must have to undergo a systematic course of training, both theoretical and practical during the pre-clinical and clinical period of medical study in any well-equipped institution and Hospital attached thereto, which are recognised as affiliated institutions to a Faculty of Homœopathy under the direct control of the Government.

2. The existing facilities for the teaching of Homœopathy in the province of West Bengal:—

(i) Three institutions with attached hospitals, affiliated to the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal.

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

(iii) The Calcutta Homœopathic Medical College & Hospital, 265, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

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

These institutions abide by the curriculum of study, rules of admissions of students as framed by the Bengal Homœopathic State Faculty.

Several other institutions, not affiliated to the said Faculty as they could not comply with the standard set up by the said Faculty.

3. Yes.

The General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal—Established 1943.

(The copies of the Regulations and Syllabus of the Faculty are enclosed herewith).

4. (a) It is not possible to state the total number of Homœopathic practitioners in the province of West Bengal.

(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) 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.,

Hahnemann Publishing Co., 165, Bowbazar Street.

Messrs. M. Bhattacharya & Co.

Messrs. Ringer & Co.

Messrs. King & Co.

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) Both the theoretical and practical part of training in allied and auxiliary subjects e.g. in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, etc., are defective due to want of proper equipments in the College departments.

(iii) The present four-year course of training is too short for the purpose. A Homœopathic student has got to learn his Homœopathic Materia Medica, Homœopathic Philosophy, etc., (which are themselves very vast and comprehensive) in addition to all the subjects that are taught in the institutions of modern medicine. He feels very much cramped to receive so much training (both theoretical and practical) in such a short period. It is difficult for the authorities of the institutions to complete the courses of study in different subjects before the Final Examination held by the Homœopathic State Faculty at the end of four-year sessions.

(iv) The financial handicap which every institution labours under is the main cause of failure on the part of

the authorities of the institutions to provide adequate facilities for training both in the colleges and hospitals. Every institution (though publicly organised) receives no grants-in-aid from the Government. The institutions receive a very negligible sum of money as grants from the Calcutta Corporation.

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.

(v) The small number of admission of students every year and their poor quality in merit—are a serious handicap to the institutions.

As the Homœopathic system of medicine is not recognised by the Government, the future prospects of students passing out from these institutions are very dubious. They have to count upon general practice and to face keen competition with the qualified practitioners of modern medicine. So students, who are desirous of taking up Homœopathy, as their profession and chief source of living, do not feel encouraged to divert their energy and incur expenses to go through a four-year course in Homœopathic institutions. The result is—we get a small number of students and of them the majority are of very poor merit (while the number of lay Homœo. practitioners is increasing by leaps and bounds). When they find that the facilities for prosecuting higher studies are denied to them, they turn to Homœopathic institution. In spite of our best efforts, we can but turn out very poor Homœopaths who cannot command respect in society or establish themselves as efficient physicians in their future professional life.

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 Homœo. institutions.

(2) The course of study in the Homœopathic institutions should be extended to six years or at least five years: the pre-clinical period for three years and the clinical period for another three years.*

(3) The pre-clinical course of study should include the teaching of subjects like Logic (Deductive and Inductive), Elements of Metaphysics and Elements of Psychology; 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.

(4) With regard to teachings in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and other auxiliary subjects:—teaching should be along broad outlines and need not go into details and discussions of various theories, etc. This will serve not to encumber a Homœopathic student with a mass of knowledge which is not essential for the thorough grasp of the principles and practice of Homœopathy.

(5) The subjects of Medicine and Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynæcology, etc., should be taught from a Homœopathic point of view. The current books on Medicine and Surgery etc., are written by men of modern medicine and their view points regarding diseases and drug-actions and method of case-taking for prescribing remedies, are necessarily different from the Homœopathic point of view. To obviate this difficulty the teachers of those subjects should preferably be Homœopathic practitioners.

* After submission of these answers the writer has changed his opinion and advocated for a *graded course* of teaching, which will be found mentioned in the Editorial—B.K.S.

(6) 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 gynaecological 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) There should be a post-graduate course in Homœopathy for more intensive study in Homœopathic Materia Medica and Homœopathic Philosophy.

(10) 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 reproving of many drugs partially proved etc.

(11) As Homœopathy differs with regular medicine in its interpretation and application of several fundamental principles of science; as it is 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 institutions should be the Matriculation standard of the Calcutta University. The students should pass the Matriculation Examination with Elementary Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology).

(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, Homœopathic Philosophy, Homœopathic Pharmacopœia and Pharmacy.

(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.

After the establishment of Post-graduate course in Homœopathy by the Government or any Government sponsored controlling body the teachers should obtain degrees or diplomas or any certificate conferred on them by the said body.

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

7. Yes by all means.

As a modern civilized Government should observe religious neutrality and should not identify themselves with

any particular religion i.e., it should allow full scope to the followers of particular creeds or religions and interfere only when one sect infringes on the fundamental civic rights and liberties of another sect—it is high time that Government should adopt similar attitude to different schools of healing art. Truth is no monopoly of any system of treatment. Let the Government provide ways and means for the fullest development of each school of medicine; and comparative statistics of practical results would assess how much truth is contained in each system. Let the Government pass laws that the physicians of different schools must have proper training in fundamental subjects of medicine before they start their professional career.

8. (a) Yes.

(b) The teaching of Homœopathy should be controlled by legislative enactment and should be placed under the direct control of the University and should be a part of the existing Faculty of Medicine.

(c) The essential features of control should be with regard to

(i) Homœopathic teaching, (ii) Homœopathic practice and (iii) Homœopathic pharmacies as regards manufacture of genuine and standardised Homœopathic medicines.

(d) If the registration of Homœopathic practitioners be made compulsory, they will come under the controlling authority constituted under the law; and it is expected that the standard of Homœopathic practice will certainly improve to the immense benefit of the society. It is also proposed that in order to give reasonable facilities to the existing practitioners to enable themselves to be duly registered a period of three years time should be allowed from the date of coming into operation the proposed legislation thereof.

(e) (i) Five years of *Bonafide* Homœopathic practice, prior to the date of issue of notice by the Government or any legally constituted Faculty of Homœopathy.

(ii) The candidate applying for registration should produce the original affidavit duly sworn by him before a first class magistrate to the effect that he has taken up the profession of Homœopathic practice and this is his principal and regular occupation in life.

(iii) A written examination on the Homœopathic subjects, the minimum standard of which have been fixed by the Bengal Homœopathic State Faculty.

9. Yes.

(a) The conditions for registration in respect of existing practitioners should be the same as put under Answer 8 (e), (i), (ii) and (iii) and securing of D.M.S. Diploma of the Bengal Homœopathic State Faculty.

(b) *Re.* future entrants into the profession:

Those who have prosecuted their full course of studies in institutions affiliated to the Bengal Homœopathic State Faculty and obtained the diploma of D.M.S. from the said Faculty or any other legally constituted body empowered to confer degrees or diplomas on the successful candidates.

(c) The registered Homœopathic practitioners should be saddled with all obligations as are now imposed on practitioners of modern medicine.

All Registered Homœopathic Practitioners (excepting those who are registered only by virtue of their being in the practice for 5 years prior to the enactment of the proposed legislature) shall be entitled to same privileges as are now enjoyed by the practitioners of modern medicine.

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

Now-a-days the converts to Homœopathy from the Allopathic system are held in greater esteem by the public because they possess better knowledge in fundamental auxiliary sciences e.g., Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology etc. than those who pass out from the Homœopathic institutions of the present day. We envisage a better training in Homœopathy and allied medical subjects after the Government recognises this system of medicine and provides adequate facilities for its teaching etc. (as suggested in our answer to Q. 5). Here we must stress the need and utmost importance of having *separate institutions for the Homœopathic training*. For explanation please refer to my answer to Q. 5 (ii). After passing through the full course of studies in an Allopathic institution, certain view-points regarding diseases and drug-actions are so indelibly stamped on the minds of students that it proves very difficult for them to shed those in favour of the Homœopathic view-points, of which, some are exactly opposite to those held by the Allopathic School. It is more difficult to unlearn a thing than to learn a new thing. We, being converts to Homœopathy from the other school, had to go through a severe mental crisis to change our points of view and adapt ourselves to the methods and mental make-up which are necessary for a successful Homœopathic prescriber. Let the posterity learn through our bitter experience. 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.