

of conceptions to express itself, there should be no question about the priority of one order over the other or one order being "more real" than the other. We have to decide what aspect should be relevant to our purposes as "Medical Man", Hahnemann's idea of a physician was one who would cure the sick and his idea of sickness or suffering was that of derangement of the vital force of the vital principle or entity. The study of diseases belongs to the vital plane, though the human being combines in himself the mental and physical planes as well. So Homœopathy, Hahnemann's discovery, studies the human organism from the standpoint of life. For a physician the category of life is the most relevant to his purpose, the other aspects or categories being used as secondary.

**REGISTERED HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS'
CONFERENCE, WEST BENGAL
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

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MR. BOSE, BROTHER COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Please allow me to thank you for electing me to preside over the deliberation of this Conference. The responsibility is a grave one. In view of the momentous time, I mean with the advent of Independence of our country, we are going through a very difficult time, and everything is in the turmoil. Homœopathy has been so long very much neglected due to the apathy of a foreign rule. But people are now more conscious of their rights and privileges, and as such are trying to get rid of the prejudices against this system of treatment with the help of the state.

That this system of treatment is popular in India is without question. This fact has been established more firmly by the appointment of an Enquiry Committee

through the Constituent Assembly by the Government of India. Although its popularity is beyond doubt, I am sorry to state that the condition of the profession and the manner in which it is practised are not very satisfactory. With the advent of popular governments in the provinces and in the centre, Homœopathy is being recognised in all the provinces. U. P. has already passed a homœopathic bill recognizing the system of treatment. C. P. and Bihar are in the way of having bills recognising the system in the near future. But it is a matter of great pleasure for me to say that Bengal has already gone a long way in this direction. The Government of Bengal before partition had established the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine in 1943, because of persistent popular demand. After partition, the State Faculty has been functioning in West Bengal and I must mention, it has tried to create cosmos out of chaos. During six years of its establishment, the General Council has undergone many trials because of Japanese Bombing, communal carnage and partition of the province. But in spite of these it has done some good work towards the upliftment of our profession and standardisation of homœopathic education in Bengal. It will not be out of place here to mention some of the works done by the Council.

- (1) The Council has during this period registered about 6500 homœopathic practitioners,
- (2) has drawn up the syllabus for the colleges to teach homœopathy and allied medical sciences.
- (3) has affiliated four colleges to impart homœopathic education to the students according to the syllabus.
- (4) has held several examinations according to the syllabus and also certain transitory clause examinations for the practitioners registered by it.
- (5) has drafted rules and regulations to control the pharmacies and homœopathic manufacturing

chemists and also has inspected several firms of manufacturing chemists and submitted reports thereof to the Government.

- (6) has drawn up a set of ethical rules to be observed by registered homœopathic practitioners.
- (7) is building a dissecting hall to be used by the students of the affiliated colleges.

I must confess also that there is ample scope for improvement in the work of the Council. But the difficulties that stand in its way are

- (a) nature of its formation by a statutory executive order only,
- (b) the non-acceptance of the West Bengal Government of the financial responsibility of the running of its establishment.

We will put our demands to the government in such a manner that the faculty may be converted by legislation into an enacted body and our institutions may get adequate financial help with regard to their hospitals and educational departments. Then only can Homœopathy be put on a sounder basis by the Faculty in the province of West Bengal.

At present the medical directorates are controlled by allopathic doctors, who I am sorry to say are men of monopolistic tendencies without any scientific approach. It seems to me they are only trying to be the guardians of vested interest. The Indian Medical Association a non-official organisation assumes an impartial attitude, but in fact it is in hands and gloves with the medical directorates. It is a matter of gratification that some of the individual members belonging of the recognised system of medicine who have no bias and have a scientific approach, believe in our system of treatment by observing its efficacy in the treatment of the diseases. The State should therefore be impartial being the custodian of public exchequer should not voice its opinion through the so-called medical direc-

torates, where homœopathic system is definitely not represented and completely ignored.

This kind of apathy towards homœopathy has been disastrous both for the profession and public. Because of lack of control numerous so-called homœopathic colleges have cropped up which have produced indisciplined homœopathic practitioners. This has led to also issuing of degrees and diplomas without even minimum homœopathic and medical training. I am sorry to say that the Indian Medical Degrees Act is existing in the name only and has never been applied to these spurious degree and diploma holders which has resulted in the deterioration of the status of the homœopathic profession. But I am glad to note that the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal is trying to put a stop to such malpractices through its ethical rules.

It is also gratifying to note that Government of India has moved in the right direction by appointing a Homœopathic Enquiry Committee. But when I say that I express disapproval about the representative character of the committee, I am certain that I am voicing the opinion of the Homœopathic profession in Bengal. The total number of the members should have been more in this Committee and Bengal should have had more seats in view of its past and present contribution towards homœopathy. We should also strongly object to the appointment of the two representatives of the Indian Medical Association in the Committee, whereas no member has been taken from any of the homœopathic associations in India. The Government of India should explain its policy about the formation of the Committee in accepting such nominations of so-called allopathic associations ignoring the claims of the homœopathic association.

Homœopathic education has been a burning question to all, and I find from the questionnaire circulated by the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee some questions regarding

the manner in which such education should be imparted. There are three possible ways for teaching of this Science viz., (i) separate institutions, (ii) Bicameral arrangements in the existing institutions of the other school, (iii) Post graduate training. (i) It is my considered opinion that if the Government is keen to place Homœopathy on a firm footing in India, it should by all means establish separate institutions for the teaching and training of Homœopathic practitioners. The main object of such a suggestion is due to our approach to a disease which is fundamentally different from the other school of medicine, and it can be best expressed in the following words of Garth Boericke in the book "Principles of Homœopathy" "Our reason for existence as a separate school of medicine is only on account of our different attitude regarding the scope, and usefulness of drugs in the treatment of diseases. Signs are not wanting in recent years that regular medicine is rapidly coming to the homœopathic view point". The so-called "Modern Scientific treatment" has not given much importance in drug therapeutics, but is keen on Pathology, Bacteriology, and Immunity; the result of such researches has been changing of theories and rapidly changing of Materia Médica, whereas the homœopathic medicine offers an unlimited application, a definite law for their administration according to the symptoms, which are not ever changing.

(ii) Bicameral institutions—The danger of such a course of training is also in the method of teaching in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and other auxiliary subjects. Such teachings should be along broad lines and need not go into details and discussion of various theories etc. This has resulted in absorbing a major portion of the time allotted to the student in learning pre-clinical subjects in such vast specialised compartments that the student at the end hardly gets the idea of integrated whole of the human organism with regard to its Anatomy and Physiology. This also entails a sacrifice of the time which could be devoted to

the study of *Materia Medica*, principles of therapy, Homœopathic and otherwise. In brief the student is apt to lose sight of the wood while in search of individual trees. This will not serve the purpose of imbibing a thorough grasp of the principles and practice of homœopathy in a student. The subject of medicine and Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynæcology etc. should also be taught from a homœopathic therapeutic point of view in pre and post operative phases of a case.

(iii) Post Graduate course in my opinion will not promote the cause of Homœopathy or raise the standard of the homœopathic profession at large. After passing through the full course of studies in allopathic institutions, certain view points regarding disease and drug action are so much stamped on the minds of a student, that it becomes very difficult for him to shed those in favour of homœopathic view points of which some are exactly opposite to those held by the so-called allopathic school. My opinion can further be strengthened by observing the present condition of homœopathy in the United State of America. These systems of teachings have been adopted there, and the consequences have been disastrous for the furtherance of the cause of homœopathy. The number of homœopaths is also gradually dwindling down there.

There is much confusion amongst those who are not conversant with homœopathy, as to where the latter stands with reference to medicine in general. Medicine in the true sense of the term is the whole science and art of healing. All therapeutic appliances besides drug therapy known to men are taken recourse to and the whole body of knowledge covering the whole sphere of existing diseases of numerous varieties and different causations incidental to human beings with their descriptions as regards their names, etiology, clinical course, pathological basis, diagnosis, etc., come under this general term. In this sense it includes Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynæcology, Hygiene Juris-

prudence etc. In the above sense homœopathy is not a complete system of medicine, but it is primarily and pre-eminently a specialised system of drug therapy, and it may be termed as a complete system of therapeutic medication which is based on a fixed principle of the application of drugs in diseases according to the law of similars. Questions have been raised as to the existence of the quantity of medicine in homœopathic potencies particularly those above the 12th potency. From the point of view of 19th century ideas, these questions are definitely valid. But we know that in science there are two factors, the scientific fact and the scientific explanation. The scientific fact is a matter of pure observation open to anybody, who observes the effect of homœopathic medicines even in the highest potencies without prejudice. We who have practised homœopathy for such a long time, as also those new comers to the profession from the recognised school of medicine, wherein exists a therapeutic nihilism, are convinced of the principles of homœopathy being a scientific fact. Majority of us being clinicians, are satisfied with it. But a large number of the existing scientists who are still mentally in the same state as of the 19th century going by the so-called statistico-analytical methods are not satisfied with the theories advocated to explain homœopathic medicinal action. But recent advances initiated by Planck and carried on by such men as Prof. Einstein and Mr. Bose present here to-day, during the last half a century have changed the whole outlook of science. Science today is not only quantitative and analytical but is changing into the ideas of potential action, synthesis of such actions and of the study of processes as a whole. The Newtonian mechanics though found to be correct for certain states is being changed to that of Quantum mechanics where the changeability of matter and ultimate division of matter are being taken into consideration. The laws of conservation of mass and of energy has already been changed into law of conservation of mass plus energy. The conversion of mass into energy and vice versa today

is an accepted fact and I do not think that the explanation of homœopathic medicinal action is far from our sight in view of such far reaching scientific changes. The methods of study available to the scientists of such problems may as yet be inadequate to explain the actions of medicines in highest potencies. But that does not alter the scientific fact of the efficacy of medicines in the highest potencies, when applied according to homœopathic principles. Research, certainly is necessary in these lines. But we as physicians are only concerned with the application of this principle, and are content in welcoming such researches, but would rather leave it to the scientists, who would go into the matter without prejudice. If necessary scientific talent may be drawn upon from abroad for this purpose.

There are many things upon which I would have liked to dwell, but I am afraid to take any more of your valuable time and patience, and I appeal to the homœopathic medical profession to rise to this momentous occasion and sink our petty differences and consolidate our energies to place homœopathy on a firm footing in India and guard the registered practitioners' legitimate rights and privileges. Let not there be a hydra headed monster again in the homœopathic profession, because we have to depend on popular support and of absence of technical men. We are apprehending in some of the provinces, this catastrophe, where homœopathy is being recognised due to public demand. Absence of proper technical leadership may lead us into disaster again.

Difficult & Backward Children with Chapter on Tuberculous condition in Children, Hypotrophy in Children and Whooping Cough. By LEON VANNIER. 2nd Edition. Price Rs. 1/8.

HAHNEMANN PUBLISHING CO.,
165, Bowbazar St., Calcutta—12.