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EDITORIAL

NEED FOR COMPLETELY SEPARATE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

We offer no apologies to our readers for reverting to this oft-repeated subject on the following grounds :

1. A demand for a separate institution for the teaching of Homœopathy does not necessarily imply either wholesale condemnation of the allopathic medicine or denial of limitation in the scope and sphere of Homœopathy. The demand comes out of a desire to afford an all-out opportunity to Homœopathy to evolve according to its genius.

2. Though Homœopathy started as a specialised system of drug-therapy it has developed into a distinctive school of medical thought as the viewpoints of the Homœopathic Philosophy, the Homœopathic Materia Medica etc. are so fundamentally different from that of the parallel subjects in the Allopathic System.

3. Many seem to labour under a misconception as regards the subject-matter of Medicine and its objects. We should distinguish between the Medicine proper and the auxilliary subjects satellite to Medicine e.g. Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology etc. Properly-speaking the subject-

matter is concerned with the study of life, health and disease. It is the distinctive approach to the study of life, health and disease that constitutes the individuality of a system of Medicine. These auxilliary sciences are independent sciences—they are no monopoly for any particular system of Medicine. These studies supply us with a multitude of scientific facts but each system of medicine has its own interpretations and its own way of utilising and applying the principles evolved out of these facts for the purpose of healing the sick. Hence it is clear that the mode of pedagogy in a Homœopathic institution regarding Medicine proper as well as the auxilliary subjects, must be different to that in an institution of orthodox medicine.

4. Homœopathy is not a subject for post-graduate study for students of Allopathy. The post-graduate course of any subject implies a more intensive study of the said subject in continuation and in furtherance of the course of study which a candidate has already undergone to obtain his degree. 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 mind of average students that it proves very difficult to shed these in favour of the homœopathic viewpoints 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 and to adapt oneself to the methods and mental make up which are necessary for a successful homœopathic prescriber. So we insist on separate institutions where the students will move, live and have their being in the atmosphere of Homœopathic Philosophy. Of course we do advocate the teaching of auxilliary subjects to turn out a complete physician and not merely a homœopathic prescriber—but only after framing the syllabus of the aforesaid subjects "mutatis mutandi" for the needs of a homœopathic physician.

5. There is a limit to the scope and sphere of Homœopathy. Constant research is necessary to enhance the

sphere of Homœopathy. But what we need is proper assimilation and not hotch-potch mixtures. Whenever any truth regarding matters medical is discovered in any quarter we are bound to take note of it. But we should not leave our ground and fall headlong over it. We have to find ways and means to assimilate that truth from our homœopathic viewpoint. As for example, antibiotics might have opened a new vista for combating diseases but we have to prove them according to homœopathic methods on healthy human organism and try to ascertain their individualistic reactions before we can incorporate them in our Homœopathic Pharmacopœia. Dr. Paterson is working on micro-organisms, found in the bowels of human beings, healthy or diseased. His work as a bacteriologist is certainly different from that of another bacteriologist of the orthodox school. We envisage such research works in auxilliary subjects and they will be carried out best in completely separate institutions.

6. No profession can thrive on "Chance-converts" recruited from the members of the rival orthodox school. So long as there is no attempt for starting separate homœopathic institutions the turn-out of qualified homœopaths can never increase.

Attempts are being made to have separate fully-equipped homœopathic institutions without which there cannot be a bright future for Homœopathy in the country. There has been now-a-days a sort of standard-craving mania amongst the orthodox medical men and Government officials. But there should be no one absolute and fixed standard for all systems of medicine. Each system will determine its own standard of teaching to gain its objective. If we can turn out successful homœopathic prescribers and physicians our purpose will be served—no matter if its standard of teaching varies from that of the orthodox school.

—B. K. S.