

CONCERNING THE HOMŒOPATHIC METHOD OF TREATMENT IN THE U.S.S.R.

[A Group of readers of the magazine "Soviet Land" were interested to know whether the homœopathic method of treatment is practiced in the U.S.S.R. At the editors' request this question is answered by Dr. V. Varshavsky, head of the medical department of the Moscow Central Homœopathic Polyclinic.]

The homœopathic method of treatment has been known in Russia for more than one hundred and thirty years. In their time such progressive Russian Scientists as N. Pirogov and V. Butlerov acknowledged the efficacy of this method. Professor Pirogov utilized homœopathic remedies in his medical practice and introduced a number of homœopathic medicinal preparations into his scientific works.

However, before the Revolution homœopathy was not widespread in Russia. The task of the homœopathist was primarily to popularize this method. After 1917, the Association of Homœopathists was organized in Moscow. In 1928 it was reorganized into the All-Russian Society with branches in Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov, Tomsk, and other cities. The newly opened homœopathic polyclinics were included into the general net-work of the country's public health service.

In some countries of West Europe and in U.S.A. private doctors oppose homœopathy to other methods of treatment. In treating patients Soviet medicine proceeds from objective experimental and clinical data and utilizes the achievements of the biological, physical, and chemical sciences with which it works in close contact. Homœopathy is not opposed to allopathy in the Soviet Union, but is regarded as one of the methods of modern therapy which expands the possibilities of therapeutic influence upon the human organism.

Today there are homœopathic medical institutions in many Soviet cities. In Moscow alone there are three polyclinics of this type. They treat patients for all diseases. For instance, the Central Homœopathic Polyclinic has therapeutic, surgical, neuropathological, gynæcological, otorhino-laryngological, eye disease, dermatological and urological departments and consulting rooms.

Homœopathists utilize all the achievements of medical science and constantly improve their knowledge. Two-year courses have been organized for the training of homœopathists and a number of hand-books on the subject have been published. Research workers and physicians are given the opportunity of conducting experimental and practical work in research institutes, hospitals, and clinics in order to study homœopathy and place it on a sound scientific basis.

The homœopathic method of treatment is very popular in the country. Suffice it to say that in Moscow alone during 1953 the homœopathic pharmacies prepared medicines according to 4.5 million prescriptions.

—*Soviet Land*

MEDICAL PROBLEM IN INDIA

DR. K. L. DAFTARI, MADHYA PRADESH

India has many problems to solve. One of these is the problem of giving true medical relief to the people in the rural and the urban areas. The problem resolves itself in two parts. One part is to find out which of the several systems of medicines in vogue, namely Allopathy (the so-called modern medicine), Ayurveda, Homœopathy etc., does really cure, and the second part is how to compensate for the great phenomenal deficiency of fully qualified medical men. About the first part, Shrimati Amrit Kaur automatically assumes that modern medicine alone really