

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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## EDITORIAL

### THE LESSONS OF THE CONGRESS

The Fourth All India Homoeopathic Congress held at Bombay and organised by the Maharashtra State Branch of Homoeopathic Medical Association of India was inaugurated by the President, Shri Giani Zail Singh on 27th December 1983 and it concluded on 30th December 1983. From all standards it was excellently organised. We must congratulate the Chairman of the organising committee and his team which worked day in and day out to see that no room for complaint was left. A special mention must be made of all the student-volunteers of the homoeopathic college who had kept their cool and behaved in most exemplary manner to help the function move smoothly. No words of praise would be enough for their selfless work. What was most gratifying was to see these budding homoeopaths full of vigour, enthusiasm and will to work and all that in a most disciplined manner. We congratulate them too.

Let us analyse the Congress itself. It can be summed up in one sentence, we have yet a long way to go.

It is a fact that Homoeopathic Medical Association of India is a national organisation of registered homoeopathic practitioners in the country. But there is so much of diversity in the total outlook of our professional brethren that it would be very difficult for years to come to bring them on one platform for the development and upliftment of Homoeopathy. There is plenty of vested interest and everyone wants and expects that he be given importance. This is human nature and what we see on our national scene is fully reflected here too.

It is clear that the Congress was for only the professional members. The organisers were instructed not to register the student delegates in large number. But somehow or the other large batches of students came to attend (?) the Congress without any prior hint or information and demanded that they should be registered. The Central stand changed at the last minute and it posed a very tricky problem for the organisers with regard to accommodation, food and seating arrangements. However, they were solved with great difficulty. Many delegates brought with them their families, children and

insisted to stay together; it was yet another problem! Apparently they had come to see Bombay and around under the pretext of attending the Congress. Hardly anyone had interest in attending the scientific sessions which was amply demonstrated from the attendance. The national executive committee members created another serious problem. They totally forgot that they were the hosts of the Congress and demanded every little facility. They should have appreciated that there was no stamp of N.E.C. on their person, so that the student volunteers could recognise them from a distance.

At the scientific sessions there was a mixed expression. The transactions were already distributed to the delegates, the speakers were instructed to give the summary of their papers to invite discussions, but they did not appreciate the instructions. Most of them were boring the audience by the monotony of the reading. The audio visual papers mostly from Bombay and Delhi were excellent and they commanded respect from the audience. These sessions could have been more rewarding if the organisers were allowed to handle them themselves, without interference. The main purpose of scientific sessions is to share the experiences of others.

Like any other organisation, the H.M.A.I. has also adopted the so-called democratic pattern of election of its office-bearers. Elections, therefore, are the integral part of the working of the organisation; however, it was felt that this activity should be dissociated from the scientific activity. It left a very bad taste. Some wanted to stick to their chairs and used Hitlerian methods. They took pleasure in that and had little interest in the scientific activity. The elections were manoeuvred and manipulated only for certain persons and all these were calculated properly from the beginning. At this hour the organisation needed a person who contributed to the science, was known at national and international levels, carried weight and could think independently for the good of the science. We congratulate the new president and expect that under his leadership the dictatorial trends in the Association will be eliminated and the common members will feel that they are parts of the organisation.

And finally some suggestions if Congresses are to be more fruitful in future. Once the decision to hold a Congress in a particular State is finalised all the relevant organisational, financial and scientific aspects should be communicated to the state branch and leave the working pattern to the state branch concerned. There should be no interference from any quarter.

Scientific subjects should be decided in advance and papers called for early so that they can be circulated to the delegates for study. Except in exceptional cases, no particular person should be asked to write and freedom to express ones views must be given. We have heard our past masters years after years and there is nothing new to learn from them. The younger generation should be encouraged to write and demonstrate their talent. (This has been amply exposed in Bombay). More and more stress should

be given to clinical subjects than on mere philosophy. The speakers must rehearse and not exceed their limits.

The office bearers of the organisation should always be institutionally qualified persons having 5/10 years of active and wholtime practice so that they are aware of the various aspects of practitioners' problems.

The elections should not be held at the scientific sessions. This will minimise the unwanted crowd and help in making the function manageable. The methods of election should be suitably modified in the constitution so that chances of malpractice can be minimised. They should be held once in five years. Two years is too small a period.

And finally a word of advice! Let us not commit the same mistakes again. To commit the same mistakes knowingly is a crime.

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