

A
SHORT HISTORY OF
DEVELOPMENT OF HOMOEOPATHY,
IN
WEST BENGAL & BANGLADESH
(1810 - 1999)

By
Dr. A.K.Ghosh

B.H.M.S. (Calcutta University)

Author

of

"A Key to Allen's Keynotes"

&

"Hahnemann's Theory of Psora In The Light of Modern Science".

Volume I

Dr. Subhaxancho Das
&
Dr. Pooja Singh.

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Volume I

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Foreward

Dr. Ajoy Kumar Ghosh, a beloved student of mine, has been known to me for more than twenty years. He is a qualified homoeopath. He writes articles in medical journals and often holds seminars on homoeopathy. Dr. Ghosh does not claim to be a creative writer, but I can declare that he is a compiler who has the sense of importance of chronology and document for history of homoeopathy.

In Section-1 and three allied chapters of the book, Dr. Ghosh covers the subjects of practice, pharmacy and research. On going through the portion I notice that Dr. Ghosh misses one point. He does not connect the events with our renaissance. Those who dwell upon renaissance are prospective buyers of this book to add new points to their research, because impact of homoeopathy is little discussed in analysis of renaissance.

This book being in English, will give easy access to non-Bengali Community. Bengali-speaking doctors have to gorge medical books through English. Therefore, this book will be of immense use to people whose mother tongue is Bengali. Dr. Ghosh had been at least, twice to Bangladesh on mission of homoeopathy. This book of his will be able to carry message of Bangladesh to all the five continents. Encyclopaedia makers will find this book of use. This book is a treasure for library and a pleasure for perusal.

As ex-principal of homoeopathic college I do not hesitate to recommend this book for an essential and basic textbook for B.H.M.S. course. As an octogenarian in the practice of homoeopathy, I, prescribe this book to patients who are bibliophiles for widening horizon of their knowledge. Practitioners, patients, and students can find a lot of valuable information from this book. This book is a good food for thought and argument.

Last but not the least, I say that I really eagerly feel for such a book to fill the void of culture in the history of homoeopathy.

Praying for the objectives of Hahnemann, I remain.

Dated : 31st May, 2000.

Sripati Mondal.

Ex-Principal - The Calcutta
Homoeopathic Medical College &
Hospital;

Ex-Head Of the Dept. of Materia
Medica,

D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical
College & Hospital (Degree)

Preface

The advancement of human civilization has not taken place uniformly everywhere. The art of how to cure varied in different parts of the globe. Every therapeutic theory has a history of its own. Many civilizations, cultures, educational methods either halted or took turn. Similarly various processes of treatment lost their path midway. It was a tragedy of history that their path could not be traced out. Some, however, survived the test of time, though changes took place in their course. Today those systems that still exist had their tradition or documented history. We are concerned with homoeopathy, which has a phenomenal record. It means that homoeopathy has a history and a part of the history we are engaged to compile here.

The history of homoeopathy hails from the last decade of 18th century at the hand of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann in Germany. Immediately after its establishment, homoeopathy had its take-off stage. Compared to computerised present; end of 18th century was backward in communication. Nevertheless, the science of homoeopathy extended far and wide from Germany to Europe, Asia and America shortly. In India, homoeopathy came during the early 19th century. Homoeopathy became extremely popular and effective in this tropical zone and as a result, the history of homoeopathy even in India, within one century is immeasurably vast. We venture to get hold of the history only in areas where Bengali language is spoken of. Events and incidents indicated in our history book are collected from authentic and reliable sources. This book is not comprehensive but honest in recording facts with reference to homoeopathy about West Bengal and Bangladesh. This book is an attempt to supply materials to writers of history of homoeopathy in India. The description in this book is laconic and relevant for opening newer avenues for future research in homoeopathy. At the end, references are given from which it will be known the sources of the mentioned occurrences. The number in the references tallies with the number shown in brackets at the end of certain paragraphs. This history book consists of two separate volumes, one dealing with history of homoeopathy in West Bengal while the second one dwelling upon history of homoeopathy in Bangladesh.

I take my hats off to Dr. S.N. Chatterjee who has a library, nay a mine of information. Lion share of journals, I have used from his library, gives me advantages unthought-of. We have got co-operation from different libraries of Calcutta. We are grateful to Bangiya Sahitya Parisad who preserves the first homoeopathic journal of Asia, 'The Calcutta Journal of Medicine', edited by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, in 1868. This journal is an invaluable wealth to the medical profession. I am beholden to Dr. P.K. Moitra,

the Registrar of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, W.B. and to the Director of Directorate of Homoeopathy, W.B. for providing valuable data and information from their office. Regarding the history of homoeopathy in Bangladesh, I have collected the materials mostly from 'Homoeopathic Documentation Centre' situated at 13, Musolman Para Road, Khulna, established by Dr. Habibur Rahman. A vast collection of books of repute on medical science and homoeopathy, local and foreign homoeopathic journals are preserved in this centre. I must convey my sincere appreciation to Dr. Habibur Rahman for his kind co-operation.

Dr. Tinkari Bhattacharyya Ph.D., always lively in English and Bengali literature, kindly took interest in looking through the omissions and commissions in the manuscript of this book. It is a matter of interest and fortune that the subject matter of this history book and the profession itself, could draw attention of educational and cultural people outside the strict periphery of homoeopathy.

Mentions of the name of Dr, Sripati Mondal is not an enough tribute and an expression of gratitude for me to do. I can only pray for Dr. Mondal's blessings and his long life. But for his inspiration and guidance, I could not have completed this book.

It is my pleasure to express my indebtedness to some students and young doctors who supplied esteemed information regarding their own institutions. Among them Ersad Ali Siddiquee and Sankar Majumdar deserve special mention.

I also take this opportunity to thank the publisher for his assistance and active co-operation to publish this book.

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Section -I
**HISTORY OF HOMOEOPATHY IN BENGAL
BEFORE INDEPENDENCE (Pre 1947 era)**

Chapter-1
**History of Development of Homoeopathy in Bengal
From 1810 to 1947**

The poet has rightly said that India is the best of all countries abounding in wealth, corn and flowers in the world. So through different centuries, men of different race and religion had come to India from every corner of the globe by the attraction of her culture, art, philosophy and natural beauty & bounty. Before the division of our motherland, Bengal was the heart of India and at that time it was said - "What Bengal thinks today, India will think tomorrow". In other words, in the past, the plans of actions, taken by Bengal were used to be followed subsequently by the other states of India. It was not an exception in case of propagation of homoeopathic method of treatment in India. When this new mode of treatment which originated in the far European country (Germany), arrived in India, it flourished in Bengal at first and then spread all over India. The great contribution of Bengal in popularising homoeopathy in India will remain written in golden letters forever.

There are different opinions on the point that in which year homoeopathy came to India. Some say that a German geologist with his officials came to India for geological investigation in 1810 A.D. He set up his office in Calcutta. During his sojourn here he practised homoeopathic medicine for the treatment of his workers and people of that locality. At the same time Dr. Mullence of London Missionary Society was known to have distributed homoeopathic medicine to the people of Bhawanipur, Calcutta. But many historians do not accept the year 1810 A.D. as the beginning of practice of homoeopathy in India since there is no written document about the aforesaid episodes. (1)

Dr. John Martin Honigberger (1795-1869) the then Royal physician of the Punjab during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singhji claimed in his book entitled, '*Thirty five years in the East, Adventures, Discoveries, Experiments and Historical Sketches relating to Punjab and Kashmir, in connection with Medicine, Botany, Pharmacy etc., together with an original Materia Medica and a Medical Vocabulary in four European and five Eastern Languages*' published from London in 1852, that Dr. Honigberger introduced

homoeopathic method of treatment in India in 1839. Now 1839 is admitted unanimously as the year of introduction of homoeopathy in India.

Dr. John Martin Honigberger, who was a resident of Transilvania (at present a state of Romania) came to India in 1829 for the first time. He had M.D. degree in allopathic medicine and was appointed the physician to His Majesty the King Maharaja Ranjit Singhji of the undivided Punjab. In 1834, on the way to coming back to his native land, he arrived in St. Petersburg of Russia and he became acquainted with homoeopathy. After staying at home for a few months, he again started for Paris in 1835 to learn Homoeopathy from Master Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy system of medicine.

(2)

In 1839, Maharaja Ranjit Singhji was attacked seriously with a paralytic disease and the conventional treatment having failed to offer any improvement of his health, Honigberger got an invitation from Royal Court of the Punjab for attending His Highness Maharaja. In no time Honigberger set out for Lahore and reached the palace in due course. After a careful examination of the case he advised Maharaja to take a homoeopathic medicine (Dulcumara 3X, one drop daily) for three successive days. Maharaja felt better after being administered with this medicine and he became so much pleased with the treatment of Honigberger that he bestowed an honour on Honigberger in presence of his courtiers. But unfortunately within a short period Maharaja was attacked with fever and Honigberger was not allowed by other attending physicians and advisers to apply any medicine. Maharaja Ranjit Singhji died on the 27th June, 1839. After the death of His Excellency Maharaja, Honigberger stayed at Punjab for another ten years and devoted himself to the profession of homoeopathic treatment. Honigberger cured many patients with the help of homoeopathic medicines during epidemic of Cholera at Lahore in 1845 and he became familiar as a renowned physician. In 1850, he went back to London via Calcutta. In 1855, Honigberger revisited India, taking the charge of treatment of Maharaja Gulab Singh of Kashmir and within a few months he was able to cure him by homoeopathic treatment. In the same year he returned to Calcutta and was busy with practice in homoeopathy during the period of his stay here for five year. Dr. Honigberger treated about five hundred patients from Nov. 1856 to Sep. 1857. He became familiar as 'Cholera Doctor' by his tremendous success in the treatment of cholera with homoeopathic medicine. He published a booklet entitled 'Cholera and its Treatment' from Lalbazar in Calcutta in 1857. He went back to his motherland in 1860.

(2)

In Nov. 1851, by the earnest endeavor of some dignified persons of Calcutta and under the patronage of the Hon'ble Sir John Hunter Littler, Deputy Governor of Bengal and President of the Council of India, a 'Native

Homoeopathic Hospital and Free Dispensary was founded in Calcutta. Dr. C Fabre Tonnere, M.D., a French allopath converted to homoeopath, was appointed health officer of the hospital. Other European gentlemen and the English Press like *The Harkara*, *The Citizen* and *The Friend of India* had also supported this endeavor. (3)

In Jan. 1852, an article, '*Homoeopathy and its Introduction in India*' was published in '*Calcutta Review*' which pointed out the issue regarding the popularity of homoeopathy in Calcutta by the following words : "The system has been extensively practised by amateurs in the civil and military services and by other gentlemen, and the success that has attended their practice. both upon Europeans and natives, has been such as to astonish themselves and all who have witnessed it. There is perhaps scarcely a large district in India in which such an amateur has not for years been diffusing blessings around him and there are scarcely any of our Indian readers who may not satisfy themselves by personal observations of the success of this practice." (3)

There were many amateur homoeopaths who have been practising creditably in Calcutta during this period. Mr. E. Lator of the Indian Civil Service practised homoeopathy with very great success. A statistics of 692 cases of cholera treated homoeopathically by Mr. Lator during the months of May, June, July 1853, was published in '*British Journal of Homoeopathy*' of July 1854, which indicated the mortality rate of Cholera by homoeopathic treatment was only 30%. About this time Dr. Cooper and Dr. J.R.Russel, who were medical officers in Fort William, used to practise homoeopathy beyond official duty hours. Mr. H.Ryper stayed at Cooley Bazar, Kidderpore, also used to distribute homoeopathic medicine free of cost. (1)

In the middle of 19th century when homoeopathy was gaining popularity gradually, a landlord, who was powerful but kind hearted, came forward in support of homoeopathy. He was Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta (1818-89). He realised the need of easily available homoeopathic treatment for promoting public health and thus he took a great part in the establishment of '*Native Homoeopathic Hospital & Free Dispensary*'. He also began to learn homoeopathy and started homoeopathic practice publicly in 1861. Within a short period the fact of his success in curing difficult cases by homoeopathic treatment spread far and near. In 1863, Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, becoming despair of cure of his ailments by the treatment of contemporary distinguished allopathic physicians, came to Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta for homoeopathic treatment and soon he was recovered from his illness. This incident excited curiosity about homoeopathy in the educated class. At the same time another remarkable event happened. Raja Sir Radhakanta Deb Bhadur of Sovabazar Rajbati had a traumatic gangrene at his feet which was

going in a deteriorating condition gradually by all manner of orthodox treatment done by the best European and the native doctors. He was cured by Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta with homoeopathic medicine. These events on the one hand made a great sensation in the mind of the educated and the populace in Calcutta, on the other hand, the supremacy of homoeopathy was established. Many allopathic physicians and distinguished persons of the society coming into contact with Rajendra Lal Dutta, became attracted in homoeopathy. (4)

Dr. Thiennette Berigny, a famous French homoeopath, came to Calcutta in the beginning of 1864 and joined Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta to propagate homoeopathic method of treatment in Bengal. *The first homoeopathic pharmacy* was established in Calcutta by the inspiration of Dr. Berigny in 1866. Dr. Berigny left Calcutta in 1868 and died on his way back home. In 1867, another great homoeopathic physician, Dr. L. Salzar of Vienna, came to Calcutta and performed a noble work to spread homoeopathy in this country. Dr. B.L. Bhadury L.M.S. (1841-91) was converted to homoeopathy by the influence of Dr. Salzar and both the physicians became very successful homoeopaths in Calcutta. Dr. Salzar published many articles in '*Calcutta Journal of Medicine*' edited by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. (5)

(16th Feb, in 1867, is the memorable day in the history of homoeopathy in India. On that day Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar (1833-1904), the then great allopathic physician and upholder of Indian science, announced publicly about his conviction on homoeopathic system of medicine.) Mahendra Lal Sircar was a very brilliant student. He appeared at the M.D. examination of the Calcutta University in 1863 and came out first in order of merit. (Dr. Sircar was the second M.D. of the Calcutta University, Dr. Chunder Kumar Dey being the first M.D.) After establishment of the Bengal branch of the British Medical Association in 1863, Dr. Sircar was elected its first secretary and after three years he became one of its Vice-Presidents. On the opening day of this branch, through his speech, he criticized homoeopathy as charlatanism. This event arrested the attention of Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta. Dr. Dutta realised that the opinion of Dr. Sircar regarding homoeopathy was due to his innocence about homoeopathic science and if he became acquainted with the truth of homoeopathy, he would be the competent man to hoist the banner of homoeopathy in India. In course of event, at this time incidentally, Dr. Sircar got a request from one of his friends to write a review on a book '*Morgan's Philosophy of Homoeopathy*' for publishing in the '*Indian Field*'. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar after going through the book perceived that it was not justified to draw a conclusion on the basis of prejudiced idea about a method of treatment which claimed that the system was based on practical experiments. Therefore, Dr. Sircar decided to observe the efficacy and

efficiency of homoeopathy in curing maladies under supervision of Dr. Rajendra Lal Dutta. It was 1865, and after a thorough observation for one year he became astonished at the action of homoeopathic medicine. He reached the conclusion that homoeopathy was based on pure scientific experiments. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar declared his conviction at the Fourth Annual Meeting held on the 16th Feb. 1867, of the Bengal Branch of British Medical Association (Whose Vice-President was Dr. Sircar himself) by reading a paper titled as "*On the supposed uncertainty in medical science and on the relationship between disease and their remedial agents*". (6)

In fact, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar was the first Indian who though institutionally educated as a medical person was converted into homoeopathic physician. Dr. Sircar was familiar in the society as a paramount physician and a devoted scientist. So, this incident exerted a great influence on the educated people to become religiously interested in homoeopathy. This unprecedented occurrence created an enthusiasm in the homoeopathic society, on the contrary, the allopathic physicians perturbed and en masse they criticized Dr. Sircar adversely. But Dr. Sircar did not withdraw himself from the path of truth. Within one year of joining homoeopathy he published the *first homoeopathic journal of Asia*, '*The Calcutta Journal of Medicine*' in Jan. 1868. This journal was so advanced that it was welcomed not only in India but in the whole world as well. Dr. Sircar became familiar as an erudite scholar and he was elected as a Senate Member in the Calcutta University in 1870. He had a great devotion about science and he performed important role for the cultivation of science in India. He felt that there was an urgent need of establishment of a research centre where Indian Scientists could research independently. He expressed his intention through an article '*The desirability of a National Institute for the cultivation of the physical sciences by the natives of India*', published in '*Calcutta Journal of Medicine*' in Aug. 1869. At last, on the 13th Jan. 1876, his ambition became materialised by the establishment of '*Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science*' at Boubazar, Calcutta, by his own attempt. This institution could draw attention of the world because many Indian Scientists, like Chandrasekhar Venkat Raman, Jagadish Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Roy and others took opportunity of carrying on their research works through this institution and they were able to uplift the dignity of Indian Science before the world. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar was honoured with many respectable posts of Govt. of India and Calcutta University. '*He was the only medical man in India who was honoured with the bestowal of the honorary D.L. degree of the Calcutta University in 1898*'. (6)

In the meantime homoeopathy began to gain ground in other parts of Bengal. Babu Lokenath Moitra (1833-84), who had no faith in homoeopathy when came into contact with Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta, was turned into a great

homoeopath. After completion of learning homoeopathy from Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta, Dr. Moitra went to Benaras by his master's advice and began to practise homoeopathy with full enthusiasm. Dr. J.H.B. Ironside was 'District Judge' of Benaras at that time. His wife was seriously ill and the best European allopathic physicians failed to cure her ailments. He requested Dr. Lokenath Moitra for homoeopathic treatment and the patient recovered from illness very rapidly thereby. After that Mr. Ironside, a well-wisher of the society and devotee of truth, devoted himself by all means for the propagation of the beneficial method of treatment like homoeopathy in the society. In 1867, Mr. Ironside established *the first homoeopathic hospital in Benaras* by ignoring the strong opposition from allopathic organisations and he appointed Dr. Lokenath Moitra as Officer-In-Charge of the hospital. Many people benefited from this hospital. A number of dignified persons of the society came forward for supporting this great mission. The hospital was patronised by such dignitaries as His Highness the Maharaja of Benaras, Raja Sir Dev Narayan Singh Bahadur, Maulavie Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, Rajnarayan Das etc. (7)

In 1869, a homoeopathic charitable dispensary was instituted in Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh by the help of some social workers and Babu Priyanath Basu took charge as visiting physician. (1)

In 1870, another homoeopathic dispensary was set up in Agra, the historically important city of India and Babu Gobind Chandra Roy rendered his valued service as chief medical officer there. (1)

In 1870, no less an important event took place in the history of Indian homoeopathy. Maharaja Bahadur of Jaipur of Rajasthan invited Dr. Salzar, a famous homoeopathic practitioner of Calcutta at his time, for looking into his visual problem and Dr. Salzar was able to bring much improvement in Raja Bahadur's health and eye trouble by homoeopathic medicine. Hence Maharaja of Jaipur announced his conviction on homoeopathy and patronised in propagation of this method of treatment in Rajasthan. In this way the tree of homoeopathy which was nourished in Bengal extended its branches to other states of India. (1)

In Bengal, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, the then Chief of Allopathic Society, who converted and established himself as a great homoeopath, became the halo of inspiration for many other allopathic physicians. Considerable number of allopaths started homoeopathic practice in broad daylight following Dr. Sircar's footsteps. In this critical situation, the National Organisation of Allopathic Physicians imposed a strict prohibitory order on their members regarding homoeopathic practice. Notwithstanding that, many allopaths devoted themselves to homoeopathic practice and sacrificed for the development of homoeopathy in India. Among them Dr. Pratap Chandra

Chap.1: History of Development of Homoeopathy in Bengal from 1810 to 1947

Majumdar, Dr. Mohini Mohan Bose, Dr. Dwaraka Nath Roy, Dr. Brajendra Nath Banerjee, Dr. Jagat Chandra Roy, Dr. Akshyay Kumar Dutta, Dr. B.B. Moitra, Dr. W. Younan, Dr. Nagendra Nath Majumdar, Dr. Chandrasekhar Kali, Dr. P.N. Chatterjee, Dr. A. Banerjee, Dr. Sushil Kumar Nag necessitate drawing our memory. During the lifetime of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, these great physicians came forward to raise the flag of homoeopathy at a higher position than before.

Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar (1849-1922) got L.M.S. degree from Calcutta Medical College in 1878 and started practising homoeopathy according to the advice of Dr. B.L.Bhaduri. Within a short period Dr. P.C. Majumdar became a homoeopathic physician of great repute in Calcutta. He wrote many books both in Bengali and in English for encouraging homoeopathic education in Bengal as well as in India. He edited and published a journal '*Indian Homoeopathic Review*' which was the second homoeopathic journal published from Bengal after '*Calcutta Journal of Medicine*' of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. Dr. Majumdar realised that a person after achieving the required standard of medical knowledge from a homoeopathic institution would be competent enough to advance the homoeopathic system in India. As, there was no chance of approval of Government grant for homoeopathy, Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar associated with Dr. M.M. Bose and Dr. D.N. Roy established '*The Calcutta School of Homoeopathy*' on the 14th February in 1881 by their own effort. Afterwards the name of this institution was changed into '*Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College*'.)

In course of time this college became the ideal homoeopathic institution of India. Students from all over the country used to come here in large numbers to learn homoeopathy. Many talented persons after completion of studying homoeopathic medicine from this college radiated over all the states of India. Thus the glorious achievements of this institution to popularise the homoeopathic system of medicine in our country need be written in letters of gold. Dr. P.C. Majumdar was the pioneer among Indian Homoeopaths who enriched homoeopathic Materia Medica by proving medicines prepared from native medicinal plants. He proved first the drug '*Azardiracta Indica*' from "*Neem*" tree in 1883. Hering Homoeopathic Medical College affiliated to Illions University of Chicago honoured him by conferring on him the M.D. degree on the occasion of *Fourth International Homoeopathic Congress* held in 1891 for his great contribution in homoeopathic research and development. (7A,2)

Dr. Mohini Mohan Bose (1850-1907) after obtaining degree in allopathic medicine from Glasgow University went to NewYork for learning homoeopathy. Dr. M.M. Bose was the first native of India to cross the seas all the way over to America to obtain the M.D. degree. He was a graduate of the

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NewYork Homoeopathic Medical College. The M.M.Bose Homoeopathic Medical College, formerly known as the Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical School, was started by Dr. M.M. Bose. This college was affiliated to the NewYork Homoeopathic Medical College U.S.A. Sir Surendranath Bandyopadhyay admired Dr. M.M. Bose by saying "among the Homoeopaths of Bengal Mohini's name appears before me with a halo of greatness." (8)

Dr. Dwarakanath Roy (1854-1926), known as Dr. D.N. Roy in Calcutta, was a great surgeon and got his higher education from Glasgow Medical College of England, but he, instead of going with the stream, had been to America for learning homoeopathy and obtained M.D. degree from NewYork Homoeopathic College and Flower Hospital. In those days he reached the highest pinnacle of practice and fame among the homoeopaths of Calcutta. He proved two drugs named '*Abroma Augusta*' and '*Blata Orientalis*' and his writings like '*A treatise of Cholera*', '*Plague and its treatment*' etc. received high commendation. Dr. D.N. Roy was elected member of American Institute of Homoeopathy. (7A,9)

Dr. Jagat Chandra Roy's (1852-1926) writing on homoeopathic science in Bengali brought another stimulation in the steady progress and process of homoeopathy in Bengal. Among the books written by Dr. J.C. Roy, '*Homoeopathic Vaisajya Bijnan (Homoeopathic Science of Medicine)*', '*Garhasthya Swasthya (Domestic Health and Hygiene)*' and '*Homoeopathic Chikitsa (Homoeopathic Treatment)*' are notable. (10)

Dr. B.N. Banerjee(1856-1888) who graduated in the same year with Dr. P.C. Majumdar, proved himself as a famous homoeopath in Calcutta. He took the responsible charge of popularising the Hahnemannian system in Calcutta and elsewhere. In India he was the *first medical person who got the honorary M.D. degree from America.* (7A)

Dr. W.Younan (1859-1932) obtained M.B.C.M. degree in allopathic medicine from Edinburg University in 1882. He was attracted to homoeopathy after coming in contact with Dr. B.N.Banerjee, the then professor of Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College. He acquired so much fame in homoeopathic treatment that he was called '*Master Prescriber*'. Once Pandit Motilal Nehru was attacked with obstinate type of Rhinitis and various system of treatment having failed to cure, he visited Dr. Younan for homoeopathic treatment and became free from that disease. The event made Panditji a great admirer of homoeopathy. (7A,11)

Dr. Chandrasekhar Kali had done much to promote the progress of homoeopathy by writing useful homoeopathic books in Bengali. He started another homoeopathic college named, '*The Calcutta Homoeopathic College*' but this institution did not last long. (7A)

The Dacca Hahnemann Medical Institution was opened by Babu Hurro Kumar Gupta. The college was located in the city of Dacca. (7A)

Binay Bhusan Roy, a historian, in his book, '*Unish Shataker Desiya Bhasai Chikitsa Bijnan Charcha*' i.e., study of medical science in native language during 19th century, published by Ananda Publishers (Page -57), quoted a reference from the book of Dr. C.S.Kali (name of the book is '*Homoeopathic Chikitsa Vidhan*') that there were two homoeopathic schools in Dacca run by Babu Anath Bandhu Mallik et al.

Mr. J.C. Laheri sans possessing any medical degree from recognised university became a popular homoeopath by his own perseverance and determination. He wrote many homoeopathic books in Bengali and he established a homoeopathic pharmacy named "LAHERI & CO." in Calcutta in 1871. He edited a homoeopathic journal in English. He had opened a homoeopathic school in Calcutta but it was closed prematurely. '*The Homoeopathic Chikitsa Kalapadruma*', a homoeopathic journal in Bengali was published by Laheri & Co. also. (7A)

The trend of allopathic physicians to be converted into the followers of homoeopathy, that owed its origin from the inspiration of Dr. M.L.Sircar, remained unchanged even after the passing away of Dr. Sircar (1904). After observing the curative power of homoeopathic medicine, many qualified allopathic physicians accepted the practice of homoeopathy with pleasure. Some of the names are Dr. Barid Baran Mukherjee, L.M.S., Dr. Abani Nath Dasgupta, L.M.S., Dr. Bamacharan Das, L.M.S., Dr. Debendranath De, L.M.S., Dr. Deyan Jaychand, D.P.H.(Edin.), L.R.C.P., Dr. Mainindranath Chattopadhyay, M.B., Dr. Manmonath Majumdar, M.B., Dr. Santosh Kumar Das, M.B., Dr. Bijay Krishna Sarkar, M.B., Dr. Jitendranath Sarkar, M.B., Dr. Suresh Chandra Dutta, Dr. N.N. Seth, Dr. J.N. Banerjee, Dr. Haraprasad Dasgupta, Dr. D.L.Sircar, Dr. S.K. Das, Dr. Sital Prasad Ghosh, Dr. D. C. Dasgupta, Dr. P.C. Nandi, Dr. R.N. Ghosh, Dr. D.N. Ghosh, Dr. B.B. Chatterjee, M.B., Dr. T.C. Mukherjee, L.M.S., Dr. N. Halder, L.M.S., Dr. P.N. Chatterjee, L.M.S., Dr. Abinash Chandra Banerjee, L.M.S. They had done special service to our cause.

Name of Dr. B.B. Chatterjee deserves special mention, thanks to the fact that Dr. Chatterjee was the editor of '*Sarala Homoeopathy*', a monthly homoeopathic journal in Bengali. (12)

Dr. Hurro Nath Roy, L.M.S. of Calcutta was the President of 'The Calcutta Homoeopathic Society' which was located at 35, College Street, Cal. He was a distinguished homoeopath and did much for the spread of homoeopathy in India. (7A,12)

Dr. Amrit Lal Sircar, L.M.S., F.C.S., followed the footprints of his father, Dr. M.L. Sircar, by converting himself to homoeopathy which was

usual, expected and traditional. He edited '*The Calcutta Journal of Medicine*' after his father's demise. (7A)

Dr. C.C. Ghosh edited '*Indian Homoeopathian*', a monthly homoeopathic journal. Dr. Krishna Lahiri, L.M.S., of Krishnanagar of Nadia was a respectable homoeopath. Dr. Gobinda Chandra Dutta, M.B. of Hooghly was a well known homoeopath. Dr. Shyama Charan Lahiri, L.M.S., Dr. Basanta Kumar Dutta, Dr. Mahesh Chandra Ghosh, M.B. of Baruipur, Dr. Kedar Nath Ghosh of Dacca, Dr. Girish Chandra Ghosh and Dr. Rammay Roy of Bhowanipur boosted the dignity by demonstrating the efficacy of homoeopathy by their self dedication. (7A)

Incidentally, though not perhaps included in written history, we must not forget the name of Dr. Narendranath Bagchi, M.B. who shifted to homoeopathy. His roaring practice even after independence of India in Barrackpore station area of 24 Pgs. [N] was phenomenal and an envy to allopaths.

In this way as the number of qualified homoeopaths was gradually increasing by the converts, many talented persons crossed the seas for learning homoeopathy from American Universities and after returning to Calcutta exerted themselves for the uplift of Hahnemannian method of treatment. Amongst them Dr. Jitendranath Majumdar, M.D., Dr. Nagendramohan Choudhury, M.D., Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh, M.D., Dr. J.N. Banerjee, Dr. Bijay Kumar Bose, M.D., Dr. Suresh Chandra Sen, M.D., Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay, M.D., Dr. G.L. Gupta, Dr. J.N. Ghosh, Dr. S.K. Bose, Dr. R.K.Nug, Dr. S.K. Nug, Dr. G.N. Singha, Dr. S. Goswami, Dr. A.K. Roy, Dr. L.M. Pal have claimed historical name and fame.

Dr. Jitendranath Majumdar (1876-1943) and Dr. Nagendra Mohan Choudhury had been to Chicago of USA to study homoeopathy and both of them after obtaining M.D. degree from Hering Homoeopathic Medical College in the same year came back to their native land. They took responsibility of spreading homoeopathic education in Bengal. Dr. Nagendra Mohan Choudhury associated with Dr. K.N. Bandyopadhyay and Dr. S.C. Das established '*Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College*' in 1916. Dr. Jitendranath Majumdar established '*Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*' at Mechhuabazar Street in the year 1928. Later the college was shifted at Narkeldanga North Road in 1930. Dr. J.N. majumdar was the editor of '*Indian Homocopathic Review*' in absence of his father, Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar. He wrote some books in Bengali and English of which '*A Treatise of Cholera Asiatica*' published in 1911 gained galore of glory. He was a member of American Institute of Homoeopathy and British Homoeopathic Society. He was elected the Vice-President of International Homoeopathic League. (7A, 13)

'*Dunhaum Homoeopathic Medical College*' was founded in 1927 by the direct effort of Dr. Debendra Nath De (1883-1943). The name of the institution was changed as '*D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*' after his death in 1943.

Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh (1872-1953) a great research worker in homoeopathic science, obtained honorary M.D. degree from America in 1900. He had discovered three homoeopathic remedies from three indigenous plants of India, viz. '*Ficus religiosa (Aswatha)*', '*Justicea adhatoda (Swet Basaka)*' and '*Nyctanthes arbor- tristis (Shiuly)*' which were met with glorious recognition from the homoeopathic world. He re-proved many other indigenous drugs also. His contributions on '*Plague*' and '*Diabetes*' were gratefully accepted by the committee of the Sixth International Congress of Homoeopathic Physicians in Paris in July 1900. He was the author of '*Plague and its Homoeopathic Treatment*', '*Diabetes*', '*Cholera and its Homoeopathic Treatment*', '*Therapeutics of Cholera*', '*Homoeopathic Characteristic Materia Medica*', '*Drugs of Hindusthan*' and '*Life of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar*'. Besides, many of his original contribution were published in first class medical journal of different countries. Dr. S. C. Ghosh was the editor of the '*Indian Homoeopathic Reporter*' and Secretary to '*The Hindusthan Institute Of Indigenous Drug Proving*'. He was corresponding member of the '*Homoeopathic Medical Society of France*', '*British Homoeopathic Society of London*' and '*Hahnemann Institute of Brazil*'. Dr. S.C. Ghosh edited two other homoeopathic journals published by Hahnemann Publishing Co. of Calcutta, namely, '*Hahnemannian Gleanings*' in English and '*Hahnemann*' in Bengali. (7A,14,15)

Dr. J.N. Banerjee (1875-1948) preferred to proffer himself to the great profession of teaching homoeopathy through Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College. He took an admirable attempt to organise homoeopathic physicians on one platform to acquire Govt. recognition of homoeopathic treatment during the later period of English rule in India (16)

Dr. Bijay Kumar Bose (1879-1977) obtained M.D.degree from Hering Homoeopathic Medical College and he was the last Indian student of Dr. Kent. He was the family physician of Pandit Motilal Nehru. Dr. B.K. Bose worked as a teacher in Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College for a long period and was recognised as mentor of this institution.

By the early 20th century, homoeopathy was gaining reputation as a popular method of treatment in Bengal and thus the demand of homoeopathic institution was waxing. Though there was no good intention of British Govt. to introduce a homoeopathic college, a number of private homoeopathic institutions developed by the deep devotion of some stalwarts of homoeopathy and brave sons of Bengal. So, many students willing to study homoeopathy

but unable to go abroad for homoeopathic education, got a golden opportunity to fulfil their ambition. A considerable number of students after completion of their study from these homoeopathic colleges of Bengal came forward to propagate Hahnemannian method of treatment throughout India. Amongst them Dr. M.N.Pillai, Dr. Gangadhar Dirghangi, Dr. Abhin Chandra Rao and others are to be enumerated.

Dr. M.N.Pillai (1882-1962) came to Calcutta from Trivandram to study homoeopathy and after completion of medical education from Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College went back to his own state and stuck to medical profession. He was *the pioneer of homoeopathy in Kerala*. (17)

Dr. Gangadhar Dirghangi (1884-1953) was another great homoeopath who obtained his homoeopathic degree from a homoeopathic institution in Calcutta. Translation of Hahnemann's '*Organon of Medicine*' in Bengali by Dirghangi made him famous in homoeopathic circle. (18)

Dr. Abhin Chandra Rao (1901-1986) got M.H.M.S. (Master of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery) degree from Bengal Allen Homoeopathic College in 1921 and returned to Cuttack. Within a short period he became a renowned homoeopathic physician. He established *the first homoeopathic medical college in Orissa*. (19)

The epitome of the above dissertation therefore, during the period before independence, among the institutionally educated homoeopaths of Bengal, is that, some are converted from allopathy to homoeopathy, some gathered homoeopathic education from foreign countries and some studied at native homoeopathic colleges. All their work is commendable.

In addition, there was a large number of self-educated homoeopathic practitioners in Bengal. Amongst them Dinabandhu Mukhopadhyay of Howrah, Bijay Chandra Sinha, Nilmony Ghatak, Gangadhar Mukhopadhyay, Pareshnath Bnadyopadhyay, Binoytosh Bhattacharya, Radharaman Biswas and others established themselves as great homoeopathic practitioners by their own perseverance not as amateurs but as professionals.

Dinabandhu Mukhopadhyay (1850-1919) learned homoeopathy from Dr. M.L. Sircar and Dr. Salzar. He cured many cases which were declared as incurable by allopathic physicians. British Government honoured him with the title '*Ray Saheb*' in 1911. (20)

Bijay Chandra Singha, a science scholar of Presidency College was attracted to homoeopathy and practised homoeopathy for the welfare of the suffering mass. Bijay Chandra Singha possessed a great scholarly knowledge in homoeopathic science and so he was aptly called '*Master of Homoeopathy*'. (21)

Nilmony Ghatak (1872-1940) was a lawyer by profession but as well a homoeopathic practitioner of the '*Himalayan height*'. Though he was not a

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degree holder in medicine in the formal sense of the term, he possessed a veritable knowledge in homoeopathy. In course of time he was obliged to stop legal practice owing to the accelerated pressure of work on treating large number of patients. He was the first editor of 'Hahnemannian Gleanings', a homoeopathic journal in English published by Hanemann Publishing Co. in Calcutta and wrote lorry load of homoeopathic books in Bengali and also in English. Dr. Nilmoni Ghatak was the true follower of Hahnemannian homoeopathy and so he was known as 'Keut of India'. Dr. Ghatak became professor of 'Regular Homoeopathic College' made by Dr. R.C. Nag. Dr. Gahtak wrote a Bengali book under caption 'Prachin Pirar Karan O Tahar Chikitsa' which in the translation meaning 'Causes of Chronic Diseases and Treatment thereof' when translated in English moved the homoeopathic world in America and Europe. At that time, Dr. H.A. Robert was secretary of 'International Hahnemannian Association in America'. Dr. Robert sent special invitation to Dr. Ghatak to be member of the association which membership Dr. Ghatak held lifelong. Many of Dr. Ghatak's learned essays appeared in 'Homoeopathic Recorder', a journal published by the said association. Two relevant letters addressed to Dr. Ghatak by Dr. Robert revealed to what esteem Dr. Robert upheld Dr. Ghatak for his pure Hahnemannian homoeopathic treatment. It is a rare honour for all time to come to stick to this pure method. The extracts of the letters are as follows :-

16th March, 1932: " *this is the thing I crave to see a group of young right thinking homoeopathic physicians rise up to take the burden of perpetuation of pure homoeopathy on their shoulders. I would rather have a comparatively few of the true apostles than hundreds of the 'modern scientific homoeopaths', for even Hahnemann himself had but a handful of true students at any time. If we can instill into a few the truths that have been given us, we may be sure that the flame of homoeopathy will be kept alive, and sometime it will come into its own place of honour the world over.*" (22, 23)

26th August, 1933: " *I sincerely wish that you might be able to attend some of our meetings of the I.H.A. and I wish you all success in your connection with the large homoeopathic group in India. It is a man's full task to pilot a large group of homoeopaths of every shade of thought and feeling through snags of selfish desires and self interest and dangerous half-knowledge to the clear waters of Hahnemannian integrity, and I wish you all patience, clarity of thought and strength for task.*" (23)

✓ Sri Gangadhar Mukhopadhyay (1871-1948) who was professor of Physics at Ripon College, established himself as a successful homoeopath in Calcutta. (20)

✓ Pareshnath Bandyopadhyay (1889-1971) was a large hearted practitioner, who practised homoeopathy at Mihijam (Bihar). Pareshnath Bandyopadhyay and Basudev Chakraborty established 'Great Bengal Pharmacy' and a charitable dispensary at Mihijam in 1918 for the welfare of

poor people. A huge number of patients were treated there free of cost. In 1920, he established '*Mihijam Institute of Homoeopathy*' for the development of homoeopathic education. (2)

✓ Radha Raman Biswas (1901-1957), a lawyer, was appointed public prosecutor at Bankura Court. He gained reputation as a homoeopath and established '*Wounmad Mandir*' (Lunatic Asylum) at Bankura. He enriched homoeopathic literature by writing many a book in Bengali. (24)

✓ Babu Amritlal Ghosh, a self-made homoeopath, practised homoeopathy successfully in the district of Jessore in Bengal (now in Bangladesh). Babu P.C. Mitra had a colossal practice in Midnapur. He used to distribute homoeopathic medicine free of cost amongst hundreds of patients who mustered strong there from neighbourhood and remote places everyday. (7A)

Babu Raimohan Banerjee, although without degree, was clerkly in homoeopathy. He was appointed the Chief Medical Officer of Messars Laheri & Co., Calcutta. He wrote several well-known homoeopathic books in Bengali for some of the homoeopathic pharmacies in Calcutta. Babu Radhakanta Ghosh, who practised in Dacca, wrote some books in Bengali. (7A)

Besides, most of the respectable persons and intellectual giants of Bengal continued to cordially support Dr. Hahnemann's new science of therapeutics since the early times when seeds of homoeopathy were implanted in the fertile soil of Bengal. In this connection the name of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Comes first. He was attracted to homoeopathy after his own recovery from a complicated disease by homoeopathic treatment under Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta. Pandit Iswar Chandra was indeed a friend of the wretched and the poor. He studied homoeopathy assiduously under Rajendra Lal Dutta's guidance, so that, the poor patients can avail themselves of the genuine treatment from him. He did not charge anything for his service.

Amongst others, Dr. Sambhoo Chunder Mookherjee, Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Justice Dwaraka Nath Mitter, Sir Radhakanta Deb Bahadur, Babu Ananda Krishna Bose, Babu Jadu Nath Ghosh, Krista Das Pal, Rev. Keshab Chandra Sen, Maharaja Kamal Krishna Deb Bhadur, Maharaja Sir Jatindra Mohan Tagore Bahadur, Raja Peari Mohan Mukherjee of Uttarpara, Pandit Prithi Nath of Cownpur ought to be mentioned with admiration and gratitude. (7A)

Maharaja Jatindra Mohan Tagore was a firm believer in homoeopathy. He established the '*The Rajmata Homoeopathic Charitable Dispensary*' at Pathuriaghata. (7A)

Raja Peari Mohan was a great landlord of Bengal. He studied most of the works on homoeopathy and used to distribute homoeopathic remedies free of cost. (7A)

Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, the great novelists of Bengal, were in favour of homoeopathic treatment. They picked some knowledge about the science and at times they used it for helping suffering people.

Rabindranath Tagore, the Nobel Laureate in literature in 1913, used to culture homoeopathy regularly. Usually he was the attending physician at the first opportunity to those who were closely attached to him. The poet took pleasure and responsibility of treatment for those who were his admirer but remaining at a distant place also. This was evident from his many letters containing prescription of homoeopathic medicine for those who wanted the advice for their illness. (25) Rabindranath had not taken homoeopathy casually, but very sincerely and seriously, inasmuch as he sent the allopath husband of his second daughter, Satyendranath, to America with a view to pluming a feather of foreign homoeopathic degree in annexation to his allopathic local degree. Rabindranath's view could be well substantiated by his own comments which are as follows : "I have long been an ardent believer in the science of homoeopathy and I feel happy that it has got now a great hold in India than even in the land of its origin. It is not merely a collection of a few medicines, but a science with a rational philosophy as its base. We require more scientific interest and inquiries into the matter with a special stress upon the Indian environments." (30th Aug., 1936, Uttaranayan Santiniketan.)

Swami Vivekananda had a high opinion of homoeopathic philosophy. He and other co-disciples of Thakur Shri Ramakrishna, didn't demur to keep their preceptor under homoeopathic treatment for a malignant disease like Cancer for a relief of pain. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar took this charge. Thakur Shri Ramakrishna used to prefer homoeopathic medicine also and he generally advised his disciples to be treated by homoeopathy for their illness. Swami Vivekananda in his speech on Rajyoga passed a high remark on homoeopathy by saying : "An allopath comes and treats cholera patients and gives them his medicines. The homoeopath comes and gives his medicines and cures perhaps more than the allopath does, because the homoeopath does not disturb his patients, but allows nature to deal with them."

Shri Aurobindo, a great Indian philosopher, commented, "Homoeopathy deals with the physical personality, while allopaths go by diagnosis which does not consider the personality."

The outlook of Mahatma Gandhi regarding homoeopathy can also be remembered. He opined, "Homoeopathy is the latest and refined method of treating patient economically and unviolently. Government must encourage and patronise it in our country. Just as my non-violence will never fail, homoeopathy never fails. But the followers of homoeopathy may fail owing to faulty application of the principles."

So, it is evident that before independence, in spite of deprivation from financial support of British Government, homoeopathy by its own merit was able to pull popularity from each class of society in Bengal. During the golden

period of homoeopathy in Bengal, the great homoeopathic physicians gave service to homoeopathy as well as to motherland by way of treatment, by producing qualified homoeopaths by admitting students to homoeopathic colleges and teaching them, by writing homoeopathic books and articles, by editing homoeopathic journals and last but not the least by opening avenues for research on homoeopathy.

Beside this sunny side, there was a seamy side also. For a quick way of income, quackery raised its head. This was not the only crux. Unemployment led helpless and hopeless illiterate and half-literate youth to embrace homoeopathy. Fortunately, not all of them were heartless. They could not afford to be cruel thanks to homoeopathy being low-cost treatment.

There was no Government control of homoeopathic training and practice; as a result bogus homoeopathic institution stretched their umbrellas, parasols, mushrooms etc. for rigging easy money. Pseudo homoeopaths coming out from these institutions with fake degree had been destroying the reputation of homoeopathy.

In this situation with a view to saving homoeopathy from the claws of pretentious homoeopaths, the qualified and real homoeopaths tried to acquire Govt. recognition of homoeopathy with the idea that homoeopathic training and practice may proceed on right lines. To fulfil the purpose the great homoeopaths of Bengal and other provinces of India came together and planned to form a homoeopathic association. '*The All India Homoeopathic Medical Association (A.I.H.M.A.)*' was formed with the initiative of Dr. K.N. Katju and some other medical practitioners of U.P. and with active efforts of Dr. Jitendranath Majumdar in 1932. It was the *first homoeopathic association in India*. Dr. W. Younan, a renowned homoeopathic physician of Calcutta, was elected the first President and Dr. Jitendranath Majumdar, the first General Secretary. Through this association the homoeopathic physicians of India found a medium to be united by yearly conference. The leaders of this association explained to the members of Central Legislative Assembly about the urgent need of inclusion of homoeopathic system of medicine under Central Health Programme for the development of homoeopathic education and practice. As a result, the first homoeopathic resolution was put up in Central Legislative Assembly (under British regime) by Miyan Ghiasuddin and got it passed by a majority of votes on the 2nd April, 1937. (1, 26)

The homoeopathic practitioners throughout the country became enthused by this incident. The homoeopaths of Bengal also became united and they organised the *first 'All Bengal and Assam Homoeopathic Conference'* in May, 1931, in Calcutta under the Presidency of Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh. *Second 'All Bengal and Assam Homoeopathic Congress'* was held at Tangail, Mymensingh (now in Bangladesh) in 1933. From these conferences the

homoeopathic leaders of Bengal decided to start a movement for the establishment of homoeopathic faculty. Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh, Dr. A.N.Mukherjee, Dr. Barid Baran Mukherjee and Dr. Jitendranath Majumdar took an important part in this movement. An organisation named as '*The Central Board of Homoeopathic Education*' was formed which was later renamed as '*The Central Homoeopathic Association*' with Dr. N.M. Chowdhury as the President, Dr. S.N. Sengupta and Dr. S.K.Das as Vice-Presidents and Dr. B.K. Sarkar as the General Secretary. (1)

By the untiring efforts of these leaders, Sri. P.Banerjee, M.L.A. was induced to move a bill called the '*Homoeopathic Faculty Bill, 1937*'. This movement, of course, received active support and guidance from Syed Nausher Ali, the then Minister of Health, Govt. of Bengal and Major General Goyal, Surgeon General of the Govt. of Bengal. The Bill was accepted by the Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 16th September, 1937 and was deferred for assessing public opinion till the 31st March, 1938. Within that time, all district boards and municipalities of Bengal as well as various organisations and personalities sent their approvals of the Bill. Though Govt. of Bengal agreed to give recognition to homoeopathy, it was not prepared to bear financial onus. To solve the problem Dr. Nausher Ali, the then Health Minister requested the top leaders of homoeopathic organisation to undertake the financial responsibility of the Faculty to which they gladly agreed. Ultimately, on the 24th June, 1941, the Govt. of Bengal passed an order expressing its approval of the formation of the '*General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bengal*'. However, it was late in April 1943 that the order for the formation of the Faculty was enforced. The order along with the names of the first nominated General Council was published in the '*Calcutta Gazette*' dated, the 18th March, 1943. In fact, this was the *first state sponsored Homoeopathic Council in India*.

A list of the committee members (nominated by the Govt. of West Bengal) of the first '*General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bengal*', is given below:- (27)

1. Health Minister, Govt. of West Bengal (Chairman).
2. Dr. J.N. Ghosh
3. Dr. Jitendra Nath Majumdar
4. Dr. Nagendra Mohan Chowdhury
5. Dr. J.N. Banerjee
6. Dr. S.L. Khan
7. Dr. S. Khan
8. Dr. Barid Baran Mukherjee
9. Dr. D.N. Banerjee
10. Dr. A.N. Mukherjee
11. Dr. H.P. Dasgupta

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12. Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh
13. Dr. Barid Baran Chattopadhyay
14. Dr. L.R. Kureshi
15. Dr. S. Houssen.
16. Dr. L. Belgrade
17. Dr. N. Allay

The Council after scrutinizing records recognised the following colleges and decided that diploma holders of the said colleges up to 1943 were entitled to recognition (28):-

- (i) The Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (ii) The Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (iii) Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (iv) The Dunham Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (v) Hering Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (vi) The Regular Homoeopathic Medical College
- (vii) The Central Homoeopathic Medical College
- (viii) Asutosh Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta
- (ix) Vivekananda Homoeopathic Medical School, Bankura
- (x) The Bengal Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital

Regulations for registration of homoeopathic practitioners (other than the above diploma holders) who had been practising homoeopathy regularly for more than three years, were also framed for the sanction of the Government.

Simultaneously, the Council formulated four years diploma course of homoeopathic education and granted affiliation to the following five homoeopathic medical colleges who agreed to follow the syllabus :- (26)

- (i) The Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (ii) D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (iii) Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (iv) Pratap & Hering Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
- (v) Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital.

Prior to the formation of the '*General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bengal*', in 1943, various homoeopathic colleges in West Bengal used to confer certificates in the name of degree and diploma of their own. Syllabus, duration of study and standard had no parity among one another. In order to do away with this indiscipline, disparity, anarchy and to bring about uniformity, the General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, approved five homoeopathic colleges enumerated above for carrying on four-year diploma course in homoeopathy shortly called D.M.S. on the basis of a standard syllabus made by the Council. The full name of D.M.S. was '*Diploma in Medicine & Surgery*'. The conferment of D.M.S. started on and from 1943.

Chap.1: History of Development of Homoeopathy in Bengal from 1810 to 1947

The names of degree etc. given by different homoeopathic colleges upto 1942 will be found in the following table. (29)

Name of The Institution	Degree / Diploma	Valid Upto
Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College	H.M.B.; B.M.B.S.	Upto 1936 1936-1942
Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	B.H.M.S.;M.H.M.S.; L.H.M.S.	1942
Dunham Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	M.D.C.H.	1942
Asutosh Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	P.R.S.M.; P.H.A.	1942
Hering Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	L.R.H.S.	1942
Regular Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	H.L.M.S.	1942
Central Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	H.L.M.S.; H.M.B.	1910
Bengal Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta	H.M.B.	1942

Meaning of Abbreviation :-

- B.H.M.S. : Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery
- B.M.B.S. : Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery
- D.F.Hom.[Lon] : Diploma of the Faculty of Homoeopathy [London]
- H.L.M.S. : Licentiate of Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery
- H.M.B. : Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine
- L.H.M.S. : Licentiate in Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery
- M.D.C.H. : Member of Dunham College of Homoeopathy
- M.H.M.S. : Master in Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery
- P.H.A. : Practioner of Healing Art

Meanwhile, the existing national homoeopathic organisation, A.I.H.M.A. which was formed in 1932, was continuing informal talks & meetings with the concerned Governmental Officials of the Central Govt. in the Centre, regarding homoeopathy, but not much progress could be made. Under these circumstances another homoeopathic association -the '*All India Institute of Homoeopathy*' was formed in the year 1944 with its Central office in Delhi. The founder members of the A.I.I.H. were - Dr. A.N. Mukherjee of Calcutta, Dr. Dewan Jai Chand of Lahore, Dr. Daya Shankar Kayastha, Dr. J.P. Srivastava, Dr. S.P. Asthana, Dr. K.G. Saxena of Delhi. Dr. Saxena was elected the General Secretary of the association. (1)

In December, 1946, a deputation in behalf of the institute, met Mr. Ghaznafar Ali Khan, the then Health Minister of India. The signatories of the deputation gave a clear picture of homoeopathic practice and training in India and abroad and requested Health Minister to recognize and utilise homoeopathy in the future health plan of India. (1)

A draft proposal was submitted to the Central Government on the 15th March, 1947. Some of the important items of that were as follows :- (1)

- (i). Recognition of the homoeopathy by the Government in pursuance of the homoeopathic resolution passed by the Central Assembly in 1937.
- (ii) Starting of homoeopathic hospitals and colleges in all provinces and setting up of an All India Board of Control.
- (iii) Homoeopathic Research Institute
- (iv) Facilities for homoeopathic training in foreign countries.
- (v) Facilities for working on homoeopathic lines during epidemics.
- (vi) Facilities for post-graduate training classes in homoeopathy for allopathic & other medical graduates.
- (vii) Homoeopathic dispensaries in villages and towns.
- (viii) Homoeopathic drug legislation.
- (ix) Enquiry Committee to be appointed to enquire into :
 - (a) The existing condition of homoeopathy.
 - (b) The scope for its progress in future.
 - (c) Ways and means to implement the recommendations and proposals mentioned above.

Chapter-2
Homoeopathic Pharmacy in Bengal
Before Independence (August 15th, 1947) (30)

As Bengal was the pioneer state in India where homoeopathic system of medicine flourished with the help of great homoeopaths, the homoeopathy pharmaceutical industries also developed first in this state with the increasing popularity of homoeopathy and growing need for homoeopathic medicines.

It was the year 1866, a homoeopathic pharmacy was opened at 12, Lalbazar Street in Calcutta named, '*Berigny & Co.*' by the endeavours of Dr. T. Berigny and Ramesh Chandra Dutta, one of the relatives of Dr. Rajendra Lal Dutta.

In 1871, another homoeopathic pharmacy known as '*Laheri & Co.*', was established by Dr. J.C. Laheri in partnership with Dr. Mahim Ranjan Roy. The firm thrived with glory for about half a century.

Another homoeopathic pharmacy known as '*C.Ringer & Co.*', was started by Dr. L. Salzer in partnership with Dr. Kalipada Banerjee. After a few years the company started publication of rare and out-of-print foreign books for the benefit of students and practitioners of homoeopathy.

Mahesh Chandra Bhattacharya, a renowned man of Kumilla (now in Bangladesh), settled in Howrah in West Bengal. In the year 1889, he established a homoeopathic pharmacy under the name and style of '*M.Bhattacharya & Co.*' in Calcutta. During this period, most of the homoeopathic medicines were imported from western countries. This company started preparation of '*Homoeopathic Potencies*' from '*Back Potencies*' for selling homoeopathic medicines at a cheaper rate for the benefit of the mass people. The company also published a '*Pharmaceutical Manual*' in 1892 to make the knowledge of '*Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia*' easily available. From 1933, another milestone was reached in the progress of homoeopathy by way of preparing *Mother-tinctures* from imported crude drug-substance & indigenous drug substance. Two homoeopathic journals, one in Bengali (*Homoeopathic Chikitsa*) and the other in English were published under care of M. Bhattacharya & Co.

Another old homoeopathic pharmacy of Calcutta - '*Roychoudhury & Co.*' was established in 1887.

Dr. B.N. Banerjee & Dr. D.N. Roy, two well-known physicians of their time, started '*King & Co.*' in the year 1894, in Calcutta. It had two branches.

Chap.2: Homoeopathic Pharmacy in Bengal before Independence

In 1897, Dr. N.K. Majumdar, a renowned homoeopath of his time and writer of some homoeopathic books, established a homoeopathic pharmacy – 'N.K.Majumdar & Co.', which existed actively for many decades and had four branches.

Hahnemann Publishing Co. originally appeared as publisher of homoeopathic journals and books. The '*Hahnemann*', the first homoeopathic monthly journal in Bengali, was published in 1917 by *Hahnemann Publishing Co.* A few years later, the company took the noble work of publication of a large number of useful books (*Originals as well as translations and re-prints*) in English in Bengali and Hindi. A pharmacy was also started along with its activities of publication. With the tremendous growth of popularity of homoeopathy throughout the country during the thirties, *Hahnemann Publishing Co.* started a second journal, '*The Hahnemannian Gleanings*' in English in 1934. This pharmacy first manufactured in 1956, in commercial scale, *Millesimal Potency* which is mentioned in sixth edition of '*Organon of Medicine*'.

'*Economic Homoeo Pharmacy*' was started in the year 1927. Dr. Sukumar Roy, sole proprietor of the firm, concentrated all his earnest activities and attentions to manufacture and supply genuine homoeopathic and biochemic medicines. The firm had under publication of a large number of most useful homoeopathic books in English, in Bengali and in Hindi.

Chapter-3
Homoeopathic Research in Bengal
Before Independence (August 15th, 1947)

Before independence, the great homoeopaths of Bengal, were able to exhibit their excellence not only by their profound knowledge and art of homoeopathic exercise but in the field of research of homoeopathic science also. For the development of homoeopathic science, by adding to the collection of homoeopathic medicine, they came forward in the complex work of 'Drug proving' of indigenous plants and animal products. The foreign doctors, who came to Bengal, also joined this great mission. From the days of yore, people had been using plants for the purpose of getting rid of their sufferings but the actual curative power and homoeopathic use of them were not known. As per as we know, the *first drug proving* was done in Bengal by Dr. C.F.Tonner, M.D., a French homoeopath, in the fifties of the 19th century. The name of the drug was '*Acalypha indica (Muktajhuri)*'. Subsequently a number of indigenous drugs were proved in different years which are mentioned in the following table chronologically :- (31), (32)

<u>Name of the Drug</u>	<u>Proved by</u>	<u>Year of Publication Of Proving Report</u>
<i>Acalypha indica</i> (Muktajhuri)	Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar & Babu Jay Krishna Ghosal	'Addition to the Homoeopathic Materia Medica' by Dr. Henry Thomas, M.D., Lond. 1858.
<i>Holarrhena Antidysenterica</i> (Kurchi)	Dr. Dinabandhu Mukherjee of Shibpur, under supervision of Dr. M.L. Sircar	1873
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem)	Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar & Dr. Umesh Chandra Bagchi	<i>Indian Homoeopathic Review, Vol. III, No. 1.</i> 1883
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem)	Dr. H.Chakraborty	<i>Medical Advance, Vol. XXV, Re-proving.</i>
<i>Trichosanthes dioica</i> (Patal root & leaf)	Dr. Nalinakshya Sinha	<i>Homoeopathic Recorder</i> 1893.

Chap.3: Homoeopathic Research in Bengal before Independence

<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> (Apang)	Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh	1898
<i>Boerhaavia repens</i> (Sweet Punarnaba)	Dr. Aghor Chandra Bhaduri	<i>Indian Homoeopathic Review, 1898, Jul-Aug.</i>
<i>Desmodium gangeticum</i> (Shalpani)	Do	<i>Indian Homoeopathic Review, 1898, Jul-Aug.</i>
<i>Luffa amara</i> (Titpola)	Sri. Bamapada Jana of Midnapore	1900
<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> (Sheuli)	Dr. Sarat Chandra Ghosh	<i>Homoeopathic World Editor- Dr. Clarke, Jan. 1901 & Northern American Journal of Homoeopathy Jun. 1901.</i>
<i>Ficus religiosa</i> (Ashwattha)	Do	<i>Journal of British Homoeo- pathic Society, July 1904 & Medical Advance (Editor- Dr. H.C. Allen, Aug. 1904.</i>
<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> (Vasaka)	Do	<i>Homoeopathic Recorder, Philadelphia, May, 1905.</i>
<i>Cephalandra indica</i> (Telakucha)	Sri. Narayan Mukherjee	1905
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> (Tulsi)	Dr. Pramada Prasanna Biswas	1910 & 1918
<i>Aegle folia</i> (Bilwa patra)	Do	1912
<i>Oldenlandia herbacea</i> (Kshetrapra)	Do	-----
<i>Andersonia rohitaka</i> (Royna)	Do	-----
<i>Trichosanthes dioica</i> (Patal root)	Do	Re-proving 1916
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Kalmegh)	Dr. Pramada P. Biswas & Dr. Nalinakshya Sinha	-----

Chap.3: Homoeopathic Research in Bengal before Independence

<i>Hygrophila spinosa</i> (Kulekhara)	Dr. Pramada Prasanna Biswas	-----
<i>Atista indica</i> (Ashsherora)	Dr. Kali Kumar Bhattacharyya	1917
<i>Abroma augusta</i> (Olot kambal)	Dr. D.N. Roy. M.D.	<i>Indian Homoeopathic Review</i> , Edited by Dr. P.C. Majumdar, Nov-Dec. 1919.
<i>Blatta orientalis</i> (Telapoka)	Do.	-----
<i>Jenosia asoka</i> , (Asoka)	Do	-----
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> (Tulsi)	Dr. Nalinakshya Sinha & Dr. N.C.Ghosh	Re-proving 1920
<i>Triphofebrinum</i> (Large Intestine of Porcupine)	Dr. Kali Kumar Bhattacharyya	1922
<i>Cephalendra indica</i> (Telakuch)	Sri. Bamapada Roy	Re-proving, 1922
<i>Menispermum</i> (Rakta Kanthli)	Dr. Kali Kumar Bhattacharyya	1922
<i>Asai</i>	Do	-----
<i>Caesalpinia bonducella</i> (Nata)	Do	<i>Hahnemann Patrika</i> 1925 (Baisakh 1331)
<i>Gentiana chirata</i> (Chirata)	Do	<i>Hahnemann Patrika</i> 1926 (Falgun 1332)
<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> (Rakta Punarnaba)	Dr. Amulya Ratan Bose & Sri Rajani Kanta Halder Under Supervision of Dr S.C. Ghosh	Re-proving , 1932
<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Arjuna)	Dr. D.N. Chatterjee of Calcutta	1934
<i>Withania somnifera</i> (Aswagandha)	Do	Clinical Proving

Chap.3: Homoeopathic Research in Bengal before Independence

<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> (Apang)	Dr. Santosh Kr. Ghosh of Basudia of Jessore	Re-proving 1934
<i>Holarrhena</i> <i>Antidysenterica</i> (Kurchi)	Dr. Kali Kumar Bhattacharyya of Gouripur of Assam	Re-proving 1935
<i>Cassia sophera</i> (Kalkasunda)	Dr. Bijay Kr Bose	<i>Homoeopathic Chikitsa,</i> 1935
<i>Embelia ribes</i> (Biranga)	Dr. Gobinda Ram Sharma of Rawalpindi	-----
<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> (Meshashringi)	Do	-----
<i>Terminalia chebula</i> (Haritaki)	Dr. Byomkesh Dutta & Sri Anupam Chandra Roy	-----

Section -II
**HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF
HOMOEOPATHY IN WEST BENGAL STATE
SINCE 1947 to 1999**

Chapter-1
**History of Development of Homoeopathy
in West Bengal From 1947 to 1960**

It has already been mentioned that a draft proposal was submitted by the representatives of the *All India Institute of Homoeopathy* (AIIH) to 'the Central Government on the 15th March' 1947. At that time India was under British rule. At last with the announcement of Indian Independence on the 15th August 1947, a new avenue was open for homoeopathy to move on as per Indian will and need. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur became the first Health Minister of India. The representatives of the AIIH met her with a new hope and requested to implement the proposals that had been submitted to her predecessor.

Nevertheless, it was informed from the Ministry of Health that nothing could be done unless another resolution was passed by the Union Parliament. Under these circumstances, the representative members of the Institute persuaded Mr. Satish Chandra Samanta, Sri. Mohun Lal Saxena, Dr. Pattavi Sitaramayya, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta and a few other members of the Parliament to move for consideration of the homoeopathic resolution that was put up by the Congress Party on 17.02.1948 and the resolution was unanimously passed by the Union Parliament. The Government announced on 30.09.1948 the terms of references together with the names of personnel of the Enquiry Committee. Most of the elected members of the Enquiry Committee had been the members of AIIH. The committee submitted its report in 1949. The committee accepted the veracity of Homoeopathic system of medicine and recommended to the Government for its recognition. This committee also recommended the formation of a *Central Homoeopathic Council*. (33)

The Enquiry Committee visited homoeopathic institutions of different states and presented comprehensive reports on how diagnosticians had been working and to what extent the sufferers and patients benefited. The survey report was recorded in the '*Report of the Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee 1949, Government of India, Ministry of Health*'. From this report the condition of homoeopathic colleges as well as homoeopathic practitioners at that time could be known to a considerable degree. A relevant part of this

report, in which the position of homoeopathy at that time in West Bengal was reflected, is given below :-

Survey of the Enquiry Committee Regarding the Existing Facilities for the Teaching of Homoeopathy in India during the period 1948-1949:

In the following paragraphs an account had been given of the actual conditions and facilities for training in homoeopathy which existed at the period of 1948-1949 in the more important institutions in West Bengal which the enquiry committee visited.

104. The Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Calcutta :-The college was established in 1881. The management was in the hands of the Calcutta Homoeopathic Hospital Society. The classes were held in the Dr. D.N. Roy Memorial Building and the new annexe. The course of study was for 4 years. The syllabus followed in the college was almost the same as that of the recognised medical schools and followed the lines laid down by the State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. Admission was open to both the sexes. The minimum qualification for the admission was the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University or its equivalent. A hospital of 85 beds was attached to this college. The hospital was established in 1909. A new three-storied annexe had been added and it was proposed to raise the number of beds from 85 to 101. There were separate departments for the treatment of eye, ear, nose, throat and dental diseases. There was a library. There were two laboratories a) *Physiological Laboratory* and b) *Pathological & Bacteriological Laboratory*. Pharmacological, Anatomical and Pathological specimens were maintained. All members of the staff were medical men holding registrable qualifications excepting a few who were registered with The State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. The staff of the college consisted of 15 members.

105. The Dunham Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Calcutta :-The course of studies covered a period of 5 years as laid down by the State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. A hospital and a students' hostel were attached to the college. The number of beds was 20. The minimum qualification for the admission was the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University or its equivalent. All members of the staff were medical men holding registrable qualifications excepting a few who were registered with the State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. The staff of the college consisted of 26 members.

106. The Pratap & Hering Homoeopathic College & Hospital, Calcutta :-It was managed by the Pratap & Hering Homoeopathic College & Hospital Association. It was established in the year 1926. The curriculum was the same as laid down by the State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. The duration of the course was 4 years. The minimum qualification required for the admission was the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University or its equivalent. The number of staff members was 19.

Chap.1: History of Development of Homoeopathy in West Bengal from 1947 to 1960

107. The Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Calcutta :- The origin of the college dates back to the year 1916, when 2 sister institutions viz. *The Allen Homoeopathic Medical College & The Bengal Homoeopathic Medical College* were amalgamated. There were two separate courses of study – *Morning (Vernacular) 7-9 a.m.; Day (English) 12-4 p.m.* The training consisted of 3 year graded course in the Morning Department and 4 years in the Day Department. L.H.M.S. degree (Licentiate in Homoeopathic medicine & Surgery) was conferred upon every successful student of the 3rd year of the Morning Department. A degree of Master of Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery (M.H.M.S.) was conferred upon every successful student of the 4th year of the Day Department. The minimum qualification for the admission to the Day department was Matriculation standard or its equivalent. It had no correspondence course nor does it allow any private candidate to sit at its examination. An out-door dispensary was also attached to the hospital. Ophthalmic Department & Dental Department had been added to the college. There was a library. The teaching staff mostly consisted of medical men holding registrable qualifications.

108. The sources of income of all the above institutions were recurring grants from the Corporation of Calcutta, Public Donation, Student Fees and receipts from patients.

109. The three institutions mentioned above were recognised by the State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. The fourth one, namely, *The Bengal Allen Homoeopathic College & Hospital* was recognised by the Faculty until 1948, but had since been disqualified.

118. None of the institutions had got facilities for research.

122. C) Conditions of Practice of Homoeopathy in West Bengal at the period 1948-1949 :- The proprietor, Hahnemann Publishing Co., Calcutta, in his *Hahnemannian Gleanings* of April 1949 (Vol. XVI, No. 4) stated that there customers in India who seemed to be Homoeopathic Practitioners, were approximately 95,000. Of these 50% belong to Bengal. There were several firms in Calcutta who had as much volume of business as the Hahnemann Publishing Co.

122. D) The number of homoeopathic practitioners registered upto 1948 with the State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal, was 6401.

After formation of the Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee the second major event enacted by the efforts of the All India Institute of Homoeopathy was the appointment of a Committee by the Planning Commission where the representatives of homoeopathy were invited to join in 1951. The Planning Commission accepted 5 out of 7 proposals put up by the Homoeopathic representatives of the Institute and incorporated them in the report of the first Five Year Plan. (34)

Appointment of a Homoeopathic Doctor to President :- The year 1950 A.D. is an earmark in the annals of Homoeopathy, inasmuch as on and from 1950, one Homoeopathic Doctor was included in the group of Hony. physicians of the President of India. The first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, might be given

the credit of appointing *the first Homoeopathic Hony. physician*, Dr. K.G. Saxena, on his personal staff in 1950.

Formation of Homoeopathic Advisory Committee :- The Government of India constituted an Ad-hoc Committee on Homoeopathy in 1952. There were 5 members of the AIH on this Committee, presided over by the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health. This committee had six sittings between 1952 & 1954 and discussed and decided various problems pertaining to Homoeopathy. In 1954, this committee was designated as *Homoeopathic Advisory Committee*. In 1956, this Advisory Committee was transferred from Directorate to the Health Ministry with Health Secretary as Chairman. The D.G.H.S., the Director of Medical Research and six homoeopaths formed the committee. All the homoeopathic members were members of AIH. This committee functioned till the formation of the *Central Council of Homoeopathy in 1974*. (35)

On the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, Dr. K.G. Saxena was appointed by the Central Government as the first Hony. Homoeopathic Adviser in 1962. The Adviser was the Secretary of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee also.

The second Homoeopathic Adviser, Dr. Jugal Kishore, was appointed in September 1971 and he worked till December 1979.

The third Homoeopathic Adviser, Dr. Harish Chand, was appointed from September 1980.

A New Approach to Improving Homoeopathic Education in West Bengal in the period 1951-1954 : (36)

Ab-initio the General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bengal had given special emphasis for the uplift and standardisation of teaching, the nucleus of which was formed by Dr. B.K. Sarkar, Dr. G. Dirghangi, Dr. S.N. Sengupta, Dr. R.L. Banerjee and others.

Homoeopathic State faculty of West Bengal was moving in this matter since July 1951 when it received a letter (No. MR/Medi/30-38/50/6832 of 21st July, '51) from the Government of West Bengal with a request to furnish the Medical Directorate with necessary scheme for the establishment of Homoeopathic Colleges on the lines of resolutions adopted at the *Third Health Ministers' Conference* on Aug-Sept. 1950. Accordingly the Examination Sub-committee of the Homoeopathic State Faculty prepared a tentative scheme for a college of the desired type and the Registrar issued notices to the authorities of the affiliated institutions requesting them to send two representatives of each institution to attend as invitees in the meeting to be held at the office of the Council on Tuesday, the 11th September 1951.

A meeting of the Examination Sub-Committee was held on the 11th September 1951 which was attended by the representatives of the respective affiliated institutions and they placed their views on the question of amalgamation of three colleges (Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College, D.N.De homoeopathic Medical College, Pratap & Hering Homoeopathic Medical College). In the next meeting of the General Council held on 27.09.1951, the proposal for amalgamation of the three colleges and the scheme for a model Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital as prepared by the Examination Sub-Committee were discussed.

After three years with a view to exploring the possibility of amalgamating the affiliated Homoeopathic Colleges in Calcutta in order to standardise the training in homoeopathy, Dr. A.D. Mukherjee, the then Minister of State, in charge of Medical and Health Department, Govt. of West Bengal called a meeting of the representatives of the said colleges (Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College, D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College, Pratap & Hering Homoeopathic Medical College) on the 8th May 1954. In this meeting it was decided that the minister would visit the three institutions to form his own conclusions regarding the feasibility or otherwise of such an amalgamation. Accordingly Dr. Mukherjee visited the three institutions on 20th of June 1954. He tried to impress on the authorities of the respective colleges the imperative necessity on amalgamating their institutions for ready materialisation of the scheme of the Central Govt. He also reminded that West Bengal Govt. considered that the best way of establishing at Calcutta of a institution of the desired standard is through amalgamating the said institutions.

Unfortunately this attempt of good intention failed. Members of the governing bodies of different homoeopathic colleges could not arrive at a unanimous decision regarding the amalgamation. Consequently, a standard degree level homoeopathic college under affiliation of Calcutta University and patronization of West Bengal Govt. was nipped in the bud. A four year diploma course continued to remain as affiliated to General Council and State Faculty.

Students were deprived of meet standard of homoeopathic education thanks to paucity of adequate finance of colleges themselves and gubernatorial grant. Hospitals attached to the colleges did not develop up to expectation, insomuch that students came out with passing qualification, formal diploma but sans proper clinical training and knowledge during the fifties.

In view of substandard and nonstandard qualification of the homoeopathic physicians, medical certificate issued by homoeopathic practitioner was not entertained valid by Govt. firms, factories and institutions. This position may be substantiated from the following letter. (37)

Chap.1: History of Development of Homoeopathy in West Bengal from 1947 to 1960

*Medical and Public Health Department,
Government of West Bengal, Medical Branch.*

*From:
Sri Kunaresh Ray, M.Sc.
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of W.B.*

*To:
The Asst. Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Health, New Delhi. (No.MED1/203/6A-28/4911, Dt. Cal, 11th January, 1952).*

Sub:- *Acceptance of medical certificates from Vaid, Hakims etc.*

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. F.8-1/51-M.1 Dt. 15th November 1951 on the above subject I am directed to say that after a very careful consideration of the matter this Govt. has decided not to accept medical certificates from Vaid, Hakims and Homoeopaths at this stage, as the organisations set up in this country for development and standardisation of these different systems of medicine are of comparatively recent origin and have not yet succeeded in standardising their system of training and teaching to the extent desirable.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/ K.Roy ,(Deputy Secretary) . .

Homoeopathy Recalled in the Budget Speech (38)

True copy of extracts from the budget speech delivered by Sri Sibaprasad Kumar on Friday, the 26th February, 1954 in the West Bengal Legislative Council.

"Another point I should like to draw the attention of the Government is that they should be more favourably inclined in the matter of developing homoeopathic system of treatment in the province, as this is eminently suitable for poor classes of people and besides it contains several wonderful remedies which is a boon to ailing persons.

A scheme for establishment of homoeopathic college and hospital for upgrading of homoeo. system of education is, I understand, included in the Five Year Plan and I shall be glad if this is given priority."

Gradually, in the mean time, popular sentiment and support for homoeopathic treatment began to increase. Patients used to throng homoeopathic dispensaries, hospitals, institutions and doctors' clinics in the increasing numbers. This is evident from the following -

In the journal '*Homoeopathic Chikitsa*' No. I, April, 1955, Dr. S.N. Roy who was the physician in charge of Mahesh Charitable Dispensary of

Howrah, mentioned that 12,269 patients were treated from 01.01.1954 to 31.12.1954 in that very dispensary, out of them the number of the new patients were 3,959.

Aiming at hightening the standard of homoeopathic way of treating patients and ensuring the affiliation of the Government a Homoeopathic Bill was placed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly first in 1953 by Sri Jogesh Chandra Gupta, M.L.A., then in 1955 by Dr. Narayan Chandra Roy M.L.A. and lastly on 25.03.59 by Dr. Janendra Nath Majumdar, M.L.A. On every occasion the much expected Bill was withdrawn by the respective proposer on the assurance of the then Chief Minister Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy that an official Bill would be placed before the Legislature very soon. (39)

Resolutions passed at the Homoeopathic Convention presided over by Dr. W.S. Barlingay M.P. and held under the auspices of the Bengal Homoeopathic Institute, Calcutta, on the 11th April, 1955 at Calcutta. (40)

Resolutions

1. Resolved that this homoeopathic convention requests the Central Government and those State Governments who have not yet recognised the homoeopathic system of treatment by Legislative Enactments, to take immediate steps for passing relevant acts for the purpose of ensuring proper standardisation of homoeopathic teaching and for securing rights and privileges of homoeopathic practitioners equal to those which are, at present, enjoyed by the allopathic physicians; and as well as for granting adequate help from the Central and State Governments; financial or otherwise, for the development and spread fo homoeopathy in our country.
2. Resolved that this homoeopathic convention requests the Central Government for immediate establishmnet of the Central Council of Homoeopathic Medicine by statutory enactments which will function as a Central Co-ordinating body for taking decisions on all matters relating to teaching and practice of homoeopathy on an all India basis, the necessity for which had already been recommended by the Enquiry Committee, Third Health Minister's Conference, planning Commission and the Ad-hoc Committee set up by the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Govt. of India.
3. Resolved that this convention requests the Central Government to establish at least one model homoeopathic medical college in India with a fully equipped and up to date hospital attached there with.
4. Resolved that this convention requests the Central Government to incorporate Registered Homoeopathic Practitioners from all states in the Health Personal Scheme to solve the problem of adequate supply of medical relief to the teeming masses of India specially in rural areas.
5. Resolved that this convention requests the Central and State Governments to open Homoeopathic health Centres and Homoeopathic Charitable Dispensaries in villages and other suitable places, particularly in the community projects and to

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introduce Homoeopathic Health Assistants, Nurses and Homoeopathic Compounders' Training Courses.

6. Resolved that the Homoeopathic Practitioners registered in their respective states be utilised in the State Health Insurance Scheme.
7. Resolved that this convention records here by its most emphatic protest against the move of the Central Government to pass an enactment aimed at prohibiting the practice of medicine including homoeopathy, ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines by persons who are not registered as practioners of any of these systems before adequate provisions are made and put into effect for registering all eligible practitioners of different systems of medicine in all States of Indian Union.

The Society for the Advancement of Homoeopathy (41)

The Society for the Advancement of Homoeopathy was inaugurated by Mrs. Lilabati Munsî, M.P. at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on the 14th September 1955.

The hall was packed to capacity and people had come from all parts of India. 25 members of the Parliament including Dr. W.S. Barlingay, M.P. Nagpur, Syed Nauser Ali, M.P. Calcutta were present. The Law Minister, Mr. C.C. Biswas, presided over the meeting. Homoeopaths representing all homoeopathic associations were present at the function.

Dr. Barlingay introduced the society and Mrs. Munsî to the audience. He said that the society had been formed to create public opinion in favour of homoeopathic system and to do constructive works regarding homoeopathy. Mrs. Munsî inaugurating the Society said that homoeopathy was a very useful and cheap system of medicine particularly suited for the villages of India. The Govt. should patronize it and utilise it in its Health Plans. Sri C.C. Biswas, the Law Minister, strongly criticised the policy of the Govt. in not giving due recognition to this beneficial system of medicine. He strongly criticised those who regarded homoeopathy as quackery. He felt it was most scientific.

Welcoming the formation of the society the then Vice-President, Dr. Radha Krishnan, in a message said, "*In a country like ours where medical facilities are so inadequate it is necessary that every available source of relieving the sick and suffering should be made used of.*"

[N.B. Dr. S. Radha Krishnan, the great philosopher, the second President of India, while he was the Vice President, in his inaugural speech in the 3rd All India Homoeopathic Congress in New Delhi in 1953, he said, "*Homoeopathy did not merely seek to cure a disease but treats a disease as a sign of disorder of the whole human organism. This was also recognised in the Upanishadic thought which spoke of human organism as combination of body, mind and spirit. Homoeopathy would play an important part in the public health of the country along with other systems. Medical facilities in India are so scanty that Homoeopathy can confidently visualise a vast field of expansion.*"]

President's message : The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad in a message said, "*I hope the society will take up its work in right earnest and push it forward as homoeopathy is not yet receiving State patronage, at any State on a scale which it deserves; it naturally falls*

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upon those who are interested in it to convince those who do not accept it as a method of cure, in its efficacy and scientific basis. It is well known that in a poor country like India even today there is a very large number of people who take advantage of it and derive benefit from it."

Formation of Homoeo Medical Club in West Bengal In 1955, The Homoeo Medical Club, West Bengal was formed in Howrah district. The renowned physician, Dr. Netai Charan Chakraborty, was its first President and Dr. Bholanath Chakraborty, became Secretary. Since the inception The Homoeo Medical Club instituted a number of plans of actions, for development of homoeopathic system in West Bengal. (42)

The International Homoeopathic Convention This convention held a three day session in Calcutta towards the end of December, 1955. Dr. C.V.S. Corea of Ceylon (now SRILANKA) presided over the convention. He suggested the formation of a Homoeopathic Congress of Asia to be affiliated to the World Homoeopathic Congress. (43)

The Dave Committee (44)

The Government of India set up this committee for uniform standardisation in training and regulation of the practice of homoeopaths, Vaidyas and Hakims in 1956. Sri. D.T. Dave, Saurashtra Health Minister was the Chairman of the committee.

Recommendations of the Dave Committee

Part-I : Regulation of practice :-

1. There should be registers separate for Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy.
2. Initially there should be a nominated body to control the practitioners for three years and subsequent bodies may be partly elected and partly nominated.
3. Registered Medical Practitioners of Ayurvedic, Unani, and Homoeopathic systems of medicine should be treated with regard to the privileges as par with the practitioners in modern medicine.
4. Unregistered or unenlisted practitioners can practise in rural areas as defined by the State which have no registered practitioners.
5. For regulating academic teaching and standards the control should vest with the Central Body so constituted.
6. The State Legislation should be passed within two years and should not await Central Legislation.
7. Central Legislation embracing regulation of practice, professional ethics and teaching would not be feasible. Since the subject medical qualification is concurrent subject the Central Body may be a Co-ordinating Body exercising control over academic standards and teaching.
8. The Medical Degrees Act should be amended so that the use of a bogus degree in Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy can be prohibited.

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Part-II :

1. There must be uniform standard of training.
2. Two Councils should be created similar to the Indian Medical Council, which will have control over the maintenance of uniform teaching standards in all the institutions:
 - i) The Central Council of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of Medicine
 - ii) The Central Council for Homoeopathic System of Medicine.
3. The existing institutions should be upgraded so that they can efficiently impart education in these systems.
4. Five and half year degree course should be introduced for homoeopathy (4 years course with one year's internship). The course for homoeopathy would be more or less on the lines suggested by the Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee (1949).
5. All the teaching institutions should have indoor hospital beds and ratio of students to beds should be 1:5.
6. Separate Directors for a) Ayurvedic and Unani & b) Homoeopathic Systems of Medicine should be created in the Central Ministry of Health, Govt. of India and also in the States as far as possible.
7. Post- Graduate Training and Research Facilities should be given to all three systems at suitable places and also to graduates of Modern Medicine. The duration of the Post Graduation Course should be of two years.
8. Refresher courses in Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy should be organised in teaching institutions.

Memorandum to the Planning Commission in 1956 (45)

The Planning Commission invited a conference of the representatives of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy on 15th & 16th May 1956. Dr. J.C. Ghosh, member of the Planning Commission, presided. Sri. V.T. Krishnamachari, Sri G.L. Nanda, Planning Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Officials of the Health and Planning Commission, Sri. D.T. Dave, Health Minister of Saurashtra, Sri. Mohan Lal Saxena, M.P., Dr. W.S. Barlingay, M.P., Dr. N.N. Jaisooriya, M.P., Sri. R.V. Dhulekar, M.P., and representatives of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy participated in the conference which was arranged for discussion of the use of non- allopathic systems in the second five year plan period. Homoeopaths invited were – *Dr. J.N. Majumdar of Calcutta, Dr. L.D. Dhiwale of Bombay, Dr. Dewan Jai Chand of New Delhi, Dr. M. Gururaju of Andhra, Dr. K.G. Saxena of Delhi and Dr. Harish Chand of New Delhi.*

The following memorandum was submitted to the commission on behalf of all the votaries of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy and was the basis of discussion.

1. The present policy in regard of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy should be radically altered and the discriminatory treatment meted out to them should be discontinued so that every system of medicine should have full and equal opportunity of development under the patronage and guidance of the Union and State Governments.
2. Establishments of Directorates at the Centre and States where they don't exist and creation of Statutory Councils for Ayurveda, Unani and

Homoeopathy. The entire policy with regard to the development of the system of medicine concerned should be in the hands of the protagonists of that system itself and not in the hands of the protagonists of any other system.

3. Training of Personnel: The courses of studies in Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy both in respect of length and quality should correspond to allopathic course.
4. Given equal training (both qualitative and quantitative as far as may be practicable), the Ayurvedic or Homoeopathic personnel should have the same emoluments, status, opportunities and all other rights as their allopathic counterparts. They should be granted Government Service on the same terms as the allopaths, provided that other things are equal. They should be given the same opportunities in Health Insurance Scheme, Contributory Health Schemes and Services in the Community Project areas and so on.
5. Incorporation and absorption of all useful scientific knowledge from whatever sources it may be into the Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic Systems consistent with the fundamental principles of that system.
6. Facilities for research on identical terms : Specific recommendations were made by the Homoeo Ad-hoc Committee for research but no implementation was done during first Five Year Plan. Recurring grants be given to private institutions recognised by Government.
7. Facilities for manufacture of drugs and standardisation : A corporation with regional factories be started for the manufacture of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic drugs.
8. Besides Centre sharing the recurring and non-recurring expenses on new colleges and hospitals, special funds should be set apart by the Centre to give financial assistance to the existing recognised institutions for upgrading them and bringing them to the required standard. This assistance should be in addition to the assistance given or may be given by the States.
9. Encouragements should be given to the graduates of one system to study other systems of medicine.
10. The *All India Institute of Medical Science* should positively include comparative study and research in all systems of Therapeutics obtaining in India.
11. The budget provision for Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic systems is obviously inadequate. The figures supplied by the Government itself show this.
12. While in several States Acts in respect of Homoeopathy have been passed and registration of homoeopaths has been undertaken, no institution or colleges have been opened in any of the state where students could obtain the degree or diplomas which are envisaged in the Acts concerned. This means that even inspite of the Acts, conditions are

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not created in most of the states for the growth and development of these systems of medicine.

13. There should be advisers for Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic systems on the staff of the Planning Commission on a permanent basis as for allopathy.

It was mentioned ahead what were essentials for homoeopathy progress. The Central Govt. formed a number of committees to examine the prospects in this regard viz. Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee, Ad-hoc Committee on Homoeopathy, Dave Committee, Homoeopathic Advisory Committee etc. These committees submitted their reports and recommendations for implementations of proposals, which had reflections on the physicians of homoeopathy in many states. In West Bengal on the 12.01.1957 Homoeopathic Practitioners' Convention was held in Calcutta. Resolutions adopted are quoted here :- (46)

Resolutions

1. Resolved that this convention of Homoeopathic Practitioners of West Bengal does hereby place its demand before the Govt. of West Bengal for an early legislative enactment regarding homoeopathy for ensuring the status, rights and privileges of the homoeopathic practitioners and providing adequate facilities for the development of the training and practitioners of the homoeopathic system of treatment in the State of West Bengal and further holds the view that it would be an act of manifest unfairness to ignore the long overdue legislation on homoeopathy in this State in this coming Assembly session notwithstanding promises on record to that effect on the floor of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State.
2. Resolved that this convention of Homoeopathic Practitioners of West Bengal does hereby endorse on the whole, recommendation with regard to homoeopathy, of the recently published report of the Dave Committee appointed by the Govt. of India excepting the following items noted below:-
 - i) It disagrees with the Dave Committee recommendation for a Five and half year course of study inclusive of one year internship and supports the recommendation of the Homoeopathic Ad-hoc Committee for a course of 4 years with a six months internship.
 - ii) It disagrees with the Dave Committee for not recommending a legislative enactment with regard to homoeopathy on an All India basis which is necessary for co-ordinating the training and practice of homoeopathy in different States of India.

- iii) It views with regret the omissions by the Dave Committee to recommend the continuance of the four years diploma course of study in existing homoeopathic institutions in different States of India. Under the present circumstances the convention strongly urges the Central and State Governments to continue the present diploma course for an interim period of at least ten years before the degree course of study is made obligatory; otherwise it apprehends that the homoeopathic profession before it is set on a fine footing, may be strangled in country.
3. In view of the fact that it is the goal of the Government of India to help the development of an integrated medicine, the medicine of the future, this convention resolves that Medical Degrees Act and Acts for Medical Council of Registration in different states should be suitably amended to ensure privileges of association amongst registered practitioners of Modern medicine, Homoeopathy and Indigenous Systems of Medicine, as also recommended by the Dave committee in its recently published report.
4. Resolved that this convention views with deep regret the apathetic and discriminative attitude of the Government of West Bengal towards the course of Homoeopathy in so far as this Government did not allocate any sum of money for the education and research in Homoeopathy in the scheme which it submitted to the Health Panel of the Planning Commission under the second Five Year Plan inspite of a previous public statement by Dr. A.D. Mukherjee, the then Minister of State in charge of Medical and Public Health Dept. on 12.05.1954 at a meeting of the representatives of the Homoeopathic institutions affiliated to the Homoeopathic State Faculty West Bengal.

Activities Of The General Council & State Faculty Of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal upto 1956 (47)

The General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bengal was established by a statutory order of the then Govt. of Bengal in 1943. The statutes were recommended by an Advisory Board which consisted of many eminent homoeopaths like, Dr. J.N. Majumdar, Dr. S. C. Ghosh, Dr. J.N. Ghosh, Dr. A.N. Mukherjee etc. The first Council was nominated by the Govt. After partition of Bengal, the statutes were amended where elected representatives from the Registered Homoeopathic Practitioners of West Bengal constituted the majority.

Homoeopathic training and profession were in a chaotic condition before the establishment of this Council. There were many homoeopathic colleges, which did not follow any uniform syllabus of curriculum of study. The courses followed in many institutions varied from six months to four years. The Council under the statutes fixed up a standard for recognition of

diplomas conferred on by these colleges. The Council also framed certain rules for affiliation of a Homoeopathic Teaching Institution which contained amongst others a four year course (entrance qualification as Matriculate) and an attached hospital with atleast thirty indoor beds. The following colleges were affiliated to the Council in 1956 :

- *Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*
- *D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital (formerly Dunhum Homoeopathic Medical College)*
- *Pratap & Hering Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*
- *Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital.*

The General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine had the unique distinction of being the first body of such type in India and as such students from all over India including Nepal used to come here to read the four year D.M.S. course of Council.

With regard to the registration of homoeopathic practitioners, the Council had registered the names of 7938 practitioners upto 1956. The Council felt that there were many practitioners amongst the registered homoeopaths who did not have the opportunity of having institutional training but who were willing to appear at an examination to satisfy the Council about their medical and homoeopathic knowledge. As such the Council decided to hold D.M.S. examination under the transitory clause for such practitioners to appear at the said examination. The Council had since then held five such examinations upto 1956 and 454 practitioners appeared at the said examinations out of which, 287 passed the examination.

A set of ethical rules had been framed by the Council to prevent registered homoeopathic practitioners from using unauthorised degrees and diplomas.

The Govt. of India at first refused to accept medical certificates granted by homoeopathic practitioners. A deputation consisting of a few members of this Council waited on the Central Health Minister and lodged a strong protest against this discrimination. As a result of prolonged correspondence the Govt. of India had amended its previous circular with regard to such certificates provided the State Govt. concerned would accept the medical certificates issued by the registered homoeopathic practitioners belonging to that State.

The Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee appointed by the Govt. of India in 1948 after visiting and inspection of the various states of India, submitted a report which was published in 1949 by The Ministry of Health: Govt. of India. The said committee recommended to accept the diploma holders of the colleges recognised by the Council, and accepted the view points of the Council with regard to teaching of homoeopathy and control of practice.

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The Council also passed several resolutions concerning the recommendations of the Indian Medical Council to accept homoeopathy as post-graduate system of medicine, and published a brochure pointing out the absurdities of such recommendations and distributed the brochure amongst the members of the Indian Parliament. The Govt. of India had not accepted the recommendations of the Medical Council of India.

The research schemes to be carried out in the affiliated homoeopathic colleges had also been forwarded to the Govt of India and the Council had also submitted schemes for development of homoeopathy in the state amounting to Rs. 45 lakhs to the Govt. of West Bengal for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan.

The First Convocation of the General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal (47)

The first convocation under the Council and Faculty was held at the Senate Hall, Calcutta University on the 12th February, 1956. The function was inaugurated by Prof. Satish Chandra Ghosh, M.A., the then Mayor of Calcutta. 87 students received their diplomas in Medicine and Surgery at the Convocation.

Chapter-2

Steps Taken By Central Government For The Development of Homoeopathic Education & Research In The Sixties

Dr. B.K. Sarkar, Member, Homoeopathic Advisory Committee of 1966, reported on this matter through an article entitled, '*History of Introduction and Spread of Homoeopathy in India*'; published in the *Souvenir of International Homoeopathic Congress* in 1967. Some of the extracts of this article were as follows :-

In May 1962, the Government of India appointed Dr. K.G. Saxena, as *Hony. Homoeopathic Adviser to the Ministry of Health, Govt. of India*. The duty of the Adviser was to ascertain the Govt. of India regarding all matters concerning Homoeopathy on the basis of which the Central Govt. could consider the plans and programmes for the development of Homoeopathy.

Another landmark in the progress of Homoeopathy in India was the appointment of a *Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee* in September 1962 with Dr. B.K. Sarkar as Chairman. Other members were Dr. S.R. Wadia, Dr. Dewan Harishchand, Dr. K.G. Saxena. The term of the committee was for a period of three years commencing from the 17th November 1962, the date of its first meeting. After the expiry of three years, the term of the committee was extended for a further period of three years. The work of the committee was in connection with the compilation of the *Indian Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia*.

The *Research and Technical Sub-committee* was also constituted to look after research work carried on in some of the Homoeopathic institutions affiliated to the respective State Homoeopathic Council or Boards in India.

In February 1964, the Government of India expanded the Research and Technical Sub-Committee by including the principals of eight homoeopathic medical colleges for considering uniform training in homoeopathy. This committee submitted its report in September 1964, recommending a uniform licentiate course of four years and a further graded course of two years for the Degree course.

In February 1964 the Central Government appointed a *Rural Homoeopathic Medical Aid Committee* for considering how to utilise homoeopathy in villages of India. The Committee submitted its reports to the Government with the following recommendations :-

Those who had two years training or homoeopathic practice for more than five years would have to undergo an additional training for six months (according to a syllabus and curriculum framed by the same committee) and will then be eligible for service in rural dispensaries. Diploma holders of three or four years' course of training would be eligible for direct employment in these dispensaries. The committee strongly advocated that the services of homoeopaths be utilised in *Community Department Centres* particularly those which were run by the Central Government and which were not aided by international agencies.

Chap.2: Steps by Central Govt. for Homoeo. Education & Research in the Sixties

In October 1966, the *Homoeopathic Advisory Committee* was reconstituted by seventeen members, including Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, as Chairman and Dr. K.G. Saxena, Hon. Adviser in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, as Member-Secretary.

The function of the *Homoeopathic Advisory Committee* was to advise the Union Ministry of Health and Family Planning on the following matters :-

1. *Formation of a co-ordinated policy for education and research in Homoeopathy throughout the country.*
2. *Steps to be taken for the stimulation of education and research.*
3. *Allotment of Central Assistance to institutions for upgrading and research in homoeopathy.*
4. *Any other matter pertaining to the development of homoeopathy.*

In December 1966 the *Education Sub-committee of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee* with eight members was formed. The function of this Committee was to advise the Union Ministry of Health and Family Planning on the following matters:-

1. *Formation of a co-ordinated policy for education in Homoeopathy throughout the country.*
2. *Steps to be taken for the stimulation of education in Homoeopathy.*
3. *Allotment of Central Assistance to Homoeopathic institutions.*
4. *Any other matter pertaining to homoeopathic education.*

In December 1966 the *Research Sub-Committee of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee* with nine members was formed. The responsibility of this Committee was to advise the Union Ministry of Health and Family Planning on the following matters :-

1. *Formation of a co-ordinated policy for research in Homoeopathy throughout the country.*
2. *Steps to be taken for the stimulation of research in Homoeopathy.*
3. *Allotment of Central Assistance to institutions for carrying on research in homoeopathy.*
4. *Any other matter pertaining to the development of research in homoeopathy.*

On the 4th March 1967, *The Committee for a Central Homoeopathic Research Institute* was constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning with the following members :

Dr. J.N. Kanjilal of Calcutta; Dr. P. Shankaran of Bombay; Dr. J.P. Srivastava of Delhi; Dr. K.G. Saxena, Convener.

The Committee had been requested to draw up and finalise a scheme for starting a *Central Homoeopathic Research Institute* within six months from the date of its inception.

Chapter-3
Progress of Homoeopathy in West Bengal
In The Sixties of the 20th Century
(1961 – 1970)

Formation of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation :

After the formation of *General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Bengal* in 1943 and even after independence of India in 1947, the progress of homoeopathy in West Bengal was not what should have been. The reason was that the homoeopathic practitioners of West Bengal could not muster strong under unified purpose to build an apex-body. In the absence of cogent demand, West Bengal Government remained nonchalant about the necessity of homoeopathy and homoeopaths.

However, fortunately, not all of the doctors and thinkers could accept this state of affairs. A few doctors, dedicated to their profession and subject, came forward to alter the jejune condition.

In December 1961, in Purulia, the *first West Bengal State Homoeopathic Conference* was held. It was attended by more than 500 delegates representing almost all the districts of West Bengal. Dr. Yudbir Singh of Delhi well renowned therein, presided over the Conference. This meeting insisted on everybody's coming out of his own cob-web and getting united under a common banner, cause and manner. The call yielded result, and *West Bengal State Homoeopathic Co-ordination Committee*, was formed with the first President Dr. J.C. Banerjee, the first Secretary Dr. Bhola Nath Chakraborty and first Joint Asst. Secretaries Dr. Gourinath Mukhopadhyay of Purulia and Dr. Sambhu Narayan Chatterjee of Calcutta. (48)

In 1962, Second West Bengal State Homoeopathic Conference was held in Calcutta and West Bengal State homoeopathic Co-ordination Committee assumed an alter name *West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation*. The federation aimed at unifying the small units by keeping the latter's separate identity and way of working and advance the common course of homoeopathy for the benefit of all. The first elected President of the Federation was Dr. B.K. Bose of Calcutta. (48)

West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medicine Act, 1963
And Formation of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal

It was already discussed that a Homoeopathic Bill was placed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly first in 1953 by Sri. Jogesh Chandra Gupta, M.L.A. and lastly on 25.03.59 by Dr. Jnanendranath Majumdar, M.L.A. Each time Dr. B.C. Roy, the then Chief Minister gave an assurance

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that the Government itself would prepare a Homoeopathic Bill and thus persuaded the respective members to withdraw the Bill. But Dr. B.C. Roy could not keep his word. Ultimately, pressure from various sides persuaded him to constitute a high power committee. (49)

It was only in 1963, that as a result of popular agitation, *the West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medicine Act, 1963*, was actually passed, assented to by the Governor and published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, on the 6th November 1963. (49)

On the 1st August 1964, the Act was brought into force and the first nominated *Council of Homoeopathic Medicine of West Bengal* was constituted. This event had brought Homoeopathy in West Bengal into a new era. (49)

The West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medical Act, 1963 was an Act to provide for the development of the Homoeopathic System of Medicine, to regulate the teaching and practice thereof and to deal with certain other connected matters.

After the commencement of this Act, the State Government by notification in the *Official Gazette* established a body named, '*The Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal*' and subsequently the General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal ceased to exist.

According to the Act the Council must needs consist of the following members namely :

1. A President nominated by the State Government.
2. Seven members nominated by the State Government of whom three should be registered Homoeopathic Practitioners.
3. One member nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.
4. The head of the Homoeopathic Research Institute.
5. The Principal of a Homoeopathic College, affiliated to the Council, nominated by the State Government.
6. Eight members who are citizens of India elected by the Registered Homoeopathic Practitioners of West Bengal.

The Schedule (50)

Qualifications enabling a person to have his name entered in the register of Homoeopathic Practitioners-

1. Any degree or diploma or certificate conferred or granted on passing the final examination held by the General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal or by the Council.
2. Any other degree or diploma or certificate conferred or granted by the Council which is declared by the Council with the approval of the State Government to be a sufficient qualification for registration as a Homoeopathic Practitioner.

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3. Any other degree or diploma or certificate conferred or granted by any institution or authority within or outside the State, provided that such degree or diploma or certificate has been recognised by the General Council & State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal or is recognised by the Council, with the approval of the State Government as a sufficient qualification for registration as Homoeopathic Practitioner.
4. Regular practice of the Homoeopathic System of Medicine for a period of not less than 3 years immediately before the date of commencement of this Act, subject to passing the examination to be held by the Council in the manner provided by regulation upon an application for registration of his name to be made within a period of two years from the date of commencement of this act.
5. Any qualification other than a qualification mentioned in paragraph 1,2 and 3 by reason of which a person has been registered as a Homoeopathic Practitioner by any Board or Council of Homoeopathic Medicine established by any other State Government within the Indian Union, provided that a scheme of reciprocity for purposes of registration has been adopted by the Council with the approval of the State Government.

After the formation of the Council in 1964, it maintained a register of Homoeopathic Practitioners in two parts, A) and B). Every person who possessed any qualification mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of the *Schedule* was entitled to have his name included in Part-A of the register. Every person who possessed any qualification mentioned in paragraph 4 or 5 of the *Schedule*, was entitled to Part-B of the register. (Ref. Sec. 20 and 21 of the Act)

Regarding Renewals, it was noted in the Section 25 of the Act that every person whose name was entered in the register should, for the retention of his name in the register, pay to the Council quinquennially such renewal fee and at such time as might be prescribed.

[N.B.- By an ammendment of the West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medicine Act, 1963 and the rules thereunder, the system of renewal of registration certificates on payment of quinquennial fee of Rs. 25 had been abolished since 1980.]

Certain privileges of Registered Homoeopathic Practitioners: Under Section 37 of the Act, it was noted that a registered Homoeopathic Practitioner should be entitled –

- a) to grant a death certificate.
- b) to grant a medical or physical fitness certificate.
- c) to give evidence at any inquest or in any court of law as an expert under section 45 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

Movement of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation

Notwithstanding the fact that certain measures were adopted during the Sixties by Central Government for the development of Homeopathy, West Bengal Government did not keep pace with the progress of time and with the progress of homoeopathy. There was practically no programme from West Bengal Government side. But since 1962 and onward each year as a mark of struggle, the Federation submitted their demands. In spite of that, there were persistent systematic and deliberate sign of indifference and passivity from the Government side. This attitude led to raised-eyebrow, displeasure and pressure from the side of the active protesters from among the members of Federation and general mass of practitioners.

In the context of local West Bengal Government's attitude, the West Bengal members of different committees connected with Central Government, arrested the attention of the Central Government to do something to overcome the impasse. The Central Government, however, responded to this appeal. On the 21st March 1968, the Central Government sent letters of requests to all the State Governments to take necessary actions for the uplift and usefulness of homoeopathy. The relevant letter was as follows :- (51)

No. F 16-4/68-RISM

Government of India, Ministry of Health, F.P. & Urban Development,
New Delhi, dated the 21st March 1968.

To,
All State Governments / Union Territories,
Medical & Public Health Departments.

Subject: Homoeopathy-Formulation of Fourth Five Year Plan Proposals.

Sir,

I am directed to say that for the new fourth Five Year Plan, which will commence from 1969-70, proposals are in various stages of formulation. The Indian Systems of Medicine in general and homoeopathic system in particular have not received adequate attention in the plan schemes of the states hitherto with the result that there is a sense of dissatisfaction among the exponents of these systems of medicine which have found echo in Parliament questions and the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee meetings. It is felt that the Homoeopathic System of Treatment has potentialities especially because of the cheapness of its drugs and if properly harnessed can be profitably employed in rural areas both for general medical care as well as for family planning.

Chap.3: Progress of Homoeopathy in West Bengal in the Sixties

The intention of this circular is to urge upon the State Governments / Union Territories to make a suitable provision in their Fourth Five Year Plan Schemes, for the following purposes:

1. Establishment of homoeopathic dispensaries and hospitals especially in rural areas.
2. Setting up of new homoeopathic colleges.
3. Aiding the homoeopathic colleges already functioning.

It may be recalled that the Central Council of Health had recommended that atleast 100 homoeopathic dispensaries should be started in each state in the rural areas. No appreciable progress appears to have been made in this direction. It is, therefore, suggested that an all India total of atleast Rs. 100 lakhs may be necessary for this purpose in the purely State Schemes. Similarly, homoeopathic education has not received its share of attention in the state plans. The State Governments are aware that there is no uniformity of standards of education. The Homoeopathic Advisory Committee, recognising the importance of uniformity in the maintenance of standards, prepared a syllabus and curriculum of studies for a four years diploma course followed by a further two years course for a degree. These were circulated to all State Governments. It will be appreciated that since undergraduate education is a State subject, necessary provision for the establishment and maintenance of homoeopathic colleges is made in the State plans. Central assistance in such cases, will be available to the states in accordance with the pattern of assistance that may be decided when the fourth plan is finalised.

It is earnestly hoped that the State Governments will prepare a comprehensive plan of development for homoeopathy for the Fourth Five Year Plan keeping in view the broad guidelines given above.

The receipt of this circular may please be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,
SD-L.K.MURTHY,
(Under Secretary).

After that a representative team on behalf of the homoeopaths of West Bengal and by the leadership of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Health, Govt. of West Bengal on 23.08.68. The memorandum was as follows : (52)

The Secretary,

Dept.of Health, Govt. West Bengal, Writers' Building Calcutta - I.

Dear Sir,

Re: Provision of sufficient fund in the 4th Five Year Plan of West Bengal State, for the uplift of Homoeopathy.

We the following signatories on behalf of the homoeopaths of West Bengal, beg to urge upon you to see that The State Government takes a bit

Chap . 3: Progress of Homoeopathy in West Bengal in the Sixties

more serious and sincere attitude towards Homoeopathic System of Medicine, in consistence with the present policy of the Union Government and thus arrange for serving the vast masses of ailing people most efficiently at cheapest cost. For this purpose we urge upon you to see that sufficient fund is provided in the Fourth Five Year Plan Scheme of the State Government for the following programme –

- (i) Establishing atleast two fully equipped homoeopathic colleges and hospitals, one in Calcutta or suburb and the other in North Bengal, as urged for in the 6th Annual Conference of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation (1966).
- (ii) Fully equipping the existing five homoeopathic colleges of West Bengal and providing sufficient recurring grants to them so that they can discharge their responsibility smoothly and efficiently.
- (iii) Arranging for proper minimum necessary education for 'B' grade registered homoeopaths, so that they can be appointed in various rural homoeopathic health centre in accordance with the recommendation of Rural Homoeopathic Medical Aid Scheme as sent by the Union Government to all the State Governments on 18.01.65, and their names may be transferred from the Part 'B' to Part 'A' of the register, under section 26(1) of the Homoeopathic act, 1963.
- (iv) Opening of atleast 100 homoeopathic health centres and dispensaries in the various areas of the state.

Thanking you in anticipation of necessary action,

Dated : 23rd August 1968

Yours faithfully,

1. *Dr. J.N. Kanjilal, General Secretary, W.B.State Homoeo. Federation.*
2. *Dr.S.K.Adhikary, General Secretary, W.B.State Homoeo. Federation*
3. *Dr. B.Bhattacharya, Editor, 'Homoeo-Jyoti'.*
4. *Dr.J.N.Majumdar, President, AIHMA.*
5. *Dr.M.Das, Organising Secretary, AIHMA.*
6. *Dr.N.K.Gupta, General Secretary, AIH(W.B. Branch).*
7. *Dr. S.N. Roy, Gen. Sec., The Institute of Hahnemannian Homoeopathy.*
8. *Dr. Netai Charan Chakraborty, President, Homoeo Medical Club.*
9. *Dr. B.N. Chakraborty, Member, Council of Homoeo. Medicine, W.B.*
10. *Dr.B.K.Sarkar, Member, Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, W.B.*
11. *Dr. N.K.Chakraborty, Member, Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, W.B.*

In 1968 West Bengal State Homoeopathic Practitioners' Conference was organised at Behala, in Calcutta. Through this conference some resolutions were passed with a view to enhancing the action of development of homoeopathy in West Bengal and it was decided that a strong movement would be organised to press the Government for realising the claims and demands of homoeopaths. Accordingly, a representative team of West Bengal

State Homoeopathic Federation submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Health, Government of West Bengal in 1969. The Charter of Demands were as follows - (53)

1. Homoeopathic Health Centres be opened as already recommended by the Rural Homoeopathic Medical Aid Committee of the Government of India.
2. Homoeopathic Wings in the I.D. Hospitals and Mental Hospitals be opened by the State Government as early as possible.
3. Establishment of Homoeopathic Medical Departments in Self Government Bodies and Big Industrial Concerns be initiated by the State Governments as early as possible.
4. Recruitment of Homoeopaths be made in the Employees State Insurance Scheme.
5. Section 38 of the West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medicine Act 1963 be deleted as early as possible.
6. Section 25 of the West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medicine Act 1963 be withdrawn as early as possible.

(Rationale: All registered homoeopaths are required to renew their registration every five years by paying a sum of Rupees 25 to the Homoeopathic Council. If registered allopaths are not required to renew their registration, why registered homoeopaths are required to renew their registration is not understood.)

7. Extension of the last date of submitting applications for Registration be granted without any further delay.
8. All the Homoeopathic Training Institutions who can prove, on enquiry, that they had regular course of training of at least two years upto the commencement of West Bengal Homoeopathic System of Medicine Act 1963 be accepted into paragraph 3 of the Schedule, till the demand in item (Five) is met.
9. That at least 2 fully equipped Homoeopathic Hospitals and Colleges including one in or around Calcutta be established.
10. A separate directorate for Homoeopathy be established as early as possible.
11. That at least two thirds of the members constituting the Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal should be elected representatives.

West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation insisted on their putting up demands to the Health Ministry of the West Bengal Government. At last Health Department invited the Federation to hold a meeting for discussion in the cubicle of Health Secretary on 23.12.70.

Accordingly, on 23.12.70 in presence of Health Secretary and his deputy, there was a long-drawn discussion on the basis of proposals adopted in the conference of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation in 1969 and the then demands of the Federation thereof. The validity of the demand was established and the Health Secretary agreed to give shape to the following facts. (54)

1. It was tentatively decided that Homoeopathic Dispensaries would be set up at different District Head Quarters.

Chap.3: Progress of Homoeopathy in West Bengal in the Sixties

2. A post of Honorary Adviser in Homoeopathy is being created with a view to advising Government on all matters pertaining to Homoeopathic System of Medicine and its development.
3. The question of sanctioning further grant to Homoeopathic Colleges and Hospitals will be considered, when the contemplated adviser in Homoeopathy assumes his office and makes a report to fact on the conditions of these colleges.
4. Government may consider the question of sanctioning grant for the maintenance of some beds in a Homoeopathic Mental Hospital when opened by private organisation of Homoeopathic Practitioners.
5. The necessity of setting up of a Homoeopathic Faculty under any University was impressed upon the respectives, as without such a faculty the question of establishment of a State Homoeopathic College and Hospital and Homoeopathic Research Institution cannot be considered.
6. The election of the Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal should be held, if possible by March 1971.
7. The question of abolishing the renewal fee for registration of Homoeopathy should also be settled as expeditiously as possible.
8. Government has no objection to the appointment of a D.M.S. doctor as the Registrar of the Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal, if the Council so decides.

Dated:- 23/12/70.

Sd/- A.K.Sen,
Secretary Dept. of Health

Fresh Declaration For Registration of Homoeopathy (55),(56)

Registrar of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal declared the following:

An ordinance was promulgated to ammend West Bengal Homoeopathic Medicine Act, 1963, Section 21(2). This ammendment was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of Dec. 12th, 1969. The validity of the demands of the West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation was agreed to. Order was issued to extend the date. The date of application for registration of non-registered Homoeopathic practitioners upto Dec. 31st, 1970. Other terms and conditions of these sections having remained unaltered, the applicant must needs be in practice since 1961 and in accordance with the existing system the applicant has to sit for viva-vose to be taken by the council.

Chapter-4
Non-Governmental Enterprise for the uplift of
Homoeopathic Science, Culture & Practice
During the period 1961 – 1970

One of the biggest achievements of the enterprise of the development of homoeopathic practice was that in 1961, the attempt was made to bring almost all the practitioners of homoeopathy in West Bengal under one banner. As a result in 1962, *West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation* was born.

Gradually, since the birth of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation, demand and movement could be started so that the Government might take adequate and positive measures to enhance standard of homoeopathy. On the other hand, a co-ordination could be developed through annual conference and scientific seminars among the practitioners. The objective of the scientific seminars taking place in different times, was to develop homoeopathic practice through exchange of knowledge and experience among practitioners through scientific seminars researchers of homoeopathic science could avail themselves of the opportunity to read papers. This leads to inspiration to do research independently.

A list of conferences and meetings which were held from 1962 – 1970 under the auspices of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation in different Places of West Bengal is given below :-

1962. West Bengal State Homoeopathic Practitioners' Conference (2nd Session) held on 23rd and 24th December, 1962 at SashiBhushan Dey Free School Building, Calcutta.
1963. 3rd Session, held on 28th and 29th December 1963 at Debnath School Building, Krishnanagar, Nadia, West Bengal.
1964. 4th Session, held on 27th and 28th December 1964 at Berhampore, Murshidabad, West Bengal.
1965. 5th Session, held on 26th December 1965 at Behala, Calcutta –700034.
1966. 6th Session, held in 1966 at Bishnupur, Bankura.
1967. 7th Session, held on 24th and 25th December, 1967 at Hindmass Institute, Kanchrapara, 24 Parganas (N).

1968. 8th Session, held in 1968 at Behala, Calcutta.

1969. 9th Session, held on 28th and 29th December, 1969 at Asansol, Burdwan.

1970. 10th Session, held in 1970 at Baruipur, 24 Parganas (S).

The West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation was the largest non-official representative of the homoeopaths of the state. So far, 69 homoeopathic associations of different districts of West Bengal were affiliated to this Federation. Homoeopathic practitioners of West Bengal had found in the State Homoeopathic Federation a really common platform to work democratically for the betterment of the homoeopathic profession and practice. State Homoeopathic Federation took stand to motivate the homoeopathic practitioners to follow the fundamental principles of homoeopathy in their practice.

Four of the affiliated units of the Federation were running vernacular homoeopathic journals. These journals were – ‘Niramoy’ from Purulia, ‘Homoeo Tathwa’ from Magra (Hooghly), ‘Homoeo Barta’ from Krishnanagar (Nadia) and ‘Homoeopathy Prachar Patra’ from Kanchrapara, 24 Parganas (N).

The Federation was running its own monthly journal ‘Homoeo Jyoti’. In short, the West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation was the voice of the preponderant majority of the homoeopathic practitioners of West Bengal.

List of Journals and Periodicals in Homoeopathy which were being published in West Bengal in 1965 or available in West Bengal in cases where the place of publication was Bangladesh in 1965.

1. *Hahnemann* (Bengali) published from Hahnemannian Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd. 165, B.B. Ganguly Street, Calcutta – 700 012.
2. *Homoeopathic Bulletin* – published from The Bengal Homoeopathic Stores, 1, South End Park, Calcutta – 700 029.
3. *Homoeopathic Chikitsa* (Bengali) – published from M.Bhattacharya Co. Pvt. Ltd. 73, Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta – 700 001.
4. *Homoeopathy* (Bengali) – published from 22/A, Pyari Das Road, Dacca –1 (East Pakistan)
5. *Homoeopathic Prachar Patra* (Bengali) – published from Nalini Basu Road, P.O. Kanchrapara, 24 Pgs (N).
6. *Homoeo Jyoti* (Bengali)-published from West Bengal Homoeopathic State Federation, 17, Dharmatala Street, Calcutta – 700 012.

Chap.4: Non-Govt. enterprise for the uplift of homoeopathy during 1961-70

7. *Magazine of Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College* – published from 265, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta –700 009.
8. *Niranay* (Bengali) – published from Ever Cure Medical Hall, 51, Hari Charan Roy Road, Dacca – 4.
9. *Niranay* (Bengali) – published from Purulia, West Bengal.
10. *Prachar Patra* (Bengali) – published from Krishnanagar, Nadia.
11. *Homoeo Barta* – published from Krishnanagar, Nadia.
12. *Homoeopathy Prachar Patra* – published from Kanchrapara, 24 Pgs. (N).
13. *Homoeo Tathwa* – published from Magra, Hooghly.
14. *Saswati* (Bengali) – published from 123, Jatindra Mohan Avenue, P.O. Ander Killa, Dist :- Chittagonj, East Pakistan.
15. *The Homoeopathic Herald* – published from M. Bhattacharyya & Co. Pvt. Ltd., 73, Netaji Subhash Road, Calcutta – 700 001.

Setting up of Homoeopathic Bijnan Parishad (57)

In 1965, under Presidency of Dr. Bijay Kr. Bose, Homoeopathic Bijnan Parishad came into existence. The aim of the Parishad was to enrich the knowledge of medical science and homoeopathic science through scientific seminars. Amongst those who took the leadership to set up Parishad, the name of Dr. S.N. Chatterjee deserves prime mention. In 1971, the Parishad ceased to operate. In 1980, however, this Parishad in new form was reborn. In this rebirth, immense contribution was there from the personalities like Dr. M.S. Roy, Dr. B.N. Sengupta and Dr. S.N. Chatterjee. It was known that this newly formed Parishad was presided over by Dr. J.N. Sarkar.

Foundation of Sankar Math Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital (58)

In March 1967, Sankar Math Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital was founded on the premises owned by Sankar Math at Ramrajatala, Howrah. It was done at the endeavor of Dr. B.N. Chakraborty and with the assistance of Homoeo Medical Club. The famous homoeopathic medical practitioner, Dr. N.C. Chakraborty, was the first Principal of the college. At the onset, the outdoor department was in operation. On the 10th May 1970, Swami Satyananda Puri, the then President of Sankar Math, inaugurated the indoor department of the hospital and Dr. Netai Charan Chakraborty presided over the opening ceremony. Subsequently this college and hospital was shifted to 1, G.T. Road (South), Howrah, under the new name, Mahesh Bhattacharya Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital.

All India Homoeopathic Conference in Calcutta (59)

On the 1st November, 1969, a three-day All India Homoeopathic Practitioners' Conference was held at the endeavor of All India Institute of Homoeopathy, West Bengal Branch at Ballygunj Shiksha Sadan, Calcutta. Representatives from all states of India joined this conference. The meeting was inaugurated by Hon'ble Sri. K.K. Shah, the then Central Health Minister. President of the Reception Committee was Dr. B.K. Sarkar. Sri. K.K. Shah, the Hon'ble Health Minister, in his speech, announced the initiation of Central Government in forming of Central Council of Homoeopathic Medicine.

Scientific Seminar under the Joint Enterprise of both Allopathic and Homoeopathic Physicians (60)

Thus, 1970 A.D. witnessed the rare medical conference taken up by both allopathic and homoeopathic practitioners. This science seminar was organised by South Suburban Homoeopathic Association as well as South Suburban branch of Indian Medical Association. The venue was Behala and the date was April 26th, 1970. The subject of discussion was Immunology. Dr. B.K. Sarkar, President, Indian Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee, Dr. B.K. Bhattacharyya, President Indian Medical Association, South Suburban Branch and Dr. J.N. Kanjilal, one of the Vice-Presidents of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation, formed the triumvirate of the conference.

First International Homoeopathic Congress in India in 1967. (61)

The International Homoeopathic Congress organised by the International Homoeopathic League was held for the first time in India in New Delhi in 1967. International Homoeopathic League was founded in 1925 with head-quarters at Geneva.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, the third President of India, the Patron-in-chief of the International Homoeopathic Congress in 1967, in his inaugural address, said, "*The large numbers of Homoeopathic Practitioners in India can play a special role in rendering medical aid to the vast rural population at cost which they can afford.*"

Sri. V.V. Giri, fourth President of India, when he was the Vice-President of India, in message to the International Homoeopathic Congress held in 1967, wrote "*The attractive attributes of Homoeopathic Medicine, which is efficacious, cheap, harmless, palatable and portable, have been largely responsible for its growing popularity among the ailing humanity. I have myself been a firm believer in homoeopathy and am fully aware of its beneficent value as a preventive as well as curative measure.*"

Chapter-5

Remarkable events in the History of Homoeopathy In West Bengal as well as in India During the Period 1971-1999

Although the Homoeopathic Act was in vogue in a number of States in India, and the State Council was formed, nevertheless, the Central Council did not come into being. However, the elected members of All India Homoeopathic Associations continued to exert pressure with a view to introducing Central Council Act.

Formation of Central Council of Homoeopathy and its activity :

In 1964, a composite *Central Council Bill for Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy* was introduced in Parliament. A joint Parliamentary Committee of 36 members of Parliament with Dr. Bhargava as Chairman, was constituted which submitted its report in 1967 and recommended for separate Central Councils of Indian Systems and Homoeopathy. (62)

The Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Central Council Bill, 1968 was introduced in Rajya Sabha, on December 27th, 1968. It was a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Council of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy and for matters connected therewith. (62)

It was felt that there were fundamental differences in the diagnosis and treatment between Homoeopathy and the other group, i.e., Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. So, the Joint Select Committee recommended that it was necessary to bring two separate bills. Consequently, in 1971 Central Council for Indian System of Medicine was formed and a separate Bill for homoeopathy was raised in Lok Sabha in December 1971. In April 1972, a Joint Parliamentary Committee of 48 M.P.s was constituted for homoeopathy. Srimati. Purabi Mukherjee, M.P., was made Chair Person. Report of this Committee was deposited in March 1973 in the Rajya Sabha. *Central Council of Homoeopathy Bill* was accepted in the Rajya Sabha, in July, in 1973. (63)

The Central Council of Homoeopathy Act was made in 1973 and the Government constituted the *Central Council of Homoeopathy (C.C.H.)* in 1974 with Prof. A.K. Kisku as the President and Jugal Kishore as Vice-President. Initially, Government-nominated members from the profession (33 members from the Homoeopathic Doctors) formed this Council. (64)

Five Principal Committee were formed under the Central Council. They were - a) *Educational Committee*, b) *Executive Committee*, c) *Liaison Committee*, d) *Planning and Development Cell*, e) *Council Meetings*

Committee. Besides, two other committee as *Registration Committee* and *Ethical Code Committee* were formed. (65)

Aims and objectives of C.C.H.(an extract from *MediTimes* Homoeopathic Monthly Journal, Nov. 99, Vol. VI, No. XI, page-9) :- the Central Council of Homoeopathy was established on December 17th, 1974 with the following objectives to-

(66)

1. Lay down minimum standards to be observed in homoeopathic education;
2. Recommend recognition or withdrawal of Medical qualification granted by Homoeopathic Medical Institutions in India;
3. Maintain the Central Register of Practitioners of Homoeopathy in the Country;
4. Lay down the standards of professional conduct, etiquettes and code of ethics to be observed by the practitioners of homoeopathy;
5. Negotiate with institutions located in other countries imparting training in homoeopathy for recognition of their qualifications on reciprocal basis;
6. Advice both the Central and State Governments, on all matters concerning education and practice in homoeopathy.

The Central Council enforced with prior approval of the Central Government, the following uniform educational regulations for under graduate education in 1983 :

D.H.M.S. - (Diploma in Homoeopathic Medicine & Surgery)

This course spreads over a period of 4 years including internship of 6 months duration after passing the final diploma examination.

B.H.M.S. - (Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery)

This course spreads over a period of 5½ years including internship of 1 year duration after passing the final degree examination.

B.H.M.S. - (Graded Degree Course)

This course spreads over a 2 years including internship of 6 months duration after passing the final degree examination. This course has been recommended as a bridge or link short term course for the benefit of diploma holders to raise their educational level to that of degree.

The admission qualification for both the courses is Intermediate Science (10+2) with Physics, Chemistry & Biology subjects or equivalent.

The Central Council has also laid down minimum standards of education specifying that every college shall provide minimum requirements, norms and standards in regard to teaching as well as hospital staff, equipment, accomodation and other facilities for proper training of medical students of homoeopathy.

M.D. (Hom.) – (Post-Graduate Degree Course)

The Central Council has prescribed post-graduate degree courses in homoeopathic subjects i.e., Materia Medica, Homoeopathic Philosophy and Repertory, spread over three years duration including one year of house job or equivalent thereof.

At present there are about 139 medical colleges of homoeopathy in the country allowed by this Council including 115 degree-colleges. Rest of the colleges are yet continuing diploma course. Out of these the Central Council permitted 12 colleges to start post-graduate degree course. (66)

The Homoeopathic Medical colleges are being periodically inspected by this Council in order to assess standards of medical education in homoeopathy therein for having better institutionally qualified and trained medicos in homoeopathy to serve the nation and to contribute in achieving the goal 'Health for All by 2000 A.D.'.

The Central Council is considering the amendmnets to homoeopathy (Degree Course) regulations, 1983 and homoeopathy (minimum standards of education) regulations, 1983.

In addition, the Central Council is also drafting post-graduate degree courses in other subjects for preparing competent teachers for homoeopathic medical colleges.

The Central Register of Homoeopathy in Part -I & Part-II containing the names of the practitioners have been published in the *Official Gazette* on 2nd January 1993 and 6th January 1996. The Central Council is continuing the work to prepare first supplement of Central Register and has prepared Homoeopathy Central Council (Registration) Regulations 1982 in accordance with the provisions of Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973. The Central Council is continuing to register practitioners of homoeopathy directly too in Part-I who possesses recognised qualification. So far, it has directly enrolled practitioners.

The Central Council has also finalised post-graduate courses in para-clinical subjects and hope to introduce the same immediately if approval of the Central Governments is received.

In order to evaluate the standards of medical education being imparted in various medical colleges of homoeopathy, the Central Council has laid down, with the prior approval of Central Government, Homocopathy Central Council (Inspecters and Visitors) regulations, 1982 for inspection of colleges in terms of teaching facilities, equipmnet, accomodation, staff provided in the colleges and attached hospitals.

Considering various difficulties in implementing the aims and objects of the Council it has proposed amendments to Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973 to the Central Government for approval which is still awaited.

Upto 1975 Registration Certificate B-part was accorded on the basis of experience. By an order the Council repealed this practice. (67)

Upto 1989, members nominated by the Government used to conduct the Central Council. In 1989, for the first time in place of nomination, election of the Council took place. As per rule, total 25 candidates were elected from different states. Names of elected candidates from West Bengal were as follows :

1. Dr. Mahendra Singh, 1, Rajnarayan Street, Calcutta -700 009.
2. Dr. Hirendranath Gupta, Sinthi, Calcutta - 700 050.
3. Dr. Gourinath Mukherjee, Durgapur.

Formation of Central Council for Research in Homocopathy(C.C.R.H.) and Homocopathic Research in West Bengal during post- independent period

Prior to independence i.e., before 1947 research of homoeopathy occurred in India entirely upon the non-governmental enterprise. With a view to expediting research since independence in 1947, it was felt that Government grants in the shape of finance and approval is necessary. After the appointment of Honorary Homoeopathic Adviser to the Ministry of Health, Government of India, the *Research and Technical Sub-committee* was constituted. Government extended this sub-committee in February 1964. In 1966, Homoeopathy Advisory Committee was formed and under this Committee in December 1966, a new body consisting of 9 members was formed with the name of *Research Sub-Committee of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee*.(62) On May 23rd, 1969, Government of India formed *Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy and Yoga*. Members of the Council were 20 in number. Out of the 20 members, Dr. K.G.Saxena became the first Govt. Official member, Dr. B.K.Sarkar and Dr. M.Kutumba Rao became the first non-Governmental members. (63)

In 1970, under the advice of Dr. K.G.Saxena, the then Hony. Adviser of Homoeopathy, the Central Government decided to found *Central Homoeopathic Research Institute*.

Ardent requests for establishing this institute on the spacious area of Shankar Math, Howrah, West Bengal, were made by Dr. B.N. Chakraborty, the famous homoeopathic physician.

In compliance with these requests, Mr. K.K.Shah, the then Hon^{ble} Health Minister, Govt. of India, visited this Math (i.e., monastery or abbey) along with a group of experts and subsequently, accorded approval of the

proposal to found Central Homoeopathic Research Institute. On this site was constituted *the first homoeopathic research institute in India which was also the first one in Asia.* (68)

In 1972, this research institute was shifted to 118, Amherst St., Calcutta. Thanks to State Government, accomodation could be arranged. (69)
[N.B. This institute had to be closed down in 1986 by an order of the Director of the institute in Delhi.] (70)

Attempt to proving a number of new and old medicines was made by Research Sub-Committee of Homoeopathic Advisory-Committee, Govt. of India. With this aim in view, in Midnapur Homoeopathic Medical College of West Bengal a unit for Drug-Proving was made open. Medicines which were proved there in Midnapur Homoeopathic Medical College between the period 1956 and 1972, are:- (71)

- i) *BRYONIA ALBA* (Re-proving 1956, 58)
- ii) *CHLOROMYCETIN* - 1960-61.
- iii) *ADRENAL CORTEX* - 1960-62.
- iv) *HOLARRHENA ANTIDYSENTERICA* (Kurchi) - 1962-63.
- v) *CEPHALENDRA INDICA* (Telakucha) - 1964-65.
- vi) *ANDROGRAPHIS PANICULATA* (Kalmegh) - 1965-66.
- vii) *GYMNEMA SYLVESTRE* (Meshshringi) - 1965-66.
- viii) *TUBERCULINUM* - 1968.
- ix) *OCIMUM SANCTUM* (Tulsi) - 1966-67.
- x) *COBULTUM MUR*
- xi) *WITHANIA SOMNIFERA* (Aswagandha) - 1967 - 69.
- xii) *COBULTUM NITRATE* - 1967-69.
- xiii) *JENOSIA ASOKA* - 1969-70.

The Governing body of the Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy had approved the recommendation of Scientific Advisory Board of Homoeopathy for starting five Drug-Proving Research Units during the year 1970, out of which three were established in West Bengal -

- i) *Drug-Proving Research Unit, Midnapur Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, West Bengal.*
- ii) *Drug-Proving Research Unit, D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Calcutta.*
- iii) *Central Research Institute in Calcutta.*

These Research Units had conducted 'Provings' of many homoeopathic drugs during the period 1972-78 and this research work was conducted in double blind method.

Relief Operations and Research Work done by The Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal, during the period 1971-72. :- For the first time in the history of homoeopathy, the Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal, with the financial assistance from the state Government ventured from time to time to run homoeopathic treatment camps for prevention and treatment of patients suffering from epidemic and other diseases in different parts of the state. The excellent work done by these camps, particularly amongst the Bangladesh refugees at Salt Lake camps (in 1971-72) earned praises from all corners of the country and even in journals and newspapers of foreign countries, activities of these camps were widely reported. This work, which was initiated by Dr. B.N. Chakraborty, was carried on by a team of experienced homoeopathic physicians under the leadership of Dr. Dharama Das Banerjee, Dr. S.K. Nayak, Dr. D.K.Saha and Dr.R.K. Ghosh Mondal. (72)

Formation of C.C.R.H.:- Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy had been established on the 30th March 1978 under Society's Registration Act.XXI of 1960. However, it was only on the 10th January 1979 the formal bifurcation of the established Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy took place and the Council started independent functioning. The main objectives of the Council are as follows :- (73)

1. The formulation of aims and patterns of research on scientific lines in homoeopathy.
2. To undertake any research or other programmes in homoeopathy.
3. The prosecution of and assistance in research, the propagation of knowledge and experimental measures generally in connection with the causation, mode of spread and prevention of diseases.
4. To initiate, aid, develop and co-ordinate scientific research in different aspects – fundamental and applied of homoeopathy and to promote and assist institution of research for the study of the diseases, their prevention, causation and remedy etc.

Arias of Research:-

1. Clinical Research, 2. Clinical Verification Research, 3. The Proving Research,
4. The Standardisation Research, 5. Literary research, 6. Survey and Collection of Medicinal plants.

Drug-Proving research work was conducted by Drug-Proving cell under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy from 1978 onwards in double blind method.

Plan of Drug-Proving Research by West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation :-
In 1974-75 the research sub-committee of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation organised a number of sittings in order to make a detail plan for drug-proving research. But unfortunately by some other reasons this plan did not end into a fruitful result. (74)

Homoeopathic Pharmaceutical Research Foundation of India :- This was opened by the endeavor of Dr. S.N. Chatterjee on the 26th December 1979 with the plan of preparation of drugs from native plants according to the Indian Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia and to prove them on homoeopathic principles. This research foundation had worked interruptedly and done some research work but failed to do remarkable work for shortage of devoted workers. (75)

A Remarkable Research in the field of Homoeopathy between 1979 and 1982 to find out the base of Homoeopathy, whether and how far, on Modern Science :-
After the discovery of homoeopathic potency by Dr. Hahnemann, many a scientist in many a time tried to unravel the mystery of potency. It remains a riddle till recent times how a drug after 12 potency can work to cure when there is no molecule of original drug substance left. Researches were carried on. There has been advancement and still researches are being carried on.

Dr. R.L. Jussal, consultant, biochemistry department, I.I.T., New Delhi, R.D. Dua, Head Biochemistry Cell, I.I.T., New Delhi, Aditya Kumar, Ph.D. and other scientists made research on this issue and results were published in different journals. Out of these researches some are mentioned below:-

1. *A Hypothesis on the nature of Homoeopathic Potencies* – by Dr. Ruplal Jussal and Aditya Kumar, published in 'The British Homoeopathic Journal' Vol. LXVIII No. 4, Oct. 1979.
2. *Physical Effects on the Suspending Medium by compounds in Asymptotically Infinite Dilutions* – by R.L.Jussal, S. Meera, R.D.Dua and R.K.Mishra, published in 'The Hahnemannian Gleanings', Calcutta, Vol. XLIX, No.3, March 1982.
3. *The Beginning of Modern Homoeopathy Animal Testing versus Proving* – by R.L.Jussal and R.D. Dua, New Delhi, published in 'The Hahnemannian Gleanings', Calcutta, April 1983.
4. *Effect of Ultradilutions on Neuro transmitter / Enzyme* – by R.L.Jussal, R.D.Dua, R.K.Mishra, S.Meera and Alka Agarwal, New Delhi, published in 'The Hahnemannian Gleanings', Calcutta, June 1984, page- 245.
5. *Dielectric dispersion of weak alcoholic solutions of some drugs at high frequencies using time domain spectroscopy* – by R.L.Jussal, R.K.Mishra and R.D.Dua, New Delhi, published in 'The Hahnemannian Gleanings', August 1983, page –358.

6. *Effects of Logarithmic Serial Dilutions of Arsenic Alb. (As₂O₃) on the excitability of the Sciatic Nerve of Frog* – by R.L.Jussal, D.Dutaroy, R.Singh, R.D.Dua and R.K.Mishra, New Delhi published in 'The Hahnemannian Gleanings', December 1984, page-469.

Report was published regarding research on this issue in 'The Statesman' 14th May 1984. The report was as follows :-

"A group of scientists and homoeopaths here for the first time has been able to provide a scientific basis to homoeopathic drugs, reports PTI.

The group consisting of homoeopaths, biochemists, biophysicists and biologists has studied extensively the biochemical, biophysical and biological properties of homoeopathic drugs to provide a scientific basis to the age old homoeopathic concept of 'potency'.

Different properties of homoeopathic drugs were studied at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Institute of Technology and The Jawaharlal Nehru University."

International Centre for Cultivation of Homoeopathic Science (I.C.C.H.O.S.) :-

This centre was established in 1987 under the simultaneous enterprise of reputable scientists and homoeopathic physicians coming from different corners of the country. Assurance from abroad, particularly Bangladesh, Africa and America was forthcoming in support and in co-operation. The head quarters of ICCHOS was Maniktala Main Rd, Calcutta-54. The first Secretary to the centre was Dr.A.C. Dutta and the Chairman was Dr. D.N.Sen. (76)

In this centre from this country and abroad, there were such scientists as did research work even though they were not regular homoeopathic doctors. Each year in the annual meeting there was arrangement for perusal of research papers. Besides, 'ICCHOS News Letters' were being published at times where research papers concerned with homoeopathy, from scientists were printed. Some of research papers which were appreciated abroad, are as follows :-

1. *Homoeopathy – A Light of Isotopic Treatment* – by Dr. A.C.Dutta, published in *ICCHOS News Letters* vol – II, No.2, 10th April 1989.
2. *Plants' Responses to High Homoeopathic Potencies in Distilled Water Culture* – by Dr.A.C.Dutta, published in *ICCHOS News Letters* Vol.-II, No.3, 22nd July 1989.
3. *Prolonged Cataleptic Effects of Potentized Homoeopathic Drugs* – by Dr. Nirmal Chandra Sukul, Dept. of Zoology, Viswa Bharati University, Shantiniketan, published in *ICCHOS News Letters* Vol.-III, No.I, 14th March 1990.
4. *Oral Administration of Arnica Montana reduces Radiation Induced Hair Loss and Skin Lesion in Lethally irradiated Mice* – by Dr. A.K. Khuda Buksh, Dept of Zoology, University of Kalyani, published on 10th July 1991, Vol.-IV, No.2, in *ICCHOS News Letters*.

5. *Effect of Potentized Agaricus Muscarius on the Hypothalamic Neuro - Transmitter System* - by Dr. N.C. Sukul, published in *ICCHOS News Letters*, Vol.-IV, No.1.

Though in the beginning, the ICCHOS was acting enthusiastically but at present (1999) this centre is in the way of extinction.

Research on Homoeopathy conducted by N.I.H. :- In addition to the above National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Calcutta, independently organised many research work. Amongst them research on Arsenic poisoning from Arsenic contaminated underground portable water and research on Malaria were eulogised in and abroad. Besides, NIH conducted clinical verification of indigenous homoeopathic drugs applied on the patients.

Importance of The Homoeopathic Associations of West Bengal in the Movement for Development of Homoeopathy from 1971-1999

The sustained efforts of the homoeopathic practitioners continue to hold the annual conferences since the inception of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation in 1962. Upto 1970, ten conferences were held; about which we dwelt upon at length. From 1971-75, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth & fifteenth conferences took place successively and respectively in Ranaghat, Kharagpur, Siliguri of Darjeeling district, Calcutta and Purulia. Unanimous decision was being passed for the uplift of homoeopathy in the state in each of these conferences. To translate the resolutions into action, the representatives on different occasions submitted demands to the Government.

Formation of H.M.A.I. :- The year 1975 is earmarked in the history of homoeopathy in India inasmuch as through the relentless effort of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation, two great Homoeopathic Associations, one being 'All India Homoeopathic Medical Association' and another one 'Indian Institute of Homoeopathy', held an All India Conference together in 1975 in Calcutta, opted to coalesce. Thus the year 1975, gave birth to the united All India Association under the name Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (H.M.A.I.). The newly formed working Committee consisting of 31 members had its President Dr.J.N.Kanjilal, General Secretary Dr.D.P.Rastogi and Treasurer Dr.Dewan Harish Chand. West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation also along with some other Homoeopathic associations of West Bengal amalgamated to include themselves in Homoeopathic Association of India as W. B. Branch of HMAI. (77)

To mention a few such organisations, which are included in HMAI, *The Homoeo Medical Club*, West Bengal founded in 1955 in Howrah is one. Incidentally the Homoeo Medical Club being a big organisation, was honoured to keep its tradition of identity in Chandannagar conference in 1976. From 1955 to 1975, as a lively organisation the Homoeo Medical Club of Howrah held *eight state conference* whereas West Bengal State Homoeopathic Federation held till 1975 starting from 1962, consecutive 15 conferences. These two combined to make *twenty three conferences* in to-to. So the Chandannagar conferences of the HMAI (West Bengal Branch) was termed as the *24th State Homoeopathic Conference* in 1976. Since 1977, HMAI continued to hold State Homoeopathic Conference each year. (78)

An emblem of HMAI is designed and adopted. The emblem is a picture of combinations of a few icons. To describe the picture, there is a circular ring with two human hand figures in the hollow of the middle stretched to carry the stick of torch. On the head of the ring there are two serpent-like figures curled vis-à-vis round the stick of the flame. There are some inscriptions. All have a significance, which is explained separately. The explanation is taken from the souvenir of 10th All India Homoeopathic Congress, Calcutta 1996, organised by HMAI West Bengal State Branch and it is given below-

Torch :- Light of knowledge, a world symbol of knowledge as brought by Prometheus from heaven.

Snake :- World symbol of medicine. Here double snakes indicates symbol for homocopathy in the sense 'LIKE CURES LIKE'.

Staff of the Torch :- The snakes entwined the staff of the torch i.e.; staff of knowledge. It signifies that our system of medicine is dependent upon, not any dogma or prejudice, but purely on knowledge of principles and laws of nature. Staff of knowledge is strongly held by two hands representing collective efforts of knowledge and strong unity therefore with common aim.

Red Cross :- That aim is represented by the red cross (+) which is the world symbol for service of humanity. This symbol placed at the foundation of all other symbols as the platform on which the staff of knowledge is rooted.

Ashoka Chakra :- The "ashoka Chakra" inscribed on the vessel of the fire indicates India for the Homoeopathic Medical association of India. The circle around the emblem signifies that it is meant for the whole world with the expectation of its acceptance internationally. In Sanskrit language "Seba Mahee" a nominal compound which signifies not single handed effort but a collective one.

Activities and progress of HMAI (79)

Immense enthusiasm had been created in the whole homoeopathic society of India since the very inception of unitary sovereign national organisation of homoeopaths of the country entitled '*The Homoeopathic*

Medical Association of India in October 1975. Since then the organisation had spread its fold to all the regions of India from the center to the remotest radial corners; and its activities were gaining momentum.

The Union Government had been co-operating HMAI in various matters such as-

- a) Under the good offices of HMAI the Union Government had sanctioned Rs. 50,000 in aid of the XXXII *International Homoeopathic Congress* held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi from 5th to 11th October 1977.

[NB. It is a matter of great pride and privilege that Indian Post and Telegraph Department printed and criculated 20lakhs of postal stamps each worth Rs. 2.00 to mark the 32nd *International Homocopathic Congress*. The design of the stamps depicts the profile of Dr. Sammucl Hahnemann. Alongside was shown *Cinchona* plants. The stamp was in olive green and black. On the stamp it was inscribed that '*Cinchona Bärk was to Hahnemann, what the falling apple to Newton and the swinging lamp to Galileo*'. The stamp was released on 6th October 1977, the first day of the congress in presence of all the participants from 28 countries. (80)]

- b) The HMAI had been given permanent sanction for railway concession for any of their annual All India Meetings.
- c) As per the demand of the HMAI the Union Government had issued directives to State Government to stop all sorts of irregularities in the matter of Registration of Homoeopaths.

Second All-India Homoeopathic Congress (22nd to 25th Dec. 1979) Calcutta Organised by H.M.A.I.- West Bengal Branch

This mammoth Congress was held at the Teritorial Army Pavilion Ground, Calcutta from 23rd December to 25th December in 1979. At least 2,500 Homoeopathic physicians participated in this congress. The congress was graced by the participation of about 70 foreigners from Bangladesh and Nepal and about 10 from European countries. Mr.T.N. Singh the then Governor of West Bengal inaugurated the congress. Mr. Nani Bhattacharya, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, West Bengal was the Chief Guest. State Government of West Bengal had graciously favoured this congress with a grant of Rs. 2 Lakhs. (81)

Dr. J.N. Kanjilal in his presidential address commented that '*homoeopathic practitioners got themselves vitally and strongly united into a virile national organisation, viz., the Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (H.M.A.I.). This organisation was constituted in October 1975, and in that short span of only 4 years, its membership strength was steadily increasing, with accelerating speed and had already exceeded 10,100.*'

Each year the West Bengal State Branch of H.M.A.I. continued to persuade homoeopathic practitioners to unite through annual conference. But dissents dawned on the practitioners as a result of dissension within the organisers and leaders of H.M.A.I. This tug of war like conflict centering round the election in West Bengal State Homoeopathic Council, 1978 became intense in West Bengal Branch of H.M.A.I.

Formation of Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity

In 1978 by dint of efforts made by Dr. Naresh chandra Roy, Dr. Nirmal Kumar Dasgupta etc., a new organisation – ‘Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Forum’ came to exist. In 1981, February 15th a big meeting was organised by Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Forum in the students’ hall of Calcutta. The forum was put an end to and like ‘Phoenix’, manifested itself as the Pragatisil homoeopathic Chikitsak Federation. In 1982 December 25th and 26th, the federation had its first state conference at Howrah with more than 300 representatives. The name of the Federation in this conference became Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity. (82)

Therefore, from 1982 onwards two big bodies in West Bengal, one Homoeopathic Medical Association of India, West Bengal Branch and the another one, Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity start representing the homoeopathic physicians. However, the latter actively agitated to place demands to the West Bengal State Government for the benefit of homoeopathic practitioners.

En masse campaign to Bidhan Sabha by Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity on 25. 02. 1983. (83)

Under the organisation of Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity a meeting was held in Subodh Mallik Square with a view to submitting demands of 15-items to West Bengal Government. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Anil Biswas, the then Acting President of Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikishak Samity. In that meeting about 500 physicians from different districts of West Bengal joined. After the meeting a procession made for the Bidhan Sabha. Dr. Rabin Mukherjee, General Secretary handed over a memorandum containing 15 items of demand to the hand of Ramnarayana Goswami, Hon’ble State Minister of Health Department of West Bengal Government. The Hon’able Minister assured immediate repeal of the post of Homoeopathic Adviser, formation of the full fledged Directorate for Homoeopathy and undertaking of two degree colleges.

[N.B. Consequent to that assurance West Bengal Government took over the management of Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital in 1983.]

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On the other hand, Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (HMAI) West Bengal branch, although affected by formation of a parallel body also went on submitting demands in the shape of memorandum from time to time whatever was being accepted as resolutions in the annual conference. The West Bengal Government under pressure from the two bodies took the following steps in the interest of Homoeopathic development :-

- i) Formation of Advisory Board by revoking the post of Homoeopathic Adviser.
- ii) Appointment of a full-time Homoeopathic Director in the State.
- iii) Administration was taken over of Calcutta Medical College & Hospital, D.N.De Medical College & Hospital, Midnapore Medical College & Hospital, Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, by the Government, within the period 1983 to 1986.
- iv) Copious increase of budget in head of Homoeopathy.
- v) Recruitment of Homoeopathic Medical Officers in Health Centres through Public Service Commission.
- vi) Appointment of Homoeopathic physicians in 'Gram Panchayat' etc.

It is needless, however, to say that whatever wishes and actions were there on the part of the Government, measures were not adequate considering the need of the day and of the country. Infrastructure and finance enough to cope with required syllabus, standard of study, teaching etc. fall short of even in colleges taken over by Government. Compared to arrangement and facility existing in degree colleges of allopathy in West Bengal, the nascent homoeopathic arrangement naturally lagged behind.

The Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity remained active as usual. They gave a deputation to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Jyoti Basu. In support of 18 item demands, they collected mass signatures and submitted the memorandum in the hands of Chief Minister on 16th July 1988. (84)

Notwithstanding the activity and campaign, the West Bengal Govt. and Calcutta University probably through inertia did not take meet measures to keep up the near-ideal standard of homoeopathic degree colleges in respect of learning and teaching. Central Council of Homoeopathy (C.C.H.), though arrested the attention, Government, as usual, remained nonchallant.

Withdrawal of Recognition of Homoeopathic Degree in West Bengal by C.C.H. and Movements thereafter :- Caution by C.C.H. having not being taken care of, C.C.H. sent a letter dated 13/12/90 to Calcutta University that after 1988 no physician with degree B.H.M.S. from Calcutta University would be given recognition and registration. C.C.H. had enough reasons to make comments and take steps. C.C.H. determined standard of management and syllabus viz., ratio between the teachers and taught, number of beds in in-door departments, number of annual classes held in colleges etc. Existing degree

colleges were not in a position to fulfil 30% of the requirements wanted by C.C.H. (85)

C.C.H. in December 1990, announced that they would not grant registration to the students who passed from the degree colleges of West Bengal after 1988. C.C.H. did this on the basis of report of a team of enquiry sent by C.C.H. for that purpose. This had a tremendous repercussion. Uncertainty loomed large on doctors passed in 1988 and students yet to pass.

Degree Homoeopathic Forum (85)

Consequent to the uncertain future of Homoeopathic degree in West Bengal, a *Degree Homoeopathic Forum* irrespective of different views and interests consolidated to make a protest move against the directive of C.C.H. for withdrawal of recognition of Homoeopathic Degree in West Bengal which would be conferred upon after 1988.

Recurrent deputation, road blockade, handing over of memoranda to the Governor (The Ex-officio Chancellor), representation to the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University etc. could not evoke the desired conscience and consciousness of the State Government and the administrative authorities. Since no result was obtained, the Degree Homoeopathic Forum had had recourse to fast till death. Following fasting the Health Minister assured to take action whatever positive and possible for the State. The Principals of Degree Homoeopathic Colleges intervened. The teachers exhorted. In the face of the cumulative effects, the students agreed to break life-long hunger strike and to postpone movement.

State Convention and on-to-Delhi Campaign by Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity in Protest against Revocation of Registration of Graduates from Calcutta University since 1988 onwards, imposed by C.C.H. (86)

The Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity also launched deputations to Calcutta University and State Government to expedite actions by the authority concerned. Response was not encouraging. On December 2, 1991 the Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity convened a gathering in Raja Rammohan Hall. Sans loss of time, a decision was arrived at with a view to directing move to C.C.H. straight. On December 4, 1991, sixty physician members of the Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity had been to Delhi, appeared in front of C.C.H. in a body of organised procession with posters, banners, hoardings, placards and inscriptions and shouted slogans. The expeditionary physicians sought interview with Sri Makhantal Fotedar, the Hon'ble Central Health Minister. At the conclusion of the discussion a decision was reached. The Hon'ble Minister made it clear that the minimum standard which C.C.H. had fixed would be as it was. While West Bengal State

Government with C.U. would forthwith arrange colleges and hospitals to suit the necessary standard. In no time the examining body of C.C.H. would make a visit to the degree homoeopathic colleges and hospitals in West Bengal and would prepare a report on the basis of which decision to enter the cases of the passed-out physicians from the said colleges in the second schedule of C.C.H. would be taken.

Subsequent to this action, the West Bengal Government took a number of steps to heighten the status of these colleges and as a matter of course registration of C.C.H. was accorded.

Greater Consolidated Movement in 1991 by Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity for Development of Homoeopathy in West Bengal (87)

On the 9th and 10th of September, 1991, the P.H.C.S. launched a deputation to the Hon. State Health Minister on the basis of 11-item demand. On September 9th, about five hundred physicians and students organised a procession to proceed to Bidhan Sava from Raja Subodh Mallik Square. The police barricaded the journey on Rani Rashmani Road. The physicians embarked on a stay-in-strike on the Rani Rashmoni Road for 48 hours. Subsequently, the representatives submitted their charter of demands to the hand of the Hon'ble Health Minister. The demands were as follows :-

- i) Allotment of increase of money in the State Budget as well as in the Central Budget.
- ii) Complete take-over of four degree colleges and hospitals.
- iii) Government college of Cooch-Bihar is to be opened immediately.
- iv) Government has to bear the financial responsibility of diploma colleges and hospitals approved by the Council.
- v) Homoeopathic physician has to be employed in each Panchayet. A minimum 1000 rupees honorarium has to be given to each such physician.
- vi) Homoeopathic Medical Officers need to be included in cadre of Health Service.
- vii) Monetary Onus of Homoeopathic Council has to be borne by the State Government.
- viii) Condensed degree course has to be operative forthwith.
- ix) In each district there should be vacancy for the post of deputy CHMO(Homoeopathy).
- x) E.S.I. Scheme has to be introduced for Homoeopathy without delay.
- xi) National Policy of health may be announced.

E.S.I. Demand for Homoeopathy (88)

A protracted endeavor was being carried on for inclusion of Homoeopathy in the E.S.I. scheme. West Bengal Government decided to take action to the effect of opening E.S.I. scheme and addressed a letter to the Standing Committee on E.S.I.(M.B.) scheme in West Bengal. In response, the

Standing Committee gave their opinion to the West Bengal Government with a letter. vide letter No. 1739-SS/3A-25/92 dt. 30/12/93

Sub: *Appointment of Homoeopathic Medical Officer under E.S.I.(M.B.) scheme.*

The undersigned is directed to refer to his memo No. H/AUH/501/3H-133/91 Pt.-I dated 28th August 1992 on the subject noted above and to say that the Standing Committee on E.S.I.(M.B.) scheme in West Bengal in a meeting held on 15th April, 1993 has recommended inter-alia, opening of a clinic for providing Homoeopathic system of medicine in an E.S.I. hospital, preferably at Maniktala. As such, Regional Director, E.S.I. Corporation has been moved for ascertaining the E.S.I. Corporation's norms and standards for introduction of Homoeopathy under the E.S.I. (MB) scheme in West Bengal. The same is yet to be received.

Further development in the matter will be communicated to him in due course.

Sd/-
Assistant Secretary.

Incidentally it may be mentioned from a news report dated November 15, 1997 of the 'Telegraph' that a proposal to open a homoco-clinic first at Maniktala E.S.I. Hospital was sent by E.S.I. authorities to the Centre after the authorities found that the Centre had already permitted setting up of homoeo-clinics in E.S.I. Hospitals.

Drug Amendment Act (1994) and Effect (89)

On the 22nd June, 1994, the Central Government pursuant to rules 106-A and 106-B of drugs and cosmetic act 1945, brought an amendment which gave a jolt to the homoeopathic drug manufacturing industry and the very realm of homoeopathic practice. The incident was as follows :-

Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had decided to enforce the proposed amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1945 as under rule 106-B: After sub-rule C the following should be inserted namely : "*no homoeopathic medicines containing more than 12% alcohol V/V (Ethyl Alcohol) shall be packed and sold in packing or bottles of more than 30 millilitres, except that it may be sold to hospitals/dispensaries in packings of bottles of not more than 100 millilitres.*" Barring a few big homoeopathic manufacturers, people, institutes and manufacturers connected with the practice of homoeopathy raised their voice against this promulgations of the Government. The reason was that the common people and manufacturers could hardly afford to deal with small packings at a lower cost and face the competitions from big firms. The homoeopathic medicine manufacturing system would be controlled entirely by the oligopolistic makers and traders.

Pitch of protests multiplied from all corners of India against the amendment. Homoeopathic Pharmaceutical Association of India, Northern India Homoeopathic Chemists' Association, Delhi Homoeopathic Chemists' Association ventilated their voice of dissension vociferously through the windows of magazine. They sent their appeal to the Central health Department so that amendment might not be effective.

The Homoeopathic Manufacturers' Associations of West Bengal moved to the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court by June 1994, vehemently protesting against this amendment.

According to the editorial of a monthly homoeopathic journal 'MediTimes' September 1994, the Government counsel had affirmed in his affidavit that "*The amendment was made in the public interest*" and that "*the same was made consequent to the tragedy in and around Delhi as well as in different parts of the country by misuse of alcoholic medicinal preparations*". The Association, however, affirmed along with other strong contentions that the Government notification for the amendment was issued without any just cause or sanction of law and the same was uncalled for and unwarranted.

Side by side the Homoeopathic Associations of West Bengal and of entire India also started harping on the same string not to make the amendment applicable in the region of Homoeopathy in India.

Under such circumstances, Hon'ble High Court of respective states where such appeal was under appeal, granted stay order sine die.

In the appeal case of M/S Mahesh Homocopathic Laboratory, Patna vs. Union of India and others the learned judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India made the following order on 27/11/98 : (90)

"Leave granted. Interim stay continue"

The uncertainty now ceased to exist and the problem became mitigated to a considerable extent.

Revision of Pay Pattern of Homoeopathic Medical Officers :

One of the most remarkable events in 1995 was the notification of Government of West Bengal regarding revision of pay scale of homoeopathic medical officers at par with M.B.B.S. medical officers.

Ab initio B.H.M.S., though a degree was not being treated in the same status of pay scale. It was an anomaly that homoeopathic medical officers in Government Health Centres were given less pay. Moreover, homoeopathic medical officers possessing D.M.S. of duration of 4 years, though treated officer in the same rank, were being deprived of the approved pay scale of the M.B.B.S. medical officer. The reason of this disparity was never explained. It was also been noted that B.H.M.S. during their internship were paid less compared with M.B.B.S. interns.

With a view to erasing this discrimination a programme for a consolidated move was taken up by West Bengal Government Degree Homoeopathic Medical Officers' Association, West Bengal State Government Homoeopathic Officers' Association, Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity and other associations of West Bengal. It was a matter of great encouragement that Central Council of Homoeopathy (C.C.H.) also implored the Central Government with recommendation to repeal the contradiction.

Recommendation of C.C.H. regarding Pay Scale (91)

"The Executive Committee of Central Council of Homoeopathy express its dissatisfaction on negligible progress in removal of disparities in the status / pay scales of homoeopathic doctors / officers / teachers in various organisations under Centre / State / U.T. Government, with their counterparts in modern medicine in all levels and it calls upon all the concerned authorities of Central / State / U.T. Governments to remove the disparities without avoidable delay".

(Dated 28th July 1995)

Copy to the Chairman, 5th Pay Commission, Government of India, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi with the request to make favourable recommendation to Central / State / U.T. Governments.

As a matter of course, the West Bengal Government in principle accepted the logic and demand of the homoeopathic medical officers. Pursuant to the principle, on the 23rd August, 1995 the notification for the revision of pay scale for homoeopathic medical officers was given. The notification was as follows : (91)

Government of West Bengal
Finance department, Audit Branch

No. 89 33 - F

Calcutta, the 23rd August, 1995

After careful consideration of the recommendations of the Pay Review Committee, the Governor has been pleased to order that in respect of the post mentioned below the revised scale of pay under WBS(ROPA) Rules 1990, shall be as shown against the post in partial modification of the Notification No. 430-F, dt. 12/01/90.

Name of the Post

Health & Family Welfare Dept.
Homoeopathic Medical Officer
Possessing both BHMS(Degree)
And DMS(of duration of Four years)

Revised Scale of Pay

Rs. 2200-80-3000-100-4000

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The revised scale of pay shall take effect from the 1st January, 1996 and actual effect shall be given from 1st January, 1988. The arrears shall be paid subject to the conditions laid down in Rule 9 of the WBS(ROPA) Rules, 1990, as amended subsequently.

Sd/-

A.K. Chakraborty,

Deputy Secretary to

The Government of West Bengal
Finance Department.

The West Bengal Government also gave benefits to internees of B.H.M.S., which order was as follows :- The Government of West Bengal vides its order No. HF/P/AUH/98/3H-174/95 dated the 18th March, 1996 had enhanced the stipend of the Internees of Degree Homoeopathic Medical Colleges of the state equal to the Internees of Allopathic Medical Colleges with effect from 01.03.96. (92)

Waxing and Waning of H.M.A.I. West Bengal Branch :- There was active participation in the uplift of homoeopathy in West Bengal by H.M.A.I. West Bengal Branch. This activity was effervescent upto 1979. It was observed, however, that since 1980, there was ebb tide.

Nevertheless, formality to hold annual meeting followed by adoption of resolution and submission of memoranda to West Bengal Government was maintained.

Xth All India Homoeopathic Congress of H.M.A.I. :

This formal activity led to the 10th All India Homoeopathic Congress at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Eden Gardens, calcutta-700 001, held on 28th to 30th December 1996, organised by H.M.A.I. West Bengal Branch. This 10th All India Homoeopathic Congress was effluent. It was a three-day-conference. Inauguration took place on the 28th Dec., 1996. Venue was Netaji Indoor Stadium. The colourful ceremony was switched on by Hon'ble Minister PWD, Sri. Kshiti Goswami, and was attended by about three thousand representatives in and abroad. The All India President of H.M.A.I., Dr. D.P.Rastogi presided over the meeting. The goal of the congress was 'mutual and constructive interaction of valuable experience for development of knowledge and for homoeopathy as a whole'.

Following resolutions were adopted in the hall thronged by thousand of members.

- i) Separate budgetary allotment has to be made both by Central and State for the spread of homoeopathy.
- ii) Central Govt. needs take initiative to meet the infrastructure for the spread of homoeopathic education throughout the length and breadth of the country.

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- iii) Liberal policy for easy availability of homoeopathic drug and medicine has to be taken, so that, indigenous manufacturers are not hamstrung by privileges of exotic medicine.

The eminent subjects of the Science Sessions were as follows :

- i) Genetics and Miasm
- ii) Healthy Child, Healthy Nation-Homoeopathy in Paediatrics.

Besides, souvenirs and memoirs rich in articles of researchers, professors and practitioners, were published. Exhibitions arranged by medicine manufacturers from different corners of the country and demonstrations organised by the research centres of homoeopathy by Govt. Of India were items of great attraction thereof. (93)

Lack of effectiveness by West Bengal Government and consequent movement by Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity :- So far as West Bengal Govt. acted upon the removal of discrepancy in wage structure and equalisation of pay scale, which drew eulogy from all quarters, the allocation of budget in homoeopathic education was less than what was needed.

It was unfortunate, that homoeopathic colleges run by State Govt. was far short of tolerably acceptable standard. This substandard condition was not in comparison with the ideal criterion, but in comparison with parallel allopathic colleges and standard. This was not so much due to money and management but due to nonchalance of Govt. This couldn't-careless attitude could not be stirred even by systematic movements by homeopathic organisations.

The Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity on 10.11.96 picked a pitched programme for violation of law. A few physicians were confined to presidency goal. Assurance from Govt. was available, but no result was obtained. Seeing the inaction of the Govt. and seeing no other way on 31st March 97, some physicians had recourse to hunger-strike, till death, which, however, was lifted after receiving some positive assurance from Govt. (94)

Whatever may be the out come of the assurance, the year 1997 saw a spectacular achievement as a result of various movements towards the development of Homoeopathy.

Approval of M.D. Course in Homoeopathy by Calcutta University --- A great achievement. :- One of the items of the character of demands was the opening of Homoeopathic M.D. Course. After a protracted movement in the long run, Syndicate of Calcutta University in November, 1997 meeting, accorded approval of already inchoate syllabus in three subjects of homoeopathy viz., Materia Medica, Organon of Medicine and Repertory from the year of education of 1998-1999 under the auspices of National Institute of Homoeopathy in Salt Lake City. (95)

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This National Institute of Homoeopathy is an autonomous body run with financial grant of Central Govt. Calcutta University having given approval, it is now necessary that homoeopathy colleges under direct control of West Bengal State Govt. may open M.D. Courses approved by Calcutta University. Movement to introduce M.D. Course in West Bengal State controlled Homoeopathic colleges has started.

Overtures accepted as resolution during discussion in the cubicle of the Hon'ble Health Minister, Govt. West Bengal on Dec. 7th, 1998 :- Minutes of the meeting held in the chamber of M.I.C., Health and Family Welfare Dept. on 07.12.98. to evolve ways and means for improvement of Homoeopathic system of treatment and education. (96)

Present :

1. Dr. Gouripada Dutta,
2. Dr. Bholanath Chakraborty,
3. Principal Secretary, Health & F.W. Dept.,
4. Dr. Rabin Mukherjee,
5. Joint Secretary, (AUH Branch) Health & F.W. Dept.,
6. Director of Homoeopathy, Govt. of West Bengal,
7. Asst. Secy., AUH Branch, Health & F.W. Dept.

M.I.C. presided over the meeting.

M.I.C. initiated the discussion by highlighting the need for monitoring performance, improvement of teaching institutions as well as hospitals attached to teaching institutions, particularly in-door treatment, supply, manufacture and standardisation of Homoeopathic Drugs and involvement of Homoeopathic Doctors in National Public Health Programmes, particularly Family Welfare activities and requested the eminent personalities in the medical world present in the meeting to offer their suggestions for improvement of Homoeopathic treatment and education in the State.

Dr. G.P. Dutta , chairman, Subject Committee of Health and Family Welfare and Member, State Planning Board, Dr. Bholanath Chakraborty, eminent Homoeo Physician and Rabi Mukherjee, Secretary, Pragatisil homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity expressed their views on the improvement of the homoeopathic system of treatment and education in West Bengal

After detailed discussion, the following points were agreed upon to form the basis of development of homoeopathic system in our state.

1. Homoeopathy, in the State, should be developed to play its proper and distinct role in Health and Welfare of the people.
2. Homoeopathy should be developed in tune with great tradition of the State in the field of Homoeopathy while absorbing all the new developments in the system.

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3. All the existing infrastructure in respect of diseases and ailment at different levels of Health Care – Primary, Secondary and Tertiary should be identified along with areas to be shared with other systems like allopathy etc.
4. Referral system in the field of Homoeopathy treatment may be considered and a Referral Centre at the State level may be set up for treatment of complicated ailments with the help of eminent homoeopaths.
5. Homoeopathy Hospitals and dispensaries already set up to treat the ailing people in general should be run in such a manner as to establish the efficiency of the system in particular.
6. In case of any demand for in-door treatment by Homoeopathy system of medicine, HMO₅ at P.H.C. level may be allowed to admit in-door patients.
7. Homoeopathy units in middle-order hospitals should be developed in due course.
8. Measures be taken for manufacturing, testing and supply of Homoeopathy Drugs to all Govt. Homoeopathy units from the integrated Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic drug production centre at Kalyani. Standardisation of Homoeopathic drug is necessary and set up a separate Homoeopathy wing in the directorate of drug control be considered.
9. Present system of procurement and distribution of Homoeopathy Drug to the state unit should be reviewed.
10. Quality of medical education imparted Homoeopathic Medical College should be such that it will imbibe a sense of self-confidence and inspiration to all the students of Homoeopathy. Homoeopathy graduates should be trained in building up health awareness and decentralised health promotion system.
11. In order to improve the treatment facilities in the hospitals attached to the teaching institutions, services of HMOS on deputation may be utilised.
12. Services of State HMOS as well as other Homoeo Doctors should be utilised in preventive activities under various public Health Programmes including Family Welfare.
13. Strength of teaching staff in Govt. Homoeo Medical Colleges should be increased in a phased manner along with necessary improvement of pay and allowances and other infrastructural facilities.
14. Introduction of Graded Degree Course for Diploma holders of Homoeopathy be considered due to abolition of Diploma Course in Homoeopathy.
15. Steps be initiated for setting up a Central Homoeopathy Library at the State level for the benefit of teachers and students of Homoeopathy.
16. In order to improve the nursing and other supporting staff is required.
17. Homoeopathy Directorate should be strengthened.
18. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Chair.

XI. All India Homoeopathic Seminar and Silver Jubilee Celebration – 1999
Under the auspices of Homoeopathic Medical Association of India Organised by West Bengal State Branch on 24th, 25th and 26th December 1999 at Derozio Hall, Presidency College Campus, College Square, Calcutta, West Bengal :-

On the 24th, the 25th and the 26th December, 1999 last, in Calcutta, the 11th All India Homoeopathic Seminar and Silver Jubilee celebration of

H.M.A.I. was held with pomp and eclat. After formation of Homoeopathic Medical Association of India in 1975 A.D. in Calcutta, W.B., through thick and thin, H.M.A.I. came to the threshold of the 25th year of existence, in 1999 as the largest Homoeopathic Organisation in India. So in this very city, the onus to organise silver jubilee celebration was proposed to be borne by West Bengal branch of H.M.A.I. with cheer under the presidency of Dr. Sankar Das and under the secretaryship of Dr. Arin Mondal. The function assumed the character of a great festival, which was thronged by the presence of 850 delegates from West Bengal and other States. Many homoeopathic pharmaceutical concerns, booksellers and a homoeopathic computer agency opened stalls. However any display or advertisement or sale of medicines prepared against homoeopathic principle was prohibited. On the 24th December, at the beginning of the occasion, Dr. J.S.Khanna, the President of H.M.A.I. hoisted flag of H.M.A.I. Then Sri Hasim Abdul Halim, Hon'ble Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly, inaugurated the ceremony. Dr. G. N. Mukherjee Chairman, Reception Committee, delivered a welcome address. On the opening day ceremony, a number of famous Homoeopathic physicians were given felicitation.

In December 25 and 26, distinguished Homoeopathic physicians and Research workers dwelt on discussions and dissertations on various aspects of Homoeopathic Science in the two-day long Scientific Sessions. The audience participated by supplying questions in writing to the learned lecturers who in turn satisfied the listeners with answers. In this way through exchange views and reviews, the Scientific Seminars became very much attractive. Quiz contests were also arranged for homoeopathic students.

The function drew to a close after the distribution of prize to the winning pupils and a vote of thanks to the chair.

Enterprise governmental, non-governmental and private, personal or individual in the course of development of homoeopathic education between 1971 to 1999:-

In West Bengal no homoeopathic college was initiated by the State Government. All the Homoeopathic colleges grew up in West Bengal as a result of individual or group enterprise. The only exception was 'National Institute of Homoeopathy', which was constituted under direct financial help from Central Govt. It started functioning on and from December 10, 1975, in Calcutta. A list of colleges in 1970 is given below:

1. *Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College* (Estd. In 1881) - 265-266. Acharya Prafulla Chandra Street, Cal - 700 009.
2. *D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College* (Estd. in 1927) 63, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, Cal - 9.

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3. *Pratap Chandra Homoeopathic Medical College* (Estd. in 1928) 14/1. Narkeldanga North Road, Cal - 11.
4. *Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College* (Estd. in 1945). Midnapore Town in Midnapore district.
5. *Sankarnath Homoeopathic Medical College* (Estd. in 1967) - Ramrajatala, Howrah [N.B. In 1972 this college was shifted to 1. G.T.Road (South), Howrah and the name of the college was changed to *Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeo[pathic Medical College.]*

With the expansion of Homoeopathic treatment in W.B., eagerness to study homoeopathy formally from colleges grew up gradually. Pupils from different districts of West Bengal poured in to Calcutta where the majority of homoeopathic colleges existed. According to law of demand and supply, some homoeopathic colleges were also established in distant districts, which contributed to the convenience of rural students of homoeopathy. These institutes were all started as nongovernmental enterprises.

From 1970 and onwards various Homoeopathic colleges came into being. *Kharagpur Homoeopathic Medical College* was founded at Kousalya of Kharagpur in Midnapore district in 1971. *Birbhum Vivekananda Homoeopathic Medical College* was founded at Sainthia in Birbhum district, in 1972. In the same year (i.e., in 1972 Rajgang in Burdwan) at district, *Burdwan Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital* was set up. The *Metropolitan Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital* was established at 77, B.B.Ganguly Street. Cal 700 012 in 1972. (97)

Numerically therefore, in 1975, in West Bengal nine homoeopathic colleges were in operation in metropolis as well as in districts. Except Burdwan Hom. Med. College all other eight colleges received recognition from council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal. Burdwan Hom. Med. College obtained permission from the council to run the institution. (77)

None of the aforesaid colleges were government colleges. However for the maintenance, preservation, benefit and development of homoeopathic colleges and hospitals, some government grant was available to them. All these nine colleges were meant for conferring DMS from Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal.

In the matter of opening degree course of homoeopathy under Calcutta University, State Govt. adopted a programme on the basis of appeal made by the homoeopathic society en masse. On the request of the state government, Calcutta University had decided to open a Homoeopathic Faculty under it for starting a degree course of Homoeopathy. The University, after inspections, had granted affiliation to four Homoeopathic colleges of state and steps were taken to admit students to the premedical (Homoeopathic) courses from the academic sessions 1975 - 1976. (98)

The names of the four homeopathic colleges with entitlement of degree course were as follows:-

1. *Calcutta Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital*, Calcutta.
2. *D.N.DeHomeopathic Medical College and Hospital*, 12. Gobinda Khatik Road, Calcutta-46.
3. *Midnapur Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital*, Midnapur.
4. *Mahesh Bhattayacharyya Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital*, Howrah.

Establishment of National Institute of Homoeopathy (N.I.H.) :- In view of inspiring indigenous system of medicine and homoeopathy, Govt. of India took up programme so that in the National Health Service, these systems could be applied. For that reason Govt. intended to boost up education and research of indigenous system of medicine and homoeopathy.

Consequent to the intention and action of the Central Government, on the 10th December 1975. *National Institute of Homoeopathy* came into existence. The state govt. had made the SVS Marwari Trust building at 118, Amherst Street available to N.I.H. for the purpose of opening the institute. Primarily it was decided that to fulfil the demand of standard teachers for the purpose of teaching in different institution, two-year post diploma course was to be run. The institute also decided to take 16-students each year through an All-India Entrance test. Those who could be deemed fit to sit in the test, would be diploma holder of homeopathy from approved university / board / institute. It was decided that the students would be given a stipend of Rs 400/- per mensem. (99)

As a matter of course the first batch was admitted in October, 1977. They completed the training by September, 1979. The passed-out students were awarded diploma (DIP-NIH), which was recognised by Central Council of Homoeopathy as equivalent to a degree. (100)

Government grants towards development of the Teaching Institutions in 1975 :- State govt. took certain actions out of their own. State govt. paid grants amounting to about Rs 1 lakh per annum to non-govt. Homoeopathic Teaching Institutions for maintenance and development of the hospitals attached thereto. It had also reserved 120 beds in such hospitals at an extra cost of rupees 1,416/- per bed per annum and paid matching grant amounting to Rs 7.50 lakhs per annum to non-govt. institutions under the Government of India's fourth plan scheme of giving Central Assistance to under graduate Homoeopathic teaching institutions for their development over the existing level. This was in addition to Rs 1.75 lakhs paid for building and equipment.

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Also, a total sum of Rs 4 lakhs was sanctioned to non-govt. teaching institutions under the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority's Scheme for augmentation of hospital facilities in the C.M.D.A. area.

The Govt. of India had so far sanctioned central assistance amounting to Rs 17.92 lakhs to non-govt. under graduate homoeopathic teaching institutions for their development over the existing level. (101)

Directorate of Homoeopathy :- It was formed in 1978 in State govt. with the aim of the culture of homoeopathic education in view. Dr. B.N. Chakrabarty took charge of *first director*. Staff pattern of the directorate of homoeopathy is Director – Inspector of Homoeopathy – Administrative officer – Head assistance etc.

In 1980–81, in West Bengal, a few more homoeopathic colleges were built, viz :-

- I) *Bengal Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital* was established at Asansol, in Burdwan district in 1980.
- II) *Purulia Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital* was set up at Dulmi–Nadiha in Purulia district in 1980.
- III) *Kakdwip Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital* was constructed at Kakdwip in 24 Pgs (South) in 1981.
- IV) *N.K. Banerjee Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital* was founded at B.B. Ganguly Street, Cal – 12 in 1981.

Therefore in 1981, the following Homoeopathic Colleges affiliated to Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal was in function:- (77)

A. Diploma Homoeopathic Colleges :-

1. *D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Cal -9 (Diploma College)
2. *Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Calcutta 11. (Diploma Standard)
3. *Kharagpur Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Midnapur. (Diploma College)
4. *Metropolitan Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Cal – 12 (Diploma College)
5. *Vivekananda Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Birbhum dist. (Diploma College)
6. *Burdwan Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Burdwan dist. (Diploma College)
7. *Purulia Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Purulia dist. (Diploma)
8. *Bengal Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Burdwan dist. (Diploma)
9. *Kakdwip Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, 24 Pgs (South) dist. (Diploma)
10. *N.K.Banerjee Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Cal – 12. (Diploma)

B. The list of Degree Homoeopathic Colleges affiliated to Calcutta University in 1981 was as follows : (77)

1. *Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Cal - 9 (Degree)
2. *D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Cal - 46 (Degree)
3. *Midnapur Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Midnapore dist. (Degree)
4. *Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Howrah - 1. (Degree)

**C. Post Diploma Course (Dip.NIH) recognised by Central Council of Homoeopathy was opened at -
*National Institute of Homoeopathy Calcutta.***

Action by West Bengal Government since 1983 : In 1983, the W.B. govt. first took over administration of Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College. Within 1986 other homoeopathic degree colleges were taken over. Within 1993 all the four degree homoeopathic colleges came under the full-fledged control as State Homoeopathic Medical Colleges in all respects de jure.

Shifting of NIH to Salt Lake City : (102), (103) In 1985 Central Govt. reimbursed construction cost of Rs 1 crore, 95 lacs and 25 thousands to the Govt. of West Bengal for constructing the four storied building of the NIH at Block GE Sector III of Salt Lake City, Calcutta 700 091 along with its site of 16 acres of land. The State Govt. handed over building of NIH in 1986. Shri T.C. Dutt, IAS Secy, Health & Family Welfare Govt. of West Bengal inaugurated first direct B.H.M.S. degree course under Calcutta University at National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Calcutta on 10th December 1987.

The syndicate of Calcutta University in a meeting in November 25, 1997 accorded approval to start M.D. in *Materia Medica, Organon of Medicine* and *Repertory* from the academic year 1998-99 in NIH situated at Salt Lake City.

On obtaining approval, NIH started Postgraduate course in Homoeopathy (M.D.Hom.) since the academic year 1998-99. In the first phase, 18 students were admitted through an All-India test. For the three subjects - *Materia Medica, Organon of Medicine* and *Repertory*, there are six seats for each stream.

Chapter – 6

Condition of Homoeopathy on the eve of 2000 A.D. in W.B.

It is true that in India around the past two centuries the development of homoeopathy owes its origin to Bengal. Since 1947, West Bengal became the citadel of homoeopathic study and culture. Unfortunately, West Bengal, far from carrying the torch of tradition, lags and limps in the race of homoeopathic culture. As a result, homoeopathy begins to thrive in many states other than in West Bengal. Instances may be cited to support our comment about West Bengal's backwardness. Statistically upto 1999, Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) permitted 12 colleges in different states to start post graduate degree course i.e., M.D. in Homoeopathy (Ref. *Medi Times*, Nov. 1999, Vol. 6, No. 11, J.L.Nehru Rd. Cal – 71), while West Bengal Govt. did not introduce M.D. course in Homoeopathy in any of the homoeopathic colleges here. However, N.I.H. in Salt Lake City, West Bengal, since 1998-99 academic year has opened M.D. course in homoeopathy. This N.I.H. is an autonomous body. It is run by the full financial grant of Central Govt. It may be a matter of interest and investigation why West Bengal Govt. cannot be persuaded to open higher courses in homoeopathy in West Bengal Govt. fold.

One conspicuous point is there in West Bengal. So far as classical Homoeopathy or in the true sense of the term, the Hahnemannian homoeopathy with its pure place, unadulterated by any other system of medicine, is concerned, West Bengal maintains its prime position. This is a singular credit of the practitioners in general, who out of their own private and personal capacity enterprise and fidelity to Hahnemann, pursued Hahnemannian homoeopathy. In this connexion the names of Dr. Sripati Mondal and Dr. S.P. Dey may be cited. They continue to maintain the tradition of the Hahnemannian homoeopathic system in Calcutta not only by themselves, but by looking into the propaganda so that, others can accept the system. Dr. S.P. Dey wrote a number of valuable books on the subject of Homoeopathic Philosophy. Also in seminars and in meetings, he delivers lectures on this philosophy which helps practitioners to acquire knowledge and to spread the idea for application.

In 1999 and onwards students are being admitted to degree course only. Admission to diploma course ceases, although those who are already doing DHMS (Diploma Course) are allowed to continue to complete DHMS as before. The minimum academic qualification needed for BHMS, i.e., Homoeopathic degree course is Higher Secondary (10+ 2) in science stream. For BHMS, the compulsory subject in Higher Secondary is biology with chemistry and physics, plus other subjects as prescribed by council for Higher

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Secondary. A combined joint entrance examination for B.A.M.S. i.e., Ayurvedic Degree Course and for BHMS, i.e., Homoeopathic degree course, is a must for applicants desiring to undergo full time degree course in West Bengal. On the basis of merit list, selection is offered to individual candidate. Each Homoeopathic degree college has 50 seats. A completion of study of the course as per syllabus for a continuous period of 4 years and a half followed by one year compulsory internship, entitles the student for registration from Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal.

During the compulsory internship of Homoeopathic students for one year, six months are earmarked for a practical training in an Allopathic hospital plus one month's training in Infectious Disease (I.D.) hospital. The six months training in Allopathic hospital include, obtaining practical knowledge on diagnosis of disease, management of patients in emergency condition, maternal and child health care etc., under supervision and direction of Allopathic masters. Homoeopathic students are entitled to equal monetary allowance to that of degree students of other branches of medical education, during full one-year internship. In their own Homoeopathic hospital interns are to attend in outdoor departments regularly for obtaining practical knowledge on Homoeopathic treatment. But interns face difficulty in gathering adequate experience in Indoor departments of Homoeopathic hospitals. The reason is that there is shortage of patients admitted to Indoor departments for treatment in Homoeopathic hospitals.

From Final BHMS Part-I (3rd Year) and onward, Homoeopathic students have to undergo Clinical classes, (indoor and outdoor both) in Allopathic hospitals for an all-round and comprehensive practical training. In order to maintain standard of study of subjects, like Surgery, Practice of Medicine, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Forensic Medicine, Preventive and Social Medicine, Pathology, Physiology, Anatomy etc., and such allied ones, guest lecturers with adequate qualification from respective disciplines of study, take classes to educate students of homoeopathic stream.

It is important to dwell upon one moot point. In most of the colleges in proportion to requirement, numbers of Homoeopathic teachers fall far short of, insomuch that, classes are not being taken regularly. Consequently the standard of teaching and learning of Homoeopathy may become substandard in near future. So Government must needs take care of this imbalance otherwise we are afraid that this telling upon of standard is likely to be a subject of severe criticism by Central Council of Homoeopathy. In the interest of Homoeopathic teaching, learning and practising, we bring this condition of discrepancy to the attention of the State Govt. Quicker action is necessary because Homoeopathy is no longer an unimportant subject. It has now

extended its tentacles in al-together ten degree colleges with decentralisation to urban and rustic area of West Bengal.

Statistics of degree colleges and diploma colleges: Up to 1999 A.D., under Calcutta University there are six homoeopathic degree colleges and under Burdwan University there are four homoeopathic degree colleges. It is worth mentioning that in addition to six degree colleges under C.U., N.I.H. holds both degree and post graduate degree course in Salt Lake City. This graduate and postgraduate degree in N.I.H.-controlled college is, however, conferred on by C.U.

A. Degree Homoeopathic Medical Colleges under Calcutta University –

- i) *Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, 265 – 266 A.P.C. Road, Cal –9 (Govt. college.)
- ii) *D.N. De. Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, 12, Gobinda Khatik Road, Cal – 46 (Govt. college)
- iii) *Mahesh Bhattacharya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, 1, G.T. Road, South Howrah. (Govt.College.)
- iv) *Midnapur Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, P.O. & Dist:- Midnapur (Govt. College)
- v) *Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*. 14/1, Narkeldanga North Road, Cal – 11 (Private College)
- vi) *Metropolitan Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, 77, B.B. Ganguly Street, Cal –12. (Private College)

B. Degree Homoeopathic Medical Colleges under Burdwan University : (all are private colleges)

- i) *Burdwan Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Rajganj, Nimbark Bhawan, P.O. Nutanganj, Dist:- Burdwan.
- ii) *Bengal Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Ismail, Asansol, Burdwan.
- iii) *Kharagpur Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, Kaushalya, Kharagpur, Midnapur
- iv) *Purulia Homoeopathic medical College & Hospital*, P.O. Dulmi – Nadiha, Purulia.

C. Diploma Homoeopathic Medical Colleges under Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, W.B.: [Admission to diploma (DHMS) course is stopped, however, the residual batches of DHMS are permitted to continue and complete study]

- i) *Metropolitan Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*, 77, B.B. Ganguly Street, Cal – 12
- ii) *N.C.C. Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital*. 106-107, Jay Narayan Babu Ananda Dutta Lane, Howrah – 711 101.

- iii) *Birbhum Vivekananda Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Sainthia, Birbhum*

Regarding post graduate course West Bengal Govt. has not yet opened any M.D.(Hom.) course out of their own. However, N.I.H. had introduced M.D.(Hom.) post-graduate degree under Calcutta University, on and from 1998-99 academic year. M.D.(Hom.) post-graduate course is run by N.I.H. on three subjects viz. Materia Medica, Organon of Medicine and Repertory. Total number of students is 18, with 6 in each of the three subjects. Eligibility for M.D.(Hom.) course : B.H.M.S. passed candidates are selected through an all-India entrance examination.

Strength of registered homoeopathic physicians in West Bengal upto 1999 :

According to a letter NO. HC/6867/iv – 1/92 dated 09.12.99 received from Dr. P.K. Moitra, Registrar, Council of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal, a list of total number of registered homoeopathic practitioners in West Bengal is given below –

Total number of registered homoeopathic physicians – 36,717 out of which Part B contains 14,039 and Part A has three divisions –

- i) B.H.M.S. doctors 3,500
 - ii) D.M.S. doctors 15,178
 - iii) D.H.M.S. doctors 4,000
- Total Part A 22,678.

Employment potential of homoeopathic doctors: West Bengal Public Service Commission conducts an examination for recruitment of qualified homoeopathic physician as homoeopathic medical officer in health centres of West Bengal Govt. At present Homoeopathic Medical Officers enjoy themselves with the equivalent facilities of the terms and reference of service at par with the allopathic medical officers. This process of employment through West Bengal Public Service Commission is not a systematic and periodical one for homoeopathic physicians. Moreover, neither the number of vacancies, nor the induction to fill up the quota is satisfactory.

On 03.11.1999, information was received from directorate of homoeopathy West Bengal, 10, Camac Street, Cal – 16, that, upto date 545 posts for homoeopathic medical officers had been created while approximately 510 persons were taken. Commensurate with annually passed-out doctors, the scope of service is so limited and inadequate that qualified doctors desirous of practising homoeopathy in government health centres feel dejected and have to have recourse to private practice which is not always remunerative in the open market condition in both villages and towns.

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It is to be noted that in certain Panchayat Centres, part-time homoeopathic physicians are there on an adhoc payment basis but that number is also not encouraging, present (in 1999) strength of such doctors being 445 approximately.

There is a scheme in municipality for taking qualified homoeopathic physicians but the scheme is not translated into action by majority of municipalities.

Besides, in Central Govt. Organisations like, banks, railways, undertakings like, O.N.G.C. etc. homoeopathic doctors are at times being recruited. Cases are, however, few and far between.

In Writers' Building West Bengal Govt., there is homoeopathic medical officer in posting. In many an industrial unit run by limited and private limited companies homoeopathic doctors practise to the satisfaction of the patients and management. Beyond this, there is little scope for qualified homoeopathic practitioners to get employment.

Recent activity of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal :- Registration number is being allotted by Council of Homoeopathic Medicine W.B. for homoeopathic degree and diploma holders. Council takes examination for residual batches of D.H.M.S. After the D.H.M.S. course is over, the function of the Council is expected to be offloaded, as a result of which Council can take up certain other functions. Dr. P.K. Moitra, registrar of the Council enlightens us on this subject. In his letter mentioned before, he states that Council is trying to introduce the following courses –

- i) Graded Degree Course,
- ii) Pharmacy Course,
- iii) Teacher's Orientation Course and
- iv) Nursing Cum Dresser Course.

The activity is vested upon the management of the Council, formation of which has a definite procedure. Pursuant to West Bengal Homoeopathic System Of Medicine Act, No. xxxiii of 1963, section 5, eight members were elected in 1999 by the votes cast by registered homoeopathic practitioners, the rest are nominated. In 1999, the governing body consisted of the following members.

1. Dr. Omar Ali	M.L.A. President
2. Dr. Rabindra Nath Mukherjee	Vice-President
3. Dr. Shibendra Nath Sinha	Member
4. Dr. Tushar Kanti Mitra	Member
5. Dr. Mahendra Singh	Member
6. DR.Subodh Kumar Dey	Member

7. Mr. Amar Chowdhury	M.L.A.	Member
8. Dr. Tapan Kumar Bhattacharya		Member
9. Dr. Moni Sankar Nag		Member
10. Dr. Mrinal Kanti Chakraborty		Member
11. Dr. Ajit Kumar Paul		Member
12. Dr. Sahidul Islam		Member
13. Dr. Samar Kumar Roy		Member
14. Dr. Madhu Sudan Samadar		Member
15. Dr. Tirtha Pati Nath		Member
16. Dr. Bimanesh Kumar Mondal		Member
17. Dr. Md. Arsad Ali		Member
18. Dr. Krishna Mohan Majumdar		Member

Matters connected with manufacture of medicine, homoeopathic practice and allied conditions : So far as the position of West Bengal on the eve of 2000 A.D. in homoeopathic medicine manufacturing industry is concerned, it may be mentioned that West Bengal is ahead of other states of India. Lorry-loads of homoeopathic medicine from different industrial units of West Bengal, are being transported to not only other states of India, but abroad, as well. It is to be noted that up till now no definite rule is framed by Govt. to control preparation and sale of medicine, prepared and sold in the name of homoeopathic medicine, quite contrary to homoeopathic principle. This contra-principle may be found in homoeopathic tonic, homoeopathic syrup, combination tablet etc. These bottle-packed so-called panacea-items are being applied indiscriminately and in multiplicity by practitioners, even by degree-holders to patients coming for homoeopathic treatment. It is unfortunate that this trend to treat by short-cut track and made-easy method, pander to popular practice only, and tell upon the ideal homoeopathic treatment. The numbers of ideal homeopaths are diminishing gradually.

During the British period in India, sans govt. patronage and favour, many talented homoeopathic physicians spontaneously dedicated everything in the uplift and research of homoeopathy. As a result of their sincere effort, many indigenous medicines could be incorporated in *Materia Medica* after 'drug-proving'. At present the number of research workers in West Bengal having fast dwindled, research is not being carried out as per expectation.

Regarding other discouraging aspects, the condition and standard of study, both learning and teaching in homoeopathic colleges and hospitals are not as they should be. Major backwardness is lack of modern instruments. Number of teachers is also not enough to cope with requirement. Students are also deprived of practical aspects of homoeopathic training because there are insufficient patients in indoor department of homoeopathic hospitals attached to colleges.

Chap.6: Condition of Homoeopathy on the eve of 2000 A.D. in W.B.

Once upon a time, homoeopathic journals of high standard were being published from West Bengal. They obtained applause abroad. At present only a few of such journals are being published. Some of these journals are published irregularly.

Last but not the least point of discouragement is that, homoeopathic physicians, practitioners and researchers are not being able to form an organisation acceptable to one and all. Formation of H.M.A.I., heralded brighter prospects, but that ray has now faded thanks to the rifts among physicians for various reasons. Attempt to repair the gap was never seriously taken up. At present, in West Bengal, there are various homoeopathic organisations, small and big. For want of unity on one platform, the govt. attention can hardly be drawn effectively. It is, however, a matter of encouragement that the two big organisations of homoeopathy in West Bengal, HMAI, West Bengal State branch and Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity have been able to bridge the yawning gap to some extent. Instead of setting up of conflicting candidates in election of Council of homoeopathic medicine, both HMAI and Pragatisil Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity came to an agreement in 1999 to share seats and this yielded result. It is a step forward to joint movement in the interest of the development of homoeopathy in West Bengal. This is admirable as well as is necessary.

The situation may turn to favourable condition in near future because of the coming of the meritorious students in a bulk number in homoeopathy. This ushers in a future and a hope to get up from the quagmire and to lay a concrete base in homoeopathy.

Since in homoeopathy, more and more meritorious students are coming, it can be reasonably hoped that more and more avenues for modern research in homoeopathy will be opened. Tradition and dedication of ancestors in memoriam, ask us why doctors inducted in homoeopathy cannot spend some of their time in research to enrich science and to cure patients. During the days of Hahnemann (1755 – 1843) the science of medicine and surgery in particular and science as a whole, in all the branches of knowledge compared to modern times, lagged far behind. Relentless research and dedication by scientists in all branches of science have brought unthinkable advancement. Unfortunately this spectacular progress is not visible in the field of homoeopathy.

In 1796, Hahnemann himself undertook research on homoeopathy and in his lifetime he did proving of about 100 medicines. During his lifetime, Dr. Hahnemann wrote Organon of Medicine for publication of six editions. No other edition is published after his death. It is unfortunate that other researchers did not and do not take interest in updating 'Organon of Medicine'.

It is not that after Hahnemann there has been no research in Homoeopathy. In fact, many research workers sacrificed beyond expectation. In Europe and America when Homocopathy embellished itself on the apex of popularity, a good deal of research work was carried out. Even in India, before 1947, through private enterprise and without any patronization from the government, experiments and 'drug-proving' used to be done. After independence (1947) many research work on homoeopathy was carried out either privately or through governmental assistance in India. But all were insufficient to meet the demand. Today in the interest of homoeopathy subject and practitioners, irrespective of political colour and creed, on one side, deputation en masse has to be given to government and on the other side non-govt. enterprise has to be strengthened for the development of research in Homoeopathy. It is a historical fact that most of the inventions and discoveries take place under private enterprise. It is also a fact that in modern times some research requires such infra and super structure that non-govt. bodies cannot arrange. Moreover, without permission of govt., legal side cannot be taken care of. So govt. has to be involved. We are talking of diseases, which have been national problems. There is little arrangement for collecting data which will bring forward the efficacy of homoeopathic treatment to combat those diseases, namely tuberculosis, leprosy, cancer, diabetes, AIDS, filaria, kala-azar, rabies etc.

Take the case of rabies. 'Rabies is a Zoonatic problem of considerable magnitude in India, with an estimated human mortality of 25,000 (actual figure may be 50,000) a year'. (Ref: *Park's Textbook of Preventive and Social Medicine, 15th Ed., Jabalpur, 1997, Page-207*). In allopathy, the death rate in rabies is cent percent. Researchers on homoeopathy can try to cure rabies by homoeopathic medicine on the basis of symptomatology of the individual case. Govt. has to give permission to experiment with guard in I.D. hospitals. Failures and success need to be carefully recorded for future guidance. Besides rabies, similar experiments can be done on many fell and fatal diseases.

Therefore, in present context what we need prima facie is a governmental support on homoeopathic research and efficient enthusiastic researchers.

Chapter-7

Historical Notes On The Existing Approved Homoeopathic Colleges

Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital. 265-266, A.P.C. Road,
Cal - 700 009 (104), (105), (106), (107)

This institution was established on the 14th Feb. 1881 by the joint venture of Dr. Mohini Mohan Basu, Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar and Dr. D.N. Roy of Calcutta. The management was in the hands of the Calcutta Homoeopathic Hospital Society. Its hospital started in 1910 by Dr. D.N. Roy on a plot of land donated by Rani Kasturi Manjuri of Posta and was managed by Calcutta Homoeopathic Hospital Society, registered on 22.9.1909. In course of time this college became the ideal homoeopathic institution of India. Students from all over the country used to come here in large numbers to learn homoeopathy. Many talented persons after completion of studying of homoeopathic medicine from this college radiated over all the States of India. Thus the glorious achievement of this institution to popularize the homoeopathic system of medicine in our country was written in letters of gold. The Enquiry Committee formed by the Central Govt. in 1948 visited this institution and highly praised this college in the report submitted by the Enquiry Committee in 1949 (vide chapter - 1, sec.-2). It is the oldest homoeopathic institution in India. The college had been affiliated to the Council of Homoeopathic Medicine W.B. from the beginning. Since its formation it started diploma course (D.M.S.). It was affiliated to the Calcutta University for degree course in homoeopathy (B.H.M.S.) in 1976. A govt. administrator was appointed on the 16th Feb. 1978 by a govt. order and in 1983 his office was replaced by another administrator appointed as per an Act of Acquisition 1983 of the Govt. of W.B. Now this college is being governed by the State administration.

The college is attached with a hospital. The patients are treated both in O.P.D and I.P.D. There are several out-door patient departments like Medical, Surgical, Gynaecology & Obstetrics, Eye, Dental. Emergency department runs from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The hospital is equipped with modern investigation arrangements like X-ray, ECG, Pathology laboratory etc. There is separate dispensing room for supply of medicine free of cost to the patients of I.P.D. and O.P.D. of the hospital. For surgical cases the hospital has General O.T. and Labour O.T.

I.P.D. has 50 beds (30 beds for Medical, 10 beds for Surgical and 10 beds for Gynaecology & Obstetrics I.P.D.)

Hospital statistics for the month of June '99 (quoted from Ref. No. 107)

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212. Out-door total patients : 3253 heads (new patients : 1140 and old patients : 2113)

Names of Principal / Teacher Incharge from 1881 to 1999 of Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital :

Dr. M.N. Ghosh,	Dr. Tushar Kamal Basu
Dr. J.C. Chatterjee	Dr. Tarapada Mondal
Dr. Jitendra Nath Majumdar	Dr. Haripada Saha
Dr. G. N. Sinha	Dr. S.K. Dubey
Dr. R.G. Ghoshal	Dr. Tushar Kamal Basu
Dr. Durga Das Mitra	Dr. Mahabir Upadhyay
Dr. Sripati Mondal	Dr. Mohendra Singh
Dr. Mahabir Upadhyay	Dr. D.K. Saha
Dr. Sukhendra Bikash Dutta	

D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital,

12, Gobinda Khatik Road Calcutta – 700 046. (106), (108), (109)

During Oct. 1927, with the initiative of *Dr. D.N. De*, 'The Dunhum College of Homoeopathy' was started at 135/3, Bowbazar Street, almost facing the Baithak Khana Bazar. At that time, teaching used to be imparted in three durations of time. From 7a.m. to 9a.m., a three year course of study was run for non-matriculates. Day-section was run between 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Night classes were arranged between 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. There was four year course of study and different diplomas were conferred on. Nocturnal classes were meant for mainly office-goers. Lectures in the evening classes were given in the English language. During the period between 1931 and 1937, the college was governed by a strong advisory board which included among others, Dr. D.N. De, Dr. A.C. Ghosh, Dr. B.K. Bose, Dr. A.R. Roy and the examinations were conducted by representative committee. Dr. D.N. De was the Principal.

Ground floor was earmarked for out-door patients deptt. Large number of patients used to come for treatment. Students could avail themselves of practical training in the college.

In 1936 *Dr. Sanat Kr Ghosh*, B. Sc., M.B., a well-known talented homeopath associated himself with the college. His dedication was coupled with that of Dr. D.N. De. With their relentless and joint endeavour on the 9th of Sept. 1937, the *Indian Homoeopathic Medical Association* was formed by 11 members. Their principal aim was to run and up-to-date homoeopathic institution with an attached hospital for offering scientific homoeopathic training. Dr.D.N. De was the first President and Dr. Ghosh, the first General Secretary of the Association. Dr. De made a gift of his Dunhum College of Homoeopathy absolutely free from any liability with all its assets and goodwill on the 9th Sept, 1937, by a registered deed of gift.

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In 1938 this college was shifted from 135/3 Bowbazar Street to 63, Upper Circular Road, so that, this college could get the shape and standard of an ideal homoeopathic college. A hospital was annexed to the college. On the 14th August, 1938 the hospital was officially declared open by Mr. A.K.M. Zakariah, the then Mayor of Calcutta.

After formation of the State Homoeopathic Faculty of Bengal, this college got the affiliation with 4 other colleges. The Dunhum College of Homoeopathy became the D.N.De Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital in 1951.

On the 10th January 1953, Silver Jubilee Celebration was observed under the then Chairmanship of Sri. Bejoy Prasad Singha-Roy and on that occasion the marble bust of the founder Dr. D.N. De, donated by D.N. De Memorial Committee was installed in the college premises.

Although during that period this college was not governed by the management of the State govt., adhoc grant used to be given from time to time by the State Govt. In addition, gifts on private capacities were also forthcoming. Depending on these financial assistance, the college functioned respectably. The Homoeopathic Society must needs acknowledge indebtedness to the then teachers whose dedication regarding taking of classes free of cost or at a nominal cost, knew no bounds. Not only that, many teachers and practitioners used to examine patients of the hospital and prescribed medicine for them by curtailing own valued time for practice. Their devotion made a number of students successful in homoeopathy in late life, and inspired some students to work for a song for the sake of sufferers.

As a result of sustained placement of demands, Central Govt. began to sanction 50% of teaching and non-teaching staff salary with effect from 04.12.72.

In Sept. 1975, Calcutta University affiliated this institution for running degree course after being satisfied with its potentiality. New hospital buildings and college building were constructed at 12, Gobinda Khatik Road, on the land donated by the Calcutta Corporation and with grants given by the State and Central Govt. as also contributions from staff, teachers, governing body member. It was logically hoped that there should be one degree college in the name of D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College but circumstances took a different shape, because though at 12, Gobinda Khatik Road, Cal-46, D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College (Degree) was set up, the existing D.N. De Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital (Diploma) continued to run in its old premises at 63, Acharya Prafullya Chandra Road, Cal-9, under the management of the Indian Homoeopathic Medical Association.

When D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College was constructed at Gobinda Khatik Road, Cal-46, there was a hospital attached to it with out-door

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patient department of different units along with 50 beds for indoor department. The hospital was situated in the thickly populated slum area of Tangra and it created to the need of the residents therein particularly to the benefit of people with pecuniary malaise. There were specialised departments in the out-door section of the hospital :g, Eye, E.N.T., Dental, Skin, Mental etc. besides General Medicine.

A 'drug-proving' research unit under the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy was annexed to this institution where research work was done by experienced research officers of the govt.

Golden Jubilee of the institution was celebrated from 20.08.79 to 23.08.79. It was graced by the august presence of Hon'ble Hashim Abdul Halim, Minister-in-charge, Judiacial and Legislative Dept., Hon'ble Sri. Nani Bhattacharyya, Minister-in-charge, Health and Family Welfare Dept. Other dignitaries and V.I.P.'s .

The management was taken over by an Administrator through an Act of Acquisition of 1983 of the Govt. of West Bengal.

A few years hence, the State Govt. took full control of the degree college.

Recently D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College diploma, 63, A.P.C. Road, Cal-9, stopped admitting students in diploma classes. As a result, the diploma college of A.P.C. Road, Cal-9, has merged into the D.N. De Homoeopathic Degree College of 12, Gobinda Khatik Road, Tangra, Cal-46. Therefore, at present in the name of D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College, there is only one degree college, contrary to two colleges degree and diploma as before.

Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital 1, G.T. Road, (South), Howrah (106), (108), (110)

We can see today the big college building carved as Mahesh Bhattacharayya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, which owes its origin to Ramrajatala Howrah Sankar Math premises with building under the name Sankar Math Homoeopathic Medical college & Hospital. This college-cum-hospital was set up in March 1967 with the assistance of Homoeopathic Medical Club, Howrah. Dr. B.N. Chakrabarty was the founder. Dr. N.C. Chakraborty first assumed the chair of the Principal. Initially only the out-door department was opened. On the 10th May, 1970, the in-door department of the hospital was inaugurated by the head of the Math, Swami Satyananda Puri. The inaugural function was presided over by the Principal of the college, Dr. Netai Charan Chakrabarty. Incidentally it may be mentioned that on 13.09.1970, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Govt. of India visited the same venue

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and approved proposal of foundation of *Asia's first Homoeopathic Research Centre* there. It was duly erected.

In 1971, under certain circumstances the institution was shifted to 62/1, Netaji Subhash Road, Howrah, where it functioned for one year. In the mean time land was purchased at 1, G.T. Road, South Howrah and since April 14th, 1972, the college had its own building permanently. The Central Research Institute situated on the premises of Sankar Math was also shifted to Calcutta.

After the transference of the Sankar Math Homoeopathic College, to 1, G.T. Road, it was renamed as Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital after the noble name of *Mahesh Chandra Bhattacharyya*, the devoted personality in homoeopathic medicine manufacturing and publishing of homoeopathic books. Within a short time, much improvement was envisaged in this college.

In 1975, this college became one of the first four colleges, where homoeopathic degree course was introduced by Calcutta University. Prior to this degree, this college had approval of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal.

Subsequent to the degree course, the college bought 4.3-acre of land more, to enable the college to expand in order to cope up with progressive demand of modern times.

The institution rendered services with great success in the refugee camps during Bangladesh War, Small Pox preventive camps, flood relief camps of West Bengal.

There was a hospital of 50 beds, attached to the college. The management of the college and hospital was taken over by a Govt. Administrator who was appointed as per an Act of Acquisition, in 1985 of the Govt. of West Bengal.

In 1980 in the area of Dumurjola of Howrah, the work of construction of homoeopathic hospital required for the Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital was taken in hand. In 1999, the out-door work of the homoeopathic medical college cum hospital started. On and from the 19th of Jan., 2000 A.D., the in-door department consisting of 20 beds began functioning. In a short time attempt is being taken to increase bed number to 50. This is an encouraging affair.

Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital P.O. & Dist; Midnapore (111)

This institution was established by the endeavour of *Dr. Bankim Choudhury* in the year 1945. The then Magistrate of Midnapore District, at the request of *Dr. Choudhury* offered the land lying by the Aurora Cinema House.

on lease for setting-up a hospital and college for homoeopathic treatment and education. Later, the land was purchased and was under possession of the Trustee Board of the Midnapore Homeopathic Medical College & Hospital. In 1947, Raja of Jhargram, known as Narasingha Deb, extended his proffered hand to set up a building by contributing Rs. 10,000/- at a time. This donation helped set an out-door building in the campus. The college was affiliated to General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal for D.M.S. (diploma course). In 1950, the in-door patient department was opened in the hospital. From 1957, research in homoeopathic 'drug-proving' started with financial grant of Govt. of India. In 1961, State Govt. provided a grant for maintenance of 10 free beds in hospital and an X-ray plant was installed.

The year 1972 was the earmark of development of this institution because in that year the existing research department was taken over by *Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy* as their direct unit. Central Govt. provided grant of Rs 91,500/- for upgrading college departments. In 1975, the college was affiliated to University of Calcutta for B.H.M.S. degree course of Homoeopathy and admission to D.M.S. course ceased.

The management and subsequent acquisition of this Institution was taken over by the Govt. of West Bengal on the 10th of Apr. 1985 as per an Act of Acquisition, 1983 of the Govt. of West Bengal. The State Govt. had taken over fully the institution on 31.03.93. with all its assets and liabilities.

Metropolitan Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital

77, B.B. Ganguly Street, Calcutta -700 012. (112)

Metropolitan Homoeopathic Medical College & hospital was first set up in Calcutta in 1972. It obtained affiliation of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal in the same year i.e., in 1972. Ab initio D.M.S. course was being taught there. Later D.H.M.S. was introduced as per schedules laid down by the Central Council of Homoeopathy. The Institution is now under the management of a governing body for the administration of the college and hospital. It is now situated in 77, Bipin Bihari Ganguly Street, Calcutta -7000 012 and teaching is being imparted to students. The 50 bedded hospital is situated at 160, B.B. Ganguly Street, Cal-12. There are different departments viz., Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Dental, E.N.T. and Clinical Pathology.

Post D.H.M.S. students had to under go internship for which facility was available in the hospital. The college has now been converted to degree homoeopathic college, i.e., B.H.M.S. course under Calcutta University has been introduced recently.

Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital
14/1, Narkeldanga North Road, Calcutta - 700 011 (108)

Dr. Jitendra Nath Majumdar in 1928 established this college in the name of his father *Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar*. Initially, the name was 'The Pratap and Hering Homoeopathic College and Hospital'. The founder was the first chairman. *Dr. B.K. Bhar, L.M.S.* was the first secretary. The college was situated in Mechhua Bazar Street. Later in 1930 it was transferred to 14/1, Narkeldanga North Road, Calcutta -11. In the year 1933 the Institution was handed over to a Board of Trustees and was duly registered. Ab initio this college started 4 year-diploma course. The college with its 5 storied building covers approximately 19,000 sq.ft accommodating different class rooms, laboratories for physiology, pathology, pharmacy, bio-chemistry, with the anatomy museum and a dissection hall along. There is a hospital attached with the college where patients are treated in I.P.D. and O.P.D. (Emergency, Surgical, Medical, Gynaecology & Obstetrics etc.)

Recently this institution has been affiliated to Calcutta University for introducing homoeopathic degree (B.H.M.S.) course.

National Institute of Homoeopathy

Block GE, Sector III, Salt Lake, Calcutta-700 091 (108),(113),(114)

The National Institute of Homoeopathy was established in December 1975 as an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, registered under the West Bengal Society registration Act of 1961. This institute was set up with a view to promoting the growth and development of Homoeopathy in the country by producing graduates and postgraduates in Homoeopathy. The college aimed to provide facilities for offering homoeopathic treatment to the suffering people and to create scope of research and development of homoeopathy.

On the 10th December 1975 Hon'ble *Dr. Karan Singh*, the then Union Health Minister, inaugurated the Institution at a rented premises at 118, Raja Rammohan Roy Sarani, Calcutta -700 009, provided by the Govt. of West Bengal. *Dr. Karan Singh* served a great contribution to homoeopathy to include the scheme of formation of N.I.H. in the Fifth plan proposals. *Dr. Jugal Kishore* the then Adviser in Homoeopathy, Govt. of India and *Mr. Ajit Kr. Panja*, the then Hon'ble Health Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, were actively associated for setting up this Institution in Calcutta. Govt. of West Bengal provided Marwari Trust building of Calcutta for opening National Institute of Homoeopathy. The Institute started two years post-diploma course to overcome the shortage of qualified and properly trained teachers for existing under-graduate institution in the country. Institute decided to admit 16 students every year after conducting an All-India Entrance Test where

homoeopathic diploma holders from recognised institution were eligible. The first batch was admitted in October 1977. After completion of study the students were awarded Dip.NIH which was recognised by Central Council of Homoeopathy as equivalent to a degree.

In 1986, the Institute was transferred at Block GE Sector III, Salt Lake City, Cal-91, on a plot of land measuring 16 acres. The newly constructed building at Salt Lake City constituted of total floor space of 1,84,578 square metres to accommodate the faculty, hospital, research and administrative department along with auditorium, hostels for boys and girls and with a guest house. The hospital attached with the Institute has In-door patient Departments with capacity of 60 beds and Out-door Patient Departments including the required number of departments as per norms of Central Council of Homoeopathy and Calcutta University.

The boys' hostel with 200 accommodation, the girls' hostel with 50 accommodation and a guest house with 3 suits and an auditorium with 900 capacity are available in the main campus of the institute. According to the Annual report 1997-98 of N.I.H., "the Institute has taken necessary steps to construct staff quarters on a plot of land (measuring about 10 acres) at JC Block near the Institute. Steps have also been initiated for the development of a piece of land and measuring 24-97 acres at Kalyani in the district of Nadia (60 k.m. from the Institute for the purpose of cultivation and development of the medicinal plants used in Homoeopathy".

The Institute, affiliated to the University of Calcutta has been conducting the regular degree course in homoeopathy(B.H.M.S.) since 1987. The B.H.M.S. Course is of 5. years duration, including one-year compulsory internship. Students possessing Higher Secondary or equivalent qualification with English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology are eligible for admission. Fifty seats are available every year among which 18 seats are allotted to those candidates who are nominated from the States and Union Territories, where no homoeopathic colleges exist. Thirty candidates get admission on the basis of All-India Entrance Examination and the rest two seats are reserved for foreign nationals who are nominated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Govt. of India.

The Institute recently (academic year 1998-99) introduced Post-graduate course viz. Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) in Homoeopathy under Calcutta University on three subjects viz. Organon of Medicine, Repertory and Materia Medica. Degree holders (B.H.M.S.) of Homoeopathy are eligible for admission.

Chapter-8

Conclusion

History means keeping records of the past. History is always documented. Not all the past events have historic value. They must have influence on the present. Events, which do not guide us to avoid present and future mistakes, are not worth the name of history. History of homoeopathy will tell us whether we can benefit from homoeopathy even today and in future, as well.

Homoeopathy system of medicine is not a mushroom. It is one of the great milestones in the history of medicine and curative treatment. In the 18th Century when in Europe there was a state of confusion, chaos and disorder in the domain of medical thought, many doctors, discoverers and devisers tried to find out a way from the labyrinth.

In 1796 A.D. one eminent German physician and scientist Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, M.D., established a novel system of treatment on the basis of 'Natural Law of Cure', then existing in the name of 'Similia Similibus Curantur'. Law of Similia was then nothing new. It was observed by Hippocrates, who is often called the 'Father of Medicine'. Long before Hippocrates, the great physicians of Ayurvedic medicine of India knew about the process of cure by similars. The great achievement of Hahnemann was that he could give the conception a concrete shape of a new method of treatment, called Homoeopathy. His observation was first recorded as an essay, which he wrote in the journal of Hufeland. The title of the article was "An Essay on a New Principle for Ascertaining the curative powers of Drugs and some Experiments of the previous principles." This heralds the birth of homoeopathy.

In the days of yore, when education was too lame to carry civilization and culture on its head, man had to surrender to the whims of nature. But when man discovered laws of nature, man could devise weapons to combat and control. Even in this advanced age and stage, society contains such people as believe in evil spirits, witchcraft, magic and super-natural theory of diseases. Again, dazzled by the development of allopathy, there are men without knowing, look down upon homoeopathy as unscientific. Calling homoeopathy unscientific is itself an unscientific, indiscreet and misleading remark. If, however, analysis is made on this irresponsible remark with logic and unprejudiced mind, it can be viewed and reviewed that homoeopathy is not unscientific, rather very much scientific.

First, the fundamental principle upon which homoeopathy gained ground was the 'Law of Similia'. This Law was nothing new. It had been

observed by ancient masters of medicine. The achievement of Dr. Samuel Christian Frederick Hahnemann of Germany was that he became sure of the authenticity of the Law of Similia and depending on this Law of nature established a new method of treatment, called Homoeopathy.

Secondly, although it was only at the last decade of eighteenth century that homoeopathy was born, the spread of this method of treatment within a short period stirred Europe, America and some countries in Asia. Curiously enough in 1810 A.D., the homoeopathic mode of treatment pervaded India. It was not that, only native doctors nurtured homoeopathy, but in the British Bengal, medical officers of Fort William used to practise homoeopathy. This phenomenal event has been at length discussed in the first chapter (Section-I) of this history book. We can find from this history that an eminent physician and scientist like Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar who founded in those days 'Indian Association for Cultivation of Science' in India, set aside his wide practice in allopathy and hugged homoeopathy whole-heartedly. It was not an amateurish caprice or luxury, but a serious professional challenge in the ethics of the service to the suffering patients. In homoeopathy Dr. Sircar's name and fame were hoisted with fluttering flag in and abroad, and his success was not for nothing. Dr Mahendra Lal Sircar's incident was not an accident. His footprints were followed by many qualified allopaths who converted themselves from allopathy to homoeopathy in broad day light not without reason. Prior to the age of antibiotics, allopathy was not very developed, dependable and flawless. Still Allopathy was science and the only modern medical and surgical method of that time. So it can be argued that if homoeopathy were no-science, eminent scientists and allopaths could not have wedded homoeopathy by divorcing the science of allopathy. The converts, in no time, acquired the efficiency of curing patients by dint of homoeopathy. It was no mean achievement. The converts in the bloom of their career had to swot for acquiring allopathic degree and sustained patience for practice. Nevertheless, to them homoeopathy did not appear inferior to allopathy. Decidedly it may be inferred that the converts found such scientific truth in homoeopathy that they did not demur to have recourse to homoeopathy. How can their action be considered as unscientific!

Thirdly, we have pointed out in this book that many talented persons and great philosophers of India passed their valued opinion in favour of homoeopathy because they observed homoeopathy as a sound and scientific method of treatment. These great persons did never lay stress on layman's prescription for talisman, chants and spells, and did never declare superstition as science.

Fourthly, it deserves prime mention that after independence in 1947, the Indian Government before acknowledging homoeopathy as a professional

and science degree, constituted a number of committees, commissions and investigation bureaus. Several significant scientists and sagacious persons were included in such probing bodies. If homoeopathy were charlatanism, quackery and fatuity, all of them were no such simple sycophants to sell their soul and to recommend homoeopathy for government acceptability. Had they not dived deep into the utility efficacy and veracity of homoeopathy recurrently in the light of modern science the government would not have spared them. Affiliation of homoeopathy was given in stages, from diploma to degree and then to post-graduate degree in the criterion of parallel and prevalent allopathy education. Government budgetary allotment has always a background of reason and rationale.

Fifth, many a member of modern society lodges complaint that Homoeopathy is no science thanks to the unexplained doctrine of potentisation and dilution of homoeopathic medicine which in other word is called 'drug-dynamisation'. In fact, after 12th potency of homoeopathic medicine, a single molecule of original drug substance does not remain in the medicine. Therefore, the carping critics claim that the homoeopathic medicine beyond 12th potency is nothing but a placebo. In high potency, where there is no existence of molecule of drug substance, how can the medicine work! The mystery of modus operandi of homoeopathic medicine is difficult for doctors to divulge. Scientists can try and they actually do try on the basis of present development of different branches of science. Many scientists of different countries come forward with spontaneity to solve the conundrum. They have been successful to a great extent. We have thrown light on such endeavour in this book in Chapter-5 (Section-II), under the heading '*Formation of Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy and Homoeopathic Research in West Bengal during Post-Independent period*'. So, non-existence of molecule in homoeopathic medicine beyond 12th potency is no scientific or logical argument for the non-existence of science in homoeopathy.

Homoeopathy has limitations as much as allopathy has. Homoeopathy is not at draggers drawn to modern system of surgery and medicine. Homoeopathy is no competitor. Homoeopathy is both complementary and supplementary to allopathy. An experienced allopath also advises homoeopathy as complementary and not competitive. A relevant document is cited below from 'MIMS INDIA' – monthly index of medical specialities vol. 15, No. 5, May, 1995 published from 90, Nehru Place, New Delhi-19, Editor : Dr. C.M. Gulhati.

From the Editor's Desk : 'Trial Confirm Homoeopathy Opüion'- 'There are numerous occasions when modern treatments fail to make patients feel better with even to specialists reaching a dead end. Saying 'Sorry' to sufferers is no solution. Even though allopathic doctors do not normally practise alternative medicine, it is their duty

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to look for and recommend such therapy, which is safe and effective. One such area is the field of homoeopathic treatment. Increasing numbers of patients are asking their own doctors' opinion on homoeopathy. How does one decide if such alternative is worth while?

It is quite safe to say that homoeopathic remedies are safe. They are extremely dilute substances and are not known to produce any toxic or adverse effect. Therefore, they can be administered without fear in all types of patients whether newborn, elderly or terminally ill. The remedies are quite inexpensive. Therefore at least in terms of safety and cost, one need not hesitate to use homoeopathic treatment.

However, the million-dollar question is if homoeopathy will produce real benefits to our patients. There was a time when practitioners of modern medicine were routinely dismissing homoeopathic therapy as nothing more than giving consolation to patients of untreatable diseases. However, we have come a long way since then. Several trials conducted in a scientifically acceptable way have shown consistently better results with substances at homoeopathic dilutions than with placebo. In 1986, David Reilly and colleagues in Glasgow did a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial comparing a homoeopathic preparation of grass pollen with placebo in patients with hay fever. The results published in Lancet showed the efficacy of the preparation beyond doubt. Several subsequent trials have confirmed the results of Glasgow study.

A meta-analysis of homoeopathic trials done in 1991 in behalf of the Dutch Government found that 81 of 105 trials gave positive results. The authors of the meta-analysis said : 'The amount of positive evidence came as a surprise to us' and concluded that the evidence from their review would probably be sufficient to establish homoeopathy as a regular treatment for certain conditions.

While modern medicine depends heavily on double-blind crossover trials, their utility in certain cases. Clinical audit and outcome studies may be more broadly applicable tools. In fact, in our day to day clinical practice, we heavily depend upon such informal outcome studies. Has this treatment helped this patient? If so, we tend to use the same treatment for similar disease in other patients. One great advantage of outcome studies is that it takes into consideration the patient's preferences.

In an outcome audit of 100 sequential patients at a British Homoeopathic Hospital, followed upto one year later, 60 said their ailments had improved. Well-being improved in 61 patients, 49 had a sustained improvement in daily living and 38 were able to reduce the intake of conventional allopathic drugs. The reduction in drug intake led to lower cost of treatment.

With clear evidence emerging in favour of homoeopathy for certain ailments, there is every reason for using homoeopathic remedies when situation so demands. So, do not hesitate to refer such patients to a qualified homoeopath. Or still better start learning homoeopathy !"

We dwelt on the subject of the history of homoeopathy from the days of the advent of homoeopathy here, to present development of homoeopathy in West Bengal. Today we can think of study in homoeopathic colleges, but we must needs think of the day when homoeopathic books were a far cry, what to speak of colleges. We think of the then them who started practically from zero and became hero. The development took a long time and a long way. The

development usurped labour, money, time and health of many dedicated souls for homoeopathy and for whom we acknowledge our indebtedness to them.

At the outset, many were self-taught, had undergone risk and did serve ailing people by homoeopathic treatment. They established the effectiveness of homoeopathy and helped spread homoeopathy.

We mentioned in the Chapter -1 (Section-1), the names of those great men who laid stone of the spread of homoeopathy and sacrificed all, in favour of homoeopathy in West Bengal as well as in India, prior to the period of independence in 1947. During post-independence period, those who survived and worked, now come to our fold for a brief discussion. Below we try to mention names of physicians practising post-freedom era, but no more with us on mortal soil.

✓ *Dr. Surendranath Sengupta* (1885-1964) passed from Central Homoeopathic College of Calcutta and was successful in practice. He became professor at first in Regular Homoeopathic College founded by Dr. R.C.Nag. Dr. Sengupta then himself erected a homoeopathic college named Union Homoeopathic Medical College. In 1927, this *Union Homoeopathic Medical College* was amalgamated with Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College. From that time he became Vice Principal of Bengal Allen Homoeopathic Medical College. Later on he became Principal of Pratap Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital. He was the fourth President of General Council and State Faculty. He was the editor of the monthly homoeopathic magazine named, 'Hahnemannian' published in English from Economic Homoeo Pharmacy of Calcutta. He also edited Bengali Periodical, 'Homoeopathy Chikitsa', published from M. Bhattacharyya & Co. of Howrah. The book entitled, 'Science and Philosophy of Homoeopathy', written by Dr. Sengupta earned reputation in the country and abroad. He left this memorial world in 1964. (115)

✓ *Dr. Netai Charan Chakrabarty* (1900-1978) was known in Howrah as a good homoeopathic physician by his time. The Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, West Bengal conferred on him M.D. (Hom.) degree for his intensive knowledge and deep erudition in the domain of Homoeopathy. Dr. N.C. Chakrabarty was a member of General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine for the period from 1951 to 1961. He was a member of the Managing Committee of Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College, Calcutta for a long period. Dr. Netai Charan Chakrabarty adorned the chair as the first Principal and Superintendent of Sankar Math Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital. The name of the college was subsequently changed to 'Mahesh Bhattacharyya Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital'. Dr. Netai Charan Chakrabarty turned to be the legendary person of this college and served the college till his death in Sept., 1978." (116)

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✓ *Dr. Bijoy Krishna Sarkar* (1901-1981) passed M.B. degree examination creditably in 1925 from Carmichael Medical College, now renamed R.G. Kar Medical College. Dr. Sarkar was awarded gold medal for his success in M.B. examination. Dr. Sarkar practised allopathy for a few years and then became a convert to homoeopathy. He was the professor of Materia Medica and Organon of Medicine in D.N. De Homoeopathic Medical College. Later for a long time he became and remained Principal of Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College. Dr. B.K. Sarkar was elected member to General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, W.B. and also to Central Council of Homoeopathy. He was appointed Chairman of 'Pharmacopocia of Homoeopathy Committee', formed by the Central Govt. Besides he became member of Homoeopathic Advisory Committee, Homoeopathic Education Sub-Committee, Drug Control Advisory Committee, Research Technical Sub-Committee etc. He was an active participant in 'Drug-Proving' of indigenous drug. Some of his valuable books on philosophy of homoeopathy have been scheduled and recommended by homoeopathic colleges as standard textbooks. He was also editor of English periodical, 'Homoeopathic Herald' and of Bengali periodical, 'Homoeopathic Chikitsa'. On February 6th, 1981, this great educationist and erudite passed away after a life of 80 years. (117)

✓ *Dr. Jnanendra Nath Majumder* (1907-1978) completed conventional degree course of medicine in Calcutta and set sail for England for higher study. In 1937, Jnanendra Nath obtained L.R.C.S. from London University, then took M.R.C.S. as well as F.R.C.S. degree from Edinburgh University. After completion of study abroad, he was back home and he started practising allopathy. However, he was not content with allopathy. He expressed apathy for allopathy. He sought admission in homoeopathic college in Calcutta and obtained D.M.S. in 1950. In no time he became a distinguished doctor and a great teacher. Council of Homoeopathic Medicine, W.B. conferred on him the Hony. M.D.(Hom.). The Govt. of India made him member in the 'Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee', formed in 1948. He had been member to the Advisory Board of Homoeopathy from 1956 to 1966. Since 1958 he became life-long member of Homoeopathic Research Sub-Committee. He also became member to 'Health Panel' of Planning Commission of India. He was the President of All India Homoeopathic Medical Association. He was the Principal of Pratap-Hering Homoeopathic Medical College, the present name of the college is Pratap Chandra Memorial Homoeopathic Medical College. This great man made relentless and sustained effort for the uplift of homoeopathy in India throughout the active part of his working life. He breathed his last on Nov. 22nd, 1978. (118)

✓ *Dr. Jitendranath Sarkar* (1908-1986) in M.B. degree examination was crowned with success. In 1940 he was admitted to Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College. In 1940, he also obtained DTM. In 1952 he became associate member of Faculty of Homoeopathy, London. In 1953, he passed DRCOG examination from Royal College, London. In 1954, he passed DGO from Calcutta University. Thanks to his erudition, knowledge and sagacity in homoeopathy, he was bestowed on M.D. Homoeo (Hony.) in 1973 by Council of Homoeopathic Medicine West Bengal. During post-independent period, India Govt. formed Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy in 1969. Dr. J.N. Sarkar became Chairman. In this country and abroad, Dr. Sarkar had earned notable name as a homoeopathic practitioner. In 1986, July 13th, he breathed his last in Calcutta. (119)

✓ "*Dr. J.N. Kanjilal* (1909-1985) successfully earned M.B. degree in medical science in the year 1935 from Carmichael Medical College, now known as R.G.Kar Medical College in Calcutta. Though a graduate of modern medicine, he quickly saw the potential of homoeopathic philosophy and started homoeopathic practice from 1940. He started his practice in Calcutta in 1955 and soon established himself as one of the leading homoeopaths. He became the editor of 'The Hahnemannian Gleanings' in 1960 and held this post for long eighteen years and four months till December, 1978. He left the editorship of the journal only to accept the most important task of uniting the homoeopaths of the country which he succeeded by forming one national body, Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (HMAI). He devoted most of his time apart from his very large and busy practice, to the development of HMAI and its journal. As a teacher, a professional man and a scientific worker he excelled in every sphere. He took keen interest in the writings on homoeopathy and took active part in the Editors' Guild, which brought many homoeopaths together. He was assisted in this stupendous task by a very revered friend late Sankaran of Bombay. He was connected with various committees of the Govt. of India like, Committee for Central Research Institute in Homoeopathy, Scientific Advisory Board, Central Council for Research in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy. Task force (I.S.M.&H.) Planning Committee, Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee and various others. Dr. J.N. Kanjilal, the Doyen of homoeopathy in India, expired on the 11th of Mar. 1985." (120)

✓ *Dr. Jaikesh Mukherjee's* (1913-1998) contribution to the field of homoeopathic practice and homoeopathic movement can never be denied. His activities for the development of homoeopathy centered round 1) the movement of recognition of homoeopathic system of medicine and registration of homoeopathic practitioners, 2) the formation of West Bengal State Homoeopathic Faculty during the tenure of Fazlul Hoq. in 1943 and 3)

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formation of Council of Homoeopathic Medicine W.B. He died in 1998, Nov.20th. (121)

✓ *Dr. Biswanath Sengupta* (1928-1998), worthy son of the worthy father, Dr. Surendranath Sengupta, was a luminary in the firmament of homoeopathy. He was as illustrious a practitioner as a professor was like his father. His mode of lecture was so attractive that students thronged his class like crowd pouring in on interesting occasions. He never deviated from the ideal path of homoeopathy. Patients from far and wide mustered strong in his practising premises. He used to treat patients with sympathy, care, sweetness of word and behaviour and above all remedial measure. The present homoeopathic world lost a very sincere friend, philosopher and guide on the expiry of Dr. Sengupta on Sept. 3rd, 1998. (121)

✓ *Dr. Harimohan Choudhury* (1932-1990) did not go through any formal medical education from any medical institute. He was in one sense self-persevering, but he took extensive homoeopathic training from Dr. Chandra Kr. Khastagir of Chittagong, Dr. Khagenranath Daschoudhury and Dr. Zakir Hussain Choudhury. He secured registration in 1966 from Board of Homoeopathic System of Medicine, East Pakistan. Till 1976, he practised homoeopathy in Bangladesh. He then migrated to West Bengal and within a short time established himself as a distinguished homoeopathic practitioner. He wrote a number of homoeopathic books in Bengali language. He became famous by translating 'Organon of Medicine' of Hahnemann into Bengali. He erected a manufacturing company under the name of *Homoeopathic International*. The objective of this institute was to make 50 millisimal potency of homoeopathic medicine, easily available. He was relentless in pursuing Hahnemannian homoeopathy or homoeopathy in the true sense of the term. In 1990, this great physician died. (122)

✓ *Dr. Shanti Ranjan Saha* (1937-1997) passed DMS in 1959 from Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College. As a mark of credit he was awarded gold medal. In 1960 he had been to London for higher education in homoeopathy and in 1962, he was back home with the title D.F.Hom.(Lond.). Here he adopted teachership in Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College and started practising homoeopathy in his own private chamber. He established himself as teacher and practitioner in college and society with enviable success, dexterity, name and fame. Dr. S.R. Saha obtained highest honour 'Dhanwantari' in 1996. Dr. Saha remained in Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College as Head of 'Practice of Medicine' and as Vice-Principal of the college. He passed away at the age of 60 in Jan.10th, 1997. (123)

Needless to say that there were many celebrated homoeopaths who had great contribution to homoeopathy, but, for want of non-availability of

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their details of work, we could not accommodate them in this limited work for which unwilling lapse we beg to apologise.

Again there are dedicated physicians who illuminate the homoeopathic field. They are not included in our history because our history deals with the past. They may be legendary in their life but they have to cover more days in their life for which we pray.

A
SHORT HISTORY OF
DEVELOPMENT OF HOMOEOPATHY
IN
WEST BENGAL & BANGLADESH
(1810 - 1999)

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Volume II

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Chapter-1

History of Development of Homoeopathy in East Pakistan Since 1947 to 1971, before Bangladesh was born

On the midnight of the 15th August 1947 two independent states were born namely, Pakistan and India. Pakistan was located, one in Eastern part of India and another portion in Western part of India. The Eastern part was popularly known as East Pakistan, which though politically separated, was geographically, historically, ethnically, anthropologically and traditionally connected with Bengal of the British era. We now relate the status of Homoeopathy in the interim period between partition in 1947 and the eve of birth of Bangladesh in 1971.

Although the summum bonum of Homoeopathy was felt all the best far from the madding crowd in rural and remote Bengal for want of substitute arrangement of qualified allopaths at that time, the degree holders of homoeopathic doctors from affiliated institutions, were few and far between in East Pakistan.

As per demand and supply theory of Economics, homoeopathic colleges began to come into existence and operation was entirely, purely through individual and personal effort. Out of them the following colleges were worth mentioning.

- i) *Pakistan Homoeopathic Medical College* (Now, Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital) was set up by Dr. Abdul Majid and others in Dacca.
- ii) *East Pakistan Homoeopathic Medical College* (Now, Dr. Jakir Hausen Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital) was established by Dr. Jakir Hausen at Chattogram.
- iii) *Popular Homoeopathic Medical College* (At present renamed by Chattogram Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital) was opened by Saroyar Jaman at Chattogram.
- iv) *Rongpur Homoeopathic Medical College* formed by Dr. Ismail Khan.
- v) *Khulna Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital* instituted by Dr. D.B. Khan.
- vi) *Kurigram Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital* was founded by Dr. S.S. Husein.

Evidently, these institutions having not being affiliated and equipped with progressive processes, were of below standard and turned to be perverted to the extent of illegal centres for earning money and making the illiterate

mass victims of circumstances. The East Pakistan Government was not upto date for recent development in other countries and the Government turned a deaf ear to the appeal of the honest practitioners of homoeopathy. At the outset and apparently the movement for drawing gubernatorial attention failed in East Pakistan. However, no good work would go in vain. In Karachi '*The Pakistan Homoeopathic Federation*' was instituted in 1949 which was naturally and partly a result of movement in East Pakistan. On the 5th January in 1950, a Bill on Homoeopathy was raised by a member, Syed Nur Ahammad in the National Assembly of Pakistan and arrangement for public opinion, debate, referendum was made.

In 1950, Pakistan Government formed a '*Health Council*' for Homoeopathy. The two main charges which were handed over to the newly formed council were a) to find out the method of giving registration to the homoeopathic practitioners and b) to recommend a suitable syllabus for homoeopathic education to be followed by all homoeopathic medical colleges. The '*Health Council*' submitted its reports in October 1951.

In April 1951, '*Homoeopathic Practitioners' Bill*' was again raised by Pir Ali Akbar Shah in Sindhu Provincial Assembly. But Pakistan Government having procrastinated about accepting the Bill, the homoeopathic physicians formed '*Homoeopathic Practitioners' Association*' in 1957 for active movement. Owing to the effect of the strong agitation from homoeopathic fraternity, '*Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioners' Act, Karachi May 1957*' was accepted in the Pakistan Legislative Assembly in 1957 at the same time '*Board of Homoeopathic System of Medicine Pakistan*' was formed. Dr. Nurul Wahab of Dacca was elected the President and Dr. A.T. M. Moyajjam Hussein of Dacca, Dr. Ismaile Khan of Rongpur, Dr. Saroer Jaman of Chattogram were elected members to represent East Pakistan.

As a result of relentless agitation the possibility of Government grant and patronization on homoeopathy became bright. Unfortunately, democracy was deadened and military rule was imposed in Pakistan. Lt. Gen. Dr. A. G. Barki repealed the '*Homoeopathic Practitioners' Act*' and '*Homoeopathic Board*' in 1959.

Under these circumstances the homoeopathic physicians of East Pakistan organised '*East Pakistan Homoeopathic Medical Association*' and it was amalgamated with '*Pakistan Homoeopathic Medical Association*'. Dr. U.A. Pasha of Karachi and Dr. Saleha Choudhury of Dacca were elected the President and the General Secretary respectively.

In pursuit of a protracted propanganda, Choudhury Azizuddin, member of National Body, could be persuaded to prepare and place a Homoeopathic Bill. The revoked Act was evoked in the name of '*Unani*,

Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioners' Act 1965 on the 25th January 1965. 'Board of Homoeopathic System of Medicine' was reformed again after acceptance of the Act in 1965. The Central Office of the Board was located at 26, A.M. Sadar Karachi and the Regional Office of the Board was located in 15/A, Old Poltan Road, Dacca – 2. The Board after its formation undertook the task of giving registration to the practitioners.

Activities of Board formed in 1965 were as follows :

1. The Board announced that Registration would be granted to physicians who had been in homoeopathic practice at least from 01.01.1961, after the said physicians passed an examination held on the basis of abridged syllabus and text. in July and December of 1967 and in July of 1968.
2. This Board compiled '*The Homoeopathic Board of Regulation – 1967*'.
3. With a view to raising institutes of advance training and academic education, Board framed necessary conditions for giving affiliation to colleges. In 1966, thirty colleges applied to the Board for affiliation in East Pakistan. In the first stage, seven colleges out of thirty, received approval. A four-year D.H.M.S. Course started in the colleges. Eligibility for admission to such colleges was a pass of S.S.C. or equivalent certificate.
4. Board framed rules and regulations of Homoeopathy.
5. These colleges prepared text and syllabus.
6. Board made Code of Ethics in Homoeopathic treatment.
7. Board made Pakistan Homoeopathic Pharmacopoea.
8. Board formed a Committee to hold examination.
9. Board formed a Committee for recommendation and consideration of text materials and books thereof.
10. In 1968, Board sent delegates to International Homoeopathic Convention held in Rome, Italy.
11. Besides, the existing Committee of the Board made cogent recommendations to the Government in matters viz., Separate Directorate, Research Centre, Opening of Five year degree course and One year Post Graduate Course, Momentary grants for Homoeopathic Hospitals and Health Centres, Employment of Homoeopathic Doctors in Health Centres etc.

In 1968, the Committee of the Board of Homoeopathic System of Medicine was reconstituted. The new Committee prepared a list of registered homoeopathic practitioners. In addition the Board attempted to set up a research institute, homoeopathic hospitals and charitable dispensaries.

Chapter-2

Era of Homoeopathic Treatment and Progress thereof, Since the dawn of Bangladesh in 1971 to 1999.

Political map changed. East Pakistan ceased to exist. With the birth of Bangladesh in 1971 A.D. there was a booster on homoeopathic treatment in the agrarian, riparian and rural lands of Bangladesh, which were fertiled for homoeopathy. This remark is important, inasmuch as the nascent political country Bangladesh was then impervious to sofisticated allopathic surgery and medicine.

In 1972 '*Board of Homoeopathic System of Medicine*', Bangladesh was formed. Dr. Nurul Ohab was the first president of this Board.

Upto 1983. the Homoeopathic System of Medicine had been administered and controlled according to the '*Act of 1965*' of Pakistan regime in absence of new Act. But some additions and alterations of the Act were essential. The Homoeopathic Associations of Bangladesh had been demanding for '*Bangladesh Homoeopathic Act*' for many years. At last, on the 25th August, 1983, the President Hussein Mohammad Ersad got the Act passed as ordinance. It was known as '*The Bangladesh Homoeopathic Practitioners Ordinance, 1983*'.

By the order of the Government, the new Committee of the '*Board of Homoeopathic System of Medicine*' was constructed again according to the ordinance and this committee undertook the following charges :

- i) Attempt to uplift the standard of education in the affiliated homoeopathic colleges. Total number of affiliated institution in Bangladesh became *eighteen* in 1983. An arrangement of four year medical education and 6 months training as an interne was done in the affiliated colleges. After completion of the education the students were awarded D.H.M.S. (*Diploma in Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery*).
- ii) From 1978, Homoeopathic Degree Course (*Bachelor in Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery*) was run in Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College in Dhaka. Minimum qualification for admission to B.H.M.S. course was I.Sc. or its equivalent. After completion of five years' course, the students had to work as '*Interne*' in homoeopathic hospitals for one year as mandatory. The Board of Homoeopathic Medicine started condensed B.H.M.S. course for two years where only D.H.M.S. passed candidates were eligible for appearing at admission test.

- iii) An attempt of publishing '*Standard Homoeopathic Materia Medica*' was made by the joint venture of '*Bangla Academy of Dacca*' and '*Board of Homoeopathic Medicine*' in 1985.
- iv) From the academic session of 1984-85, the Board had introduced the rule of offering scholarship and prize to the talented and deserving students.
- v) In the year 1985, the Board prepared Code of Ethics of Homoeopathic treatment and Homoeopathic regulations – 1985. It was also announced that violation of Ethics would be a punishable offence.
- vi) By a circular on the 2nd November 1987 the Board prohibited practice of homoeopathy without registration number approved by the board.
- vii) From the March 1984, the Board began to publish a quarterly journal on Homoeopathy named, '*Bangladesh Homoeopathic Patrika*'.
- viii) Besides, the Board took steps to improve the standard of homoeopathic practice through homoeopathic conference, scientific seminars and exhibitions.
- ix) Homoeopathic Pharmaceutical Companies which were trading with drugs, not prepared according to homoeopathic principles became prohibited by a proclamation of the Board.
- x) The Board for the first time organised a scientific seminar and Hahnemann's Birth Anniversary Celebration on the 16th April 1984 in Dhaka.

On the 22nd February 1987, the office of the Board was shifted to 44 Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

Homoeopathic System of Medicine Development Project in Bangladesh

By the directive of President Ziaur Rahman, dated the 14th November, 1978, the Planning Commission of Bangladesh formed a committee with a convener relating to development of Homoeopathic System of Medicine in Bangladesh. In early 1980, two representative teams were sent to India and to West Germany for gathering sufficient experience on this matter. On the 22nd January 1981, '*The Homoeopathic System of Medicine Development Project*' was passed in the meeting of '*National Economic Council*' and in July 1981, a '*Project Committee*' with eight members was formed.

According to the recommendation of this committee, work of construction of a State Degree College, a Homoeopathic Hospital with

capacity of 100 beds in indoor department and a Homoeopathic Research Centre was started from December 1984.

Homoeopathic Drug Control Policy in Bangladesh

In 1982, Bangladesh Government by '*Drug Control Ordinance*' for the first time encompassed Homoeopathic Medicine (including Bio-chemic medicine) under '*Drug Administration*'. Drug policy of Homoeopathy, Unani and Ayurvedic Medicine was explained through two paragraphs of the booklet, named, '*Drug Policy of Bangladesh*'. In the same year (i.e., in 1982) an expert committee was formed for examining Homoeopathic, Unani and Ayurvedic Medicines. The report of this committee was sent to '*Drug Control*' department.

Hereafter, on the 9th January in 1984, '*Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Drug Control Policy*' was declared in an official gazette. Through this policy for the first time in Bangladesh it was publicly announced that preparation, importation, stocking, distribution, exhibition and sale of so-called and unauthorised homoeopathic drugs prepared against the homoeopathic principles described in Hahnemann's '*Organon of Medicine*' would be considered as a crime subject to punishment (vide Bangladesh Gazette, Ordinance No. XLI/1283). A National Advisory Board was formed with the Chairman, President Hussein Mohd. Ersad, the then President of Bangladesh, to help in practical implementation of '*National Drug Control Policy*'.

Appointment of a Homoeopathic Doctor to the President

The year 1985 was marked for special mention in the history of Homoeopathy in Bangladesh because in that year, a homoeopathic physician was appointed for the first time as honorary attending physician to the President of Bangladesh. Dr. M. Hossen was appointed in that post.

Development of Homoeopathy in Bangladesh since 1986 to 1999

In 1986, Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College was affiliated to Dhaka University and Dhaka University recognised B.H.M.S. Course.

In 1988, '*Homoeo-O-Desaja Chikitsa Paridaptar*' i.e.; Council for Homoeo and Indegenous System of Medicine was established and was included under Directorate of Health, Bangladesh Government. In 1989, Government Homoeopathic Degree College and Hospital was set up in Mirpur of Dhaka in purview of project for development of homoeopathic system of medicine. In 1992, the University gave affiliation to the college. The administration of the college is being controlled by Government Health

Directorate while the homoeopathic education system of the college is run by the Dhaka University.

In 1999, December 7th, this Government degree homoeopathic college is being looked after by the Revenue Department of the Bangladesh Government. This State homoeopathic degree college of Mirpur and Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College give B.H.M.S. degree. Duration of the degree course is five years. Eligibility of admission to the first year of the college for students is a pass from the science stream of S.S.C. and H.S.C. After passing the degree examination, students have to work as interne for one year. The State Homoeopathic Degree College and Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College have 100 bedded and 50 bedded hospitals respectively. Registration is given by the Council and Degree, by Dhaka University.

Since April 1997 "The Peoples' University of Bangladesh" gives training for one year course for HCH, i.e., Higher Certificate Course in homoeopathy to practitioners having the registration of DHMS. There has been advanced training course for degree holders. P.G.D., i.e., Post Graduate Diploma in homoeopathy is given to BHMS Degree holder after one year training course. M.D. i.e., Doctor of Medicine and M.Phil i.e., Master of Philosophy course are for two to three years and Ph.D i.e., Doctor of Philosophy is for two to three years for B.H.M.S. and PGD degree holders.

Since July, 1999, the project of H.P.S.P. was taken up under care, control, activity and plan of the Council of Homoeo and Indigenous System of Medicine. Plan to employ graduates of Homoeopathy, Unani and Ayurveda in the selected 45 district hospitals under this project. Upto 1999 A.D. 15 Unani and 15 Ayurvedic Graduates had been given employment. 15 Graduates in homoeopathy are in the waiting list of employment.

A Non Official exertion for cultivation of Homoeopathic Science and Homoeopathic Research work in Bangladesh

- A. *Homoeopathic documentation Centre* : It was founded by Dr. Habibur Rahaman at 15 No. Musalman Para Road, in Khulna City. A great collection of Homoeopathic books (both of foreign and local writers), Medical Journals, Souvenirs were preserved here. All types of Repertories (including Card Repertory) and Homoeopathic Computer were also available. Interested persons could utilise this centre for research work.
- B. *Exchange of thought through Homoeopathic Conference and Scientific Seminar* :- The different associations of Bangladesh arranged homoeopathic conferences and seminars time and again in different places to discuss various aspect of homoeopathic science and these

helped homoeopathic students and physicians in enriching their knowledge.

- C. *Homoeopathic Exhibition* :- Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad took a great role on this important subject. It organised many homoeopathic conferences and exhibitions in different places in Bangladesh as in Rajsahi (1974), Syllate (1975), Khulna (1974 & 1977), Chattogram (1982) and in Natore (1988). *Khulna Homoeopathic Medical College Museum* executed a wonderful exhibition in 1976 and in 1977 in Khulna. In 1978, another exhibition was performed in Chattogram by this Museum in co-operation with Chattogram Homoeopathic College Union. Bangladesh National Homoeopathic Medical Union introduced *National Homoeopathic Exhibition* in 1978 in Dhaka. The second National Homoeopathic Exhibition was also held in Dhaka in 1979.
- D. Besides, by the personal enthusiasm of some Homoeopaths of Bangladesh, several small groups were formed at the period between 1985 and 1987 at different places of Bangladesh for Homoeopathic Culture, Research work, Treatment of suffering people by homoeopathic medicine etc. they were as follows :-
- i) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Centre* – It was established in Dhaka in 1985. Dr. Bdrul Alam was its Chairman.
 - ii) *Dhaka Homoeo Club* – It was formed at MogBazar, Dhaka by the Presidency of Dr. Abdul Malek.
 - iii) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical Club* – It was born in August 1987 in Dhaka. The first convener was Dr. S.M. Latfar Rahaman.
 - iv) *Homoeo Research Centre* : - Dr. Siraj Kaji established at Khilgaon Railgate in Dhaka.
 - v) *Homoeo Care* – Organised by Dr. Amaresh Das in Chattogram.

Homoeopathic Organisations in Bangladesh

Thanks to drought of unity of thought, action and purpose among homoeopathic practitioners in Bangladesh, the progress of homoeopathy could not gather momentum and yield result. And integrated organisation was a must to persuade Government to accord necessary help in this connection. Such an integrated organisation was not in sight. Nevertheless, some organisations at different places and periods unfolded their umbrellas, out of which, mention might be made for the following ones :-

- i) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad*
- ii) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical Society*
- iii) *D.H.M.S. Chikitsak Samity*
- iv) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical Association*
- v) *Homoeopathic Medical Chhatra Aikya Parisad*

- vi) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Federation*
- vii) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Chikitsak Samity.*

History of Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad

During the regime of East Pakistan, in 1965, Homoeopathic Act was passed. This Act elicited impetus among the homoeopathic practitioners, because Pakistan Homoeopathic Board arranged granting registration to physicians. The registered practitioners felt necessary to unite and submit charter of demand to the Government to enhance the condition of homoeopathy. Demand began to come to circulation through monthly magazine, namely, '*Saswati*' and '*Homoeo Digest*', published by Dr. Amal Chandra Sen and through monthly journal '*Samabidhan*', published by Dr. Harimohan Choudhury. There was no such organisation as to voice the country-wide requirement and make the demand audible to the Government. Under these circumstances, some idealist homoeopathic physicians tried to form a bigger organisation in East Pakistan and convened a meeting in J.M. Sen Hall on the 22nd March 1970 in Chittagong. As a course of the meeting, '*Purba Pakistan Sadrisha Bidhan Parisad*' was formed. Dr. Abdul Malek, a Syllatian, who was a revered member to the *Board of Homoeopathy of Pakistan* was elected the President of the Parisad. Dr. Harimohan Choudhury of Chittagong was elected General Secretary. In 1971, when a new political country in the name of Bangladesh was born, '*Purba Pakistan Sadrisha Bidhan Parisad*' was renamed as '*Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad*'. This Parisad ushered policy for drafting codes of homoeopathic practice following homoeopathic principles and also constructed a policy for homoeopathic drug preparation in accordance with homoeopathic principle. As a result of movement by Parisad, in 1974, for the first time in Bangladesh the Board prohibited advertising patent homoeopathic ready-made medicines for sale and use.

Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad on one hand insisted on Parisad's submitting charter of demands from time to time to the Govt. and on the other hand, making attempts to uprise standard of homoeopathic practice and to extend it geographically. The Parisad formed central and district committees established a good number of charitable dispensaries in different places of Bangladesh. The Parisad also organised Scientific Seminars and exhibitions now and then. Through these activities of *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad*, the qualitative changes of practitioners set in. The Parisad Celebrated its 12th foundation day in 1982 in Chattagram and arranged Science Congress, Medicinal Exhibitions and allied items in the above said ceremony.

Thanks to continued movement by *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Parisad*, in 1983, Homoeopathic Ordinance was passed and was established

Bangladesh Homoeopathic Board which played a heroic role in the movemnet of homoeopathic education in Bangladesh.

Homoeopathic Journals In Bangladesh

In different times many magazines were edited, printed and published by famous physicians. Out them, publication of a good number ceased. A list of periodicals published upto 1988 in East Pakistan and Bangladesh is given below :-

- i) *Saswati* – published from Chittagong; First Editor – Dr. Amal Ch. Sen.
- ii) *Homoeopath* – Edited by Dr. M.M. Haque.
- iii) *Homoeopathy* – Edited by Dr. Sadhan Sil and Published from Dhaka.
- iv) *Paribarik Chikitsa* – Published from The Homoeopathic Publishing Co. Majjdi Court, Noakhali. Editor – Dr. Abu Hausen Sarkar.
- v) *Bahubrihi* – Edited by Dr. Jahirul Islam and published from Dhaka.
- vi) *Chirantani* – Published from Kar Homoeopathic Laboratory, Chattogram.
- vii) *Samabidhan* – Published from Kox Bazar, Chattogram. Chief Editor was Dr. Harimohan Choudhury.
- viii) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Patrika* – Published by Bangladesh Homoeopathic Board in March, 1984. Editor was Dr. Jahirul Islam.
- ix) *Homoeo Darpan* – Edited by Dr. M.A. Halim and published from 15/1, North Basabo, Dhaka – 14.

Homoeopathic Colleges in Bangladesh

Upto 1999, there have been 29 homoeopathic colleges approved by *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Board*. In these coleges, four year D.H.M.S., i.e., *Diploma in Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery* is being taught. After completion of training, a compulsory internship is to be taken in college hospitals. *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Board* controls giving registration, certificate, arranging for syllabus, training and grading criterion of practice.

In addition to above , Dhaka University of Bangladesh, has arranged degree course of homoeopathy in two colleges. The names and addresses of these colleges are :- (1) *State Homoeopathic Degree College and Hospital*, Mirpur –14, Dhaka. (2) *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College*, 46/2, Toyenbee Circular road, Dhaka. In these two colleges B.H.M.S. degree is conferred upon after passing a five year course examination and completing a one year internship. Criterion for eligibility of admission to homoeopathic degree college is SSC and HSC in Science Stream. B.H.M.S. Registration is given by *Council of Homoeo and Indigenous System of Medicine*. B.H.M.S. degree '*Sanad*' is given by Dhaka University.

A list of names and address of homoeopathic colleges affiliated by Bangladesh Homoeopathic Board is given below :-

1. *Homoeopathic medical College*, Shere Bangla Road, Galla Mari, Khulna.
2. *Apex Homoeopathic Medical College*, Gorachand Road, Battala, Barishal.
3. *Lions Homoeopathic Medical College*, Post & Dist:- Bhola.
4. *Jashore Homoeopathic Medical College*, Rabindranath road, Jashore.
5. *Kushthia Homoeopathic Medical College*, Court Para Road, Kushtia.
6. *Zakir Haussen Homoeopathic Medical College*, 12, Sadarghat Road, Chattogram.
7. *Jalalabad Homoeopathic Medical College*, Mirga, Jangal, Silet.
8. *Hahnemann Homoeopathic Medical College*, Mogoltuli, Kumilla.
9. *Brahman Baria Homoeopathic Medical College*, Kajipara, Darga Sharief, Brahman Baria.
10. *Bangladesh Homoeopathic Medical College*, 46/2, Toyenbee Circular Road, Dhaka.
11. *Federal Homoeopathic Medical College*, No.1, Sadarghat Road, Dhaka.
12. *Tanjim Homoeopathic Medical College*, 55, S.M. Chhaleh Road, Tanbazar, Narayanganj.
13. *Sarisabari Homoeopathic Medical College*, P.O. Sarisabari, Jamalpur.
14. *Mayman Singha Homoeopathic Medical College*, Sijura, P.O. & Dist:- Maymansingh
15. *Rajsahi Homoeopathic Medical College*, Miyapara, P.O. Ghoramara, Rajsahi.
16. *Pabna Homoeopathic Medical College*, Tarek Pramanik Road, Shalgaria, Pabna.
17. *Syedpur Homoeopathic Medical College*, P.O. Syedpur, Dist:- Nilphamari.
18. *Dinajpur Homoeopathic Medical College*, Suihari, P.O. & Dist:- Dinajpur.
19. *Rangpur Homoeopathic Medical College*, G.M.C. Road, P.O. Alamnagar, Dist:- Rangpur.
20. *Nilphamari Homoeopathic Medical College*, P.O. & Dist:- Nilphamari.
21. *Natore Homoeopathic Medical College*, P.O. & Dist:- Natore.
22. *State Homoeopathic Medical College*, Mirpur -14, Dhaka.

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