

AN ADDRESS*

DR. JUGAL KISHORE, B.Sc., D.M.S., New Delhi

Respected Mehar Chand Khanna ji, Lala Jaggan Nath ji and friends,

To-day is perhaps the most important day for all of us ; for all of those who are interested in Homœopathy as we are going to make history.

Exactly 150 years ago in the year 1812 towards the end of June, Dr. Samuel Christian Hahnemann started "Medical Institute" in Leipsic after delivering a learned dissertation on the Helleborism of the Ancients. It was manned by one man and he used to lecture on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 to 3 P.M. This was the first institution for teaching Homœopathy in the world. Soon he gathered round him a group of devoted and zealous students who helped in the great and historical task of provings. The result was the monumental work of "Materia Medica Pura". This was the real brick and structure of the edifice of Homœopathy. This band of faithful disciples lived near him and breathed in the atmosphere of pure Homœopathy.

It was, however, in 1833 that we find the first Homœopathic Hospital came into existence in Leipsic in Germany. Thus, a fond wish of the great teacher was fulfilled. About this time in America Homœopathy had taken root and in that virgin soil it flourished more vigorously than in the country of its birth. Here one Dr. Hans Burch Gram was the pioneer of Homœopathy as he was the first to settle down in New York in 1825 and start practising homœopathy. The first teaching institution, as a matter of fact, the first of its kind in the world was the famous but short-lived the "Allen-town Academy" in the state of Pennsylvania. It was founded by stalwarts like

* Speech delivered on the occasion of the inauguration of the building operations of the Nehru Homœopathic Hospital and Colleges on 24th May, 1962.

Hering and Wessellhoft in the year 1835 (i.e. two years after the Leipsic Hospital). It was actually named as the North American Academy of the Homœopathic Healing Art. It did not flourish long because of many causes but principally because of the use of German language as the medium of instruction in an area which was English speaking. The pioneers, however, set up high standards of teaching as well as of examination. Several text books were written and others translated from German. It is very interesting to note the list of subjects to be taught there. The constitution of the Academy provided for a thorough course of studies medical and otherwise. "The literary Institution according to the express design of its founders shall be as comprehensive in its operation as possible and will embrace the following branches of study as indispensable to the complete education of the physician—viz., clinical instruction; examination of the sick; and semeiotics; pharmacodynamics; materia medica; pharmaceutics and medical botany; dietics; special therapeutics; surgery and obstetrics; medical jurisprudence; general therapeutics; symptomatology and human pathology; physiology and comparative anatomy; zoology; phytology; minerology; chemistry; physics; geology; astronomy and mathematics; history of medicine and natural sciences; Greek, Latin and German languages as preparatory studies."

This list of subjects speaks for itself and emphasises the need for turning out complete physicians. This Allen-town Academy was followed by the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which later on became the present Hahnemann Medical College. Within a short time quite a number of Homœopathic Colleges and hospitals came into being all over America.

Homœopathy was born in Germany; it flourished, matured and later declined in America but it is in India that it is undergoing renaissance. Until recently only Calcutta was the Centre of Homœopathic education but since independence there have sprung up a number of Homœopathic Colleges and Hospitals in different states of our Union e.g., U.P., West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar, Andhra, Bombay. Only most recently on 20th of June,

the opening ceremony of the building of the Bombay Homœopathic Medical College was to be performed by the Union Health Minister, but it was postponed due to some other urgent engagement of the Minister. All along we in Delhi have been waiting for to-day so that we could also start a really first rate homœopathic hospital and college. Towards that end, you all know that Dr. Yudhvir Singh Homœopathic Charitable Trust has been trying for the past fifteen years to obtain a suitable plot of land from the Government. Our attempts were marked by a series of tragic disappointments but through the continued efforts of the Trust and Dr. Yudhvir Singhji, the present piece of land was granted. We are happy that we have at least a small corner where we can develop our institutions according to our genius. But we must remember that we have to raise an institution which should be the model for the rest of the country; I am pained to say that this plot of 2.19 acres falls far short of the programme we are aiming at. During the various meetings of the Trust regarding the plans etc. of the hospital and college where I was kindly invited we discovered that there was hardly any room for the housing of certain departments and stores and no scope for future growth of either hospital or college. A good homœopathic college in modern times must have its own herbarium and a land for growing some of the medicinal plants and facilities for demonstrating medicinal plants and preparation of tinctures etc. On behalf of the profession I request all the people concerned to try for more land close by. I am sure that all of you will join with me in requesting Shri Khannaji in helping us in our difficulty. If he takes up our cause, the solution will not be far away. The coming generations will be grateful if we could right the wrong now and build the premier institution in Delhi. We have fortunately a good nucleus of homœopathic physicians for the purpose of manning the hospital and college and given the proper opportunities, we are confident that we could make it even the international centre. Apart from teaching we could develop a central research centre for which the Union Government is willing to contribute large sums. In view of all this we should see that we rise equal to the occasion and build a befitting institu-

tion. In the capital we are starting rather late in that direction but let us make up the time lost.

In the end I request all the members of the profession and all those who are interested in the development of Homœopathy to make a united and really a big effort in raising funds for this infant institution. We have to contribute in every way. This way only we make history, otherwise the posterity will condemn us for all times to come.

HOMŒOPATHIC NEWS

WEST BENGAL STATE HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE (2ND SESSION)

The West Bengal State Homœopathic Co-ordination Committee has decided to hold the 2nd Session of the West Bengal State Homœopathic Practitioners' Conference in Calcutta in the last week of December 1962. All the Homœopaths (Registered or not) and sympathisers are earnestly requested to enlist their names as Reception Committee Members (with Rs. 10.00), or Delegates (only Homœopaths, Fee Rs. 3.00), or Visitors (fee Re. 1:00). All letters or remittances are to be sent to Dr. J. N. Kanjilal, M.B., D.M.S., Convenor, W.B.S.H.P. Conference, 87, Dharamtala Street, Calcutta-13 (Phone 24-3773).
