

CURRENT TOPICS

Reports and comments of the leading news-papers on the meeting of the 12 man Committee on Homœopathy appointed by West Bengal Government held on 20th June 1961, in the Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. C. Roy, have created some confusion which requires clarification.

1. *Teaching of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, etc. to Homœopathic Students:*

(a) The learned news-paper-men were expected to be aware of the well-known fact that not only Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology but also Practice of Medicine, Surgery, Gynæcology and Obstetrics, and even Hygiene and Jurisprudence have all along been taught to a more or less extent in all the main Homœopathic teaching institutions; and this applies especially after the establishment of the State Homœopathic Faculty (18 years), which cannot affiliate any institution not teaching those subjects according to a prescribed syllabus, which approximates the old L. M. F. standard.

(b) The Chief Minister Dr. B. C. Roy, who is the Chairman of the Committee on Homœopathy is also quite aware that these subjects are taught in the affiliated institutions. In the first meeting of this Committee (on 21st April, 1959) he along with the Health Minister Dr. A. B. Roy scrutinised the syllabus of the Homœopathic State Faculty, as well as the question papers of two years' examination held by it; and both of them were satisfied with the standard of the same. (*Vide*—item No. 6 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Homœopathy held in the Chief Minister's room in the Writers' Buildings on 29th April 1959, duly signed by Dr. B. C. Roy as the Chairman).

It is a great wonder that the same Chief Minister in the second meeting of the same Committee held on 20th June 1961, with the declared purpose of finalizing the consideration of a Homœopathic Bill, abruptly made the pre-condition of teaching these subjects before a Homœopathic Bill could be con-

sidered or rather made a hopelessly lame plea for deferring the Bill as much as was possible in his utmost capacity.

We do not mean that there is no scope or necessity of improving the standard of education in these subjects. But the plan reported to be suggested by the Chief Minister, of entrusting any one of the institutions for teaching Anatomy and Physiology is, in our opinion pregnant with great danger for Homœopathy causing great inconvenience to the students, and jeopardizing the interest of the various teaching institutions thus creating great confusion and disruption in the Homœopathic Society. If the Chief Minister really and sincerely wants to do good to Homœopathy he may be pleased to establish a State-sponsored higher-grade Homœopathic institution, teaching all the above mentioned subjects including and on the basis of Homœopathic Philosophy and Materia Medica; at the same time to grant aids to the existing affiliated institutions teaching diploma course so that they can improve their standard of teaching.

2. *Adoption of a different method of approach*—Dr. B. C. Roy is reported to have urged upon the authorities of the four affiliated Homœopathic Colleges "to adopt a different method of approach to this (Homœopathic—J.K.) branch of medical science" (vide *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated 21st June, 1961). This view appears fallacious, if not malicious purporting to kill Homœopathy altogether. Homœopathy has its own approach to the Medical Science as a whole, and there cannot be any question of change of approach consistent with the life and spirit of Homœopathy.

The basic difference in approach between Homœopathy and the dominant School is that, in the latter the therapeutics is based on the facts of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology whereas, in the former the therapeutics is based on *the totality of symptoms of the whole Psychosomatic individual*. For a Homœopath knowledge in these subjects is indispensable not for basing his therapeutics, but for understanding the basis of the symptoms, and their relation to each other and to the whole individual patient. Of course, their necessity for pathological diagnosis, prognosis and general management of a case of

disease is common to all schools of physicians. So it is not a fact as some people think that these subjects are redundant or non-essential for Homœopathy, but its approach and attitude towards them are radically different.

Dr. B. C. Roy is further reported (ibid) to have opined that, "before the question of rights and privileges could arise, Homœopathic Practitioners should have acquired knowledge and skill in the modern practice of Medicine". This seems equivalent to saying "You will be given citizenship of India after you have acquired the knowledge and skill of Hindu religious rites ; or of Pakistan after you have mastered the Muslim religious rites."

J. N. K.

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