

HOMŒOPATHY IN MEXICO

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(Translated by James A. Gilboy from L'Homœopathie Francaise)

It was towards 1850 that homœopathy had its beginning in Mexico, where it was introduced by two Catalonian doctors : Andrade y Baz (1849) and Ramon Comellas (1850).

In 1885, by governmental decree of President of the Republic, General Porfirio Diaz, homœopathy was officially recognized. Mexico was the first country in the world and its Government the first to accord official recognition to Hahnemann's medical system.

In 1895 the Government founded the National School of Homœopathic Medicine where complete courses of study were made for the career of homœopathic physician, surgeon and obstetrician. This school functioned without interruption up to 1921, in which year it was closed and was incorporated nominally with the Medical School of the National University of that time. This measure was a veritable act of assassination on the part of the allopathic element influential in national affairs, since in effect the homœopathic school disappeared in the incorporation as did the homœopathic teachings.

In the same year of 1895, President Diaz founded the National Homœopathic Hospital, which still exists. Connected with the establishment of this hospital in fact, as well as from the financial standpoint, is the name of Dr. Joaquin Segura y Pesado, a converted allopath and one of the pioneers of homœopathy in Mexico.

In 1912 the Free School of Homœopathy was founded by Dr. Higinio G. Perez, the greatest apostle of Mexican homœopathy, a cause to which he devoted his knowledge, his fortune and even his life. Emanated from the social doctrines of the Mexican Revolution, the Free School was consecrated by the Constitution of the Republic in 1917.

Victimized for a time by the persecutions of the official

element, the Free School was again consecrated in 1929 by the regulatory law of university autonomy and the regulatory law for free schools of university type. Thus the Free School, sovereign in its self-government and constantly progressing, has operated without interruption for 45 years and represents the most inspiring victory for human freedom in the field of medical education and for financial independence, guaranteed by the Government. We believe the school to be unique in the world since, by its time-table of classes, it serves essentially those students of the laboring class who are willing to sacrifice their lesiure hours to study for a professional career. In this sense, I repeat, it is unique.

The Free School is located in a large property belonging to it and has a hospital annex with laboratories, dissection amphitheatre, clinics, dispensaries and other modern facilities provided by the vigilant support and supervision of the government under the terms of the law. Professional degrees and diplomas conferred by the School are validated by a governmental body, are registered in the General Directory of the Professions and are accorded the same social and legal status as the degrees conferred by universities and the official schools.

Besides the career of homœopathic physician, surgeon and obstretician, the Free School offers courses in homœopathic nursing and midwifery and is the only school in Mexico offering such courses.

In 1902, the Government created the National Polytechnical Institute. Among the disciplines and schools included in this institute was the present National Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, a national school which offers courses for the career of homœopathic medicine, surgery and obstetrics. This school is an organ of the Secretariat of Public Education and the practical work of its students is done in the National Homœopathic Hospital mentioned above.

Thus, homœopathy in Mexico has been consecrated by the laws of 1895, 1929, 1932. It enjoys a completely legal position, and incontestible rights acquired through more than a century of activity. At present, two facilities of homœopathic medicine are functioning; the National Faculty, educational organism of

the State, and that of the Free School authorized by laws and decrees for its educational function.

There are three homœopathic hospitals : the National Homœopathic Hospital, the Sanatorium Hospital of Dr. Higinio G. Perez which is an annex of the Free School, and the privately endowed Hospital of Las Animas for internal medicine.

More than 1500 homœopaths are practicing in Mexico. There are more than 100 pharmaceutical establishments, five important drug businesses with representation of such foreign firms as Boericke & Tafel, Luyties, Wilmar Schwalbe, Humphreys, etc.

There are Academies of Professors in the two schools. The Secretariat of Health and Public Assistance has a bureau which handles all matters concerning homœopathy. There is a Society of Homœopathic Surgeons, another of Ophthalmologists, others of Hospital Physicians, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Materia Medica and Experimentation, of Re-experimentation and Scientific Expansion.

There are two professional associations having the character of corporative unions as required by the laws in force, and they are connected with the General Direction of the Professions of the government, which controls all professional activities in the country.

The schools give courses for post-graduates. The course in ophthalmology given by the Free School is presently being terminated.

A great number of homœopathic physicians practice outside of the national capital and there are regional homœopathic societies, such as the Central, the State of Jalisco, the State of Nueva Leon, and the South West.

Experimental work in Mexico has been done on, among others, the following medicaments : Tabardillo grass, Tullidora, Yumel, Tobacco, Antipyrin, Penicillin, Peyote (medicinal cactus plant of Mexico), Espinosilla, Cataplasms of Tabardillo, Rajania, Turpentine, Adrenalin, Artichoke, etc.

More than 75 medical works have been translated from foreign languages, many from French writers, such as Leon Vannier, Charrette, Tetau, Chiron; and from the English ; Farrington, Royal, Nash, Pierce, etc.

More than 15 original texts have been written, the most important include : Garcia Trevino, *Materia Medica* ; Escobar, *Lessons of Ophthalmology* ; Lezama, *Materia Medica* ; Sandoval, *Pharmacopoeia* ; Romero, *Dermatology* ; Medina, *Diseases of Children, Homœopathic Doctrine* ; Lara dela Rosa, *Repertory, Course in Homœopathy* ; Perez, *Organon, General Pathology, Medical Philosophy*.

Three decorations are awarded for outstanding work in homœopathy : the Palms of Hahnemann, the Association Medal, and the For Merit medal of the Free School.

There are four laboratories for pharmaceutical products, more than 10 private sanatoria, and in the capital alone there are more than 800 consultation rooms.

An international convention was held in Mexico in 1929 ; three Pan-American congresses in 1935, 1950, 1956 ; and three national conventions ; 1943, 1948, 1954.

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RICHARD HUGHES TODAY

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is partial and extreme of which you may cure us. If only with this motive, take, we beg you, our homœopathy, and throw it into your crucible. We know what wealth of gold will come out ; and then we hope for it to go on accumulating, far faster than in our feeble hands. What medicine might become in ten years, if only the profession at large would test homœopathy as it deserves, is a dream almost too bright to dwell upon."

(To be continued)

—*The British Homœopathic Journal, Jan., '58*
