

## AN ADDRESS\*

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you this evening, meeting as we do to celebrate the Master's Birthday.

I am very conscious of my short-comings which become more pronounced when I see many here who have an older hold on Homœopathy than I can profess. But I can assure you that few will surpass me in the zeal I possess to advocate the cause of Homœopathy.

Homœopathy is a great art of healing the sick. It is very quick gentle and lasting in its action. The quantity required is infinitesimal and the dose infrequent. Despite these wonderful attributes, it has not gained a befitting place amongst the modern arts of healing. Certainly, the fault lies with those who profess and practice it and not with the Science or its antagonists. Most of the antagonists have little knowledge of the Homœopathic philosophy, and the laws governing it. I have seen some very strong diehards softening, when confronted with their failure, which turned into a successful culmination of the disease with a few small sweet pills.

Very recently Sir David Campbell, the President of the General Medical Council, London, remarked that "it is only natural that sufferers from a chronic disease, for which there is no real cure, should turn to the amateurs—the Homœopaths, Osteopaths and so on". He also defines the word "Quacks". He says "We prefer to call them 'Quacks'—un-registered practitioners". On analysing his statement one meets with three conditions :

- (i) that there is no real cure for sufferers from chronic disease in allopathy.
- (ii) Since allopathy cannot do much for such cases, they have to go to amateurs and quacks and

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(iii) A Quack is one who is not registered.

Registration gives protection against quackery, rather covers it. No one calls the registered practitioners "Quacks" though they may practice more quackery. Look at their prescriptions; just see their reckless indulgence in antibiotics and sulphas, and injections where they are often unnecessary, unindicated, so forth and so on. Is that not quackery?

It is a great pity that the word 'Homœopathy' has become synonymous with quackery. Whatsoever may be your success, you cannot be accepted. The public may praise your cures and you may have personal satisfaction also, but you cannot make any mark or gain any ground. Believe it or not, the fault lies with the Homœopaths themselves, as they do not have a registerable qualification. So Gentlemen, the first and foremost step that we have to take, is to find out ways and means to remove this stigma. The Originator of Homœopathy was a highly qualified and versatile physician; but unfortunately many of his followers have been unqualified. Hahnemann found the law of cure and wrote the organon but little did he know that his valuable researches will have to lie unappreciated and that his followers will only remain quacks, as the principles had got grafted on an unqualified basis. We must see that the education in Homœopathy is put on an academic basis,—a regular course of studies of an equally high-standard as of the predominant School of Medicine. The only difference lies in the philosophy, materia medica and the approach in the therapeutics of Homœopathy. All the rest have got to be the same and are as much required in Homœopathy as in the other.

Coming back to this very important problem of academic education a very pertinent question arises: What are we doing in this sphere? What steps are we taking to place Homœopathy on a pedestal befitting its merits? I have already said that the only remedy for the "Ailing Homœopathy" lies in the opening of proper and regular educational Institutions and Hospitals where Homœopathy is taught and practised; Homœopathic Pharmaceutical departments where the genuineness of the Homœopathic drugs is tested, and departments of Pharmacodynamics where their actions are investigated, proved and re-

proved, so forth and so on. It is indeed a colossal affair. Our thoughts are at once brought to grips with our resources both man and material. We know very well that the Authorities have no sympathy for us. We must put hard work ourselves. Unanimity of action is most essential. It has got to be our personal concerted effort. We must do the initial sacrifices. Help will come in. Some months ago, in Delhi in one of its dailies, it was given out that the hotel attendants were opening educational institutions for their children on mutual contributions. If they could do that, certainly, we do enjoy a better status and we could do lots better. A con-joint and a co-operative effort is just the thing needed.

Now, we must consider some of the facts which have been prevalent so long and have brought Homœopathy the epithet of quackery. One of the foremost is the off-time practitioner, mostly a layman, often-times uneducated. As there had been no check, any one could adopt it as a profession. It cannot be denied that the lay and offtime practitioners have kept it alive and going; but nevertheless have brought it down and killed its prestige as a medical science. It cannot also be denied that some such practitioners have taken it to great heights and position of pride. We should make every effort to educate and bring up such practitioners as are already in the profession and check further entrants. The postal Institutions, diploma sellers etc., have been the worst enemies of Homœopathy. We must make every effort to stop and counter these pernicious advertisements. Our Associations should set apart some funds to educate the public.

The edifice of Homœopathic education has got to be built up on sound basis. It is very salutary that Board of Homœopathic Education have been created. They should work actively and spare no pains to bring about improvements. It is high time a Conference of selected, experienced and highgrade Homœopaths from different parts of the country is called and a common curriculum and a common policy in Homœopathic education is set up.

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