

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that we are placing the third issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* in the hands of our readers. It is gratifying to note that Homoeo scientists are evincing keen interest in the Bulletin. Though the circulation is restricted to official channels, yet the individual scientist who receives the Bulletin expresses his satisfaction at the same; the Bulletin aims at not only high-lighting the activities of the council but also summarising the research activities of this important and useful branch of medicine in other parts of the world.

A special feature of this issue is incorporation of important researches on *medicinal and aromatic plants* all over the world. The choice has been confined to those plants/plant products which have been in use in Homoeopathy since long and which have established themselves in this field. It is a happy augury that research in medicinal plants has become an important programme of research in modern medicine. The result is bound to be beneficial to all; it will amount to integrating the scientific efforts of all the branches of medicine as well as applied and related sciences, which will further enhance acceptability of this useful system which causes cure without producing concomitant toxic symptoms; also standardisation of plant products used in Homoeopathy will be achieved by introducing modern techniques in the process.

It will not be out of place to mention that the scientific data received from Homoeo scientists engaged in Clinical, Drug Proving and Literary Research in the different units/institutes is not adequate for publication in the Bulletin.

The Chairman of CCH and Director CCR(H) have, time and again, emphasised the need for standardising methodology and parameters in Homoeopathic research. Detailed instructions to this effect are laid down in the meetings of the

Scientific Advisory Committee. Clinical trials and Drug Proving require persistent follow up action with large number of cases which may pass the test of statistical analysis. This approach is bound to increase the popularity of this cheap and acceptable branch of medicine which deserves free and fair trial by all concerned.

By consensus, it has been decided to upgrade the Bulletin to the status of a journal. Cooperation from Homoeo scientists engaged in the different aspects of research in the field will make the process easy and quick. We take this opportunity of requesting all in extending the utmost cooperation in achieving our goal and rendering the best service to our devoted readers.

(Dr. J. N. Tayal)

1. News

Meeting of the Governing body :

The second meeting of the Governing body of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy was held on 9th July, 1979 at 11 a.m. in Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Shri Rabi Ray, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The Minister stressed the importance and need for research and innovations in homoeopathy. He felt that Homoeopathy has mass acceptance as well as accessibility. He was of the opinion that better and effective dissemination of knowledge acquired by research on scientific lines by the Council are needed.

1.1 Journal of Research in Homoeopathy :—

The members felt that for better dissemination of the research findings the Council should publish a Journal of Research in Homoeopathy. It was informed that the Quarterly Bulletin will develop in due course of time as a Journal.

1.2 Resume of the scientific activities of the Council :—

The member-secretary informed the Governing Body about the on-going activities pertaining to different schemes. Dr. Jugal Kishore, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Dr. M.M.S. Ahuja Head of the Department of Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, spoke about the achievements of the Council and expressed that good and commendable work was being done by the Council. The Hon'ble Minister enquired about the work being done on the antifertility action of homoeopathic drugs, and was informed that the unit of the Banaras Hindu University had successfully demonstrated antifertility action of Pulsatilla and Caulophyllum on rats/mice.

It was also informed that Research papers on the Project have been published in India and abroad. In the course of deliberations the work done at the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory and Publication of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia were appreciated and the members felt that better publicity, especially through publication is required about the work being done in Homoeopathy. There was also general agreement that general lectures be prepared on Homoeopathy which could be delivered or distributed to the students of modern medicine.

2. Mushrooms

In the last Bulletin an identification of *Agricus muscarius* was reported which has brought about a clear cut methodology of distinction of mushrooms used in the Homoeopathy and other systems. Recently, a new edible mushroom had been reported from plains of U.P. by National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. They have presented a record of such mushroom varieties and have claimed protein and amino acids as high as; lysine 7.2 percent with other essential amino acids plus water soluble proteins (24.2 percent). It reminds of the introduction of *Lecithin* in Homoeo, which is known to have a favourable influence upon the nutritive condition and especially upon the blood and hence its use in anaemia and convalescence, neurasthenia and

insomnia. It is an excellent galatagog, renders milk more nourishing and increases quantity.

This may be of interest to scientific workers of Council engaged in the preservation and maintenance of plants.

3. Herbarium Techniques

[Prepared on the basis of NBRI reporting. The technique has been taken from HPL and others working in Homoeopathic Drugs.]

3.1 The Herbarium—Its role in Botanical research.

Herbarium as redefined can be static, serving as depositories of historical collections and that offer documentation, supplement the limits of direct observation and serve as an aid in plant identification. However, unless herbaria assume a dynamic role in ongoing research they are, in most cases, bound to stagnate. This dynamic role will, to a large extent, depend on the type of herbarium as well as on the scientific thrust of the institution of which it forms a part.

Herbaria can be grouped under four categories :—

- (a) International—with a world wide taxonomic coverage.
- (b) National—covering the vegetation within national boundaries, as also pertinent elements from neighbouring areas.
- (c) Regional—reflecting the vegetation of well-defined region, and
- (d) Specialised—representing particular groups or types of plants.

The staff of the Herbarium and Taxonomy Division should have its own well-planned programme in floristics, taxonomy and plant introduction with an emphasis on non-agricultural economic and ornamental plants. As far as possible, it would be good to avoid duplication with others in net of co-operation or in vicinity.

The staff of the Herbarium should be closely involved with the other departments offering information and plant material and securing voucher