

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