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EDITORIAL

THE E. S. I. AND OTHER SCHEMES VIS-A-VIS HOMŒOPATHY

It is a good thing that the Central Government as well as the various State Governments of India are taking more and more active interest in the matter of health and treatment of the people, by enforcing the various medical and health schemes with gradually increasing speed. But in proceeding with such all-pervading vital matters, involving various problems—economic, social, democratic, etc—Apart, of course, from the basic problems of the strength and distribution of the medical personnel, equipments and institutions of our vast country with teeming population and extremely low living standard, the authorities should move very cautiously, alertly and sympathetically, taking into consideration, at every step, all these problems, completely free from all prejudices and preconceived or borrowed notions.

Homœopathy is thriving in India, and that not at all poorly, for more than one and a quarter century, depending solely on its own merit and virility, without any substantial help or sustenance from any quarters rather, in spite of various obstacles and derogations from outside and multifarious deleterious tendencies inside its own camp. No reasonable person with an iota of common knowledge, can dispute the fact that Homœopathy has all along been steadily spreading to all the nooks and corners of India with gradually increasing speed, rendering medical succour to larger and larger number of sick people. The opponents and naive patronizers of Homœopathy explain this irrefutable fact, by the cheapness of Homœopathic medicine on the one hand and the back-

wardness of the intellectual level of our people on the other. But, does it require any serious argument to convince any body of the fact that, human instinct ultimately decides the merit or demerit of anything by nothing other than its usefulness and dependability as tested by actual experience?

So, it is the intrinsic utility-value of Homœopathy that has made it so popular and so unnegligible or rather indispensable in the field of general medicine in all its aspects.

But, it is a matter of great pity that our democratic and popular Governments both at the Centre and the different States seem to realise this indisputable fact rather tardily and shyly. Although, except only a few of the State Governments who seem to be solidly immune to objective reality, all of them have given legal status to Homœopathy, they seem to be too spastic in proceeding further. So far, none of the Governments have thrown open the doors of medical services to the Homœopaths officially recognised and registered by them. This is like inviting somebody to a dinner party inducing him not to take meals at home, then barring the door of the dining hall against him. This paradoxical attitude is creating havoc in the field of practice of Homœopathy. Their cold attitude in the matter of employing registered Homœopaths in their various medical and health schemes, especially the Employees' State Insurance Scheme are acting as a double-edged weapon against Homœopathy—on the one side these schemes are interfering in the open field of free competition with spontaneous growth and spread, on the other side they are snatching away patients from the hands of the Homœopaths, thus economically crippling or completely ousting them from the field of practice.

So, our urgent and earnest appeal to our Government is that, they should be true to our democratic National Constitution, which they are solemnly pledged to scrupulously put into practice, and look to the interest of about 5 lakhs of Homœopaths in India (calculated on the basis of the report of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee which estimated the number of 3 lakhs in 1949), and of at least 5 crores patients exclusively depending upon their treatment (calculated on the basis of a minimum of 100 faithful clients per head, without which no practitioner can survive economically), by throwing open the doors of all their medical and

health schemes for the registered Homœopaths, thus providing them free scope in the field of service when they are deprived of free scope in the field of practice.

In this connection we draw the attention of all concerned to the resolution of the West Bengal State Homœopathic Federation on this matter, printed in this issue. Although this resolution has been adopted on the perspective of West Bengal, we feel that, the same applies to all the States. So we appeal to all the Associations of Homœopaths, Workers and Employees, on State basis or All-India basis, to adopt similar line, so that this urgent and fatal problem is solved before it is too late.

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