

HOMŒOPATHY IN THE U.S.A.*

HOMŒOPATHY A CENTURY AGO

When the newspaper, *The State Journal*, of Lansing, Michigan, published its centennial issue in 1955, it reproduced two pages of the first paper which appeared on April 28, 1855. Over half a column was devoted to an article on homœopathy which follows.

"Some Facts About Homœopathy"

"The disciples of Hahnemann celebrated the centennial anniversary of his birthday on the 10th inst. in the cities of Boston and Philadelphia. The N. Y. *Tribune* of the 12th inst. contains an account of their celebrations, and in connection, a narrative of facts relating to the introduction and advance of this system of medical practice. It appears to have been constantly growing in popularity; and the steady increase of number of those who risk their lives upon the truth of its theory, manifests that its merits are not inconsiderable.—We take the liberty to condense from the N. Y. *Tribune* some of the more important facts of its articles as relating to the condition of Homœopathy in the United States.

"The practice was first introduced in the city of New York in 1825; in the interior of Pennsylvania in 1830; and in Philadelphia in 1833. A society of its practitioners and friends was formed in the city of New York in 1834; and in 1835 a bimonthly magazine devoted to its principles was issued, but it existed only a short time. In May 1835, the North American Academy of Homœopathy was instituted by a convention of Homœopaths at Allentown, Pa. Numerous associations were subsequently organized and several publications established. The N. Y. *Examiner* was published from 1840 to 1844, and during this period the system made rapid advances, and obtained a con-

*This is an attempt to throw some glimpses on the situation of Homœopathy in the U.S.A., by compiling some articles and excerpts—all collected from the Pacific Coast Homœopathic Bulletin, Vol. XVIII.—J. K.

spicuous place in public consideration aided somewhat by the ferocious attacks made upon it by the orthodox followers of Esculapius, a man who lived and died *centuries* ago, and whose theory and practice are still strictly adhered to by many, despite the probabilities that during the hundreds of years that have elapsed since that venerable man died, human physiology may have undergone some changes, and experience suggested some improvements.

"Homœopathic societies now exist in nearly all the States, and are especially flourishing in those parts of the Union, where the greatest attention has been paid to education.

"There is also a national society called the American Institute of Homœopathy, established in 1844, which has held annual sessions since that time. Its session for the present year, will be held in June at Buffalo, N.Y. The aggregate number of Homœopathic Physicians in the Union is estimated to be between 1,500 and 2,000. This is certainly a very astonishing increase in the course of 25 years. Their numbers in large cities are nearly as follows: New York, 100; Brooklyn, 25; Philadelphia, 70; Boston, 25; Baltimore, 15. Of the junior members of this profession, about 350 are regular graduates of the two American Homœopathic Colleges.

"The Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, was instituted in 1846, chartered on 1848, and opened the same year. The number of students since it opened, a period of six years, has been 510, of whom 218 graduated.

"The "Western College of Homœopathic Medicine" at Cleveland, Ohio, was founded March 1, 1850. Like the former it has a faculty of eight professors. During the four years of its existence it has had 307 students and 116 graduates.

"In several of their societies, both in Europe and America, each member is bound to prove upon himself and those of his friends who will undertake it, at least one drug every year. The drugs thus proved, and their recorded symptoms, constitute the Homœopathic Materia Medica which is yearly increased. There are also dispensaries in New York from which thousands of prescriptions are annually prepared and distributed."

HAHNEMANN MEDICAL COLLEGE (1960)

A Hahnemann Medical College Alumni Meeting was held at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on Monday night, February 15, 1960. Dean Cameron of the College was guest of honor and speaker for the evening. He was stopping in Los Angeles and San Francisco after a vacation in Hawaii.

Dean Cameron told of future plans for Hahnemann Medical College; how they plan to make it a Medical Center covering the entire block from Race St. to Vine St. and from Broad to Fifteenth St. They plan to have about \$15,000,000 in new buildings in the next ten years. It will be undoubtedly one of the best Medical Centers of the future.

The research program is being expanded and they are providing better teachers and facilities. The directors are making it a Class "A" *allopathic* medical college with a full-time teaching staff and a large research (allopathic) program.

The school still has the elective lectures in Homœopathy given by Dr. Garth Boericke. Next year when Dr. Boericke retires, there will be no more homœopathy taught at Hahnemann. In fact, there is even talk of changing the name in hopes of getting more money.

With the last homœopathic medical college on its way out, it is fitting that homœopathy is being reorganized into a specialty with a Specialty Board, where it belongs.

G. Kent Smith, M.D.

HOMŒOPATHY—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Hahnemann did not approve of the sloppy way the apothecaries (druggists) prepared medicines and he told them so. As a result the apothecaries stirred up the old school doctors against the homœopaths and the two types of medical doctors have decried each other until recent years. As a result the homœopaths formed their own schools of medicine, but being a specialty in internal medicine and not a sectarian school, they had to call on the allopaths to help teach in the homœopathic schools and to help staff.

the homœopathic hospitals. The allopaths soon outnumbered the homœopaths in their institutions, gained control of them, and made allopathic institutions out of them.

During the interval from Hahnemann's time to the present, allopathic medicine has made great strides to the point where even some homœopathic graduates have made the statement that homœopathy is no longer necessary because of present day medicine. However, this is far from the facts in the matter. Those who are still using homœopathy can show you many records of cases where modern medicine with its wonder drugs has failed to help, or has even caused adverse reactions which are improving under homœopathic treatment. Do not misunderstand me, for modern medicine is much superior to the medicine of Hahnemann's time, but homœopathy is still so much superior to allopathy in so many cases.

Homœopathic medicine is still much pleasanter to take and more economical than most modern medicines today. It does not have the adverse side reactions or toxic effects that are often found with the new strong drugs. Homœopathy is still the only form of cure that is based on a *scientific law*, while allopathic treatment is based on a *trial and error* method, developed in huge laboratories trying everything hit and miss, hoping to be the first to introduce a new substance that is stronger, or quicker, or less toxic than some older drug.

What is the present status of homœopathy in our country? As we all know, there are fewer homœopaths today and *we have no medical schools turning out new homœopaths*, (Italics J.K.) but that is as it should be, since homœopathy is not a sectarian school, but a *specialized branch of internal medicine*. (Italics, J.K.)

This brings us to the future of homœopathy. As stated before, homœopathy is a specialty and at the present time homœopathy is being organized in the AMA approved style into a specialty as the American Board of Homœotherapeutics. Making it an approved specialty will make it more acceptable to young doctors and thereby increase the number of homœopaths. Secondly, homœopathy is doing research now. It is making provings of some of the newer drugs and elements, and thus we will know the effects of some of the new atomic products on the human system.

Another type of research is in the basic science field. The researchers are looking for an explanation of the homœopathic medicinal force and for ways of measuring it electronically and for a method to differentiate the forces in different medicinal substances, and then, from there, to develop a more accurate method of remedy selection for the individual by laboratory testing, which would supplement the findings from a study of the symptom-complex. This research is going on now in the United States and abroad.

G. Kent Smith, M.D.

OBSERVATIONS ON HOMŒOPATHY

After fifty-two years of active practice, I am more convinced than ever that, in the healing arts, the homœopathic practice of medicine is the most scientific of all. It has stood the test of time for over one hundred and fifty years, and the principles, discovered and promulgated by the founder, Hahnemann, are as true today as they were in his time. Hahnemann's principal book explaining the principles of homœopathy, the *Organon*, is sometimes called the "Bible of Homœopathy," and is a book which, like the Holy Bible, should be read and re-read. Hahnemann left other books of inestimable value, which have stood the test of time and are as reliable today as when written.

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It was my good fortune, as a student, to have as my teachers such men as Kent, Farrington, Copperthwaite, H. C. Allen, Dewey, Blackwood and others, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude which will never be forgotten. They have left their books which are available to anyone desirous of further study, and I suggest that we all make a further study of Hahnemann's *Organon* and other writings; Kent's *Philosophy*; the *Pharmacopoeia*, and that we should read these previous to the study of the *Materia Medica*.

I also prize among my homœopathic acquaintances, Drs. William Boericke, James Ward, Royal S. Copeland, C. B. Sterns, Dieffenbach of New York, H. A. Roberts and A. H. Grimmer.

All of these have been an inspiration and will continue to be so.

It is a great regret that today homœopathy is not being taught in medical colleges, but I am hopeful that, before my passing, there will be a resuscitation of this invaluable service to humanity. *I well remember when, in the United States, there were colleges from coast to coast, all doing good work,* (Italics—J.K.) but today where are they? On the other hand, from correspondence that I have, and what I learn from magazines, homœopathy is flourishing in England, Europe, South America, India and Pakistan. Knowing this, it is regrettable that conditions in the United States are as they are. I see only one solution for this, and that is for the different laymen's groups throughout America to raise funds to re-establish one good homœopathic college. If they will not do this, then there is no reason for their existence. These may be harsh words, but they are my firm conclusion. . . .

W. W. Sherwood, M.D.

A DREAM REALIZED

Back in the 1930's when the American Colleges of Surgery and Physicians were organized and shortly thereafter followed by the various National Specialty Examining Boards, there was heard talk in homœopathic circles with respect to our following suit. Unfortunately our school has always been noted for its rugged individualism and *there were many who decried following the "Old School" tactics* (Italics—J. K.) and the hope died away.

Later there was the abortive F.A.C.T.S. to which many of our top men and women were elected, but the failure of anyone to account for monies collected and the eventual falling of the Charter and certificates into the hands of a man who posed as a homœopath, while being actually a naturopath, soon brought that group to a sad end.

During 1958 a number of members of the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York got together and investigated the various National Boards already in existence and at the annual meeting in April 1959 the State Society gave its

official approval to the formation of a Committee to present the idea to the 1959 meeting of the American Institute in San Francisco.

The Institute and later in October, the P.A.H.M.C. unanimously endorsed the idea and the first hurdle was crossed. It was decided by the Committee that a Founder's Group be invited to join under the "Grandfather's Clause" which applied in the formation of similar Examining Boards. These men had to be good known homœopaths who were members of the A.I.T. and/or their State Homœopathic Society for a period of not less than 5 years prior to application. They would be elected without oral and written examinations until 100 members had joined. At such time the list would be completed as far as the "Grand-father's Clause" was concerned, and all future applicants will have to take both oral and written examinations in their home territory.

It is the decision of the Board of Directors that there be three separate examining teams, the East and West Coasts and the Central area serving the Mid-West. Those who apply for the D-HT will naturally have to face a stiffer examination, since they will be the recipients of referred work needing full knowledge of homœopathy. A sub-group, with the status of D-HT's, has been set up for specialists in surgery and allied branches who use the treatment by *Similia* personally or employ homœopathic physicians to treat their cases in the hospitals and elsewhere.

The last hurdles have now been cleared by the approval of the Education Department of the New York Board of Regents and the incorporation by the Supreme Court of New York. *One point that to us is of paramount importance is the acceptance without question of our Board by the "Old School."* (Italics—J.K.) Already we have the word of the New York State Medical Society (A.M.A.) that we would be listed equally with the other National Examining Specialty Boards in the biennial Blue Book and all diplomates in the State would be listed with their Board rating.

Already the representation is nation-wide. Southern California is represented by Drs. Allen C. Neiswander and the father-son combination of A. Dwight Smith and G. Kent Smith. In the San Francisco area Drs. Roger Schmidt and Ronald Troup are Direc-

tors. While there are still openings for Founders, we urge those who are eligible to write the author for application blank and information. Let us show Medicine in general that this time at least, homœopaths are working together.*

Henry W. Eisfelder, M.D., D-HT.

*** Editorial Comment:** This seems to us really a pitiable "Dream" realised. These leaders of Homœopathy in the U.S.A. seem to console themselves with a prospect of rescuing Homœopathy from total extinction from their land and sustaining its spirit not in a living body but on an effigy of "National Specialty Examining Board". This plight of Homœopathy is due, in our opinion, to their idea that status of Homœopathy does not depend upon itself, but upon its recognition by the A.M.A. (American Medical Association of the Orthodox School), and to their slighting attitude to those who are of the conviction that Homœopathy is *not a mere specialty, but a complete system of Medicine* with its special approach to all the subjects of Medicine—basic as well as auxiliary. All this course of events can be traced to the basic cause—the American definition of a Homœopathic Physician, which is—"A Homœopathic Physician is one who adds to his knowledge of Medicine, a special knowledge of Homœopathic therapeutics and observes the law of similia. All that pertains to the great field of medical learning is his by tradition, by inheritance, by right".

In our opinion the correct definition should be as follows—"A Homœopathic Physician is one who has entiristic approach and understanding of Health, Disease and Cure of the individual in his environment, and observes the law of similia and the principles of single remedy and minimum dose. All that pertains to the great field of medical learning is his by tradition, by inheritance, by right, and by acquirement, but he has got a special approach to and use of them consistent with the basic principles of Homœopathy."—J. K.