

"WANTED A HOMŒOPATHIC LECTURER"

Yes—Wanted a Homœopathic Lecturer, for a Homœopathic College recognized by the State Homœopathic Board and aided by the State and Central Governments. "It is not the 1st of April," you would say. Of course not; it is not a joke. Five years ago, it might have been taken for one or for an utter lie but today, a Homœopath as a lecturer is wanted for the Bombay Homœopathic Medical College, the Kerala College, the Nagpur College, the Calcutta College and for the numerous other Colleges, that will soon come up in the country. Only 15 years ago, it was an unheard of thing, talked about and demanded by a few progressive enthusiasts, who were considered to be mere visionaries. Then it was considered impossible that Homœopaths will ever have avenues other than that of private practice. But the impossible has become possible. The dream of the few visionaries has become real. With the dawn of independence, our popular governments realized the great popularity of this system of treatment and responded to the consequent popular demand for patronizing its education and controlling its practice. State after State recognized Homœopathy by passing legislations. Homœopathic Boards in different States were constituted to register their practitioners and to root out quackery by controlling its practice. The private Institutions, probably not-so-well-managed and not-so-well-equipped but only an expression of the great and ardent desire of a few enthusiastic workers after having fulfilled the needs of the past, began giving place to well managed, more regulated, better equipped and organized institutions under the public and the State patronage. Hats off to the Pioneers for keeping this spark alight, but now evening classes, private coaching and sale of diplomas and degrees are gradually fading into oblivion and private institutions are giving place to new Government aided institutions. That is the beginning of a great era, the beginning of a long march and a hard struggle. We can't sit down to rest. Encouraged by this success, we have to hurry to our goal.

Teaching institutions under State patronage are not the last demand of us—Homœopaths. We are clamouring for Directorates. We are asking for the establishment of Research Institutions and at least one Central Research Institute. What is now wanted is not only a Teacher, a Professor or a Principal for a Homœopathic Institution, but we want personnel to man these Directorates and Research Institutes. Are we prepared for meeting these requirements? These requirements are peculiar and novel to our profession. There having been no institutions of these kinds so far, experienced hands are few today. Today's need is not so much for Homœopathic physicians and practitioners, but for those with teaching experience and probably for some also with administrative experience. The Young Homœopaths of today are the builders of our world of tomorrow. They have got to be wooed from the financial charms, attractions and even security of private practice to academic and service careers in institutions.

Suitable technical personnel at present is scarce but unfortunately this scarcity has been made more acute artificially by institutions not recognizing the qualifications of the Colleges of States other than its own. The result is that the man who has gained a little teaching experience in one State cannot be made use of in the other State and vice-versa. The employer, thus, has a narrow and limited choice and the young man who has adopted hesitatingly this career has a narrow scope of more and better future employment in other institutions. More opportunities and vast scope with none of the artificial limitations between Colleges of the same standard have to be provided to draw out the best of the talents in the profession for the service of the institutions. After all, the Government of India is giving grants only to a few selected institutions in various States on the recommendations of the State Governments only if they conform to a minimum standard in the matter of education. Why should not these institutions be mutually and reciprocally recognized by one another? Why should we not recognize the graduates and diploma holders of all such colleges to be eligible for applying for the posts in all such aided institutions? We are

at liberty to pick and choose and prefer the product of one college to that of the other but we must consider them all equally eligible and should not limit our choice. In suggesting this, we have in view not only the good of the employer and the employee but also the huge requirements and vast needs of the Science and profession. This step will not only contribute to the emotional integration of India but also create on an all-India basis a Homœopathic Medical Service, a pool, from which personnel could be drawn to take up duties in our Homœopathic institutions in various States of Bharat.

For the next ten years what we would need, would not be only Homœopathic Practitioners but those who will take up service of the Science as a career. We need an All-India Service Cadre—an All-India Homœopathic Medical Service. Will the Young Homœopaths volunteer in response to this call and will the authorities pay heed to our suggestions?

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