

THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

Vol. XXIX

MARCH 1962

No. 3

HOMŒOPATHIC BILL—A MENACE OR A BOON ?

DR. J. N. KANJILAL, M.B., CALCUTTA

Homœopathy has thrived more than 150 years exclusively on its own intrinsic merit and vitality. Had it got any real financial and statutory support and care, its progress and vigour would know no limits.

Homœopathic profession has always progressed on an unequal footing in the struggle for existence and subsistence. At present, this struggle is tending to assume a frustrating degree owing to steadily increasing economic crisis on the one hand, and State interference in the medical profession on the other. This State interference in various spheres of life including medical, might be a social necessity, as the ultimate responsibility regarding health matters, as well as other matters—financial, cultural etc.—is gradually devolving more and more on the State. But, for successful and effective management of these different aspects of society the attention of the State must not be one-sided, it must keep in clear and active view, both the interest of the people as well as the interest of the persons or institutions serving the same function of the society. Both these sides are complementary to each other, no side can be helped at the cost of the other.

Formerly various scientific and cultural institutions were established and maintained by noble-minded moneyed people. But unfortunately today that is a rare phenomenon. What

to speak of appearance of any fresh institution of this sort, the older non-official institutions are tottering for their bare existence, and they can hardly survive any longer without substantial State support. Moneyed people today are more inclined to help only those concerns that are likely to yield a good monetary return. In the present phase of society research and development of humanitarian and non-lucrative sciences and professions like Homœopathy is impossible without active State support.

From all these ends—interest of the people themselves, interest of homœopaths serving the people, interest of institutions producing good and dependable homœopaths as well as conducting research works for the upliftment of Homœopathy, complete and all round State recognition—not only control, but also effective support and care by the State is indispensable for Homœopathy today.

But the ultimate effects of State supervision in any sphere of life depend upon two basic factors:—

(1) How far the Government of the State represents the various interests in the respective spheres e.g., in the economic sphere, a Government under the influence of the upper strata of society is not likely to look to the real interests of the masses at the cost of profit-interests of the exploiting classes. Similarly a Government influenced by Allopathy is not likely to look to the real interests of Homœopathy.

(2) Integrity and alertness about the rights and interests on the part of the people of the sphere concerned e.g., in the economic sphere, whatever may be the nature of the Government, the more the people are conscious and active about their interests and rights, the more they can force the Government to look to their causes. Similarly if the homœopaths in general are conscious, active and uncompromising about their principles, rights and interests, no Government can ignore them forever, nor can vitiate them with any Bill however malicious. Rather, the Bill can be modified and utilised for the best interests of Homœopathic science and profession. If we keep this cautions constantly living in our mind, the catastrophe that

(Contd. on page 120)