

IMPROVING UPON HOMŒOPATHY BY VULGARIZING IT*

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It is a great privilege for me to get an opportunity to address a big learned gathering like this. But sense of duty compels me to select a thorny subject, and what I shall have to speak may not be pleasant to some people. Still I take this indulgence with a definite expectation that, however bitter may be my speech to some, all will sincerely try to understand me.

I shall have to talk on a problem that is seriously worrying me as well as many of us in India—the problem of vulgarization of Homœopathy by introduction and propagation of injections, patents, specific and the so-called homœopathic antibiotics—all in the name of Homœopathy, nay, ironically enough, in the name of improving upon Hahnemann; on the plea that Hahnemann would have done all these, had he been living today. This menace is a rising force in Indian Homœopathy. This menace is growing under the shelter of the following factors:—

1. CALLOUSNESS OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETY

Many a homœopath in India, particularly in the leading sections seems to be too optimistic and complacent about this problem. Their stand is that, these vulgarizers of Homœopathy (Hahnemann's "Mongrel sects") have been existing since the very inception of Homœopathy—but they have never been able to prevent the growth and spread of true Homœopathy, which has been ever growing and spreading by dint of its own intrinsic merit and virility.

I humbly like to point out to these innocent leaders of Indian Homœopathy that their stand is only partially substantiated where Homœopathy has not yet come under official control, and not at all where Homœopathy has come under the law of the country.

* Speech delivered at the 6th All India Homœopathic Congress, Ahmedabad—November 15-17, 1964.

These wild vegetations in the homœopathic field have all along been thwarting the spontaneous growth and spread of Homœopathy in European countries, and have been successful to almost completely oust Homœopathy from its highly glorious fosterland, the U.S.A. where the effigy of Homœopathy is enjoying official status.

Under the shelter of this complacency, or even in some cases tacit support, of our Homœopathic leaders, these wild vegetations are gaining formidable foothold in India. Almost all the Homœopathic journals in India (with only 1 or 2 honourable exceptions)—not only those belonging to homœopathic firms, but strangely enough, those belonging to homœopathic associations—are lavishly propagating their statements and advertisements. These vulgarizers are not only forming their own associations (which are, in most cases, virtually nothing but organizations of buyers of their products) making themselves the Presidents (really owners) of these organizations, but also are getting easy entrance into the leadership of various Associations claiming to advocate true Homœopathy. Thanks to their political strength earned in this way and financial strength earned by their unscrupulous business, they have now acquired sufficient capacity to exert pressure on the authorities at the Centre as well as various States, to accept their line in the purview of Homœopathic system of medicine.

So, we cannot afford to neglect this formidable growth a single moment more, if we do not want to throw Homœopathy in India into the same plight as in the U.S.A. This problem is all the more vital, in view of the fact that, the fate of Homœopathy on world scale today depends considerably on how it fares in India—its Asiatic fosterland.

2. INTRINSIC PECULIARITY OF HOMŒOPATHIC ART AND SCIENCE

Apart from political and intellectual indifference and indulgence enjoyed by these wild vegetations, they are gaining ground by taking advantage of some intrinsic paradoxical peculiarities of Homœopathy. Superficially Homœopathy is unusually too simple, but deeply it is unusually too hard. Apparently the Homœopathic art and science are so easy and straight that anybody with only a little knowledge and intellectual equipment can use homœopathic medicine to cure or at least give relief to a large number of sick

people, and thus can call himself a Homœopath. Of course, due to their shallow position they too often fall in difficulties, for which they are forced either to go deeper into Homœopathy, or to take recourse to various means which have nothing to do with Homœopathy. The first path—going deeper into Homœopathy—is loaded with immense difficulties. For taking to this path the hardest difficulty that he will face is that, he will have to reorient his mind and get rid of the traditional notions regarding Medicine, and then to take great pains to grasp the homœopathic science and philosophy more and more thoroughly. So, many people get inclined and tempted to take the alternative much easier, although unscrupulous and hazardous path, but without, for that, leaving aside the garb of Homœopathy, for fear of losing face. Advantage of this situation is rapaciously taken by the fortune-seekers in the Homœopathic society.

In their method they adopt various techniques to seduce and beguile the naive homœopaths—

(i) They quote at random from the various authorities in Homœopathy including Hahnemann himself, taking for granted that nobody will bother to verify their authenticity, or their meaning in respective contexts.

(ii) They take advantage of the ignorance of the public as well as simpleton homœopaths as to the difference between true cure and palliation or suppression, and as to the dangers or evil consequences of the latter.

(iii) They take advantage of the eagerness of the lay public for some common specific for any name of disease, knowing fully well that such specifics are totally inconsistent with homœopathic science.

(iv) They take advantage of the hobby of lay public for heroic methods like Injections, etc. knowing fully well that these methods are totally irrelevant while dealing with dynamic medicines working through nerves.

(v) They even borrow, or rather plagiarise from allopathic parlance names like—tranquillizers, tonics, antibiotics, etc. to catch the fancy of the lay public, without, of course, forgetting to put a homœopathic cloak over them, notwithstanding the fact that

these terms are totally irrelevant in homœopathic ideology and parlance.

(vi) They gibe at the failure of pure Homœopathy in many cases. But, no science can claim success in every case, and the least of all, the medical science, the weakest of all sciences. And that is precisely the reason for the existence of so many systems in the medical science, each with its own peculiar principles, methods and techniques, as well as its own peculiar problems requiring research in its own way.

(vii) In order to give a scientific garb over their irrelevant and unscrupulous activities and to allure the novelty-faddists they do not forget to call their affairs as research work, despite the fact that each field of science including that of Homœopathy, as just mentioned, has its own problems for research in its own relevant way; problems and methods of any branch of science cannot be bungled up with those of any other.

(viii) They even do not waver to brazenly dangle the prospect of mercenary gain by adopting their methods, relinquishing the tedious unremunerative methods of pure Homœopathy. But, the money earned by their methods, pilfered from the orthodox school, is black money with all its stink, and the money earned by purity of profession is glorious money with its heavenly joy of clean conscience. Moreover, this black money implies some risks too. The methods yielding this money have some inherent dangers which can be faced and tackled only by those who are adepts in the original science from which they have been pilfered, and not by those pilferers.

I do not feel it at all necessary to take more of the valuable time of this learned gathering in exploding the fictitious scientific ground of these mongrel products. Only for an instance, I would briefly deal with the latest of these fusses—the so-called "*Homœopathic Antibiotics*".

In order to justify a homœopathic coating over these so-called antibiotic products, that is, to vindicate the prefix "homœopathic" before their names the manufacturers of these products assert that if a substance that produces certain physiological effects is potentized and is given in sub-physiological doses for a similar complaint, it may be called homœopathic. We have no serious

objections to this statement, although it does not express the whole truth. Our real objection is against the actual products, said to be produced on this principle and propagandised and marketed as such.

A drug to be fit to be used on homœopathic principle must fulfil one pre-condition—it must have a thorough and authentic proving in the strict homœopathic line, to ascertain its pathogenic properties, in the physiological as well as dynamic plane.

What to speak of any proving of these products on strict homœopathic method, we do not know of any even ordinary pharmacological data regarding these products. The physiological effects stated to be produced by any of these homœopathic antibiotics are nothing but products of fertile brain of the authors *cum* manufacturers of these drugs. These data cannot at all be relied upon for therapeutic purposes in any system of medicine, and the least of all in the homœopathic system of medicine—even if hundreds or thousands or even lakhs of so-called homœopaths can be befooled to use them in the name of Homœopathy.

Then, these authors ordain that these products should be administered by injections. But we know that, a homœopathic drug, which acts in the dynamic plane, has no problem of assimilation, propagation and excretion through the channel of body-fluids; it acts through the nervous system and its action is set up as soon as any part of it or even its emanation comes in contact with the nerve-endings anywhere, which are, of course, most luxuriant at the various surfaces of the body. Hence their claim of using their products in the homœopathic way, is anything other than relevant and just.

They are of course wise (?) enough to consider the mental symptoms (especially the pain) as the most important aspect of the "Psychosomatic" disease. So they advise to put out these most important guiding lights for therapeutic purposes, by using so-called sedatives, hypnotics and tranquillizers (or really paralyzers of brain) which, if necessary, may be pilfered with impunity from allopathic armamentarium (which has been swelling to bursting point with products of these sorts); but that is not always required because these Messiahs have already got from heavens *homœopathic tranquillizers* in the form of drugs in the group of ophidæ, viperidæ

and arañidæ. No matter wherefrom you take these panaceas—from allopathic armoury or from heavens—you must use them at the very outset, in order to suppress the most important guides for the purpose of cure. And to get the surest effect these most important adjuvants must be administered by *injection* in *combination* with the basic drug—the homœopathic antibiotic.

I do not think these delirious patterings require any serious discussion in this learned gathering. So I refrain from tiring your patience any further, and sit down.
