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EDITORIAL

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF REGISTERED HOMŒOPATHS

The position of Registered Homœopaths in India vis-a-vis the Central and State Governments and the various demi-official and unofficial bodies, is, to say the least, unreasonable and queer.

The Central Government passed the first Homœopathic Resolution as early as 1937, and forwarded the same to the various State Governments for implementation. After that, the Central Government remained mum about Homœopathy, on the pretext of War situation, until 1948, when the Union Parliament of the newly formed National Government unanimously passed the second Homœopathic Resolution. As a consequence the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee was formed. The Committee worked with laudable sincerity and energy, made extensive survey all over India and submitted its report just within one year in 1949, recognising the scientific basis of Homœopathy and recommending the formation of a Central Homœopathic Council. After that, much water has flown through the Ganges, and the Central Government has done many things for Homœopathy, although with extremely miserly hand and flimsy heart, but, so far, what to speak of a Central Homœopathic Council, failed to take any definite decision about Homœopathy in the way of giving it full recognition and passing a Homœopathic Act, thus providing it with a legal status on All India basis.

In the meanwhile, the various State Governments proceeding in their small-hearted and faltering way are tending towards giving various degrees of recognition to Homœopathy. For example, the West Bengal Government sanctioned the formation of a State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine as early as 1943 by an executive order, but took full 21 years to pass the actual Homœopathic Act. Various other State Governments passed their Homœopathic Acts in the meantime, but in many cases (e.g., Orissa, Assam etc.) keeping the same in the cold storage for years without taking any action on them, or in some cases (e.g., M.P.) most inconsistent action. At least 3 States (e.g., Punjab, Madras and Mysore) are still hesitating even to pass the innocuous Homœopathic Act.

Even in the States where a Homœopathic Act has not only been passed,

but enforced (e.g., U.P., Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra, W. Bengal etc.) the enforcement has been just in the form of control and little in the way of care in the form of arrangement for teaching, research work etc. or any measurable form of subsidy to homœopathic activities, or providing service for registered or even qualified homœopaths.

From this inconsistent and wavering attitude of both the Central Government and the various State Governments, with respect to Homœopathy, it becomes apparent that, although the rulers of the country are not being able to ignore the importance and indispensability of Homœopathic System of Medicine for the interest of the people, their voters, still, their hands are being stiffened by some vested interests dominating their weak and perhaps somewhat prejudiced mind.

It is due to this awkward attitude of the Government towards Homœopathy, that the various demi-official and unofficial bodies do not feel any necessity to show due respect to registered homœopaths, and to add insult to injury some of them even go so far as to refuse to recognise the certificates of registered homœopaths; nay, further still, mere industrialists, like some manufacturers of milk-products and baby-foods dare dishonour the certificates of registered homœopaths for the controlled supply of their products. This situation is perhaps due to the fact that the heat of the satellites are often more irritating than the central luminary.

After all these discussion, one open fact, very common in India, must be mentioned. The members of the ruling section of our people as well as their satellites, including the vested interests, however much they falter to pay due respect and official recognition to Homœopathy, hardly ever hesitate to have recourse to Homœopathy, and take advantage of it, and that mostly with great satisfaction, when utterly disappointed by other systems of Medicines, in case of illness of themselves or their family-members.

We have waited pretty long time upon the goodwill and patronizing spirit of our rulers for securing due respect and full fledged official recognition and care for Homœopathy. It is high time that we should wake up to our own responsibility in the matter, The basic reason why our rulers and their satellites are being encouraged to behave in this refractory and queer manner with respect to Homœopathy, in spite of recognising its utility, dependability, nay indispensability, is, in our opinion, the weakness of the Homœopathic society itself. The Homœopathic society in India, as it exists now, is not yet strong enough, or solid enough to dominate the mind of the public and its ruling section. It is of no use grumbling for the various incongruous behaviours or even insults, so long as the homœopathic society itself remains unorganised, disunited, with various forms of complexes. We must place the interest and prestige of Homœopathy far above our own personal petty interests and vanities, and unite together in one solid body to earn due recognition and care from all quarters.

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